# DOUGLAS FIR TRAIL WWHR
# Phase 1
# Values and Priorities
# Summer 2026 w/verbatim



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## Land Acknowledgement[1]

The Calgary area, where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, is a place of confluence where the sharing of ideas and opportunities naturally come together.

Indigenous peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before settlers named this place Calgary. In the Blackfoot language, it is called Moh-kins-tsis (moh-GIN'-stis (a soft 'g'). The Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi (ee-YETH'-kah nah-COH'-dah WHISK'-ah-tah-bay) First Nations refer to this place as Wicispa Oyade (weh-CHIS'-spa oh-YAH'-day) and the people of the Tsuut'ina (Soot-tenna) nation call it Guts-ists-I (GOOT'-sis). The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee (oh-TUSS' - kwanee).

We appreciate and acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral and traditional territory of the Blackfoot Nations of the Siksika (Seeg-see-kah), Piikani (bee-Gun-nee) and Kainai (G-ai-nah) First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi (ee-YETH'-kah nah-COH'-dah WHISK'-ah-tah-bay) First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki (Chin-ick-ee), Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak (Oti-pe-MES-se-wa) Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).

We acknowledge and give gratitude to the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations and call Calgary home.

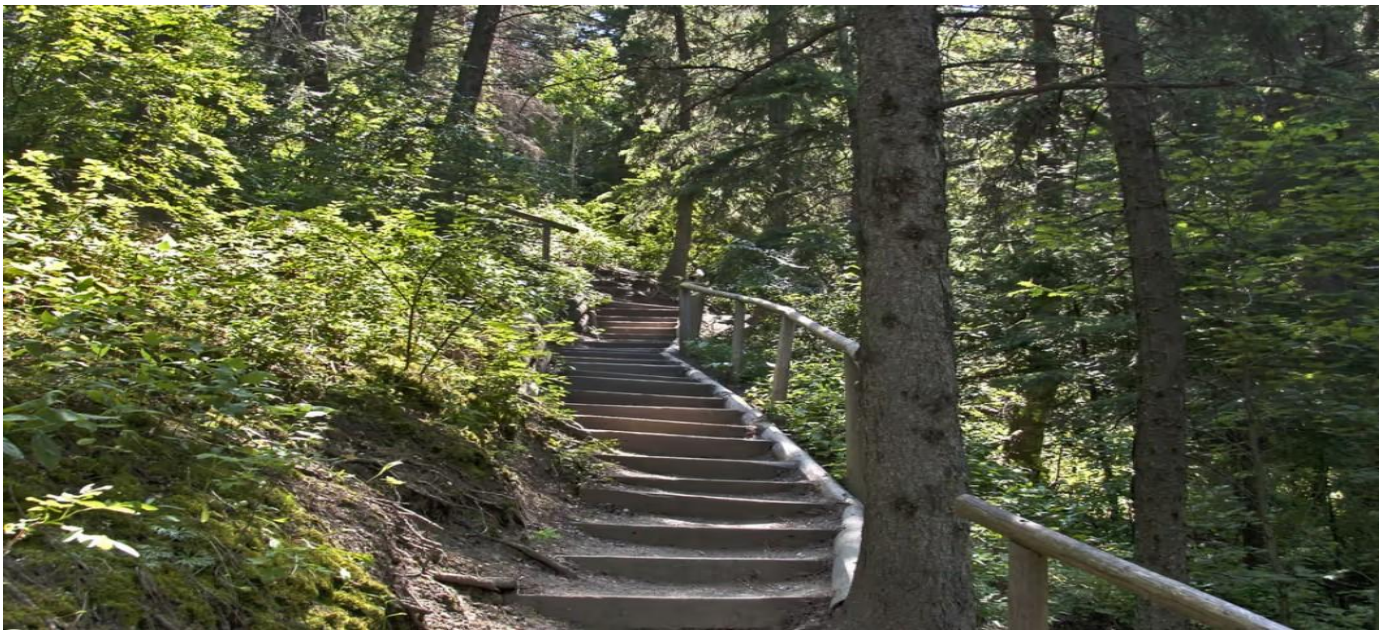


*Figure 1: Wooden staircase on Douglas Fir Trail*

[1] https://www.calgary.ca/communities/indigenous/collaboration.html

## 1.0 Project overview

**What is Douglas Fir Trail?**

The Douglas Fir Trail is a valued natural pathway located on a steep hillside above the Bow River Regional Pathway. Known for its unique forest setting and mountain-like hiking experience, it is one of Calgary's most distinctive natural areas.

**Why is work needed?**

Over time, erosion, drainage, weathering, and slope movement have damaged sections of the trail, creating safety concerns for users. City inspections first identified an unstable slope in 2014, and ongoing monitoring found conditions continued to deteriorate. By 2023, several sections of the trail were determined to be unsafe, resulting in closures to protect visitors and the surrounding environment.

**What work is happening now?**

Following City Council approval of funding in 2023, planning and design began to address the most critical slope stability issues. Construction started in September 2025 and is expected to continue through October 2026. The current project includes repairs to approximately 150 metres of slope above the Bow River Regional Pathway and the installation of instrumentation to monitor slope movement and help The City identify and respond to emerging stability issues. This work will improve public safety, protect the adjacent railway corridor, and support the long-term stability of the hillside.

**How will this engagement input be used?**

Between January 2024 and October 2025, The City completed a comprehensive assessment of the 1.5-kilometre Douglas Fir Trail corridor to better understand the requirements for a safe and sustainable reopening. The assessment evaluated trail conditions, erosion, drainage, slope stability, and infrastructure performance and identified opportunities to improve trail durability, environmental protection, and long-term access. The findings will help inform future rehabilitation planning for the broader Douglas Fir Trail corridor (DFT4). While construction funding for future rehabilitation work has not yet been secured, The City is actively pursuing funding opportunities to support the long-term reopening of the trail. Community feedback gathered through this engagement will help inform the development and evaluation of future trail rehabilitation options.

## 2.0 Engagement overview

Public engagement helps decision makers in understanding the perspectives of people potentially impacted by City decisions. Public input is balanced with factors like budgets, regulations, and best practices.

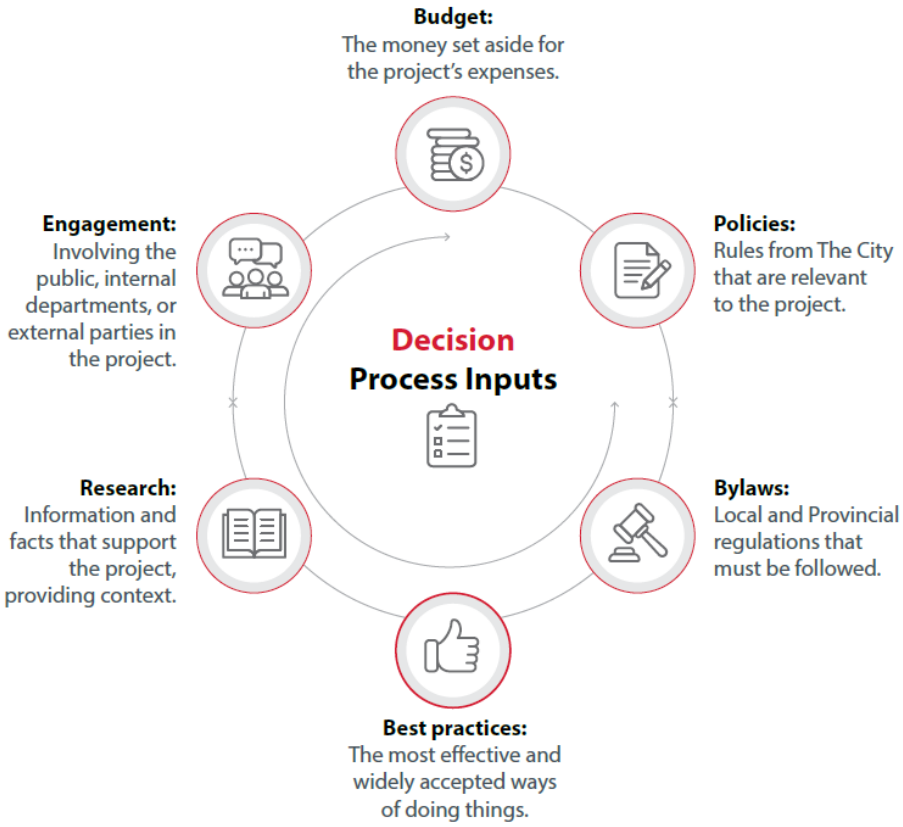



*Figure 2: Decision Process Inputs*

Engagement ran from June 15 – July 20, 2026. We engaged the community to better understand the values, priorities, and considerations that should guide the future rehabilitation of Douglas Fir Trail. Participants were invited to share what they value about the trail, their concerns, and what they believe should be prioritized as The City explores options for its long-term future.

Feedback focused on topics such as environmental protection, trail experience, safety, durability, accessibility, and connectivity. This input will help project staff, technical experts, and consultants evaluate future trail rehabilitation and/or realignment options by identifying what matters most to participants and where trade-offs may be required.

Engagement also provided an opportunity to share information about existing site conditions, project constraints, and the findings of the Douglas Fir Trail corridor assessment. Community feedback will be considered alongside technical, environmental, operational, regulatory, and financial factors as future options are developed and evaluated.

Decisions related to safety standards, slope stability requirements, regulatory compliance, and funding availability are outside the scope of engagement. Rather than determining whether these requirements should be met, engagement focused on understanding community priorities and informing design approaches that can meet both project requirements and community values.

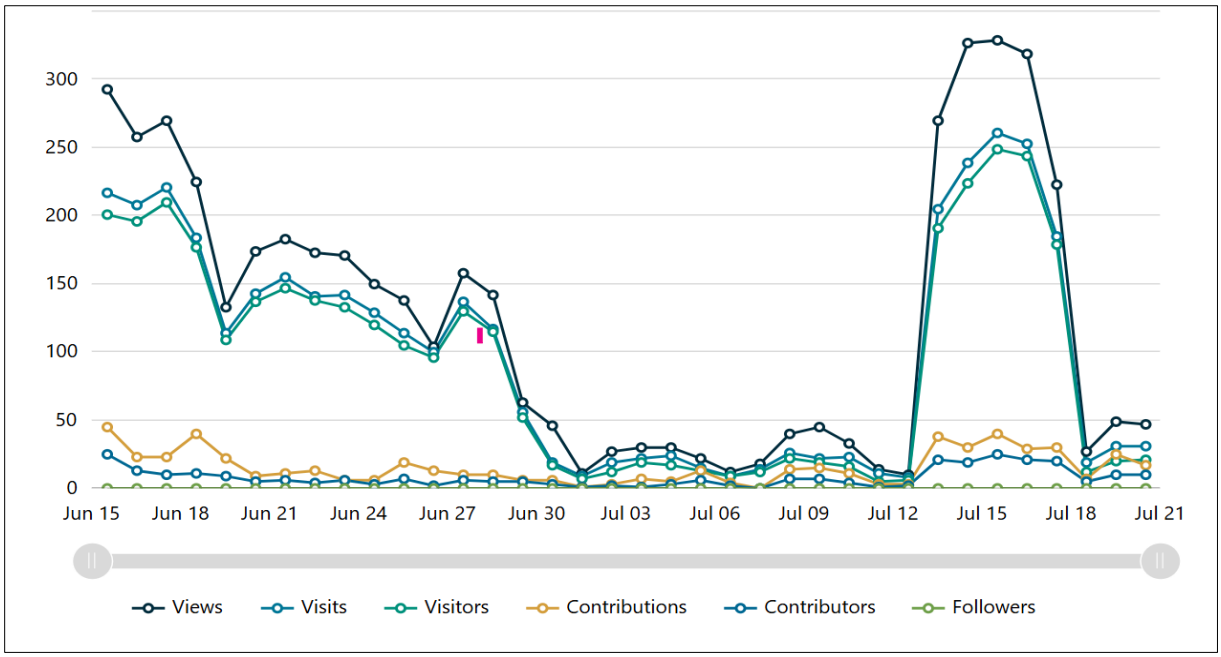



*Figure 3: Participation numbers on the portal page*

## 2.1 Tools and tactics

**2.1.1 Portal page:** As per Figure 2, the Engage portal page (www.engage.calgary.ca/DFT ) was open from June 15 to July 20, 2026. During that time, we had 4,564 views, 3,623 visits, and 3,091 visitors. We received 557 contributions from 286 contributors. More than 1300 pieces of data were analyzed for this report.

**2.1.2: Online office hours:** We offered three Wednesday online office hour sessions from noon to 1:00 p.m. on June 17, July 8, and July 15 to provide additional opportunities for engagement. No participants attended the first two sessions, and the third session was subsequently cancelled due to a lack of interest.

**2.1.3: Trail Signage:** a series of interpretive signs were posted along the Douglas Fir Trail They were multipurpose as they share an interesting fact or story about the location (knowledge sharing), encouraged people to learn more and explore (explore your way) and connected particpants to additional information through a QR code.

**2.1.4: Ward 6 Town Hall**

Monday, June 15, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m.

There were over 300 attendees. Along with comments, questions and concerns written on 'the graffiti wall', 11 feedback forms were also completed resulting in more than 75 pieces of data collected.

Members of the project team (leadership and the Innovation Lab) were also onsite providing information about the project and new signage asking the public to stay on the designated trails.

**2.1.5: Park-Pop ups**

To support outreach and engagement, we hosted three park pop-ups in two diferent locations.

- July 4, 2026, at Edworthy Park (west parking lot, near the Bow River Pathway)
- July 11, 2026, at 115-190 Wildwood Drive SW
- July 18, 2026, at Edworthy Park (west parking lot, near the Bow River Pathway)

Each event was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Collectively, the Park Pop-Ups attracted more than 100 participants, providing valuable opportunities to connect with community members, share project information, and gather feedback.



*Figure 4: The DFT project team at Ward 6 town hall*

# 3.0 What we asked

## 3.1 Portal page

### 3.1.1 Feedback Form

Participants were invited to complete an online feedback form that included a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions:

1. How far do you live from Douglas Fir Trail?
2. How often do you use Douglas Fir Trail?
3. How do you use, or have you used, Douglas Fir Trail? (Select all that apply.)
4. What do you value most about Douglas Fir Trail?
5. What concerns do you have about Douglas Fir Trail?
6. Thinking about the trail in the long term, what should be prioritized? For example, safety, accessibility, environmental protection, trail durability, or the overall visitor experience.

Open-ended questions had generous character limits to encourage detailed feedback and avoid restricting participant input. This approach supported meaningful participation while remaining manageable for review and analysis.

### 3.1.2 The BIG Question

Participants were asked:

**As we continue to make improvements to Douglas Fir Trail, what should we focus on most? What is most important for us to consider?**

This open-ended question provided participants with an opportunity to share their highest priorities for the future of the trail.

### 3.1.3 Future Thinking

Participants were asked:

**Looking ahead, 5, 10, and 20 years, what should Douglas Fir Trail prioritize most?**

This activity used the Visioner tool on the engagement portal and invited participants to share long-term ideas and aspirations for the trail.

#### 3.1.4 Mapping Exercises

Interactive social mapping activities invited participants to identify specific locations and provide comments by placing pins on a map.

**How Do You Use Douglas Fir Trail?**

Participants were asked to drop a pin on the map and describe how they use Douglas Fir Trail.

**What Are Your Concerns About Douglas Fir Trail?**

Participants were asked to identify and map concerns related to Douglas Fir Trail, including specific locations where issues occur.

For both mapping exercises, participants could place multiple pins and add comments to each location. Participants could also upvote comments submitted by others.

#### 3.1.5 Ask the Team

The **Ask the Team** tool provided an interactive question-and-answer forum where participants could ask questions about the project and receive responses from the project team. Questions were pre-moderated, and similar submissions were grouped together to improve readability and reduce duplication.

### 3.1 In person

We asked the following questions at all in-person events (Ward 6 town Hall and 3 park pop-ups)

1. What matters (most) to you about Douglas Fir Trail?
2. What do you value about Douglas Fir Trail?
3. What are your concerns with Douglas Fir Trail?

## 4.0 What we heard

Participants consistently described Douglas Fir Trail as one of Calgary's most unique and valued natural areas. Feedback emphasized the trail's importance as a rare urban forest, a place for physical activity and mental wellbeing, and a connection to nature that feels more like a mountain hiking experience than a typical city park.

Participants expressed strong support for preserving the ecological integrity and natural character of the trail while addressing known challenges related to erosion, slope stability, and aging infrastructure.

A clear message emerged across all engagement activities: participants want the Douglas Fir Trail protected, repaired, and reopened in a way that preserves what makes it special.

**Key themes and messages**

**Protect the natural environment.**
Participants consistently identified protection of the Douglas fir ecosystem, mature trees, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity as a top priority. Many emphasized that environmental stewardship should guide future decision-making and that interventions should minimize impacts on the surrounding natural area.

**Maintain the trail's natural, mountain-like character.**
The trail's rugged terrain, natural surfaces, elevation changes, and sense of adventure were frequently cited as some of its most valued characteristics. Participants generally preferred a hiking trail experience over a highly developed urban pathway and encouraged the use of natural materials and context-sensitive design solutions wherever possible**.**

**Improve durability and address problem areas.**
Participants recognized that erosion, drainage, slope movement, and aging infrastructure are ongoing challenges. There was broad support for targeted investments that improve long-term trail durability, address safety concerns, and reduce future closures while maintaining the overall trail experience.

**Restore continuous access and connectivity.**
Many participants expressed frustration with long-term closures and emphasized the importance of reopening the trail and maintaining connections between communities, Edworthy Park, and the regional pathway network. Continuous access through the corridor was viewed as an important part of the overall experience.

**Balance safety, access, and environmental protection.**
Participants generally supported improvements to address safety concerns, particularly in areas affected by erosion, unstable slopes, drainage issues, and deteriorating infrastructure. Many noted, however, that the trail should retain its identity as a natural hiking experience and that some level of challenge and risk is expected on this type of trail. Perspectives on accessibility varied, with participants encouraging a balanced approach that considers different user needs while respecting environmental constraints and the trail's character.

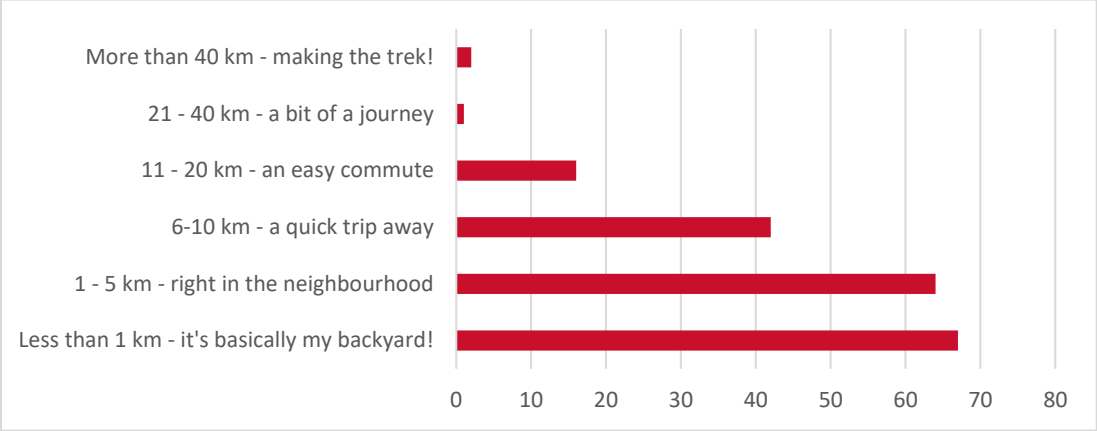
**Support stewardship, education, and responsible use.**
Participants expressed interest in improved education, wayfinding, and stewardship initiatives, including ecological interpretation, Indigenous history and culture, and measures to reduce off-trail use, trail braiding, litter, and other impacts on the natural environment.

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the Summary of Input section.
- For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the Verbatim Responses section.

## 5.0 Summary of Input

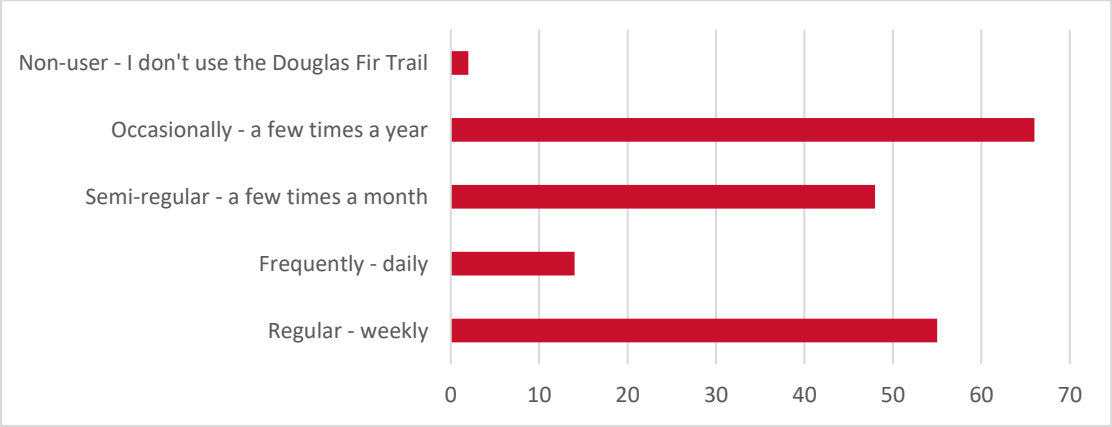
### Question 1 How far do you live from Douglas Fir Trail?

