

A Rural Trail Connecting Communities

The Meadowlark Trail Committee's vision is to build a pathway for non-motorized users of all ages and abilities. In alignment with directions set out in Rocky View County's approved Pathway and Trail Policy as well as the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, our goal is to create a pathway that:



Provides a safe and affordable connection between the two communities for people who walk, run and bike



Supports active living and benefits the overall health and wellness of Albertans



Provides an outdoor space for schools to use and a safe route for Irricana students to bike to school in Beiseker



Creates a connection to nature and agriculture



Acts as a draw for visitors and tourists in Alberta, as well as people who may be interested in moving to the area



Reinforces community spirit, community development and interaction



Includes environmental and historical education components along the pathway



Respects adjacent landowners by committing to ongoing consultation to mitigate concerns through measures including signage, access controls and education



Increases awareness of rural lifestyles and agriculture

The Meadowlark Trail is a proposed recreational pathway through Rocky View County, between Beiseker and Irricana, along a former branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The land is now owned by Alberta Trailnet Society, a not for profit charitable association.

The proposed 10 km pathway is identified as a gap in the world's longest recreational trail, "The Great Trail" (formerly known as the Trans Canada Trail).



General Questions

Who is the Meadowlark Trail Society?

We are a group of rural community members from Rocky View County, Beiseker and Irricana who share a goal of developing an integral pathway link between the two communities.

How did Alberta TrailNet come to own the land?

1910 - Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) branch between Irricana and Beiseker completed
1999 - Abandoned CPR land donated to Trans Canada Trail
2005 - Land transferred to Alberta TrailNet

*Since 2005, the lands have been used to construct a portion of the area's regional waterline and for other compatible purposes. Some unregulated public recreation is also occurring.

If the trail is not approved, will the land be given to the adjacent landowners?

No, Alberta TrailNet owns the land.

How will construction of the trail be funded?

Funding from this pathway will come from a number of sources including:

- Grants from Trans Canada Trail, Alberta TrailNet, Government of Alberta and other levels of government and private companies
- Private donations
- Local fundraising events

Who will manage the trail?

The Meadowlark Trail Society will work with each respective municipality and other stakeholders to ensure a well-managed and maintained trail. Trails which have been properly designed cost very little to maintain and the former rail bed provides an ideal and durable pathway base.

Mitigation for Adjacent Landowners

Crossings

Ranchers and farmers who own land on both sides of the trail will be provided access across the trail to allow livestock or farm machinery movement across the trail.

Concerns with damage to property

- Private property will be clearly marked and signage posted advising trail users to stay on the trail and restrict unauthorized uses.
- Other users provide "eyes on the trail" and promote self-regulation. A managed trail typically results in fewer issues than an unmanaged right-of-way.

Insurance

- Insurers have indicated that adjacent landowner insurance costs will not increase as a result of the trail.
- Occupiers Liability legislation, the Petty Trespass Act and trail group insurance policies help ensure that responsibility is placed on recreational users for their actions.

Emergency response

- An emergency response plan will be completed to the satisfaction of Rocky View County at a later stage in the process.

Increased costs to the municipality such as maintenance and enforcement

- Maintenance costs will be the responsibility of Meadowlark Trail Society. Breach of laws or bylaws is the responsibility of the RCMP and County Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

Project Timeline

1999

Alberta TrailNet obtained land from Trans Canada Trail

2017

Consultation with key stakeholders

November 2017

Land use redesignation application submitted to Rocky View County for Direct Control District (DC)

May 2018

Public engagement (WE ARE HERE)

Summer 2018

Public hearing at Rocky View County Council

TBD

Application for Development and Building Permits, subject to Council approval

TBD

Construction *Schedule is dependent on Council approval and meeting development permit conditions

Want to get involved?

Alberta TrailNet Society : 780-442-7150 Toll Free: 1-877-987-2457 atnadmin@telus.net albertatrailnet.com
Meadowlark Trail Committee ; Jeannette Richter, Committee Chair - richterjrm@gmail.com

meadowlarktrail.ca



Our Vision for Meadowlark Trail

The following is a conceptual design illustrating our vision for the Meadowlark Trail. Further details will be determined throughout the County's planning process.

Planning Process

- Phase 1 - Land Use Designation and Public Engagement | Conceptual Design
*WE ARE HERE
- Phase 2 - Development Permit | Detailed Design
- Phase 3 - Construction
- Phase 4 - Operational Maintenance

We are committed to working with adjacent landowners to mitigate any issues related to the pathway through measures such as signage, screening and buffering. We value our neighbours' input and are excited to work together to bring our vision to life!

*Timelines are dependent on Council approvals.

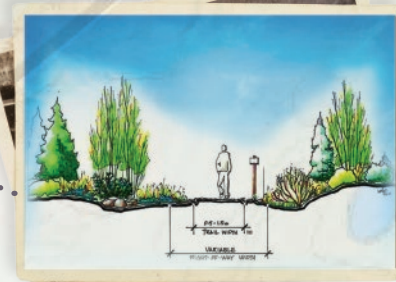


Access controls will be located at trailheads and road crossings to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing the trail. Access controls also ensure the safety of trail users and passing motorists at road crossings.

Beiseker



Signage will be used along the trail to educate pathway users about agriculture, wildlife and being respectful of adjacent farm lands.



The trail surface and cross section design will be similar to Rocky View County's "natural trail" design. Details of the final surface material and improvements will be determined at a later stage. Proper drainage and a type of hard surface will be ensured.



Information signs will be located at trailheads to identify prohibited uses of the trail and provide emergency contact information.



Each trailhead will have an educational kiosk with a map of the pathway and trail information, garbage bins and benches.

Irricana

Legend

- Trailhead
- Trail Information Sign
- Access Controls
- Parking
- Culvert
- Crossing Access for Farmers / Ranchers
- Education / Interpretive Sign
- Bridge
- Proposed Landscaping / Screening / Buffering



Part of the Trans Canada Trail Network