

Douglas Fir Trail

Pre-engagement Report Back

We wanted to do pre-engagement to learn how people wanted to be involved before starting the main engagement. This helped us choose the right ways to reach people, like online, in person, or through community groups, instead of guessing or assuming what people want.

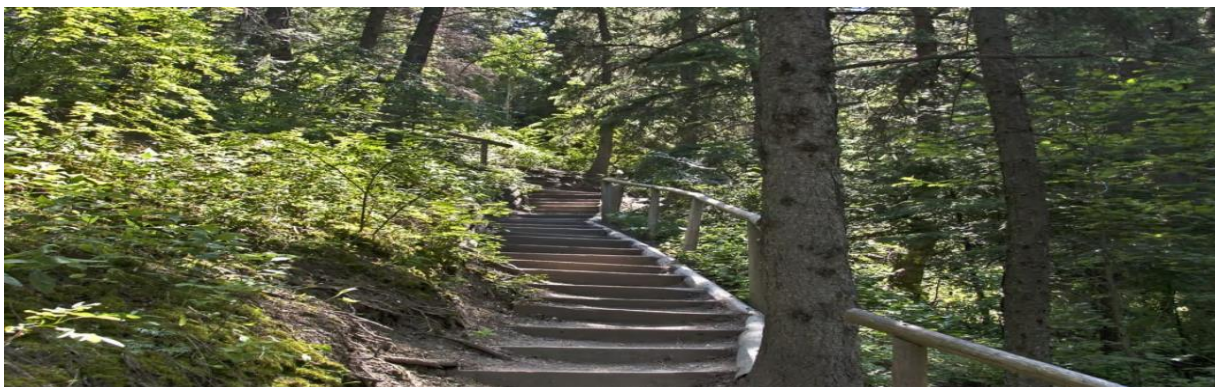
It also helped us understand any barriers, like timing, location, or accessibility needs, so more people can take part. By doing this first, we can make sure the engagement is easier to join, reaches more people, and better reflects the community.

Our Commitment to Engagement

The City of Calgary is committed to meaningful, transparent, and accountable engagement with Calgarians. We recognize that trust is built when people can see how their input is heard, considered, and used.

Through this pre-engagement, participants shared not only their perspectives on the Douglas Fir Trail, but also clear expectations about how engagement should work. This report reflects both.

Note: Some responses fell outside the scope of the question or overall project. These comments have been included in the verbatim responses for transparency; however, they may not be used to inform project-specific decisions. Relevant feedback will be shared with the appropriate departments where applicable.



Executive Summary

Calgarians who participated in this pre-engagement expressed a strong connection to the Douglas Fir Trail and a shared interest in its future.

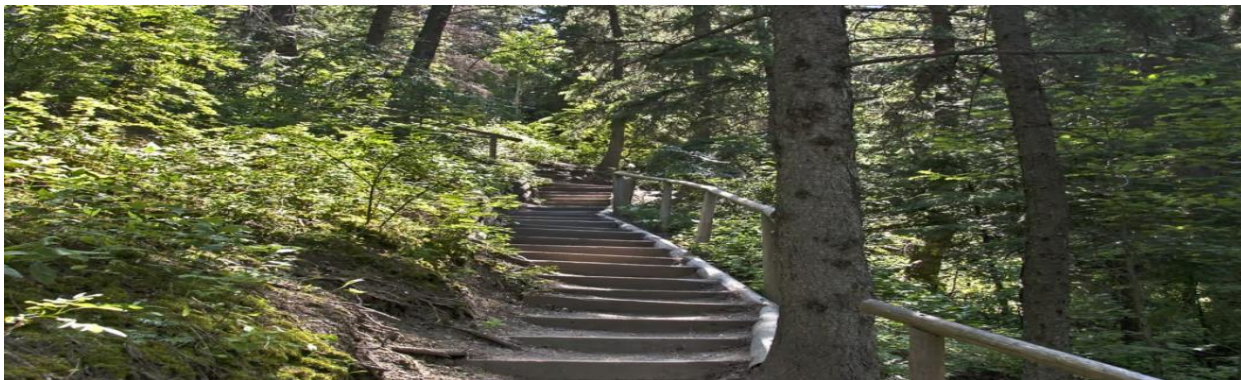
Key messages we heard include:

- A strong desire to **maintain access to the trail** while respecting its natural character
- The need to **balance safety, environmental protection, and user experience**
- Clear expectations that engagement must be **transparent, two-way, and influence decisions**

Participants also identified a **lack of trust in past engagement processes**, emphasizing the importance of demonstrating how input is used.

In response, The City is committing to:

- Clear, consistent communication about decisions and constraints
- Transparent reporting on how feedback is used
- Accessible engagement opportunities
- Ongoing dialogue with trail users and local communities

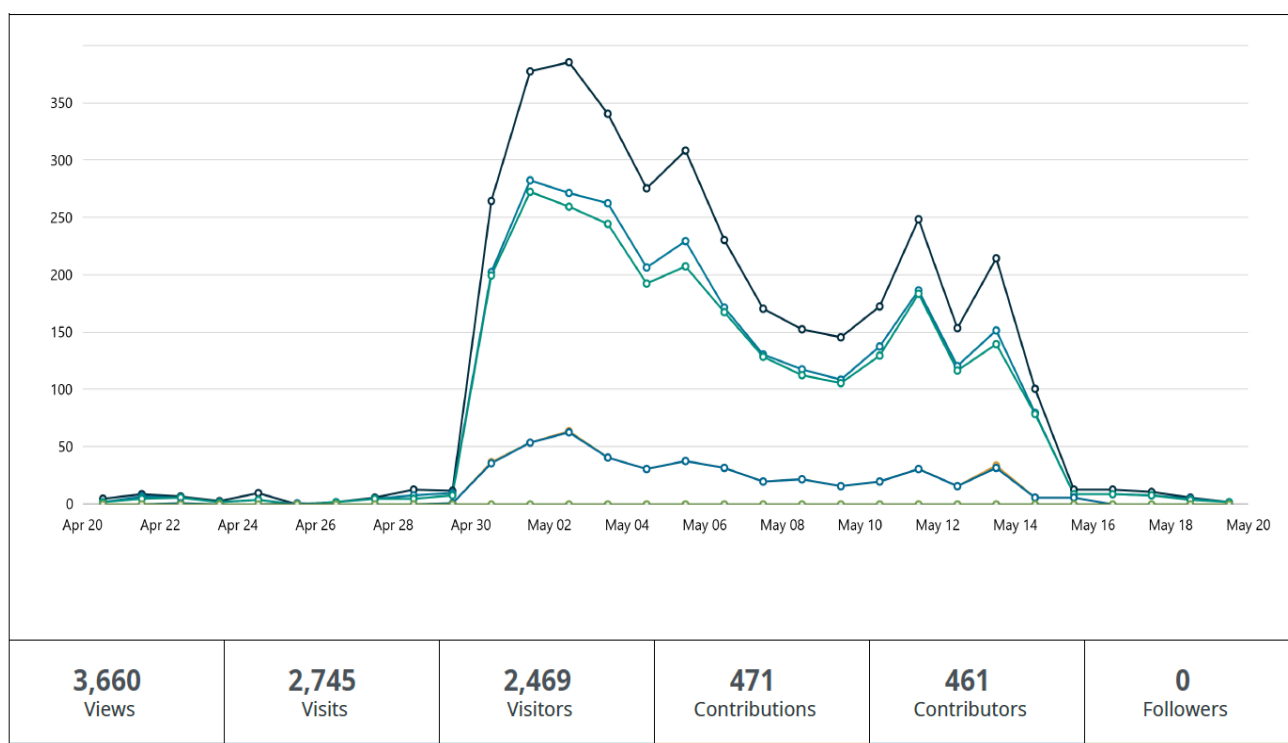


The Report

The City of Calgary conducted pre-engagement to understand perspectives on the Douglas Fir Trail. This report summarizes key themes and how feedback will help to create the outreach and engagement.

