

## Options to Develop Adventure/Activity Centre

### Recommendation

That the December 4, 2019, Citizen Services report CR\_7143, be received for information.

### Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 10, 2019, Community and Public Services Committee meeting the following motion was passed:

That Administration provides a report to Committee on its work with affected stakeholders to explore options to develop a four seasons Adventure/Activity Centre, including commercial options and canoe and kayak storage at sites including but not limited to Dawson Park and Rafter's Landing, including funding options.

### Executive Summary

The North Saskatchewan River Valley is home to diverse recreational activities. The banks of the river support a variety of river-based activities and each year there are more requests for access and storage. There are limited options for storage in the river valley and most river users store paddling equipment outside the river valley.

The Edmonton Paddling Centres Association has expressed a need for short- and long-term storage options to support on-river activities offered through the public programs that they provide. Administration and stakeholders have identified potential short-term storage options at two partner facilities in Buena Vista Park and Rundle Park.

A possible long-term storage option in Dawson Park includes replacement of the existing amenity building with an optional expansion of the facility to accommodate boat storage for partner organizations.

At this time, there is no plan for an all-season adventure/activity centre.

### Report

Administration is conducting ongoing discussions with stakeholders to understand and explore both current and future paddling programs' access and storage requirements.

### Short Term Options

Administration and stakeholders, including members of the Edmonton Paddling Centres Association and their member organizations, have identified Buena Vista Park and Rundle Park as sites that could accommodate temporary storage and access needs for their members. The addition of temporary storage facilities at both sites would support the organizations' river-based and pond-based educational and recreational programming. Administration is using the Community Group Led Construction Projects process to guide the paddling stakeholders through their proposal. The proposal is currently in the strategy phase of the process. The proposal identifies the stakeholders' preferred locations, which organizations require storage, program-specific needs, what type of access to the river's edge is required, potential public engagement activities, and a funding model.

### Long Term Options

Administration has identified a medium-scale river access hub as a future amenity in Dawson Park. This includes the expansion of boating facilities, creation of a gathering space, and dock and launch modifications, including universal accessibility upgrades to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. Implementation of these improvements will require funding and the plan identifies opportunities for partner funding to support the expansion of the amenity building for boating storage.

Rafter's Landing, in Henrietta Muir Edwards Park, has also been identified by the stakeholders as a desirable location for the future development of a four-season adventure centre, boating storage and expanded program activities. Any future project at this location would require funding for the overall strategic framework, open space program evaluation, and an implementation plan. Such work is currently not funded.

Should the need for the development of a four-season paddle centre be identified in the future, the work would include exploring and analyzing potential sites, community and commercial options, stakeholder needs, and funding models.

### **Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management**

<b>Corporate Outcome: The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>
The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure	Edmontonians' Assessment: Access to Infrastructure, Amenities and Services that Improve Quality of Life	2017: 68 percent	2018: 70 percent
River access sites have infrastructure that users need	Number of sites with permanent storage	2019: 5 sites	Maintain or increase over the prior year

	Number of sites with the infrastructure to launch watercraft	2019: 11 sites	Maintain or increase over the prior year
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### Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- J. Meliefste, Acting Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor