

Letters have been submitted in support of the Calgary River Access Strategy from the following organizations or individuals:

General Support

- Patrick Mahaffey, Calgary River Users Alliance
- Howard Heffler, Calgary River Users Alliance

Canoe and Kayak Community

- Michael Holroyd, Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak
- Chuck Lee, Alberta Whitewater Association
- Lorie Travis, Bow Waters Canoe Club
- Lynda Roberts, Calgary Canoe Club
- Karla Handy, Paddle Alberta

Fishing Community

- Nancy Storwick, Maxwell Robinson, Angling Outfitter and Guide Association
- Peter Crowe-Swords, Bow River Trout

River Surfing Community

- Neil Esgard, Alberta River Surfing Association
- Ryan Morstad, River Surfer

Education and Environment

- Michael Kenny, Calgary River Valleys
- Cal Kullman, RiverWatch Institute of Alberta

River-Related Businesses

- David Blair and Nancy Storwick, Fish Tales Fly Shop
- Harry Daley, Lazy Day Raft Rentals
- Mark Taylor, Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre
- Tony Palmer, Undercurrents

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



January 17, 2017

Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary
Laura.Smith@calgary.ca

Dear Ms Smith,

The Calgary River Users' Alliance (CRUA) would like to express its overall support for The City of Calgary's proposed River Access Strategy.

The CRUA represents most of the recreational and commercial river user groups in the city, which includes canoeing, kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding, river surfing, and fishing.

We have been working with The City of Calgary over the past year to find ways to improve access to the city's rivers for recreational use, to help improve the condition of the riverbanks, and to educate river users about responsible use of our rivers.

We are very pleased that The City has responded so positively and has generously allowed us to contribute to the proposed River Access Strategy, and we believe it is largely aligned with the CRUA's objectives. We urge City Council to approve the Strategy and an adequate budget so that significant improvements can be made to river access this year and into the future.

We will continue to collaborate with The City in facilitating the implementation of the Strategy, including seeking other additional sources of funding.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Mahaffey
Calgary River Users' Alliance

cc. CRUA members

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

943 30th Ave NW
Calgary, AB
T2K 0A2

January 16, 2017

Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary
Laura.Smith@calgary.ca

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing in support of the River Access Strategy. My colleagues in the Calgary River Users' Alliance (CRUA) and I have been extremely pleased by the process Calgary Parks, and specifically you personally, have followed over the past few months. We have been given the chance to meet and to share our knowledge of existing river access sites and offer suggestions about new and improved locations. Information exchange by phone conversation and email has been excellent.

We look forward to the final report to be presented to the SPC on Community and Protective Services, February 1, 2017. The draft report I have reviewed is an excellent summary of the work and sets out a credible implementation plan. Of course, this is not the end of the process. It is the first step in improving recreational, non-motorized boating access in Calgary. I am keen to be part of the ongoing work to refine the site designs and prioritize development activities.

Your report requests funding support. I for one am willing to work on grant applications on behalf of organizations that are participants in the CRUA. Like other public sporting and park facilities in Calgary, the City should fund construction and maintenance of river access sites. But there is also a role for paddle sport clubs and organizations to raise funds for specific projects.

I am a long-time and active member of Bow Waters Canoe Club; I began the initiative 17 years ago to replace the drowning hazard associated with the weir culminating in construction of Harvie Passage; I am past Chairman of RiverWatch; I am a founding member of the Harvie Passage Alliance and of the CRUA. I sincerely hope this past experience will be helpful in an ongoing role to establish river trails on the Bow and Elbow Rivers.

Thank you,



Howard Heffler

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



mholroydcoach@gmail.com

403-479-8017

January 9, 2017

Calgary City Council:

Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak (ASCK) supports the Calgary River Access Strategy and highly encourages Calgary to allocate funds to accelerate its implementation. Calgary has great recreational water opportunities that all Calgarians should be able to appreciate.

In particular interest to our membership are hand launches for kayaks where people can put on to the river for training purposes, near where they live. In our 2010 club facility guide we recommend that each athlete have access to a training site within 15min of their house. Anything further and it becomes a significant barrier to participation.

