

Trails Implementation Strategy

2025

Proposed Trails Master Plan

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May 2025



What is a Trails Master Plan?

- Bridges together strategic plans (ie. Trails Strategy, Council Strategic Plan) with detailed tools (ie. municipal standards, development agreements)
- Identifies location and type of all existing trails on public lands
- Compares trends in recreation with what the County offers
- Applying an appropriate level of service, allocates the location and type / use of new trails



What is a Trails Master Plan (cont'd)

- Prioritizes trails through a phasing strategy on public lands and 'soon to be developed' private lands
 - includes a selection matrix – a tool used to identify priorities
- Explores partnerships, identifying alternate sources of funding, third-parties for long-term maintenance
- Identifies costs, other key elements such as signage and other support amenities (lighting, benches, etc.)
- Defines developer obligations to build trails as part of development



1

Strategic Plan

Strategic priorities of Council and Senior Leadership

Importance of health and wellness

Supporting recreational amenities

Enjoyment of the natural environment

2

Municipal Development Plan

Importance of health and wellness

Identifying opportunities for people to engage the outdoors, whether in the built realm or natural areas

Enjoyment of natural assets

Bring high-level spatial resolution

3

Outline Plan

Alignment of proposed trails

Connection of key features and amenities in a development area

Location of PULs, MRs, easements, other lands compatible with trail development

4

Land Use Bylaw

Developer obligations for trail implementation

Permitted and discretionary locations for trails

5

Trails Master Plans

Alignment of proposed trails, identifying start and end points

Forecasting a phased approach to implementing trail networks

Private vs. public obligation to develop trails

6

Municipal Servicing Standards

Trail construction standards

Maintenance obligations, warranty period

7

Development Agreement, Detailed Drawings

Alignment of proposed trails

Identifying trail typology

Ensuring land ownership / agreements coincide with proposed trail alignments

Trail construction standards and specifications

Probable Timeline

The following schedule identifies various tasks as part of the scope of work:

Trails Master Plan: Scope of Work

1. Focus on site assessments to evaluate existing trails, determine potential new alignments, understand site conditions that affect trail construction and costs
2. Review of land ownership, and means of developing trails on land not owned by the County (easements vs. fee simple purchase)
3. Minimal public and stakeholder engagement needed: plenty done as part of the recent Trails Strategy project
4. Final report that becomes a valuable planning and budgeting tool



Potential Trail Development: 2025

- Offering suggestions from the Trails Strategy document and others
- Created evaluation criteria – prioritize potential projects
- Currently have \$800k for trail planning, design and construction
- Will require detailed site evaluation, detailed design, tendering, construction
- Able to build in 2025, if we start now; start planning for 2026 projects
- Council has ultimate approval of recommendations and next steps



Evaluation Criteria Considerations

- Number of County residents it directly serves, or within reasonable drive
- Resident focused
- Improvements to public safety
- Improvements to environment protection
- Providing an experience alike no other
- Enhancement to nearby facilities or amenities
- Enhances opportunities for singular use trails to reduce conflict elsewhere
- Partnership potential
- Costs



Sample Evaluation Criteria Matrix

1. Chickakoo 2. Big Lake 3. Wagner 4. Graminia
5. River Valley 6. Jack Pine 7. Tomahawk

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
High number of County residents it serves, or within reasonable distance	X	X	X				X
Residents first – less motivated by recreation tourism		X		X			X
Improvements to public safety	X			X		X	X
Improvements to environmental protection	X	X					
Providing an experience alike no other in the County			X		X	X	
Enhancement to nearby facilities and amenities	X		X	X	X		X
Enhances opportunities for singular use trails			X			X	
Potential for partnerships in constructing, maintaining			X	X	X	X	X
Cost: value for the complexity of planning and per-lineal meter price			X	X		X	

Recommended Next Steps

- Complete a Trails Master Plan in 2025 (\$55k)
- Commence discussions with RVA (river valley), City of Edmonton / Province (Big Lake), and Parkland School Division (Graminia, Tomahawk) for potential partnerships, grants
- Pursue land agreements for the Jackpine Provincial Grazing Reserve equestrian trail area. Conduct preliminary design of staging areas once approvals are likely, ready for future implementation (\$25k)



Recommended Next Steps

- Complete a Management Plan for Chickakoo in 2026, setting the stage for trail improvements & detailed design of new trails (\$125k)
- Administration to recommend trail priorities in 2026.



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