

Information Report



Service Area	Public Services
Date	Thursday, April 14, 2022
Subject	Hanlon Underpass Options

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To provide to Council with options related to implementing an interim tertiary trail connection beneath the Hanlon underpass at Wellington Street West, as directed from the June 28, 2021 Council meeting.

Key Findings

Parks staff on behalf of the City of Guelph will seek to enter into a third-party license agreement with the Guelph Hiking Trail Club (GHTC) and with the goal of implementing an interim tertiary trail connections beneath the Hanlon underpass at Wellington Street West.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Report

Details

Parks staff have considered three options related to Hanlon underpass trail connectivity solutions:

1. Do nothing: Despite trail use already existing in this area there are impediments to creating a trail that adheres to typical City standards. Based on community interest in developing a trail connection in this area the best approach that does not involve a significant capital expense is through third-party trail agreements. Third party trail operators can have more flexibility in terms of what they offer trail users, which reduces the capital expense of an interim trail connection.
2. Implement with existing staff resources: Though it would be possible to implement an interim tertiary trail connection with staffing resources, it would need to be built into workplans in future years or be prioritized over existing workplans. Due to considerable operational demands and competing priorities, if this approach was to be taken, Parks staff would recommend building into workplans for future years, most likely beyond 2023.

3. Seek to enter into a third-party license agreement to support implementation: In the September 27, 2021 [Third Party Trail Agreements](#) report, staff received authorization to enter into future third-party license agreements with the Guelph Hiking Trail Club and parties yet to be determined. The GHTC has demonstrated a strong ability to implement a variety of trail improvements and linkage solutions across the city. There is ongoing collaboration with Parks staff and the GHTC on a number of trail related initiatives that will be formalized once the third-party trail agreement is executed. It should also be noted that recruitment for our Trails Technologist position is underway and will also be a valuable asset to this matter.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Consultations

Parks Department

Legal and Realty Services Department

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working Together for our Future – providing programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

Attachments

None

Departmental Approval

N/A

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