

## Integrated Service Package - River Valley Trail Strategy

**Lead Branch - Planning and Environment Services  
Program - Urban Growth and Open Space**

**Council Directed  
Unfunded  
One Time  
Audit Related: No**

### Description

This service package responds to the motion made at the August 18, 2025 City Council Public Hearing: "That Administration prepare an unfunded service package for consideration at the Fall 2025 Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment to develop the Trail Strategy." The River Valley Trail Strategy will identify an approved trail network and trail management recommendations for the River Valley and Ravine System. This service package is requesting one-time budget amounts of \$483,000 in 2026, \$652,000 in 2027 and \$528,000 in 2028 for a total of \$1,663,000.

### Which Priorities does this Help to Advance?

This Service Package will advance the priorities of Social Well-being & Community Safety, Climate Action & Protection, and Safe & Reliable Infrastructure by developing a strategy that establishes a trail network that supports high-quality trail experiences for diverse users year-round while protecting the ecological health of the river valley. Development of the trail strategy will include engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities, interested parties, and the general public, supporting the City's commitments set out in the Indigenous Framework and Public Engagement Policy.

### What is the Impact?

The River Valley and Ravine System hosts over 180 km of formal and hundreds of km of informal trails. The popularity of trail-based recreation is increasing, providing health benefits but also straining the system and raising concerns about environmental sustainability, user conflict, user experience, and safety. A detailed River Valley Trail Strategy is needed to establish a comprehensive trail network, address management issues, support planning/environmental evaluation, and promote user education. The Strategy will allow for site-specific assessment to improve recreation while minimizing environmental impact, managing conflict, and ensuring safe, well-maintained trails. Completion of the Strategy requires resources across multiple business areas, including one temporary FTE in Planning and Environment Services and one temporary FTE for the Indigenous Relations Office in Social Development for the duration of the project to support engagement and relationship-building with Indigenous Nations and Communities.

### What are the Results to be Achieved?

The work will result in the creation of a river valley trail inventory and maps; evaluation of the environmental impacts of different trail types and uses; site-specific assessment and review of existing trails; and the creation of trail planning, management and use guidelines for City business areas and community partners. It will help address existing planning and management issues related to River Valley trails, and will support the City in ensuring that the environmental impacts of trails are understood and managed appropriately. The work will implement a number of City-building outcomes identified in the City Plan, including those related to ecological protection and stewardship of the river valley, Indigenous reconciliation, river valley access and enjoyment, and community health and wellbeing.