

Applicant Submission

the **TULA** project

2024.08.02

ATTN:

File Manager

RE: Land-Use Redesignation – Road Right of Way Adjacent to Address 1121 12 AVE SW – Currently known as Connaught Open Street

Project Summary

The Connaught Open Street Public Realm project is seeking to redesignate road space to park space in the Beltline. The project team proposes that the southern half of 10 St SW, north of 13 Ave SW and south of 12 Ave SW to be permanently closed to vehicles to create an urban park, approximately 0.1 hectares in size. Roadway, boulevard, and sidewalk area will be rezoned to park space. The park will provide additional green space for residents in the Beltline and create a public realm environment that supports safer routes to school for kids. Public vehicle access will be removed within the park, and a driveway access easement will provide a homeowner access to their residential two car garage.

History of the project

The project is part of a larger study called “Kids Reimagine School Streets”. Completed in 2022 by Sustainable Calgary and their design partners, this project aimed to co-create safe comfortable and interesting routes to school; and empower kids – and the rest of the community – to lower their carbon footprint by walking and biking for their daily trips to school. The work completed on this project is the recent recipient of a 2024 National Urban Design Award.

Building on the momentum of collaborative co-design workshops during the ‘Kids Reimagine School Streets’ project, tactical urbanism interventions were implemented adjacent to three schools in the City of Calgary, one being the Connaught Play Street (2022). The southern half of 10th Street between 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue was closed to encourage more walking and biking by students and the community at large. Weekly pop-up activities took place at ‘Connaught Open Street’ over the summers of 2022 and 2023, which provided free, family-friendly outdoor events. The aesthetics for the design interventions and networks were inspired by the direction provided by the elementary grade school students, which included bright colours, patterns, additional trees and vegetation in the roadway.

Funding has been secured through Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund and The Beltline Community Investment Fund for to secure permanent closure of the southern half of 10th Street SW, complete detail design, and for construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2025.

Adjacencies

The project is located on 10th Street SW between 12th Avenue SW and 13th Avenue SW. The site is surrounded by residential high-density use (CC-MH). The adjacent green spaces are Barb Scott Park, 200m away to the east along 13th Avenue SW and the Connaught off Leash Dog Park which is approximately 230m away. A well-loved playground is directly adjacent to the west of the project area.

The Beltline is currently deficient in the required green space and public park space for the community, providing only 0.588 hectare of open space per 1000 residents. For reference the Municipal

Development Plan Targets 2.0 hectares / 1,000 residents and the Greater Downtown Plan targets 1.0 hectares/1,000 residents. The addition of the Connaught Open Street park space will add valuable public realm space in the community, providing an additional 0.1 hectare of public park amenity.

Policy Relevancy

The Connaught Open Street Park Project directly supports the Beltline Area Redevelopment Plan Policy Goals and The Beltline Parks and Public Realm Playbook. A detailed summary below illustrates the many policy objectives and principals that this project aligns with.

Policy Name	How Connaught Open Street Supports Policy
Beltline Area Redevelopment Plan	2.2 Principles: 2.2.1 Foster and Support Neighborhoods that: - Include built, natural, and social environments that are resilient and generate low emissions. - Have convenient access to essential community amenities and services as transit, pedestrian and cycling paths, schools, childcare facilities, social services, open spaces, natural amenities such as rivers playgrounds and public recreation facilities. 2.2.2 Take an artful approach to everything that is built in the Beltline: - The Beltline community has developed a unique character over time as being a place for art, culture, social gathering and unique experiences. - All components of the built environment should be done in a way which enhances community character in Beltline. - These types of experiences are a primary goal in furthering Beltline character, which attracts investment and new residents who want to be in a community which provides these artful experiences and creates a unique sense of place. 2.2.5 Improve walking and wheeling environment and manage transportation demand - Give the walking and wheeling environment a high priority - Improve walking and wheeling connections both within the Beltline and to the surrounding communities, destinations, and the regional pathway system - Increase walking and wheeling accessibility, including accessibility for persons with visual or physical disabilities, through the design of blocks, streets, buildings, and parks. - Give greater priority to walking and wheeling modes in the design and operation of intersections traffic signals, crosswalks, and transit