Harvie Passage, when rebuilt, will become one of the defining sports facilities of Calgary, the same way Denver's Confluence Park is used in tourism brochures and advertising everywhere. ASCK supports a safe, accessible facility, that is being used to its fullest. We are working with Alberta Environment and Parks, and Calgary Recreation to develop a world class training site and ASCK will be funding the installation of slalom infrastructure on the site (about \$250,000).

ASCK members appreciate the environment and will continue to enjoy Alberta's rivers with our low impact sport. Almost nothing leaves as little trace as canoeing or kayaking down a river.

The only part we don't support are sections 14 and 16 of the Parks Bylaw 20M2003. We believe it is every Canadian's right to free access to our rivers. A better solution to these unconstitutional bylaws is to build excellent access points and provide information so that people make good decisions about where and when to use our rivers.

We hope that City Council approves the Calgary River Access Strategy and finds ways to implement the reports' recommendations as quickly as it can.

Sincerely,

Michael Holroyd
Head Coach / Sport Development Director - Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



ALBERTA WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

January 16, 2017

Calgary City Council:

The Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA) is the Provincial Sport Governing Organization for whitewater canoeing and kayaking in Alberta. We represent 4 paddling clubs in Calgary and 13 clubs in the rest of the province within the 5 Disciplines of our sport. The AWA supports the Calgary River Access Strategy and encourages the City of Calgary to move ahead with implementing the work envisioned as quickly as possible.

Canoeing, kayaking and river rafting are important sport and recreational activities that Calgarians enjoy in the city. More people participate in these activities than play organized sports such as hockey or soccer and our sports rank ahead of participation rates in most other outdoor sports. When asked, Albertans said canoeing and kayaking were in the Top 4 sports that they want to start participating in. (Alberta Recreation Survey 2013)

We believe it is every Canadian's right to freely access our waterways. Sections 14 and 16 of the Parks Bylaw 20M2003 impede this right and as such are unconstitutional. We believe that by creating excellent access points and providing information to people they will make good decisions about where to access our rivers and these clauses are unnecessary.

Calgary has great opportunities for lake and river recreation that everyone should be able to enjoy. But there has been insufficient attention to the needs and desires of Calgarians to access and utilize these natural recreational facilities. Just as there are neighbourhood - regional recreation facilities for other sports, canoeing and kayaking in Calgary is building towards the same goal. In other major urban centres around North America and Europe there are often several different canoe/kayak clubs and facilities that offer a variety of programs for local residents without having to drive across the city. Children are able to hop on their bikes or local transit to get to their club after school, participate in a training session and then get home in time for supper. Adults will come down to the club in the evening grab a boat and go for a paddle.

There are now 4 facilities for our sport in Calgary, Bowness Eddies, Calgary Canoe Club on Glenmore Reservoir, Bow Waters Canoe Club on the WID canal and Harvie Passage. We see the long term need for additional facilities in Calgary West, Calgary Downtown and Calgary South regions. The River Access Strategy is the first step in creating the infrastructure for our sport that Calgarians need.

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

When Harvie Passage reopens it will be a unique sports facility for a Canadian city. The AWA has been an active partner in the planning and design of this facility and we look forward to having the appropriate amenities and infrastructure to support the future demands of this whitewater park in the city.

Canoeing and Kayaking are dependent on clean fresh water and one of paddlers' biggest pleasure is seeing river ecosystems from a unique perspective. The AWA and our members pride ourselves on being good educators and stewards for the environment and we will continue to foster that core value with future generations of Canadians.

As a member of the Calgary River Users Alliance we appreciate the opportunity to participate in a City Committee to review and assess new opportunities for river access and citizen needs. We hope that City Council approves the Calgary River Access Strategy and moves ahead with the report's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Lee', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chuck Lee
Executive Director
Alberta Whitewater Association

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

Bow Waters Canoe Club
Calgary, AB
info@bowwaters.org

January 17, 2017

Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary
Laura.Smith@calgary.ca

Dear Ms Smith,

The Bow Waters Canoe Club strongly supports most of the City of Calgary's proposed 'River Access Strategy'. At present there is little information available to the general public about river use in Calgary and virtually no boat launch facilities. Your Strategy will go a long way to rectify these deficiencies, and I urge you to start the work as soon as possible.

