

What We Heard & What We Did Report

Protecting Edmonton's Water Treatment
Plants from Flooding

Phase One: Early Design Concepts



Background

Project at a glance

| | |
|---|--|
| Name | Protecting Edmonton's Water Treatment Plants from Flooding |
| Phase | Phase One: Early Design Concepts |
| Sites | Rossdale Water Treatment Plant (9469 Rossdale Rd NW, Edmonton, AB) E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant (3900 E.L. Smith Rd NW, Edmonton, AB) |
| Engagement opportunity & information shared | <p>The project webpage was live in May 2021 and included project information and input opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project newsletter▪ Online Survey▪ Self-guided walking tours▪ Registration information for community workshops and drop-in Q&A sessions <p>Online community workshops and meetings were held from June through August 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Online community workshops▪ Indigenous perspectives workshops▪ Drop-in Q&A sessions▪ 1:1 conversations and small group meetings <p>In May 2021, a newsletter was mailed to residents in the surrounding communities (Rossdale, Oliver, Strathcona, Garneau, Downtown, Cameron Heights, Henderson Estates, Wedgewood Heights, Donsdale, Dechene, Garipey, Oleskiw, Rhatigan Ridge and Hadow).</p> |

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that this is Treaty 6 territory – the traditional lands of the Blackfoot, the Cree, the Dene, the Nakota Sioux, the Saulteaux, and later the Métis. The banks of the North Saskatchewan River, where both Edmonton's water treatment plants (Rossdale and E.L. Smith) are located, have been gathering places since time immemorial. The Rossdale Water Treatment Plant is located adjacent to Indigenous burial grounds and E.L. Smith is located on the former reserve lands of Enoch Cree Nation. EPCOR acknowledges this history and values the perspectives of those with traditional ties to these lands.

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Why this, why now

We are working to protect the Rossdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) from the impacts of a major flood. We want to ensure we limit potential damage to the facilities and can resume water treatment to the community as quickly as possible.

Both of Edmonton's water treatment plants (E.L. Smith and Rossdale) are located in the river floodplain where they bring untreated water out of the North Saskatchewan River, treat it, and then pump safe, clean drinking water to homes and businesses located in Edmonton and surrounding communities. As these river valley locations present an increased chance of flooding, we have a long-term plan in place to protect the source of Edmonton's drinking water supply. By taking action now, we can manage the risk associated with high river levels and ensure that customers continue to receive clean, safe and reliable water service for years to come.

We're planning for the future at our WTPs. Part of that planning involves looking at changes in weather trends. Over the next 30 years, climate change modelling predicts that extreme weather will be more frequent and air temperatures will increase. For the North Saskatchewan River, this is expected to lead to higher flows in the winter and spring, with earlier or multiple spring runoff periods (caused by melting snowpack), and lower flows during the summer and fall.

Preparing the two water treatment plants for a major flood event will include three kinds of work:

1. Increasing protection to critical assets, or relocating them.
2. Preventing river water from backing up into the water treatment plants through drainage pipes that discharge to the river.
3. Developing barriers to protect critical equipment and drinking water reservoirs if the river overtops its banks.

The first two categories of work will generally take place within existing buildings on both WTP sites and within the existing fence lines. The third category of work (installing flood barriers) will be visible to those living, working and recreating around the Rossdale and E.L. Smith plants.

EPCOR believes in the importance of working with local and Indigenous communities around our facilities. Community input and involvement is a key component of our decision making as EPCOR plans for the future at our water treatment plants.

In this first phase of engagement, we showed the community early concepts of the flood barriers, and asked what we should consider in the design process for the flood barriers.

The goal in this phase of engagement was to hear from participants about **how they experience the areas where flood barriers are needed** to protect the two water treatment plants, and **how EPCOR can improve these experiences through project design**, while being mindful of costs and environmental footprint.

Over the upcoming years, EPCOR will continue to work with the community to understand how we can best integrate these flood barriers into the community. This report highlights the first phase of community engagement, which took place from **May through early October 2021**.

