



Whitehorse Trails and Greenways Committee (WTGC)

2015 Annual Report

The Whitehorse Trails and Greenways Committee was established by City Council on April 18, 2013 to act as an advisory committee to City Council and Senior Management in the areas of trail development, maintenance, promotion and encouragement of a sustainable, inclusive, diverse and accessible Whitehorse trail network for all trail users, stakeholders and stewards. In 2015 committee members met on 11 regularly scheduled monthly meetings one of which was held in-camera.

The committee's work can be looked at with respect to its accomplishments and priority concerns.

Accomplishments:

1. Rotary Centennial Bridge (RCB) Designation – The WTGC members reviewed the RCB motorized multiple use (MMU) re-designation proposal for the RCB area that was requested by City Council in January 2015 for review and development of a definitive recommendation. The committee met on 2 occasions subsequent including a special in-camera meeting at the regularly scheduled February WTGC meeting to consider a recommended option by majority vote that City Council can review and consider related to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and Snowmobile traffic across the Yukon River at the RCB. Recommendations were brought forward to Council from WTGC members including the re-designation to MMU for a temporary pilot period; maintain the existing non-MMU designation or further restricting all ATV and Snowmobile traffic with additional gates and barriers before and after the RCB. Council reviewed this information along with all other information gathered and presented by administration and approved the maintaining of existing non-MMU status in May 2015.
2. Annual Report – The WTGC members reviewed and provided input into the annual report completed by administration outlining the accomplishments and priority concerns of the WTGC in 2014.

3. Committee Work plan – The WTGC members worked on completing a work plan which guides committee members in the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the WTGC as outlined in the approved terms of reference (TOR). This work plan was approved by City Council in April 2015. The WTGC members then began working on priority 1 and 2 action items as outlined in the approved work plan. Priority 1 action item includes trail mapping for the City’s network. Much work has been achieved with improvements to the mapping provided by the City and coordination with other stakeholders who provide mapping on their social media portals. Priority 2 action items included public education and a sub-committee was established to advance this action item with the assistance of the City’s Communications Manager.
4. Trail Building Applications - The WTGC reviewed and discussed 5 trail building proposal submissions submitted to the WTGC for trail building and modification approvals within the Whitehorse trail network. One application for trail building on the East Side Yukon River (EYR) was approved, one application for the Mt. McIntyre single track trail area was approved following additional follow up and consultation between Contagious Mountain Bike Club (CMBC) and the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club (WCCSC) both of whom provided positive recommendations for the development. One application for trail building near Mount McIntyre was approved and a final trail application for a trail near Riverdale was not approved, however, members of CMBC were going to work with the youth who brought forward the application on an alternate route and location. Finally, as a result of a trail re-route application from a Wolf Creek resident, the City chose to re-route the trail off of private property and onto City land at the end of Dawson Road in Wolf Creek Subdivision and maintain the existing non-motorized designation.
5. Recruitment of new committee members - The WTGC reviewed all submitted nominations and made recommendations that went to Council for approval in November 2015. 1 new member was appointed and 3 existing members were re-appointed by Council for a 2 year term to terminate in October 2017.
6. Revised Terms of Reference (TOR) – The WTGC discussed the approved 2015 TOR and reviewed the contents and made recommended revisions to better suit the operation of the WTGC in an effective manner moving forward in 2016. Recommendations were also reviewed and discussed as received from a local advocacy group prior to presentation to City Council. The revised TOR was submitted to and approved by City Council in December 2015.
7. All WTGC members wanted to express their appreciation for the fine efforts of the WTGC Committee Chair and the City’s administrative staff support shown to the WTGC over the past year 2015.

Discussion Topics:

1. Magnusson Trail Grooming project – In October 2015 the WTGC members re-visited the proposal from the CMBC to consider the grooming of some of the Magnusson Trails to accommodate multiple use non-motorized trail options for winter trail use. WTGC members directed the City and CMBC to provide specific feedback from trail users in the form of a survey to ensure that trail grooming is desirable at this location and does not conflict with other public needs. This project is pending a report back to the WTGC in spring 2016.
2. Chadburn Lake Regional Park Planning Process - the WTGC had a chance to provide input into the process and content of the City's Chadburn Lake Regional Park planning process. A public process will follow with all WTGC members encouraged to participate on behalf of their respective organizations.
3. Wolf Creek Trails Project 2015 – WTGC members were updated on the Wolf Creek MMU trails project as funded by Federal and Territorial sources. The City in partnership with the KSA received funding to complete the project. Wolf Creek Community Association had also been consulted in the project. The project commenced in spring 2015 and was completed in late fall 2015.
4. Mount McIntyre Ski Trail Paving Project - Cross Country Yukon (CCY) is promoting a project to pave a portion of the Mt. Mac ski trails for summer cross training needs. This project is being advanced by CCY as part of the Federal Canada 150 Funding and funds will also be sought from other funding agencies. CCY envision this project to be multi-year in its development and will be available for all residents and visitors with a portion to be universally accessible. Project completion is being contemplated for 2017-18.

Action Items:

1. Trail Mapping – to develop a map available to the public via linkages to existing apps and data, have a varied platform, be usable by all, have emergency accessibility, have consistent data information and be a one-stop-shop.
2. Public Education – to develop an outreach with the community through community work bees, celebrate trail day 2 times per year, get people out and using the trails and celebrate the positive aspects of the work that is currently being done by trail stewards.
3. Trail Etiquette - review existing rules, regulations and accepted practices and come up with an agreed upon City endorsed set of rules & regulations with respect for the environment.