Bow Waters is the largest and oldest recreational paddling club in Calgary, and one of the largest in Canada, with 170 members. It has been actively promoting canoeing and kayaking since its founding in 1972. It organizes an extensive canoe trip schedule for its members running from April to September, and co-sponsors canoeing instruction courses for youth and adults in the general public.

Yours sincerely,

Lorie Travis
President
Bow Waters Canoe Club
403-710-0225

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



**Calgary
Canoe Club**

On the Glenmore Reservoir at North Glenmore Park

"Per aquas ad fraternitatem - Through the waters to friendship"

January 22, 2017

Re: Letter of Support, River Access Strategy

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Calgary Canoe Club.

As a major stakeholder at the Glenmore Reservoir since 1969 we are in support of expanding parking in North Glenmore Park.

We have seen a reduction in the parking spots the last couple of years and it is certainly impacting programs we can offer to groups and members of the public and significantly limited access to the reservoir by members of the public. The lack of parking makes it particularly difficult for members of the public who bring their own canoes down to the reservoir forcing them to carry their boats a long distance.

We know the Canoe and Rowing Clubs provide a valuable service, and opportunity, to the citizens of Calgary to get out on the water and participate in healthy activities.

The Canoe/Rowing Club location has the highest use of on water activities and yet has the least amount of parking spots in comparison to Heritage Park and the South Glenmore Park locations.

If there is any additional information required please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lynda Roberts
Club Manager, Calgary Canoe Club
calgarycanoeclubinfo@gmail.com

P.O. Box 36004 - 6449 Crowchild Trail S.W., Calgary, Alberta T3E 7C6
Ph: 403 246-5757. Website: Calgarycanoeclub.com
email: calgarycanoeclubinfo@gmail.com

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

January 19, 2017

Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
City of Calgary



Dear Ms. Smith,

Re: City of Calgary's proposed 'River Access Strategy'

We are writing to express Paddle Alberta's strong support of the City of Calgary's River Access Strategy. We urge the City of Calgary to implement the recommended river access improvements as soon as possible.

As you know, currently there is very little infrastructure or amenities in place for the thousands of boaters and floaters on the Bow and Elbow rivers here in Calgary. This new strategy will help identify and correct these deficiencies that are a major concern for our paddle sport community and concerned Calgarians.

Paddle Alberta conducted a Calgary Bow River Users Survey in 2016. As part of the survey, users were asked what they would like to see improved along the Bow River for boaters. The majority of respondents said they would like to see more put-in and take out options with parking, washroom and garbage facilities. Users also reported they were having difficulty finding current access points and concerned about the overuse, or lack of, washrooms at the very popular put in and take out sites like West Baker, Point McKay and Graves Bridge. We feel it would be useful to include some of the results of our Survey Report for your River Access Strategy.

Paddle Alberta represents over 30 recreational paddling organizations and hundreds of paddle sport instructors working in Alberta. Part of our mandate is to serve the needs of recreational paddlers and advocate for the sustainability of the paddling environment. It's critical that Paddle Alberta supports municipalities initiate projects, like the River Access Strategy, where our Society's members are concerned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karla Handy", written over a white background.

Karla Handy, Program Services Coordinator

Paddle Alberta Society



info@paddlealberta.org www.paddlealberta.org
PO Box 71039 Silversprings RPO Calgary AB T3B 5K2
Toll Free Phone: 1-877-388-2722 Calgary Phone: 403 247-0083



Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Angling Outfitter and Guide Association of Alberta
PO Box 81071
Lake Bonavista
Calgary, AB
T2J 7C9

January 20, 2017

Letter of support for the City River Access Strategy

To: Calgary Community and Protective Services Committee:

The Angling Outfitter and Guide Association of Alberta (AOGAA) is a group of about 50 local fishing guides and outfitters who operate primarily on the Bow River in and below Calgary. Our group supports the proposed river access strategy. We are particularly interested in seeing plans for increased trailered boat launch accesses within city limits.

For outfitters and guides, increased accesses means more opportunity to explore the world-renowned Bow river fishery in particular on reaches that are currently inaccessible to trailered boats. Increased access points will help spread out angling pressure, and more-appropriately developed accesses means increased protection for sensitive riparian zones.