As shown in the chart below, most respondents live less than 1 km from the area (67 respondents), followed closely by those living 1 to 5 km away (64 respondents). A notable number of participants live 6 to 10 km away (42 respondents), while fewer live 11 to 20 km away (16 respondents). The smallest groups of participants live 21 to 40 km away (1 respondent) and more than 40 km away (2 respondents).




### Question 2 How often do you use Douglas Fir Trail?

As shown in the chart below, the largest group of respondents reported using the Douglas Fir Trail occasionally, a few times per year (66 respondents). This was followed by those who use the trail regularly on a weekly basis (55 respondents) and semi-regularly, a few times per month (48 respondents). Fewer respondents reported using the trail daily (14 respondents), while only 2 respondents indicated that they do not use the Douglas Fir Trail.



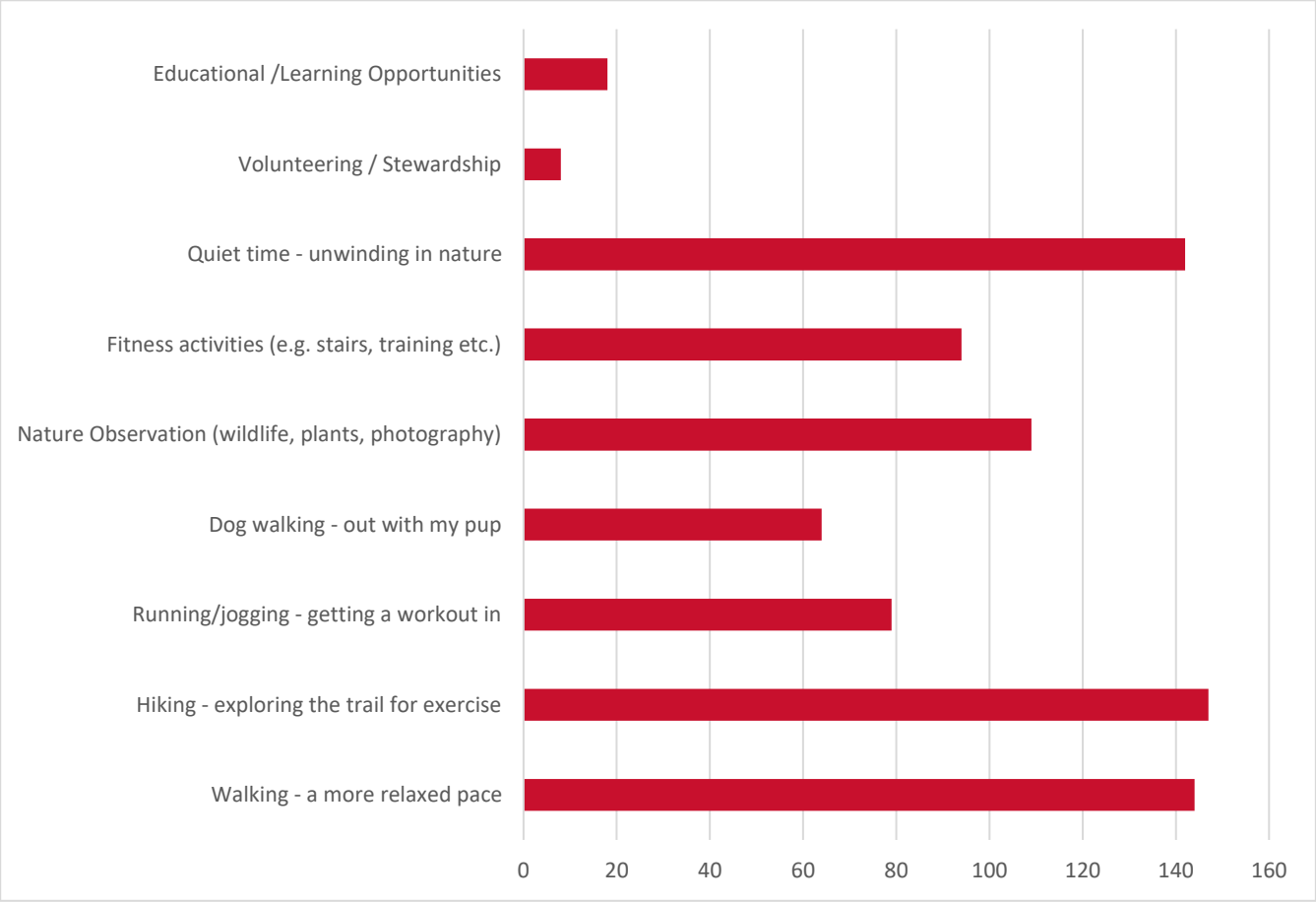
## Question 3 How do you use, or have you used Douglas Fir Trail? Select all that apply.

As shown in the chart below, respondents reported using the Douglas Fir Trail for a variety of recreational, fitness, and nature-based activities.

Hiking for exercise was the most common use of the trail (147 respondents), closely followed by walking at a more relaxed pace (144 respondents) and spending quiet time unwinding in nature (142 respondents).

Nature observation, including wildlife viewing, plant appreciation, and photography, were also popular activities (109 respondents), along with fitness-related activities such as stair training and exercise (94 respondents).

Running or jogging was reported by 79 respondents, while 64 respondents indicated that they use the trail for dog walking. Volunteering and stewardship (8 respondents) and educational or learning opportunities (18 respondents) were the least common uses of the trail.



## Question 4 What do you value?

Participants overwhelmingly valued the Douglas Fir Trail as a rare natural environment within Calgary that provides a mountain-like experience close to home.

Respondents frequently described the trail as a peaceful escape from urban life, supporting mental wellbeing, recreation, and connection with nature.

Many emphasized the importance of preserving the trail's rugged, natural character while maintaining access for the community and future generations.

**Theme: Nature Escape / Feeling Outside the City**

- Feels like being in the mountains, foothills, Kananaskis, or wilderness without leaving Calgary.
- Sense of escape from urban life, noise, and stress.
- Opportunity to disconnect and recharge.

**Verbatim:**

- "It feels like you're in Kananaskis, but you're in the middle of Calgary."
- "A wilderness escape in the city."
- "Feels like you are outside of the city without actually having to leave the city."

**Theme: Natural Environment & Douglas Fir Forest**

- Appreciation for the mature Douglas fir trees, forest setting, and overall ecology.
- Recognition of the rarity and uniqueness of the ecosystem.
- Importance of preserving its natural character.

**Verbatim:**

- "I love the Douglas Fir trees."
- "The natural environment is the most important and what makes it unique."
- "The easternmost stand of Douglas fir trees in Canada."

**Theme: Peace, Quiet & Solitude**

- Valued as a calm, restorative, and uncrowded place.
- Mental health benefits, reflection, relaxation, and "forest bathing."

**Verbatim:**

- "Quiet place to wander."
- "Peace and quiet."
- "A tranquil place to unwind and enjoy nature."

**Theme: Access to Nature Close to Home**

- Easy access from nearby communities and the inner city.
- Ability to experience nature without travelling long distances.

**Verbatim:**

- "Nature close to home."
- "Just a short ride from downtown."
- "A hiking trail right in my backyard."

**Theme: Recreation, Fitness & Exercise**

- Walking, hiking, running, trail running, stair workouts, and general physical activity.
- Users value the challenge provided by elevation changes and rugged terrain.

**Verbatim:**

- "A great workout."
- "Perfect place to run."
- "Exercise your body while enjoying nature."

**Theme: Natural/Rugged Trail Character**

- Desire to retain the trail's rustic, narrow, natural, and less-developed feel.
- Appreciation for single-track trails, uneven ground, roots, hills, and stairs.

**Verbatim:**

- "Keep its natural feeling."
- "Not overly curated."
- "A real hiking trail in the city."

**Theme: Unique Calgary Destination**

- Viewed as a rare and special asset not found elsewhere in Calgary.
- Often described as a "gem."

**Verbatim:**

- "A unique landmark in Calgary."
- "There is really nothing like it in the city."
- "A gem in the inner city."

**Theme: Wildlife, Biodiversity & Ecology**

- Appreciation for birds, wildlife, native plants, biodiversity, and ecological value.

**Verbatim:**

- "Wildlife including birds."
- "Flora and fauna."
- "An important wildlife corridor."

**Theme: Community, Family & Personal Connections**

- Family memories, childhood experiences, community identity, and sharing the trail with visitors.

**Verbatim:**

- "Many hours spent outdoors with my family."
- "I've enjoyed this trail my entire life."
- "It's why we moved here."

**Theme: Connectivity & Access Routes**

- Importance as a link between communities, Edworthy Park, the river valley, and pathway system.

**Verbatim:**

- "Important walking link."
- "Access to Edworthy and the pathway system."
- "Connects to other trails for longer runs and walks.".

## Question 5: What are your concerns?

Participants' primary concerns focused on the prolonged closure of the Douglas Fir Trail, ongoing erosion and slope stability issues, and the need for regular maintenance to support safe access.

At the same time, respondents strongly emphasized preserving the trail's natural, rugged character and expressed concern that extensive accessibility upgrades, paving, or urban-style development could undermine the unique hiking experience that distinguishes the trail from other city pathways.

Concerns regarding encampments, litter, fire risk, and communication about closures were also commonly raised. Overall, participants supported targeted safety and stabilization measures while maintaining the trail's wilderness-like qualities.

**Theme: Long-Term Closure and Loss of Access**

- Frustration with prolonged closures and uncertainty about reopening timelines.
- Concern that closures are encouraging trail degradation, alternate routes, encampments, and declining public use.
- Fear that portions of the trail could be permanently closed.

**Verbatim:**

- "My primary concern is the extensive closures."
- "Closure of the trail & worry if we'll ever be able to use it again."
- "The biggest issue is that the trail is closed."

**Theme: Overdevelopment and Loss of Natural Character**

- Strong concern that upgrades will urbanize the trail.
- Opposition to paving, widening, excessive railings, gravel surfacing, or making the trail resemble a conventional park pathway.
- Fear of losing the rugged hiking experience that people value.

**Verbatim:**

- "That it becomes a paved pathway and becomes very busy."
- "Please don't pave or widen it."
- "My concerns are that a new trail will be over-engineered."

**Theme: Erosion, Slope Stability, and Drainage**

- Recognition that erosion, landslides, unstable slopes, groundwater seepage, and drainage issues are real concerns.
- Desire for targeted interventions to address problem areas while preserving the trail experience.

**Verbatim:**

- "Concerns are erosion and slope stability."
- "Water. Landslide."
- "The natural springs along the slope are extremely problematic."

**Theme: Trail Maintenance and Infrastructure Condition**

- Concerns about deteriorating stairs, bridges, railings, and trail surfaces.
- Frustration that maintenance has not kept pace with need.
- Desire for ongoing, proactive maintenance rather than prolonged closures.

**Verbatim:**

- "Lack of trail maintenance."
- "The trail needs to be kept in a maintained condition."
- "Maintenance of the trail has been very poor."

**Theme: Safety Concerns**

- Concerns about steep slopes, unstable footing, slippery conditions, ice buildup, washed-out infrastructure, and winter conditions.
- Many respondents distinguished between needing reasonable safety improvements and over-managing the trail.

**Verbatim:**

- "Safety is paramount."
- "Narrow eroded sections and water pooling."
- "Safety and poor maintenance have made the trail a hazard."

**Theme: Encampments, Fire Risk, and Personal Security**

- Concerns about encampments, litter, fire risk, drug paraphernalia, and feeling less safe using the trail, especially alone.
- Many respondents linked the increase in encampments to long-term closures and reduced public presence.

**Verbatim:**

- "Homeless encampments."
- "The drug use is dangerous."
- "I'm nervous now to go alone."

**Theme: Accessibility Improvements Affecting the Trail Experience**

- Concern that accessibility objectives could fundamentally alter the trail's character.
- Many respondents felt the DFT should remain a hiking trail rather than be redesigned to accommodate all user types.

**Verbatim:**

- "Adding accessibility at the cost of conservation."
- "The City is overly focused on accessibility and safety."
- "This is rugged mountain terrain."

**Theme: Environmental Protection and Ecological Impacts**

- Desire to protect Douglas fir trees, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and the ecological integrity of the area.
- Concerns about invasive species, trail braiding, off-trail use, vandalism, and environmental damage.

**Verbatim:**

- "Need to protect the trees."
- "An important wildlife corridor."
- "Trail braiding is creating a feedback loop."

**Theme: Signage, Wayfinding, and Communication**

- Requests for better maps, trail information, educational signage, and clearer communication from The City regarding closures and work underway.

**Verbatim:**

- "Proper navigation of trails."
- "Some signage would help."
- "The City has done a very poor job explaining what's going on."

**Theme: Increased Use, Crowding, and User Conflicts**

- Concern that modernization or accessibility improvements could increase visitation and reduce solitude.
- Concerns about bikes on hiking trails, crowding, and loss of the quiet experience.

**Verbatim:**

- "Making it more accessible will make it busier."
- "I don't want bikes on it."
- "Keep it a hiking trail."

## Queston 6: What are your top priorities?

When considering the long-term future of Douglas Fir Trail, participants most frequently prioritized protection of the natural environment, including the unique Douglas Fir ecosystem, mature trees, wildlife habitat, and overall ecological integrity.

Respondents also emphasized preserving the trail's rugged, mountain-like character and expressed concern that extensive development or accessibility-focused upgrades could diminish the experience that makes the trail distinctive.

Participants generally supported investments in trail durability, erosion control, drainage, and slope stabilization to reduce future closures while maintaining access and connectivity. Safety improvements were supported when targeted to specific hazard areas and implemented in ways that preserve the trail's natural character and hiking experience.

**Theme: Protect the Natural Environment**

Participants consistently identified protection of the Douglas fir ecosystem, forest character, wildlife habitat, and ecological integrity as the highest priority.

- Protect mature Douglas fir trees and rare ecosystem features.
- Minimize impacts on wildlife and habitat.
- Preserve the forested character and natural setting.
- Manage erosion and human impacts without compromising ecological values.

**Verbatim:**

- "Protecting the natural environment must be the main priority."
- "This is a unique environment in Calgary."
- "Protecting the natural environment is more important than any inconvenience."

**Theme: Maintain a Natural, Rugged Trail Experience**

Many respondents emphasized preserving the trail as a hiking trail rather than transforming it into a highly developed urban pathway.

- Keep the dirt trail, wooden stairs, and natural materials.
- Avoid paving, widening, or over-engineering.
- Retain the mountain-like hiking experience.
- Preserve the sense of adventure and challenge.

**Verbatim:**

- "Keep it natural. Forests don't come with handrails."
- "This should not become an overly curated space."
- "Protect this backcountry-style hiking experience."

**Theme: Trail Durability and Long-Term Sustainability**

Many participants supported investments that would make the trail more resilient while maintaining its character.

- Build infrastructure that withstands erosion, water, and ice.
- Reduce future closures.
- Invest in long-term solutions rather than temporary fixes.

**Verbatim:**

- "Trail durability is a must."
- "Design for long-term use."
- "Available for future generations to enjoy."

**Theme: Erosion, Drainage, and Slope Stability**

Respondents recognized that water, ice, groundwater seepage, and slope movement are the underlying challenges that need to be addressed.

- Improve drainage and water management.
- Stabilize erosion-prone sections.
- Focus interventions on problem areas.
- Work with natural processes where possible.

**Verbatim:**

- "Water and erosion management."
- "Stabilizing the slope."
- "Control natural water flow."

**Theme: Keep the Trail Open and Accessible for Future Use**

Many respondents prioritized restoring and maintaining continuous trail access rather than prolonged closures.

- Reopen closed sections.
- Maintain route continuity.
- Reduce future closures.
- Preserve community access.

**Verbatim:**

- "What matters most is that the trail stays open."
- "Reopening the trail is top priority."
- "Make closures rare, if ever."

**Theme:  Balance Safety with Natural Character**

Participants generally supported reasonable safety improvements but not at the expense of the trail experience.

- Address genuine hazards.
- Use minimal intervention where possible.

- Accept that hiking trails involve some risk.
- Focus on targeted safety improvements.

**Verbatim:**

- "Safe but still rustic."
- "Basic safety, not perfection."
- "Hiking always involves some measure of risk."

**Theme: Preserve the Overall Trail Experience**

Many responses focused on maintaining what makes the trail special rather than simply fixing infrastructure.

- Maintain peace, quiet, and immersion in nature.
- Preserve scenic views and forest canopy.
- Retain the feeling of escape from the city.

**Verbatim:**

- "Overall experience."
- "Maintaining that feeling of escape, peace, and nature."
- "The feel of being removed from the city."

**Theme: Minimize Accessibility-Driven Changes**

Some felt accessibility should not drive major design decisions because of the trail's terrain and purpose.

- Recognize the trail as a hiking experience.
- Avoid major modifications to accommodate all user groups.
- Maintain a diversity of trail types across the city.

**Verbatim:**

- "Not everything has to be accessible to everyone."
- "Accessibility should be a lower priority."
- "This is a hiking trail."

**Theme: Ongoing Maintenance and Stewardship**

Respondents emphasized regular maintenance and community stewardship.

- Routine maintenance rather than major reconstruction.
- Monitoring trail conditions and environmental health.

**Verbatim:**

- "Regular upkeep."
- "Active partnership between City, users and communities."

**Theme: Education, Signage, and User Management**

Participants identified opportunities to improve stewardship through education and wayfinding.

- Interpretive signage.
- Encouraging users to stay on designated trails.
- Education about ecology, history, and conservation.

**Verbatim:**

- "Nature interpretation."
- "Educational signage."
- "Help people stay on designated trails."




*Figure 5: Park Pop-up July 11, 2026*

## Visioner Activity

83 bits of information.

Looking ahead (5, 10, 20 years), what should Douglas Fir Trail prioritize most?

Participants consistently expressed a desire to "leave the trail alone" and preserve its natural character. However, comments generally supported targeted interventions needed to address erosion, slope stability, safety, and access issues. Feedback suggests support for a light-touch stewardship approach that protects the wilderness experience while ensuring the trail remains accessible for future generations.




*Figure 6: Snipping of online activity*

## Mapping Exercise - How do you use Douglas Fir Trail?

### Recreation, Wellness, and Nature

Participants primarily use Douglas Fir Trail for walking, hiking, running, cycling, dog walking, and enjoying nature. Many described the trail as an important place for exercise, relaxation, and connecting with a wilderness-like environment within the city.

### Access and Connectivity

Participants highlighted the importance of neighbourhood access points and trail connections. Some expressed concerns about closures and supported improved connectivity throughout the network.

### Natural Character

Many participants value the trail's natural, unpaved setting and support protecting its forested character while carefully considering any future upgrades.

### Maintenance and Amenities

Participants identified opportunities to improve trail conditions, signage, wayfinding, seating, and other visitor amenities.

### Safety and Trail Etiquette

Common concerns included steep terrain, trail conditions, navigation challenges, and conflicts between trail users. Participants emphasized the importance of clear signage and responsible trail use.

### Views, Wildlife, and Natural Features

Scenic views, wildlife, the mature forest, and the river valley setting were frequently identified as valued features that should be protected.

