

Harvie Passage Task Force Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Harvie Passage Task Force as outlined in Attachment 2.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2021 DECEMBER 8:

That Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Harvie Passage Task Force as outlined in Attachment 2.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Harvie Passage area has seen high levels of use since re-opening in 2018 and is expected to continue to see increased use due to the growing popularity. The Harvie Passage Task Force (the Task Force) is being created to oversee the development of a Facility Enhancement Plan that will consider safety, access, environmental and operational impacts, and community needs, and to identify short, medium and long-term actions to improve the experience for all visitors of Harvie Passage.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Calgarians will benefit from enhancements to Harvie Passage and Pearce Estate Park that are integrated with broader Calgary Parks initiatives and which may bring additional amenities and recreational opportunities to the city.
- **Why does this matter?** Parks and recreation amenities are directly tied to the quality of life and mental health of citizens, and Harvie Passage, Pearce Estate Park and the adjacent Bow River Pathway provide a unique opportunity to offer a world-class experience to Calgarians.
- On 2021 September 7, Council directed Administration to create a Terms of Reference for a Task Force that is comprised of appropriate external stakeholders to prepare a plan that addresses safety, access, and environmental considerations and outlines actions that would improve the experience for all visitors of Harvie Passage, and report back to Council through to the Community Development Committee no later than Q4 2021.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A Healthy and Green City, and A City of Safe and Inspiring Neighbourhoods.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

Harvie Passage is a well-used river-based recreational area, located on a channel and shore of the Bow River, in the community of Inglewood. After the 2013 flood severely damaged the original Harvie Passage infrastructure, engagement with multiple stakeholders resumed, as the Government of Alberta began plans to remediate the damage using both the federally funded flood recovery program and the Province's Disaster Recovery Program funds. The Province made further modifications to the structure, beyond the initial 2011 design, because of feedback received over the duration of the initial project and after the site was opened in 2011.

Harvie Passage Task Force Terms of Reference

In 2018, Alberta Environment and Parks and The City of Calgary entered into a Disposition Agreement (ELO 18007) allowing The City to manage the lands for the benefit of recreational users. As part of this agreement the Harvie Passage Joint Management Working Group (HPWG), made up of representatives from each level of government, was formed with a mandate to provide feedback and make recommendations to decision makers (both in The City and in the Province) on issues related to the on-going safe operation and maintenance of the Harvie Passage.

Harvie Passage is a popular site for many groups and coordination of future development or intensification of uses on the site is required due to overlapping Municipal, Provincial, and Federal jurisdictions, existing lease agreements, and the interests of user groups. In 2021 September 7, Council directed that Administration create Terms of Reference (Attachment 2) for a Task Force of stakeholders, including representatives from The City and the Province, and external interest groups.

Following consultation with City representatives and the Government of Alberta it was determined that the mandate of the Task Force will be to oversee the development of a Facility Enhancement Plan and to outline short, medium and long-term actions that consider safety, access, environmental impacts, and regional and community park needs. Decisions made on facility enhancements must meet relevant Provincial and Municipal legislation and must not conflict with existing lease agreements in the area. The Harvie Passage Joint Management Working Group will support the Task Force in an advisory capacity on the proposed Facility Enhancement Plan.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

An initial Task Force meeting was held to review and provide input on the Terms of Reference on 2021 November 30 with the members identified in the Terms of Reference (Attachment 2).

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Access to a variety of parks for socializing along with active and passive recreational activities contributes to the overall health and well-being of Calgarians. Any improvements will prioritize citizen safety.

Environmental

Improvements to Harvie Passage will contribute to a healthy waterway that helps with flood mitigation, protection of the river and adjacent natural areas, and environmental resiliency.

Economic

**Community Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2021 December 8**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2021-1533
Page 3 of 3**

Harvie Passage Task Force Terms of Reference

Parks and Open Spaces manages all parks and recreation activities, amenities, and future development planning within the Harvie Passage footprint. The Task Force will be responsible to deliver a Facility Enhancement Plan that could provide opportunities for future investment, commercial activities, events, and improved experience for all visitors.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

There are no anticipated financial impacts to current budgets as a result of this report recommendation. A future budget request may be brought forward depending on the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

RISK

The risk of not approving the Terms of Reference is that the Task Force will not have clear direction on how to work together and clear roles, responsibilities and outcomes outlined. This could delay development and coordination of any improvements for the area.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Terms of Reference

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Consult
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Consult