



River Valley Use Stakeholder Engagement Project

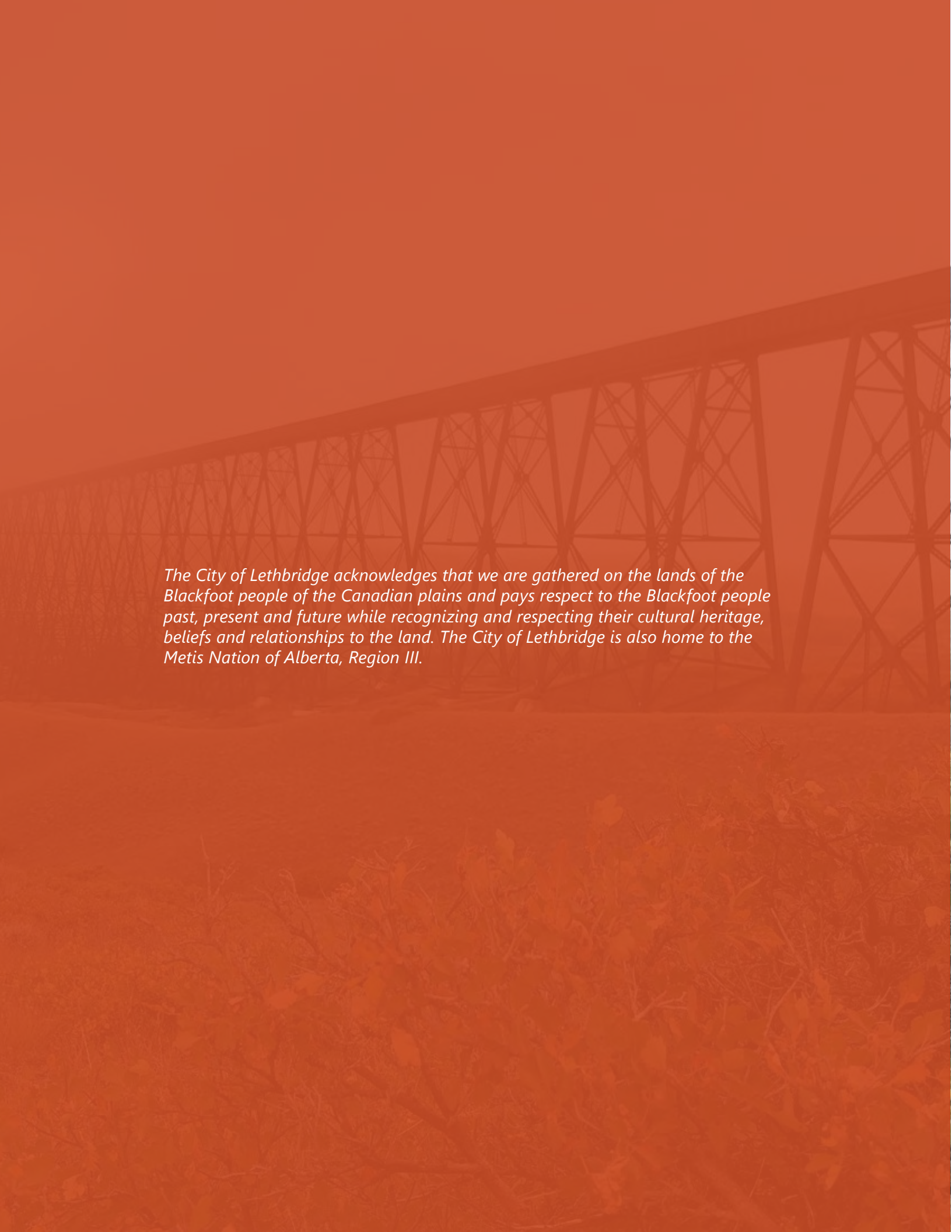
What We Heard Report

January 2021



CITY OF
Lethbridge





The City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationships to the land. The City of Lethbridge is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Executive Summary

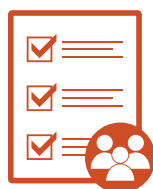
Consisting of over 1,700 hectares, Lethbridge's river valley is the defining natural feature of the city. Mostly undeveloped, the river valley is the home to a diverse population of plants and animals and serves as a corridor for many more. This crown jewel of Lethbridge serves area residents and visitors from a passive and active perspective. There are innumerable view points from which to take in the beautiful vistas. Through hiking, running, walking, photography, and many other pursuits, the valley fills the needs of many.

Along with residents, the City is a steward of the river valley. Recent plans, such as the River Valley Parks Master Plan 2017, have presented visions for the river valley and identified management strategies and potential projects. However, in response to a proposed pathway development, City Council has requested that staff re-engage with stakeholders and residents. A program of public consultation was designed and implemented in the fall of 2020.



Stakeholder Discussion Sessions

11 sessions including 66 individuals



Public Survey

3,043 responses



Online Mapping

160 unique comments

Conclusions

- While there is a variety of perspectives on the future of the river valley, it is clear that residents of Lethbridge all **value it highly**. The river valley is a treasured part of the city and people all want to see it continue to be a special place for future generations. It is valued for its history, its environmental and natural aspects, and for its ability to provide for recreation.
- There is a belief that the river valley should be **accessible to all people** regardless of age, physical ability, income level, ethnicity, and so on. This does not mean that all activities are condoned, rather it means that all people should be able to enjoy some of the benefits the river valley provides to its visitors.
- While visitation to and use of the river valley is encouraged and desired, **care is needed with this use and in decisions** about how the river valley is accessed and used in order to ensure all future generations are able to accrue the benefits the valley currently offers.
- Concerns about the degradation of the river valley from all perspectives exist. This is particularly heightened among those who highly value the natural aspects and ecological functions the river valley provides. The protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitat and corridors requires purposeful planning and management, particularly while ensuring that the valley can continue to provide opportunities for active and passive recreation.
- While unanimity as it relates to development in the river valley may be difficult to achieve, a **framework that can be used for decision making** will be important as decisions are made regarding development, protection, and management of the river valley. The framework is based upon values and principles and includes strategies for how these processes can occur.
 - » The City should **work with community organizations** in the planning, development, and maintenance of aspects of the river valley including trails.
- **Education, including signage**, should be enhanced. This relates to a variety of things including:
 - » Appropriate behaviours and activities;
 - » Wayfinding and approved uses;
 - » The natural and human history of the river valley; and
 - » The important ecological properties and functioning of the river valley.

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1.0 Introduction

Consisting of over 1,700 hectares, Lethbridge's river valley is the defining natural feature of the city. Mostly undeveloped, the river valley is the home to a diverse population of plants and animals and serves as a corridor for many more. This crown jewel of Lethbridge serves area residents and visitors from a passive and active perspective. There are innumerable view points from which to take in the beautiful vistas. Through hiking, running, walking, photography, and many other pursuits, the valley fills the needs of many.

Along with residents, the City is a steward of the river valley. Recent plans, such as the River Valley Parks Master Plan 2017, have presented visions for the river valley and identified management strategies and potential projects. However, in response to a proposed pathway development, City Council has requested that staff re-engage with stakeholders and residents.

A program of public consultation was designed and implemented in the fall of 2020. A series of discussion sessions were convened with various stakeholder interests in Lethbridge. These sessions were not exhaustive, rather they represented the range of interests and perspectives about utilization in the river valley. Additional detail about these sessions is presented below along with the output from these sessions.

A community wide survey was fielded with households in Lethbridge. This survey enabled residents of Lethbridge to provide their thoughts about the river valley. The survey gathered information about utilization of the river valley as well as respondents' thoughts on potential development, the valley's functionality, and management strategies to employ. Additional information about the fielding of the survey is presented below along with the survey findings.

Finally, an online mapping tool was utilized to enable the general public to share their thoughts in a spatial manner. People were able to pinpoint specific locations and identify areas and issues of concern, potential development, enhancement, and protection. Details about its implementation and the findings from this engagement mechanism are presented below.



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11 sessions including
66 individuals



Public Survey
3,043 responses



Online Mapping
160 unique
comments

Finally some broad conclusions gleaned from all elements of the engagement are presented herein¹. These conclusions address the different uses in the river valley, as well as principles to guide uses, and management strategies to employ. The conclusions will assist the City as it makes decisions about the use and preservation of the Lethbridge river valley.

¹ This project also involved Indigenous engagement and a Historical Places review. Results and findings from these project elements are presented in separate reports.

2.0 Engagement Findings

Each of the different engagement mechanisms is described below along with the findings from each tactic.

2.1 Stakeholder Discussion Sessions

There are a multitude of perspectives as it relates to utilization of the river valley in Lethbridge. A range of perspectives was identified by the City of Lethbridge and discussion sessions were convened with each. Sessions were held with individuals representing active recreation participants, those with a focus on environmental sustainability, cultural and historical interests, educational institutions, and emergency and protective services. A discussion was held with representatives from the Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee and with the Historic Places Advisory Committee as well. Refer to Appendix A for the complete list of groups involved.

The eleven sessions were convened on Zoom from September 22nd through to November 4th, 2020¹. See Appendix B for the presentation and discussion material utilized through the sessions. Upon completion of the separate discussions a combined session at which representatives from the individual sessions attended. During this combined session, a synopsis of the outcomes from the individual sessions was presented along with some foundational components developed from the synopsis. At the session participants provided comments and discussed the findings and foundations. This discussion was followed up by an online survey so attendees could reflect on the material and provide comment; all elements received strong support. The final synopsis and foundational elements are presented below.

2.1.1 Synopsis of the Discussions

During the group discussions about recreation in the river valley, participants were presented with the definition of recreation from a national perspective. A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing defines recreation as follows.

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

Reviewing this definition helped ensure that, as the discussions unfolded, recreation is broad and not limited to a sometimes commonly held belief that it is solely sport and active physical pursuits. With this basis set, participants discussed the value they place on the river valley as well as their vision for it. They shared what their recreational use is and identified concerns they have with recreational use of the river valley. Finally they proposed some management strategies that could be employed to guide behaviour in the river valley. A synopsis of the discussion for each component is presented below.

¹ The session with river recreationalists was convened on November 4th. It was held after a single session was convened with representatives from the previously convened ten sessions. This last session was convened based on a suggestion from a participant in an earlier discussion session to include those who recreate on the river.

