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Calgary River Access Strategy

Bow River Trout presentation to
Community & Protectives Service Committee

Peter Crowe-Swords, February, 01, 2017



Who is Bow River Trout

- Acts as a communication link within Calgary's fishing community.
- The primary objective is to improve recreational boat access within the Bow River Basin.
- A founding member of **Calgary River Users' Alliance**.
- Taken the lead role for trailered- boat access ramps in the stakeholder consultation with Calgary's **River Access Strategy**.



The Bow River is recognized as a world class trout fishery that plays an important economic role in Calgary

- In excess of 12,000 anglers fish the Bow River each year contributing more than **\$25 million** annually to the local economy
- When combined with paddleboard activities that include kayaking, canoeing and rafts, the combined contribution to the local economy is in excess of **\$50 million annually**



The River Access Strategy

- Is recognized within the fishing community as a very important step to improve river access.
- The stakeholder consultation process has been exemplary.
- Calgary Parks Department has been open to dialogue on all aspects of the strategy.



The River Access Strategy

- The strategy details a roadmap for development of much needed new and improved river access boat ramps and hand launch locations.
- **Bow River Trout is very pleased to support the River Access Strategy in principal.**
- **But there is an urgent need for short term capital funding to expedite infrastructure development.**



Boat Ramp Priorities

- More than 200 drift boat float and fish the Bow River regularly.
- There is a need to appreciate that a single boat ramp location by itself has little value for the drift boat angler.
- A **launch site** AND a **take-out site** downstream is needed to fish from a drift boat.



Boat Ramp Priorities

- To allow all of the Bow River within the city limits to be fished this way the following boat ramps are needed:

Above Harvie Passage

- **West Baker Park** boat ramp used as a **launch site**
- The Proposed **Inglewood** site as a **take-out site**.

Below Harvie Passage

- The proposed **Ogden Bridge** site or **Graves Bridge** boat ramp as **launch sites**
- **Fish Creek Park** or **Policeman's Flats** as a **take-out site**.



Harvie Passage

- Harvie Passage redevelopment, will offer safe passage through the low flow channel during most of the year.
- Low Bow River flows in the spring and fall could make the low flow channel challenging, even for skilled oarsmen.
- Clearly the proposed new boat ramps at **Inglewood** and **Ogden Bridge** are important for safe recreational river use.



Budget Estimates

- The River Access Strategy has a capital budget estimate of **\$7.66 million** of which **\$1.69 million** is assigned to 5 high priority site developments at, **West Baker Park**, **Sunnyside**, **Inglewood**, **Albert Park** and **Ogden Bridge**
- **Bow River Trout** is in full support of a low cost approach to new boat ramps to meet high priority site development
- New boat ramps at **Inglewood (\$520,000)** and **Ogden Bridge (\$450,000)** and the opening of **West Baker Park** boat ramp to anglers, would provide drift boat access to all city reaches of the Bow River.



Short Term High Priority Budget Proposal

- The high priority funding proposal of **\$1,690,000** outlines areas where the City and the community could work together to leverage funding through grants and corporate sponsorship.
- A **\$275,000** community commitment is asked for. Although difficult to achieve, Calgary Parks staff have indicated they are willing to assist with grant applications. Bow River Trout has taken up the offer.



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- **Bow River Trout is please to announce that we have applied for a \$40,000 grant to aid in the development of Ogden Road Boat Ramp in 2017. Further grant applications will be made in 2018 to support development of the Inglewood Boat Ramp**