



RIVER'S EDGE COMMUNITY TRAIL NETWORK PLAN

Please note: The original recommendation was varied by the Committee as follows:

1. That the Rivers Edge Community Trail Network Plan be amended by removing the parking lot and shelter area upgrade.
2. To defer the discussion of the Rivers Edge Community Trail Network Plan to the next Electoral Area G Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting to allow for more input to the plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the improvements proposed in this report be included in the 2023 Parks Services workplan.

BACKGROUND

At the March 22, 2022, RDN Board meeting, the following motion was approved:

That the staff proceed with a Community Trail Network Plan for the River's Edge Community that will incorporate enhancements and related maintenance of the stone entrance pillars on Kaye Road, upgrading of the stone and timber shelter for public use located at River's Edge Community Park, and collaborate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for trail use within road allowances.

The River's Edge neighbourhood contains 10 community parks which include a mix of forested areas, drainage infrastructure, and undeveloped trails. The neighbourhood also contains various developer-built features including stone entrance pillars and roadside trails, both of which are located on provincially owned lands, and a large timber shelter in River's Edge Community Park. The roadside trails and entrance pillars are not currently managed by the RDN.

In Q4 2021, the RDN Parks department conducted community engagement in the River's Edge neighbourhood to determine the community's priorities for how to improve the parks and trails within the neighbourhood. The engagement included an online survey and mail-outs to all households within the neighbourhood. Survey responses indicated that improving and expanding the network of trails within the community is a strong priority for residents (Attachment 1 – River's Edge Engagement Results Summary).

Community Trail Network Plan

The Community Trail Network Plan (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan) proposes new and improved trails within RDN parks and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) property.

Existing RDN Trails

- Trail improvements between Matuka Drive and River’s Edge Drive (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan, sections 1-3-4-5 in red). These improvements were selected second-most (15%) to improvements to the roadside trail on MoTI property when respondents were asked to select their preferred improvement to the area parks and trails in 2022 (Attachment 1, pg. 6).
- Proposed maintenance improvements include:
 - Vegetation management.
 - Grading and surfacing improvements.
 - Boardwalks and culverts.
 - Wayfinding signage.
 - Construction of a small pedestrian bridge in Stormwater Community Park.

Roadside Trails on MoTI Property

Completing trail improvement work within the MoTI property would require the RDN to obtain a License of Occupation to construct and maintain trails on a long-term basis (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan, sections 2-6-7 in blue).

Improvements to these sections would increase connectivity in the neighbourhood by providing connections to several community parks and two school bus stop locations.

These improvements were selected most (38%) when respondents were asked to select their preferred improvement to the area parks and trails in 2022 (Attachment 1, pg. 6).

Proposed improvements will include:

- Installing a new roadside trail on the west side of Peterson Road, extending north from Caddis Crescent to Kaye Road (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan, Section 6, in blue).
- Improve the existing section of trail on the south side of Kaye Road between Peterson Road and Rascal Lane (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan, Section 7, in blue).
- Improve the informal trail within the undeveloped road right-of-way at the south end of Rascal Lane (Attachment 2 - Community Trail Network Plan, Section 2, in blue).

Shelter in River’s Edge Community Park

The shelter in River’s Edge Community Park was originally constructed by the developer and is located in the centre of an informal vehicular turn-around. Currently, this area is mainly used for parking by parents and families for the adjacent school bus stop, and by equestrian users parking trailers while riding on nearby trails. Other than this shelter and the vehicle turn around, River’s Edge Community Park is undeveloped.

Upgrades to the shelter alone would not provide many benefits to park users. Therefore, it is recommended that upgrades are done in collaboration with other improvements to the park, which include:

- Removing vehicle access to the roundabout.

- Constructing a new parking area/bus drop-off area as per the 2021 design (Attachment 3 – River’s Edge Site Plan 2021).
- Constructing trails from the roadside trail and new parking area to the shelter.
- Installing seating area below the shelter.

Stone Entrance Pillars

As in other Electoral Area G neighborhood entrance areas (e.g., Columbia Beach and Sandpiper), the stone entrance pillars welcome feature installed by the developer is not located on RDN property and not maintained by the RDN.

Initial investigation indicated that the stone pillars appear to have been constructed on private property and MoTI property.

For the RDN to enhance and take over the responsibility of the stone pillars, flood lighting and surrounding landscaping, agreements would need to be in place with MoTI and the private property owners. Taking on the responsibility of this feature would require annual funding to cover the ongoing electrical service and landscaping maintenance costs.

Even though this feature adds to the aesthetics and character of the neighborhood entrance, their enhancement and maintenance would offer limited or no benefit to parks and trails users.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 1: River’s Edge Community Trail Network Plan Estimated Costs

ITEM	Estimated Cost
Improvement of existing trails (brushing, surfacing improvements, signage)	\$75,000
Construction of pedestrian bridge in Stormwater Community Park	\$25,000
Construction of new trails in MoTI ROW	\$100,000
Contingency	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$225,000

Table 2: River’s Edge Community Park and Shade Shelter Upgrades

ITEM	Estimated Cost
Shelter area upgrade	\$25,000
Additional park upgrades: parking lot and trails	\$200,000
Contingency	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$250,000

Table 3: Stone Entrance Pillars

ITEM	Estimated Cost
Installation of low maintenance landscaping (one time cost)	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$5,000

Table 4: Annual Maintenance Costs

ITEM	Estimated Cost
Maintenance of existing trail network	\$6,000
Maintenance of MoTI trail network	\$4,000
Landscape maintenance of River's Edge Community Park Upgrades	\$5,000
Maintenance of landscape at stone entrance pillars and electrical fees	\$2,500
TOTAL ANNUAL COST	\$17,500

The total estimated capital cost of the proposed improvements is \$480,000 with an estimated on-going annual maintenance cost of \$17,500.

The Electoral Area G 2022 Community Park Budget includes \$80,000 of Community Works Fund and \$30,000 reserve funds for future capital improvements in River's Edge community parks and trails. This amount is projected to be carried forward to 2023.

The preliminary Electoral Area G 5-year Financial Plan includes \$300,000 of Community Works in 2023 for future capital improvements in River's Edge community parks and trails. This brings the total amount available for this project to \$410,000 (\$380,000 Community Works Funds, \$30,000 Reserves). To proceed with the improvements, the 2023 budget will need to be increased by \$70,000. This increase would be funded from reserves. In addition, the annual maintenance costs will need to be added to the operating budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Transportation and Transit - Provide opportunities for residents to move effectively through and around the Region.

REVIEWED BY:

- A. Gore, Superintendent, Parks Planning Research and Development
- Y. Gagnon, Manager, Parks Services
- T. Moore, Acting Director of Finance
- D. Banman, Acting General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- E. Tian, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

1. River's Edge Engagement Results Summary
2. Community Trail Network Plan
3. River's Edge Site Plan 2021