

Subject: FW: Trail idea

From: Jim Uhl
To: CAO <cao@rycroft.ca>
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Peter,

A couple of things on the idea of a walking trail... there are a couple of items to consider.

1) How long should the trail be? It should be long enough for a reasonable walk and also short enough for a return walk should someone want to park and walk back and forth, unless it is to form a loop.

2) Where does it start and end? There should be access at both ends and, in an ideal world, parking at both ends unless the trail forms a loop.

3) What is the finished surface to be? While it may be somewhat awkward to have a paved trail and gravel roads in the community, that is certainly one option. Expensive (especially with current fuel prices), but a nice touch and makes it usable for skateboards, roller blades, wheelchairs, etc. A compacted small size gravel surface may make initial sense. It can be maintained in reasonable condition for walkers and bicycles without undue maintenance and would retain shape and condition with minimal work. This surface however, leaves something to be desired in adverse weather conditions and would not allow for roller blading or skateboards.

4) Would the trail be an all season one? If so, there will be a need to address equipment access, snow removal, and seasonal drainage issues. If not, then a trail could be established on a "lay of the land" basis where it may be inaccessible under certain weather conditions.

4) What is the budget? The overall cost will certainly depend on the resolution of the above noted issues but with the rapidly changing economic conditions, any estimate would come with lots of caveats. It would almost certainly be best if this work were to be combined with a more significant project.

There are some comparables in the Grande Prairie area. Muskoseepi Park paved trails with bridges, etc. is a Cadillac example. The paved trails out towards Evergreen Park are a toned down version, still paved but with some challenges during wet weather. Then the sand and gravel trails at both Evergreen and Nitehawk are at the other end of the spectrum.

Lots of options.