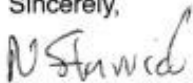
We look forward to the development at Refinery park and the proposed twinning of existing emergency access sites above downtown Calgary. We strongly believe the 12th street trailered access needs to be implemented as a safe takeout above the Bend in the Bow project.

Additional boat accesses between Graves Landing and Policeman's Flats - some of which have been identified for future development are very important to our membership. We look forward to the day there's a trailered boat access at Ralph Klein/Frenchman's site.

We have appreciated the opportunity to be involved in this process to date and look forward to continuing to work with the city on initiatives including tree wrapping events and other city-sanctioned activities.

Thank you for the excellent work on this initiative to date.

Sincerely,



Nancy Storwick
AOGAA President



Maxwell Robinson
AOGAA River Access Committee

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Bow River Trout's Presentation to Calgary's Community & Protective Services Committee in Support of the River Access Strategy,

01 February 2017

Bow River Trout was formed in the spring of 2016 to act as a communication link between the Bow River fishing community and government agencies with the primary objective to improve recreational boat access within Calgary. Peter Crowe-Swords as the principal for Bow River Trout (BRT) has over 30 years' experience fly fishing southern Alberta and Montana rivers as a recreational angler and commercial guide. A deep rooted commitment to improve the Bow River's boat access guided the decision to become a founding member of Calgary River Users' Alliance (CRUA). Peter has taken the lead role for trailered- boat access ramps in the stakeholder consultation with Calgary's River Access Strategy and in general strongly support the proposals within the Strategy.

The Economic Importance of Recreational River Use.

The Bow River is recognized as a world class trout fishery that has played an important economic role in Calgary. A part of my role within CRUA was to present two papers ^(1,2) to City Councillors in support of the River Access Strategy. The documents present the case for support of river access to the fishing community as well other recreational activities:

- In excess of 12,000 anglers fish the Bow River a year contributing more than \$25 million annually to the local economy.
- South-west of Alberta, including Calgary, supports more than 56,000 anglers spending a total \$114 million annually. A considerable amount of this money will be spent in Calgary as the pinnacle for the southern Alberta fishing industry.
- The number of drift boats used to float and fish local rivers is estimated to exceed 200 (and may be as many as 500) within the watershed and local outfitting services. This number will continue to grow as the popularity for this means of fishing increases.
- Fishing is just one of a variety of river recreational activities that include kayaking, canoeing and rafts. All of which, when combined, contribute in excess of \$50 million annually to the local economy.

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

The River Access Strategy

The significance of Councillors Shane Keating and Gian-Carlo Carra action to introduce the Notice of Motion to City Council and the entire City Council to unanimously approve the development of the River Access Strategy is recognized as a very important step taken to improve river access within the Calgary. From the perspective of Bow River Trout, the consultation process has been exemplary. Calgary City Parks Department has been open to dialogue on all aspects of the River Access Strategy.

The River Access Strategy is an all-encompassing document that details a roadmap for development of new and improved river access boat ramps and hand launch locations. The strategy addresses the environmental, safety and river access infrastructure concerns together with Provincial and Federal regulatory requirements.

Bow River Trout is very pleased to support the River Access Strategy (RAS) in principal. But there is a concern that short-term capital funding to expedite infrastructure development may not be available. The current timeline for **Priority 1 River Access Sites and Initiatives** (see page 28, in the River Access Strategy) would indicate that new public access boat ramps will be seen later this year. We believe anything less than this is unacceptable.

Boat Ramp Priorities

From a fishing viewpoint there is a need to appreciate that a single boat ramp location by itself has little value for the drift boat angler. There is a need for a launch site AND a take-out site downstream to allow each stretch of the Bow River to be fished from a drift boat. To allow all of the Bow River within the city limits to be fished this way the following boat ramps are needed:

Above Harvie Passage – With modest improvements, the existing Stoney Trail boat ramp can be used as a launch site and a new boat ramp at 12 Street. SE as a take-out.

Below Harvie Passage – A new boat ramp at Old Refinery Park as a launch site with the existing boat ramp at Fish Creek Park as a take-out. In addition, Graves Bridge will be used as a launch site, taking out at either Fish Creek Park or Policeman's Flats until a new boat ramp can be installed on opposite bank south of Seton.