Values

Participants in engagement sessions spoke about the importance of the river valley. They considered it from their own perspectives commenting the value it provided and what they treasured about it. Across all discussion sessions and within the individual groups themselves a variety of thoughts were shared. Many commonalities were apparent. Elements or thoughts that were mentioned repeatedly included the following:

- **Mental & spiritual health.** Participants spoke about the ability of the river valley to improve or contribute to their own mental and spiritual health. Whether through active pursuits or more leisurely activities, being in the river valley positively contributed to these elements of health.
- **Recreation.** The river valley is considered a significant location to undertake recreational pursuits. As noted through the definition of recreation from the National Framework (presented above), recreation is broadly encompassing. What was agreed upon was that the river valley served as a great locale for them to recreate.
- **Wildlife.** The natural elements of the river valley were identified. While the river valley provided for the stakeholders individually, it was also recognized as habitat and a corridor for wildlife. Some spoke about the siting of wildlife as a recreational pursuit. Primarily however it was acknowledged that the river valley is an important part of the environment providing habitat for wildlife.
- **Connection to nature.** Similarly to the previously mentioned value, while the river valley is habitat for wildlife (plant and animal), it does provide an important opportunity for people to connect with nature. As part of the natural world many spoke about the importance of being able to connect in some degree with it. The river valley, for many, provides their connection to nature.
- **Attracts & retains residents.** For all the river valley provides – as described in the preceding values – the river valley is an important asset in attracting people to move to Lethbridge or helping to retain them. Some participants spoke about the attraction of the river valley and how important it is to them as a resident. Others suggested that this significant attribute in the city can help draw people to relocate here or keep them.

The aforementioned values as well as others raised during the sessions are presented in the graphic below. The relative size of the words and phrases represents to some measure the frequency of which the idea arose and was discussed during the sessions. All presented are important values to participants however.



Vision

As part of the discussion in the stakeholder sessions, participants were asked to present a vision for the river valley. They could think about a time in the future and speak about how they saw the river valley being used (or not). Others considered it from a more philosophical perspective. The thoughts and ideas offered by the participants are presented in the following graphic. Those phrases and thoughts in larger font represent items that were repeated frequently across the sessions. The relative sizes indicate that the items in smaller font were mentioned several times but not to the degree, across the sessions, that the larger font items were. The most prominent ideas related to the participants' vision for the river valley are in the graphic but noted here as well.

- **The community now and in the future will understand the importance of the river valley to ecology and human history.** Aside from simply visiting, recreating, and appreciating the river valley, participants spoke about the importance of residents understanding its important ecological value. Having this understanding would help ensure that this functionality would be preserved. While recognizing the natural elements and functioning of the river valley, it also has been important throughout human history. The First Nations people have a long history associated with the river valley. In more recent history the city's development can be traced to the river valley through trade, commerce, and settlement. An appreciation of the human history in the value was also seen as important.
- **A place for all people.** Currently as reflected in the definition of recreation, people use the river valley as a locale for a variety of recreational pursuits. With this vision statement, participants were referring to the river valley being open to all people. Not to suggest that all activities can occur there, rather to suggest that all people regardless of their age, ethnicity, ability, and so on can visit the river valley and accrue some of the benefits that it offers.
- **Protection of natural environment.** Recognizing its role as an important part of the ecological world and the value it provides to plants and animals, stakeholders spoke of a future in which the river valley will continue to provide a natural environment. In this future, the components of a natural environment will be preserved.



Recreational Uses

Considering the definition of recreation presented at the beginning of the sessions, participants identified the variety of recreational activities in which they participate in the river valley. They included active and passive pursuits, as well as those related to physical health, mental and spiritual health, and intellectual health. Refer to the graphic for specifics.



Management Strategies

Management strategies are actions, decisions, and processes that can be employed to modify, change, or address activities and behaviours. They can be direct or indirect. Direct strategies control users and remove their choice; these can be strategies such as closures and enforcement. Indirect strategies are techniques that are employed to influence behaviour such as education and signage.

Participants discussed management strategies that could be employed to address some of the concerns identified previously. As illustrated in the following graphic, an array of strategies were identified. Those presented in a larger font are strategies that were identified or emphasized by a greater number of participants across a greater number of sessions. The strategies proposed represent both direct and indirect measures.



2.1.2 Foundations

The foundations include a vision, values & fundamental beliefs, principles for use & management, and then management strategies. Together these foundation elements represent tools that decision makers can use as they contemplate and plan for the river valley. For the most part the elements are not prescriptive; they do however provide guidance that can direct decision making. The real strength in the different elements is the combined application of them. Working in concert the singular components provide a structure of some rigour.

Vision

Rather than developing a vision for the river valley unique to this process, the vision for the river valley as stated in the River Valley Parks Master Plan has been carried forward.

To create a balance between preservation and recreation that will increase safe access and connectivity to Lethbridge River Valley amenities, while preserving the ecological, cultural and historical integrity of the landscape to continue providing diverse opportunities for nature-based recreation into the future.

Values & Fundamental Beliefs

The river valley is...

- ...a unique natural asset.
- ...an important habitat for plants and animals and a corridor for wildlife.
- ...significant in the history of the area pre and post contact.
- ...open to all residents.
- ...a place that helps people enhance their physical, social, mental, and spiritual health.
- ...our connection to wilderness.

Principles for Use & Management

- All development in the river valley needs to go through an approved City process.
- The historical and cultural significance of the river valley to Indigenous peoples and communities needs to be reflected in all decision making, permitted uses, and development.
- Proactive planning is needed for the river valley.
- The river valley needs to be actively managed.
- Not all places need to be accessible by all people.
- Residents of all ages and abilities are able to visit some part of the river valley.
- Development should be clustered together as much as possible.
- Preservation of the natural environment and its functions needs to be considered at all stages of planning.

Management Strategies

- Zones of use – different recreation activities are centred in particular areas.
- Closures of some areas – temporal (e.g. to align with nesting periods, due to weather conditions)
- Use of social media (incl. apps) – wayfinding and management
- Signage – interpretive, wayfinding, areas of activity, behaviour
- Education – behavioural best practices, history and culture, environmental and ecology
- Collective vision, values, principles
- Volunteer & community stewardship – maintenance, identification of issues, monitor use
- Ongoing liaison between the City and community organizations
- Identification of sanctioned activities
- Identification of sanctioned development – some unsanctioned trails will be sanctioned while others may be decommissioned
- Enforcement (limited)

2.2 Household Survey

A survey was fielded with households in Lethbridge to gather the perspectives of residents as it relates to the river valley. Residents were invited to participate in the survey through a number of means. The City promoted the survey on its “Get Involved Lethbridge” page and through other online and social media platforms. There was also promotion through the media and other existing communication channels. The primary means of promoting the online survey and inviting participation was to mail out a postcard to each household in Lethbridge. Appendix C illustrates the postcard.

Using neighbourhood mail, a postcard was sent to each household in Lethbridge and included a unique access code. The postcard directed people to the City’s “Get Involved Lethbridge” page where they could access the questionnaire using their unique access code. Individuals could also contact the City to get a hard copy questionnaire mailed to them. The hardcopy questionnaires were accompanied with an addressed postage paid envelope for return of the completed questionnaire. Refer to Appendix D for the questionnaire. In total over 43,000 postcards were sent out, enabling each household with the opportunity to provide their input. In total 3,043 submissions were received. This response provides a margin of error of +1.8% 19 times out of 20²; the findings are representative of Lethbridge households. The survey was active from October 14th through to November 5th, 2020. As a token of thanks for people’s participation in the survey, they could enter into a draw for one of two \$100 grocery certificates.



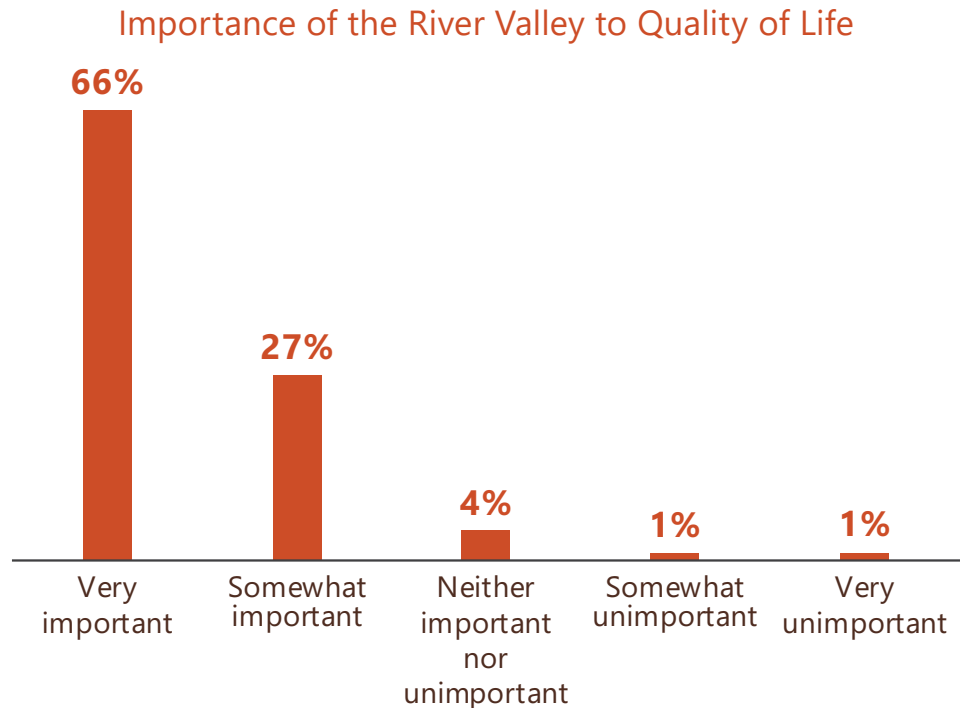
² This margin of error means that if the survey was replicated twenty times on nineteen occasions the responses would be within 1.8%.

2.2.1 Survey Findings

The findings from the survey are presented in order the questions were posed on the questionnaire. The percentages are based on the total number of responses to that question; not all respondents answered all questions. Subsegment analysis³ was undertaken, examining the findings from some questions based on the responses to other questions. For instances in which sizeable differences exist the subsegment analysis is presented.