Participation Numbers

Notification about pre-engagement was done on social media as well as the Douglas Fir Trail newsletter and its subscribers. As per the graph below, we had 3,660 views, 2,745 visits, 2,469 visitors, 471 contributions, and 461 contributors from April 20 – May 20, 2026. (dates adjusted for grace period before and after active engagement)



Views – The number of times a Visitor visits the page.

Visits – The number of end user sessions associated with a single Visitor.

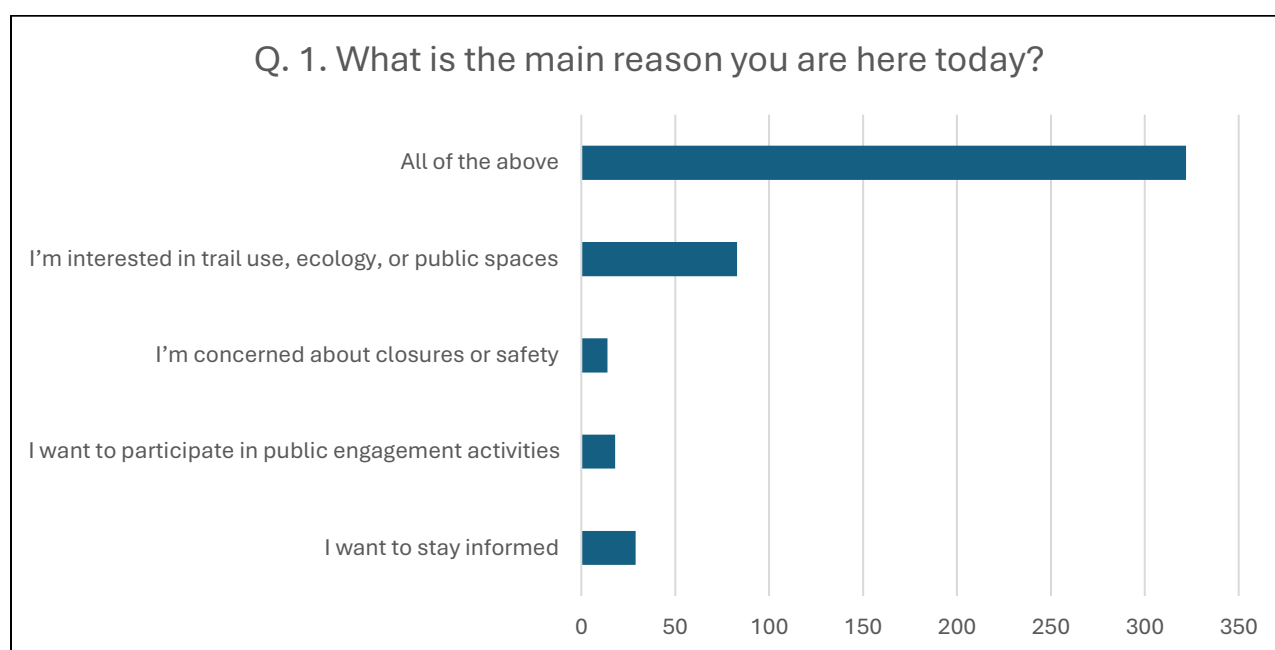
Visitor – The number of unique public or end users to the site.

Contributions – The total number of responses or feedback collected.

Contributors – The unique number of Visitors who left feedback or Contributions.

1. Why People Participated

Most respondents participated to share input on the future of the trail, stay informed, and ensure their voices are heard. As per the graph below, 322 respondents chose All of The Above, while 83 picked Trail, Use, Ecology or Public Spaces. 29 of respondents want to stay informed, 18 want to participate in public engagement activities while 14 respondents are concerned about closures or safety.



Note: The inclusion of an “All of the above” response option likely influenced the distribution of results. This option can attract higher selection rates because it allows respondents to endorse multiple items simultaneously rather than indicating a single preferred choice.

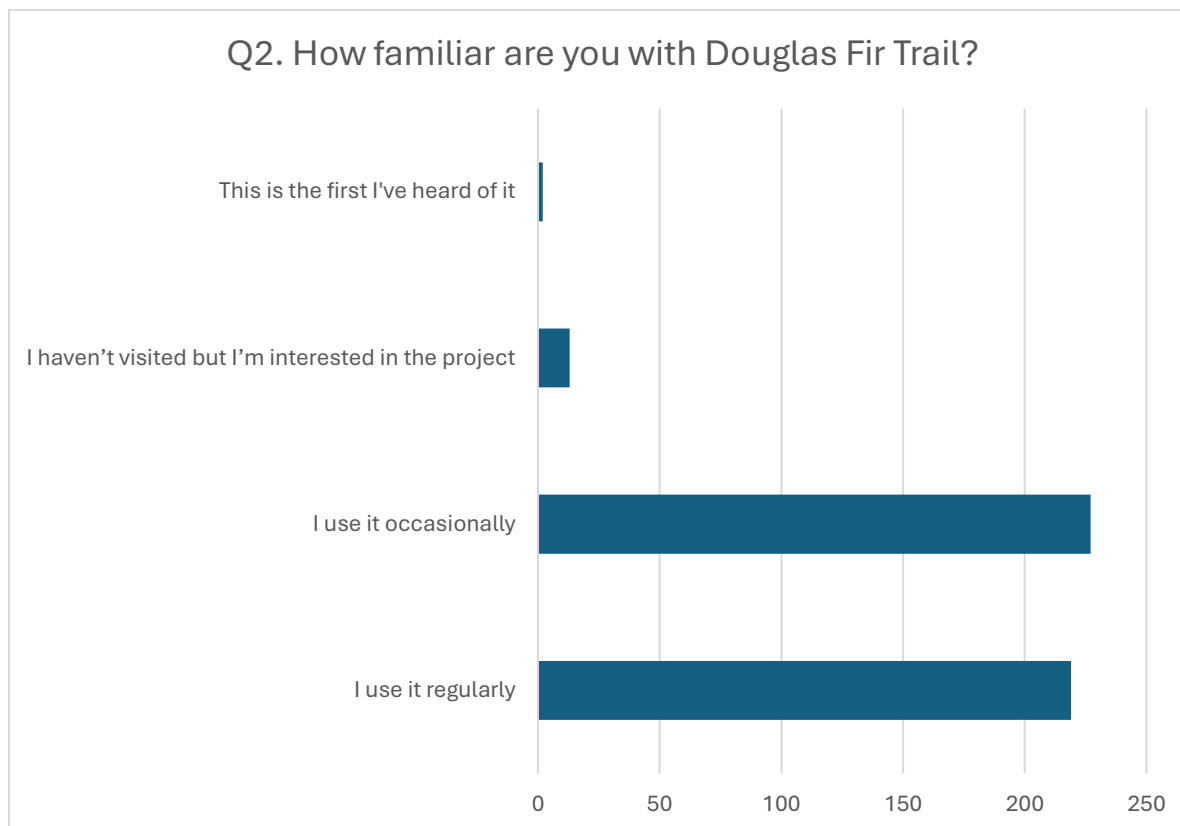
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q1. What is the main reason you are here today?](#)

Why did we ask this?

We wanted to understand their intent—what information they’re looking for or what they’re trying to do—so we can assess whether the site is meeting their needs.