Additional boat ramps access above Harvie Passage at Shouldice Park and in the general vicinity of the Pumphouse Theater would allow for a shorter city float. Similarly, boat ramps at Douglasdale and Pine Creek will add to the mix of access points below Harvie Passage.

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

When Harvie Passage is opened in 2018, safe passage through the redesigned low flow channel will enhance recreation river use. But there are times in the spring and fall when low Bow River flows will make this channel challenging, even for skilled oarsmen. Clearly new boat ramps at 12 Street SE and Old Refinery Park are important for safe egress and recreational river use.

Budget Estimates

The River Access Strategy High Level, Class 5, Budget Estimates (page one in Attachment 2 of the report) for completion of Ogden Bridge/Old Refinery Park and Inglewood/12 Street SE full service boat ramps are \$450,000 and \$520,000 respectively.

Bow River Trout and our sister organizations would be highly supportive of a low cost approach to new boat ramps and ask that the Community and Protective Services Committee to support our funding request to meet the immediate, short-term needs for safe public trailered boat access to the Bow River. Until we are incorporated as a non-profit organization we would be willing to assist with grant or sponsorship initiatives where possible.

These sites, and the opening of West Baker Park/Stony Trail ramp to the public, would provide drift boat access to all reaches of the Bow River within the City. In subsequent years, long-term, permanent ramps could be built at these locations.

References:

1. The Economic Importance of Recreational River Use to the City of Calgary. Prepared by: Calgary River Users Alliance, May 2016
2. The Need for a River Recreation Management Plan - A Supplement to Calgary River Users Alliance Economic Position Statement to the City of Calgary, May 2016

Contact Information:

Peter Crowe-Swords
Cel: 403-680-8320
Email: daritek@shaw.ca

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

17 January 2017

Attn: Laura Smith, Business & Policy Planner, Calgary Parks, City of Calgary
River Access Strategy Team

RE: Alberta River Surfing Association comments on Calgary River Access Strategy

Dear Ms. Smith & Team,

Since 2005 the Alberta River Surfing Association has been representing river surfers, building waves and surf community, educating people & governments and providing the necessary services for surfing to exist in Alberta. We are a member of the Calgary River Users Alliance and are working towards making Calgary a renowned surf destination.

After reviewing the proposed River Access Strategy (CPS2017-xxxx Attachment 1 – February 2017), the Alberta River Surfing Association (Alberta RSA) has the following comments:

- The Alberta RSA supports the River Access Strategy.
 - Our members have seen and participated in the major economic, social and environmental benefits of vibrant and accessible rivers around the world.
 - Calgary has excellent rivers that are significantly under utilized & appreciated due to difficulties with access and use
- Improving and creating more river surfing waves will create major Triple Bottom Line benefits:
 - Calgary does not have a good river surfing wave in the city
 - Good waves can be built as part of necessary river projects and create excellent value
 - A single good wave will bring or keep people earning \$39,500,000 in wages
 - Annual spending at or near a good wave by local surfers: \$3,300,000
 - A good wave in Calgary can generate over \$4,000,000 in increased economic activity
 - Please see the Triple Bottom Line Report on Calgary Surf Waves (Jan 2017) by Surf Anywhere for additional details including cultural & environmental impacts
- It is critical that the Alberta RSA is heavily involved with any in-river or bank projects or work on or near existing or future river surfing waves
 - River waves are very sensitive to certain changes in the river and can easily be unintentionally destroyed or damaged by nearby heavy construction
 - Good river surfing facilities have specific requirements different from other river users
 - This applies to:
 - BC01 The Wave
 - BC08 The Harvie Passage
 - Any future river surfing development
- The Alberta RSA is willing to apply for grants to help fund river surfing related improvements provided we are heavily involved in the improvements to ensure they are beneficial.
 - The Alberta RSA has been very successful in earning a variety of government and corporate grants to create/improve river surfing waves and facilities.
 - The Alberta RSA has been very successful in building and improving river surfing waves and facilities.

ALBERTA RIVER SURFING ASSOCIATION

arsa@RiverSurfing.ca

1

587-997-7970

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

17 January 2017

- The Harvie Passage (BC08) will very likely require additional in-river work after project completion in order to create river surfing waves.
 - The current designs are unlikely to produce good waves but the Harvie Passage can be modified by the City of Calgary in the future to create a world class facility.
 - The ongoing value from creating good waves would greatly outweigh the costs of the adjustments.

