



FERNIE VALLEY PATHWAY 2020

PAVED MULTI-USE · 7 KM · SAFE
CONNECTING FERNIE COMMUNITIES



FERNIE VALLEY PATHWAY PROJECT 2020

The pathway will be a multi-use, human-powered, paved trail connecting our community. It is a meaningful addition to an already active community, and we encourage residents, businesses and local governments to contribute to help build this amenity and continue its legacy.

There will be many access points to the pathway allowing cyclists, pedestrians, runners and many other user groups easy access to ~7 km of paved pathway. With a generous width of approx. 3 m, the pathway will accommodate a myriad of friendly faces – from athletes to families with chariots, roller-ski and roller blade enthusiasts, and wheelchair users.

The pathway will have many positive effects on the area including community health, environmental awareness, economic development, and safety for the increasing numbers of non-motorized travellers along the valley corridor. As a true community inspired and created pathway, residents and visitors can take pride in supporting a grass-roots community initiative to bring a new destination attraction to our area for generations to come.



A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT THIS PATHWAY

The Centennial Trail was a City of Fernie initiated project, conceived to create a legacy as part of the 2004 community centennial celebrations. Originally intended to connect to the Ski Hill, it was ultimately constructed only to the Fernie city limits, as key partner funding was not available at that time.

In its present state as a gravel path, it has provided a safer non-motorized route along the highway corridor, and is heavily utilized by community and visitors. Realizing that it could be significantly enhanced through completion of the “missing links”, and improved barrier free access, this mountain town pathway will soon become a reality.

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY?

FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY

A paved pathway increases accessibility to a level not seen in Fernie. The pathway will be designed to accommodate various pedestrian and commuter modes, including users of mobility aids, bicycles, and all forms of foot traffic, with a focus on safe and enjoyable travel.

EASY ACCESS POINTS

Access points designed where users need them most allowing for the pathway to truly become a transportation artery.

ACCESS TO WETLANDS

Linking to a wetlands beaver boardwalk and educational trail as proposed by the Elk River Alliance.

SIGNAGE AND REST AREAS

Well signed, including distance markers and strategically placed rest areas to take advantage of Fernie's striking vistas and points of interest.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Stop, enjoy the scenery and learn more about the area's natural and human heritage.

Inspired by community, driven by grass-roots passion

BUILDING A LIFESTYLE IN THE VALLEY

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH

Trail activities such as walking, cycling and hiking are inexpensive activities that provide accessible recreational opportunities for *all*. There is evidence that improved trail facilities bring greater participation in healthy activities, and result in healthy individuals and communities.

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Trail infrastructure has proven to be a major destination attraction, providing widespread economic benefits. This pathway will connect communities between the City of Fernie and Fernie Alpine Resort, creating new opportunities for local businesses, supporting the vision of Fernie's Resort Development Strategy.

PROMOTING EDUCATION

Educational elements including interpretive signage will offer unique hands-on learning opportunities that focus on the natural and human heritage of our beautiful valley.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

This pathway will truly be the transportation artery that allows safe passage to and from the heart of the City of Fernie to the Ski Hill. It will connect existing trail networks, points of interest and neighbourhoods along the pathway: Island Lake Lodge, Mt. Fernie Provincial Park, Elk Valley Nordic Centre, West Fernie, Riverside, and The Cedars.

COMMITTED TO SAFETY

Pedestrians, runners and cyclists already use the highway corridor extensively. This pathway will separate motorized traffic from trail users, creating a safer experience for both recreation and commuter traffic.





WHY NOW?

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) highway corridor study and planned replacement of the Lizard Creek Bridge has moved to the forefront. After consultation with the Fernie Trails Alliance and other key stakeholders, the MOTI has agreed to include a 3 m wide barrier separated multi-use pathway into their planned Lizard Creek Bridge replacement. It will be key to have a safe crossing over this bridge, but even better to provide all non-motorized highway users a safe option all the way to and from the City of Fernie and the Ski Hill.

HOW TO DONATE

This project will rely on multiple funding sources to bring it to fruition. Your support is critical to its success.

To donate or enquire about sponsorship opportunities, visit fernietrailsalliance.com or contact manager@fernietrailsalliance.com. Or, you can also contact Robert Champagne at 250-531-0103 or by email at fernievalleypathway@gmail.com.

FTA will issue a charitable tax receipt to individuals for any donations of \$25.00 or more.

Further sponsorship opportunities will be announced in the coming months. Supporters will be acknowledged.

