

Pathways + Trails



Recommendations

- Maintain the current pathway and trail system, but incorporate improvements to enhance safety and reduce user conflicts.
- > No new sections of the regional pathway system are recommended.
 - > Increased bylaw enforcement in high conflict areas to encourage adherence to regulations.
 - > Provide a clear boundary (landscaping and/or low impact fencing) between the regional pathway and off-leash areas.
 - > Improve the intersection of the regional and local pathways to meet closer to a 90 degree angle.
 - > Relocate a section of the regional pathway to better define the off-leash area near Riverdale Avenue parking lot.
 - > Improve safety on the steep section of the regional pathway with signage, clear sightlines and pullover space on the uphill side.
 - > Repair or replace deteriorated stairs and steps.

Include undesignated trails as part of the designated trail or local pathway network where necessary and environmentally appropriate.

- > Provide trails to connect destinations.
- > Use trails and pathways for zonal and boundary buffers.

Aggressively discourage use or creation of undesignated trails in Preservation, Natural Parkland and Restoration Zones.

- > Control access to escarpment slopes with a low impact fence, gravel-surfaced trail along the top of the escarpment; visible trailheads; and handrails on steep escarpment trails.
- > Use educational signage where necessary to discourage off-trail/off-pathway use. Consider the use of low impact fencing and other types of barriers if education and enforcement methods are not successful.
- > Close undesignated trails located on steep slopes and that fragment sensitive habitats (Balsam Poplar forest, riverine tall shrub).
- > Immediately close undesignated trails that are significantly damaged and pose a safety hazard.
- > Implement trail closures in ways that preserve the natural character of the park.
- > Educate and engage local citizens as stewards to encourage appropriate trail usage and monitor undesignated trail formation.

Restore trails and pathways to conform to design standards, reduce environmental impacts and amend plan/policies to reflect changes.

- > Locate trails and pathways away from the most sensitive habitats to the greatest degree possible.
- > Vary trail and local pathway surfaces to best fit the local conditions and use materials that minimize erosion/environmental impact and maximize trail durability.
- > Upgrade trails to conform to City of Calgary trail and local pathway design guidelines and standards to the greatest degree possible.
- > Provide mobility-impaired access where environmentally sound and physically realistic.
- > Adjust classifications (informal trail, formal trail, local pathway) to reflect actual design and use.
- > Amend the Urban Park Master Plan and the Pathways & Bikeways Plan to be consistent with the designated trails and local pathways in the approved Design Development Plan.
- > Improve the spine trail with new gravel or an aggregate surfaced pavement (successfully used at Nose Hill Park)

