



# Council Report

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**Date:** December 19, 2017  
**To:** Peter Weeber, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Ian Chapman, P.Eng City Engineer  
**Subject:** **December 2017 Master Plan Penticton Creek**

File No:

## Staff Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the Mould Engineering December 2017 Master Plan Penticton Creek Restoration as a guiding document for works associated with Penticton Creek.

## Strategic priority objective

The Penticton Creek Master Plan conforms with the Environmental and Sustainable strategic objectives by providing a guiding document that will ensure the sustainability of the environment and the ecosystems within our community.

## Background

The Penticton Creek Master Plan has been developed at the direction of Council and under the guidance of the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee to become a compendium of critical information about Penticton Creek and includes a strategy to ensure that key environmental and flood protection objectives can be met within a 20 year horizon.

The plan maps out information about the physical conditions of the creek and the works that need to be undertaken to address areas that have deteriorated with solutions that address land issues, fish habitat, flood protection, archaeological features and recognizes the role Penticton Creek plays as a receiving area for storm water.

The intent is that individual projects will be undertaken every few years in accordance with available funds and to ensure that each project can be completed within the annual fish window during which works within the wetted perimeter of a creek are allowed.

The City will be applying for a License under the Provincial Water Sustainability Act that will provide an umbrella agreement so that all the individual works can be progressed through a much more streamlined permitting process.

The Master Plan is an active document and will need updates to reflect completion of individual projects and monitored results of cumulative deterioration, and physical changes from natural events such as the recent 2017 freshet damage. The plan incorporates a tracking system that records updates and directs interested parties to the most up to date document. Reprioritization of flood priorities is a result of focusing on smaller but more frequent floods (i.e. 1:10 year, 1:20 year), rather than on potential large 1:200 year events. The failure of the creek infrastructure is not a linear deterioration over the years based on age, but rather occurs exponentially. Extreme events (long freeze/higher flow) are taking a greater toll as the infrastructure ages.

One of the objectives of the Master Plan was to undertake effective communications with stakeholders and the general public. The following is a summary of the communication work undertaken:

- Presentations to City of Penticton Council and Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council. The presentations involved providing details of the master plan objectives, methodology and the results and conclusions from the research undertaken.
- Media stories and coverage of the volunteer and non-profit activities in real time to monitor kokanee returns during the run, Penticton Creek hatchery program, linkage to the draft master plan and the 2015 showcase project.
- A public presentation at a busy Summer Saturday market which included a detailed summary of the contents of the draft master plan as well as a guided walking tour to view the kokanee spawning and highlight the showcase project.
- The Master Plan draft and a summary of the Master plan elements were posted on the City Website together with an opportunity to provide feedback through the online "Shape Your City" process.

Over the public consultation period there were:

- 10+ news articles on the project;
- 70+ conversations with residents
- 40+ on a guided walking tour of the creek
- 779+ reviewed emails
- 10,000 received a news letter
- 14 day displays

Public feedback was predominantly positive and supportive of the Master Plan and restoration of Penticton Creek. The feedback themes were:

- We messed it up, we need to fix it
- Prioritize over other projects
- Excellent plan
- Anything to bring back fish, make it more natural

Mould Engineering has incorporated the feedback received from the Penticton Indian Band, the public, the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee and new information that surfaced during the 2017 flood event into the Master Plan. It is now complete and ready for the consideration of Council. The final document was made available in advance to City Council and the Public on the City Web Site.

**Financial implication**

The Master Plan itself is fully funded within the 2017 budget. The upgrade works defined within the report total approximately \$30M. Funding for these works will be secured form a variety of sources that include grants for public safety, flood protection, green infrastructure and fisheries habitat improvement from organizations such as the Freshwater Fisheries BC, Habitat Conservation Trust, and the South Okanagan Conservation Fund, municipal and senior government grant programs, private donations and the proposed City of Penticton Storm Water Utility.

**Analysis**

The December 2017 Master Plan Penticton Creek is now complete and ready for the consideration of Council to be adopted as a guiding document. Alternatively Council could send the Master Plan back to staff and the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee with direction.

**Alternate recommendations**

THAT Council send the December 2017 Master Plan Penticton Creek back to staff and the Penticton Creek Restoration Committee with direction.

**Attachments**

Attachment A – Master Plan – Penticton Creek Restoration

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Chapman, P.Eng.  
City Engineer

Approvals

General Manager of Infrastructure 	A/ Chief Administrative Officer 
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