2. Familiarity with the Trail

Many respondents were regular or long-term users, with deep personal connections to the trail spanning years or decades. As per the graph below, 219 respondents use it regularly, 227 use it occasionally, 13 haven't visited, and 2 respondents didn't previously know about it.



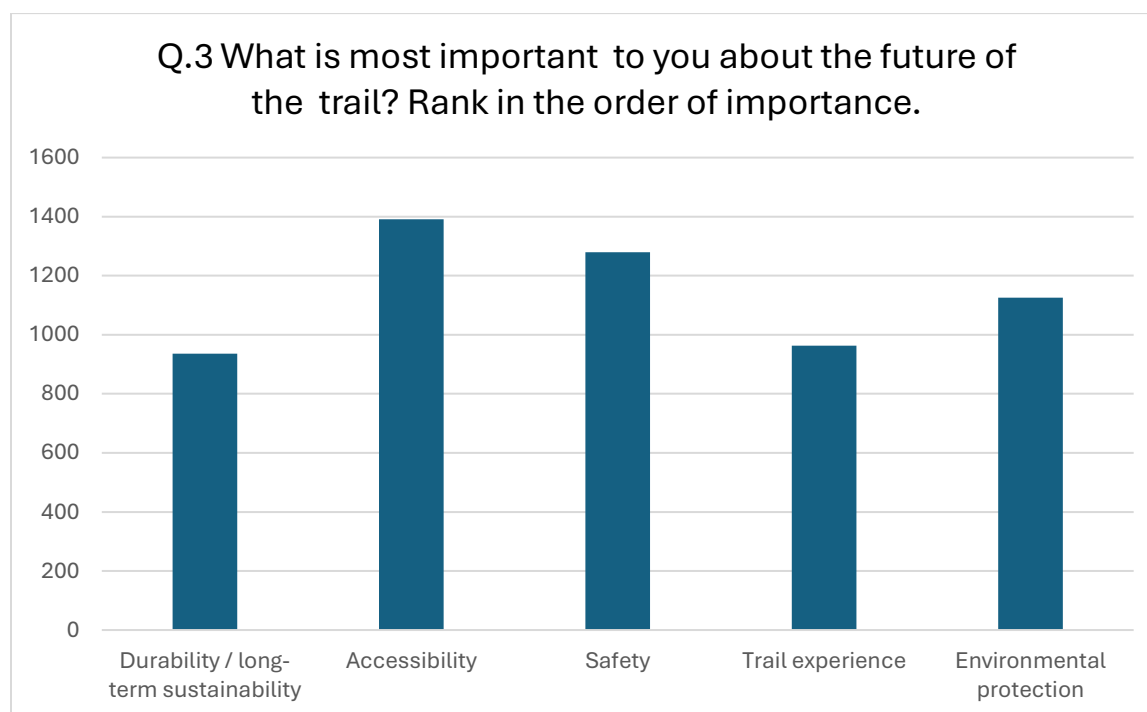
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q2. How familiar are you with the Douglas Fir Trail?](#)

Why did we ask this?

We ask how familiar people are with the trail to understand the context of their feedback—whether it reflects the experiences of frequent users, occasional users, or people who don't use it at all.

3. Future Priorities

Accessibility, safety, and environmental protection were top priorities. As per the graph below, Accessibility ranked the highest with 1,391 points, next came Safety with 1,279 points. Environmental Protection received 1,126 points, while Trail Experience came in second last at 963 and durability/long term durability came in with 936 points.



Note: The term “accessibility” was not defined in this question. As a result, it is unclear whether respondents were referring to general access to the trail or to accessibility in the more specific, technical sense.

Why did we ask this?

We ask what is most important about the future of the trail to understand people’s priorities and values, so we can align planning decisions with what matters most to the community.

4. Purposeful Dialogue – What We Heard

Participants were told that Engagement at The City of Calgary is defined as: “Purposeful dialogue between The City, impacted or interested Calgarians and other communities or groups to gather information to influence decision-making.” And then asked, “What does Purposeful Dialogue mean to you?”.

Participants were clear that engagement must go beyond information sharing. Many emphasized that past experiences have felt one-directional or predetermined.

Across responses, the following themes emerged:

- **Two-way communication and knowledge sharing**
Engagement where The City actually listens and responds, not just informs
- **Transparency**
Clear explanations of constraints, decisions, and trade-offs
- **Demonstrated impact**
Evidence showing how input influenced decisions
- **No predetermined outcomes**
Confidence that engagement helps shape—not just validate—decisions
- **Accountability**
Reporting back on what was heard and what changed as a result

Respondents want intentional and goal orientated dialogue. It needs to be equitable and respectful.

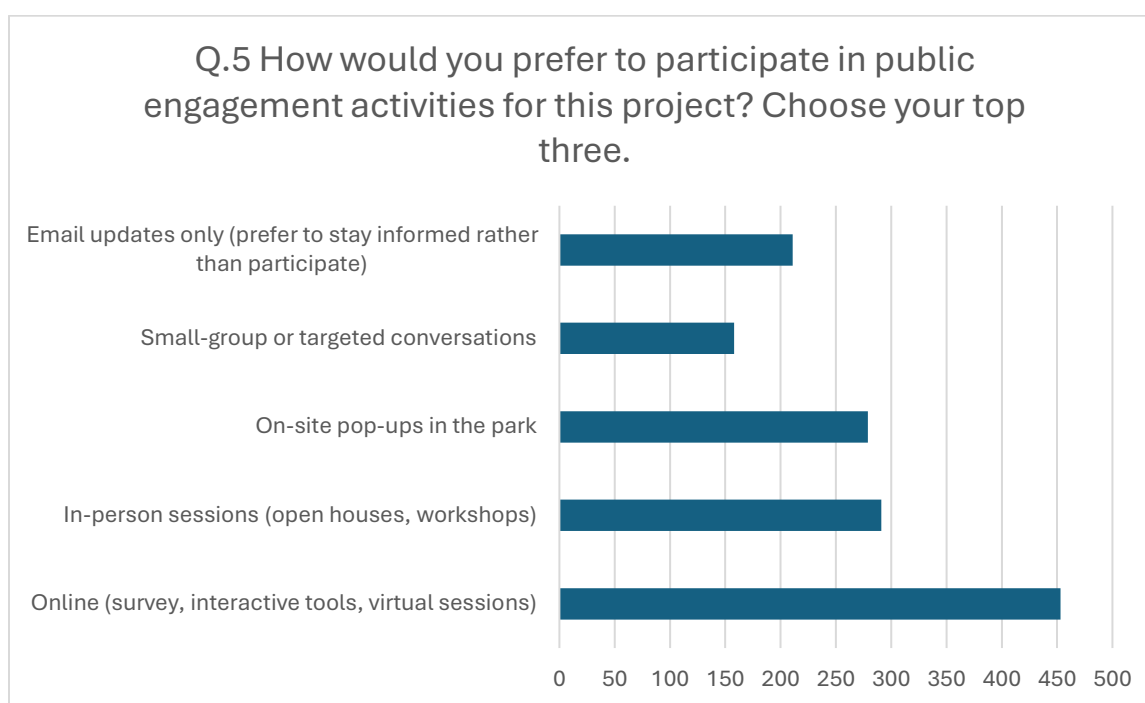
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q4. What does purposeful dialogue mean to you?](#)

Why did we ask this?

We asked this to understand how people interpret “purposeful dialogue,” so we can align our engagement approach with public expectations and ensure it feels meaningful, transparent, and genuine. To keep us accountable.

5. Participation preferences

When asked how people would prefer to participate in outreach and engagement, these were the preferences; Online placed the highest (453), then came In-Person session (291), Park pop-ups (279), Email updates (prefer to stay informed rather than participate (211) and lastly were Small group or targetted conversations (158). These are shown in the graph below.



