

Environmental Impact Assessment of 199 Street Road Widening over Wedgewood Creek

Recommendation:

That Transportation Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Environmental Impact Assessment for the 199 Street Road Widening over Wedgewood Creek, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the July 5, 2016, Sustainable Development report CR_3653, be approved.

Report Summary

This report provides an Environmental Impact Assessment for the 199 Street road widening over Wedgewood Creek as required by the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 7188

Report

As part of the future development of the Riverview Neighbourhood, 199 Street from south of 35 Avenue NW to north of 23 Avenue NW will be widened and upgraded to accommodate the projected traffic volumes anticipated for Riverview Neighbourhoods 1, 2 and 3. The road widening work includes a ravine crossing over Wedgewood Creek. Wedgewood Creek is a major ecological feature providing habitat for wildlife species as well as important corridors and linkages to adjacent agricultural areas, wetlands, natural areas, and environmentally sensitive areas.

The ravine crossing of Wedgewood Creek will provide:

- enhanced pedestrian and cyclist movement through provision of a new shared use path
- improved drainage infrastructure through installation of a new culvert to convey water from Wedgewood Creek under 199 Street
- enhanced ecological connectivity through provision of an underpass structure to accommodate small, medium and large terrestrial wildlife using Wedgewood Creek ravine as a movement corridor.

The 199 Street crossing of Wedgewood Creek falls within the boundary of the *North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan*, Bylaw 7188, which requires that an environmental impact assessment for upgrading of transportation corridors be approved.

As outlined in Schedule D of the *North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan*, Bylaw 7188, the Environmental Impact Assessment contains a summary of the potential effects on the physical, biological and community environments resulting from the construction of this road crossing. If recommended

mitigation measures are adhered to in the construction of the 199 Street crossing over Wedgewood Creek, it is anticipated that the project will not result in significant adverse effects to the environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment concludes that the improved 199 Street crossing of Wedgewood Creek will serve the needs of current and future area residents, while respecting the local environment and maintaining hydraulic and ecological connectivity through the North Saskatchewan river valley and ravine system.

The preliminary engineering is complete and detailed design for this project is ongoing. The construction of the 199 Street crossing of Wedgewood Creek is expected to begin in 2016.

Policy

The Way We Grow, Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan:

- 7.1.1 : Protect, preserve and enhance a system of conserved natural areas within a functioning and interconnected ecological network.

The Way We Move, Edmonton's Transportation Master Plan:

- 2.0 : Transportation decisions reflect an integrated approach to environmental, financial and social impacts thereby creating sustainable, livable communities that minimize the need for new infrastructure and increase residents' quality of life.

The Way We Green, Edmonton's Environmental Strategic Plan:

- 3.3.16 : Ensures biodiversity corridors are appropriate for all scales of development (neighbourhood to regional) and that infrastructure developments provide appropriate wildlife passage.

North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 7188:

- 3.4.1: Direct River and Direct Ravine Crossings by Major Transportation Corridors: It is the policy of this Plan that new transportation corridors will not be approved except for direct River and direct Ravine crossings which are deemed essential and approved by City Council as in Policy 3.5.3.
- 3.4.3: Environmental Impact Assessment for Transportation Facility Proposals: It is the policy of this Plan that proposals for the upgrading of approved transportation corridors be subject to an environmental impact screening assessment and that the identified adverse impacts be eliminated, minimized or mitigated through design and landscaping measures.

Corporate Outcomes

This report contributes to the corporate outcomes "The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure," "The City of Edmonton's operations are environmentally sustainable," and "Edmonton is an environmentally sustainable and resilient city." This report proposes ways to minimize adverse environmental impacts

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associated with urban development while facilitating sustainable and accessible development that improves drainage infrastructure, contributes to active modes of transportation, and enhances ecological connectivity through Edmonton's river valley and ravine system.

Public Consultation

An open house with area residents was held in February 2014, followed by mailouts in December 2015. Additional consultation has been held with Leduc County, Enoch Cree Nation and the Sierra Club. To date, no significant challenges or concerns have been identified.

Budget/Financial Implications

The Environmental Impact Assessment, and design and construction of the widening of 199 Street and ravine crossing of Wedgewood Creek, are funded by the developer.

Justification of Recommendation

Approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment is required to comply with the City of Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188).

Attachments

1. Environmental Impact Assessment Part 1
2. Environmental Impact Assessment Part 2
3. Environmental Impact Assessment Part 3
4. Environmental Impact Assessment Part 4
5. Environmental Impact Assessment Part 5

(Note: Due the size, Attachments 1 through 5 are available at www.edmonton.ca.)