

Downtown Public Washrooms

Project Definition

Create an overall plan for public washroom access in the Downtown, evaluate and recommend where access to public washrooms is most needed. The project would identify best practice for design features and funding would also support initial implementation of recommendations.

Scope and Budget

COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for access to safe and clean public washrooms for all. This project would work with persons with lived/living experience, community-based organizations, businesses, and others in the Downtown to determine appropriate locations for public washrooms and develop a plan for accessibility including ongoing community support programming associated with the washrooms. Any funding remaining once the first phases of work are completed would be used to implement recommendations from the plan. Ongoing operational funding would be required over time to support long-term implementation.

Item	Scope	Budget
Public Washrooms	Develop an overall plan for public washrooms access in the Downtown, including funding for preliminary implementation.	\$100,000

Evaluation Criteria Alignment

This project demonstrates alignment with the funding application as follows:

Project Rationale

Responds to the impacts of COVID-19 according to local needs and context.

- With COVID-19, public washroom access was closed, and businesses were required to restrict access. With this, access to public washrooms became more challenging and more essential for the general public and, specifically, for vulnerable persons who have few options. Some vulnerable persons went without access to public washroom facilities for some time.

Considers public health measures in project design.

- The program would continue to support the successful operation of public washrooms through added capacity and community support programming to support overall safe and reliable use and access to public washrooms. Community support programming could include paid staff who are responsible for monitoring the washrooms and providing support to public washroom users.

If applicable, considers collaborators or partners to strengthen the project.

- Community partners that work with vulnerable populations.

Community Engagement

Demonstrates meaningful community engagement, including with those disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and considers equity.

- The project would work with persons with lived/living experience, community-based organizations, businesses, and others in the Downtown to develop a plan for improved public washroom accessibility.

Demonstrates local leadership in decision-making and project delivery.

- During its 2021 Business Plan and Budget Review, City Council approved \$50,000 for a public washroom support pilot project to be administered by the City of Saskatoon (City) with community serving partners. The pilot project supported the safe and reliable operation of the Kiwanis Park public washrooms through added capacity and community partnership.
- The project would build on the current support in place by evaluating where access to public washrooms is most needed in the Downtown and developing recommendations for program delivery. Funding would also support initial implementation of recommendations.
- The project would identify best practice design features that reduce inappropriate use of and improve users' feelings of safety in and around public washroom facilities using the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Developing a plan and implementation schedule for public washrooms is an action identified in the City's Winter City Strategy, WintercityYXE. During the development of WintercityYXE, community members were asked what is important to them to achieve a shared vision of Saskatoon as a Winter City. Winterized public washrooms were consistently identified as a priority.

Demonstrates how it will engage and generate participation in its project.

- The project would work with persons with lived/living experience, community-based organizations, businesses, and the public to determine a plan for public washroom access in the Downtown.

Outcomes

Demonstrates positive community impact(s) through one of the Healthy Communities Initiative theme(s).

- This project addresses the safe and vibrant spaces theme.

Demonstrates knowledge of community pressures and needs.

- With COVID-19, public washroom access was closed, and businesses were required to restrict access. With this, access to public washrooms became more challenging and more essential for vulnerable persons. Some vulnerable persons went without access to public washroom facilities for some time.

Demonstrates a plan, if applicable, to sustain the project long term.

- The project would work with persons with lived/living experience, community-based organizations, businesses, and the public to determine a long-term plan for public washroom access in the Downtown.

Considers a plan to capture community impact, including gathering stories and lessons learned for future projects, where applicable.

- The project would work with persons with lived/living experience, community-based organizations, businesses, and the public to determine a plan for public washroom access in the Downtown.

Project Implementation and Readiness

Provides a responsible budget including clear costing, procurement decisions and equity considerations. Demonstrates the project can be completed in realistic timelines.

- Phase 1 – implementation of the motion by City Council - this is underway with the funding provided by City Council in December 2020.
- Phase 2 (complete by fall 2021) – development of a plan and recommendations, including an implementation plan.
- Phase 3 (start after plan completion) – roll out of recommendations and implementation plan.