

CN RAILS TO TRAILS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Financial

How much did the Town of Drumheller pay to lease the land?

The Town of Drumheller invested a total of \$25.00, or \$1.00 per year for a 25-year lease agreement.

What is the cost to maintain the trails and who will be paying for this?

The exact cost to maintain the trails is to be determined. The Town will continue to work with the Inmate Program at Drumheller Institution and the outdoor maintenance program, federal and provincial grants and sponsorships. Some regular maintenance items will be captured in the property-tax support budget.

The Town is allocating an annual budget of \$25,000 for trail development, which is not an increase from previous operational budgets.

Will this public trail affect my property value?

This trail is a positive enhancement to residents and property values therefore will not be negatively impacted by this asset. The Trail will enhance the hiking and biking experiences for our residents and visitors alike, similar to other municipalities that have designed trails into their development plans.

Will the Town award the work to develop the trails to local businesses?

The Town of Drumheller will make every effort to ensure that procurement of goods and services is conducted using purchasing practices that are fair, consistent, transparent and in accordance with applicable provincial and federal legislation while seeking to obtain the best value for the municipality.

Until the trail, bridges and culverts are fully assessed, the full scope of the work required is unknown. At a minimum, there is trail development work such as placing the hard surface on the trail, installing waste disposal bins and benches. Administration is planning to do as much of the work in-house as possible, however, some work will be tendered and awarded through Alberta Purchasing Connection and Drumheller.ca.

Local companies are always encouraged to bid on municipal projects, and the Town practices 'Local Preference' as outlined in the [Council Purchasing Policy – C-09-20](#).

If someone wants to sponsor this project, how can they go about doing as such?

Many other Canadian municipalities undertaking similar projects have developed a 'friends of' or a 'trail society' to generate fundraising opportunities and can

accept taxable donations. If this is the right fit for the community, the Town will support the cause.

Once we have a full review of the trail, sponsorship opportunities (benches, washrooms, rest areas, waste and/or recycling receptacles, doggy relief stations, shade structures etc.) will be defined

In the meantime, those interested in sponsoring the project in some capacity can contact the Chief Administrative Officer or the Mayor of Drumheller.

When was the land leased?

The lease agreement was signed in March 2022.

Will my property taxes increase due to the addition of this trail?

Property taxes will not increase solely due to the addition of this trail. Property taxes are reviewed annually with all operations of the town. Typically, the Town allocates \$25,000 per year for trail maintenance.

Flood Mitigation

Is the CN Rail Trail part of the flood mitigation project?

Parts of the rail system can act as flood protection berms, between Rosedale and Downtown Drumheller, along Highway 56, though the majority of it is not. The structure along Highway 56 is adequate flood protection to a 2100cms event; however, some temporary response measures would be required to manage the drainage pipes running through the rail line.

How much DMAF funding is going toward the Rail Trail?

No funding from the flood mitigation project will be allocated to the Rail Trail.

Operations/Transportation

What is the plan to maintain the trails when some trails have been neglected as of recently?

Some pre-existing trails along the Badlands River Parks trail system were damaged by equipment last year. These trails were not repaired, as they will be removed for upcoming berm construction. It was not a viable use of public funds to replace these sections of the trail, though they were repaired to ensure usability for their final season.

Resources will be provided to ensure trails are maintained.

Will the Midland Bridge be converted to a vehicular bridge?

No. The CN Rail Bridge connecting Nacmine to Midland across the Red Deer River will be open for active transportation – walking, running and cycling only, as outlined in the lease agreement. A new vehicular bridge to connect Highway 575 to Highway 838 would be an estimated \$20M.

What happens after the 25-year lease is up?

Once the lease comes to an end, there will be an opportunity to extend. If CN Rail wishes to reuse the system and dissolve it for railway tracks, the Town will be responsible for removing any items, including developed areas and/or structures along the way.

What happens if the work is not completed within the estimated timeframe?

Only some areas will be targeted for development while others would be left in its natural state. These locations are yet to be determined.

Will the trail have shade structures along the way?

This is dependent on what type of funding is available (federal and provincial grants, sponsorships, donations, tax-supported capital, etc.).