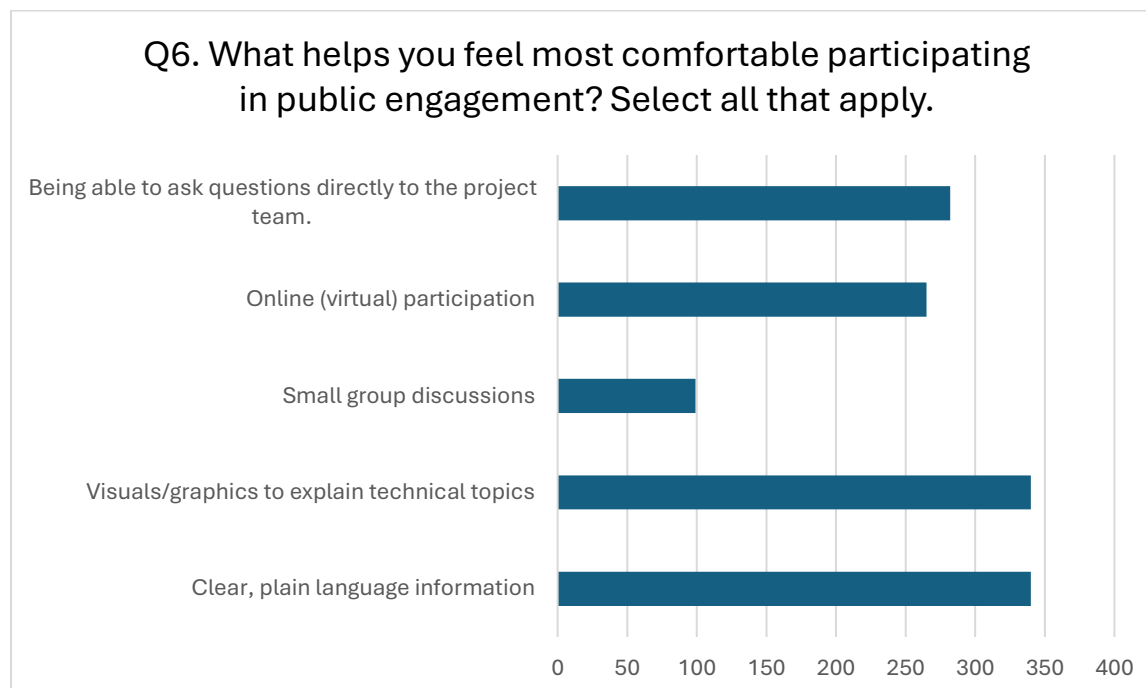
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q5. How would you prefer to participate in public engagement activities for this project? Choose your top three.](#)

Why did we ask this?

We ask how people prefer to participate in outreach and engagement to ensure our methods are accessible, inclusive, and aligned with how people want to be involved.

6. Belonging

As shown in the graph below, 'Clear Plain Language' and 'Visuals/Graphic [...]' were most important to feeling comfortable (340 each), followed by 'Being Able to Ask Questions [...]' (282) and 'On-line participation' (265). 'Small group discussions' were seen to be the least comfortable (99)



Note: This question used a “Select all that apply” format, allowing respondents to choose multiple options. As a result, responses reflect the range of items selected rather than a single preferred choice.

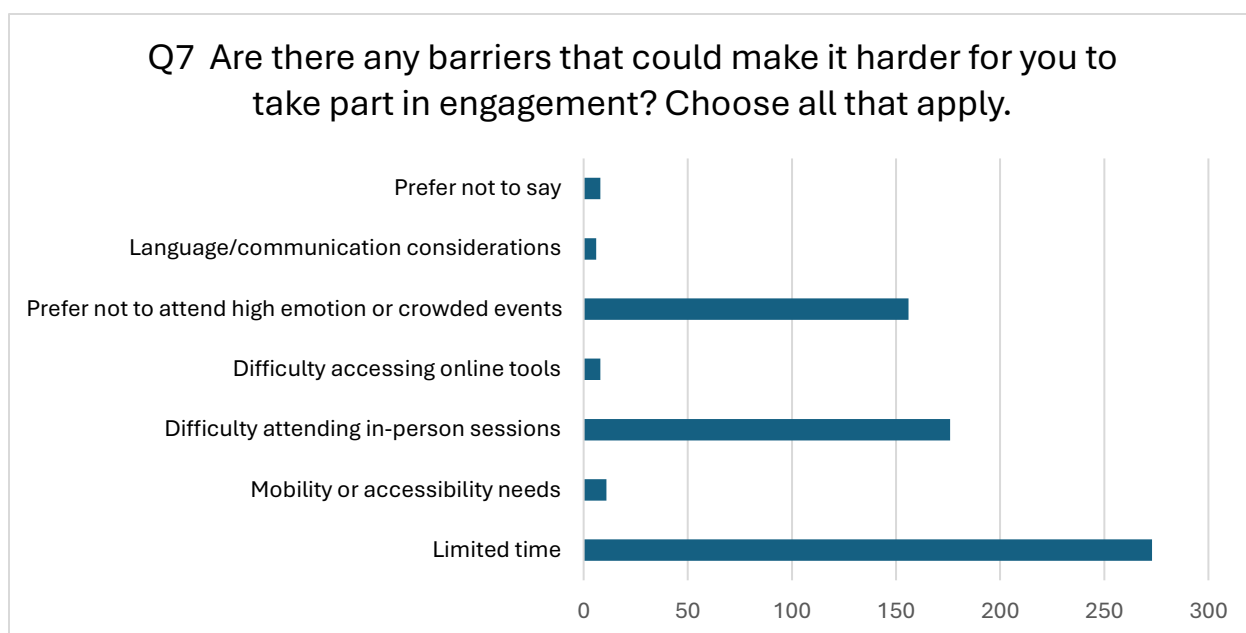
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q6. What helps you feel most comfortable participating in public engagement? Select all that apply.](#)

Why did we ask this?

We asked this to understand what creates a safe and welcoming environment for participation, so we can reduce barriers and design engagement that people feel comfortable and confident taking part in.

7. Barriers

As per the graph below, the top barrier chosen was Limited time (273), next was Difficulty in attending in-person sessions (176), then Prefer not to attend high emotion or crowded events (156). These were followed by Mobility or accessibility needs (11), Difficulty accessing on-line tools (8), and language/communication considerations. Some participants preferred not to say (8).