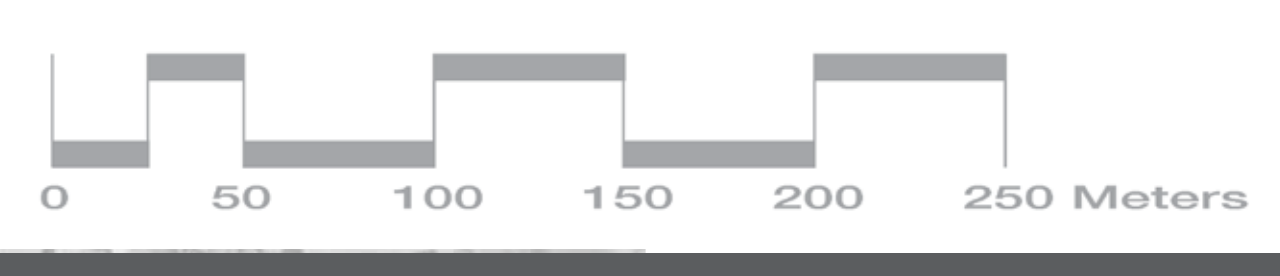
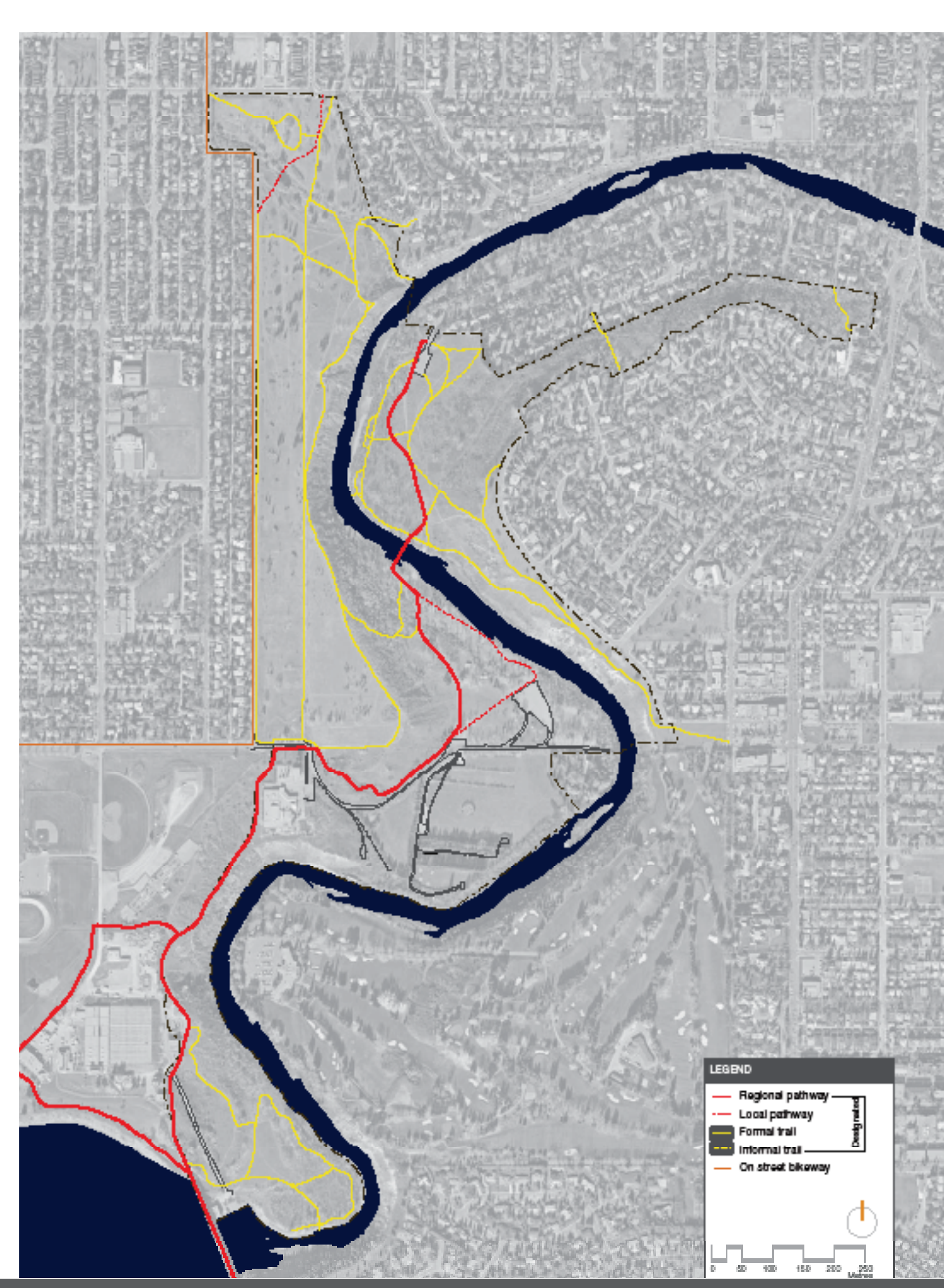


Rationale

The public expressed concerns about trail and pathway maintenance and safety, conflicts on the regional pathway, and the environmental impacts of undesignated trails on the steep escarpment. Most recommendations in the Draft Plan relate to the improvement of existing pathway and trails, eliminating a number of undesignated trails. Some park users requested a new pathway at the northern end of River Park that would formalize an existing undesignated trail used by cyclists, and this addition is reflected in the Draft Plan. The concept to formalize a nature trail to access the parkland near Lansdowne Avenue SW was initially supported, but later opposed. Thus the Draft Plan does not include any new trails in the area. A stair structure on the Britannia escarpment that would help control slope erosion, similar to stairs used in other parks, was also considered, but is not included in the Draft Plan due to lack of community support.

Key Features

- Local Paved Pathway to replace undesignated trail connecting 14A Street SW and 38th Avenue SW
- Granular Trail along 14A Street SW to replaces multiple undesignated trails
- Granular Escarpment Edge Trail with Transparent Fence + Seating to reduce erosion and control access to the escarpments at River Park and Britannia Slopes
- Improve Spine Trail surface and include energy efficient LED lighting
- Regional Pathway with Fence and Landscaped Buffer to reduce user conflicts
- Restored Escarpment Trails with Handrails to protect the escarpment and enhance safety
- Restored Trail + Steps to protect the escarpment and enhance safety
- Safety Improvements to Regional Pathway to improve sight lines and widen shoulders in steep sections
- Potential Trail for new trail segments in shared-use areas at Riveredge
- Trail Connections linking to river access points
- Repaired Stair Structure at the Lower Reservoir to improve safety



See other display boards for additional recommendations related to Pathways + Trails.