Importance and Use

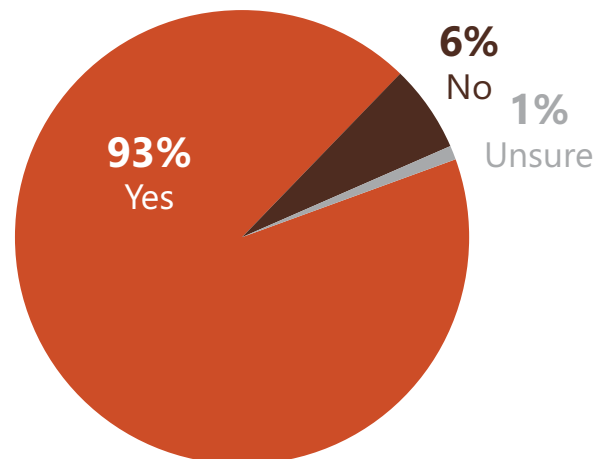
To begin, respondents were asked to indicate the importance of the river valley to their quality of life. As illustrated in the graph, almost all respondents (93%) said it is important with two-thirds (66%) saying it is very important.



“ We came to Lethbridge a few years ago. Lethbridge would not have the same appeal to use if natural areas were not preserved, protected, but also made accessible to all who care for them.”

When asked about visitation to the river valley in the last year, almost all respondents (93%) said that a household member had visited it at least once.

Did a Household Member Use / Visit the River Valley in the Past Year?



³ Responses from the following subsegments was reviewed: area of Lethbridge in which respondents live; household composition – children in the household and households with members 55 years and older; activities in which people participate – cycling on pathways, cycling on trails, dog walking.

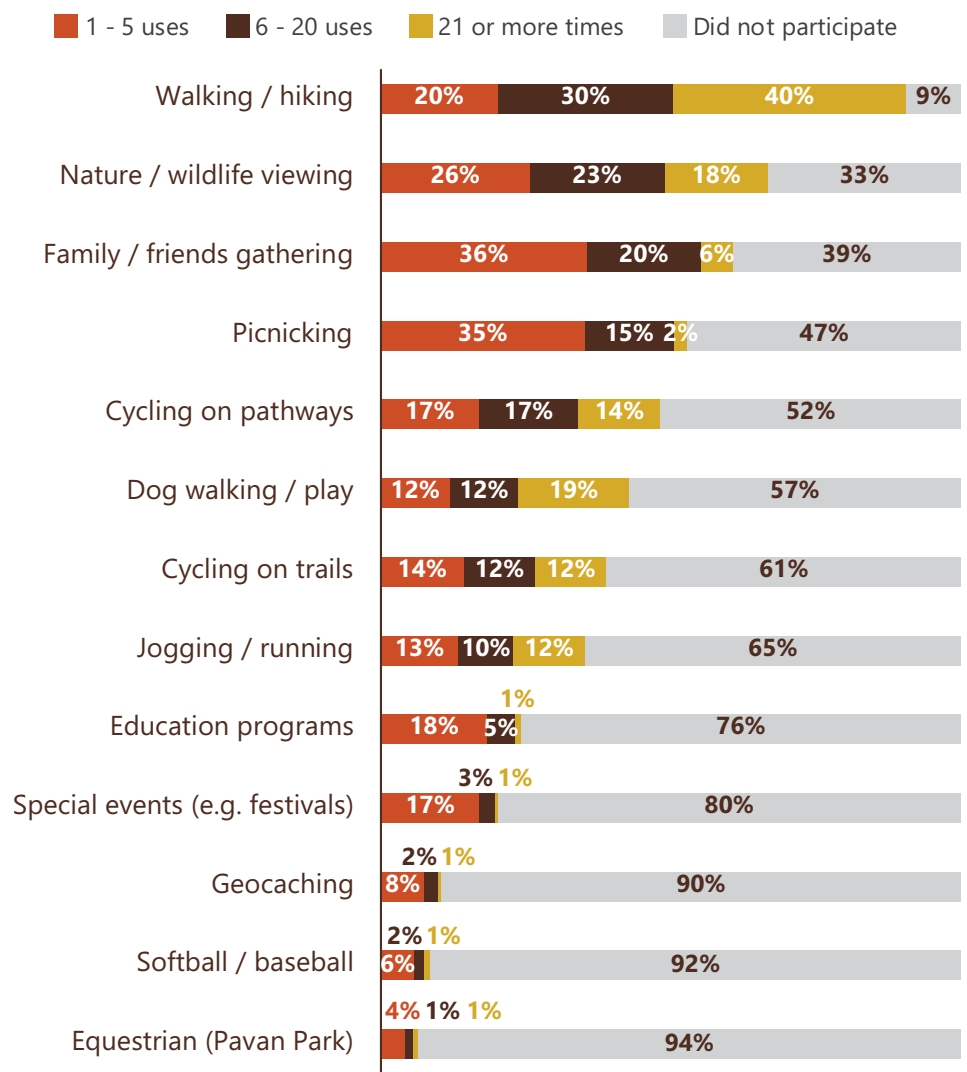
As evidenced in the accompanying graph, almost all (91%) of households walked / hiked in the river valley in the previous year. In fact over one-third (40%) of households walking / hiked twenty-one or more times in the previous year. Approximately two-thirds (67%) did some nature / wildlife viewing and had a family / friends gathering (61%). Over half (53%) picnicked. Approximately half (48%) cycled on pathways while over one-third (39%) cycled on trails.

Subsegment Analysis

- Residents in west Lethbridge (43%) are more likely to jog / run in the river valley than residents of south Lethbridge (32%) or north Lethbridge (29%).
- Households with children (0-17 years) are more likely to do the following activities in the river valley than households with older adults (55 years and older)
 - » Jog / run - 56% vs 21%.
 - » Cycling on pathways – 68% vs 38%.
 - » Cycling on trails – 62% vs 28%.
 - » Picnic – 70% vs. 46%.
 - » Family / friends gathering – 75% vs 54%.
 - » Education programs – 42% vs 20%.
 - » Dog walking / play – 53% vs 35%.
- Almost all people who cycle on trails (95%) also cycle on pathways. Approximately three-quarters (77%) of people who cycle on pathways also cycle on trails.

Frequency of Participation in Each Activity in the River Valley

(Previous Year)



Pathways – multi-use feature with paved, limestone, or shale surface

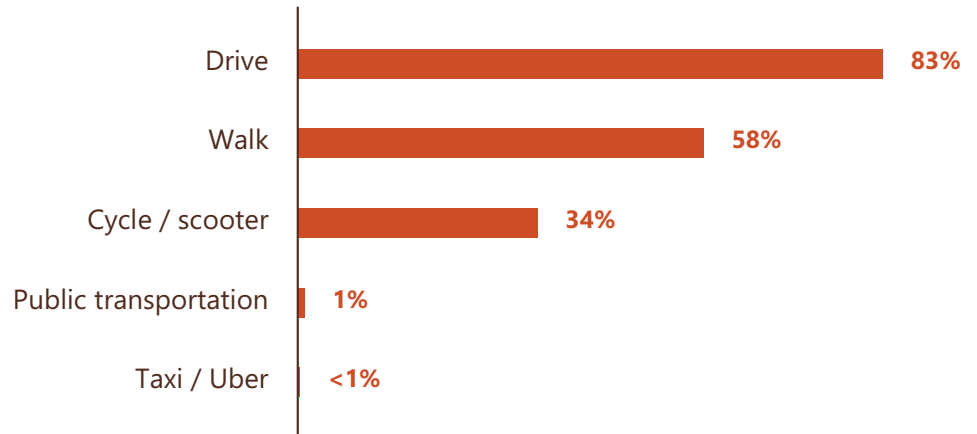
Trails – single track with a natural surface

While over three-quarters (83%) of respondents said household members typically access the river valley by driving, over half (58%) also said they walk to the river valley.

Subsegment Analysis

- Residents in west Lethbridge (66%) are more likely to access the river valley by walking than residents of south Lethbridge (59%) or north Lethbridge (43%).
- Households with children (0-17 years) are more likely to access the river valley by cycle / scooter (49%) than households with older adults (26%).

Typical Means of Accessing the River Valley



Barriers to Use

While approximately one-third (36%) of respondents said a lack of time limits the frequency of household members visiting the river valley, almost one-quarter said a concern about safety (22%) and off-leash dogs (22%) limited their use / visitation to the river valley. Only five percent (5%) said they are limited by a lack of transportation. Refer to the graph.

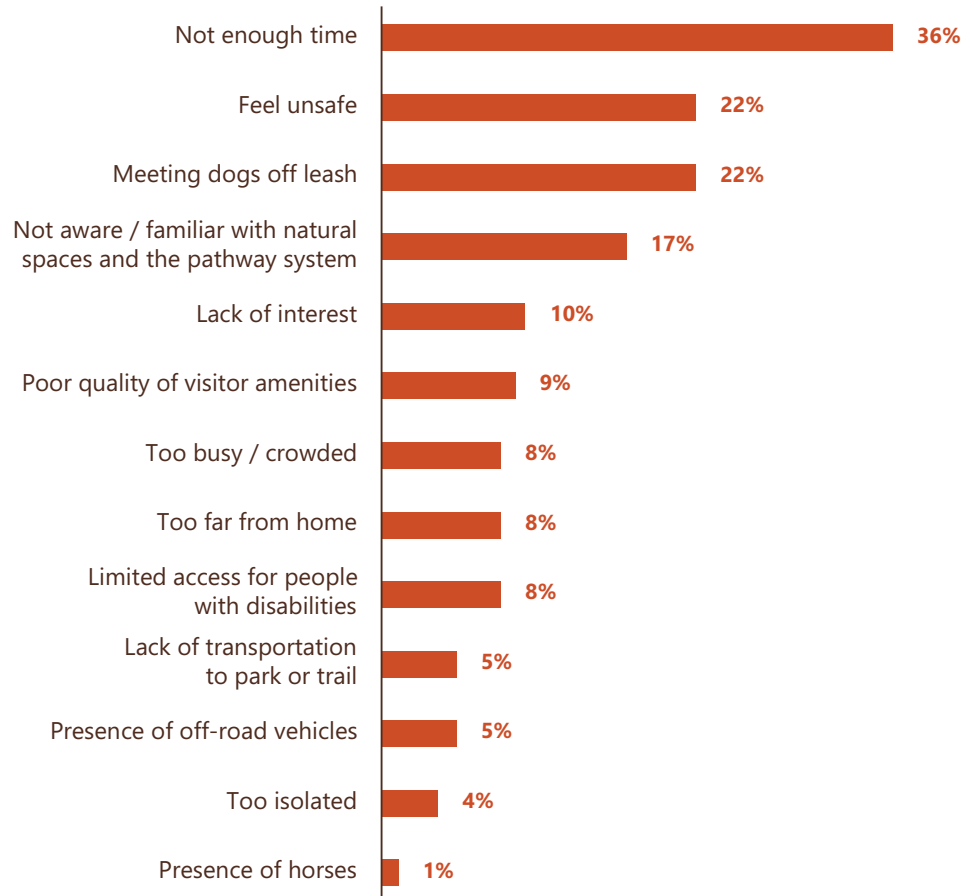
Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children (0-17 years) are more likely to identify a lack of time as a limiting factor (50%) than households with older adults (28%).