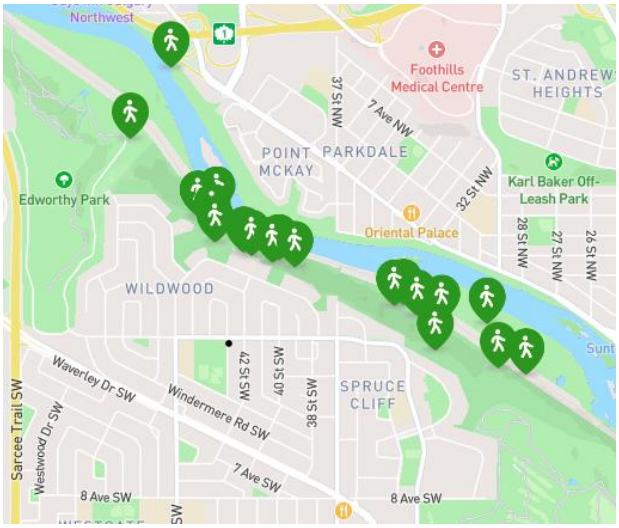



*Figure 7: Walking and running*

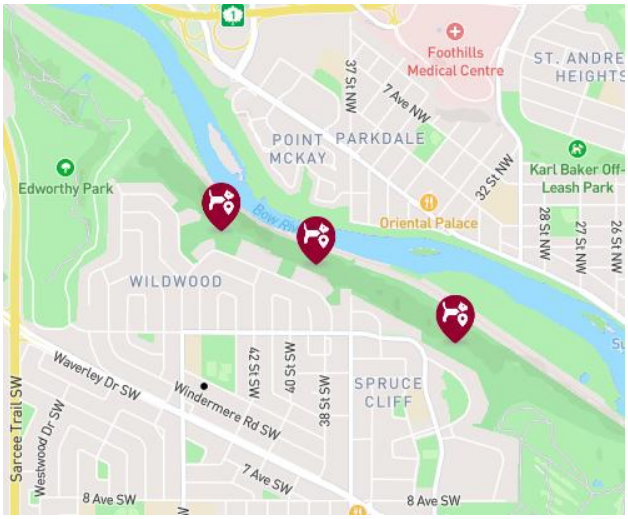



*Figure 8: Walking the dog (on leash)*

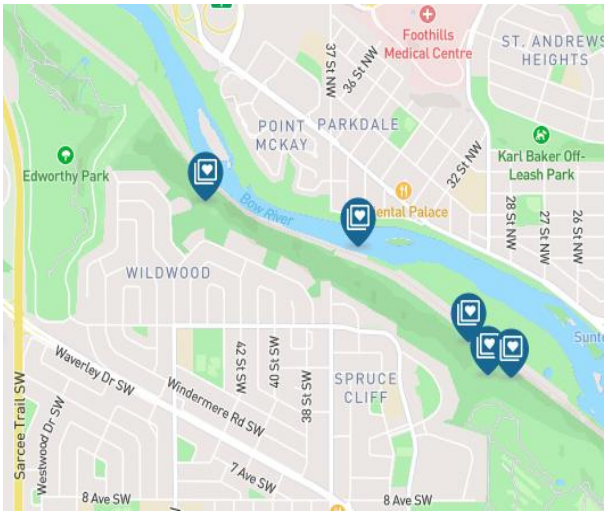



*Figure 8: Health and wellness*

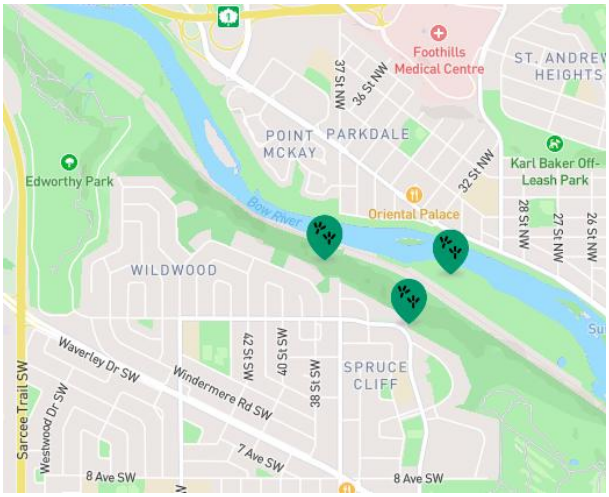



*Figure 9: Bird watching*

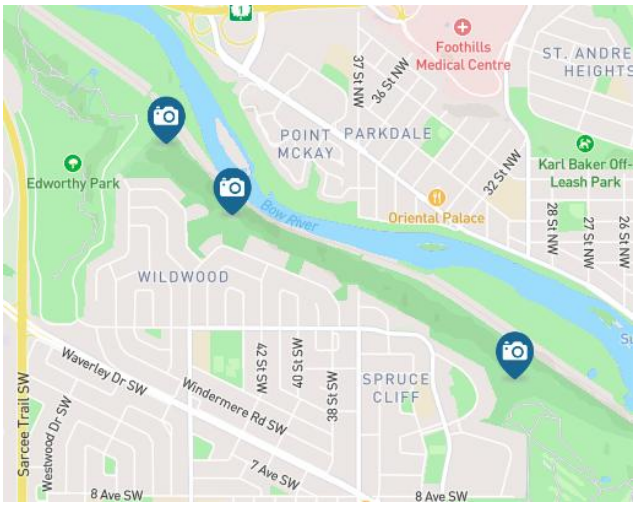



*Figure 10: Photography*

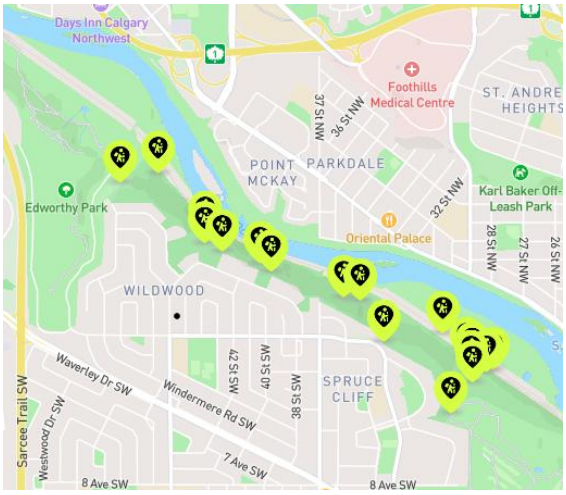



*Figure 11: Hiking*

## Mapping Exercise: What are your concerns with Douglas Fir Trail?

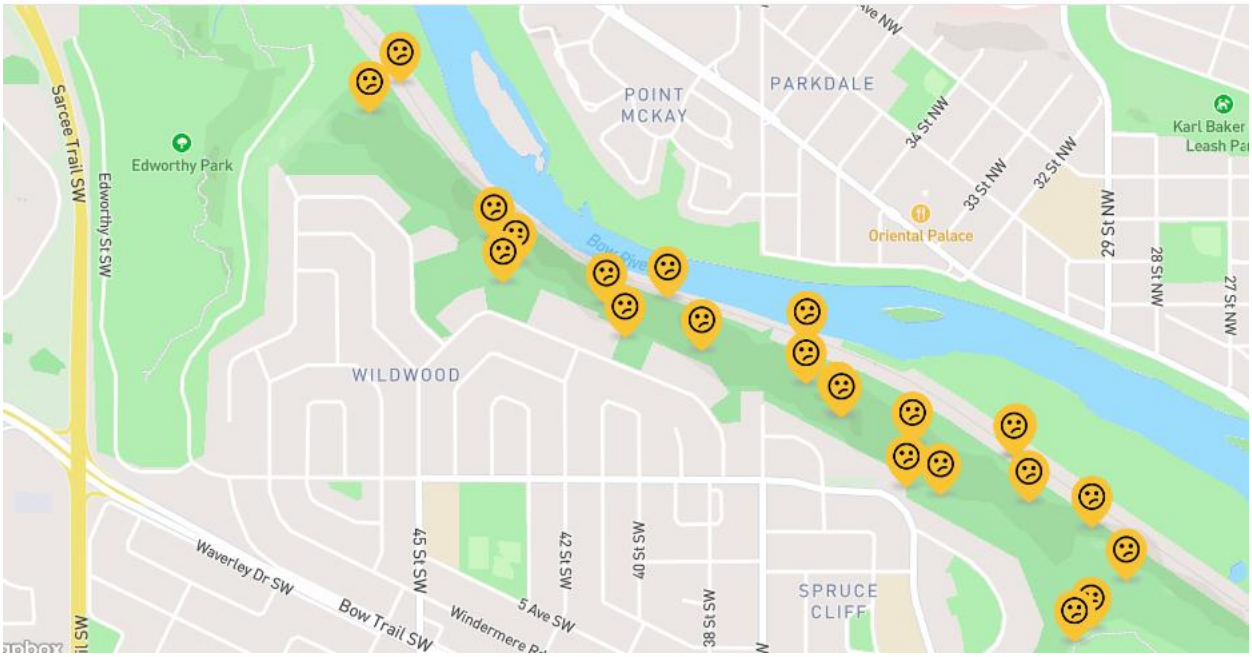



*Figure 13: Concerns*

### Safety, Trail Conditions, and Access

Participants identified concerns about icy conditions, erosion, steep slopes, seasonal closures, and areas where trail users come close to the railway corridor. Common suggestions included improved maintenance, safer crossings, and upgrades to problem areas.

### Encampments and Trail Experience

Encampments were a recurring concern, with participants citing impacts on perceived safety, litter, fire risk, and natural areas. Some suggested that increased trail activity could help improve the overall trail experience.

### Trail Management and Signage

Participants requested improved wayfinding, clearer trailhead signage, better communication of dog leash requirements, and warnings at challenging trail sections. Concerns were also raised about off-trail use and informal trails contributing to erosion.

### Infrastructure and Connectivity

Participants identified opportunities to improve trail connections, amenities, and aging infrastructure. The Quarry Road Trail was frequently mentioned as an important pathway and cycling route.

### Environmental Concerns

Erosion, slope stability, and the long-term health of the Douglas fir forest were common concerns. Participants emphasized the importance of protecting the ecosystem and supporting forest regeneration.

### Railway Safety

Many participants raised concerns about trail proximity to the railway corridor. Suggestions included improving safety measures, exploring formal crossings, and addressing slope stability issues near railway infrastructure.

## 6.0 Next steps

**Who will see the input and what will they do with it?**
All feedback received will be reviewed by the project team and decision-makers responsible for the initiative. The input will be analyzed alongside technical, operational, and strategic considerations and will be used to inform recommendations, refinements, and future decisions.

**Will more input be solicited?**
Additional engagement opportunities will be provided as the project progresses, and more detailed information becomes available.

**Was a decision made?**
No final decision has been made at this stage. Feedback is being gathered and considered as part of the decision-making process. It will also help to inform the next phase of engagement in Fall 2026.

**When will you communicate with the public next?**

Participants and the public will receive an update following review of the engagement findings and prior to the next phase of engagement, anticipated in Fall 2026.

Communication is anticipated within the next project milestone or reporting period. You can also get the latest updates by subscribing to our newsletter through this link: https://www.calgary.ca/planning/parks-rec/douglas-fir-trail-project.html



*Figure 12: Unexpected visitor. Park Pop-up July 11, 2026*

## 7.0 Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented here include all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online and in-person through the engagement described in this report. All input has been reviewed and provided to Project Teams to be considered in decision making for the project.

Any personal identifying information has been removed from the verbatim comments presented here. Comments or portions of comments that contain profanity, or that are not in compliance with the City's Respectful Workplace Policy or Online Tool Moderation Practice, have also been removed from participant submissions.

Wherever possible the remainder of the submissions remains. No other edits to the feedback have been made, and the verbatim comments are as received. As a result, some of the content in this verbatim record may still be considered offensive or distasteful to some readers.

### Online

**Question 4: What do you value most about Douglas Fir Trail**

I love the Douglas Fir trees. They are beautiful and so uncommon in Calgary. They make me feel peaceful amongst the size and shade of them.

Quiet place to wander

The ability t get away from the City noise and issues right in my backyard is great. The trails are also older and very well grown which makes the environment nice to be in.

It’s very unique place in Calgary and incredibly important to the communities of Wildwood, Spruce Cliff and West Gate! It’s the only easily accessible trail for the area and the part that doesn’t require going down the stairs is vital for many community members who cannot manage the stairs.

Natural setting and peace and quiet.

"It feels like your in kananaskis, but you're in the middle of Calgary. It would be great if there were less homeless."

Taste of nature that is close to home. Quiet despite being in the city. Perfect distance for a short trail run (from entrance then out and back). Rugged and not overly curated.

"To keep its 'natural' feeling. A simple trail, not too sanitized, so that it remains a pleasure to run the trail in the woods.To re-open it soon, it does not need to be perfect."

The natural environment is the most important and what makes it unique from other areas in the city. It feels like you are truly in nature and not in a park in the city.

The quiet trail. It's not developed to be full of traffic and it should stay that way. It's doesn't need to be one a two lane highway to accommodate more people. It needs to be safe but not developed.

Nature and peace close to home.

It has been the backdrop for many hours spent outdoors with my family.

Hiking, nature trail in the city. Beautiful views. Unique and special to Calgary

It is similar to going for a walk in the mountains, but is only a 3 minute walk from our home. The smells, sounds and beauty of this most eastern stand of Douglas fir trees east of the Rockies is unique and can only be appreciated by being able to pass through it. Walking on the bike path adjacent to the tracks is not the same. Without a designated path folks will simply "make their own" and that is much more destructive/damaging once braided and criss-crossed.

I love the natural, forested setting and the feeling that you're embraced by the trees. Calgary is a prairie city for the most part, but this trail makes you feel as though you're in a whole other kind of landscape -- both are beautiful, but this is much rarer.

Nature immersion, wildlife, a part of intact natural history — it's like a different place there, very unique within Calgary. I love it.

Natural area with pleasant views.

Having a nature trail right in the city.

It is a natural area in the city. The city is losing its natural areas to accessibility and development, the Douglas Fir Trail should be kept as wild as possible.

I love using these trails as it feels like I am out in Kananaskis yet it's 1 minute away! It's a great place to run and use the stairs while enjoying nature. Great access to Edworthy and the pathways system by the river.

The convenient neighbourhood access, natural setting, well maintained trail and opportunity for an escape that feels like the mountains within walking distance.

What I value most is that it's a beautiful park in the middle of the city, where you can exercise your body by hiking while enjoying nature.

Unimproved sections of single track. Feeling like I'm out of the city and in the mountains.

Nature. Please don't damage it with silly signs and other BS.

The challenges of the the trail with its uneven ground, up and down slopes, etc that are in a unique shaded natural setting for calgary. The wildlife including birds.

"It is a trip to the mountains without the 1-2hr drive to the mountains. It is my favourite place to go to get a good work out in, in a quiet and beautiful space, and one of few places in Calgary to have a forest bath. This trail was a life saver during Covid."

Beautiful natural setting, feeling like you've left the city and are immersed in nature, chance for good exercise with the way the trail is laid out over the hillside

Accessible dense nature

"It is very convenient to where I live, but it makes you feel that you are not in a big city. It offers fitness opportunities, beautiful natural surroundings, peace and quiet, and a place for rest and relax. It also connects to others trails for longer runs, hikes or,walk. The trees are amazing!"

Prior to closure of potions of the trail it was a wonderful place to walk or run. The length and elevation variability provided an excellent workout and the trees made the trail feel like it you were out of the city. It was truly unique in that regard.

the trees and nature so close by. the relative undeveloped nature of the pathways, truly more trails like in the mountains right in the city.

"Quiet peaceful thinking time Fitness steep incline to increase heart rate"

The trail is an escape from the city; and approaches the experience of a mountain hiking trail. The western portion of the trail allows you to seem removed from the city and immersed in nature on a dirt trail. A definite added bonus for the trail is the exercise work out on the stairs and hills. A truly unique trail opportunity in Calgary.

I would first note the first question on how frequently it's used is impossible to answer as the trail has been mostly closed for years now. That's said, I love the ruggedness of the trail. I like the steep stairs and the cool darkness and the fact that it is not like any other trail in the city. The sense trees are so nice on a hot day and it's such a special place to explore with kids.

I value that it is a place to find a bit of nature inside the city. It feels like a quick escape to the wilderness. It also provides an uncrowded, beautiful natural place to exercise or just enjoy.

The sanctuary this space provides to the city - the river valley preserved natural space. The green space here for a community ( Spruce Cliff) that is very short of groomed park space for our existing and growing population.

It's another perspective of the river

A natural trail to enjoy and get some fresh air and exercise in nature

i love the memories of growing up in the area and skipping high school at Ernest Manning to hang out in the area and climb up and down this and related trails between Edworthy Park and the pedestrian bridge under Crowchild Trail.

Wilderness right in the city limits!

Good nature escape within the city. Also a great place to train kids for hiking.

"It is close to the wildwood community, it's why we moved here. I could run from downtown and feel like I was in the mountains and then run back to work all in less than an hour!"

It is a unique landmark in Calgary, the only urban hiking trail close to downtown that I am aware of. When open it offers an excellent venue to be in nature and improve physical fitness.

"This trail is a gem in an urban sprawl.  It enables quiet;  space;  nature;  activity (walking, running) opportunities. Having worked my entire career in healthcare, it is important that humans have access to spaces like the DFT, for quiet, 'forest bathing', healthy activity.  Health isn't only hospitals, it is healthy spaces.  This space is a big 'determinant of health' for those who use it.  The City shouldn't overlook the green spaces in the core."

A rare hiking opportunity within a rare environment within the city.

Having used the Douglas Fir Trail for many decades, I appreciate its natural character.

It’s a gem in the inner city area, that needs to be preserved not only for us but for our future generations too. It’s a beautiful natural area by the river, with beautiful natural as well as cityscape views… I love to showcase this to my family and friends visiting from other provinces, USA and from around the world. Not to mention some friends that have lived in Calgary for years and have not done this trail.

I most value that this is a hiking trail that is not kept in pristine walking condition. Accessibility takes many forms and in this case it means a rugged hiking experience without the cost (both time and money) of leaving the city. I have seen children walk this trial with their school class and it is clear that they have had few other experiences walking on uneven ground in a forest. This is valuable to their physical literacy development as well as their lived experience.

Being surrounded by nature in the middle of the city is so important. It makes living in the city bearable. The elevation change, the bike path at the bottom the access to the bluff has all been key. Taking my dogs on it is a joy.

Unique to have what feels like a ‘walk in the woods’ right in the city. That is very valuable as the city grows, and opportunities for connections to nature become more difficult.

Connection with nature, peace, natural features including single-track.

I think that the Edworthy park area is precious. If like to v we all the trails within it get more protection and upgrading. Douglas Fir is nice as is the Christmas Tree one. It's like to see more signage for educational purposes. Self guided yours as well.

The natural setting, peace and quiet.

The character, the rustic wildness and the peace it brings.

It is beautiful, accessible, and less busy than the north side of the river

The forest walking, peace, and ability to connect to the pathway system

The unique natural beauty and front country trail style

It’s a cool place to exercise on very hot days.

It is a beautiful forest in the city. When you are on the Douglas fir trail, it does not feel like you are in the city. As a young athlete I used to run it all the way from start in Edworty Park to Crowchild trail and back. Now I just go to enjoy a walk in the forest (wish I still could run it, lol).

The solitude in the middle of a city with ~ 2 million citizens.

Natural feel. Stairs and trails are fun to run on. Have done workouts there in the past, and an in-city hiking option is great!

I love the trail and have been using it for almost 50 years because it is a little piece of the foothills right in the city.

The trail is in a unique habitat that is very valuable ecologically and culturally. It has special qualities that draw people to it. There are so many opportunities for enjoyment of the trail, including quiet contemplation in the middle of the city, where there are few such opportunities. It's very special.

It reminds me of hiking in the woods out on Vancouver Island, largely made up of fir forests.

Love the historic significance of the area. Walking through that special place of trees that have been there for so long and survived and send us healing and inspiring messages as we walk can’t be duplicated in many places in our world.

The natural state of the ecosystem - the old trees and wildlife that live there, right next to the city! It's so nice having the raw green space to walk or run through, in peace and quiet, along a natural trail. It feels like you're in the mountains while being in the city :) I live nearby and specifically bought my place so I could access the trail more easily. I love the Douglas Fir Trail!

I love that I have a hiking trail right in my backyard!  I can walk to the trailhead from my house in about 10 minutes.  It's a great way to unwind and get some exercise.  I feel like I'm not even in the city!

Trail condition, ability to be in nature in the city.

Quiet, natural setting, challenging climb. A bit rough.

Unique trail that mimics mountain terrain yet in the middle of the city.

The DFT is in the easternmost stand of douglas fir trees in Canada. This unique park and ecosystem gives users and visitors an in-city experience equivalent to a hike in the foothills or mountains. For most of the trail, a user wouldn't even sense that they were in an urban environment if they didn't know it. It provides Wildwood with one of its few rec amenities, and is an important walking link to and from Edworthy park and the river pathway system, because the road is not pedestrian friendly.

It’s a unique trail in the city that is more like a hike than a regular city walk.

Quick access to nature and some quiet.

The natural setting near inner city. It’s a great escape and can make for a great long walk with its connection to Edworthy, Bow River Pathway and the Quarry Trail. I would also use it for part of my bike commute if it were more accessible.

The Douglas Fir trail has been a place of quiet escape for me for years. It has the feeling of being on a mountain trail, but in the city. I love being able to get have a space that is quiet and beautiful. I have walked and run the trail alone and with friends. I have always felt safe on the trail.

Its one of, if not the oldest stand of trees in the city. Its also the most impressive stand of trees in the city. I appreciate the trees more then anything else.

The trail is a place to enjoy nature in the heart of the city.  There are parts of it where you can  completely forget you're in a city.

Beautiful nature. So close to home. Easy access.

In regards to the douglas fir trail I value most the  untouched nature. It is such a lovely place to go for a hike, escape from the city and nature spot. We love going through the trails seeing the flora and fauna and the regular bird watching. We have even had friends come visit us from Grand Prairie specifically to experience the douglas firs since they are so sporadic in Alberta.

The feeling of being out of the city, immersed in the trees. Love the stairs.

Disconnecting from city life

the opportunity to be in nature close to home - it's a beautiful area and trail area

Left in a near natural state, Edworthy does not dictate to the user how to be there.

Proximity to urban nature, ability to get to river from my neighbourhood

It's part of the larger cycling and pathway infrastructure. Without it, it makes getting around less pleasant.

I appreciate having an accessible place to be in nature within the city. I've used it for exercise, nature walks with my kids, and for adventures with groups of kids or visitors. It's also very useful as a safe way to access Edworthy Park without a vehicle, especially for older kids, teenagers, and other people who can walk but don't drive. I would not want my kids or their friends walking or biking on the Edworthy Road, but their friends could take the bus to Wildwood and walk to the park.

It is a beautiful trail, easy to access and enjoy a nature "hike" right in Calgary.  Accessible and usable by many fitness levels.