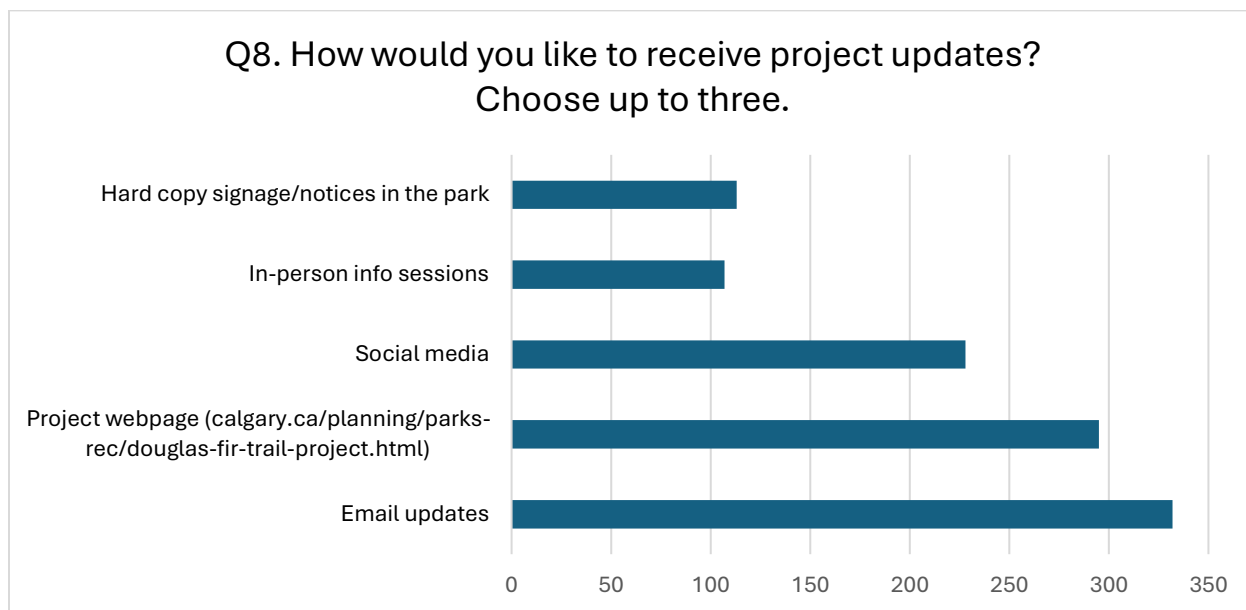
To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q7. Are there any barriers that could make it harder for you to take part in engagement? Choose all that apply.](#)

Why did we ask this?

We ask this to understand what barriers people face, so we can identify and remove obstacles and make engagement more accessible and inclusive.

8. Communications

The graph below shows respondents' preferences on receiving project updates. Their top preference was Email update (332), followed by the project webpage (295) and then Social Media (228). Next were 'Hard copy signage/notices in the park' (113) and finally 'In-person info session'.



To read the verbatim for this question, please click the following link: [Q8. How would you like to receive project updates? Choose up to three.](#)

Why did we ask this?

We asked this to understand how people prefer to stay informed, so we can share updates in ways that are timely, accessible, and reach them effectively.

WWHR and WWD

What We Heard	What We're Doing
Engagement can feel performative or predetermined	We will clearly communicate what is open for input and report back on how feedback influenced decisions
Desire for transparency on timelines, costs, and constraints	We will provide plain-language updates explaining project constraints, risks, and timelines
Strong connection to the trail and desire to keep it open	We will explore options that balance access, safety, and environmental protection
Preference for online and flexible participation	We will offer both online and in-community engagement opportunities
Need to hear from actual users and nearby communities	We will prioritize input from trail users and local residents while maintaining inclusive engagement
Frustration with long closures and lack of updates	We will improve frequency and clarity of project updates

In closing

We heard clearly that Calgarians want to see how their input is used. As this project moves forward, we are committed to:

- Sharing what we heard and how it influenced decisions
- Clearly explaining what could and could not be incorporated—and why
- Providing regular updates on progress and timelines
- Continuing to create opportunities for meaningful participation

Verbatim

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 Team 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.

Q1. What is the main reason you are here today?

I'm concerned about closures. Not safety. A forest is not meant to be accessible or safe to everyone

Douglas Fir Trail is such an amazing inner city hike. I want to make sure the city hears feedback from people who regularly use the trail, because getting out of the city for hikes is expensive and if you work more than one job, not always easy to do. Douglas Fir Trail is free and totally available by transit.

All of the above and the costs to taxpayers

I'm displeased the trail is closed and think it has been very poorly managed.

I want the trail to stay open

Q2. How familiar are you with the Douglas Fir Trail?

I would like to use it regularly. It is an important part of our city's recreational opportunities but it has not been well maintained by The City for years and has been closed without a plan to restore. Now I fear The City is just jumping to the decision to close it.

Was a regular user, now would classify myself as occasional.

I used to go frequently before the closures

I used to use very regularly. But it's closed or feels unsafe due to homeless camps.

I used it regularly before it was closed. The answers offered do not reflect its status

Used to use it regularly, but not recently

I used it a lot when I lived in the area and now my daughter uses it a lot. I still go back to it.

I used it as a hiking and running trail when I lived in Wildwood, from 1985 to 1992 almost on a daily basis in the May to Sept months. I also worked as a volunteer in the reconstruction

I have used it regularly

Q4. What does purposeful dialogue mean to you?

All ways you are currently engaging and creating dialogue. No additional engagement needed.

Dialogue is orientated towards facilitating community goals (how can we get this done) not City of Calgary dictating what will happen.

Working together to define problems, solutions, and methods to achieving said solutions

Purposeful dialogue is a structured, intentional, and goal-oriented conversation designed to create shared understanding, solve problems, or foster collaboration, moving beyond casual, unstructured small talk. It focuses on specific topics to drive action and, in literature, drives the story forward by revealing character, conflict, or plot details.

Hopefully it means the input impacts the decision. Too often I've seen engagement as performative with outcomes decided.

Intentional time/opportunities made to elicit thoughts, priorities, desires, perspectives, needs, requirements, concerns, and etc. from the public and exchange information about constraints, desires, requirements, plans, and etc. from the City to the public/impacted stakeholders.

"To me, "purposeful dialogue" means honest two-way communication — not just checking a box. It means full transparency, clear information, respectful discussion, and actually listening to Calgarians before decisions are made. That should also apply to ward councillors and their liaisons. Constituents deserve to be heard, respected, and not dismissed when raising concerns about their communities. Engagement should help shape decisions, not simply explain them after the fact."

Don't close down trails just because it is easy. This asset is amazing because of the hard trails in hard terrain. It's amazing how this asset is in the City. Don't wreck this unique part of Calgary.

Having conversation with the intention of understanding other's point of view, sharing concerns and developing a common understanding of the situation

Listening to stakeholders while still adhering to basic principles.

Considering residents voices.

Listening to users

For the City to listen to residents/trail users to repair the trail and maintain for many years to come

"My input is documented. It's visibly considered. I can trace how it influenced (or didn't influence) the final decision"

Make an effort to engage community members where they are - listen to them, and actually integrate their comments and priorities - it's not just influence... citizens should be making decisions. Don't waste our time if you have pre-determined the outcome.

How much and how soon can it open again.

It means sharing ideas and perspectives. It provides understanding of different phases of development.

Assist with development needs of the public for the area

The city actually listening to the user's and not just projecting their vision onto it

We get input. That the city doesn't just decide the direction.

Too often City engagement processes sound like one-way dissemination of information. It often becomes apparent what the outcome of engagement activities will be simply by noticing key words which betray the presuppositions and predetermined values of the planners involved. Google "Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation" - this feels like "Placation" or even "Consultation".

Actually listening to what people want, not just implementing the idea you had before consulting began.

This means a 2-way conversation in which the City and stakeholder share information in a transparent manner and listen to what people have to say. The purpose is to determine the best solution for the Trail. It is not to check a "consultation completed" box for a decision that has already been determined.

Hearing from all user constituents and truly listening and acting on valid input.

Actually listening to the people who use the trail.

Actually listening through many forms of engagement.

Actually listening to the input of the trail users and community. These engagement exercises usually seem like checking a box to say it was done and proceeding how the city planned to regardless.

That our opinions, experience and expertise is actually listened to. That The City has entered the discussion with a decision made already.

Ability to share opinions by individuals that use the trails.

Provide as much information as possible to the public as to how and what the City's expectations are regarding the Trail so that public can give informed feedback and input.

Does purposeful dialogue mean you listen to us?

The City listens to feedback from trail users and the directly impacted community of DFT.

The City aims to reach reasonable goals of users. The city keeps us informed.

Sharing of information from the public that the city listens to and takes into consideration and the relaying of information back from the city to explain or justify why certain decisions were made and actions undertaken.

