

Emily Murphy Park Renewal

Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study

Recommendation

That Urban Planning Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Emily Murphy Park Renewal Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of the March 23, 2021, Integrated Infrastructure Services report IIS00125 be approved.
2. That the river valley locations of the Emily Murphy Park infrastructure, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the March 23, 2021, Integrated Infrastructure Services report IIS00125, be deemed essential and approved pursuant to Section 3.5.1 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 7188.

Executive Summary

The North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, Bylaw 7188, requires City Council to approve the Environmental Impact Assessment as per Attachment 1, which includes the Site Location Study (Attachment 2). As the project is within the plan area boundary of Bylaw 7188, the location of the proposed trail connections and renewal of park infrastructure in the river valley must be deemed essential and requires approval by City Council.

The Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study identify potential physical, environmental, financial, institutional and community impacts resulting from the construction of the project. The studies conclude that the impacts of the proposed renewal of the existing infrastructure and new trail connections within the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan can be mitigated and reduced to negligible levels during project design and construction.

Report

Emily Murphy park offers residents access to the river valley for use of trails, a boat launch, picnic sites, playground and parking.

Emily Murphy Park's roads and parking areas are considered to be in very poor condition and have reached the end of their life cycle. The City plans to rehabilitate the

park roads, parking lots, signage and water fountains to extend the life cycle of the park infrastructure and provide citizens the ability to continue to enjoy the park site for many years to come.

In addition to the renewal of existing infrastructure, the project proposes to construct a formal gravel trail on the east side of the park, in place of an existing informal trail, from the park entrance to the main portion of the park. Trail improvements are also proposed on the west side of the park and include a landing, crosswalk and gravel trail from the bottom of the existing west end park staircase. These trail enhancements will improve connectivity to the existing river valley trail network system.

The two proposed trail enhancements in the park are within the boundary of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan. An Environmental Impact Assessment (Attachment 1) and a Site Location Study (Attachment 2) have been prepared for the project, including the proposed trail connections.

The Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study identify potential physical, environmental, financial, institutional and community impacts resulting from the construction of the project. The studies conclude that the impacts of the proposed renewal of the existing infrastructure and new trail connections within the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan can be mitigated and reduced to negligible levels during project design and construction.

The project design is underway and construction is scheduled to commence in 2021.

Budget/ Financial Implications

The work of this project is funded from Profile CM-31-0000 Open Space River Valley Renewal. The implementation of this plan is anticipated to reduce maintenance costs over the long term.

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 trail locations to be deemed essential and approved by City Council prior to construction.

Public Engagement

The Public and stakeholders were engaged on this project through an online survey in December, 2020. The survey was posted on the project webpage and advertised

through road signs and yard signs near the park, postcards to adjacent residents, communication with stakeholders and through the Insight Community.

Survey responses indicate a high-level of overall support for the renewal project and the two proposed trail connections. The project team will continue to collaborate with stakeholders as the park renewal project advances.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

| Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians use facilities and services that promote healthy living | | | |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|
| Outcome(s) | Measure(s) | Result(s) | Target(s) |
| Edmontonians use facilities and services that promote healthy living | City Park Usage (percent of survey respondents who report using a City park in the last 12 months) | 89% (2017) | 83% (2018) |
| Corporate Outcome(s): Edmonton is attractive and compact | | | |
| Outcome(s) | Measure(s) | Result(s) | Target(s) |
| Edmonton is attractive and compact | Edmontonians' Assessment: Well-designed Attractive City (percent of survey respondents who agree/strongly agree) | 53% (2017) | 55% (2018) |

Risk Assessment

| Risk Element | Risk Description | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Score (with current mitigations) | Current Mitigations | Potential Future Mitigations |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Public Liability (Public Safety) | If not approved, the desired trails will not be constructed and the community will continue to use the informal paths as a means to connect to the existing trail system. | 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 not approved, use of the informal trail will continue and unmitigated impacts will remain to exist. | 2 - Unlikely | 2 - Moderate | 6 - Low | Approval is recommended. Ensure current trail information and project information is available to the | Ensure mitigation measures in the Environmental report are adhered to. |

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|---------------------|---|------------|--------------|------------|--|---|
| | The dead-end staircase landing will not connect to the trail systems and informal detours will remain. | | | | public and stakeholders. | |
| Construction Impact | If approved, construction activity will result in a temporary negative impact to the trail users and environment. | 4 - Likely | 2 - Moderate | 8 - Medium | Establish construction limits and adequate public safety controls prior to starting construction. Limit noise and impact to trees. | During construction, delineate and fence the project work area to minimize disturbance. |

Attachments

1. Emily Murphy Park Renewal Environmental Impact Assessment
2. Emily Murphy Park Renewal Site Location Study

Others Reviewing this Report

- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor