

Mill Creek Ravine Trail Realignments

Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study

Recommendation

That Urban Planning Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Mill Creek Ravine Trail Rehabilitation Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study reports, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of the May 21, 2019, Integrated Infrastructure Services report CR_6996, be approved.
2. That the locations of the Mill Creek Trail Realignment infrastructure within the boundaries of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188) as outlined in Attachment 3 of the May 21, 2019, Integrated Infrastructure Services report CR_6996, be deemed essential and approved.

Executive Summary

Three sections of the trail system in Mill Creek Ravine require rehabilitation as creek erosion and extensive use have compromised its integrity and stability. The rehabilitation is intended to address the trail impacts resulting from the erosion activity and ensure that Edmontonians can continue to enjoy the trails safely.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Attachment 1) identifies potential positive impacts and a number of potential negative impacts associated with the rehabilitation projects, most of which can be mitigated. The Site Location Study (Attachment 2) confirms that the proposed rehabilitation work will be located in the river valley.

Report

Mill Creek Ravine is a tributary ravine system of the North Saskatchewan River and is a well-utilized open space and recreational area. The ravine offers numerous outdoor amenities such as trails, an off-leash area, picnic locations, and an outdoor swimming pool.

In recent years, Mill Creek Ravine has experienced several high water events that have resulted in bank erosion and trail instability. In one location a trail segment has been closed to public use and an informal trail has been created by users. It is anticipated that future significant water events will result in further loss of trail functionality. The proposed rehabilitation will address the trail impacts resulting from the erosion activity and ensure that Edmontonians can continue to enjoy the trails safely.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (Attachment 1) and a Site Location Study (Attachment 2) have been prepared for the three rehabilitation projects to meet the requirements of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (Bylaw 7188.)

The Environmental Impact Assessment includes an environmental review, a risk assessment and identifies mitigation measures to ensure that the trail realignments will not have significant adverse environmental impacts. It also compares the impacts of design alternatives for each site. The Environmental Impact Assessment recommends Alternative 3 at each site as this alternative presents fewer long-term impacts.

The Site Location Study outlines the location options for the three sites and their respective financial, social, environmental and institutional opportunities and constraints. It provides justification for the new trail location chosen at each site. The study recommends that the proposed locations for the rehabilitation projects within the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan boundaries be accepted.

Construction of the three rehabilitation projects is scheduled for fall 2019, pending provincial regulatory approvals for one of the locations.

Legal Implications

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan Bylaw 7188, requires City Council to approve the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Site Location Study before the proposed development can proceed. Further, Bylaw 7188 requires the new site locations of the Mill Creek Ravine Trail Realignments be deemed essential and approved by City Council prior to construction.

Public Engagement

As part of a multi-project engagement initiative, a public engagement session for the three projects was held on June 20, 2018. A poster board presentation was held to present the preferred concept design for each site. The session also gauged support and gathered feedback for each site's proposed concept.

The overall response to the presented concept plans was positive. Approximately 100 people provided in-person verbal feedback supporting the rehabilitation work. Ten percent of respondents left written comments also in support of the projects.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians are connected to the City in which they live, work and play			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Edmontonians are connected to the City in which they live, work and play	City Park Usage (percent of survey respondents who report using a City park in the last 12 months)	89% (2017)	83% (2018)

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
Public Safety	If the report is not approved, the trail realignments will not be completed and the community will continue to have access to dangerous paths as the trail continues to deteriorate.	2 - Unlikely	3 - Major	6 - Low	Approval is recommended. Ensure current and up to date project information is available to the public and stakeholders.	Maintain project communications with public and project stakeholders.
Environmental	If the report is not approved, use of the informal trail will persist, and unmitigated impacts will continue.	3 - Possible	2 - Moderate	6 - Low	Approval is recommended.	Ensure mitigation measures in the Environmental Review report are adhered to.
Construction Impact	If the report is approved, construction activity will result in temporary negative impacts to the	2 - Unlikely	2 - Moderate	4 - Low	Establish construction limits and adequate public safety controls prior to starting construction.	During construction, delineate and fence the project work area to minimize disturbance.

	neighbourhood and environment				Adhere to prescribed erosion and sediment control measures and complete work in accordance with the City of Edmonton Environmental Management Plan.	Respect working hours as to not disturb the neighbourhood residents.
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Attachments

1. Mill Creek Ravine Park Trail Rehabilitation Environmental Review Report
2. Mill Creek Ravine Park Trail Rehabilitation Site Location Study
3. Mill Creek Ravine Trail Park Trail Rehabilitation Site Development Drawings

Others Reviewing this Report

- R. Kits, Acting Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor