

Mechanized River Valley Access Construction Update March 2016

The Mechanized River Valley Access project will connect 100 Street near the Hotel Macdonald to the river valley trail system near the Low Level Bridge. In addition to the funicular, the project will also have a pedestrian bridge, a unique urban staircase, an elevator, and several seating areas and lookout points along the way. Along with increasing connectivity to the river valley, the project is intended to address the challenges some citizens face in accessing the river valley from Edmonton's Downtown.



Construction work is scheduled to begin on March 7, 2016.

During the construction process, the City of Edmonton anticipates the following impacts:

Staircase

There will be a total closure of the staircase connecting McDougall Hill Road to the top of bank near the Hotel Macdonald for the duration of construction. Until the staircase can safely be reopened, pedestrians will need to use posted detour routes. The existing wood staircase will be reconfigured and partially utilized within the new design to maintain this important pedestrian route into Downtown. The pedestrian [detour route](http://Edmonton.ca/rivervalleyprojects) is posted at Edmonton.ca/rivervalleyprojects (Mechanized Access construction updates)

Traffic

Traffic disruptions will occur, including a lane closure at the top of McDougall Hill Road for approximately 6 months (during non-peak times only). Minor disruptions will also occur as

equipment is moved from the construction equipment storage areas south of McDougall Hill Road.

Tree clearing and grubbing process

While shrubs and trees are required to be removed as part of the construction process, an equivalent value of new plantings will occur in accordance to the City's Corporate Tree Management policy. The number of large trees being removed for this project is minimal, with the majority of the site being low-lying shrubs and brush. The City will also be reclaiming temporarily disturbed areas with a native seed mix.

Construction is anticipated to be complete by fall 2017.



Funding

Edmonton's River Valley Alliance initiatives, including the Mechanized River Valley Access project, are funded by the River Valley Alliance, the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta. The City of Edmonton has contributed \$1.7 million to the \$72.9 million received. The budget for the Mechanized River Valley Access project is \$24 million. The other River Valley Alliance initiatives include the Touch the Water Promenade, Terwillegar Park Footbridge, West End Trails, Boat Docks and Launches, and East End Trails.

Project and construction updates will be available at Edmonton.ca/rivervalleyprojects.

We thank you for your patience during the construction of the Mechanized River Valley Access. Questions about the construction? Contact Henry Maisonneuve, Project Officer, [780.495.9923](tel:780.495.9923), henry.maisonneuve@edmonton.ca.