It means that the City of Calgary doesn't just throw people's comments away at these Open House events, or disregard comments/suggestion/concerns expressed in on-line surveys. Unfortunately, the City has a reputation for doing just that.

Discussions between the city government and us the people living and working here in Calgary about important topics in our city

I want this projects to be collaborative where our input is considered and held important

A Dialogue that will trully take into consideration the values of the community who care greatly for the tail.

The city actually listens and engages professional trail builders along with lawyers and engineering.

Taking the feedback from trail users, and doing the best to restore this beautiful trail after we've lost some of Paskapoo.

Purposeful dialogue means that both parties, the City as well as Calgarians have respectful conversation to foster actual listening and collaboration as opposed to dictatorship from city officials who don't even utilize the path in question. Dialogue with the city should be with actual users of the park in question.

It means ACTUALLY listening to and taking into consideration the opinions of Wildwood residents and trail users. There seems to be a history of lip-service by the city where it concerns public engagement - the city's position already fixed with little appreciation for citizens opinions.

"Purposeful or meaningful dialogue needs to respect the history of the Douglas Fir Trail (DFT). The DFT is beloved because it is a wilderness experience within the confines of Calgary and most important is the vertical exercise on the staircases. Similar to the draw of places such as the Grouse Grind in Vancouver and the staircase above Calgary Curling Club.

These foundational aspects need to be honoured in the dialogue."

I tho purposeful dialog is when all parties communicate clearly and actively listen, until everyone has mutual understanding.

Discussion targeting solving a problem

Hearing from regular users and feedback on how users thoughts are incorporated in the City's plans.

don't have the conclusion already in your heads. Don't set the agenda. let the citizens set the agenda

Being honest about complexities being faced by the design team.

Means a two way conversation.

To me, it means keeping local residents and citizens engaged in the decision making process, providing transparency about any decisions, as well as accepting and/or integrating feedback from community members/residents and citizens.



Purposeful dialogue means a collaborative process where the City and residents work together. I want to contribute my perspective on Douglas Fir conservation to help find a balance between urban growth and nature preservation.

Dialogue - with transparent and meaningful discussion. Not just lip service for show.

Purposeful dialogue means that the conversations and decisions are goal related

Listening to I put to shape goal not adjust predetermined goals

Hearing user's thoughts and concerns about the project.

Purposeful dialog would be the city listening to the people that are most invested & passionate about this - The Users of the trail.

Communication with a set goal of seeking the best strategy for the trail.

Working towards a solution to use the Douglas Fir trail safely.

Sharing of transparent information to understand the real challenges the project faces, the real risks to users, and the realistic timeline for project completion.

The trail has been closed or partially disabled by the city for nearly 15 years. No different than hiking a trail I'm Kananaskis or grouse grind in Vancouver there are always risks. I am disappointed that we didn't just hire a trail builder from Canmore or some other mountain town and just make minor enhancements to the trail and open it up. This has been a waste of time and money. I'm disappointed there haven't been any courageous pragmatic folks at the city to get this trail open years ago.

"Environmental Impact The accumulation of trash and leftover materials from these encampments not only detracts from the beauty of our parks but also poses a significant threat to the environment. Safety Concerns"

A purposeful dialogue would look like the city responding to the public's direct questions - so on-line surveys and pop-up Meetings in the area for discussions like for Medicine Hill / Paskapoo Slopes. Unlike Paskapoo, there has been talk of closing the Douglas Fir Trail, so transparency in seeing how these decisions are made would make a meaningful impact for the public.

taking the time to listen - both sides need to do this. the city though has to understand the importance of this trail to users - and to really listen to what is wanted and not what the city wants.

Public opinion is a priority and impactful (where possible) upon the them being properly informed.

The above definition sounds appropriate.

Accurate and concise information to the public.

To me. Purposeful dialogue means recognizing that there are various user groups using the park, and that not all portions of the trail need to be fully accessible to all ability levels. I hope that all view points are considered as equally valid, and that innovative ideas are considered.

"Having plans, or multiple options, for review. Share City's perceived pros/cons. Be prepared to modify plans based on feedback."

For me, purposeful dialogue means hearing from the people who actually use, value and are affected by the Douglas Fir Trail, and then using that feedback in a transparent way.

Opportunity to present our opinions and feel like they are heard because alternations to plans are made, based on that feedback.

The City will actually listen to people's concerns and act based on the majority of comments and suggestions, rather than a predetermined outcome.

Works for me along with taking action once info is gathered.

Driving a meaningful, reciprocal conversation with purpose. It is not a complaint hotline.

Please don't just have lip-service. One of the things that I am loving about the new leadership and council is that it actually seems as though you are taking action steps Based upon the feedback of those who are the most impacted

I would like to see decisions made on the Douglas fur trail be made by citizens that actually use the trail. It should say use at your own risk.

Two way communication between stakeholders and The City. Both parties heard.

Listening to those impacted

Willingness to hear the wants of the citizens and find common ground. This trail is a space good for human wellbeing and mental health.

Purposeful dialogue means no pre-determined outcomes, no secret/privileged negotiations with railway corridor stakeholders, and an opportunity for the public to help

shape the vision for the future of the trail. The City needs to be prepared to treat Wildwood fairly by making investments in the Douglas Fir Trail and stabilising the slope it is on that are similar to investments it has made in other communities to stabilize slopes and preserve the usability of pathways and trails.

Purposeful dialogue means open, respectful communication focused on a shared goal. It involves listening, understanding different perspectives, and working together toward positive outcomes. In protecting a trail and keeping it open for public use, purposeful dialogue helps build trust among landowners, community members, and stakeholders, creating solutions that preserve access, protect nature, and benefit future generations.

Regular communication, regardless of changes in the project status. No hidden agendas.

Just reopen the trail and work towards making it happen.

Please make sure the trail is maintained a safe to use. It is a gem in the city.

Our voices are heard

I think it is clear, open communication, bit combined with listening to those who have used the trail for years.

"It means active listening with back and forth discussion about an important topic. It means the engager presents and then a Thoughtfully considers multiple perspectives."

It means clear, consistent, honest and well informed exchange of information. To date, trail users and "locals" have had mixed messages and conflicting information about the trail. It has been closed or partially closed for a long time now!

Trusting that the concerns we have as local residents and regular users are heard. I've used the trail since the mid-1990s and would hate to see it closed so long that I can no longer physically enjoy it.

The speed at which these engagements take place and decisions are made is frustratingly slow. Large parts pathway has been closed for years and our city councillor resigned without a replacement so we had no democratic representation. Without that representation, it felt as though the city slow walked things and put our park and its issues on the backburner. Hopefully this engagement is a sign that's changing.

Taking into consideration experiences of the key users of the trail and those who use and benefit from the trail most to make the best decision for the future.

Not just “dialogue” to influence decision-making as set out above but an express commitment from the city that they will make all reasonable efforts to address and incorporate the concerns and desires of impacted or interested Calgarians and other groups in the final result,

When the city listens to residents who use The Trail almost everyday (and know The Trail better than anyone).

Whether an idea is controversial, or not, engagement must look the same for all ideas and conversation.

Clear communication on challenges and potential solutions. Community engagement on those solutions for feedback that most aligns with trail users and what the city is able to provide.

The trail has been a part of my “Edworthy Back Yard” for decades and I appreciate that it requires a major overhaul to make it sustainable and, in particular, to deal with the major ice flows that make it dangerous. You’ll be digging in that back yard, and I’d like to know about your plans.

Talking to residents of Wildwood and other engaged parties to ensure the trail is around for a very long time.

Accessibility is always important. And more challenging trails are by nature less Accessible

Cost to fix it without closing any of the trail and then what will be done to raise those funds.

