



Date: April 9, 2026

Update on Douglas Fir Trail Project: April 2026

Thank you for your continued interest in the Douglas Fir Trail. We know how important this trail is to many Calgarians, and we truly appreciate the care, passion, and feedback we continue to hear from the community. This newsletter shares the latest updates on construction, design progress, and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

Slope stabilization update

The contractor has completed construction of a temporary access structure along the Bow River pathway. This structure supports safe access for construction crews while helping maintain stability in the area as work continues.

We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation in following posted signage as we move through this phase of the project. Slope stabilization work is currently expected to be completed by December 2026.

Detailed design is moving forward

With funding now secured for the detailed design phase, we are pleased to share that *Thurber Engineering has been retained* to lead this work. The design will focus on improving slope stability, managing surface water, and addressing overall trail conditions. This includes exploring options for targeted trail realignment where needed to improve long-term safety and durability.

This work is an important step toward developing a sustainable solution that allows to repair and reopen the trail for years to come.

At this time, construction funding for the broader trail repairs has not been secured.

How funding works

The detailed design will help refine the scope and cost of the broader trail repairs. We are seeking construction funding through the next budget cycle (2027–2030) and have submitted



a request accordingly. City Council will ultimately decide on funding availability for the Douglas Fir Trail Repair project during budget deliberations in November 2026.

Advancing the design now allows us to move forward faster if funding is approved. At this stage, the timeline for full reopening remains dependent on future funding.

We want to hear from you! Upcoming engagement opportunities

In May 2026, we will be inviting the community to take part in engagement activities to help shape the future of the Douglas Fir Trail.

This is an opportunity to share what matters most to you, learn more about the project, and provide input on topics such as safety, environmental protection, trail experience, durability, and accessibility.

There will be multiple ways to participate, both online and in person. More details will be shared on the project webpage later this month: calgary.ca/douglasfirtrail

In late April, we will also launch a short pre-engagement phase to better understand how people would like to participate.

We encourage you to get involved and help shape the future of the trail.

Trail access and safety

We understand the strong interest in accessing more of the trail, and we continue to look for opportunities to allow safe access where possible.

At the same time, closures remain in place to protect both trail users and construction crews. The turnaround point on the western portion of the trail was also adjusted to help keep users safely away from the construction access road to the active slope stabilization construction area.

Despite signage, we continue to see users entering closed areas. Signs were also removed, and barricades/fences shifted. This creates safety risks and impact construction work. We kindly ask all trail users to respect posted signs and closures so we can keep the project moving forward safely. This will also ensure keeping some portions of trail open rather than expanding closures.



Reminder: why the trail is closed

The Douglas Fir Trail has been partially closed since November 2023 due to erosion, drainage issues, and slope instability. Current work is focused on stabilizing a higher risk section of the slope, while detailed design is underway to support broader trail repairs and long-term reopening.

The trail repair project is not funded. The City's goal is to reopen the trail as soon as all repairs are completed with a durable solution that reduces the need for future closures and allows continued enjoyment of this unique natural area. We hear and understand the community's desire to see the trail reopened, and we are working toward that outcome.

Community input and ongoing dialogue

We want to acknowledge the many trail users who have taken the time to share detailed feedback, observations, and concerns about the Douglas Fir Trail over the past years. This input, including perspectives from frequent trail users, plays an important role in helping the project team better understand how the trail is used and valued by Calgarians.

At the same time, decisions about trail access, safety, and construction are informed by technical assessments and input from subject matter experts, including geotechnical engineers, Parks operations, and safety specialists. Our goal is to balance this technical expertise with community insight to arrive at solutions that are both safe and responsive to how Calgarians experience the trail.

We are committed to continuing this dialogue through upcoming engagement opportunities and regular project updates. Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

Stay connected:

Visit the project page for the latest updates: calgary.ca/douglasfirtrail

Signup for the Newsletter: [Click Here](#)

Questions or concerns? Contact the project team:

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