Community context

Rossdale

The Rossdale Water Treatment Plant is located at 9469 Rossdale Road in Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley on Treaty 6 territory. The facility is a well-known historical site in the heart of the city. The Rossdale site has been providing water and power to Edmonton and its surrounding areas for more than 100 years.

A City of Edmonton recreational trail parallels the water treatment plant fence line to the east and south. The North Saskatchewan River curves along the east and south sides of the plant. On the west side of the plant is the Walterdale Bridge, the Rossdale powerplant, and an Indigenous memorial park. The plant is bordered to the north by Rossdale Road and to the east by the Rossdale neighbourhood. Across the river are a number of City of Edmonton recreational trails, and the Garneau and Strathcona communities. The area around the project area includes a mixture of single-family homes, apartment buildings, commercial businesses, parks and public facilities.

The Rossdale plant is located in the area where multiple iterations of Fort Edmonton were located. The reasons this site was attractive to the people who built the Fort there were the same reasons that Indigenous Peoples had used the area as a meeting and trading ground since time immemorial. Today, EPCOR's Rossdale site includes the Rossdale Water Treatment Plant, the Rossdale and Bellamy Substations, and other EPCOR-owned facilities.

We recognize the archaeological and historical significance of the site; the importance of this area in fostering communities predates the City of Edmonton itself. As such, we are committed to preserving the heritage and history of Rossdale, providing more open and public space and minimizing impacts to the community.

E.L. Smith

The E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant is also located along Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River, at 3900 EL Smith Road on Enoch Cree Nation's former reserve lands (Treaty 6 territory). It has been providing Edmonton and surrounding areas with drinking water since 1976.

An informal recreational trail parallels the plant fence line to the south. The North Saskatchewan River curves along the north and east sides of the plant.

Did you know? Together, the Rossdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants provide safe, clean drinking water to almost a third of Alberta's population.

The plant is bordered to the south by the Anthony Henday Drive and to the west by the Cameron Heights neighbourhood. Across the river is Henderson Estates community (to the east) and Terwilligar Park (to the north). The area around the project area includes a mixture of single-family homes, apartment buildings, commercial businesses, parks and public facilities.

Indigenous Nations and Communities

We recognize that Edmonton's two water treatment plants (Rossdale and E.L. Smith) are both located on land with unique Indigenous interests. The Rossdale plant is located next to Indigenous burial grounds, and E.L. Smith is located on the former reserve lands of Enoch Cree Nation. As such, it was important to EPCOR that we seek out, hear, and include the perspectives of Indigenous Nations and communities with an interest in these lands.

In addition to our discussions with those who live near and recreate around the water plants, we have engaged 31 Indigenous Nations and communities with an interest in these lands and will continue these conversations throughout this project.

EPCOR is aligning with the principles of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession) for this work, and continues to work with participating Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous Nations and communities to ensure protocols are in place for appropriate management of the Indigenous knowledge that is shared.

Located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, the areas where the Rossdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants are situated have a long history of Indigenous use and significance. Historically, these were traditional transportation ways, communication networks and encampment places.

The ongoing discovery of archeological evidence demonstrates the longstanding use of the river valley by Indigenous peoples and connects EPCOR's river valley operations to present-day Indigenous peoples.

We are committed to respecting and protecting archaeological resources throughout our project design and construction processes. All ground disturbance work at the plant will undergo review and approval by Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. We are committed to ensuring that Indigenous Nations and communities are involved in monitoring any archaeological work required during this project.

Decision-making

EPCOR makes project decisions by considering a number of factors, including technical requirements, environmental impacts, costs to water ratepayers, and community input. Community input will be used alongside these other considerations for the project to select designs that are aligned with community values, are suitable for each specific site (Rossdale and E.L. Smith), and are mindful of costs to water ratepayers.

This public engagement process is being done to the **refine** level in our public engagement framework, which means that **we are seeking community input to help us improve the quality of the project design**. We will ensure that community feedback is directly reflected in the project design and share how participant input influenced the final design.