Thank you and the team involved for helping improve our Calgary Rivers, your work is deeply appreciated. We have a great opportunity to develop spectacular and lasting rivers that will improve & strengthen Calgary for generations.

Sincerely,

Neil Egsgard
President
Alberta River Surfing Association

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

Dear Laura Smith of Calgary Parks,

I just wanted to voice my Support for the proposed River access strategy. It has come to my attention that this strategy will help support users of the river and provide an overall benefit to river communities, and the city as a whole. I believe that water sports are a large part of why Calgary is unique and why it is such an amazing place to live. Any improvements are greatly appreciated.

I have myself recently fallen in love with Calgary's River Surfing community. They promote an active lifestyle and a loving community spirit. They are always welcoming and teaching newcomers and experience surfers, as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. This includes safety, etiquette and technique while surfing in the river. This community has had an amazing impact on my life and I would love to see it grow even larger. When I have a hard day at work or school I often find myself down at the river surfing with a bunch of great people. It provides a much needed, cost free escape for me. It gives me a rush of adrenaline in a relatively safe environment and I cannot stress enough how much it has changed my life. All improvements and expansions on this sport will help others to find the same enjoyment and escape as I have.

As an added aspect to my personal enjoyment, I believe this sport creates much enjoyment for spectators as well. Almost every time I am Surfing there are photographers and families, watching and smiling. Both at the tenth street wave and at the Kananaskis wave I find this to be true. The access to the 10th street wave is great right now due to its location but the facilities could be greatly improved. For example, a reinforcement in the river bank could provide a better viewing area for spectators or changing area for surfers. Surfing improves the lives of everyone in the area from families and surfers, to local business.

I believe that Calgary can support many more waves, giving rise to new surfers, and surfing communities City wide. Building more waves will decrease travel time for current surfers and spark even more attention. It will also mean less crowding around our existing waves providing easier access for all surfers. All waves are slightly different as well, offering both a unique feel and experience. This means that experienced surfers will benefit from new waves as well as beginners. Calgary's very own Alberta RSA, should play a significant role with any new waves or features added to the Calgary area. They are vital for the success of these waves due to their experience creating great and safe surf waves. Their members have surfed over 75 different waves world wide and this experience should not be discounted. The waves that ARSA will help build will be a main reason that Calgary will become a Worldwide surf destination as Munich, Germany is becoming now.

How amazing would it be to have our own great city, over 600 km from the nearest ocean, become a worldwide surf destination!?

Thank you for reading and helping to implement this River Access Strategy,

Yours Truly,

Ryan Morstad

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Calgary River Valleys champions and engages the public in the protection, appreciation and stewardship of Calgary's rivers, creeks, wetlands and watershed resources.

We are the voice of our rivers.

January 19, 2017

Laura Smith
Business and Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary

Dear Ms. Smith,

Re: Draft River Access Strategy

Calgary River Valleys would like to thank you for providing a copy of the draft River Access Strategy. We were pleased to be included in the stakeholder consultation for this important project. CRV appreciates that this effort recognizes the desire of the public to enjoy the river and aims to offer safe and environmentally sensitive access that will better protect this important City asset.

The draft strategy is a comprehensive document which has benefitted from the collaborative effort of several internal stakeholders and consideration of a range of City mandates and objectives. The tight timelines demanded an innovative approach to soliciting public and external stakeholder input. The on-line approach allowed CRV membership and volunteers to participate efficiently and the "discussion" component allowed participants to learn from and respond to other ideas and viewpoints as the project evolved.

Overall, the draft Strategy speaks to issues of particular concern to CRV including; avoiding environmentally sensitive and erosion prone areas, offering improvements to riparian areas and fish habitat conditions, and promotion and education leading to changed public behaviours that respect the ecological value and functions of the rivers.

CRV would also like to take this opportunity to make some observations based on our review of the draft document. Please see the attached for your consideration or response.

It is understood that the River Access Strategy is a first step. Should approval be given to proceed, Calgary River Valleys would welcome the opportunity to provide ongoing input to the more detailed



Calgary River Valleys
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403-268-4867
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, #64; Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

review and design of potential sites as well as explore the role our organization could play in a public engagement/education program.

