



June 15, 2023

City of Calgary

Dear Community Development Committee Members,

The Calgary River User’s Alliance (CRUA) strongly supports the Harvie Passage Task Force’s Facility Enhancement Plan and looks forward to a favourable review of recommendations and funding by the Committee and ultimately Calgary City Council.

The CRUA has worked to support the Task Force’s mandate and provided many of the recommendations for amenities found within. The additional infrastructure and management supports, highlighted in the Harvie Passage Facility Enhancement Plan, will unlock the full potential of the Harvie Passage Whitewater Park to meets CRUA’s member objectives to enhance recreational activities for all Calgarians.

- The quick-wins / short-term improvements, particularly, will have an immediate impact on safety and usability of the park for river users and the general public.
- CRUA member, Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA), is contributing significant support and ~\$30,000 funding for the PFD lending station and safety equipment at Harvie Passage and overall safety education. Further river safety initiatives are underway by AWA for a total project cost of \$327,000 with support from Transport Canada.
- The AWA has also funded the initial concept drawings of the boathouse, with support from the Parks Foundation Calgary.



Harvie Passage Whitewater Centre

The 1 to 5+ year projects found within the Facility Enhancement Plan require continued supports from the City. We request that council direct administration to ensure that a single person (or department) remain responsible for continued improvements and ongoing management of the facility, not restricted to:

- access to the boat ramp
- boathouse development
- in-river wave development
- specific safety measures implementation
- digital communication about the facility
- and general education and enforcement on-site

The CRUA was formed in January 2016 with the objective of improving recreational boating access to the Bow and Elbow Rivers in Calgary. It will also address other needs and concerns that are common to recreational river users. The CRUA consists of representatives of recreation and conservation groups and businesses in the city, including canoeing, kayaking, rafting, paddle-boarding, river surfing, and fishing.

Yours Sincerely,



Mike Holroyd – Executive Director, Alberta Whitewater Association

On behalf of:

- Alberta Whitewater Association
- PaddleAlberta
- Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak
- Alberta Playboaters League
- Alberta River Surfing Association
- Whitewater Paddling Club Calgary
- Waterwerks Kayak Club
- Bow Waters Canoe Club
- Calgary Kayak Club
- Aquabatics Calgary
- Rocky Mountain Paddling Centre
- Lazy Day Raft Rentals
- Alberta Outfitter & Guide Association of Alberta
- Lower Bow River Task Force (CRUA affiliate)

Cc: Kyle Ripley – Director Calgary Parks Department  
Jennifer Duggan – Director Calgary Recreation

June 12, 2023

To: City of Calgary  
Community Development Committee,

I am writing in support of the efforts of the Harvie Passage Task Force created by City Council and the Harvie Passage Facility Enhancement Plan which will be presented to the Community Development Committee.

I am the “old timer”. In 2000 I began the initiative to replace the “drowning machine”; the Western Irrigation District weir across the Bow River at Pearce Estate Park. Over the next 12 years I invested hundreds of volunteer hours, together with many other river users, community leaders and technical experts toward the effort to construct Harvie Passage in 2012. The 2013 flood dramatically damaged the facility, but by 2018 the new and improved facility was completed.

The success of the facility speaks for itself.


The funding for this public amenity has come from many private sources, most significantly the Calgary Foundation and the Harvie Family. The water diversion infrastructure is owned by the Province of Alberta, and they have been the principal source of public funds, including re-building the facility after the flood. This world-class facility, in the heart of the City, has come at relatively small cost to the City. Yet, there are tremendous recreational benefits of Harvie Passage available to Calgarians to complement the natural attributes of Pearce Estate Park and our beautiful Bow River.

The recommendations in the Harvie Passage Facility Enhancement Plan set out a roadmap for the City of Calgary to “step up to the plate” – something that is long overdue. Safe and sustainable operation of Harvie Passage requires interfacing with many City Departments. And it requires a bit of money.

Please approve the appropriate funding. And, just as importantly, direct staff in the many relevant City departments to effectively and enthusiastically cooperate to **get-it-done**.

It has been 23 years since I started what I naively thought might be a two or three year undertaking. The current generation of river users are doing an outstanding job of promoting and enhancing Harvie Passage. They deserve your support.

Thank you,



Howard Heffler