Timeline

As shown in the table below, community engagement will continue throughout this project. At this time, we anticipate construction to begin in 2024. While we will engage with the community to ask for specific input at the stages noted on the timeline, we are committed to working with community members throughout the planning and construction of these necessary flood barriers.

| Preliminary Design | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Phase One | May – September 2021 | Community engagement about early concepts to understand what should be considered in the design process for the flood barriers. |
| Phase Two | October 2021 – February 2022 | Community engagement about refined options for the flood barriers. This is when we will seek your input to make a decision in each location where there is an option to have a grass-covered embankment or flood wall. This will include further conversations about potential community amenities included in the flood barrier area. |
| Phase Three | Spring and Summer 2022 | Community engagement about the selected designs . |
| Detailed Design | | |
| Phase Four | 2023 | Community engagement on the detailed design of the flood barriers. This will include discussions about the specific barrier treatments, landscaping plans and any potential amenities. |
| Construction | | |
| Phase Five | 2024-2027 | Ongoing communication with the community about construction plans , impacts and timing. |
| Complete! | 2027 | Community event to celebrate completion of the water treatment plant flood barriers. |

How We Communicated, Engaged & Who Participated

In early October 2021, we wrapped up our first phase of community engagement for this project. We heard from participants through a variety of formats, including collaborative online workshops, surveys, emails, one-on-one conversations and social media.

During these conversations, we asked participants **how they use and value the areas** where permanent flood barriers are needed in Rosssdale and **how we can ensure the project design aligns with community priorities**.

The goals for this initial phase of community engagement included:

- Identifying community interests, perspectives, experiences, issues, and key considerations relating to the flood barriers necessary to protect Edmonton’s water treatment plants from flooding.
- Increasing levels of awareness about the critical services that both water treatment plants provide for Edmonton and the surrounding areas, as well as the risks associated with flooding.
- Building relationships with community members and other parties interested in the two water treatment plants.
- Using information from these workshops to inform the development of flood barrier options for discussion during the second phase of community engagement (selected concepts).

Participants

From May through early October 2021, we talked to a number of community members about how they use the space around the Rosssdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants – and what we should consider as we plan how these flood barriers will look and be experienced by those who live, work and recreate in the areas around the facility.

We heard from:

- Property owners
- Residents
- Indigenous Nations and communities
- Members of the public
- Community Leagues
- Elected Officials
- Government Agencies
- EPCOR employees
- Other interested parties

We have also been coordinating our planning and design efforts with other projects underway in the area.

For **Rossdale**, this includes:

- The City of Edmonton’s Touch the Water project team
- The City of Edmonton’s Ribbon of Green project team
- The City of Edmonton’s River Crossing project team
- Prairie Sky Gondola project team

For **E.L. Smith**, this includes:

- The City of Edmonton’s Ribbon of Green project team

Communication Activities

We employed a number of tactics to communicate information about the project to community members and other parties interested in the area around the E.L. Smith and Rossdale Water Treatment Plants. This included mailing a project newsletter by addressed mail to addresses located near the Rossdale plant and by unaddressed mail to addresses in the communities surrounding both water treatment plants.

For Rossdale, this included:

- Rossdale
- Oliver
- Downtown
- Strathcona
- Garneau

For E.L. Smith, this included:

- Cameron Heights
- Wedgewood Heights
- Donsdale
- Dechene
- Gariepy
- Oleskiw
- Rhatigan Ridge
- Henderson Estates
- Falconer Heights
- Haddow
- Windermere

Details about each of the communication activities are noted in the table below.

| Communication Activity | Interaction |
|--|-------------|
| Project webpage (online at epcor.com/rossdale and epcor.com/elsmith) | 82 visits |

| Communication Activity | Interaction |
|--|--|
| Project Newsletter | <p>Mailed to participants located near the two WTPs through addressed mail (all those located in Rosssdale) and unaddressed mail to:</p> <p>Rosssdale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct mail: 266 ▪ Unaddressed mail: 22,695 <p>E.L. Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct mail: 0 ▪ Unaddressed mail: 7,067 |
| Direct emails | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 emails sent to 31 different Indigenous Nations and communities ▪ 31 emails to special interest groups |
| Direct phone calls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 35 follow up calls to Indigenous Nations and communities ▪ 1 follow up calls to individuals who reached out to EPCOR. |
| Social Media advertisements were made on Facebook and Instagram. Tweets/posts were made on Twitter and LinkedIn. | <p>Rosssdale Water Treatment Plant and E.L. Smith Social Media Ads on Facebook and Instagram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reach: 86, 957 ▪ Impressions: 348, 401 ▪ Clicks: 490 |