Resemblance to hiking in the mountains without leaving the city, natural state, not too developed/manicured, ability to do loops vs out and back, decent elevation gain, not overly busy if doing east side where it’s more natural/challenging (my favourite).

I love the trail the way it is. It is traditionally built by hand much like the back country trails of the Rocky Mountains: slightly groomed trail, wood stairs, steep ascents/descents, rope & wood railing, adventurous, somewhat challenging, no concrete/steel/pavement. This is the only trail in the City where I truly feel like I am in the mountains. Other trails in the city provide a great nature experience but the Douglas Fir Trail provides an experience like you are in the mountains.

"The smell is wonderful. It is healing. In the summer it is a cool place to walk.

The variety of elevation is nice. It is peaceful."

Most important is the natural setting, the ability to feel like you are hiking in wilderness right in the middle of the city.  also the diverse range of paths, not just one main trail, but lots of feeder trails to explore.

Time in the forest

Feel some personal corp the trail ; wheeled wheelbarrows of gravel onto the trail as a volunteer during first development!

Ease of access from within the city, feels like you're in nature despite being inner city.

I love the sense of escape there. It feels more like Kananaskis than Calgary, and the rougher trail condition, thick tree cover, and valley slope really make it feel like a unique place in the city, perfect for a little escape in the city.

I love the Douglas Fir Trail and have used it daily for years. Please do not change anything - keep it very natural and fully accessible so it forms a loop with the river trail. Please do not make changes to make it easily accessible for all people - this would ruin the ruggedness that makes it so unique and beautiful. I feel like I am walking through an enchanted forest - quiet, peaceful and full of birds and animals.

It's quiet; no cars.

a quiet biodiverse place accessible to the thousands of calgarians the live downtown or the inner city. it's one of the most beautiful walks in the city.

Keeping it feeling natural and allowing it to remain a quiet getaway within the park.

A trip to the mountains without a trip to the mountains.

I was born in Calgary and have lived in Wildwood for 40 years. Although I had experienced the DFT prior to living in the community, I realized the importance of the trail as a frequent user meeting school kids on a field trip to learn about the area as well as young families who use the trail as a means of exposing their kids for that first mountain like hiking experience.  There is really nothing like it in the city although there are a variety of other parks.

The Douglas Fir Trail is an opportunity to go back to nature, and also back to my childhood, as I have enjoyed this trail my entire life.

The views are lovely and the chance to wander through forest.

The trees and all the plants. The birds and wildlife. All the above are wonderful to experience on the trail. It's a very special place  that needs to be protected and maintained. I would welcome more accessability for more people to enjoy. I think people with accessability needs should be asked directly, along with the people that may assist them, what they need to enjoy this space  while we try to balance keeping it as natural as possible.

natural features, safe trail with enough space for people to walk up or down the trail, that there are lots of old trees, that there is a staircase to go to a great viewpoint, benches at viewpoint

My home (Cedar Cres) backs onto the DFT. I moved to this neighbourhood because I appreciate being in nature and subsequent peace, quiet and privacy. I am concerned if it gets too developed, residents on Cedar Cres will lose a lot of quiet and privacy. What I value most about living here is walking my dog and often running into no one, diverse plant & animal species and the general quiet it provides our hood. The last thing I want to see is a paved path! Keep it a little rugged and natural!

The Douglas Fir Trail is irreplaceable. It offers a unique wilderness escape and great exercise right in the city. We must protect its historic alignment and authentic, rugged character. The focus should be on utilizing world experts to solve the erosion/structural challenges of this escarpment, preserving long-term community access. The City must secure immediate construction funding to avoid further delays. Limiting daily access opens the door for a landscape that will degrade and fall.

The rarity of being an isolated strand of Douglas Fir trees representing the northerner range of the species desire enhanced protection and recognition.

A quiet natural area

It’s a natural sanctuary in the inner city.

Quite and conveniently located.

It's unique nature and beautiful and accessible trail near me.

Quiet green space in the city. Accessible from the top on Wildwood Drive, multiple locations

Safe alternate route home through a unique stand of Douglas fir that reminds me of the forests I grew up in in BC.

I love the trails. It’s like you are out on the woods like Kananaskis but still in the city. It’s amazing.

I love how it is right in the city but seems to be in the mountains when you are inside it

A feeling of being enclosed in a natural setting and losing awareness of the city around you

The challenge of going up and down the slope, ability to create different routes with Quarry Road, Bow River pathway and the Douglas Fir trail. So many options and with the right equipment year round access.

A truly unique space in the middle of the city. Very rare.

It is a beautiful, interesting, natural trail within our bustling city. I love that it can act as a sanctuary, a learning space while also providing exercise. It is a beautiful way to get from the community to the riverside and visa versa. The more you walk it, the more you value it. The resilience of the trees and the people who have walked among them can be felt if you pause and take it all in.

The most important focus should be keeping Douglas Fir Trail open and accessible while preserving its natural character. Continued improvements that add more trail connections down to the river would greatly enhance the area and provide more opportunities for people to enjoy nature. This hillside offers a much-needed sense of peace and solitude away from the city, so any upgrades should prioritize maintaining that quiet, restorative environment while improving access and connectivity.

Feels like an escape from the city in the city.

Nature, escape from city, shady, cool temperature, not too busy

I value the natural, wild-feeling escape from the busy city. I appreciate that it is not over-manicured and offers fun challenges with its ups, downs, rocks, and roots.

A wilderness escape in the city.  Feels authentic.

It really feels like a hiking trail outside the city, its peaceful and quiet, with lots of steep terrain making it the perfect place to get some exercise.

Natural environment with interesting flora. Walking path.

A beautiful area that many community members enjoy accessing.

I value the fact that the trails are sufficiently narrow and the walking is sufficiently challenging that it presents an opportunity to hike or trail run in the city. I also appreciate that it isn't as significantly developed as other similar "wild" areas in the city.

I like that it is a nature spot within the heart of the city.  Trails have variety for many users to enjoy.

Large trees, long walking paths.

Large trees, nice forest feel.  Shade and comfortable feeling.

Nature in the city! A hiking trail that’s close and provides a great workout. Peace and quiet.

Having sush a beautiful forest next to downtown. Just a short ride from my condo in downtown, I can unwind on a natural space and feel completely unplugged.  The uphill is great on a very stressful day and the downhill with the falls is my favorite part. It is a get away

I like that the walking area is separated from the biking area. Bikers go so fast and it feels so unsafe to walk with them; having a trail they cannot go on but having a trail next door that they can makes it so much better (no one looses): I like that it is a nice trail to take a dog. And I would love for the rules to change to allow the dog off leash. I see a few off leash near there but would love to allow controlled dogs off leash

"So unique

The trees

The quiet (no bikes)

So close

Nature

Animals

The former Buffalo jump

The history and tradition of FNs use

It's unspoiled

It's pristine

You can get away

It's safe or was"

It's a beautiful walk for anyone in the city, feels like you are truly immersed in nature - it's a gem for fitness and mental health. For people who live in Wildwood, it's a beautiful walk on it's own, or a route to the river and playground at Edworthy Park. My kids were walking up that hill at age two. I'm still walking it in my 70s.

Lovely natural environment to spend time with friends and experience beautiful nature and views.

Peace and quiet, sense of escape. Feels fully removed from the city in a good way.

It is a beautiful Douglas Fir nature trail in the heart of the city. An oasis of wild but also physically challenging with all the stairs which is great for walking and running and maintaining fitness in the great outdoors. Having a nature trail like this is invaluable. It is also free so anyone who has the ability and interest can enjoy it. It is a unique trail and while we have lots of great trails and parks, it is a gem to hang on (if we can keep it from sliding away!)

Natural setting within the city.

Important to me that it remains a hiking trail, an escape from the city. Keep the dense forest and natural elements (wooden steps, railings, bridges, benches at the lookout point). Do not pave anything. Do not broaden the path. Keep it narrow. Try and replace the trees that have been taken down. Keep the trail away from the railway line.

I value the varied opportunities along the trail to achieve an all encompassing workout.

The seclusion within city limits

The fact it is one of the remaining heavily treed natural areas that feels like a real hiking trail in the City.

"Lovely quiet escape in the city.

Makes for great connections for longer routes."

Nature right in the city. The peace and quiet. It's not super busy, it is still natural trails, not paved and full of bikes.

Nature, preferably with very little human contact.

It feels like going to a really wild place but it’s just a short walk away from my house!

I value that the Douglas Fir Trail feels like you are outside of the city without actually having to leave the city. The natural setting is beautiful, peaceful and quiet and it is the perfect place to "get away" to clear my mind and connect to nature.

Feels like you are in the mountains away from the big city and all the noise. It is peaceful

It’s a lovely trail in the heart of the city where one can get away from the hustle and bustle without a big drive.

Within city limits. Beautiful area to walk either short distance or tag it with a longer walk. This is an amazing gem in the city that if possible should be preserved. A unique aspect of our Beautiful NW.

We moved to this neighborhood because of the DFT. The access to trees, trails and river valley was what sold us on Wildwood. We have kids and dogs and they’ve grown up going up and down the trail in every season. It’s where I go to find calm, smell the earth and get exercise. It feels like a true patch of nature in the city. I grew up here and one of the first field trips I remember was to the DFT, we learned about the ancient trees. It’s irreplaceable and should remain as natural as possible.

Inner city access to natural spaces. Other than nose hill, which is more northern, the river valley west of crowchild is the major inner city natural space to really get an experience. Places like a park, confederation, or eau Claire, simply don’t have the same effect though they are wonderful and much appreciated.

It’s an oasis of nature in the city. Love the natural setting and an opportunity to exercise.

View point is a reward! So pretty. Love being in nature while in the heart of the city. Escape the hustle in minutes. Best places to take photos!!!

Definitely a place for exercise and connect to nature without having to go very far!

It is beautiful quiet piece of nature right in the city with history. So rare to find this in the city.

It's a lovely giant forest in the middle of the city, feels like you're not actually in the city. It's a great path between the river and the neighbourhood above. It's an excellent place to run with all the steps. There's great view point. I've been using the Douglas fir trail all my life. I've gone less often recently because of the closures.

Connection to nature . Quiet

That it is a natural place and one doesn't feel like they are in the city when there.  Get out and enjoy 'nature' even in downtown.  It's cooler when it's hot outside and is very soothing when stressed.

"Access and decent safety. Let’s get it fixed and use it.

Also kind of cool to know it is a stand of Doug fir in alberta"

Escape into nature, in our own city , beautiful and all ages can participate ( generally).

The adventure. The trail feels like a wild place in the middle of the city. That's what makes it special. My kids love the steep sections and tricky footwork to cross the spring. These things make the trail fun for them.

I moved from BC and I miss the trees. I'm so happy to learn there's a very close forested area.

The DFT has been a go-to resource for me for more than 15 years - for fitness (mental and physical), to connect with nature, to observe the river, and to connect with friends and family. One of the things I have always loved about it is the challenge required to navigate it. It is not (and should not be) an easy 'walk in the park'. Having trails and activities in the city that provide opportunities to challenge ourselves is important for personal wellbeing.

It is a critical part of Calgary in a very unique setting. It allows people to enjoy the natural setting, wildlife & plants. It is very scenic with views of the Bow River in places. In this modern fast-paced world it allows users a place to escape.

It is a step into nature.  With densification it is more important than ever to maintain access to the outdoors

Ability to engage in physical activity in the river valley.

Outside escape from the city. It's a free trip to the mountains

Access to nature  all  seasons of the year.

I mostly natural

Quiet, beautiful, unique.

it is a place of nature in the middle of the city. there are always risks when walking in nature, and I don't think the trail needs a major overhaul in order to be used.

Safety, nature, facilities

Access to natural spaces in the middle of the bustling city. Observing nature and birdwatching. Exercise. I appreciate the accessibility and large parking lots to enable families to experience it and enjoy it.

The old growth forest - it allows for a tranquil place to take an after work walk to unwind and enjoy nature, without having to drive long distances. When the trail was fully open, it was also a great way to get some exercise as there were a few loops you could do whether walking or running - but the nature aspect of it is definitely the most important.

Great place to exercise (when open) but also to be in nature, relative quiet... see wildlife and birds and just zone out.

Ability to be surrounded by nature so close to downtown

Maintaining the character and spirit of the original trail. The trail experience! This includes the aesthetic, connection to nature, and simplicity.

I like that it feels like a "wild" area right inside the city. That I don't have to leave Calgary (or even my neighbourhood) to experience nature. It also has historical and ecological value as it is still natural and not a developed "park."

Unique trail within the city very accessible and yet feels very remote. Retain and reinforce the existing route to limit cumulative impacts to the feature. An important wildlife corridor.

Douglas Fir Trail is a natural Oasis in the middle of an urban neighbourhood. When my children were little it provided a wonderful educational introduction to the natural world. Unfortunately the condition of the trail in the last few years has prevented my grandchildren from enjoying this gem! It is a beautiful quiet setting which provides a peaceful escape from urban living. It can be an amazing interpretive trail again. It is great for exercise, hiking, fitness, walking and running.

Walking/hiking the Douglas Fir trail feels like getting out to the foothills or mountains without having to leave the city. It's a great place for exercise, clearing ones mind and seeing wildlife, including deer in the forest and eagles over the river.

The trail is through the eastern most stand of Douglas Fir trees in Canada. As such it is unique, special and beautiful. The trail is the perfect place to experience nature within a major urban environment.

**Question 5: What are your concerns about Douglas Fir Trail?**
I'm concerned about the long term use of the trail and how it may degrade over time from natural causes like erosion or human caused damages.

Some maintenance activities are required but should only be for pedestrian use (no bikes)

There are a few sections that see serious drainage issues in high precipitation events. These areas could be reworked to improve the drainage without too much issue and without destroying the established nature of the trail. More signage could also help in certain sections but overall the trails are pretty simple to navigate.

It needs to be updated with added safety measures but it should not be eliminated

That it becomes a paved pathway and becomes very busy.

Homeless people starting a fire and burning the trees. Garbage, there's no signs, the stairs are falling apart too

Lack of trail maintenance and long time closure; safety concerns with number of unhoused encampments; seems to lack long term trail maintenance vision for last 25years.

That it remains closed because of safety reasons.

My concerns are overly managing the trail so that it loses what makes it unique - being in nature. Ways to ruin it would include excessive trail grading, gravel / paved pathways, no access, etc.

I'm concerned about unstable areas and crossing waterways being dangerous for people. This is an 'expert' hike for an urban setting and should be labelled as such.

The aggressive development - massive 3 storey single family homes with underground garages, close to each other, clearing out all trees on the lot, damaging surrounding roots and ecosystems just to fulfill an egoistic and most profitable building dream for themselves. It's highly ironic that the path directly next and below these new developments is closed due to instability, erosion, aquifer, etc. but development gets approved to the max. That was a disappointing decision by the city.

My primary concern is the extensive closures which doesn't seem to have an end date. The safety issues on the trial seem minor and were less than you would experience on many public trails.

Water. Landslide

The trail needs to be kept in a maintained condition. Like anything that needs maintenance the cost accumulate is not worked on more frequently. Some of the "rework" done on the east end was not completed to the same standard, but folks were willing to take a more wilderness type, which isn't great for everday users, especially those with hiking poles that need to maintain better footing.

The core issues are slope stability, obviously, but also lack of maintenance. The trail wouldn't be so bad now if it had been maintained, including by volunteers, annually or semi-annually. A secondary issue is that the nature around the trail is being destroyed by homeless encampments, which should be removed far more proactively, both for environmental protection and public safety.

Obviously, there are safety concerns with some of the stairs and trails. I really have no other concerns aside from icy trails in the winter, but that's to be expected and there's nothing to be done about it.

The land is an escarpment beside the Bow River with natural vegetation on sandstone and gravel. Erosion is natural due to underground and surface water. It pains me to see The City spending public money to stabilize the escarpment. I would prefer a study to locate the trail on safe lands while encouraging unstable areas in a controlled collapse and rehabilitation. The City has struggled with the same issues in Sunnyside and Mountainview Park with expensive results.

Homeless encampments.  I am worried that the more it is closed, the more homeless people might be camping in the woods.

Adding accessibility at the cost of conservation.

One main area is the wooden bridge when using the trail to go down and back up to Wildwood area, feels unstable. Some of the trail at the top feels unsafe without a railing as it is quite a drop down from the edges.

Trail wear and erosion. Homeless encampments nearby.

The trail should be safe for all users and that requires maintenance. But don't overdo it by making unnecessary changes that compromise the natural feel of the place.

The fences blocking access, and the idea you might turn improve it to double track or worse.

I don't trust the city to manage it. A competent government would have maintained it properly and it would not be closed for an extended period while city staff talk and talk.

That the city is overly focussed on accessibility and safety.

It isn’t much of a workout (or forest bath) to walk from the west entrance to the look out point. The true gem of this trail is being able to walk the whole thing and get a good workout it and a good amount of time in the forest.

Spots where trail or path may be collapsing, would be nice to have some signage at points to clarify where you are in the overall trail

Safety. I avoid going alone

The natural erosion the occur that damage the boardwalk and the trails. Are of concern. The ice flows in winter make travel a little pecarious at times.

The trail is not particularly appealing if portions are closed. I don't think that many people will use it if they can only access portions and have to turn around at closures.

closure of the trail & worry if we'll ever be able to use it again

Twist ing an ankle on uneven wood surfaces

"I am happy to use the trail as it is presently. I have 40 years of scrambling experience in the Rocky Mtns and the DFT present condition is no problem for my usage. In fact, having it closed, keeps many people away, which is a plus for me. But I realize that the city can not condone trail usage in its present condition; therefore the trail needs maintenance and repair."

My biggest concerns first that the city will over blow the safety concerns and turn the trail into a concrete sequence of retaining walls like the trail under Stoney trail. My second concern is anthropogenic safety concerns. Because the trail closures have been in place so long there are camps anywhere there is a flat space. While the campers are not dangerous the drug use is dangerous and I've never been able to let my kids just explore the bush on their own. More users and less closures helps

I am mostly concerned that it will be permanently closed or restricted. I want it to remain open for light use and wild. There are some sections that are very muddy and have fallen trees all the time. I've always found them to be harder to traverse than the section that is closed with the ropes and stairs.

encampment damage & fire risks, invasive & non native species, seeming lack of public knowledge of the significant historical value of the area. bike damage on some of the trails signed no bikes, the east end of the trail seems to get ignored for the limited capital and operational investments, no rail crossing below Spruce Cliff to Lawrey gardens - the off leash area

safety

Proper navigation of trails (maps, signs, etc)

Last time I walked the entire trail, I was devastated to see that most of the wooden bridges has washed out in the great flood and were not yet restored. The path was nearly impassible, but my limber appendages allowed me to take in the beauty end to end.

Slope subsidence that impacts the man-made trail infrastructure. Water management, including during winter - large ice flows make the trail dangerous to use.

Clean and protected from disrespectful users.

"It's never open, it's not safe with regard to people - there are homeless camps set up and i'm nervous now to go alone. This was never the case before it was closed for so long. I am not worried about my ability to walk over rocks and navigate a slope, this isn't an easy trail, the steps and stairs aren't for everyone, there are places that should be accessible to all but the whole hike itself should be considered difficult and people should be informed and allowed to assess the risk."

Right now the trail is not fully accessible because portions are closed off.

"I have used the DFT for over 33 years. The trail should continue in its natural, ""unmanicured"" form. There has been 'aging' over the yrs but most issues can be mitigated by scheduled maintenance.  Not full shutdown. Concern:  Public safety! The number of unhoused have grown tremendously, especially since covid. While I used to feel safe walking alone throughout the DFT now I'm more hesitant in some sections. Closure ISN'T the answer... it will actually enable this issue/problem to proliferate."

"Ground water seepage.  The source of the ground water that creates the winter glaciers on the trail is from the leaking water main located in Wildwood Drive.  The main leak is located at the intersection of Wildwood Drive and 42 Street SW. A sinkhole has been there for decades. Roads crews annually fill the sinkhole as they are unaware that it is a sinkhole .  You can test this by sampling the water for chorine.  It is treated water that is the seepage along the slope above the trail."

That it was closed

I’d prefer to not have the trail over-manicured. There are plenty of easy access trails nearby.

Occasionally I have turned back after seeing homeless folks sleeping along the way, so safety is definitely a concern. Some slopes get slippery after a rain or water accumulation from the hilly slopes. Of course signage along the way would help, as well as a map that clearly explains the trail.

The biggest issue is that the trail is closed. Assess the trail as a hiking trail (think Banff or Kananaskis) rather than as a walking path. What seems to be considered unsafe by the city is what makes this trail an urban hiking experience. The city has very much been missing the mark in terms of understanding what this trail is and why it is valued. Basic trail maintenance is appreciated but closing the trail is unnecessary and unwelcome.

"Why is the city closing it for years and years without doing anything? It eroding prematurely is a big concern. The city putting up tape and restricting access when there hasn't been any work done or improvements made is the biggest concern."

Safety is paramount - with the natural springs in the slope, maintaining railings, bridges has been difficult, and some modifications of past route may not be possible. Would agree with sacrificing some changes to the trail to keep it safe.

Slope stability, ice build-up, closures resulting in more encampments within the forested ares, proximity to railroad with high frequency of trains.

It isn't being maintained as much as I'd like

"The constant closures, the mixed messages from the City over the past dozen years.The poorly thought out design in recent improvements, these only made things worse. Some users are shortcutting causes erosion, some signage would help."