Details given by the city as far as why and what things need to be done. Long terms plans for it. Also an ability for the community to have input on what they would like to see done Concerns and public use of our beautiful green spaces.

As a neighbor I’d like to stay informed.

In a nutshell, the city needs to listen to Calgary’s who use the trail on how to proceed. Then layer in expertise to make sure the trail is sustainable. It’s a hike so you’re never gonna make it more accessible than it is. So what I hope to see is the city lean into it being a hike, we have an absolute ton of parks with access. This trail is unique because it’s a challenging hike with some exciting elements of risk, something Calgarian’s can only get if they go to the mountains.

having confidence that my thoughts and perspectives as a long-time and regular user of the trail will be given ample and serious consideration when planning the future of the trail.

The City being direct and clear. Use plain language and easily defined terms.

The opportunity for active users/community members to have input in a variety of ways (in person, phone, online etc)

It's important that the city actually listen and act based upon what people say. We are pessimistic because this process of engagement (for trails, housing development etc) seems to be fake. Just the city going through the motions saying they engaged the community when they have had their own agenda and plan already made up. People are sick of this pseudo process.

They keep public informed and find a way to keep it open.

Clear, concise, fact based information.

Clear and consistency

City listening to user interests.

Speaking to the public who use the trail, not just city employees. Getting out on the trails and speaking to those who want to use it. Visiting the communities who neighbour the trails to get their input.

The city actually cares about citizens opinions and takes them seriously when developing a plan, not just going through the motions and pretending it cares what the citizens have to say.

"Don't just build a survey where it's impossible to give any answer except a predetermined one. I want to be able to do a short, family friendly hike with my kids in Calgary, but I don't want cost overruns like the green line."

proper give and take . Where everyone feels they are being listened to.

Being presented with clear information and having the opportunity to contribute thoughts - both constructive criticism and thoughtful encouragement.

Looks good. Although I am used to seeing First Nations listed as partners.

I like this definition

Engagement to me means actually listening to the citizens who use this trail the most, and making decisions that support their well-being. NOT just covering The City's bum from a legal perspective by making the trail so safe that it takes away all the natural beauty, physical challenge and aspects that make it truly a HIKE just like those in the mountains -

but right here in the city! Yes, even including the risks involved in real hiking. Don't need another boring and safe path.

Regular updates and opportunities to provide feedback and and questions

No idea - it would be helpful for the City to talk in everyday language

Allow us to give our opinions.

Listening

Engagement needs to prioritize the residents of Wildwood and spruce cliff where this trail is used daily by those residents. Residents within walking or biking distance only. We are not asking for this to be used by thousands of calgarians a day and engagement should occur within our community centers and with targeted letters to members of the community. We are not interested in having community groups that are not directly accessing the trail making decisions or providing input.

To me it means not surveying the citizens then adding a caveat that although feedback is welcome it will not change the predetermined future of 'fill in the blank' project.

Dialogue should be clear about what are the constraints/decisions already made, and why, and what is actually open for change. Consultation without incorporating feedback is lip service, a waste of time, and disrespectful.

It means listening to citizens concerns

I do not think the above sentence has any meaning. The city closed the trail and decided the entire trail needs to be redesigned due to a fabricated liability risk from lawyers. None of this was based upon "purposeful dialogue" between Calgarians or passionate trail users and enthusiasts.

lol

Survey or in-person discussions.

"The at the City will listen to the residents. Residents come from a variety of backgrounds and can offer positive and long term sustainability comments for you to consider and in many situations use what you have been advised. Unfortunately trust has been lost with public engagement, it appears to just tick the box - we've done it. Please listen to and consider what you are being told. Thank you."

Purposeful dialogue means all parties listening to each other, and contributing their knowledge, expertise, and values towards a shared goal. Ranking priorities, as above but in a universal sense for all involved, would be a good start, followed by discussions about how to best implement them. Purposeful dialogue must not serve as a platform for NIMBYism, conspiracy theories, or insults to our elected representatives.

Detailed information from city about various options and their impacts. Engagement of diverse Calgarians including newcomers

That's the city is actually open to making changes to plans and listening to the public. That decision have not already been made prior to engagement.

Purposeful dialogue means engaging people and beings who are impacted by decisions. It means asking questions seeking to find a way forward that respects relationships and honours the needs of everyone.

Responsible acknowledgement and consideration of stakeholder interests

Listening to all parties willing to offer opinion.

A requirement of an ethical government

When dialogue impacts change

Meaningful dialogue not just going thru the motions.

Actually talking to different user groups not just listening to those loudest or most persistent. Considering how this trail fits a unique inner city trail experience and shouldn't be molded to a blanket revitalization plan that feels out of place

Means that conversation or input will be used in the decision making process. Sadly I feel that the engagement with the city is artificial and that decisions are made by administrators. The city's calls it engagement, however too often it feels performative, where residents are invited to comment, but not meaningfully help shape the outcomes. An example of this is "Cowboys Park". Engagement that is performative and nonauthentic erodes community trust moving forward and is very hard to get back.

Demonstrate, by quantifiable means, to stakeholders that their voices have been heard and considered leading to the ultimate decisions made by the city. Saying that there was an engagement process without seeing the inner workings of the process is not transparent, this which negates the concept of purposeful dialogue.

Being heard by the powers that be, and having my input implemented if reasonable to do so.

Keeping in touch and listening to the residents who appreciate this area and respects its value

I do not know.

Asking what the users of the trail need

Dialogue until it's done well, not necessarily done fast. Every effort to include as many people as possible and as many diverse people as possible.

It means conversations and sharing of information that impact action and with the goal of moving towards a solution.

Full disclosure and information on what is happening and why, including all parties involved

Being truly heard and considering all input on balance in decisions.

"Purposeful dialog means we get the thoughts of all concerned out in the open. Everyone has what they see as important objectives. After airing opinions we set some goals as to where we want to be with respect to DF Trail. Then a plan and timeline as to when and how it will be completed. I am personally in favour of restoring the trail to full usage and whatever needs to be done to make that happen. So many users have missed out on years of enjoyment of this Calgary treasure."

Definitely ensure you are reaching out to the real users of this trail - the ones who respectfully use it, e.g., responsible trail runners and hikers who are not accountable for shortcutting and other causes of trail degradation. Those latter issues are an enforcement problem, not a reason to close the trail.

Genuine consideration and thought around public opinion.

Being open to feedback but not listen to uneducated opinions to make the fringe happy.

It means that rather than collect data and then pretend you listened (sorry, last city council was legendary for that. Sort of like the current provincial government) you act on what is said, or offer more context if you don't.

Purposeful dialogue is two-way communication between people or parties that is constructive and which involves both parties providing and receiving important information to and from the other party.

That the information shared/generated is considered in decision making and reasons for the information being included or excluded in the final drafts are given.

Be creative when responding to ideas.

To me, it means a city that doesn't immediately characterize me and my neighbours as a problem for wanting to preserve what we love about our neighbourhood. It also means a city that listens to its residents as much as to its lawyers, regulators, and insurers and sees part of its role as stopping them from ruining what we have cherished in our community and park. It's a democracy, after all, not a lawyer-ocracy.

Clear action plan with timelines.

Please don't shut it down. We have so few parks like this.

I agree with your definition

Honest dialogue from nearby residents and concerned citizens needs to be taken seriously by the city with respect to protection and long term sustainability versus when these opinions are not in alignment with the city's vision of development.

Actually feeling like citizens are being heard and are contributing.

Addressing public concerns and making the space useful. Not just collecting information.

City and calgaryans should come with simple, but effective plan to make the trail safe and sustainable.