Engagement Activities

We held two online workshops to discuss the early design concepts in June 2021, followed by a series of online drop-in question and answer sessions throughout the summer. Participation and interest in these online engagement opportunities was low, with participants only attending for Rosssdale. It is worth noting that these online events took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which we expect contributed to this low engagement.

We experienced higher levels of participation through our online surveys – both with members of the public as well as EPCOR employees. This indicates to us that online surveys are a tool that works for community members and, as such, will continue to be used on this project. During our conversations with residents in Rosssdale, we also heard that community members would like to meet in person to

discuss the project in a traditional open-house or townhall meeting once provincial health restrictions allow it.

We also connected with individual community members through email, phone and social media. These conversations provided participants with opportunities to learn about why this work is needed and provide feedback about how they want to experience the flood barriers.

Participation numbers for each of the engagement activities are noted in the table below.

| Engagement Activity | Participation |
|---|---|
| Rossdale Online Workshops (2) | 6 participants |
| E.L. Smith Online Workshops (2) | 0 participants |
| Rossdale Community League Meeting (1) | 4 participants |
| Rossdale Community League Annual General Meeting (1) | 2 participant questions |
| Community Online Survey | 139 respondents |
| Employee Online Survey | 27 respondents |
| Self-Guided Walking Tour Surveys | Rossdale: 23 participants E.L Smith: 5 participants |
| Edmonton Water Community Advisory Panel Meeting | 8 participants |
| Indigenous Perspectives Online Workshops – Intro & Visioning Narrative (2) | 35 people representing 11 different Indigenous Nations or communities whose traditional territories EPCOR operates. |
| Online Drop-in Question & Answer Sessions | 1 participant |
| Online Event Follow up Surveys (Rossdale, E.L. Smith and Indigenous Perspectives) (3) | 2 respondents |
| 1:1 Conversations (email and phone) | 31 |

What we asked and what we heard

To date, we have had over 280 conversations about the project and have compiled and assessed all of the information we have received. This feedback has been used in combination with engineering studies and other information to determine options for the flood barriers that reflect community priorities while being mindful of costs.

We explored a variety of topics with community members through discussions, questions posed at workshops and various surveys. Participants discussed their connection to the E.L. Smith and Rosedale sites, familiarity of the history of the areas as well as EPCOR's operations in the areas, current use of the areas, and features of interest to make the areas more enjoyable, accessible, and aesthetically appealing.

The majority of participants told us that they are attracted to the river valley for various recreational uses including biking, walking, running, and/or enjoying the natural state of the areas around both water treatment plants.

A summary of what we heard from residents, members of the public and other interested parties in response to each of the key questions that we asked during the first phase of engagement (early design concepts) is included below. A summary of the feedback received during engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities connected to the plant sites follows in a subsequent section.

Public feedback

What is your connection to the water treatment plant?

The majority of those who participated in our various engagement activities at both water treatment plants indicated that they are generally interested in the area or recreate around the water treatment plant in question. In both locations we also heard from a number of participants who lived near the plants.

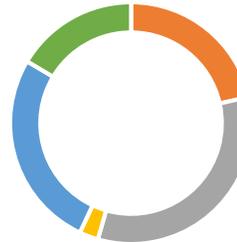
The general distribution of how participants were connected to each water treatment plant is shown in the chart below.

Rossdale WTP



- Lives in Rossdale
- Lives nearby
- Generally interested
- Works nearby
- Recreates in the area
- No connection

E.L. Smith WTP



- Lives nearby
- Generally interested
- Works nearby
- Recreates in the area
- No connection

How familiar are you with the history associated with this area?

