

CITY OF SASKATOON COUNCIL POLICY

NUMBER
C07-017

POLICY TITLE <i>Walkway Evaluation and Closure</i>	ADOPTED BY: <i>City Council</i>	EFFECTIVE DATE <i>August 15, 2005</i>
		UPDATED TO <i>April 16, 2012</i>
ORIGIN/AUTHORITY <i>Planning and Operations Committee Report No. 11-2005; Administrative Reports No. 3-2008 and 22-2008; and Planning and Operations Committee Reports No. 13-2011 and 6-2012</i>	CITY FILE NO. <i>CK. 6295-1</i>	PAGE NUMBER <i>1 of 4</i>

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To establish criteria for a walkway evaluation process to be followed in cases of walkway concerns involving vandalism and threats to public safety.
- 1.2 To establish the criteria and fees for the closure of pedestrian walkways.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Walkway – a public right-of-way established to facilitate pedestrian movement.
- 2.2 There are three different types of right-of-way that the City identifies as walkways, as follows:
 - 2.2.1 Walkway – A ten foot wide pathway, either concrete, asphalt, dirt or grass that was intended to be part of the pedestrian network within a neighbourhood.
 - 2.2.2 Lane- A roadway where vehicular traffic is restricted and is designated to be used by pedestrian and cyclists as a walkway.
 - 2.2.3 Easement- Any type of path that has been designed as an easement that can be used as a walkway.

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3. POLICY

- 3.1 Walkways are an integral component of pedestrian traffic infrastructure. Walkways can serve as routes for pedestrians to specific destinations within neighbourhoods. Some walkways may serve no direct public need.
- 3.2 All types of walkways will follow the same policy guidelines.

4. PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Infrastructure Services Department, Transportation Branch shall be the main point of contact for complaints related to infrastructure issues.
- 4.1.1 Complaints and inquiry calls shall initiate a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) review of the walkway to determine the condition of the walkway, condition of surrounding property and the destination of the walkway.
- 4.1.2 Any vegetation (trees or shrubs) that is restricting the sight lines or visibility of the walkway shall be removed or cut back. If the sight restrictions are on city property, the Administration will make arrangements to remove the vegetation. If the sight restrictions are on the owner's property, the property owner will be responsible for removal of the vegetation.
- 4.1.3 The adequacy of street lighting will be reviewed at both ends of the walkway. If not adequate, a request will be forwarded to the appropriate Department for consideration.
- 4.1.4 Posts or bollards will be installed if the concern relates to vehicles using the walkway as an access.
- 4.2 Infrastructure Services, Public Works Branch shall be the main point of contact for maintenance complaints.
- 4.2.1 All walkways shall be maintained according to the Walkway Maintenance Policy C07-021.

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4.3 The Saskatoon Police Services shall be the main point of contact for all concerns dealing with vandalism, graffiti, illegal activity, or a public safety issue that cannot be addressed by Infrastructure Services.

4.3.1 Walkway closure recommendations will need to be based on any type of illegal activity, vandalism, or public safety issue happening in the walkway.

4.3.2 Any concerns dealing with graffiti will need to be handled by the Police through their graffiti unit.

4.3.3 If within a one-year period, the concerns identified in 4.3.1 are unmanageable by the Police, a recommendation can be made for closure. A Community Meeting will be conducted to inform residents of walkway issues and to encourage neighbourhood patrols and options to improve the safety of the walkway. Based on the feedback from the meeting, a decision will be made whether or not to pursue closure of the walkway.

5. CLOSURE PROCESS

5.1 Based on the outcome of the Community Meeting, the walkway will be considered for closure if:

5.1.1 At least one adjacent property owner is willing to purchase the land; and

5.1.2 All fees and land costs are paid by the applicant(s) prior to a public hearing.

5.2 The application fee for each adjacent property owner shall be \$2,000.

5.3 The land cost for each adjacent property owner acquiring land shall be \$2,000.

5.4 All costs over and above the application fees and land costs stated above will be paid by the City of Saskatoon except for the cost of utility relocations, which will be the responsibility of the applicants.

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- 5.5 Walkway applications must be received in writing and signed by all adjacent property owners indicating reasons for closure.
- 5.6 Walkways serving as a part of the storm water management system will not be considered for closure unless suitable arrangements can be made for the adequate provision of this service.
- 5.7 If a walkway meets the guidelines above, but the adjacent property owners are not willing to purchase the lane (at least one property owner per parcel), there will be a three year waiting period for another application.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 Infrastructure Services shall be responsible for:

- a) The administration of this policy.
- b) Proposing updates to this policy as required.

6.2 Planning and Operations Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) Considering recommendations from the Infrastructure Services Department regarding proposed amendments to the policy and forwarding a report to City Council as appropriate; and
- b) Reviewing recommendations from the Infrastructure Services Department with respect to walkway closure applications and forwarding recommendations to City Council for consideration.

6.3 City Council is responsible for:

- a) Approving walkway closure requests, as appropriate.
- b) Approving amendments to the policy.