



Crawford Creek Regional Park

FAQ

The following information is intended to provide clarity around frequently asked questions pertaining to the construction of a new trail and bridge replacement at Crawford Creek Regional Park.

1. What does this project involve?

- This project involves existing trail upgrades and the construction of a new trail to connect the two sides of the Crawford Creek Regional Park. The project also involves the replacement of the footbridge over the creek at the pond outlet, and the temporary closure of the West Beach trail until the bridge is replaced.

2. What is the purpose of this new trail?

- The purpose of this project is to protect ecologically sensitive areas and to enhance recreational experience and safety of park users by replacing the bridge, making the trail more accessible and sustainable. The new trail will also provide a walking path to help keep people and dogs from walking through the wetland.

3. What has the RDCK done to ensure that the geese and other wildlife in Crawford Creek Regional Park are protected?

- The RDCK went through a public proposal process to hire a Registered Professional Biologist, for the purpose of doing a thorough environmental biophysical review of the property, to better understand the inherent physical nature of the land. The Biophysical Assessment Review did bring forward ecological sensitive areas within the park and after much work and historical review of the property, recommendations were made based on recreation, conservation, and a potential mix of both. The new trail was included as a recreational value that could connect the areas in the park to reduce the impact of current recreational use on the ecological sensitive areas.

Find the final Biophysical Assessment report on our website.

4. Will this project follow all environmental regulations to protect the wetlands, habitats and species in the park?

- The RDCK will continue to follow the recommendations provided by governing bodies and the Registered Professional Biologist which includes the Biophysical Study and our Riparian Habitat Study. We rely on our Registered Professionals to provide us with the information required when working in and around ecologically sensitive areas.

5. Were groups or people with mobility challenges consulted on how to make the trail accessible?

- Kootenay Adaptive Sports Association (KASA) came to Crawford Creek Regional Park to assess the park and the trail and provided recommendations. Further, the BC Spinal Cord Association also toured the park. This resulted in grant funding being provided for a wheelchair accessible washroom and picnic table.

Accessibility is a critical aspect to all RDCK projects and is a strategic priority of the organization and the Province of BC. The trail width, grade, surfacing material as well as the layout itself will contribute to improving the trail accessibility for everyone.

Another benefit of an accessible trail is reduced overall maintenance and mowing.

6. What is the timeline for this project and is construction on the new trail moving forward?

- The new trail construction was intended to start on April 2, 2024, however while responding to community concern, the window to begin the project lapsed. The RDCK is also working with the Ktunaxa Nation to ensure that the issues and concerns presented are addressed before moving forward with construction of the new trail.

The bridge replacement will be onsite May 24, 2024 and will remain onsite until the bridge replacement begins. At this time, there is no date on when construction will begin. The West Beach access trail will be closed until the bridge is replaced.

Safety concerns related to the bridge require the bridge to be replaced. The current bridge is poorly constructed, and the bridge abutments are failing. RDCK staff are working with the Province of BC on how and when to best install the new bridge.

The new trail project and bridge replacement will move forward when it is environmentally responsible and operationally feasible to do so. There is no set timeline as to when this will occur.

7. Will there be a public meeting held or further public consultation had in relation to this project?

- There will be no public meetings held in relation to this specific project. The RDCK is implementing key recommendation number 4 of the 2020 Biophysical Study for the Crawford Creek Regional Park recommendation number four which is to develop “a new trail from the southern side of the constructed pond [crossing] the old airstrip and [connecting] to the proposed trail system along the reclaimed road.”

The 2020 Biophysical Study further identifies where park management planning should be a priority. For those areas public engagement will occur. You can find the final Biophysical Assessment report on our website.

- The *Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2020)* identifies the public's desire to provide recreational opportunities at Crawford Creek Regional Park. RDCK staff and Creston Valley Community Services Committee take direction from the feedback given during the Master Plan consultation process.

The RDCK is currently engaging in a month-long public consultation process to create a Regional Parks, Trails, and Water Access Strategy to help inform planning, decision-making, and management of Regional Parks and Trails Services over the next 10 years.

Find the *2020 Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C Parks and Recreation Master Plan* on our website.