In both locations we heard that many survey respondents considered themselves unfamiliar with the history of these locations. Slightly more respondents in Rossdale considered themselves familiar with the history associated with the area.

The general distribution of how familiar participants were with the history associated with each water treatment plant area is shown in the chart below.

Rossdale WTP



- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Somewhat unfamiliar
- Very unfamiliar

E.L. Smith

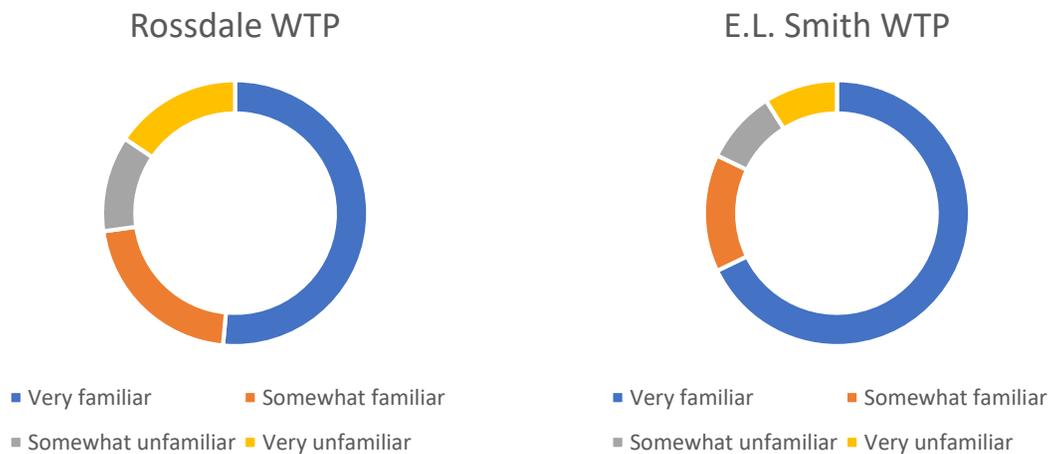


- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Somewhat unfamiliar
- Very unfamiliar

How familiar are you with what EPCOR does at the water treatment plant?

When we asked survey respondents how familiar they are with what EPCOR does at each water treatment plant, we heard that the majority of people understand what we do. It is worth noting that approximately 14% of the online survey respondents who answered this question are EPCOR employees.

The general distribution of how familiar participants were with what EPCOR does at each water treatment plant area is shown in the chart below.



How do you currently use and experience the areas where flood barriers are needed to protect the water treatment plant?

Participants who live, work and recreate around the **Rossdale** plant, told us that the area is valued for:

1. Recreational activities like walking, running, cycling, dog walking, watersports and other exercise.
2. Providing visitors with opportunities to learn about and experience local history and industrial activities.
3. General enjoyment of nature, including the views of the North Saskatchewan River, downtown Edmonton and green space.
4. Social gatherings and community connections like picnics, visiting and other activities with family and friends.

At **E.L. Smith**, we heard that participants mainly use the area around the plant for:

1. Recreational purposes, such as walking/ running, cycling, dog walking and watersports on the North Saskatchewan River.
2. General enjoyment of nature, including the view of the river and green space.

How can EPCOR improve how community members use and experience the spaces where flood barriers are needed to protect the water treatment plant in a major flood event?

Participants who provided feedback about our plans in **Rossdale** told us that we can improve the area where flood barriers are needed to protect the water treatment plant from the impacts of a major flood by:

- Widening trails in the area and increasing trail connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, improving accessibility of the area, and adding flexible space for recreational use, viewing the river, and public gathering.
- Adding public art, signage, wayfinding and education about the Indigenous importance of the area, Edmonton’s history, water treatment process, and watershed.
- Ensuring any new development aligns with the existing character of the area, adding vegetation where possible, and generally making the area more inviting.