Respondents were able to offer other reasons which limits the frequency of use by household members. The most frequently mentioned included the following.

- Weather - wind, rain, snow, cold temperatures, lack of trail maintenance in winter (82 mentions)
- User conflicts - walkers and cyclists, over use and crowding, lack of proper signage, dog off leash or no dogs allowed (79)
- Lack of necessary infrastructure - washrooms, garbage bins, benches, picnic sites, proper trail maintenance (64)
- Deficient trail connectivity and need for more bridges - barriers due to private land, lack of development on west side, access from University, looped trails (47)
- Mobility and Health - aging population, physical limitations, health concerns (36)
- Fear of wildlife - rattlesnakes, coyotes, deer (30)

Barriers to the Use / Visitation to the River Valley



Concerns

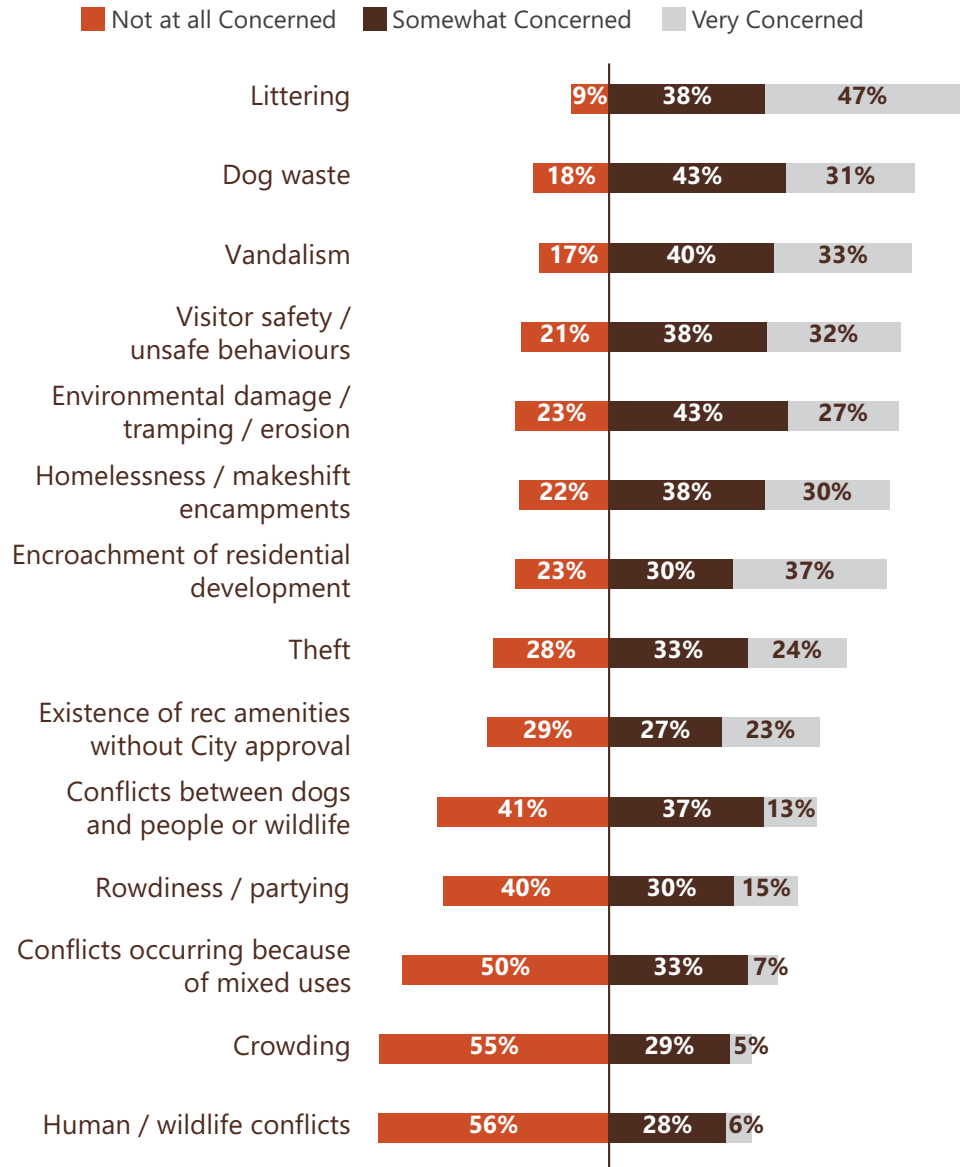
When asked about level of concern with a variety of issues in the river valley, the largest proportion of respondents are concerned with littering (84% concerned). Almost half (47%) are very concerned with littering. Over one-third (37%) are very concerned about the encroachment of residential development on the river valley. See the graph for more information.

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with older adults (55 years and older) are more likely to be concerned (somewhat and very) about conflicts because of mixed uses than households with children (0-17 years) – 47% vs 31%.
- Households with older adults are more likely to be very concerned about development and maintenance of recreation amenities without City approval than households with children – 29% vs 16%.

“ My biggest concern about using the river bottom is personal safety. I am a senior and worry about illegal activities there. More patrols by bike or horse back.”

Level of Concern With Issues



The responses "I don't know" are not shown on the graph.

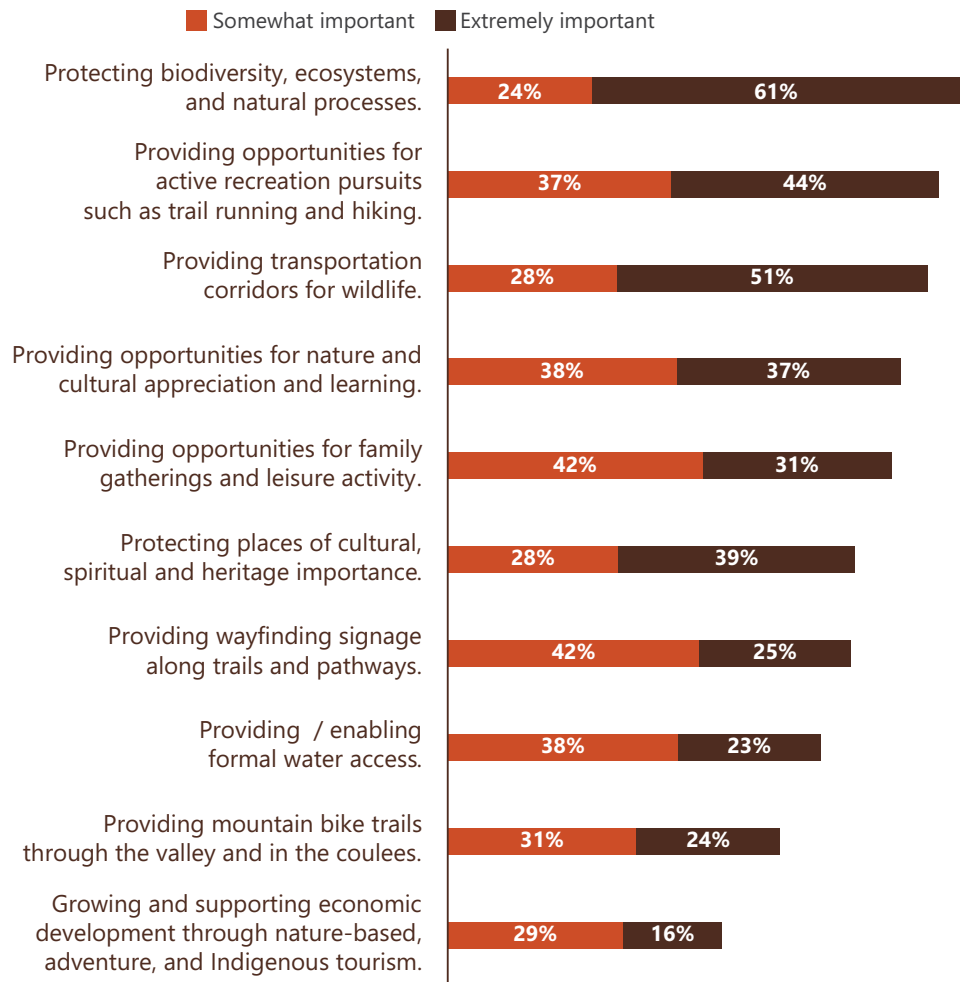
Values

Respondents were provided with a list of river valley functions. For each function they were to indicate its level of importance. As illustrated in the graph, approximately two-thirds (61%) think that protecting biodiversity is an extremely important function of the river valley. Approximately half (51%) said providing corridors for wildlife is extremely important. When considering overall importance, protecting biodiversity (85%), providing opportunities for active recreation (81%), and providing wildlife corridors (79%) placed the highest.

Subsegment Analysis

- Residents in west Lethbridge (50%) are more likely to say providing opportunities for active recreation pursuits such as trail running and hiking is extremely important than residents of south Lethbridge (45%) or north Lethbridge (35%).
- Households with children in the household (0-17 years) are more likely to say providing mountain bike trails through the valley and in the coulees is extremely important (37%) than households with older adults (55 years and older) – 37% vs 18%.

Importance of River Valley Functions



The responses "Neutral", "Somewhat unimportant", and "Not at all important" are not shown on the graph.

"The river valley does a great job already for sustaining nature and wildlife, but could grow more in usage for cycling/mountain bike trails while still doing good for nature."

Recreation in the River Valley

As mentioned previously in this report, "A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing" defines recreation as...

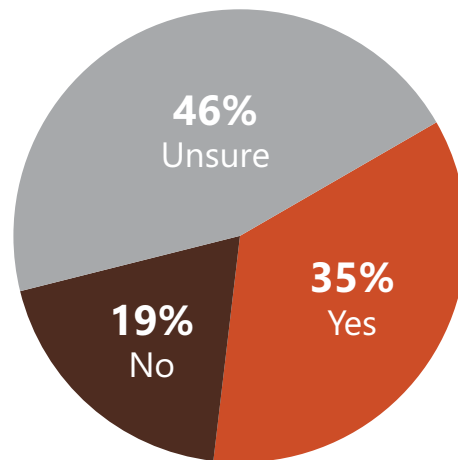
"...the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing."

This means that recreation includes a wide array of activities like soccer and baseball but also walking, cycling, bird watching, learning about history and ecology, meditation, and so on. Respondents were then asked if there are recreation activities that could be enhanced in the river valley. As illustrated in the graph, approximately one-third (35%) said, "Yes".

