

What We Heard Report

Allan Stein Park Trail Renewal

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Public Engagement Summary and Results

The Allan Stein Park trail renewal will include improvements to the asphalt trail, modifications to the granular trail, signage replacement, memorial plaque replacement, and benches.

Project Overview

Allan Stein Park was identified as needing renewal due to portions of its lower trail having been damaged by erosion, posing a safety hazard for trail users. The City of Edmonton has determined the need to enhance the quality, performance, and safety of the trail network in this area. The park is located at 10025 87 Street in the Riverdale community.

Proposed improvements in this project include:

- Renewal of approximately 260m of the upper asphalt trail to current shared-use path design and construction standards
- Closure and naturalization of either a portion, or all, of the lower granular trail that has eroded
- Trail connections to the existing upper asphalt trail
- Wayfinding and regulatory signage replacement
- Memorial plaque replacement
- Providing benches

The project will include the possible rerouting of a portion of the lower granular trail paralleling the upper asphalt trail along the riverbank. The lower trail portion has been damaged by erosion and is posing a safety hazard for trail users.

The project is in the Concept Design phase. The public engagement presented 2 options for the public to share their feedback on.



Figure One: Project Phases

What We Heard

Engaged Edmonton

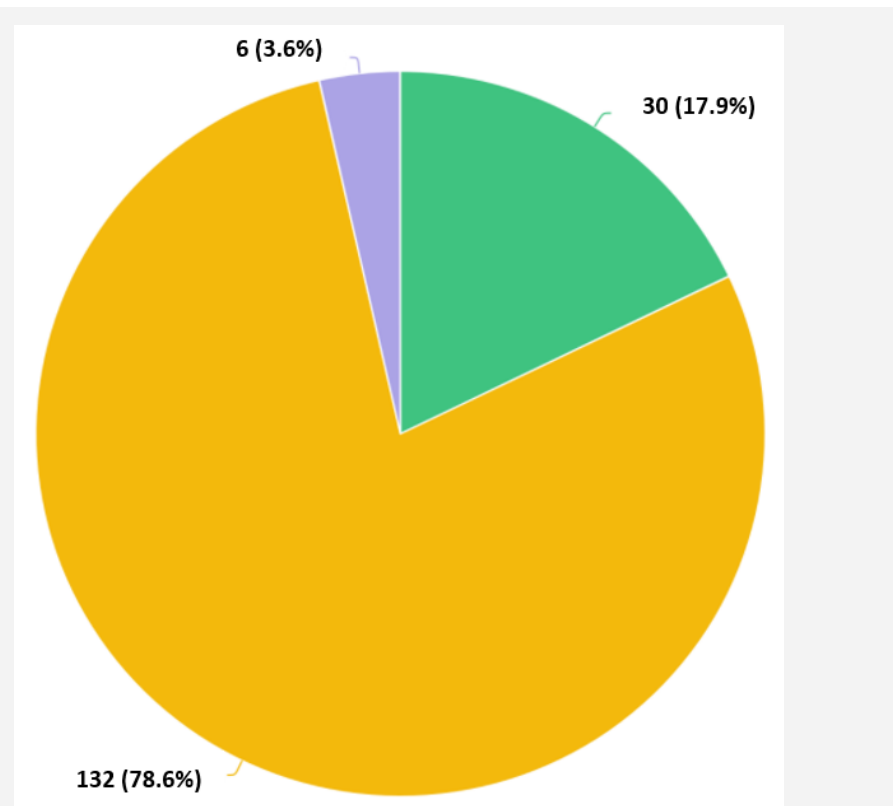
Feedback was shared on the project's Engaged Edmonton page from January 24 to February 14, 2022. A total of 169 responses were collected in a survey that was provided on the page. Additional input was received through email and was integrated with the survey feedback.

Overall, 79% of the survey respondents supported Option 2 for the partial trail closure and trail tie-ins to the asphalt trail.

This is what we heard:

- 91% of respondents were residents of the Riverdale neighbourhood.
- The age group of respondents ranged from 26-35 years (16%), 36-45 years (19%), 46-55 years (17%), 56-65 years (25%), over 65 years (19%).
- 88% of respondents regularly visit the park once per month or more.
- 98% of respondents have used the upper asphalt trail in the last 3 years.
- 95% of respondents have used the lower granular trail in the last 3 years.
- 79% of respondents support Option 2 - Partial lower trail closure with tie-ins.

79% generally support Option 2 that includes trail tie-ins from the granular trail to the asphalt trail.



Question options

- Option 1- Full Lower Trail Closure With No Tie-Ins
- Option 2- Partial Lower Trail Closure With Tie-Ins
- I Have No Preference

- 67% of respondents generally agree that the proposed concept options meet their expectations (40% somewhat agree; 27% definitely agree.)

The survey questions invited respondents to share their thoughts. The main topics of the feedback are captured below.