At **E.L. Smith**, we heard that we could improve the area where flood barriers are needed to protect the plant by:

- Increasing connectivity of trails in the area for pedestrians and cyclists, improving accessibility to the informal trails around the plant, and generally improving the space for recreational use, viewing the river, and resting along the trails.
- Adding signage, wayfinding and education about the Indigenous importance of the area, water treatment process, watershed and solar farm.
- Ensuring any new development aligns with the existing character of the area, adding vegetation where possible, and generally maintaining the "wildness" of the area.

We also heard from some participants that the areas around both the Rossdale and E.L. Smith plants are not in need of improvement and should be left as it is. A few participants also advised that these areas would be improved by protecting the water treatment plants from the impacts of a major flood event.

What amenities would you like to see incorporated into the design of these necessary flood barriers?

When we asked participants about specific amenities that they would like to see incorporated into the project design, we received a wide range of ideas and suggestions. Not all of these suggestions will be possible within the project scope and budget.

The suggestions for amenities that we received are included in the table below. While we appreciate all the suggestions that we received, only those that fit within the project design, scope and budget will be considered by the project team as we move into the detailed design phase for the project. We will continue conversations with community members about the selected amenities during subsequent engagement on this project.

| Amenity Suggestions That... | Rossdale WTP | E.L. Smith WTP |
|---|---|--|
| support community connection and create space for gathering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ seating (benches) ▪ gathering spaces (picnic tables, fire pits, open space, garbage cans etc.) ▪ viewpoints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ seating (benches, rest stops etc.) ▪ gathering spaces (community area, picnic areas etc.) ▪ viewpoints |

| Amenity Suggestions That... | Rossdale WTP | E.L. Smith WTP |
|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commercial opportunities (shopping, dining etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commercial opportunities (bike shop) |
| support recreational use of the area and surrounding trail network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational installations (pump track, rock climbing wall, mountain bike trails, exercise stations, skate park ramps, play structures etc.) multi-use trails (to accommodate different users) bike repair facilities (tools, tire pumps etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational installations (mountain bike trails, bridge to cross river etc.) multi-use trails (to accommodate different users, connect to other trails in the area) bike repair facilities (tools, tire pumps etc.) |
| support all users in the area and improve user safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water stations restrooms shelters (from wind, sun etc.) wifi / phone lighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water stations restrooms fencing snow dump facility |
| improve site aesthetics and build awareness of the historical, cultural and current use of the area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous information signage (educational, historical, maps, interpretive etc.) public art (murals, sculpture etc.) landscaping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> signage (interpretive, educational, solar farm etc.) public art (murals, architecture etc.) landscaping |

As part of the amenity discussion, we also asked survey respondents about how we can make these spaces more accessible to all Edmontonians, recognizing we all have different physical and cognitive abilities. We heard two overarching themes in response to this question. Participants suggested that we:

1. Incorporate multi use pathways that accommodate different users and are easy to access.
2. Add amenities that attract people of differing abilities to the area, like signage, seating, play structures, etc.

