

5.5 SOUTHEAST EXTENSION PLANNING OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSALS

To retain the natural features of Mill Creek by channelling public use through development of a nature oriented trail system linked to the Jackie Parker Recreation Area and the Millwoods Golf Course, and ultimately to Mill Creek Park.

- Develop a continuous pedestrian only granular trail and minor bridges through the ravine following existing trail alignments wherever possible.
- Provide a continuous bike route along the top of the bank through a combination of hard-surfaced multi-purpose trails and designated on-street bike routes.
- Connect ravine trails to Jackie Parker Recreation Area and Millwoods Golf Course.
- Link adjacent neighbourhoods to the ravine and top of bank trails by providing appropriate creek crossings and access trails or stairs.
- Provide a multi purpose trail to connect to the existing Mill Creek Park by developing a route along Whitemud Drive and 91 Street to Argyll Road.
- Acquire property or access agreements on an opportunity basis along the true alignment of Mill Creek to create a direct connection between the upper and lower sections of Mill Creek.

Proposals for the Southeast Extension are shown on Map 25.

5.5.1 Recreation Activities and Amenity Proposals

Recreation activities in upper Mill Creek Ravine are proposed to be limited to passive, trail-based activities such as walking, jogging, nature observation, photography, and cross country skiing. More intensive activities and amenities would be located more appropriately in Jackie Parker Recreation Area (JPRA) or in other Millwoods parks. The proposal for Jackie Parker Recreation area includes washrooms, drinking water, bluphones and parking which could serve both trail and park users.

5.5.2 Trails and Access Proposals

Trails in Mill Creek are not likely to experience the very high levels of use presently found in other parts of the river valley in the near future. The ravine is narrow and not suitable for a paved trail below the top-of-bank, even if demand becomes high.

A continuous pedestrian only granular trail is proposed through the ravine, following the existing path with one new section required to provide a clear route through the ravine adjacent to Minchau School site. Approximately 14 minor pedestrian bridges will be developed as required by the final alignment. Granular access trails will connect into the adjacent neighbourhoods at the top-of-bank on both sides of the creek using selected existing routes. A top-of-bank road will be developed to serve neighbourhoods on the east side of the creek, with the alignment and neighbourhood access points to be determined at subdivision.

A paved multi-purpose trail is proposed from Whitemud Freeway to 40 Avenue, on the northeast side of the creek near the tree line of the ravine in JPRA. The trail will cross 50 Street at 40 Avenue and link into the Trans Mountain Pipeline r-o-w. A branch of this multi-purpose trail will connect along the golf course access road and parking lot to Greenview neighbourhood. Continuous top-of-bank bicycle routes will be provided through a combination of paved trails and on-street routes using top-of-bank roads. East of 50 Street and 40 Avenue an on-street route would follow 47 and 46 Streets from the pipeline right of way to Minchau School site, where a paved multi-purpose trail will be constructed to 35 Avenue. An on-street route would connect to 34 Street. In the long term a separate continuous trail could be constructed along the top-of-bank setback, if demand is high. Two paved multi-purpose crossings of the ravine are proposed; the first crossing the Trans-Mountain Pipeline right-of-way, the second crossing the ravine along the extension of the alignment of 38 Avenue. The multi-purpose trails would connect to a Class 1 bike route on 50 Street and to a Class 1 bike route on 34 Street.

5.5.3 Automobile Access

Automobile access and parking will be provided only at Jackie Parker Recreation Area. Some parking is also available at Minchau School which may serve as a small scale staging area for the southern portion of the trail system. A traffic control device is required at 50 Street and 40 Avenue to permit safe crossing.

5.5.4 Ravine Linkage Proposals

It is desirable to provide a direct link between the two ends of Mill Creek Ravine by recreating the disturbed ravine alignment. In the long term a route along the true creek alignment is preferred. This would create a direct connection, but could take a long time to complete because of the need to acquire land through easements, purchase, or subdivision. In the short term the proposal is to improve the linkage by creating a paved multi-purpose trail in the road r-o-w along the south side of Whitemud Drive and then following 91 Street to connect into the existing Mill Creek Park development. This route would improve access to the trail system for a greater number of Millwoods neighbourhoods. In either case connection would improve access for Millwoods residents into the main river valley system and would also provide an opportunity for users of the main river valley to travel south to Millwoods.

5.5.5 Long Term Proposals

In future granular trails should be extended East of 34 Street through the ravine or alternatively as a top-of-bank route in areas where the ravine is narrow and fragmented. This extension should occur simultaneously with development of The Meadows neighbourhoods. Ultimately the trail should end at Highway 14 where it will link into the proposed Strathcona County Trail System.