

## River Valley Forums

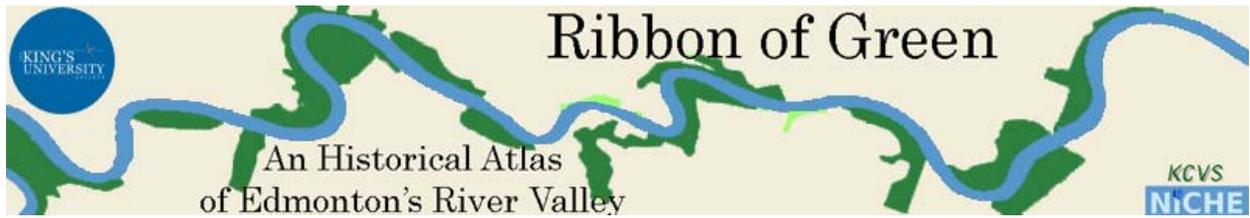
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Every few weeks, Edmontonians can expect an article or two in the *Edmonton Journal* about the ongoing discussions about development in the river valley. Although today the discussions are of a more environmental basis, many of the same ideas and issues arose during the original planning of the river valley. In 1960, a four person panel discussed ideas and problems of river valley development at a public meeting at the Jubilee Auditorium. The four panelists were a landscape architect, a city engineer, the city parks superintendent, and an architect. Each man had his own concerns about what development should take place in the river valley and what expense each development would hold for the city. Knowles, the landscape architect, suggests that the “natural parklands now in the city should remain in restricted use, but urged that it was time for development and in some cases redevelopment of certain areas in the river valley.”<sup>1</sup> Richards, the architect on the panel, suggested outdoor restaurants, a museum or an art gallery for the river valley, which would part of a project designed to link the University grounds with the Legislative grounds. Throughout all of the discussion was an underlying theme of expense. How much would the city be willing to put into the river valley and what type of results was it looking to achieve? Richards also suggested a suspension bridge in the river valley, but noted that it was not economically feasible for the city to undertake.<sup>2</sup> One upside noted by all four panelists was the fact that Edmonton owned the river valley, so development would be much less

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<sup>1</sup> “New Bridge, Boat In Valley ‘Dreams,’” in the *Edmonton Journal*, April 29, 1960.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



expensive than other city's dealing with the same type of development. Although no definitive decisions were made as an outcome of this meeting, ideas were put forward which would eventually be put into place.