This has never been an easy trail - crazy stairs, some steep spots… please don't pave or widen it to make it "accessible". This will only encourage cyclists on what should only be a hiking trail. The dirt footpath is perfection - a true hiking trail.

Slope stability, pathway degradation leading to unsafe conditions

"This is a valuable public resource that deserves preservation and inclusion. Through proper maintenance and management it has the opportunity to be an even more valuable part of Calgary. I've seen it over the past 25 years and it needs consistent attention and support. In exchange, it gives us nature, peace, and a beautiful gem in our park system that is unique, historical, and encourages stewardship of our Calgary community resource."

The city stabilization destroying the forest and creating long term care and maintenance liabilities. The wildwood slide and current stabilization are unnatural, unsightly, and do not appear to be performing well. The poor condition and undefined web of trails is encouraging encampments and creating the potential for wild fires. Trail braiding is creating a feedback loop which further damages the forest and leads to increased erosion and damage.

Trail closures

Not sure what I can add that you already don't know.

That it be destroyed in any way.

"Open the landslide section to allow a loop over to the gravel path. Keep them fairly natural! Not too over built, keep hiking expirence, worried they will pave them. There are already great paved options elsewhere"

Maintenance of the trail has been very poor and Calgary Parks must do a better job. Closing sections down for 10 years is irresponsible.

I have had concerns about the safety of the trail in the past, mostly connected to the areas where water and ice damaged bridges and pathways through erosion and encroachment. I still used it, but I did feel quite uneasy at times, so I used safety equipment like shoe spikes in winter, and hung on tight to the ropes that were still intact. I haven't had any concerns about cleanliness or signage, but I do think that for those who are unfamiliar with the trail, additional signage would be welcome.

Safety and poor maintenance has made the trail a hazard, especially during the winter, and early spring.

We must preserve this area. I don’t know much about what needs to be done but I know there are people who do and can provide the leadership to ensure it happens

" - More signage needed -- I've gotten lost before on a small footpath (that looked well-travelled) and ended up on a very steep trail that led me to homeless camps - Safer space for people to walk -- There are homeless camps hidden in the area. I can imagine the people living there are harmless, but it makes you feel like you need to keep looking over your shoulder. Not very relaxing as a woman just looking to enjoy nature on her run. - Cleanup -- Lots of litter in the areas by the camps"

"The frequent closures are frustrating but understandable. I truly hope that the issues can be resolved and we have a full trail to use again. In the past, I have been concerned with people using their little remote-controlled cars off the trail, but I've only witnessed this a handful of times. Most users are very respectful."

Paved section beside the train tracks / river - would be great if this were accessible year-round (or at least most of the year). Because of water-runoff and ice building up, gets closed for a lot of the year.

Worry about erosion with rain and snow. Worry that you will make it too done and smooth and accessible. It’s a hike, it’s not for everyone. I don’t want bikes on it.

None apart from trails washing away.

Very few if any people are worried about safety and accessibility on this trail! This is a trail up a steep slope, providing health and exercise benefits to runners, hikers and walkers. Some design and engineering may be required to preserve slope stability and minimise wear and erosion, but this is never going to be an

'accessible' or 'risk-free' space and it doesn't have to be. One of my biggest concerns is encampments along this entire escarpment, which are a huge public safety and fire risk.

Just would like it to be maintained as it was such a fun trail to complete when I lived in Calgary and would like to do it when I visit.

"Mostly erosion and ice buildup. I'm not concerned about rough sleepers from a safety perspective."

Maintenance and cleanness and signage and navigation.

I have always felt safe on the trail.

Need to protect the trees, as such mitigation of effects us humans have on them.

The City of Calgary has adopted way too much of a "Big Brother" approach when it comes to governing the use of the trail - shutting down huge sections that are supposedly unsafe when the real problem areas are quite small.  The restrictions the city is placing on trail usage is destroying the Douglas Fir Trail.

I am concerned about homeless encampments and safety of users of the trail and people living close.

My concerns are with how often it has been closed. I know there is erosion and there are some very specific spots that do need some work, but it is still a nature trail at the end of the day and it is classified as a hiking trail so you should expect nature to do its thing. With it being closed I am concerned about overgrowth and just the lack of usage in the future. It is such a special piece of nature and I would love to see it being used regularly for years to come.

The few spots where it's a little sketchy to get around because the path has eroded

Minimizing the impacts of use

the trail is beat up - we've been biking the trail for years and after the floods it has not been kept up considering the high number of users (bikers, walkers, runners)

Over the years, the trails have been in a variety of conditions. They are almost always passable. These days there are very few places to simply get away; we even build playgrounds for 'risky play'.  There are many place to go in Calgary for even footing, or places with easy access to facilities.  A trail to explore..a natural setting…these are rare things and should be preserved.

Challenges with homeless camps in the forest, makes me worry about allowing my kids in there.

The CP rail line has a truly devastating impact on the pathway and trail system in that area. There needs to be more controlled and uncontrolled crossings of the rail line as there are many trails that spill directly out on to the tracks without proper warning or signage. This is the biggest safety gap along this stretch and needs to be addressed properly.

I understand trail maintenance has been mostly done by volunteers in the past. While I appreciate their efforts, I am not sure the trail was designed or constructed to last. I hope the city would invest appropriate resources and expertise to reconstruct the trail professionally, so it will remain safe and useful for a long time. Can we learn from the people who construct and maintain high use trails in National and Alberta Parks nearby?

Erosion and safety

I loved the trail, both sides, as it was before. I was sad when it closed it and worry that it will lose its appeal with too much “safety improvements”. We hike in the mountains where trails are maintained for fallen trees, water diversion, erosion, etc. We are special to have such a natural state in the city. Please leave these trails with that natural state as there are many paved, flat trails that are safe for those wanting that.

95% of the Douglas Fir Trail is fine the way it is. There are a few spots where erosion has damaged the trail and improvements are needed but it’s fine otherwise.  When you hike the trail in it’s current state, it is just as if you are hiking in the Rocky Mountain.  Those people who maintain trails in Kanaskis, Banff, Jasper, etc. would change very little and I think the city should consult with them to ensure the planned improvements do not ruin the traditional design of this trail.

"I would like to cycle there, but I'm not sure of leaving my bike at the trailhead. I wish there were sections of the trail that were accessible for mobility challenged people."

I am not too bothered by anything.  Erosion is going to happen, but people need to take resposnsiblity for staying safe.

Homeless encampments

Monitoring and enforcement of off trail impacts and vandalism.

Safety of trail needed improvement - appreciate the work done to improve this! Could probably improve signage a bit as well.

The trail being open and left rough is ideal. Obviously some erosion control is required to stabilize the slope, but I would actually say that accessibility challenges are the point. It being a more difficult trail is part of the charm.

I've been using the trail for years and haven't seen signs of erosion, safety issues or any other concerns. Everyone I meet on the trail knows how to safely navigate a trail that is meant to be rugged. It was perfect that way it was and was not unsafe. The initial route diversion the city tried to make at the washout where the sandbags were, was impractical and created more danger, so people ignored it.  The steps with the ropes are safe as long as the posts are securely in the ground.

I would like to have a parallel mountain bike path.

Biggest issue is that it’s being closed for so long with no detour.

Safety and having meaningful erosion control that will stabilize the slopes without jepordizing nature (keeping vegetation)

Always trail conditions for water drainage and safe footing.  On the other hand I worry about to much trail intervention and making it too easy.

While the DFT has been somewhat maintained over the years, there are some drainage problems which could be dealt with thru the use and maintenance of small culverts.  This trail is not meant to be accessible - we have numerous paved bike paths for that, one which follows along the railway directly below. Not everything is meant to be used by wheelchairs and large strollers. Some minor additional signage would be useful but is not a requirement.

My concerns are that a new trail will be over-engineered to the point where it won’t have the same feel as it used to. Part of the joy was feeling like you were in the mountains, even though you were only steps from home.

The instability of the slope, the grade, the springs. I don't think it is a slope able to take much hard human use and that most of the trail would do well to be elevated.

"Educational signs along the trail. When people learn and understand more about how nature needs to be protected, they are apt to adapt more respectful behavior and become stewards of the space.  Use humour in the signs. I 've seen very affective signs in other cities, towns, parks that captivate visitors and users through very clever messaging.

Garbage and can/ container bins - these are needed at all entrances and at the lookout. Most people would be willing to pay through taxes for staff."

not that safe in the winter as there is erosion and very muddy areas that can be slippery

I’ve lived here for 10 yrs and have watched the upper parts of trail degrade to erosion. I think its important maintain a safe trail but I also don’t want to lose the “hiking” feel of it. For me, it’s a balance of having people use the trail to keep it safe (never had issues with unhoused people, except trash) but I also don’t want to see it become Fish Creek busy. I am disappointed to see cyclists on sections of the trail that are not to for biking, signage gets put up and people take it down.

Concerned that closure is an option the city is considering. Concerned that this is not a unique landscape and historical places all over the world figure out how to share the spaces with the community. Concerned that this has not been a priority and keeps getting pushed aside to install endless curb extensions and other projects. Concerned that we are trying to consider too much - like accessibility - this is rugged, rough mountain terrain. Not a judgement, but a fact.

Invasive species within the strand will shade and crowd out Douglas Fir saplings. Douglas Fir should be within a meadow not a forest. Erosion will also hurt the trees ability to grow.

Worried that it is being destroyed by the city's actions

Trail wear and erosion have obviously been issues. Also the increase in encampments in recent years have affected the feeling of safety for trail users.

The city will abandon the project with some lame reason (endangered worm, etc.)

Maintaining trail for long term

Safety, erosion need to be addressed, and the trail needs to be kept open.

Trail safety. Narrow eroded sections and near constant water running across or pooling in sections.

I no longer would ever go in there alone but that is just the sign of the times it's really not the fault of the area. I don't think there is anything you can do to make it more safe that way.

I love it as it is

Erosion and overuse

Being able to report fallen trees for path clearance and homeless camps that are of concern or abandoned.

There are many challenges. I ran and walked (weekly) the DFT 40 yrs ago. I no longer live close but still visit when I can.

The primary concern for me has always been walkability. The dirt pathway can become steep and slippery. Some type of material that can withstand heavy traffic would be ideal. If a wood or wood-look material was used to make stairs and pathways it would be more robust than shale & more fitting to the setting than pavement or concrete. Of course railings for safety are a must

Closures

Safe re-opening.

common closures

My concern is the length of time it has been closed for when it is such an important asset to our community. I am also concerned that it will be changed for the worst by the ongoing renovations.

That the wilderness accessibility will be lost to accommodate large community buildings. Impacts the nature living there

The trail seems fine as it is, maybe just update some of the steps and bridges that need some love?

Trail erosion and malicious propulsion of rocks down the hillside onto the walking path

Safety, erosion, and maintenance.

Erosion is an issue, but likely no more or an issue than in other similar hiking areas. Appropriate signage about access and trails would be helpful.

Slope stability, erosion, drainage issues, keeping the trails in good condition and safe for use.

Erosion, pollution, safety.

Trail worked great as it was.  Only changes should be to ensure that it stays the same as it was

Safety, signage, erosion, keep the trail dirt, rock amd stairs with guardrails on steep parts. Keep the benches at lookout points.

Homeless camps on the mountain. I never due the trail alone, if I am by myself, I wait for someone else to start and let them know that I will be following near by

"I think it would be great to allow dogs off leash as long as under the owners Add garbage places -"

Yes to all

Would love bike access for the trail vs steps

I'm concerned it will remain closed, or be rerouted in a way that will lose many scenic parts of the trail. Also, the trail from Wildwood Dr SW to the Edworthy parking lot has a severely eroded, unsafe section that needs some work. It seems this trail no longer appears on your maps, but is clearly part of the park - there are city signs at the top, and a park bench halfway down the slope.  Forms a nice loop for visitors, especially those leaving from the parking lot.

I didn’t have any issues with the trail but apparently erosion was an issue hence the shutdown so erosion would be definitely a concern because it relates to safety. Other than that the biggest issue I have is that people are using the area appropriately as they have been in past decades - new users may have uncommon ideas on what is appropriate in a natural environment.

I never minded the trail wear, and felt safe wandering the paths, but I understand why others might have felt differently.

That it is sliding away

"Limitation of access to a beautiful trail Erosion. Too much infrastructure where is may not be required"

Do not pave or widen any of the trail. There was some erosion in areas, would be great to create a wooden bridge/boardwalk in areas of need and refurbish some wooden steps where needed. Keep the Douglas Fir trail as a hiking trail.

"Erosion of the hillside Safety along the trail protecting the environment is priority being Bke yo use the trail safely"

The yearly ice flow that makes the trail impassible for many months

That it is not open and that we do not know what the work happening entails.

"I feel the city has done a very poor job of explaining what's going on in terms of the work being done and why. Let's have some information panels at appropriate places explaining all that. And why the heck is it taking so damned long - the trail has been out of action for over a year!! Same comments about the toilets! And why not spend a little bit of effort on alternate new trails so that the bulk of the DFT can still be used. The focus doesn't seem to be on the trail users."

Making it more accessible will make it busier and like all the other trails, the peace and quiet is removed. Bikes and crowds, it loses its quaint neighbourhood favorite feeling. It's is a hike, just like in the mountains there shouldn't need to have excessive infrastructure and safety measures, if it is too hard do go just like any other hike.

Safety for both the trees and nature and also the people using the trail.

That the character of the trail will be lost. Trail wear and safety are important, too. The last time I walked the trail it felt a bit sketchy.

No issues that I've seen in the past - biggest concern is that it has been closed for awhile now.

Erosion and safety. As I get older I am more mindful of stable footing.

I cycle on the pathway below the trail and erosion from the trail area due to water/ice are what I would like to be attended to.

If it's too rugged then people feel they can hide and meet in groups vs using it at a walking/ hiking space. Concerned about drug paraphernalia, homeless camps (but they too need a place to stay at night but dont think this trail should be a destination for someone's tent. Would like navigation amd signage about what types of species live there, history etc.

There are some spots that need trail maintenance due to erosion. Trail shortcuts should be discouraged and signage could be better to stay on the main trail.

Safety is number one concern.

"Train safety...they are sooo close. Is speed reduced? KM markers and trail/path maps. Water puddles/ice on the running path and unclear lines dividing the path cause chais when people pass or meet at these random spots . Uneducated runners/cyclists/ tourists who dont know how to share a path. Rope and plank bridges and crazy high/ big/ uneven steps are unsafe. This could be a tourist destination like seawall...the river path, if signage and specific spots were better marked and advertised."

My past and ongoing concern has been with folks using the trail inappropriately, causing environmental damage.

I worry that the city keeps selling away public land. We need to preserve green spaces as much as possible for the future and health of our city.

I think it's great, clean, lovely. I understand there's concerns with erosion and I suppose I don't want anybody in danger for walking along the trails so my only concern is erosion I guess.

Personal safety , can be remote

Stairs and bridges needed some work and more signage.  But again should remain natural materials (wood) not metal or plastic.  Other than that the more natural the better, leave a dirt path and only stairs and bridges when absolutely necessary

Get it fixed and quit screwing around

Wear, erosion, ill repair and no signage of closures etc until you are right there.

I'm worried about it becoming too developed that it loses it's wild character. I don't erosion is important and that must be addressed but we like the harder portions of the trail. The trail is special with none others like it in Calgary.

Trail erosion; improper use.

It's clear that the trail suffers from erosion. However, the ongoing closures I think have worsened this, as people trying to access the trail have created alternative routes that cause more damage. Additionally, long-term closures have made the area less traveled by the public, making it more of an attractive area for Calgary's growing unhoused population, which has further negative impacts on the trail and surround environment.

The natural springs along the slope are extremely problematic. However, environmental protection must take priority yet allow for a safe trail. Unfortunately  given the slope & springs accessibility should not be a priority.

With more extreme weather I am concerned about erosion impacting the houses on the ridge (I do not live on the ridge)

Keeping it a nature area

The City only closes old parks and doesn’t do any maintenance. The City will decide to permanently close the park and it will return to its origins as Calgary’s oldest homeless encampment

"Many trails are eroded and not safe to use. We are concerned some unhoused individuals living near the trail."

I don’t want the trail turned into Johnston Canyon with railings  bridges and hard pathways stair are ok for stabilization it needs to be as natural as possible that’s the whole point of exiting the asphalt path it should look like the City never was there.

Safety. Icy in winter, plenty of erosion/risk of minor slides. Also, would like to prevent over use.

I had no problems using the trail before it was closed, and neither did the many other people that I saw using the trail at all parts of it; from the South Parking Lot up to the lookout.

Trail will be finish to give safety use

I appreciate a rugged trail for individuals to travel through natural spaces. I also recognize that safety is the primary requirement for any trail that would be open to the public.

Trail stability was definitely a concern before the most recent work began, and second would be off leash dogs (which made the sections that were unstable or steep more concerning). I am also a dog owner and there were numerous occasions where off leash dogs would come charging at us on steep sections. Longer term my concerns are around maintaining the environmental integrity of the area as not only is it a rare forest type for the prairies, but it is home to an abundance of wildlife.

"Erosion and maintenance... Frequently I wonder how increased density will impact water, drainage (and increase erosion)... . Also I am concerned that folks living rough (currently nearer the golf course; but likely there are folks closer to the trail as well) could potentially cause a catastrophic fire as the trail gets drier due to climate change. (Not solely blaming these folks .. kids and stupid people (misadventure)... and lightening could as easily be culprits)"

Connectivity from east to west

N/A

The only part I was ever aware was problematic was the part next to the creek where the footing wasn't very good

Inadequate signage for dogs on leash rule - many people have no idea and many formal entrances have no signage on it. Given the sensitivity of the feature it should remain dogs on leash. Tiger salamanders may breed in the ponds and have been observed in the spring on lower trails. Work to reduce ad hoc trails - people don’t need a direct line from their backyard or short cuts all over.

It has been heartbreaking to have portions of the Trail closed for so long. And … I understand the safety concerns for users and the environmental impact as there has been significant erosion. The bridges have become unsafe (in my opinion) and while volunteers worked tirelessly to maintain, it needs to be given city priority to keep it open and safe!

My main concern is the stability of the trail, especially the section where the stairs and trail are shifting.

I would like to see interpretative stations with information about the floral and fauna. For instance, bald eagles and owls are frequently seen in the forest or flying along the river.

**Question 6: Thinking about the trail in the long term, what should be prioritized moving forward?**

I think we should be prioritizing environmental protection and trail durability. This is a unique environment in Calgary

Appropriately maintained trail

Trail durability is the main thing. They can be damaged during the high rain events and the use they see. I think the accessibility is already good enough and does not need to be focused on.

Trail durability and keeping it open for families to use for generations.

Protecting the natural trail and providing durability.

Protecting the environment as well as the trail. Adding perhaps easily emptied garbage bins for the city , so it eliminates littering. A bridge from there to the edwardworthy dog park would also be amazing.

Trail design for long term use that allows water to shed and erosion prevention, but nothing that is too curated; prevent trail braiding; regular patrol to prevent encampments and offer safety. Provide safe links rather than longterm closure.

Future decisions should be guided by preserving its unique offering - access to nature within the city.

Protecting the ecology and limiting access. How it is now with some additional safety features.

"Environment, access for residents as a greater good. It was a disappointing decision to approve the aggressive new developments right above it, which will put more strain on that slope.

Decisions should be made in favour of the whole community, not just a few wealthy new ridge owners."

It is unfortunate that this time the trial has been closed could not have been better used to make the necessary improvements. For me the priority is concluding this work quickly, and ensuring limited disruption with future work.

Trail durability, accessibility, fixing the problem areas with a log term solution

Overall experience. The condition of the trail 20 years ago was great. How do we get back to being able to have similar experience again today even if the updated trail needs to follow a modified route (still up and down through the trees).

I think the balance should favour protecting the environment while building a durable trail that feels like it's in nature. In the very long term, you should aim to connect it with the single track trails on the west side of Edworthy, below Sarcee Trail, thereby creating a long forested hiking trail from Sunalta to Bowdale, linking with the Paskapoo Lands. A forested corridor for hikers, runners, plants, and animals -- a gem to be proud of.

I think reopening the trail is top priority. Ensuring that the trails, stairs, infrastructure are built for the long-term. As much as possible I would like to see the natural environment kept intact with natural trails, minimizing, introducing gravel or concrete or other types of building materials. It almost looks like a provincial Park at the moment. I would love to see these large trees and water features protected.

Decisions should adapt to natural progression of the escarpment and not trying to control a shifting base.

Protecting the natural environment is very important, especially with regards to slope erosion.

Conservation and it's wild state. Protecting the natural environment.

Keeping the wooden bridges, railings strong and safe with some signage reminding users to stay on path and not impact the natural areas around.

protecting the natural environment and trail conditions

There are many alternative locations where people can walk, bike and exercise throughout the city. I'm afraid that the unique natural character of this place might be compromised by trying to make too many improvements.

Reopening the trail ASAP with as little change as possible. Municipally I am a single issue voter on this.

Just maintain a trail.

Simply remove fallen trees and give the homeless someplace else to live

"Please fix the trail just above the east stairs. That was the only area I felt was a bit unsafe. Next I would focus on water management to prevent the ice build up."

