

Whitemud Integrated Plan.

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Recommendation:

That the Whitemud Integrated Plan be approved as the basis for park master plan development in the area (Attachment 1 of the March 4, 2003, Community Services Department report).

Report Summary

This report recommends approval of the Whitemud Integrated Plan for the redevelopment of Whitemud Park and the adjacent parkland. The plan represents an addendum to update the *Ribbon of Green North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System Master Plan* approved by Council in 1992.

A program of capital redevelopment is recommended and potential funding sources identified. The plan has the support of a citizen advisory committee and the public at large.

Report

This plan area includes the Whitemud Equine Centre facilities, Whitemud Park North, Fort Edmonton Park, the John Janzen Nature Centre and the north portion of the Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve.

In 1999, the Community Services Department met with key stakeholder organizations to review a number of community initiatives and City proposals for the park. EDA Collaborative Inc. was retained as the project consultant and an Advisory Committee was established to provide stakeholder and community input to the project.

The planning process involved an examination of the needs of park users, an evaluation of infrastructure and environmental resources, an identification of development constraints, and a review of community and city project initiatives. Several alternative plans were developed and evaluated and a preliminary environmental review was completed.

The Advisory Committee presented the Whitemud Integrated Plan to the public in 2000. Public comments supported the vision statement and the concept plan. A detailed trail alignment plan was supported at a second public open house in 2002.

The Whitemud Integrated Plan recommends a number of park redevelopment projects to provide for the needs of the current and future users. The redevelopment program will provide an improved visitor experience and improve the public amenity services within the park. Improved multi-use access within the river valley and ravines trail system to the adjacent communities is also proposed.

The priority park redevelopment projects are:

- the replacement of privies with serviced public washrooms;
- the replacement of a trailer and privies with a multi-purpose shelter south of Fox Drive at the base of the Whitemud Park tobogganing hill;
- improved vehicle and multi-use trails access;

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- construction of a footbridge over Whitemud Creek north of Fox Drive to accommodate multi-use trails and the future extension of the Edmonton Radial Railway Society streetcar from Fort Edmonton Park;
- removal of a number of buildings and structures within the plan area (such as the Fox Farm) and landscape restoration of areas as public park space.

The future extension of the Edmonton Radial Railway Society streetcar line from Fort Edmonton Park across Whitemud Creek to Fox Drive is not included in this cost estimate.

Budget / Financial Implications

The estimated cost to implement the priority projects (Phase 1) is \$1,850,000. Of this, \$1,000,000 is currently funded in the Capital Priorities Plan, and \$850,000 is unfunded.

CPP XX-21-5375 (River Valley and Ravine Trails New Development – Infrastructure Funded) will provide at least \$1,000,000 for the multi-use trails around Fort Edmonton Park and the footbridge over Whitemud Creek north of Fox Drive. The project costs will be confirmed in 2003 as the engineering and design is completed.

CPP XX-21-5380 (Parks Rehabilitation) includes the washroom, building replacements and restoration projects identified in the Whitemud Integrated Plan. This budget profile is currently unfunded in the Capital Priorities Plan.

Justification of Recommendation

The Whitemud Integrated Plan provides direction on the redevelopment of this park area, and has significant public support. The implementation of this plan will improve park facilities and increase use of this park area. This will provide greater benefits to the park users, encourage outdoor exercise and increased use of the river valley park system.

Approval of the Whitemud Integrated Plan will provide the basis on which to go forward and seek partnership funding for this redevelopment.

Background Information Attached

1. [Executive Summary – Whitemud Integrated Plan – EDA Collaborative Inc.](#)

Background Information Available on Request

1. Whitemud Integrated Plan – *EDA Collaborative Inc.*, Feb. 2003