Sincerely,



Michael Kenny
President, Calgary River Valleys

c.c. Councillor Keating, Ward 12
Councillor Carra, Ward 9
Councillor Pincott, Ward 11
Anne Charlton, Director, Parks
Harpreet Sandhu, Team Lead, Resource Strategy, Water Resources
CRV Circulation

encl.



Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary
Laura.Smith@calgary.ca

January 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Smith;

The RiverWatch Institute of Alberta would like to express its overall support for The City of Calgary's proposed River Access Strategy.

RiverWatch was the 2001 recipient of the Calgary Award for Environmental Achievement and has a 22-year history of raft touring 60,000 Calgary students along a 10-km section of the Bow River in support of secondary science field studies, wastewater education, water safety instruction and responsible river stewardship.

We have worked with The City of Calgary over the past several years to find ways of ensuring river access essential to our programming. Workable solutions for specific access points were developed with the cooperation of Calgary Fire, Calgary Parks and Calgary Water Resources on a per-case basis.

Going forward, RiverWatch is pleased that The City has responded so positively and has provided opportunities for input to the proposed city-wide Access Strategy.

The proposed River Access Strategy is in the best interests of Calgary as a growing city on two small rivers. Citizens, recreation and the environment will benefit.

RiverWatch is a member of the Calgary River Users Alliance (CRUA) and urges City Council to approve the Strategy and an adequate budget so that significant improvements can be made to ensure city-wide river access this year and into the future.

Sincerely,

Cal Kullman
Executive Director

cc. RiverWatch Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Suite 433, 17008 - 90 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5T 1L6

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Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Fish Tales Fly Shop Ltd.
626, 12100 Macleod Trail
Calgary, AB T2J 7G9

January 23, 2017

Letter of support for the City River Access Strategy

To: Calgary Community and Protective Services Committee:

Fish Tales Fly Shop is a specialty fly fishing store and outfitter located in south Calgary. We are very pleased with the proposed additional river access sites identified within the city's river access strategy. We are particularly interested in plans for increased trailered boat launch accesses within city limits.

The current access situation on the Bow River is very limited for local and visiting recreational anglers as well as area outfitter/guides. Increased access means more opportunity to explore the world-renowned Bow river fishery throughout the city. The Bow is one of the only trophy sport fisheries in the world that flows through a city of over a million people and therefore contributes to what makes Calgary special.

The development of additional trailered-boat accesses will help spread out angling pressure and more well-developed accesses means increased protection for sensitive riparian zones.

Fish Tales strongly supports the proposed development at Refinery Park. Our industry would be seriously impacted if we lost all access between Bend in the Bow and Fish Creek Park- which happened briefly in 2016 with the blocks going in at Graves Landing.

We are also encouraged by the proposal to make the 12th street trailered access a priority. This access will ensure there's a safe takeout above the Bend in the Bow project for drift boats who want to float through downtown. A float through the city core with a chance at trophy-sized trout provides a unique experience for anglers from all over the world.

Finally, we very much look forward to the development of additional trailered-boat accesses between Graves Landing and Ralph Klein/Frenchman's. The area below Fish Creek Park has historically been the most heavily fished by guided and local anglers simply because of access issues. Sites like Douglasdale, Cranston, and Seton will provide anglers with some great opportunities for shorter fishing days. The proposed development of a trailered boat access at the Ralph Klein/Frenchman's site is also long overdue and excellent news for all river users.

We are very excited with how quickly the city has moved on this access strategy and look forward to any opportunity to provide additional input. Thank you for the great work to date!

Sincerely,

David Blair - Owner

Nancy Storwick - Owner

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

Hello Laura,

My name is Harry Daley and I operate just one of many Bow River related seasonal business's here in Calgary. My company, Lazy Day Raft Rentals offers many locals, tourists and visitors a unique experience, floating down the beautiful Bow River. We can see numbers of up to 500 people per day using our services from Jun - September which leads to our main concern that is in alignment with the CRUA's short and long term goals.

Our customers mainly use one of the following 3 launch points when beginning their journey; BN01, BN02 and BN03 (as per strategy and requirements document). The finish area is located in close proximity to our shop, BC03 - Hand Launch (Prince's Island North) and requires attention as it serves as a popular exit point for not only our customers but for as many as 2 or 3 times that of other River users who have parked at the pay parking site on East side of Calgary Curling Club.