"Basic safety …ie, rails where makes sense .. Doesn’t have to be perfect…being in nature is part of the appeal"

Overall experience

Safely is a concern but providing safely should not be to the detriment of perserving the natural beauty and surrounding eco-system.

Repairing/modifying the trail to allow a continuous route end to end. Recognizing that erosion/slope stability issues made portions hazardous and that past efforts to repair these areas has been unsuccessful; I am

wondering if a new path or stairs down to the trail and/or bike path adjacent to the railroad and around these areas could be constructed so that there is again a continuous end to end trail. I miss that route greatly.

reopening the trail and continue to discourage / actively relocate encampments along the hill side. this for safety.

Protect nature on the side of trail , people keep going off the Hain trail, can you block these ?

"Top priorities are: - stabilizing the slope,  -proper water drainage, and -retain i.)the natural dirt trail character, ii.) the feel of being removed from the city  iii.) the challenge of stair and hill climbing"

Protecting the natural environment must be the main priority. This is not an accessible area and a wide paved path is not going to hold up on that hill. Also durability is important but in considering this the dynamic nature of the hill is a given. The infrastructure needs to be able to adapt to the hills movement. The last attempt at repairs twisted and fell very quickly where earlier stairs have been in place for my lifetime!

I think ensuring that the natural environment is protected while allowing for light access is the most important thing. Maintaining the trail for basic safety and erosion management is important, but beyond that it should be left without too much damage to nature.

manage it today for preservation for future generations - protecting the natural environment.

It should protect the environment

Maintenance of the trail with as minimal impact to the environment as can be managed

Trail durability is a must. The area is prone to washouts and over the past 50 years, many sections have slid down the slope, making it impossible to connect from one section or path to the one on the other side of this slide.

Water / erosion management to keep the trail safe and keep users on the existing trails instead of trying to get around damaged infrastructure and/or water/ice issues.

Make it so closures are rare, if ever.

"Durability - this shoudl be available for future generations to enjoy.

Safety - If it's open and it's a great trail it will be busy which will help insure personal safety.

Protect the natural environment.

Overall experience - make it an intersting place for children to learn and explore, take risks and be in nature."

The trail should be open, reasonable safe for community members to use (hiking always involves some measure of risk) and durable so that it can be used by future generations of Calgarians.

"This should not become an overly 'curated' space. Leave it natural and rougher. Other spaces in the city provide more manicured options (ie fish creek). Protecting the natural environment is important, as that's what this space provides - access to forest in an urban setting. Public safety and experience should not be overlooked as the number of encampments and questionable activities seem to be ever increasing. More monitoring and deconstructing encampments would be appreciated."

Access is more important than ease of use. Keep it interesting.

Safety should be the number one concern. There is some signage giving the difficulty of various section of the trail, however, it's not very clear or user friendly.

What matters most is that the trail stays open. Hiking trails have natural hazards. Stop closing the trail. Maintenance of bridges and clearing fallen trees is much appreciated but let's keep this a hiking trail and keep it open.

Fix it up for long term use as a nature trail in a forest on a bluff. Have the bike path at the bottom. Put it back in use.

Important to keep the trail with whatever modifications are needed for safety of users.

"1) Protecting natural environment 2) Safety 3) Durability"

I'd like to see a holistic approach to the trail, fire example, educational, self guided signage.

Keep it natural. Use common sense to provide minimal supports where needed to cross water flows. Do not overbuild with railings, it's a natural space. Forests don't come with handrails.

Protect the natural environment.

Protecting the environment should be top. Even if that means making this a gravel trail

"Trail durability, nature interpretation, and a place that could be an incorporated into learning. Connecting to the pathways of Calgary. I've seen a lot of happy families on the trail, Lookout, and green spaces around the park"

Protecting the natural environment and the history of the trail.

Trail durability while keeping it wld

"Protecting the natural environment, it being the furthest East stand of Douglas Firs and they should be protected. The trail was for the most part respected and people stayed on it, maybe more signage suggesting staying on the trail.To me if the trail was the same as it used to be would be perfect, bridges over the underground springs etc."

Keeping it safe and environmentally sustainable by addressing erosion.

Keep them natural and hiking feel. No pavement.

Pay less attention to safety and accessibility, to keep construction and maintenance costs down. It is a HIKING trail and users must be made aware of that.

Safety is extremely important, so I understand that keeping the trail open and safe might require some fairly big interventions in areas where water has caused problems. But I do hope that efforts are made to keep the character of the trail intact and not make it a wide thoroughfare devoid of the nature and charm that has made it special. In particular, I hope that special care is taken to preserve trees. After all, they are what makes the habitat what it is.

Raw logged bridges over the creek with piles on the end for foundation should maintain a natural feel, yet create stability and safety. Handrails and dirt stairs (again with pile supports), or rock stairs, on some of the steeper inclines would improve safety. Rerouting, in my opinion, is not necessary. There just needs to be some ground supports in the areas susceptible to washout, and some drainage techniques to prevent trail erosion and ice buildup.

So we need to focus on protecting the natural environment while at the same time make it safely accessible for people, we may have to find ways to limit usage over the long term.

Protecting the natural environment

Trail stability is the main concern. I like that the trail can be challenging in sections, but it should be made safe. Protecting the environment should always be high priority.

Trail durability / overall experience

Durability and natural environment. Don’t make it any more accessible. Keep it a small hidden gem. No parking, no signage. Just make some steps a little bit safer.

Deal with the runoff issues lower on the trail.

Trail experience, sustainability and durability, as well as protecting the natural environment, are all considerations to be balanced. Safety shouldn't be disregarded, but liability considerations should not drive decision-making at the end of the day (users should use at their own risk). Consider the importance of this recreational amenity to Wildwood and surrounding communities, and the vital pedestrian link it provides to Edworthy Park and the river pathway system.

Safety and trail durability. I’m not sure what about accessibility, but not everything has to be accessible to everyone.

Overall experience.

I think that the priority should be to have a trail that is still rustic, yet safe. It should not be paved and should work with the natural environment

Again, the trees health. The trees have been here for a lot longer then we have and they shouldn't have anything put ahead of them in the importance line.

The trail should be returned to a more naturalized format that will adapt more easily to the naturally occurring changes to the slope the trail traverses.  Overly constructed boardwalks and stairways that can't be maintained on a constantly moving slope cause too many closures.  A trail that is always closed doesn't serve any purpose.

I would like to ensure there are different types of trails available for users. Also ensuring that the area doesn’t become blocked off because then people will take advantage of this to setup up shelters in the park.

I would love to see the trail get worked on to maintain durability and longetivity, as well as keeping the natural environment. We have such similar landscapes near by in the foothills that struggle with the same things that the douglas fir is struggling with, but we do have the expertise in and around Calgary to overcome these challenges and keep the trail open and maintained for decades to come. I would love to hear from expert trail builders on how to keep it natural and safe.

Maintainence. The importance of this trail to the City is invaluable in my opinion and the condition the City has left it in for so long is disappointing. It needs regard upkeep and the attention that we put into other areas like Bowness, Edworthy, North Glenmore, etc.

It should be relatively safe (not childproof, just reasonably safe). It should help maintain the natural environment.

Protecting natural areas in and around the trail including trailhead parking

we want to ensure we protect our natural environment and make the trail safer to use

Preserving access to the trails, and its natural environment.

"Rail crossings. Proper trail infrastructure and erosion control.Less CP rail oversight."

I would like to see the trail keep a natural feel, so it is an escape from the urban environment. I would like the trail to be durable and safe. I think these objectives complement each other. People off trail and extensive maintenance can damage the environment. If there is a good, safe trail, most people will use it instead of making their own routes to avoid obstacles. If it lasts, there will be less need for maintenance.

trail durability - well used and enjoyed

Protect the natural environment, maintain trail networks with minimal foreign non-natural materials, give residents who don’t drive or have a way to explore the Rocky Mountains the closest experience to hiking in the mountains by leaving the trails in the most natural form. Post signage if worried about safety explaining these trails include uneven footing, roots, stream or ice crossings depending on the season, etc. and require balance and proper footing.

This trail is incredibly unique as it provides an experience similar to hiking back country trails in the Rocky Mountains. Other trails in the City provide a nature experience but the Douglas Fir Trail is the only trail in the city that provides a back country hiking experience. The long term goal should be to protect this experience. Provide upgrades to the few sections that need it and leave the rest alone.

"natural environment and durability. safety is a loaded term that usually means no homeless people. everyone should be able to access this area."

I like the idea of the fish creek model, where they have a robust team of volunteers - "friends of" who take pride in keeping it safe, well maintained, etc.

Trail durability

Trail protection and active partnership between City, users and surrounding communities.

Safety, protecting natural environment, a great way to access Edworthy Park and get some exercise in.

Overall experience should be the focus, given it's unique characteristics in the city. Accessibility and safety (other than slope stability) should not be priorities at all frankly. If a replacement path on the lowlands is needed, build that and keep the DFT as it is.

Please leave the trail exactly as it is. Because it is rugged, it only has a moderate amount of people using it. This is good because it reduces the impact on nature and the trail itself. If you make changes that make the entire trail accessible to all, it will ruin its beauty and attract way too many users. There are already lots of heavily used, easily accessible trails in Calgary. The Douglas Fir Trail is unique and should not be changed in any way.

Maintaining an accessible natural area.

Path maintenance during winters and cleanliness

Protecting the natural environment and keeping the trails safe/minimal so they remain enjoyable for use

I actually would support a separate bike trail for both summer and winter not shared with hiking trails if at all possible.  The reason I even suggest this is because I am on the Board of Shaganappi Nordic Operation Group (SNO) who volunteers to support Winter Sport activities on the neighbouring Golf Course and by adding Douglas Fir trails for Calgarians Winter recreation would be great.  I would suggest not a XC Skiing add on, but Fat Biking trails would be great. I would help design this.

The city needs to be careful not to overreach in its strategic thinking to suggest that every trail needs to be accessed by all user groups.  The reality is that occasionally, certain activities cannot be done by everyone due to landscape issues or topography.  There are places where consideration can be made for certain applications but it is not practical but rather cost prohibitive.

Protecting the natural environment is paramount, and if that means the trail has to be more robust, I accept that. Accessibility and safety and lower priorities; mostly, this isn't a trail for everyone.

My priority is protecting what makes this place special. The steep slopes, shady terrain, springs, and fragile ground can't withstand unlimited foot and bike traffic. Rather than trying to engineer the landscape to fit the trail, the trail should fit the landscape. Where the terrain is especially sensitive, I'd like to see elevated boardwalks and stairs that minimize erosion and disturbance while allowing people to enjoy the remarkable views without loving the area to death.

protecting environment, safety, garbage collection, accessibility.

making it just wide enough that it is safe for people to go up or down, fencing in areas where there is erosion to try to prevent serious slips or falls, wooden bridges if needed to go over streams, staircase with handles, benches at viewpoints

"The main goal should be preserving the park for plants and animals. The natural environment in the city is getting smaller and smaller as there are more people coming, more houses being built and further sprawl. Preserving these precious pockets of green space should be the ultimate priority of the city. This should also include cracking down on people making their own trails (looking at the mountain bikers), and repairing & discouraging use of these unsanctioned trails."

See previous submissions.

Erosion control, invasive species removal, dedicated pathways and robust education signage.

Protecting the environment, making minimal changes to the trail

Protecting the natural environment while creating and maintaining a usable trail. It doesn't have to be an elaborate trail! Just somewhere where people can walk/hike/run!

Long lasting

Protecting the natural environment while maintaining the trail

Safety, accessibility

Protecting ecological integrity and trail safety are paramount.

Just keeping it safe in terms of footings. I thought it was fantastic I never felt unsafe w erosion or having good pathways. It's an area that you want to wear good shoes but people should know that just like hiking or running in Kananaskis or Canmore etc.

Protecting the environment

Long-term trail durability (I have used this trail since it opened). I also believe that there should be accessible options for wheelchair and bikes (plus bike free spaces) along the escarpment area.

Protection. Accessibility will remain a challenge, as it has always been. I can no longer access it as I once did.

"#1 Overall experience (the trees, the canopy, the views and the plants). #2 Durability & safety of the trail/pathway. Although in an ideal world accessibility would be nice. I do not envision a way to make this pathway accessible for people with mobility issues without ruining it's uniqueness and impacting a much great area."

A balanced approach would be to improve access while protecting the natural, peaceful character of the area. This can be achieved by adding carefully designed additional trail connections to the river

Environmental concerns, safety, accessibility for local residents and visitors.

Long term I feel city should create infrastructure/trail that won't be destroyed by the annual ice from the springs

Maintaining the natural environment of the trail. Not adding in extra boardwalks or bridges in an attempt to increase accessibility, as there is a very accessible paved trail just below the Douglas Fir trail already.

Protecting the natural environment as one of the final true forests in Calgary.

For this trail you should focus protecting the nature and durability of the trail. Safety and accessibility should be less of a concern as it is meant to be a more difficult trail.

Soft surface trail (not asphalt) for walking. Preservation of natural flora

Safety, environment, and trail use

Protecting the environment and trail access should be prioritized and balanced.

Trail durability and protection of the natural area.

Environmental protection, ensuring trees are healthy and are being replaced for the future.

Retain native species.  Ensure it can continue in its mostly natural state. Minimum of "improvements ".

Safety, protecting the natural area,

Sustainability. Make sure that the forest stays as natural as possible

Dogs! More dogs! Garbage cans

Yes to all

stability water control, trail vs stairs for long term limited maintenance

Overall experience, if asked to choose one priority.

Trail durability whilst protecting the natural aesthetic.

Safety is important, but the most important thing for me is maintaining that feeling of escape, peace, and nature.

Trail durability while maintaining as much wilderness as possible. It is the towering trees and undergrowth of violets that make is wonderful. And keeping the stairs

Protect the environment while maintaining access.

Most important to protect the natural environment over anything else. This is a rare gem for Calgary to have, a mature forest. It is critical the forest is protected.

Acres to the trail only if environment protected and safety

Protecting the natural environment is more important than any inconvenience

Protecting the natural environment, fixing the necessary areas of erosion and reopening the trail as soon as possible.

Just get the trails open again - it’s been too long!!

Protecting the natural environment and preserving local access, no making it a tourist attraction or city destination to be ruined by crowds.

Safety and nature.

Protecting the natural environment.

Protection of the trees and ecological systems. This means stabilizing the trail where needed but keeping it as natural as possible - not over buildout.  This is a trade off to being fully accountable but having a forest in the city is very valued.

Protecting and stabilizing the natural environment.

Safety and protecting thr natural environment. Not by pathways but unique and sustainable trails that mimic the environment. Wooden structures, iron railing that blend in the woods vs big cemetery structures.

Protect the natural environment. Keep the trail as wild as possible. No pavement. Look to West Bragg Creek/Canmore for trail hardening ideas that keep it as natural as possible while maintaining safe footing. This is habitat for deer, moose on occasion, bobcats, hares, birds etc. It should remain a sanctuary. Fix the railings/bridges, maintain drainage and leave it natural.

Again, safety is my priority. How do I use and enjoy this trail while feeling safe?

Trail durability and markings. Divider lines, direction arrows, map, distance markets. Protect the environment from erosion and people going g iff trails/ paths. Something more meaningful than a chain link fence between the tracks and path...perhaps a wast high cement barrier...would that offer any protection???

Protecting the natural environment is my priority.

Overall experience, protecting nature, usable natural trails not concrete wide pathways. Keep it as a gem of nature. Sorry but accessibility should be not priority- there is a massive park to the side and below that is or could be more accessible.

Whatever will prevent it from being closed down permanently or just generally in the future. Other than the erosion that's causing the shutdowns I think it's perfect.

Trail durability through all seasons

Protecting natural environment. Keep it rustic. This is a hike not a walking path so not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs or bicycles and should remain that way. There are many many other accessible paths in the city

Keep it simple and durable. Let’s not get fancy.

Yes, all of the above, exactly!!

Mitigate erosion without changing the character of the trail.

Trail durability and accessibility

I think it is really important to, as much as possible, preserve the trail experience close to what it has historically offered: a challenging, mountain-style hiking experience in the city. Yes, it should be made safe, but it does not need to be smoothed out, sanitized, and made "easy".

Protecting the natural environment must be the top priority, yet long-term durability is important. Use of volunteers and expertise of groups such as the Edworthy Park Heritage Society is vital.

Safety and access to nature are top priorities

Keeping it a nature area

Trail durability. The city has upgraded (poorly) parts of the trail and not anticipated water/ice erosion. It is an annual occurrence including on Quarry Road trail

"Many of the trails have been eroded over the years by water, weather and use. Controlling the natural water flow is very important so that any trail and bridge improvements do not get eroded again. Clear trail maps and signage will also help people to stay on designated trails and keeping nature safe for everyone to

enjoy. The other issue we noticed was some unhoused individuals living near the trail.It is imperative that this type of behaviour is not allowed to ensure trail users feel safe."

People are responsible for their own safety. We need minimal disturbance by the city.

safety, protecting the natural environment

people should be aware that they use the trail at their own risk; there will be places to walk with greater care. the goal should be to get the trail open without making it so safe that it is no longer fun

Safety

I value access to natural spaces but I also expect that it would be a safe place for families and people of all ages just to travel.

Protecting the natural environment should be top priority. One of the great things about Calgary is the abundance of trails around the city. There is no reason why in such a sensitive and rare habitat (for this far east) that we should be degrading it for experience or even accessibility - unless those can be done in a way that maintains the old growth trees in their current state without leading to significant tree removal such has already been done for the slope stabilization work.

"1. Protect the environment 2. Trail durability.  But if you can't protect the environment... the trail durability doesn't matter. (Ie moot)"

trail durability

Overall experience followed by durability.

Making it safer (a sturdy bridge across the creek and non-eroding steps beside it) and not closing any of it

Sustainable access and protecting the sensitive features characteristic of this trail system.

All Of the above! Sufficient resources should be allocated to make the Trail safe again and keep it safe, open and accessible. Environmental concerns should be prioritized to ensure the surrounding lands are protected from erosion. Educational interests should be prioritized to make the trail an engaging interpretive trail that honours the history of the area. Local knowledge within the community should be collected, listened to and respected.

In the long term I would like to see the trail stabilized while maintaining the current route as closely as possible, and maintaining the feel of the trail.

My foremost concern is providing a safe environment to foster a love and understanding of nature.

**The Big Question**
Maintaining the current feel and general route of the trail. It feels like a hike from Kananaskis Country right in the city, and the hill is a great place for some exercise.

Douglas Fir Trail is an absolute natural gem in the heart of Wildwood. It is a historical treasure. Preservation, repair, safety and public access are highest priorities. Over time the Trail has suffered significant erosion and damage. It needs to be rebuilt, top to bottom, to allow current and future generations to continue enjoying this urban retreat.

Reducing environmental impacts to the greatest extent possible and restoring disturbed areas with trees and vegetation characteristic of the sensitive feature. Rehabilitating ad hoc trails to limit braiding, creating barriers in popular short cuts. Signage at all entrances for dogs on leash. Limit new footprints, work to stabilize existing trail as people are unlikely to change their routing.

The maintenance of suitable wildlife habitat and also reasonable public access to be able to enjoy the natural surroundings.

The hillside trails from the bottom up to the top. the conditions on these are very poor and need fixing.

Keeping the whole trail open as much as possible

The hillside trail!

The best thing about the Douglas Fir Trail was that it felt like a wild, mountain hike, not a city trail. It was an inner city getaway that made a hike accessible to many that could not make a trip to the mountains. The continuous length of the trail and its basic, minimalist non-graveled, natural and subtle path is what made that feel. Over engineering and design already makes it less natural and disrupts the feeling of visiting wild nature. Please don't make it look like a typical city park.

Trail experience (keeping the spirit of the trail the same as before) and durability.

Environmental protection should be the most important item. This is a piece of nature in the city, and the most eastern range of the rocky mountain douglas fir tree species before you start to enter into prairie habitat. It is already rather disappointing to see the amount of tree cover that has been removed for slope stabilization, the focus should be keeping that to a minimum while allowing residents to enjoy a rare piece of nature in the middle of the city.

Keeping it open for public uses for purposes such as walks.

Open the trail from the south parking lot

Reopen access from Edworthy Park.

I live in Montgomery, and love walking the Douglas Fir Trail up to the lookout. I'm grateful you have opened up parts of the trail from Wildwood, but my most important would be opening the trail from the other end, by the Edworthy Park South Parking Lot.

Prioritize foot traffic above all else; no mountain bikes and definitely no e-bikes allowed. There isn't enough space to allow for both bikes and people, and with the soil being so unstable, bikes are likely to do too much damage

Preserving the natural landscape with minimal destruction, protecting the old growth trees and making sure the trail is safe but not widened. Should only be foot traffic.

I would like to see the Douglas Fir Trail remain as natural as possible. However, accessibility is important too.

Safety of hikers and preservation/stabilization of the environment. Similiar to the renovations at Ha Ling trail in K Country

Providing a natural hike in the city.  This has been a rare area that Calgarians can hike in the wilderness without driving to other places.  Please preserve that.  Thank you!

To maintain a great natural oasis so close to downtown.  It’s such a wonderful contrast.

"That the trail is accessible to all levels of fitness. Some of the steps were very high and some might be an obstacle to short stature individuals, children and elderly.

