

Rails TO Trails

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This information has been prepared by the volunteers on the Rails to Trails Task Force. It is shared as a complement to the FAQ provided by the Town of Drumheller. Please review the sponsorship package for essential donation/sponsorship information.

How do I donate?

You can provide your donation in a few ways. Please use the form (online or available at Town Hall) to ensure we have all the needed information. You must provide a label or memo identifying your funds as a Rails to Trails Donation.

- ✓ E-Transfer – etransfer@drumheller.ca
- ✓ Cash / Cheques / Debit – at Town Hall (224 Centre St, Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y4). Cheques payable to the Town of Drumheller.
- ✓ Direct Deposit (EFT) – contact the Town for this option (banking information needed)

Do I get a tax receipt?

Donations over \$25 will be provided a tax receipt. Please use the form to confirm you'd like a tax receipt and provide the required information.

When can I donate?

The opportunity to donate starts on November 18, 2022 and the end date is currently not set. We want to raise funds as quickly as possible in order to start construction in Summer 2023.

You can donate any amount, or you can choose to sponsor trail components including a bridge, station or stop. There are a limited number of components available on a first come basis.

How is my donation recognized?

Sponsors who contribute over \$1,000 will be acknowledged on a donor wall at the main station, located in central Drumheller. Those who sponsor a station or bridge will be further recognized by naming the component and signage at the location. Sign size(s) have yet to be determined.

How long is my contribution recognized?

The donor wall and component naming are for the extent of the current lease, 25 years.

Why is my contribution important?

Your contribution builds a legacy project for Drumheller that will have positive impact on the community as the trail provides connectivity, wellness, and economic benefits. The trail improves

recreation opportunities, provides alternative transportation, opens up more of the beauty of the valley with access to amenities like parks and business, plus it welcomes residents and visitors.

What economic benefits does the trail provide to our community?

- ✓ Trails increase the value of nearby properties.
- ✓ Trails boost spending at local businesses. Communities along trails, often called trail towns, benefit from the influx of visitors going to restaurants, snack shops and other retail establishments. On longer trails, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters benefit.
- ✓ Trails make communities more attractive places to live. When considering where to move, home-buyers rank walking and biking paths as one of the most important features of a new community.
- ✓ Trails influence business location and relocation decisions. Companies often choose to locate in communities that offer a high level of amenities to employees as a means of attracting and retaining top-level workers. Trails can make communities attractive to businesses looking to expand or relocate both because of the amenities they offer to employees and the opportunities they offer to trail visitors.
- ✓ Trails reduce medical costs by encouraging exercise and other healthy outdoor activities.
- ✓ Trails revitalize depressed areas, creating a demand for space in what were once vacant buildings.
- ✓ Trails provide transportation options and cut fuel expenses by offering reliable means of transportation for short distance trips. Nearly half of all car trips are less than 3 miles and more than a quarter are one mile or less.
- ✓ Trails provide low or no-cost recreation to families with low costs relative to other recreational services that could be provided by government.
- ✓ Trails increase tax revenues in the communities in which they are located.
- ✓ These benefits represent a huge economic return on the money invested into trail projects. The costs of land acquisition for trails, trail construction and maintenance are far outweighed by the economic benefits generated by trails.

Related Benefits

- ✓ Economic Benefits of Biodiversity
- ✓ Economic Benefits of Conservation
- ✓ Economic Benefits of Parks
- ✓ Economic Benefits of Smart Growth and Costs of Sprawl

Source: <https://conservationtools.org/guides/97-economic-benefits-of-trails>

TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

What does the project include?

The pathway will run within the current lease of the former CN rail right-of-way (~19km). The leased lands are from the north edge of town, across the bridge connecting Midland and Newcastle, through Drumheller, east to Rosedale and out to Wayne. See the map on the sponsorship materials.

The focus of our fundraising is to make the path usable as quickly as possible for active mobility (eg. walk, run, bikes, etc), starting with the Midland Bridge and moving east. The concept plan recommends recycled asphalt paving within Drumheller (to 19th St E) and crushed gravel towards Rosedale and Wayne. Both surfaces allow for bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, etc. In addition to the pathway there are 8 bridges that need to be made usable to active mobility, including the Midland Bridge, plus 1 in Rosedale and 6 heading to Wayne.

Spread along the pathway are enhancements to provide a positive experience to users. These enhancements are referred to as stations and stops, reflecting the rail history.

- ✓ Stations - there are 6 stations along the path. A station is a place to gather and includes shade, seating, garbage and recycling, and more. The Main Station located at the edge of downtown Drumheller will include the donor wall along with additional amenities.
- ✓ Stops - there are 11 stops spread along the path, typically at key decision points to access community amenities and the existing pathway. Stops are a place to rest with a bench, garbage and recycling and dog relief station.

In addition the concept plan includes updates/upgrades along the rail path and existing pathways. The updates can include a garbage can, wayfinding signing, bench or bike rack.

When will the pathway and amenities be built?

The intention is to see the project constructed within 2023/24, starting with the Midland Bridge and moving east. It's proposed that in 2023 the pathway and amenities within Drumheller would be completed, followed by expansion to Rosedale and Wayne.

The timing and phasing of construction will be impacted by funds raised, technical design requirements and approvals, town construction timelines, and other factors.



Contact us for more details

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www.drumheller.ca/play/trails/rails-to-trails-project



**DRUMHELLER
VALLEY**