Those who said some activities need enhancements went on to offer some suggestions. The most frequently identified included the following.

- Cultural, environmental, historical programming - activate the River Valley (170 mentions)
- Trail maintenance and improvements (152)
- Mountain bike trail improvements and additions (136)
- Increased and improved river access (122)
- Trail connectivity and bridge development (117)
- Designated walking/hiking trails - free from bikes (110)
- New facilities and park amenities - washrooms, picnic areas, benches, playgrounds, etc. (108)
- Specific bike (cycle) path (paved) (80)

Are there recreation activities that could be enhanced in the river valley?



" At present public access areas are fragmented by golf courses, a campground, city utilities and industrial operations. Links should be provided around these areas to allow recreational travel between city boundaries. Pedestrian/cyclist bridges should be provided to allow residents to enjoy both sides of the valley and can also allow passage around areas where the public is excluded."



A series of questions were asked about trail and pathway development and enhancement. Before answering the questions, respondents were provided with definitions.

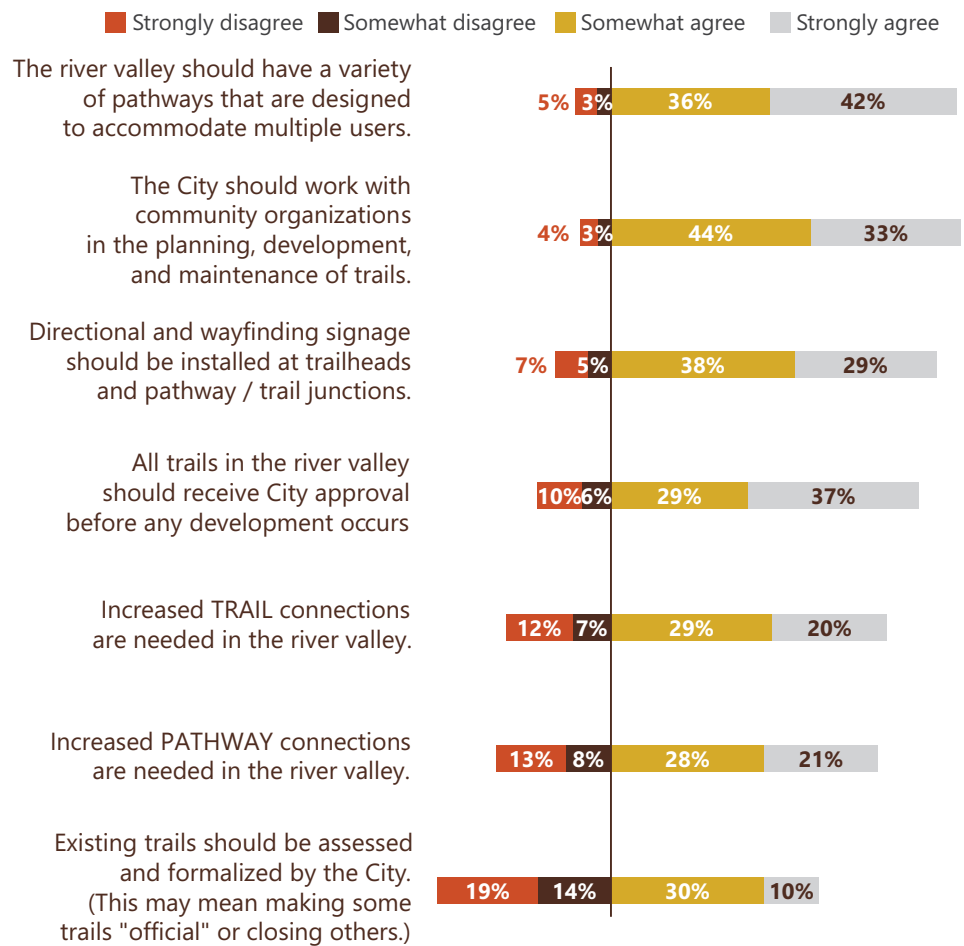
- Trails – single track with a natural surface
- Pathways – multi-use feature with a paved, limestone, or shale surface

Over three-quarters of respondents agree that the river valley should have a variety of pathways to accommodate multiple users (78%) and that the City should work with community organizations in planning, development, and maintenance of trails (77%). About half agree that there is a need for increased trail (49%) and pathway (49%) connections.

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with older adults (55 years and older) are more likely to strongly agree that all trails in the river valley should receive City approval than households with children (0-17 years) – 45% vs 25%.

Level of Agreement With Trail & Pathway Enhancement and Development



The responses "Neutral" are not shown on the graph.

“ The quality of valley areas for recreation and wildlife is degraded as trail density increases. However, while consolidating multi-use trails seems a practical solution, users tend to prefer trails that are specific to their uses.... The City needs to more actively plan to accommodate different types of trails rather than just adding gravel to formalize big pathways.”

Management of the River Valley

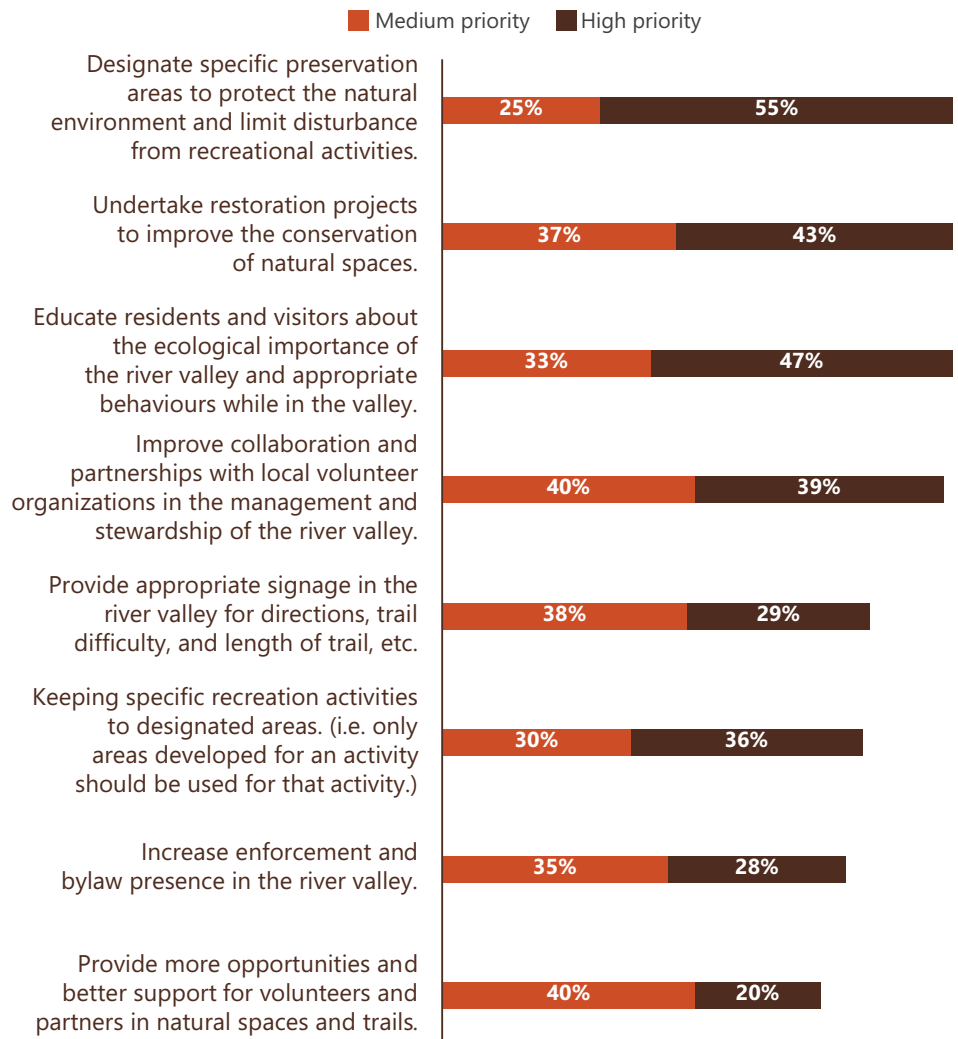
As illustrated in the accompanying graph, designating specific preservation is the highest priority for respondents. Over half (55%) said that is a high priority and over three-quarters (80%) said it is a medium or high priority.

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with older adults (55 years and older) are more likely to say keeping specific recreation activities to designated areas is a high priority than households with children (0-17 years) – 45% vs 26%.
- Households with older adults (55 years and older) are more likely to say designated specific preservation areas is a high priority than households with children (0-17 years) – 63% vs 41%.

“ In regards to designation of specific preservation areas - I believe this is necessary. But I also fear that because there is designated preservation areas that will give the go ahead to over-develop other areas of the valley... One of the most beautiful things about this city is that it has this stunning vein of life running through it. A vein which in reasonably untouched yet reasonably well kept.”

Level of Priority for Management Actions



The responses "Low priority", "Not a priority", and "I do not know" are not shown on the graph.

Closing Comments

Respondents were able to provide other comments related to Lethbridge’s river valley. The most commonly cited comments are noted as follows.

- Conservation, Preservation, Natural, Balance of Nature and Recreation – “Leave it wild, Leave it natural” (485 comments)
- Importance of trail and park maintenance (130)
- Safety - plan for drug use, plan for supporting people experiencing homelessness, plan to reduce illegal activity (105)
- User conflicts with off leash dogs (91)
- Trail connectivity - bridges, loops, etc. (88)
- Increase environmental, cultural, and historical education (87)
- Trail maps, signage, information (73)

“ ... We need a more diverse network of sanctioned cycling trails and paths that would be great for everyone who enjoys the sport.... <this> ... would also help prevent unsanctioned trails from forming or being built in sensitive areas”

Household Profile

The following table describes the respondent households.