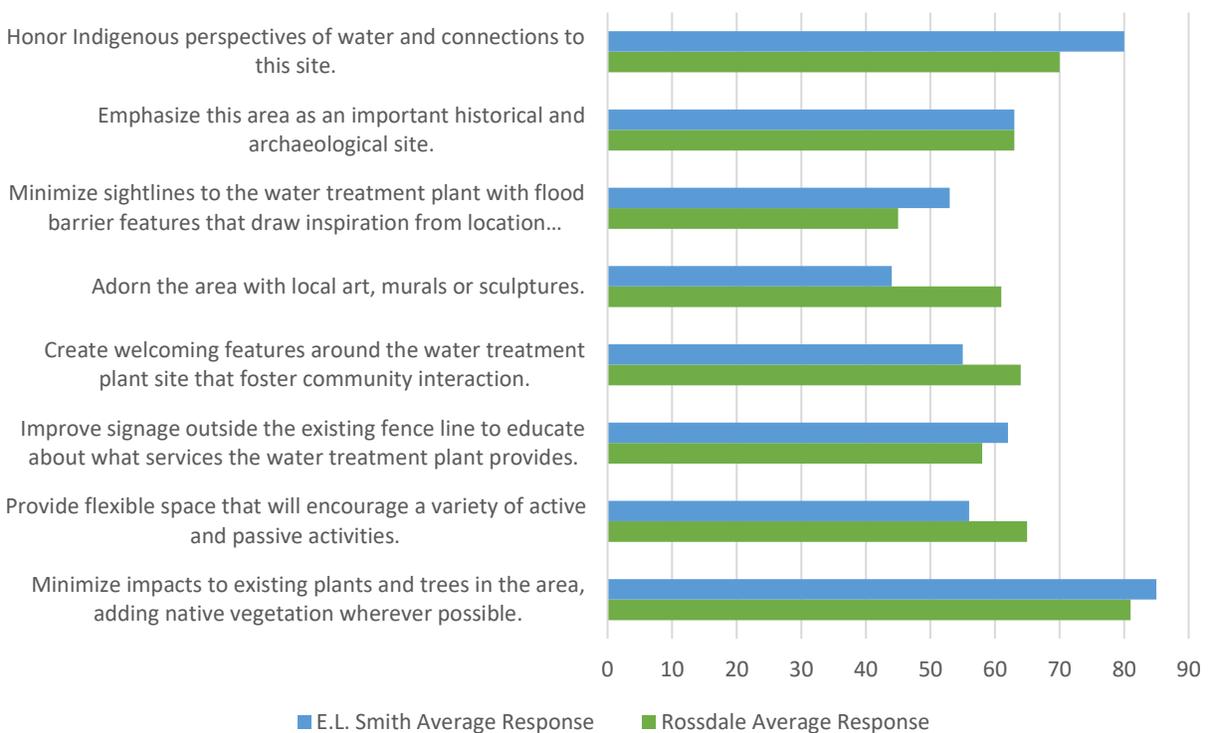
Participants shared that they would like to preserve the “natural” feel of the areas around both plants and that these riverside spaces are valued by community members for the connections they provide to nature. At E.L. Smith we heard that increasing amenities around the plant would lessen the appeal for those who currently access the area seeking wilderness and adventure.

Design Considerations

In our online survey, we also asked participants a series of questions relating to design considerations for the project. For each of the design considerations noted in the graph below, we asked respondents to indicate how important that consideration was to them.

The design considerations that were noted as more important to survey respondents included honoring Indigenous perspectives of water and connections to this site; and minimizing impacts to existing plants and trees in the area, adding native vegetation wherever possible.

How important is this design consideration to you?



Indigenous feedback

Participants in the Indigenous Perspectives sessions held diverse roles, including representatives of Indigenous Nations or communities, Elders, knowledge holders, monitors, youth and Indigenous community members with lived experience in Edmonton.

The 31 Indigenous Nations or communities who participated in this phase of engagement include:

- 19 Cree
- 4 Métis

- 2 Dene
- 2 Nakoda
- 3 Blackfoot
- 1 PTO (Provincial Territorial Organization) organization

Throughout the conversations with Indigenous Nations and communities, with follow-ups to ensure what EPCOR heard was accurate, it became clear there was some alignment on the concerns and perspectives regarding this project. While views did not always align, below is a list of what has been sent out to interested Indigenous Nations and communities and is being acted upon and updated based on current discussions.

| What We Heard | What We're Planning to Do Next |
|---|---|
| EPCOR should engage with all Treaty 6 First Nations | <p>EPCOR takes an inclusive approach to Indigenous Engagement. While EPCOR was required by the project grant funding to engage with 3 Indigenous groups, we are actually inviting 31 Indigenous Nations and communities to engage on this project.</p> <p>This includes all Treaty 6 Nations as well as other Nations and communities who have told EPCOR that they have an interest in the sites.</p> |
| Indigenous perspectives and history should be respected and represented | <p>EPCOR is looking to develop a “Visioning Narrative” to support future engagement activities that will be rooted in Indigenous knowledge about, and experiences with, the Water Treatment Plant sites.</p> <p>We requested the assistance of knowledge keepers from different Indigenous Nations and communities to work with us on this in August.</p> <p>EPCOR is committed to aligning with the principles of OCAP™ (Ownership, Control, Access, and Property) for the Indigenous knowledge associated with this work.</p> |
| EPCOR needs to consider cultural, ecological and environmental impacts | <p>EPCOR recognizes the importance of Indigenous knowledge keepers, and having the opportunity to be on the land in order to provide meaningful input to EPCOR about how to address potential impacts.</p> <p>EPCOR should consider hosting Walking Tours of both the E.L. Smith and Rossdale WTPs for knowledge keepers and consultation staff to visit the sites and share questions, concerns and opportunities regarding flood barriers.</p> |
| Indigenous Nations and communities are interested in receiving information and participating in | <p>EPCOR is committed to engaging Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the life of this project, this includes meeting Duty to Consult standards as required and exceeding those where possible. This engagement will include providing information at key project milestones and incorporating additional opportunities for Indigenous participation in project decision-making processes. During these interactions, EPCOR</p> |