As stated in the plan, the steep and rocky area leading to the foot path is in need of attention for the benefit and safety of all tourists, visitors and locals using it. We have had numerous complaints from people visiting our city asking why something can't be done to make it easier and safer for all users to exit the river and get onto the pathway. Our customer reviews and feedback show that the only negative part of the Bow river rafting experience most people share is the rocky shore and steep hill at end of trip making it very difficult and stressful at times. The rocks on shore are jagged, very unstable and can be very slippery. From these concerns, we now ask families with elderly parents and small children or anyone needing it, to call our shop as they arrive to end point so that we may provide assistance to ensure they to the hazard. In 9 years, we have had to give band aids too many times to people who have scratched or cut their legs, hands etc... in this specific area.

We absolutely love our business and that it gives so many people a wonderful experience in the summer in our City. We strive to do all we can for our customers but this one thing is out of our control. As the owner operator, I am willing to assist in any way possible with making this location safer for everyone wishing to use it. With tens of thousands of people using this exact location each summer, I believe action should be taken immediately to minimize the hazards. Some ideas would be: Engineering controls like a ramp from River to level area (Picture), stairs from level area to grassy landing (Picture), hinged gate leading to paved pathway (Picture3) and Signage to indicate location up stream for all River users, directing them to the preferred exit location. (Picture 4 is a view from pathway above)

We are excited to be a part of the Calgary River Users Alliance and will continue to support the group as we move forward in many positive directions.

Thank you,

Harry Daley
Lazy Day Raft Rentals
403 999 1123

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support

Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre Ltd
Box 75115 216 Stewart Green SW
Calgary, Ab
T3H 3M1

Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
City of Calgary
laura.Smith@calgary.ca

Dear Ms Smith,

The Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre and Raft Calgary strongly support the City of Calgary recommendations as set out in the River Access Strategy.

Our company has been offering canoe, kayak, sup and raft lessons and rentals to the public in Calgary since 1992. Our company and patrons utilize the Bow river daily during the paddling season.

Access to this amazing resource has become a serious issue in the past decade. We fully support and are a member of the CRUA. We look forward to working with the City and CRUA to restore public access to the Bow and Elbow rivers and in protecting the environment and recreational opportunities that exist on and around the rivers.

The Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre believes the city needs to act quicker in finding funding to support the goals of the River Access Strategy. Waiting will only lead to greater environmental, social and economic losses.

We appreciate all the work that has gone into this project and look forward to the rewards the City will reap when complete.

Sincerely,

Mark Taylor
Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre Ltd

Calgary River Access Strategy — Letters of Support



**6531 Bowness Rd NW
Calgary Alberta T3B 0E8
403-262-4327
experts@undercurrents.ca**

January 17, 2017

Attn: Laura Smith
Business & Policy Planner
Calgary Parks
The City of Calgary
Laura.Smith@calgary.ca

Comments regarding the proposed Calgary River Strategy

Undercurrents is a retailer of quality paddling equipment, and a hub of the Calgary paddling community. Undercurrents also operates an active paddling school, teaching Calgarians of all stripes to safely enjoy their time on the water in canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, and on river surf boards.

I am writing today to express our general support for the proposed river access strategy. Our rivers are a public resource and it falls to the City to responsibly develop those resources to benefit our citizens. We are thrilled to see the City reengaging on this important file.

The strategy's focus on Access, Environment, Education, and Economic Opportunities is balanced and responsible. That visible action is planned for the 2017 season shows that the City is serious about acting now to improve our river access. Thank you.

I congratulate you for working with the Calgary River Users' Alliance and strongly encourage you to continue doing so in the future. As a varied group of river users, both recreational and commercial, CRUA well represents the broader river user base. CRUA will continue to be an asset to the City as the river access strategy unfolds, and as the river inevitably changes over time.

We urge City Council to approve the Strategy, along with an adequate budget so that significant improvements can be made to river access, both this year and on an ongoing forward basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Palmer
Undercurrents Sports Ltd
6531 Bowness Rd NW

403-262-4327
tony@undercurrents.ca