	stops without negative impacts to transit operations and minimal impacts to goods movements. - Recognize that there will be no major increases in road capacity. - Recognize that improvements to mobility will largely be achieved through the management of transportation demand, including: • Accommodating and promoting alternative transportation modes such as convenient transit, bicycling, walking, and car sharing options; • Improving the quality of infrastructure for all transportation modes. 2.2.8 Improve the Public Realm - Place community needs as a priority to inform public realm improvements. - Identify funding sources, programs, and partnerships that can fund and implement the public realm improvements identified in this plan. - Encourage placemaking initiatives to increase vibrancy and safety. - Enhance existing public spaces. - Add new urban murals that enhance the built environment. - Encourage art as part of a new development. - Recognize that several small public realm enhancements are as good as a few larger scale improvements. - Take an all-seasons approach. - Use more lighting as art. - Plan for and provide a variety of new parks and open spaces, to meet the open space and recreational needs of the local residents and general public in Beltline, including active and passive uses. - Create appropriate processes, policies, criteria and implementation tools for the improvement, adaptation and reconfiguration of existing parks and the creation of new public spaces. - Ensure that significant public streets and open spaces, including riverbank areas, are not adversely affected by shadows from new development. - Connect significant public spaces with high-quality streetscapes. - Improve the quality of all streetscapes and ensure they are designed to accommodate persons with visual and physical disabilities. 2.2.9 Promote development that will foster a low-carbon and climate-resilient neighborhood. - Emissions from transportation and buildings in the Beltline are reduced to net zero by 2050. - The built, natural and social environments are resilient. 2.2.10 Promote Processes that are open to creativity and innovation and reward achievement of the vision and principals - Where existing City standards or processes are determined to be barriers to the implementation of the Vision and Principles of this
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	Plan, efforts shall be made to seek creative solutions. This may include making amendments to this Plan. - In all cases, results from implementation of new ideas, concepts, processes, and partnerships should demonstrate an improved outcome in relation to the Vision and Principles than would using an approved policy or procedure.
The Beltline Parks and Public Realm Playbook	The Approach - Park-Like Public Realm: Increase the role streets play in providing recreational, social, and leisure functions for a local of park space. Recommendation for Public realm: - Increase pedestrian space - Define character through the following focus areas: • Green: extensive greenery that includes but isn't limited to trees • Corridor: safe, comfortable routes that primarily facilitate active mobility • Blended: areas for art, greenery and activation • Vision: an infusion of green and vibrant experiences in areas without a strong existing character • Park: extensions of existing parks in the public realm • Vibrant: support for Beltline's main streets Neighbourhood Focus Area Recommendations Connaught School, Amenity Direction: improve the edges around the school (pg 32) Public Realm Policy Recommendations: Explore increasing pedestrian space through; temporary (day, week, year or event) or permanent road closure and restrictions on vehicular use" (pg.41) The potential triggers for pedestrianization a space (from expanding the pedestrian area to closing the street) are (must meet four or more) - Comparatively low on-street parking use compared to Beltline-wide - Comparatively low traffic volumes compared to Beltline-wide & no transit movement - High park need - High residential density - High pedestrian and/or high cycling volumes]" (pg 41) 10 St SW and 13 Ave SW are 'Green Focus Focus Areas Green Focus Area Recommendations Explore road closures (temporary/ permanent, partial/ full) after transportation study and public engagement Park Focus Area Recommendations: 10 St SW and 13 Av SW are within a 'Potential Park Expansion" area (pg.40)

	Permanent Investment Recommendations: This location is identified for upgrades in 'Key Move Location for Move 2: Leverage Park and Public Realm Synergies' (pg 66)
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Additional city policy documents this project aligns with include:

- The Greater Downtown Plan
- The Guide for Local Area Planning
- Calgary Transportation Plan
- Guide for local Area Planning
- Step Forward Pedestrian Strategy

Outreach

Since the temporary pilot closure of the southern half of 10th Street SW in June 2022, community engagement and feedback have been the forefront of design and improvements. The community has shared their feedback through the numerous engagement opportunities offered. The temporary pilot closure has been in effect for three summers during which Sustainable Calgary has actively engaged with numerous interest groups:

- The Connaught School,
- Connaught Garden Residents,
- Residents of the Beltline
- Beltline Neighborhood Association
- Ward 8 councillors office
- Stakeholder Working Group

Methods for engagement to date have included working groups, design charettes, flyer distribution, website landing page, surveys, and pop-up events at the park itself. In 2024 the Stakeholder Working Group was formed to provide design feedback for the transition from temporary to permanent road closure. This working group is made up of students, parents, educators from Connaught School, residents of Connaught Gardens, and representatives from the Beltline Neighbourhood Association. Through meeting with this working group and reviewing 2 years of feedback collected on the various iterations of the temporary pilot, we have defined priorities and markers of success for the permanent open street design. These priorities and markers of success will guide the design process for the permanent road closure and conversion to park space.