

BRIEFING

Page 1 of 2

Item # 11.5

**Operational Services Briefing to
Community Development Committee
2022 September 27**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2022-0938**

Harvie Passage Facilities Enhancement Plan - Project Status Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

Background

City Council passed a notice of motion, PFC2021-1344, 2021 September 13, for the formation of the Harvie Passage Task Force (the Task Force). The Task force includes internal and external stakeholders and all appropriate levels of government to prepare a plan, the Harvie Passage Facilities Enhancement Plan (HPFEP), that will consider safety, access, and environmental impacts, and outline short, medium and long-term actions that will improve the experience for all visitors of Harvie Passage, Pearce Estate Park and the adjacent Bow River Pathway. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force were approved by Council in December 2021 (CD2021-1523) and Administration was directed to provide a status update in Q3 2022.

Task Force meetings have been occurring monthly since early March 2022. Task Force coordination was conducted with HPFEP engagement and planning now well underway. Due to municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions and existing lease agreements on the site, coupled with the interests of multiple user groups and stakeholders, further time is required to finalize the HPFEP and for Administration to bring the plan forward before the end of Q2 2023.

The Harvie Passage Facilities Enhancement Plan (HPFEP) is envisioned as a strategic document describing the short, medium and long-term capital improvements and operational land management recommendations for Harvie Passage and Pearce Estate Park. Unique in its diverse programming, Pearce Estate Park contains the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery, Bow Habitat Station, a 15-hectare reconstructed wetland and outdoor spaces for leisure and nature education. The park is complemented by Harvie Passage which provides safe Bow River passage for fish, local habitat, and recreational river users. Since its reconstruction, Harvie Passage has become a preeminent Canadian Whitewater course. The HPFEP will seek ways to support the increase in demand for park and river uses, while considering environmental impacts and public safety concerns. The project's decision-making process combines policy and programming information, input from the Harvie Passage Task Force and public engagement from the Bend in the Bow project, as well as technical assessments such as parking and traffic studies. This process aims to achieve outcomes that align with best practices, are fiscally responsible, and consider existing natural assets, infrastructure, legislation and recreational activities in the area.

The project is currently in the concept development phase, preparing scenarios that aim to resolve site challenges and accommodate possible amenity additions such as a proposed multi-organization building/boat house. Various ideas for facility improvements are categorized into three key themes:

1. Improving park circulation for safe multi-modal use;
2. Enhancing existing and/or providing new park amenities; and
3. Assessing the water's edge and Divide Island for improved recreational use.

BRIEFING

Harvie Passage Task Force Meeting Summary

Meeting #	Date	Summary
1	2022 March 2	Project team introduction, review of draft project plan milestones and deliverables, and discuss components of the facility enhancement plan.
2	2022 March 31	Project update and discuss inclusions of additional community representatives.
3	2022 April 18	Group site visit, walk through tour of Pearce Estate Park and Harvie Passage.
4	2022 May 25	Introduce community and City Engage representatives, summary of what we heard and discussion of key observations.
5	2022 June 28 2022 July 28 (Optional follow up workshop)	Group workshop opportunities and constraints, topics include park access and circulation, park programming, water's edge and island.
6	2022 August 30	Project update summary of what we heard from workshop, summary of improvements, building massing and discuss final report's draft table of contents.

Additional Task Force team meetings will be scheduled for the remaining months of 2022 for an anticipated delivery of the Facility Enhancement Plan by the end of Q2 2023.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Harvie Passage Facility Enhancement Plan (HPFEP) *Opportunities and Constraints Workshop: What We Heard Summary* (Attachment 1) outlines the wide range of viewpoints from User Groups, The City, and The Province. Discussion topics include park and facility enhancements under the three themes described above.

A draft Table of Contents for the forthcoming *Harvie Passage Facility Enhancement Plan (HPFEP)* is included as Attachment 2.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. HPFEP Opportunities and Constraints Workshop What We Heard Report
2. Draft Table of Contents (Facility Enhancement Plan)