In which area of Lethbridge to you live?	
North	26%
South	38%
West	36%

How long have you lived in Lethbridge?	
< 5 years	11%
5-10 years	12%
11-20 years	18%
21-30 years	16%
31-40 years	17%
41 or more years	26%

Household Composition	
0-4 years	5% (6%)
5-9 years	5% (6%)
10-14 years	5% (6%)
15-17 years	3% (3%)
18-24 years	7% (14%)
25-34 years	12% (15%)
35-44 years	11% (12%)
45-54 years	11% (10%)
55-64 years	16% (12%)
65 years and older	24% (16%)

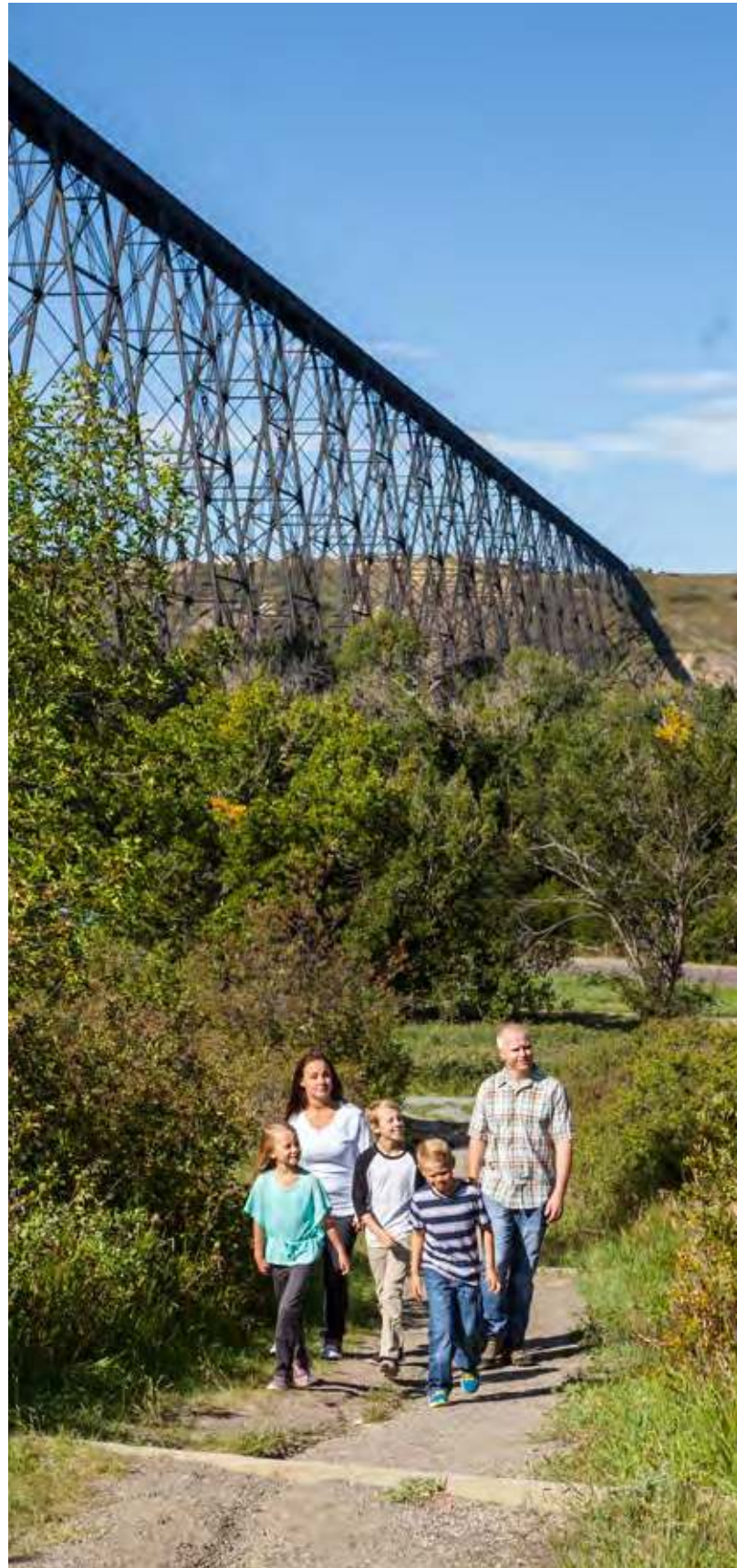
Do you own or rent your residence?	
Own	85%
Rent	12%
Unsure / prefer to not answer	3%

2.3 Online Mapping

Members of the public were able to provide input about the river valley through use of an online mapping tool hosted on “Get Involved Lethbridge”, the tool utilized an aerial photograph of the river valley on which people could zoom in to see details and to pinpoint locations. Four different types of pins were able to be plotted on the map by members of the public.

- **Improve existing** – use this pin to identify an existing amenity / development / feature that you think should be improved. This could point to anything that is already there such as signage, trails, and others.
- **Develop new** – use this pin to identify what new feature (amenity / development) should be located on that spot. You could use this to identify a sign that needs posting, a new trail, preservation area, or something else.
- **Concern** – this pin will identify some concern you have in an area. This could be a concern about how that place is being used or concerns about the physical condition of a feature.
- **Protect** – with this pin you can identify an area that you think should be protected. Please indicate why you think it should be protected and from what.

Each pin could be labelled and a description included. Each pin plotted on the map was visible to subsequent visitors to the map. They in turn could agree or disagree with the sentiment of the pin. They could also add their own comments to the original pin. In total eighty-six individual pins were put on the map and one hundred sixty comments were made. A summary of the comments is presented below for each of the four categories of postings. Refer to the appendix for maps of each category along with the numbers of “agrees” and “disagrees”.



2.3.1 Findings

Improve Existing

There were sixty-four comments identified for improvements. Many of them relate to getting on and off the river. Those supported by over five people included the following.

- The pathway system dead ends at the Country Club – need a way to cross the river. (50 agrees)
- Improved access from river back onto land. (28 agrees)
- Signage telling river users where to get off the river. (28 agrees)
- Remediate the channel to enable river users to bypass the weir. (23 agrees)
- Improved access down to the river. (17 agree and 5 disagree)
- A bike route is needed to connect both sides of the river along Highway 3. (14 agrees)
- Install a white water channel with man-made rapids. (13 agree but 16 disagree)
- Portage path needs upgrading. (11 agrees)
- Sugar Bowl tunnel experiences problems with run-off. (10 agrees)
- Equine trails need better maintenance. (8 agrees)
- The mountain bike park needs resurfaced and structures updated. (8 agrees)

Develop New

Thirty-eight comments referenced the development of new amenities. Those comments that are commented on by over five people include the following:

- Develop an interpretive site documenting original CPR line. (32 agrees)
- Develop tenting site. (18 agrees and 11 disagrees)
- There is a need for more washrooms in the river valley. (12 agrees)
- Expand the pathway from Riverstone to connect to the Canyons Park. (12 agrees)
- Expand the river valley park through purchase of the land adjacent to Pavan Park. (7 agrees)
- Interpretive signage related to Fort Whoop-Up should be erected on top of slope. (7 agrees)
- Stairs would make it easier for people to navigate slopes and reduce erosion. (6 agrees)
- Additional recreation amenities should be developed. (7 disagrees)

Concern

There were twenty-three comments labelled as points of concern. Those supported by at least five people included the following.

- The launch point downstream of the weir is dangerous and needs to be protected. (20 agrees)
- The exit from the river to portage the weir is dangerous. (19 agrees)
- The Tollestrup gravel pit needs to be reclaimed. (14 agrees)
- Traffic signage is needed for bicycle and pedestrian safety. (11 agrees)
- Concerns about improper dog behaviour and control. (7 agrees)
- Bridges at Six Mile need to be better constructed. (6 agrees)
- Vehicle traffic should be prevented from entering the coulees. (5 agrees)

Protect

There are 35 comments related to the protection of areas. Those supported by over five agrees include the following.

- Six Mile Coulee is unique and needs to be protected. (24 agrees)
- The Elizabeth Hall Wetlands should be protected from any development. (21 agrees)
- Below the College near the creek is a great spot to rest. (13 agrees)
- Popson Park needs protected to protect the rattlesnake area. (9 agrees)
- The Tortures* area should be kept as natural as possible with the single track trail kept but no additional ones developed. (9 agrees)
 - * The Tortures area is a name that cyclists use to refer to a section of single track trails in the coulees.
- Pavan Park outside of picnic areas and compound should remain as natural as possible. (7 agrees)
- Indian Battle Park has natural areas that need protection. Public education is needed. (7 agrees)
- Botterill Bottom Park has beautiful natural areas that need protecting. (6 agrees)

3.0 Conclusions

The input gathered through the three mechanisms – stakeholder discussions, household survey, public mapping – is varied. It speaks to general approaches and to specific initiatives. A review of all the information gathered does lead to some overall conclusions.

- While there is a variety of perspectives on the future of the river valley, it is clear that residents of Lethbridge all **value it highly**. The river valley is a treasured part of the city and people all want to see it continue to be a special place for future generations. It is valued for its history, its environmental and natural aspects, and for its ability to provide for recreation.
- There is a belief that the river valley should be **accessible to all people** regardless of age, physical ability, income level, ethnicity, and so on. This does not mean that all activities are condoned, rather it means that all people should be able to enjoy some of the benefits the river valley provides to its visitors.
- While visitation to and use of the river valley is encouraged and desired, **care is needed with this use and in decisions** about how the river valley is accessed and used in order to ensure all future generations are able to accrue the benefits the valley currently offers.
- **Concerns about the degradation** of the river valley from all perspectives exist. This is particularly heightened among those who highly value the natural aspects and ecological functions the river valley provides. The protection of biodiversity and wildlife habitat and corridors requires purposeful planning and management, particularly while ensuring that the valley can continue to provide opportunities for active and passive recreation.
- While unanimity as it relates to development in the river valley may be difficult to achieve, a **framework that can be used for decision making** will be important as decisions are made regarding development, protection, and management of the river valley. The framework is based upon values and principles and includes strategies for how these processes can occur.
 - » The City should **work with community organizations and other partners** in the planning, development, and maintenance of aspects of the river valley including trails.
- **Education, including signage**, should be enhanced. This relates to a variety of things including:
 - » Appropriate behaviours and activities;
 - » Wayfinding and approved uses;
 - » The natural and human history of the river valley; and
 - » The important ecological properties and functioning of the river valley.

Appendices

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Appendix A: Stakeholder Sessions

1. Trail Runners
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Cyclists & Mountain Bikers
4. Helen Schuler Nature Centre
5. Historic Places Advisory Committee
6. Emergency Services & Enforcement
7. Lethbridge College
8. Old Man Watershed interests
9. Reconciliation Lethbridge Advisory Committee
10. University of Lethbridge
11. River Recreationalists

Appendix B: Stakeholder Session Material



Welcome

The City of Lethbridge acknowledges that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationships to the land. The City of Lethbridge is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

- Introductions
 - City of Lethbridge representatives
 - RC Strategies attendees

Agenda

- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- About the project
- Record Keeping
- Introductions
- Discussion
- Next Steps



Participating in a Zoom Meeting

- Control panel



- Mic off
- Cameras on
- First & last name accompanying your video –
 - Click on your name in the Participants list – more – rename

About the Project

- Background
 - Lethbridge's river valley is the defining natural feature of the city
 - It is habitat for a diverse population of plants and animals; also a corridor for many
 - The river valley is also a setting for passive and active recreation activities for residents and visitors
 - The City has completed a number of studies including the River Valley Master Plan (2017).
 - Included are visions for the river valley as well as management strategies and potential projects.