Will the trail have public (year-round?) washrooms and doggy relief stations?

Year-round public washrooms will also be dependent on funding (federal and provincial grants, sponsorships, donations, tax-supported capital, etc.). Waste receptacles and doggy relief stations will be added as the trails continue to develop, as these items are an inexpensive way to enhance the trails. Port-a-potties may be considered for the first few years as the trail system is developed.

Will the trails allow ATV, dirt bikes, snowmobiles etc.?

No. These trails are designated for active transportation – walking, running and cycling only. As outlined in the Highway Vehicle Act, ATVs are not permitted within Town limits.

What type of surface will this be? Will this be accessible to persons with disabilities who have mobility equipment?

Developed areas of the trail will be comprised of recycled asphalt millings, similar to some sections of the Badlands River Parks trail system. This surface is considered an all-weather surface and can support mobility equipment. There will be accessibility points (ramps) to access the trail, mostly in the downtown developments.

Will this trail be developed all at once or in sections?

The current plan is to develop this trail in sections. It is cost-prohibitive to develop the entire trail system at once. The Town wants to develop the trail in a fiscally

responsible and sustainable manner with support from federal and provincial grants and potential sponsorships.

The first area scheduled to be developed is connecting Downtown Drumheller to the lights at 19 Street East and Highway 56.

Will there be parking available at certain access points?

There are existing parking destinations along the trail already; however, the Town will identify and develop specific areas as starting/ending points with parking areas as a consideration. A recent example is the proposed Downtown Dike development includes additional parking areas adjacent to the redeveloped Badlands River Trail system.

There are a couple of locations along the trail that cross busy roads. What's your plan for that?

Where necessary, the Town will work with Alberta Transportation to provide pedestrian crossing points.

Can emergency vehicles use the CN Rail bridge in Midland in an emergency?

No. The CN Rail Bridge connecting Nacmine to Midland across the Red Deer River will be open for active transportation – walking, running and cycling only, as outlined in the lease agreement. A new vehicular bridge to connect Highway 575 to Highway 838 would be an estimated \$20M.

Other

Why is this project happening right now?

The residents of Drumheller began sharing their interest in converting the railway to a walking trail shortly after the last train went through the Valley in 2014.

Previous Councils and Administrations have been working toward this project since that time, and we are finally able to celebrate earlier efforts by concluding this much-anticipated partnership with CN Rail.

Will local companies be contracted in to do the work, or will they be sourced from other communities?

The Town's Administration is planning to do as much of the work in-house as possible; however, some work will be tendered and awarded through Alberta Purchasing Connection and Drumheller.ca. Local companies are always encouraged to bid on municipal projects, and the Town practices 'Local Preference' as outlined in the [Council Purchasing Policy – C-09-20](#).

Will memorial benches/picnic tables be allowed on the trail and, if so, where can people inquire about placing one?

Yes. Memorial benches are welcome to be placed/relocated on this new trail system. The Town hopes to expand the memorial bench and picnic table program to include upgrades to the trail, should residents want to explore those options.

Will the trail feature points of interest and rest areas?

The Town will work with its stakeholders to identify and/or develop points of interest. The development of rest areas will be dependent on available funding (federal and provincial grants, sponsorships, donations, tax-supported capital etc.).

How long has the Town been talking about this project?

This project has been in discussion since the rails were pulled in 2014.

Does the Town plan to collaborate with our Indigenous neighbours on this project?

Yes. The Town looks forward to collaborative conversations with our Indigenous neighbours.

Will the Trails module on the website be updated to include this new trail?

Yes, as trails are developed, the information on www.drumheller.ca/play/trails will be updated.

Will the trails be accessible in the winter near Midland Provincial Park?

Midland Provincial Park limits access during the winter. Unless the Province grants winter access, the trail in this area will not be available in the winter. The Town of Drumheller will continue discussions with the Province regarding year-round access to the trails.

How do you plan to celebrate the history of the Valley, coal, dinosaurs and other components that relate to the CN Rail?

The Town has a rich history that will be celebrated throughout this project. The Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and other stakeholders have already expressed interest in participating in the historical aspect of this project.

Can I ride my horse on the trail?

Yes.