Please rebuild those sections of the trail that needs attention as it would be a shame to lose such a beautiful piece of Alberta wilderness."

We want to safely enjoy the Douglas Fir Trail for years to come. The view platforms are very important and bridges over any water all add to the pleasure of this amazing trail.

I consider the most important features of the Douglas Fir Trail to centre around making the trail enjoyable and useable for the most users as possible. Having two loops could accomplish this. One loop could stay lower and be made accessible for people with mobility issues. The second loop could branch off the first and climb higher up the hill and be of moderate difficulty. Minimizing trail maintenance through design and having community involvement in its maintenance could help minimize cost.

"Restore trail access to the public and remove the homeless encampments to make the trail more inviting and decrease the impact of the homeless encampments on the wildlife.

The debris, garbage feces and shopping carts left by those camping on the trails and in the woods are an eyesore and a hazard to all and adversely impact the enjoyment of the area."

Primary focus must be on preservation of the various ecosystems along the slope. The trail should be rebuilt for walkers, and not bicycles (which MUST be banned) or wheelchairs. In addition the priority should be to open the regional pathway.

Keep it as natural as possible

As a regular user of the Douglas Fir Trail (DFT) I think the most important consideration is to preserve the "deep in nature" experience of the Trail. Calgary has dozens, if not hundreds, of locations and opportunities to recreate on paved, "sanitized" trails and walkways. I recognize the need to ensure the safety and sustainability of the DFT, and think it is important to preserve its unique natural features as a mountain hiking trail in the city.

I think the priorities should be on removing major hazards (but not all potential hazards) and securing the environment by ensuring the trail is available and interesting enough that people don't leave it to make their own trails.

Keeping it natural and safe for users

Keeping it open for Calgarians for years to come. Let's not lose this great inner city trail

Safety/ signage. ( use at your own risk, be respectful, stay on trail so all can enjoy)

Access and intention should serve a wide spectrum and should be developed at different scales. For example, wide smooth trails with good signage is part of the solution but should be done at the smallest scale, while technical, rough trails with minimal signage should be widely available.

"Preventing further erosion by managing snowmelt; forest maintenance to prevent forest fires as some people camp in the area and use gas stoves which quickly ignite tents, dry brush, dead trees.

Safety and education: making the trail attractive enough by maintaining it in a way that people will continue to use it year round (possibly a community volunteer group that looks after it, conducts clean-up campaigns, provides guided storytelling walks about species, etc.)"

Keep it as wild as possible.  No asphalt, railing only when absolutely necessary.  Not bicycle friendly ( and I am a cyclist, this is not the place)  Multiple offshoots.  Signage but made of natural materials (wood not metal).  Access to the viewpoint

Preserving the ecosystem

Keep it wild. Don't pander to the lowest common denominator.

Developing a trail that can withstand main seasons of use so less future disruption of the environment is possible

Please keep the integrity of the original loop. It is one of Calgary's most beautiful walks.

Slope stabilization

Please consider paving the corner sections of the trail that traverses across Shaganappi golf course and up into spruce Cliff. There are two corner sections that we have seen major wipe out on bikes due to gravel and low traction. Would be nice for the entire path to be paved however that's probably not in the budget. Just wanted to put the idea of addressing the hard pin corners for safety.

Environmental protection

Maintaining as much of the biome as possible.  Keep it as natural as possible.

Safety. As homelessness continues to escalate in the city, users of the trail need to feel safe.

Preserving natural environment and access. Not paving the trail with asphalt.

Hi, it's most important to understand how important it is for human wellness and quality of life it is to have natural spaces. It should be built for longevity and ease of maintenance so that it can remain a staple of the valley for many many years, however should be minimal intervention to ensure the feeling of actually being isolated in nature is preserved.

Long-term stabilization of the area so that the trail can be enjoyed snd the Douglas Firs can thrive

Restoring the trail as close to the original as possible and make key changes so it doesn't become unusable again in the future. The trail had such wonderful character and I'm afraid with too many improvements that charm of the trail might be lost.

Safety for nature and people. Balance.

Re opening as soon as possible

Environmental protection for flora and fauna, prevention future erosion. Then safety for human users after that. This area is special so it must be carefully preserved and protected. No motorized vehicles! Ie those little dirt bikes. No mountain bikes they have other trails they can use and cause too much erosion.

Keep it safe but also fun for kids. They like to cross bridges, mud, little creeks. Basically getting dirt and taking little risk. Please make it a all seasons trail. Thank you!

"I feel the city has done a very poor job of explaining what's going on in terms of the work being done and why.

Let's have some information panels at appropriate places explaining all that.

And why the heck is it taking so damned long - the trail has been out of action for over a year!! Same comments about the toilets.

And why not spend a little bit of effort on alternate new trails so that the bulk of the DFT can still be used.

The focus doesn’t seem to be on the trail users."

"Ensure that the DFT can again be walked it's full length

And by walked it can be walked in most conditions, so this world require replacement of wooden steps that were removed being replaced"

"Leaving it as similar to how it was. Fix the necessary erosion issues and re-open the pathway. Do not let engineering teams at the City create a never ending study and make work project. It is a natural area, fix the critical issues and leave it as a hiking trail.

Publish the design and work that is underway so people have an understanding of how it will change. Without designs online how are we supposed to comment on the design items that are clearly already underway"

Can you expand the hiking trail towards the west close to Sarcee Trail?  Trail can go down and up the other ridge heading west as far as possible?

I have personally never walked the Douglas Fir Trail, but I regularly walk and bike the path on the south side of the Bow River.  There is a portion of the path that is constantly wet and in the winter, very slippery.  We are no longer able to make the loop from Edworthy to Crowchild at back on the south side because it is too dangerous.  There has been a need for years for that area to be redone.

Protecting the environment

The Douglas Fir Trail is my favorite place in the city. It is very important that it remains a nature escape. Keep it as a secluded hiking trail within a rich, dense forest. Natural elements only (wooden railings, steps etc.).

More than any other park space in central Calgary, the DFT feels like an escape from the city; it feels like you are somewhere else entirely. It is incredibly valuable to have a space that feels natural, wild, and not overly managed/manicured. I would love for it to maintain that feeling.

Keep it natural. It had nice wood stairs so that would be good to keep or recreate. I’ve no issue with ensuring the hillside is stable so erosion is not an issue going forward.

The number one priority is to maintain the wilderness character of the trail, using as many natural materials as possible, while providing a decent single width tread underfoot.

Continued natural experience

Repair and stabilize for safe and sustained access.

Leaving the area as natural as possible.

Keep it as natural as possible

Protecting and conserving the local environment.

That citizens be able to continue to access the trails in a meaningful way. While I understand the city's desire to ensure the trails (and the citizens who use them) are safe, in my view, encouraging people to exercise caution and judgment is appropriate. In other words - don't cut off access because a small number of people are likely to injure themselves accessing the trails.

Continued access to trails on both sides of the river. Access for community members and those accessing the trails.

Keep the trail as wilderness as possible. There are plenty of other parks that offer more man made accessibility in the area.

Prioritize keeping the trail's natural beauty. The trail is appreciated as an adventurous escape from the city. Please please do not ruin this exceptional recreational space by removing natural roots and rocks or placing more boardwalks, bridges, or stairs.

Safety features to ensure erosion is kept to a minimum. Retain the hiking trail feel to the trail - an out of town hiking experience, in town.

Preserve as much of the forest as possible

The most important focus should be keeping Douglas Fir Trail open and accessible while preserving its natural character. Continued improvements that add more trail connections down to the river would greatly enhance the area and provide more opportunities for people to enjoy nature. This hillside offers a much-needed sense of peace and solitude away from the city, so any upgrades should prioritize maintaining that quiet, restorative environment while improving access and connectivity.

Focus on making the path safe and accessible to the public. Not everyone has the time, ability or financial means to drive to the mountains, therefore Calgary should work to improve all the hiking areas in the city.

"A safe trail for the average pedestrian user (guard rails and proper steps where needed). It would be excellent if the user can read trail signs sharing information about the Douglas Fir Trees and how the trail came to be, and incorporated view points that also feature seating.

I personally don't think this is a realistic pathway to accommodate wheelchairs & bicycles."

"The nature and the trail are beautiful; as Calgary grows it’s important to keep the city,

especially inner-city, connected via safe and reliable paths. I am hopeful the city finds funding to remediate and repair the damaged trail so people all around the city can connect safely and appreciate nature via the douglas fir trail for years to come. I think the most important thing is simply to construct a simple, safe, reliable trail for all to enjoy."

This is a special ecosystem, with trees dating back to when only indigenous people and native flora and fauna were original inhabitants. It's important to be shared with those of us here today, but protection is number one. Please help preserve this place for our ancestors to also enjoy and learn, centuries from now

Keep the trail wild like a mountain hiking trail. The trail surface should be natural and stairs maintained. Like trails in the mountains, hiking off trail should be discouraged to preserve the eco system. Don't put many signs on the trail as it ruins the 'feel like you're not in the city'

Sustainability of the environment

Keep the area wild with high quality pathways for walkers, running, and wheelers. There should be a mix of paved, gravel, and dirt trails in the area

Maintaining natural environment with option of a more challenging route. That is one of the trail highlights.

A good safe path that allows getting closer to nature and some scenic viewpoints. Walking only, no bikes.

Ecological integrity post repairs

It's an important trail to connect the south side from crowchild to edworthy. I previously liked the feeling of hiking while on the DFT, versus walking in the paved paths.

Keeping the trail open and safe

Safe wheeling infrastructure, keep trees for shade, ensuring proper drainage, resting areas.

Make this trail accessible from Crowchild Trail to Edworthy Park

Safety on the trail... Consistency of step sizes, hand and guard rails while keeping the challenge in place. It's a lovely trail and I've walked it several times, looking forward to hiking it again.

Reopening the full trail for use by the public so it is linked at both ends.

Whatever the new trail looks like that it is something that is safe and regularly maintained.

Leave it in a natural state as much as possible.

"It is important to allow people to have access to the river.

Will you please actually finish the improvements so citizens can get to the river?

I am not understanding why you have fenced off the area. It is very disappointing"

It must be done - access must be maintained. It is a healthy place for people to be outdoors in a natural, rugged wilderness area. There is a longstanding history of successful mountain paths in Banff and throughout Canada - but more so in Europe where you can walk to the top of a mountain. These pathways and erosion challenges are not new - there are experts who can design this for the long term. Communities have been build on the importance of this forest area and having access to it.

Preserving nature for diverse plant and wildlife species to thrive. Calgary is a large, sprawling city and corridors for nature are critical to preserve. This park is such a peaceful and vibrant little gem in the city and allows for many creatures and plants to thrive. As temperatures get hotter (annually) having large green spaces are necessary to keep neighbourhoods cooler. I hope there is a balance struck between well-maintained trails to encourage use of the park without it becoming too busy

I grew up with Edworthy and the Douglas Fir Trail being an integral part of my childhood. The Douglas Fir Trail has been a favourite inner city trial for my 3 kids for the past 18 years.  Only in the past decade did I discover the importance and uniqueness of the Douglas Fir stand. Health of the stand should be the priority, trail and education should be the second priority. Douglas Fir should be a meadow not overgrown with other species.

building a safe trail that incorporates natural features that people of all ages can use, reducing removal of old-growth trees and shrubs as much as possible

Protecting environment . There is always garbage on the trail. Is it possible to include bins for garbage and for cans at the bottom of the trail where it meets the bike trail at the river level and some bins at the the entrances in Wildwood? I would like to speak about the logistics of this and understand why they aren't already in place . In Lethbridge, there are bins that include a metal mesh can/bottle container that are easily cleared by City staff or people collecting bottles.

My biggest priority is understanding how the trail will affect four-legged wildlife. Unfortunately, that horse has largely left the barn. Calgary's river valley is already an increasingly difficult landscape for terrestrial wildlife, beginning with the ring road, which was built without wildlife overpasses in this area, and continuing with the cumulative impacts of ongoing development. Improvements should be planned with those impacts in mind.

The most important focus should be on maintaining the natural environment along the entire trail.

Reopening the trail in its entirety including maintaining access from the community of Wildwood.  The Douglas Fir trail is extremely important to both the city and community as it allows residents to experience a

hiking trail similar to those found in the foothills and mountains, particularly for those who may not have the means to travel outside the city.  Also a very useful tool for schools as an educational tool.

Bow Trail Pathway should be open and maintained year round

Maintaining natural areas that are accessible to a wide variety of people.

The ability for users from Wildwood, and all users, to go from top to bottom. The ability to get 80m of vert in the city not on pavement without the risk of being run over is priceless.

The most important thing is to keep it very natural and fully accessible. It is a moderately hard hiking trail and should stay that way. Please do not change it in ways (such as widening the path) that would make it an easy trail which would be accessible to everyone - doing so would ruin its ruggedness which is what makes it so unique and beautiful. Please do not permanently block off any portion of it, especially the part directly east of the lookout. That is the best part of the entire trail.

"Sustainable, supported, accessible (not closed part of the year), wild.

The MUP needs to not be the neglected stepchild.

The paths - groomed but less pavement - run off diversion to mitigate damage.

Keep the trees and vegetation as much as possible - accept desire lines."

The Douglas Fir Trail is a great inner city hiking trail, particularly for families and people without access to the mountains. Appreciate the recent efforts to improve safety for users!

Preserving the trail as a relatively rough hiking trail along the slope. The DFT is a wonderful piece of trail that feels like a chunk of Kananaskis right here in the city, and preserving that feeling is key.

Keeping the trails usable, open, and safe. Ensuring no homeless encampments is the best way to keep it safe.

"Access, keeping it accessible to the local community.  Keeping it as natural and wooded as possible.

That feeling of going for a hike in the city is why the douglas fir trail is so special.  That you can choose feeder trails in the woods and come out in different places.  Hopefully it can remain accessible and not feel too 'manmade'."

The Douglas Fir Trail is a unique asset to the City in that it provides a trail experience similar to being in the Rocky Mountains but right here in Calgary. The ruggedness, steep accents/descents, handmade stairs, rope railings, etc. make it special. It's traditionally built much like the back country trails of the Rocky Mountains. Safety is important but please don't ruin this by installing typical concrete and steel stairs, railings, etc we see everywhere throughout the city. Keep it special!

Leaving the trail in the most natural form possible while ensuring safety. We are Wildwood residents that are avid hikers in Banff, Kananaskis, etc. We feel special to have such a natural trail in the city that makes us feel we are in nature. I would prefer there only be handrails and steps where absolutely necessary. Ropes to help with steepness is fine. However, too much development within the trail takes away its natural appeal. + signage to explain the trail (unevenness, roots, etc).

Safe, sustainable enjoyment of area for Calgarians

Speed in reopening the trail for hardy individuals. It should be signed appropriately so people are advised of the challenges and risks. It should never become an easy and all accessible trail.

Prioritize getting it done - it's already been a year and it's a frequently used trail.

Building the trail correctly the first time. Put the time and necessary effort into building a fully functional and dedicated walking/cycling path. Don't cut corners and do it right. We don't want it washing out after a year.

Access to the paved pathway and access paths into/from Wildwood and Spruce Cliff

protecting this beautiful environment and making the trail safe for all users

Public access, keep the trail open

Bring the trail back to its beauty and difficulty level. It was great because you could do a hike that was a good workout (lots of stairs), but you didn't feel like you were in the city anymore. I like the lookout platform with benches.

Creating an outdoor recreation experience that feels like you are outside of the urban environment of the City. It is one of very few places inter city to experience the river, trees and pathways as if you were actually west of the City in undisturbed land.  The value of the hills and stairs is also important to me as I use it as a fitness trail to get some cardio in and going up the hillside allows for that variance that is a step above a paved path that are normally flat land.

"Building something that is sustainable and low maintenance. The includes something that can manage ice damming, flooding, and anything that Mother nature throws out to us in our city.

Keep this simple, would be lovely to have interpretive plaques and such, but people will eventually vandalize."

Focus on keeping the Douglas Fir trail open!  Keep the pathway simple and not over-engineered, so that inevitable soil movement will only require minor adjustments to the course of the pathway and will not require shutdowns of huge sections as we are currently experiencing.  It should be a naturally worn pathway laid down by walkers, not a constructed boardwalk that will need constant maintenance.

Environmental protection.  I think is more important the the area remains undisturbed as possible.

Since this trail is close to home and I love the nature, it would be nice to see a safe place to walk. Some benches and view points would be great to just sit and relax and reflect.

Keeping the trail "rugged" while maintaining the forests health. Its a fragile place for sure and it need to be protected but this is also a less is more kinda place.

Douglas Fir was always a secret escape in the city, a place where you felt like you were in the mountains when you could not get there. I think it is important to keep that feel, to have it as a dirt path and have stairs where needed. Do not pave it.

Safety. Isolated trail with multiple encampments make this trail incredibly intimidating to explore. Far from the relaxing experience it should be: Litter, debris, smoke, and tent communities make it uncomfortable and unwelcoming. I used to run these trails but in the last few years I've had to turn around, it has become a no-go zone.

Make sure that the improvements allow people with disabilities and mobility issues to also enjoy the area.

Accessibility - having different access points from the surrounding neighborhoods, nearby trails, and the Bow River Pathway below.

Maintaining a green space that is accessible to a variety of users. I'd love to see a balance of trail types for cycling, limited mobility folks, families, and stair climbers.

Natural preservation of the areas. Clear trail markings. Clean up of the area from tents and transient people - it has become unsafe in the last 2 years to the point that local neighbourhood people warn each other of dangers walking this trail alone.

"In my opinion safety & ease of use for all ages & mobility's should be the focus as well as environmental protection .

So trail width &  a good smooth surface  is most important. With rest areas along the way  to enjoy natures Beauty . We love to bike along the trails often and find being in nature riding along the river banks a very peaceful &enjoyable experience ."

The vast majority of DFT users are looking for an experience that is close to nature and similar to what they can experience in the foothills or mountains - in other words, not a highly engineered environment or experience. Responsible DFT users want the environment around the trail protected to preserve the

experience of hiking through a forest, so some design and measures will be required, but don't let legal liability and safety considerations get in the way.

The charm will be to retain the natural feel while simultaneously making the treacherous parts along slopes safe.

Getting it back open.

Ability to have year-round access to the paved section by the train tracks / river. (Fix the water/icing over issue)

Keep trail as natural as possible and use alotted taxpayer dollars for more urgent city priorities.  I get the impression this initiative will result in a major overbuild of the path which will take away from the natural beauty and tranquility.

Keeping it in its natural state -- so a natural wooded area with its own ecosystem intact and without too much development (ex: please don't pave the trail)

"The biggest thing for me is actually safety. I don't like how many people are living in the trees. It makes me nervous when walking alone.

Also, ensuring dedicated lanes for walking/cycling would be very beneficial."

It's most important to focus on safety while still keeping the trail as wild and natural as possible (i.e., reducing the impact as much as is practically possible).

Continued access by the public to this great trail. Safety for users and the environment. Maintaining a “natural” or “nature focused” experience.

Making it a multi use trail that supports walking and biking. It would be such an amazing resource to be able to bike from shaganappi to edworthy

Bringing outdoor enjoyment to the local residents. Maintain as much natural green space as possible. Allow comfortable biking/walking/hiking environments. Less concrete/asphalt and more nature

Keep the trail as wild as possible.

Preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the trail and forest

Safe walking trail, easy stairs if needed and benches to rest/enjoy. Areas of sun and shade. Viewpoints. Restrooms. I don’t like peeing in the trees.

Minimal impact to wildlife and vegetation.

What made the DFT special was the wildness of it - a rustic trail that seemed so far away from the city. Please do not pave this trail, or put up metal railings. The wood railings and bridges provided the character and charm of this trail. It shouldn't be like the other parks because it's not.

Preserving the trail as a natural space. Add minimal structures where needed to allow users to minimize erosion but keep it easy to maintain. For example, don't build the massive bridge structures there today where a 2 foot wide plank is needed. If it spans a larger distance like 20 feet then use a lightweight metal. Easy to adjust every few years if needed. No railings. If it is shorter span, just place some large rocks like you see in the national parks. It's a natural trail, keep it simple.

I love using this trail to experience nature in the city, so maintaining the character and preserving the natural environment is important to balance along with access and safe use. A mix of highly accessible and more off-road sections could strike a balance for different types of users and would be important to design with consideration to the natural environment.

Focus on keeping the trail rugged and natural and unique!

Maintaining an open through trail without turn around points and massive route re-routs( ie. Like there is now during construction). Keeping this trail open.

The trail system is a unique feature of the community and park. It's awesome to be able to experience this kind of trail in the city. I want to be able to continue to use it for years to come. It has been a tragedy to see the trail closed for years without any progress.

The trail is an urban hiking trail, not a walking path. Stop trying to turn it into a walking path. Hazards are not just acceptable but expected when hiking. Stop closing the trail for issues that are regularly encountered on hiking trials. Children and families use this trail as a wild space and it is important for child development to have this natural space to explore. Sign the trail to notify of hazards and then leave it open to public use.

As a local resident, I'd like to see the Douglas Fir Trail retain as much of its undeveloped character as possible. It's a fine trail for either trail running or strolling.

Safety, signage giving information and directions. Environment preservation. Trail can be used in all seasons, by all people.

Maintaining access and creating more outdoor recreation opportunities.

