The Mill Creek and the Valley Line

The Valley Line project provides a once-in-many-generations opportunity to restore a lost ecosystem in Edmonton

The Mill Creek Delta Today

Source: Valley Line Environmental Impact Assessment,
Spencer Environmental

What we could see

Source: Sharon Yeo, Flickr, Creative Commons License.

The Proposed Valley Line Follows The Mill Creek That Once Was

Figure 1 Valley Line LRT Project Boundaries in the Mill Creek Ravine. Source: Spencer Environmental and the City of Edmonton

Figure 2: Historic Mill Creek Channel, circa 1960. Source, Army Survey Establishment

Restoring the Mill Creek is consistent with *The Way We Grow*

7.3 North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System

7.3.1 ***Protect, preserve and enhance the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as Edmonton's greatest natural asset.***

Policies:

As Edmonton's largest natural area, all Natural Areas policies in the Municipal Development Plan apply to the River Valley. In addition, the following policy also applies:

7.3.1.1 The City will work in partnership with local, regional and provincial organizations to conserve, protect, restore and enhance the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System for its ecological, recreational, aesthetic, educational and natural resource value.

7.3.1.2 That the City undertake a program to restore creek beds associated or aligned with industrial areas.

Restoring the Mill Creek is consistent with *The Way We Green*

OBJECTIVE 3.7

The City protects, preserves, and enhances the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System as Edmonton's greatest natural asset *(The Way We Grow, Strategic Objective 7.3.1).*

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

The City of Edmonton:

3.7.1 Establishes, implements, and maintains procedures that make it aware of construction projects in the North Saskatchewan River Valley and its tributary ravines in order to protect and preserve ecological connections.

3.7.2 Works in partnership with local, regional, and provincial organizations to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System for its ecological, recreational, aesthetic, educational, and natural resource value *(The Way We Grow, Policy 7.3.1.1).*

3.7.3 Undertakes a program to restore creek beds associated or aligned with industrial areas *(The Way We Grow, Policy 7.3.1.2).*

3.7.4 Assigns high corporate priority to protecting and/or restoring ecological connectivity in the North Saskatchewan River Valley — one of the region's key biological corridors.

The City has committed to examine reconnecting the Mill Creek in time

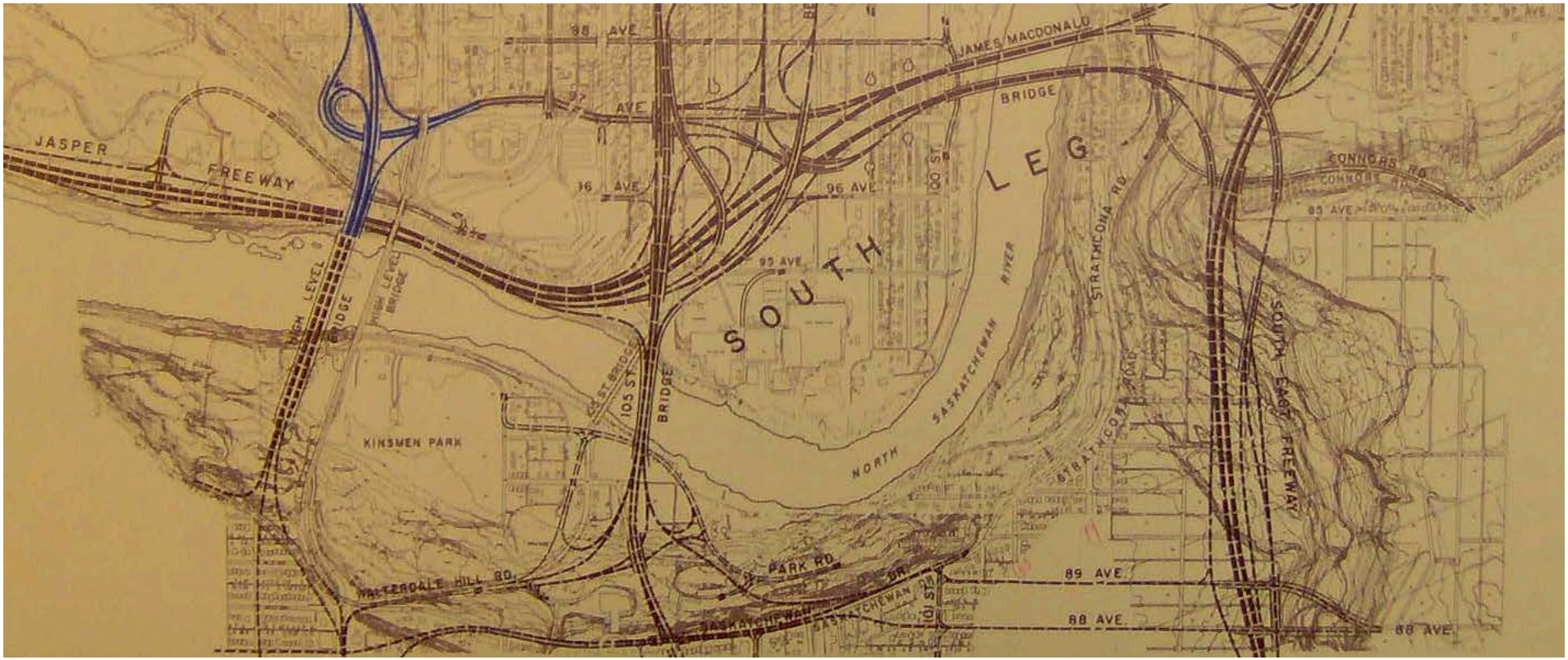
Conservation of this channel is also a City of Edmonton corporate priority. The City of Edmonton and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) have committed to evaluating the potential to reestablish connectivity of the Mill Creek system, including the reach located within the study area. Based on this strong desire to retain the channel in its current condition, and the long-term restoration efforts required if disturbed, disturbance and backfilling of parts of the channel is rated as an adverse, minor, long-term and predictable impact. It is minor not because of its importance but because of the small reaches included in the project area.

Source: Valley Line Environmental Impact Assessment, Spencer Environmental, Page 146

The Valley Line Project Could Reconnect the Mill Creek

- Wildlife access tunnel planned under Connors Rd could be re-engineered to convey a re-established Mill Creek
- Landscape and grading changes on the west and north sides of the Ski Club and Muttart already in LRT plans could be altered to include a re-established Mill Creek
- Grade height for 98th Avenue would likely allow for an underpass to re-establish connectivity of the Mill Creek and allow wildlife to access the North Saskatchewan River valley

Where we once planned to bury a creek to build a freeway, re-establish a creek while building an LRT



Source: Edmonton Downtown Freeway Loop Plan, Alberta Roads.

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