About the Project

- Project Purpose
 - In response to a proposed pathway development, City Council requested that stakeholders and residents are re-engaged about the river valley.
 - Thoughts about recreation and preservation in the river valley.
- Project Process
 - Conduct discussion sessions with stakeholder groups. (September / October)
 - Individual sessions with groups
 - Bring groups together for a joint session (October 20)
 - 1-2 representatives from each group
 - Field a survey with residents of Lethbridge. (September / October)
 - Online survey with controlled access (Get Involved Lethbridge).
 - Postcards mailed to households in Lethbridge
 - Interactive online mapping tool (September / October)
 - Get Involved Lethbridge

About the Project

- Project Outcome
 - "What We Heard" report (distributed to participants)
 - Options for recreational use of the river valley considering:
 - The natural environment
 - Historical and archeological resources
 - Management strategies
 - Mapping of potential recreation areas and preservation areas

Record Keeping

- Note taking during the meeting
 - Session summary will be sent out to each participant.
 - Summaries will not be published or shared publicly.
- Zoom session will be recorded to assist with the note taking.
 - Recording will not be shared publicly.
 - It will be deleted upon conclusion of this project.

Introductions

- Participants
 - Name
 - Group you represent (if any)
 - Favourite season or month of the year



Discussion Topics

- Vision for the river valley
- Opportunities for recreation in the river valley
- Concerns about recreation in the river valley
- Potential strategies to manage multiple uses of the river valley

Discussion Guidelines

- Everyone has a right to his / her own opinion.
- Everyone has a right to be heard.
- The facilitator manages the discussion.
 - You may be asked to take a turn or give a turn.
 - Wait to be recognized before speaking.

Definition of Recreation

A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

What is your vision for the river valley?

- What value do you place on the river valley?
- How do you use the river valley?
- What is your vision for the river valley?

What opportunities for recreation exist in the river valley?

- Enhancement of existing opportunities?
- New opportunities?
- Do these opportunities require any form of development?
 - Where in the river valley would this occur?

What concerns do you have about recreational use of the river valley?

- Are there some activities or actions that cause you concern?
- Are there some places / parts of the river valley that are of particular interest or concern?

What are some strategies that can be employed to manage multiple uses?

Management strategies are actions and approaches to guide behaviour. They are varied and could include:

- Area closure; limited access; signage; enforcement; mapping; stewards; education; etc.
- What management strategies should be implemented to balance multiple uses?
 - Are these tied to specific areas?

Next Steps

- Produce and email out a session summary to participants.
- Host joint stakeholder session.
 - 1-2 representatives from today's session.
- Project update to Council.
- Develop the final report.

Appendix C: Postcard



We Want to Hear from You!



It's about the river valley...

Your input will shape decisions the City of Lethbridge makes about recreation and preservation (e.g. pathways, special use areas) in the river valley.

Please visit getinvolvedlethbridge.ca to access the household survey. Use the code provided on the other side of this card to access the questionnaire and provide your answers. *(Please note, this access code is unique to your household and can only be used once.)*

If you prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, please call 311 and they will ensure you get one. You will be required to provide your access code to the 311 operator.



CITY OF
Lethbridge

River Valley Use and Preservation Engagement

Attention: Lethbridge Household Resident

Your Household's Unique Access Code Is

XXXXXXXX

Please visit getinvolvedlethbridge.ca to access the survey using the above code.

The deadline to complete the survey is **October 30, 2020.**

Residents that complete a survey will be entered into a draw for one of two \$100 grocery gift certificates.

Appendix D: Household Questionnaire



Access Code: _____

Lethbridge River Valley Plan

Household Questionnaire

Survey Introduction

The Lethbridge river valley consists of over 1,700 hectares of mostly natural, undeveloped parkland. The area is a proud source of natural vegetation, wildlife, and informal recreation use within the city limits.

In the 2018-2027 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), several formalized pathways were approved for construction and awarded budget, including a 3km limestone-surfaced pathway in the Six Mile Coulee area of the river valley. Due to opposition to the project, City Council rescinded funding for the pathway in the Spring of 2020 and requested City staff to engage with the public on a river valley use strategy.

Expanding on public input received during the development of the 2017 River Valley Parks Master Plan, the City of Lethbridge is surveying resident households about the river valley to gather current thoughts on river valley use. Some of the key topics in the survey include:

- Trail (single track, natural surface) development
- Pathway (paved, limestone, or shale) development
- Recreational use
- Safety
- Preservation

Please have an adult in your household complete this questionnaire considering the thoughts of all members of the households. The responses of all participants will be compiled into a summary report. Please complete this 15 minute questionnaire by **October 30th**.

If you have any questions about this survey please contact the City of Lethbridge at 311.

Draw Entry Form

As a token of thanks for your time participating in the survey you can enter into a draw for one of two \$100 grocery certificates. To participate in this optional draw please provide your first name and phone number in the form.

Name (First Name Only): _____

Phone Number: _____

We respect your privacy

Your personal information is being collected as part of a review by the Lethbridge River Valley Engagement Project for the purpose of awarding a draw prize. Any personal information received is being collected and used pursuant to section 33(c) and section 39(1)(a) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and your personal information will be managed in accordance with the FOIP Act. If you have questions about the collection, use and disclosure of information, please contact David Sarsfield at 403-329-7329 or Robert Parks at 780-691-8486.

Importance and Use

1. How important is the Lethbridge river valley to your quality of life?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant

2. Has someone in your household used or visited the river valley in Lethbridge in the past year?

- Yes
- No (go to Q5)
- Unsure

3. Of the following activities please indicate how often members of your household participated in them in the Lethbridge river valley in the previous year. If no one in the household participated in an activity please indicate that. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

As you respond to the question please consider the following definitions:

- » Trails – single track with a natural surface
- » Pathways – multi-use feature with a paved, limestone, or shale surface

	1-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	21 or more times	Did not participate
Walking / hiking on pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / hiking on trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging / running on pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging / running on trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycling on pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycling on trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature / wildlife viewing (e.g. bird watching)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family / friends gathering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball / baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog walking / play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special events (e.g. festivals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geocaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equestrian (Pavan Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How do household members typically access the river valley? Check all that apply.

- Walk
- Cycle / scooter
- Public transportation
- Taxi / Uber
- Drive
- Other (please specify) _____

Barriers to Use

5. What, if anything, limits how often household members use / visit the river valley?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Too isolated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware / familiar with natural spaces and the pathway system | <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy / crowded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feel unsafe | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited access for people with disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation to park or trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor quality of visitor amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting dogs off-leash | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of horses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of off-road vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too far from home | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

Concerns

6. How concerned are you with the following behaviours in the river valley?

Behaviour	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	I do not know
Crowding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts occurring because of mixed uses (e.g. hiking and cycling sharing trails)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflicts between dogs and people or wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human / Wildlife Conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment damage / tramping / erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development and maintenance of recreation amenities without City approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Littering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visitor safety / unsafe behaviours (including needle debris)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rowdiness / partying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential development encroaching on the river valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness / makeshift encampments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Values

7. How important are each of the following functions of the river valley?

Functions	Not at all important	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely important
Protecting biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural processes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing transportation corridors for wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting places of cultural, spiritual and heritage importance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing / enabling formal water access.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing opportunities for active recreation pursuits such as trail running and hiking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing mountain bike trails throughout the valley and in the coulees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing opportunities for nature and cultural appreciation and learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growing and supporting economic development through nature based, adventure and Indigenous tourism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing opportunities for family gatherings and leisure activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing wayfinding signage along trails and pathways.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recreation in the River Valley

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

— A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing

This means recreation includes a wide array of activities like these examples: sports like soccer and baseball but also walking, cycling, bird watching, learning about history and ecology, meditation, etc.

8. Are there recreation activities that could be enhanced in the river valley?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

a. If "Yes", please identify the activities that could be enhanced.

9. Thinking specifically about trail and pathway enhancement and development, please state your level of agreement with the following statements.

Please consider the following definitions as you respond to this question.

- » Trails – single track with a natural surface
- » Pathways – multi-use feature with a paved, limestone, or shale surface

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Existing trails should be assessed and formalized by the City. (This may mean making some trails "official" or closing others).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The City should work with community organizations in the planning, development, and maintenance of trails.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All trails in the river valley should receive City approval before any development occurs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The river valley should have a variety of pathways that are designed to accommodate multiple uses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased trail connections are needed in the river valley.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased pathway connections are needed in the river valley.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directional and wayfinding signage should be installed at trailheads and pathway / trail junctions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Management of the River Valley

10. For each of the following actions, please indicate its level of priority.

Actions	Not a priority	Low priority	Medium Priority	High priority	I do not know
Undertake restoration projects to improve the conservation value of natural spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase enforcement and bylaw presence in the river valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide appropriate signage in the river valley for directions, trail difficulty, and length of trail, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more opportunities and better support for volunteers and partners in natural spaces and trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate residents and visitors about the ecological importance of the river valley and appropriate behaviours while in the valley.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve collaboration and partnerships with local volunteer organizations in the management and stewardship of the river valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping specific recreation activities to designated areas. (ie only areas developed for an activity should be used for that activity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designate specific preservation areas to protect the natural environment and limit disturbance from recreational activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Closing Comments

11. Please use the space below to provide any other comments you have about Lethbridge's river valley.

Household Profile

12. In which area of Lethbridge do you live?

- North
- South
- West
- I don't live within Lethbridge city limits

13. Please provide your postal code: _____

14. How long have you lived in Lethbridge?

- Less than 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years
- 21 to 30 years
- 31 to 40 years
- 41 years or longer
- I prefer not to answer

15. Please describe your household by identifying the number of members in each of the following age groups – including yourself!

_____ 0 - 4 yrs	_____ 5 - 9 yrs	_____ 10 - 14 yrs	_____ 15 - 17 yrs
_____ 18 - 24 yrs	_____ 25 - 34 yrs	_____ 35 - 44 yrs	_____ 45 - 54 yrs
_____ 55 - 64 yrs	_____ 65 yrs and older		

16. Do you own or rent your current residence?

- Own
- Rent
- Not Sure
- Prefer not to answer

Closing

Thank you for providing your responses on behalf of your household on Lethbridge's river valley. Your time is highly valued.