The focus: let us use it! It is a gem, enabling people to experience nature and "forest bathing" inside a major urban centre. Let the DFT remain a somewhat rugged/rough/"un-manicured" space, while at the same time allowing access for hiking, trail running and being in nature. The use of this area by the underhoused (regardless of if "open" or not) is a safety risk and increasing traffic by many users will be one mechanism to minimize non-intended uses of this space. I love the DFT.

Letting Calgarians enjoy the nature in their city where they can challenge themselves physically, enjoy animals and natures, and take some risks.

Year-round safety

Re-opening a safe end-to-end trail that users will stay on so that flora and fauna can freely use the remaining wilderness.

bring back this iconic Calgary treasure and restore it to its former glory

Environmental preservation

Keeping the area open to light public use while maintaining its wilderness feel and look. Allow for public access but don't destroy what makes the area great in trying to fix it up.

We need places to enjoy nature in the city. Douglas fir trail gives people a place to have a sense of adventure. It shouldn't be turned I to the widest safest most sterile pathway. Calgary has a great network of accessible options including the path right below it.

"1.) Maintain the trail's natural character as a hiking trail. Dirt, not asphalt.

2.) The trail presents itself as isolated from the surrounding city. Reminders of human presence (signs, structures,etc.) are not desired.

3.) Maintain the strenuous aspect (long stair, elevation gains, hills) of the trail."

"Fixing Bridges needed

Multiple entry points good

Railings on steep parts"

"keep trail system open and accessible. it's a forest trail that users understand is uneven etc. please leave it as such.

please continue efforts to discourage / relocate encampments along the trail system"

Repair/modify the trail to allow a continuous route end to end. I walked or ran the trail several times a week prior to it's the closure. Recognizing that erosion/slope stability issues made portions hazardous and that past efforts to repair these areas has been unsuccessful; I am wondering if a new path or stairs down to the trail and/or bike path adjacent to the railroad and around these areas could be constructed so that there is again a continuous end to end trail. I miss that route greatly.

Easy access and connectivity

Continuity of the trail. Being able to walk the whole thing from the west entrance up to the look out point, along to the next set of stairs and all the way to the east entrance is what makes the trail so great.

Remove trees fallen across path and minimize closures. Its a hiking trail it does not need to be perfect.

Spending the least amount of taxpayer money possible and being certain the benefit of the project exceeds the cost to taxpayers.

Leave as natural as possible. No cement or gravel  paths. Very similar to what it once was.

bike access

Keep it wild. Keep trail alterations to a minimum, ensuring safety for all. But don't go beyond that in an attempt to make things look pretty.

" -family friendly

-dog friendly

-maintain the character of the trail - the large trees, the quiet, the rugged trail quality

-maintain harmony with the land as much as possible

-recognize that this may not be a fully accessible trail due to the terrain

-safety with regards to encampments

-garbage cans at all access points

-educational information along the trail with tree/plant species, indigenous ways of knowing, historical references"

A year-round bike path. Be cost effective in any money you spend.  Save the city money. Get back to providing basic services and not platitudes.

"Conservation and environmental sustainability.

Don't focus on accessibility. Calgary already has its fair share of accessible pathway systems, but is losing it's natural spaces as the city develops."

Making it accessible as soon as possible, even with "Use at your own risk signs".

You should ensure it remains a challenging all seasons natural pathway while increasing links with various parkettes in Wildwood. You should upgrade the drainage to protect the slope and trail while enhancing habitat. Any consideration of any easy/accessible path should go into upgrading the paved regional

pathway at the bottom and making it four season capable by building culverts under the railbed to direct water into the river.

Opening the full trail! It is a beautiful trail and highly utilized by the community. As residents of the community, it is something we'd like to be able to walk and bike ride with our family

Getting a proper bridge back in place over the creek that comes down the hill just west of the path down from "Dead Man's Lookout".

Fixing the trail and making it accessible for users as through trail end to end.

Maintaining access to the DFT. We live in Wildwood and it is a regular part of our lives, the multi-year closure has been unfortunate as it has prevented us from spending time outdoors, on the trail, in Edworthy park, enjoying one of the best urban hikes in Calgary.

Somewhere safe to enjoy. It doesn't need all the bells and whistles to be enjoyable, it just needs to be safe for families or individuals to enter with no concerns.

Long term sustainability of the slope and the ecology.

Is it possible to put a bathroom there? We would like to go there and have a picnic but we can't stay very long because there is nowhere to go pee! A fire pit and a picnic table would be a bonus, but just the bathroom would be enough.

Providing access to natural areas within the city

"To keep its 'natural' feeling. A simple trail, not too sanitized, so that it remains a pleasure to run the trail in the woods.

To re-open it soon, it does not need to be perfect."

"Preserving the rustic, natural trail.  Reining in CP

As Calgary grows, there is more pressure on the park and the natural, rustic trail.

You need to to step forward with paths and wayfinding having the trail mesh with the broader park spaces. More level crossings less fencing and less CP cops with threats of arrest, fines, and killing of joy of a confused families and individual.

The East of the trail (off 10th Ave SW) parking, bike racks for trail users from the east end of the trail"

The Trail is integral to the Wildwood Community. Focus on restoration, hillside drainage problems to stabilize the slope/trail, long term citizen use & enjoyment and long term access - spend $$ on targeted mitigation with a reputable consulting firm.

Value the preservation of the forest. Enable at least walking/cycling on south side of river year round. Raise walkway so winter ice can build below walkway.

Re-opening the trail for functional use.

This is an important wildlife corridor first and foremost.  It is the only Douglas Fir area in and around Calgary.  Preservation and protection matter. I can see a walking path. But no bikes of any kind, no strollers, no upgraded path.  Keep it wild.

Keeping it open and accessible. Closing it or removing parts of it is not an option. This is an important pathway and trail system for the Center of Calgary and the entire communities of Wildwood, Spruce Cliff, West Gate and more.

"The most important thing to me is the continued availability of the trails. I don't want to see the trails disappear, I want to see them reopened and usable for anyone who wants to use them and is able to use them.

Trail infrastructure is mostly secondary to me, I think more of a wild and difficult trail is okay. Not every trail needs to be for every ability and trails should be available to those that can use them."

Open access to trail

DO NOT CLOSE DFT

Long term stability of the slope so users can enjoy it for decades to come. Good design to prevent misuse of the trail. Doing the design and project right

Long term use and sustainable updates for increased usage of a widely popular trail and a growing population of people. essentially no shortcuts on the rebuild, do it right the first time.

**Future Thinking (Visioner)**

**Looking ahead (5, 10, 20 years), what should Douglas Fir Trail prioritize most?**

***Five Years***

"1. River MUP 2. Nature connection"

Ensure the trail is maintained and preserved for future use.  Remove encampments, making it safer & reduce fire concerns. Don’t overbuild.

Add Winter Fat Biking and Winter trail running in conjunction with Shaganappi Nordic Operations - https://www.shaganappinordic.ca/

making the trail wide enough for growing population of users or not allowing dogs on weekends so that more kids and seniors can use

Protecting the unique Douglas Fir stand!

Maintaining the trail's natural beauty and keeping the trail open.

Keeping the natural beauty while mitigating the hazards of the annual spring thaw.

creating a corridor to get through as well as infrastructure that will not be destroyed by the annual ice flows from the springs

re-opening soon, fix the necessary items and do not let engineering make it a neverending work project. It doesnt need to be overengineered

Manage slope stability without spoiling the natural trail experience. Research erosion control used elsewhere, like Lake District, UK.

Mountain biking

Keeping a unique, woodlands/nature experience that allows people to connect with nature and challenge their abilities.

Safe trails, water control. Clear signage. Ensure unhoused individuals do not set up camps.

Nature/environmental protection is essential for the long term.

Trail connectivity from quarry trail to edworthy

keep as natural as possible; the charm is nature within the city. For the trail to be open and for access by residents in Montgomery

Fixing the erosion issue to make the trail accessible and open for use

Maintenance once restored. This area is a treasure and needs to be managed that way. This forest has a longer life than new stadiums built.

A challenging, forested path that's open for its entire length with new native vegetation planted to fill in gaps left by construction.

The DFT is an opportunity to experience a Rocky Mtn hiking trail within the city limits. It is not a classroom...it is an experience.

Keep the quiet serenity intact, with the beautiful dense forest and the quaint wooden trestles and bridges, stone steps and earthen pathways

education on the historic significance of the area, preservation of its natural state with eradication of non native species.

This trail can tell the story of this City. Growing over the years from when Calgary's population was 400K to going onto million and a half

The City must do regular trail maintenance.  Also, don't over-design and over-build it.  It is a HIKING trail.

The biggest priority should be on conservation. As climate change becomes more damaging, we need to do what we can to preserve what remains.

Eliminate encampments so everyone feels safe using the trails. Keep the trails rugged.

Keep the trail natural, ensuring an experience of being outside of the urban City.

***Ten Years***

Keeping a little oasis of nature in a large busy city

Protecting the unique Douglas Fir stand!

Access to the area and education through informational and interpretive signage.

Keeping the natural environment intact and the trail open. Eventually finding suitable housing for the people living there

I would shy away from significant development. Ensure main pathway is not washed away and adequate drainage

Allow access while protecting the natural environment as access to these spaces is so important. Manage encampments - safety first!

***Twenty Years***

keeping it open and accessible

Slope stability if it is a valid concern, protecting the natural state of the trails and surrounding forest, protecting the natural habitat.

Preserve the experience that the trail offers today. Resolve slope stability and erosion issues without ruining the trail experience.

Preserve the experience of being on a rugged trail in a peaceful forest.

Expanding and connecting natural areas.

Keeping natural areas protected

Design for gentle use. Fit the trail to the land so boardwalks and stairs can be renewed without harming the hillside.

I love the DFT, my favourite part of living in Spruce Cliff!I Manage slope stability & erosion without ruining the natural trail experience

Leave it alone

Protecting the unique Douglas Fir stand!

Maintain as a nature trail. Only use natural elements (wooden steps, bridges etc. as needed) Replant trees that have needed to be taken down

My Dad played and hiked the doug fir trail when he was a boy, then we did, preserve public access because it is such a unique trail in city.

Protecting natural environment.  Keeping it rustic.

Keeping the trail as natural as possible. Retaining its original oasis qualities.

Make it feel like wilderness not a city pathway and trail

Keep it as natural as possible, no railing no asphalt no gravel paths and metal bridges natural materials only

Preservation of natural spaces so that future citizens of Calgary can travel in natural environments.

Environmental stewardship - this is a rare habitat this far east and is home to many species - future Calgarians should be able to enjoy it.

Preserving the trail and surrounding area as a natural and wild space

Focus on restoration, hillside drainage issues to stabilize the slope/trail, have an external reputable company do the work! Use $$ wisely!

Stability of the trail with preserving the Douglas Fir trees

Maintaining the trail system and not letting the trails be damaged or disappear. Make sure they are still around in 20 years.

In 20 years I hope the Douglas fir trail is still around for generations to use and experience the forest environment.

I think we should prioritize keeping this unique ecosystem intact, while balancing it with community access and use. I am not advocating for

Conservation and protecting the natural environment.

Repair/modify the trail to allow a continuous route end to end while preserving the flora.

Retaining a unique nature trail in the city

Maintaining the wildness of the space, where the natural flora & fauna can flourish. Ensure slope stability to prevent major erosion events.

Keep it natural. Don't take away the simplicity of the natural beauty.

I would love to see the Douglas Fir stay as a natural space in the center of the city. Keep it as a denser city's back yard.

Do not close the trail. Allow for an urban hiking experience similar to hiking in Kananaskis.

The DFT stays open, end-to-end, in its natural "unmanicured" form and has scheduled maintenance to ensure environmental stewardship

Leave the trail as is, keep maintaining environmental stewardship, don’t pave over the natural beauty of the trail.

I would love to see a trail designed to flow with the natural environment; allowing enjoyment and use while protecting nature.

Keep it natural. Keep it open.

The natural systems and unique forest ecology. Removing unsightly and damaged infrastructure.

Douglas Fir Trees and the glorious shade that trail offers.

Preserve a natural trail experience within the urban environment. Maintain pathway and mitigate climate change impact. Eliminate encampments

**Mapping Exercises**

***How do you use Douglas Fir Trail?***

Cycling

the trail on the south side of the rail lines needs emergency location signage

needs bike access

Great place for a run!

regular user for fitness, recreation, wellness

Exceptional trail

regular user of the trail for fitness & recreation

We love take photos from the view point platform

I love this access point from the neighbourhood. It makes walking, running or biking to the trail much easier and eases traffic on the terrible road down to Edworthy Park.

Walking dogs on the trail is amazing! We use the whole system

The one way in which this trail could become 'accessible' in my mind is access between Wildwood Drive and the lookout. This would require a significant investment and, whatever you do, please don't pave it - it would ruin it for everybody!

This has been one of the only open segments so we use it a lot

Urban hiking trail. Keep it natural.

Variation in routes to escape to nature

I use the trails for walking / running

Forest bathing

Prior to closure I used to walk or run the trail from end to end weekly. I only use the dirt path and bike path adjacent to the railroad tracks since portions of the Douglas Fir were closed.

Meditating in nature and unwinding after a workday

this would be a great spot to formalize a picnic area ( no fire pit due to risk of miss use)

this needs to be a legal rail crossing for Spruce Cliff a community that is short of  free access groomed park space for our existing  and growing density.

on leash dog walks - add signs to remind others that it's not an off leash park

Jogging along the top part of the trail and seeing the city views

good birding spot and beautiful in the fall

Love bird watching

Walking, year round.

I use the trails for walking / running

This area needs a sign -- it looks like a normal trailhead, but it is very steep and not recommended to go down

Spruce Cliff needs a second access point to the trail from with in the community - Quarry Road Trail branch keeps getting closed for extended periods of time

restore this access point for Spruce Cliff at 3440 Spruce Dr SW

My husband has Alzheimer's and trail walking is his favourite activity. Sitting for a few minutes on a bench also. Please include spots for seating. We need restrooms too that are clean and maintained.

This section needs more work too to get back into needed shape (pun intended) as better maintained trail similar to the rest of the pathways beyond both ends of the DFT.

access to the trail from Montgomery

love to run on river path

not a legal rail crossing at water outlet B76

Google has the map wrong for the "official" DFT route

Figure out a way to keep bikes off this trail, they create a significant safety risk for hikers and do damage to the trail

bench here please

this section of the trail has washed out from overland run off needs to be restored with a gravel mix that compacts in a way it does not wash out

stairs here need some work

there is a spot here at the base of the railway tie stairs where you can not hear the traffic

A slightly more formalized connection between the pieces of the trail would be nice. Everyone uses the connection by the railway tracks so acknowledge that people will do that and connect it.

stairs need work

Great view of downtown, with the river running through it!

Lots of woodpeckers in the area!

Walking dog on leash

I run the trail in the woods

Escape to nature

map issue - the east trail is showing going to water outlet B76 this is not a legal rail crossing - one is needed below Spruce Cliff to get to Lawrey Gardens off leash area.

Hiking over to Edworthy park

Hike on the trail

Cycling

A nice, more secluded portion for a walk and picture taking.

great wilderness trail in the middle of the city

Park here and walk the Douglas Fir trail down to Crowchild bridge and loop back on north river pathway

This pathway (I call it the gulch) is in very poor shape, and could also benefit from some maintenance.

"We love the Douglas Fir Trail for

hiking biking & photography . Being in nature is so good for the soul ."

I often hike the trail from this entrance to the lookout

***What are your concerns?***

This is perhaps the largest, but there are large homeless camps all through the trail system, an issue made much worse with all the closures. "Eyes on the trail" will make it a safer place for all users including the campers.

The steep staircase climbs are an attraction of the DFT and will attract people similar to Grouse Grind.

Seasonal closure of the pathway on the south side of the River do make sense for safety's sake due to ice build-up.

This hiking path is closed. Please open it regardless of the conditions.

Very clear signage that explicitly indicates dogs should be on leash...not just as this entrance point but all entrance points.

Water/erosion issues causing trail closures

multiple unsanctioned trails - this also leads to slope instability and there needs to be some enforcement/signage/etc. to mange this

Trail in the ditch line of the active freight rail. This will hurt or kill someone eventually.

Trail routed in the active rail ditch-line. This will kill or hurt people eventually (already has)

encampment damage to slope stability and fire risk

Other comments don't mention it is the tendency of spring seepage to produce "glaciers" of ice, the way the "glacier's" push down the chain link separating path and rail line that leads to the improvised detour along the ditch. It might be very expensive but would it be possible turn this into a raised walk on pillars at this site?

Please open the trail for access from the South Parking Lot

encampment

Better signage needed -- this looks like a normal access point, but it is not a good trail (very steep and dangerous)

Encampment and litter all over this area

Trail has some tricky spots.

Homeless encampments, including fire pits.

Pave this pathway to allow better year round access (icy, muddy, etc in winter, spring).

The Quarry Road trail should be paved. It's the only bike trail in the city that is still gravel and it makes for unsafe riding conditions especially as a major connection to the river path network.

Unsightly and poorly maintained infrastructure

need a bench and signage at the trail head of Quarry Road Trail/Douglas Fir Trail (east) for this important historic city asset and also so those visiting are not wondering around on Hemlock Cr trying to find their way here - to what looks like a back lane gate.

Considering that there are obvious slope stability concerns here, should The City consider pausing and disallowing development or redevelopment along the north side of Wildwood Drive?

Pathway not maintained in the winter. it should be.

Health and succession of the Douglas Fir stand

Undergrowth of Douglas Fir stand and impact on its succession (i.e. pines, spruces and other shrubs shading out Douglas fir saplings preventing future of stand).

Safety; people not staying on the designated trail - degrades & adds to trail erosion. Springs make the path icy & muddy; hydrology & public signage needs to be addressed. Enforcement if needed.

Regular encampment in general area.

Instead of the Railway Police giving out tickets to the public for crossing the railway, consideration should be given to creating a second pedestrian crossing here.

As the railway (CPKC) is a major beneficiary of The City's work on slope stability, I hope they are contributing to the costs!

## In person

**Edworthy Park (July 4)**

- Proper CPRail crossings
- Build the trail properly the first time
- More crossings
- CP Rail needs to work with the City
- Could use messaging around physical closure (i.e. safety)
- Closure is inconvenient
- - Interpretive/Plant identification signs would be great (e.g. Coral Bells, Orchids, Indigenous History)

**Douglas Fir Trail Lookout (July 11)**

- Safety (no encampments)
    - Kids can’t play in the areas behind backyards due to safety concerns
- Keep it open
- No signage (keep it natural)
- Fresh air, morning air
- Looping trails are important or the ability to loop matters
- Keep it natural

- Feels like out of the city
- Bikes tend to use the entrance near cedar /hemlock crescent for access (they also use Quarry Rd Trail)
- Walk down memory lane (nostalgia)
- Exercise
- Like being in the mountains
- We use it all the time
- It's the reason we moved here.
- Ice shield on the bottom is brutal
- Making it wheelchair friendly could also make it bike friendly which may be a good thing or not
- Years ago there was regular maintenance – what happened to it?
- Suicide hil lfor bikes
- Some areas are to overgrown to access
- Will there be re-routing?
- Rope railings are good for pulling one's self up and down the rough parts
- This is supposed to be a "mountain trail" Not like a paved pathway
- Redirect flow
- Concerns – missing bridges and boardwalks
- Lots of stairs please
- No bikes on trail
- Encampents (concern)
- Off duty police officers use the trail
- Bring the Cllrs down to see the trail
- All the trees (matter) Do as little damage as possible
- Paved trail behind the houses might be an option but could lead to other problems
- Too slippery without stairs
- Railings on the tough parts are essential
- Keep it natural, We have lots of "accessible trails"
    - They wanted to know where 'the washout' was?
    - Did we say volunteer fixes weren't good enough?
    - Feeling of 'enchanted forest' when you turnaround at the lookout
    - Confusion around the east loop
    - Can there be a loop at the west side DFT 3?

**Edworthy Park (July 18)**

Notes: It was hot! 33 degrees hot but there was quite a bit of activity and we engaged over thirty participants.

As this was our third time doing a pop-up in the park and our final week of engagement, we highlighted some of WWH to encourage folks to think about something other than what had already been mentioned.

- Bench to watch trains
- I ride along here to watch the trains
- Popular area for rail fans
- Boardwalk overe water areas
- Buidling over trails (overpasses, etc..)
- Needs very work to be re-opened
- Support park equity throughout the city.  (i.e. don't spend it all here, we have access to this beautiful area, spend money elsewhere.)
- We can walk here. Think about those who have to take a bus to get to a green space.
- There are people in Wildwood who would be willing to advocate on this.
- How is accessibility (in all forms) being considered in the project overall?
- DFT is a gift within the city.
- No paving
- No paving
- Keep it no bikes
- Should be left to nature
- Nature doesn't need to be modified
- Goat trails – use those to determine new trail alignment
- If people go there, that's where the trail is
- People will take shortcuts
- Leave the pathway behind Shaganappi golf course alone (out of scope)
- Check out the Royal Canal Trust for funding/sponsorship ideas ( Canal & River Trust | Making life better by water)
- Balancing use versus destruction
- You have to protect it too
- Shortage of campgrounds in Calgary. You could almost put one in the space between Area 1 and Area 2. It would accommodate about thirty spaces and could generate revenue for the park
- This is our fave section of trail