opportunities that support their decision-making

technical staff will be available to receive feedback and perspectives from participants and answer questions about EPCOR's operations and this project.

How we used this input & next steps

We compiled and assessed all of the perspectives, suggestions, and comments received during the first phase of community engagement on this project.

We combined this information with the technical requirements of protecting Edmonton's water treatment plants in a situation where the North Saskatchewan River overtops its banks to refine our early design concepts and develop refined options for consideration during the second phase of engagement.

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback about this project to date!

This is a collaborative effort and we appreciate your insight and input. The feedback you've provided to date has helped us understand how the space around the Rossdale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants is used and valued by community members.

We are looking forward to continuing these conversations over the coming months as we work together to further improve our designs and select options that reflect the needs of the communities around the E.L. Smith and Rossdale plants.

Design considerations

During our first phase of engagement, we heard from participants that there are a number of considerations that we should include when designing how these necessary flood barriers will look and be experienced by those using the areas around the two water treatment plants.

The general design consideration categories that we heard include:

1. Education and history:
 - a. Educational features: improve signage or add interactive features outside the existing fence line to educate people about the services the water treatment plant provides.
 - b. Historical features: add features that draw inspiration from local history. Options could include working with a local historic group, or highlighting Fort Edmonton's history at this site.
 - c. Indigenous connections: honor Indigenous perspectives of water and the connections that many Nations have to this site. Recognizing the importance of water for all beings.

2. Art:
 - a. Adorn the area with local or Indigenous art, murals or sculptures. The public art could be interactive in nature or highlight the community's character.
3. Community space:
 - a. Welcoming space: designing features around the water treatment plant site that foster community interaction. This could include adding seating to an area, or creating space for community gathering.
 - b. Space that supports recreation: features that encourage and enhance recreational use of the area.
 - c. Flexible space: area in the community that will encourage a variety of activities.

We will use these considerations to inform our design of these necessary flood barriers moving into the next phase of engagement (Phase 2: Refined Flood Barrier Options).

We know that installing permanent flood barriers around both water treatment plants will have impacts on many different people and we are committed to working with the communities in both areas to ensure that the flood barriers align with local priorities. During our second phase of engagement (Refined Flood Barrier Options) we will continue these discussions with community members in order to hear if there is anything else we should consider in our design process or add to this list.

What's next

Over the coming months, we will continue to work with the communities around the Rosedale and E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plants to help us determine what type of flood barrier is best suited to each community and improve the quality of the project design.

We are committed to working with participants to develop designs that meet the needs of your community while being mindful of costs. We will ensure that the feedback received is reflected in the project design and share how community input influenced the final design.

In the next phase of engagement (phase two: selected options), we plan to share designs for each water treatment plant that have been refined based on the feedback included in this report and:

- Hear from participants about their preference for wall or embankment in select locations at the Rosedale Water Treatment Plant
- Validate what was heard during Phase 1 engagement from participants about how they want the barriers to look and feel (design considerations).
- Brainstorm additional considerations for the project team to evaluate while designing the options selected during Phase 2 engagement.

Phase two engagement will be initiated in late 2021, with formal engagement opportunities (e.g., workshops) scheduled for early 2022.

We want to hear from you!
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