



Report Number: EC2024-1106

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2024 October 02

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Notice of Motion - Nose Creek Park Strategy

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Jasmine Mian

WHEREAS the City of Calgary supports more than 8,500 hectares of parkland and natural areas, 1,000 kilometres of pathway and is committed to ensuring all Calgarians have equitable access to parks and open spaces;

AND WHEREAS the draft Calgary Plan recognizes Nose Creek as a major corridor within the ecological network that supports biodiversity and ecological health and helps improve Calgary's resilience to the impacts of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the original Indigenous Nations have been living in this area since time immemorial, whose ancestral and cultural footprints remain at these sites, and who identify with ancestral sacred legacies that tie them to this place for eternity. We acknowledge the descendants of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina First Nations people, and Métis Nation of Alberta Battle River Territory, who appreciated and respected their relationships with the land and environment by honouring their continued care and concern for this land;

AND WHEREAS the draft Parks Plan, Connect, envisions that all households live within 400 metres walking distance of a multifunctional park and 5 kilometres driving distance of a regional park, but there are few regional parks in northeast Calgary;

AND WHEREAS the realization of the upcoming north-central Area Structure Plans will increase jobs, population and demand for pathways and open spaces but limit the ability to plan parks and open spaces for the greater north-central region;

AND WHEREAS a recommended pathway along Nose Creek is included in the Pathway and Bikeway Network (5A) Map 1 of the Calgary Transportation Map (2001) and will need to be built to meet the approved 5A Network Guiding Principles Report (2020), which requires separating people by their speed and making trips accessible, reliable, and people visible;

AND WHEREAS the lands and ecological network on either side of Nose Creek, north of Beddington Trail to the northern city limit (the Nose Creek Valley), include environmentally significant areas, sites of cultural importance and an important watershed along with essential infrastructure such as railway lines and utility services;

AND WHEREAS the Nose Creek Valley is a place where Calgarians gather, linger and recreate but is not currently a regional park;

NOTICE OF MOTION

AND WHEREAS Calgary City Council acknowledged the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's 2015 Final Report and its 94 Calls to Action and further directed Administration to provide recommendations for the City of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS Administration presented to Council the White Goose Flying 2016 Report with 43 Calls to Action as recommendations cited in three categories: Own, Partner and Encourage. In addition, suggesting the 5 Calls to Action directed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to be implemented by The City of Calgary in due course;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs Administration to:

1. Return to Council no later than Q4 2026 with a Nose Creek Park Strategy ("the Strategy") that outlines the feasibility of locating a regional park within the Nose Creek Valley. At a minimum, the Strategy should be informed by:
 - Outreach and engagement with local Indigenous Nations and other external interest parties;
 - The goals of:
 - Protecting, connecting and enhancing the ecological network, including the creek, wetlands, grasslands, and habitat for upwards of approximately 1,369 species;
 - Protecting and celebrating the remaining archaeological and culturally significant sites in the area, including the provincially designated Balzac Site;
 - Coordinating future capital investments in improving Nose Creek water quality, stormwater run-off, slope stabilization, invasive species removal and creek meandering remediation (i.e. Lower Nose Creek Stability Project);
 - Coordinating with planned mobility improvements, including the future Green Line, 128 Ave North Functional Planning Study, Country Hills Boulevard Widening and 144 Ave North BRT;
 - Collaboration with Rocky View County and The City of Airdrie to investigate opportunities to expand the ecological network north beyond The City boundary as part of the proposed Airdrie to Calgary TransCanada Trail;
 - Coordination with the Calgary Airport Rail Connection Study and the new Alberta Passenger Rail Master Plan to ensure safe pedestrian set-back and crossings and a possible multi-modal hub between airport rail, provincial rail and connections with the Pathway and Bikeway Network;
 - Planning for a Pathway and Bikeway Network experience for people using healthy and affordable travel options to reach Nose Creek and nearby open spaces in an environment that is shared with heavy rail, utilities, known and abandoned pipelines and orphan wells;
2. Collaborate with The City of Airdrie and Rocky View County to consider this proposal in the development of the Joint Planning Area 1 context study;
3. Include in the Nose Creek Park Strategy:
 - Key findings, proposed focus areas, recommendations, policy recommendations, and an overall comprehensive, cross-corporation strategy to protect, enhance and connect the Nose Creek Valley;
 - An overview of the Strategy's alignment with approved and pending land use and servicing policies and statutory plans, particularly the adjacent Area Structure Plans;

NOTICE OF MOTION

- Recommendations that demonstrate the Council-approved Calls to Action from the White Goose Flying Report, including but not limited to:
 - Naming opportunities for the regional park, trails and routes
 - Access to cultural significance sites and areas for ceremonies and teaching
 - Opportunities to celebrate Indigenous athletics history
 - Promote physical activity
 - Promote public education materials and programming
 - Create collaborative art that contributes to reconciliation.