Develop New

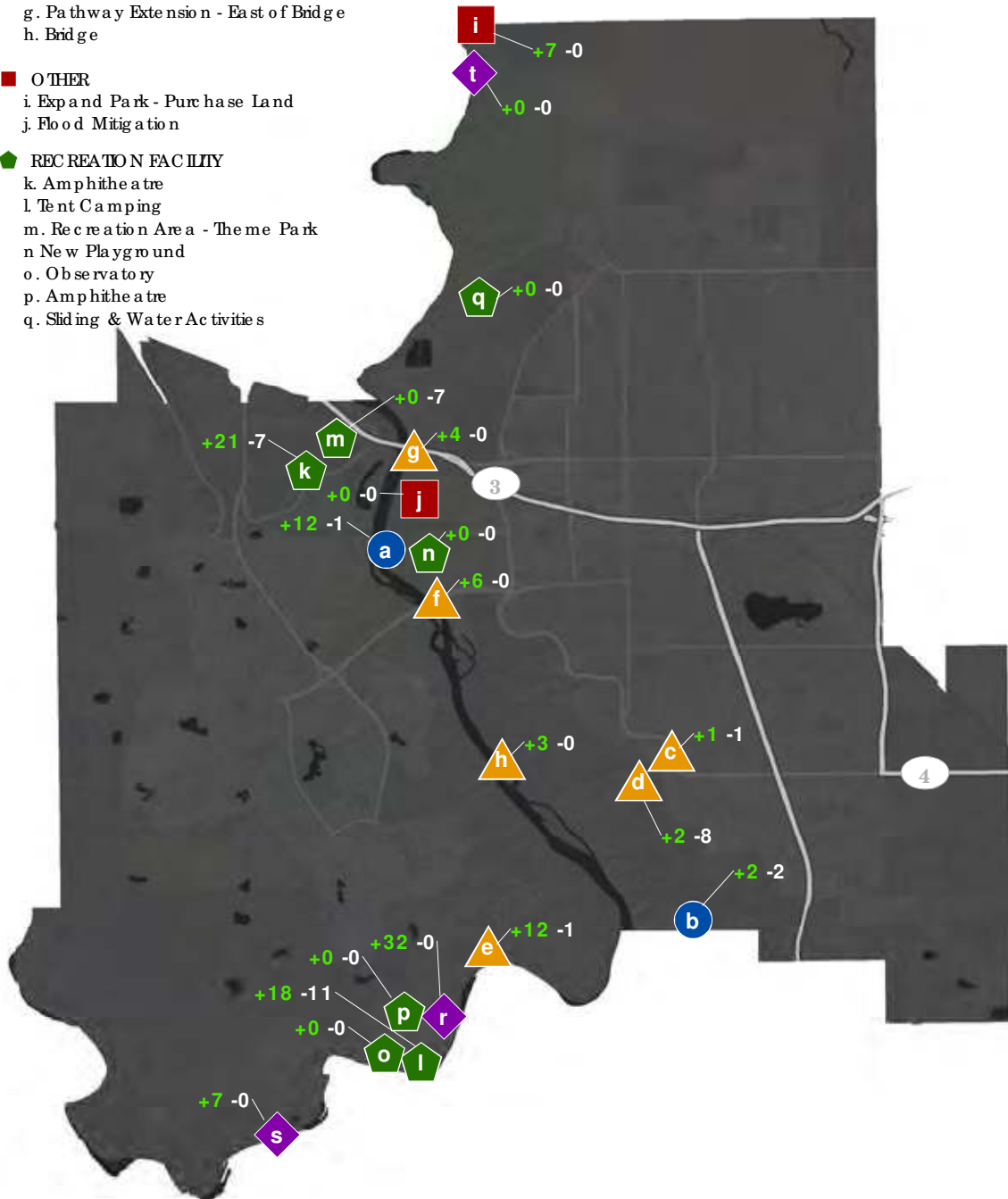
Feedback Type

- AMENITIES
 - a. Washrooms
 - b. Parking Area - Trail Head
- ▲ CORRIDOR/ MOBILITY
 - c. New Path Up to Scenic Drive
 - d. Stairs Up Hill
 - e. Pathway Extension - Riverstone to Canyons Park
 - f. Stairs
 - g. Pathway Extension - East of Bridge
 - h. Bridge
- OTHER
 - i. Expand Park - Purchase Land
 - j. Flood Mitigation
- ◆ RECREATION FACILITY
 - k. Amphitheatre
 - l. Tent Camping
 - m. Recreation Area - Theme Park
 - n. New Playground
 - o. Observatory
 - p. Amphitheatre
 - q. Sliding & Water Activities

- ◆ SIGNAGE
 - r. Interpretive Signage - Fort Whoop Up
 - s. Interpretive Site - Original CPR Line
 - t. River Signage

Community Feedback

- +7 Agree
- 3 Disagree



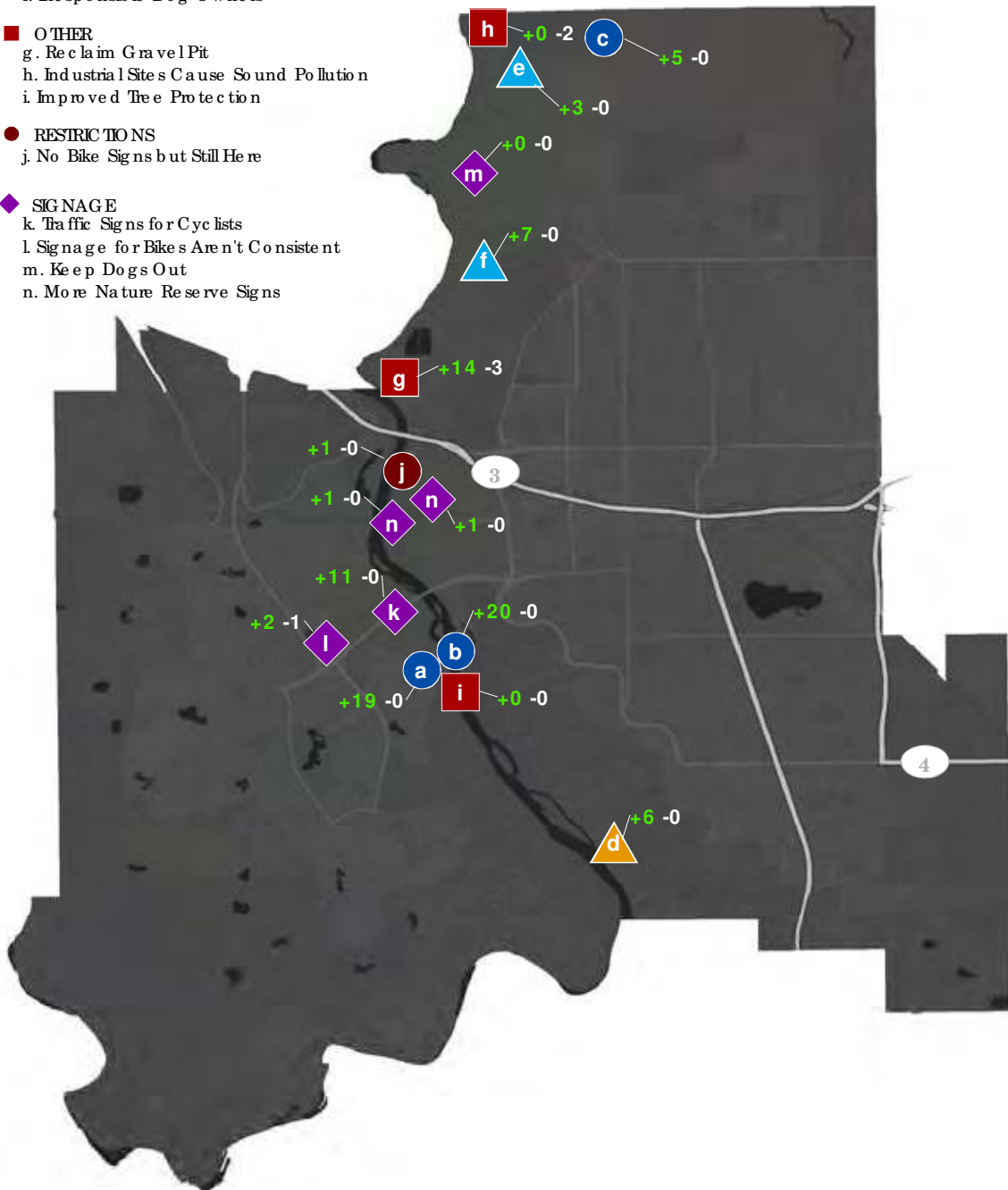
Concern

Feedback Type

- AMENITIES
 - a. Portage Start
 - b. Portage Exit
 - c. Block Vehicles from Coulees
- ▲ CORRIDOR / MOBILITY
 - d. Creek Crossings Wash Out
- ▲ EDUCATION
 - e. Educate About Natural River Valley
 - f. Inresponsible Dog Owners
- OTHER
 - g. Reclaim Gravel Pit
 - h. Industrial Sites Cause Sound Pollution
 - i. Improved Tree Protection
- RESIRIC TIONS
 - j. No Bike Signs but Still Here
- ◆ SIGNAGE
 - k. Traffic Signs for Cyclists
 - l. Signage for Bikes Aren't Consistent
 - m. Keep Dogs Out
 - n. More Nature Reserve Signs

Community Feedback

- +7 Agree
- 5 Disagree



Protect

Feedback Type

● EDUCATION

- a. Protect Cultural Heritage Beyond the Fort

■ LEAVE AS IS

- b. Small Bridge Below College
- c. New Stairs are Great
- d. Pavan Park Outside Picnic Area
- e. Bottle Bottom Park
- f. Leave Single Track and No More
- g. Protect from Industrial and Residential Encroachment

◆ NO DEVELOPMENT

- h. Six Mile Coulee
- i. Elizabeth Hall Wetlands
- j. Popson Park - Protected Snake Ecosystem
- k. Protect and Enhance Native Plants
- l. Keep Cottonwood Groves

■ OTHER

- m. Expand Park
- n. Incorporate Into Park System
- o. Keep Dogs Out

◆ SAFETY

- p. Indian Battle Park - Safe for Users

◆ SIGNAGE

- q. Indian Battle Park Natural Areas

Community Feedback

+7 Agree

-3 Disagree