Additional comments specific to the locations of the proposed trail tie-ins (shown in Option 2):

- Option 1 (full closure of lower trail) connects with the city cycling network
- Prefer as much of the lower trail retained as possible
- Paved trail is in good shape, doesn't need upgrading
- Tie-ins are a good compromise to retaining portions of the lower trail

- Users will likely still use the portions of the closed lower trail
- Thank you for looking out for user safety
- Leave lower trail as is
- Lower trail provides access to river
- Keep the mature trees

The 33% who were either neutral, somewhat non-support, or don't support when asked if the concept options met their expectations:

- Protect the river bank to retain the lower trail
- There should be an option that does not include widening the paved trail
- There is no option to restore the lower trail
- There is no robust solution to the erosion issues in the area
- Leave both trails as is

Additional comments and suggestions important to respondent's use of the park included:

- Add more seating areas along the trail
- Keep some snow-covered trails for skis, sleds, snowshoes, etc.
- Replace some picnic tables
- More trash cans along the path
- Add signage related to the indigenous significance in the area
- Improve drainage on the upper trail due to flooding in the spring.
- River access for fishing and kayaking is still needed
- Add an off-leash park
- Do not include an off-leash park
- Add river view lookouts along the trail where it is safe to do so
- Straighter asphalt trail or better sightlines around curves
- Lighting along the main trail

What We Did

The preferred concept plan (Option 2) was adjusted based on consideration of feedback gathered from stakeholders and the public, technical considerations and cost.

Partial Closure of the Lower Trail

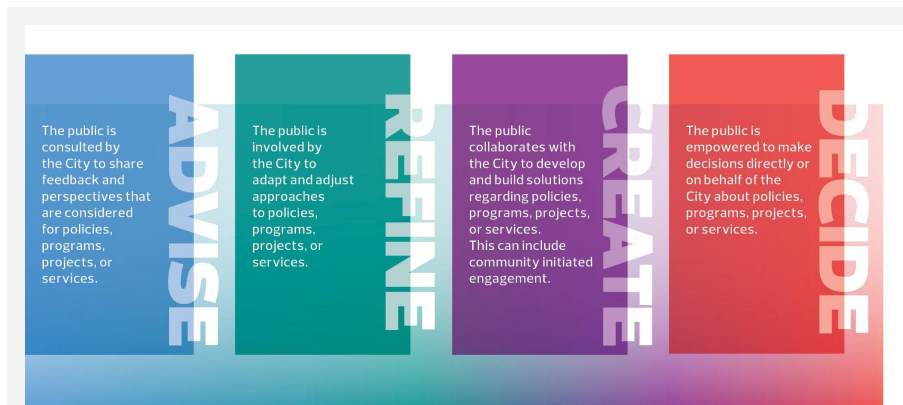
A number of responses requested that the lower granular trail remain fully open and the river bank be reinforced to prevent further erosion. This option was investigated in consultation with internal stakeholders and subject matter experts as part of the project's background study, however it was deemed prohibitive related to the cost to repair, the resources to maintain, environmental impacts and the risk of further erosion in the future due to river flow. For these reasons, the objective was to provide a solution that is cost effective, has minimal impacts to the environment, and can be implemented in a timely manner.

The proposed two Options provide a safe, durable, cost effective solution with minimal impacts to the environment and can be implemented in a timely manner.

Public Engagement Approach

How We Engaged

Public engagement followed the Advise level on the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum. Public engagement events were adapted to online methods to align with COVID-19 public health restrictions.



Public engagement was hosted on the project's Engaged Edmonton page. The page was live from January 24 - February 14, 2022. The Engaged Edmonton page included a description of the project, outline of the project phases, a project timeline, and a survey. The page included links to view graphics for each concept option; a comparison chart comparing key project details between options 1 and 2; a recorded presentation outlining the project and the two concept options. The online survey invited participants to share their feedback by answering the survey questions.

Advertising for the event included information postcards mailed to residents of the Riverdale community and roadside signage placed in the neighbourhood. A direct invitation to participate in the engagement was sent to the Riverdale Community residents, Riverdale Community League, Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition, and Edmonton Mountain Bike Association and other organizations. The project web page and weekly PSA also promoted the survey.



Figure Four: Roadside sign advertising the online survey

Who Was Engaged

Riverdale residents and the Riverdale Community League were directly notified about the public engagement opportunity via mail notices. Roadside signs placed in the Riverdale community notified all passers by whether they were residents of the community, visitors, or passing through.

What We Asked

We asked for feedback on the following questions:

- Neighbourhood demographics of respondents
- Frequency of visits to the park and use of each trail
- Select the preferred concept option
- General support for the concept options
- What concerns (if any) regarding the proposed trail tie-ins
- Invited any comments related to the location of the proposed trail tie-ins
- If we overlooked anything else important to use of the park or anything else to add related to the project

What Happens Next?

The project team will select the preferred concept option that considers the feedback gathered from the public and stakeholder engagement, technical considerations and cost. The preferred concept will be shared with the public on the project webpage.

Thank you for providing input into the Allan Stein Park Trail Renewal project. Please visit edmonton.ca/AllanSteinTrail for up-to-date project information.

Construction of the Allan Stein Trail Renewal project is dependent on approval of funding.