

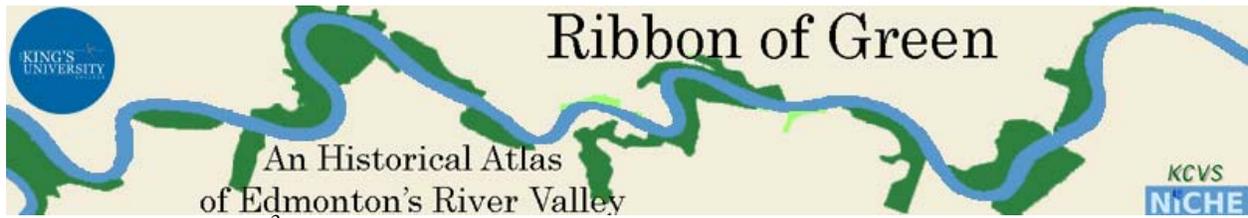
Mixed Reactions

Written by Katie Wallbaum

Twenty-seven years ago, when the Capital City Recreation Park was first being planned, the citizens of Edmonton reacted to the City and provinces plans in many different ways. Many of these reactions are similar to the attitudes towards the River Valley Alliance's multi-million dollar plan for the Edmonton river valley development today. The *Edmonton Journal* interviewed a few citizens enjoying an afternoon at one of Edmonton's existing river valley parks, and most of the reactions were positive. "[T]o the Edmonton residents visiting the parks, the province's plan to spend \$30 million to develop a park belt up the river valley to Fort Saskatchewan within five years seemed like a good idea."¹ However, not all reactions were strictly positive. One citizen, Andrew Sinkovics, speculated "whether the province has realized every possible effect of the river valley's transformation."² Many citizens felt that the proposed nine mile-long park stretching from the Legislative buildings to the northeast corner of the city in Beverly was a great idea because it put parkland in a very central, and therefore accessible, area of the city. Some confusion about which government would look after the care and maintenance of the park led to doubts and skepticism about the plan. The *Journal* reported Premier Lougheed's explanation of Art Dixon's misunderstanding of the plan, "[he] apparently did not understand the nature of the park when he asked if Edmonton would be compensated for the land

¹ John A. Barr, "Enthusiasm, some doubts greet park plan," in the *Edmonton Journal*, April 29, 1974.

² Ibid.



it would contribute.”³ Misunderstandings and doubts aside, the proposed park for

Edmonton’s river valley was met with much enthusiasm from both city residents and city aldermen.

³ “Park plan popular, house told,” in the *Edmonton Journal*, April 30, 1974.