I don't know why you are doing this and wasting money on engagement, fix the fix or close it

It means that you actually will seek my input - before decisions are made. As opposed to just coming to me with what has been decided.

It means that there will be thoughtful dialog that flows both ways; all views will be considered.

City needs to provide information on what has delayed the work, cost over the expected time any improvements are to last. Getting the work done as soon as possible, it has been closed for far too long.

No comment.

Purposeful dialogue to me means that users get a say in how a space is developed or left going forward. I feel that as a city we need to recognize that some spaces need to be left

'natural' which may mean that a space may not be accessible to everyone. I know we want to make everything accessible but once you develop a natural environment, you can never go back.

To result in something

Clear communication between the city and citizens. The city listening to what the community is saying and adjusting plans to incorporate the feedback they are receiving.

Not just pretending to listen then doing what they want anyway.

Concerns and Ideas are actually heard and taken into consideration from actual citizens who frequently use the trail during all seasons.

"Input Compilation Reporting Discussion Proposing Decision Making Action"

Cocreating solutions

I want the Douglas Fir Trail reopened and preserved for future generations to enjoy at their own risk, as people have for years. The City should remove unnecessary barriers and restore access to this beautiful inner-city trail, which has been closed for far too long.

"Purposeful dialogue means informing residents, then listening, debating, and responding to feedback. It doesn't mean implementing everything you hear, but it means reporting back with what was considered or integrated, and what wasn't and why. Purposeful dialogue means consciously ensuring that residents and community members are informed in various forms - digital, paper (community newsletters? mail?), in different languages, and different accessibility forms."

Explaining the issues and plans then being open for feedback and questions

"•Clear and concise descriptions and definitions Active listening Outcomes that reflect discussions Concerns addressed and options provided•Etc."

Let the public know exactly what's going on and include them in the decisions made

Shows goals identified, goals met, and impact of goals to move the project forward

To me it means to be informed, and also having an opportunity to share my feedback.

Discussion with residents and CA's on the purpose and intent of the trail. Open houses, feedback gathering, discussion sessions. Sharing of ideas, goals, values

A city that actually listens. Not just saying it does

Having my questions answered and obtaining accurate information in a timely manner.

Having a conversation where both sides actively listen to each other and come up with a viable solution.

To me it means listening to people who uses and care about the trail even if it isn't convenient I.e. not just gathering information to not listening to it. It means protecting the ecological system at the park. I also means making things accessible through online surveys.

You include all stake holders in the discussion about this trail including disabled park users and disabled nature lovers

Communication between decision makers and those affected by the decisions that is meaningful, open and honest. To ensure both parties understand the desires, values, and limitations involved in each high-impact decision.

"Well if it was anything lack the last attempt it was embarrassing The mess left behind by the city was disgraceful. The tear down and inadequate leaving pieces as hazards throughout with terrible re-routes just making it more dangerous. I hope the city is aware of the number of homeless camps popping up down there as a result of the lack of use. There is a larger environmental hazard and fire hazard which could take down valuable homes all due to the closure and poor city planning"

I don't know what the point of all this dialogue is, focus efforts on opening the trail up.

Open discussions before changes take place

"Discussion between parties to establish an aim and a commitment to pursue a course of action to endeavour to achieve that aim. The result of such aim is not predetermined and that the engagement will have effect, i. e. that input will matter and that this is not just an excuse to say yes we engaged and then take the action anyway."

Ongoing transparency and updates about work and intended work to reopen the trail.

When the City asks for engagement that the city is honest and transparent about the dialogue it receives and that the city acts in accordance with the wishes of the public it engages.

Specifics.

"I would love to see/hear of truly "Purposeful dialogue...to influence decision-making"

Always seems one way"

Open, thoughtful, inclusive dialogue

Substantially responding to complaints and criticisms regarding closures, rather than blanket statements that ignore points brought up.

To me, this means having a clear purpose and goals for dialogue/engagement - i.e., questions to which answers are being sought or gathering information to inform a decision. Also, dialogue suggests a two-way process, whereby both/all parties are sharing information and listening throughout, rather than a process that is very one-sided.

That I feel like I actually have input and the city doesn't just do whatever it wants

Open discussion where concerns/priorities from both sides are discussed and considered

Purposeful dialogue means allowing Calgarians to be heard and having conversations back and forth with open ended questions.

I'd like city officials to listen to residents and recreational visitors about the area. The trail is so worn down and many boards are decomposing.

Keep the trail open and challenging, Inform the public of changes, work and opening dates.

There are some parks in this area Calgarians do not want developed. As this is an established and good park this is well deserved work.

Clear, convenient means for public to provide feedback, and transparent response for how the feedback is being incorporated into decision making, or else what was received, considered, and rejected, and why.

Being informed and having a say in how to move forward.

Being clear on the objectives of the dialogue including what is up for discussion and what is not, and also explaining how feedback has been accommodated and why specific feedback shouldn't or even won't be accommodated.

I want to know that the City is really listening and taking feedback from users of the park seriously. Too often work is done to gentrify or beautify an area that should be left as natural as possible. Any improvements need to take into account how the park is used. We have few natural spaces left in the City.

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natural as possible. Any improvements need to take into account how the park is used. We have few natural spaces left in the City.

Providing a forum to the public that is easily accessible to engage on this topic.

Provide regular updates and opportunities for input, especially from nearby residents who use the trail frequently year round.

Allowing involvement from concerned citizens.

Understanding why the decisions are made and how they will impact the trail

Actual listening not just getting thoughts on paper to check off “engagement” off a list

Seeking to understand input and take it into account during planning

Dialogue between active users and the city

Many words are being used. Purposeful dialogue implies to me that you want to get your information out to inform the public. Engagement and consultation implies a 2 way discussion of implementing a strategy.

transparent, providing regular updates, managing citizen expectations.

Keep primary users engaged and keep everyone informed on decisions made and progress made.

The speaker be heard and input considered.

Having a clear intent and an achievable outcome through thoughtful dialogues, active listening and mutual understanding between all groups

If you are committed to engaging with Calgarians, you must solicit consultation and feedback through a variety of methods, maintain full transparency and partner with subject matter experts.

Where the true plans and progress are presented, citizens have the opportunity to express themselves about the issues to the community, and the city and project managers listen to, and act, on the concerns of the citizens who use the Douglas Fir Trail.

Purposeful dialogue means engaging in communication with clear intent, focusing on mutual understanding, connection, and shared outcomes.

Purposeful dialogue means hearing the concerns of users of the trail (not people who have never been on it). It should be fact based and with the end goal of keeping the area for all species (humans included).

Understanding issues about the trail as perceived by various stakeholders & the city - importance, challenges, how it is used, limitations to making changes to it - on the part of all stakeholders including the city.

Listen to those who use and love it and actually do something about it. This has been dragging on for over a decade - no more talking - let's get to the action phase.

Actually adjusting plans based on feedback, rather than selling a predetermined outcome.

Thoughts and opinions from Calgarians who actually use city parks, facilities etc.

Transparency and taking viable suggestions into account even if it means going over budget somewhat as our natural spaces should be protected, used and accessible.

It means that the city will listen and include multiple perspectives. This won't just be a formality when a plan is already made and moving forward regardless of what people say.

N/A

A link with step by step updates explaining why the changes and updates are happening!

The city listens to, and actually implements, feedback from community

A two way dialogue that allows users to shape the future of the project. Don't bother to ask the questions if the result is already determined.

Letting me know what's going on. Also informing me on how timelines are going. And letting me know about what the future plans are.

Collecting feedback and providing information to people who have a vested interest and are the users of the trail.

The city shows they have listened to the feedback and acts on the feedback. So often the outcome of engagement doesn't reflect what was said.

Listening to what the community that uses it wants to see and experience. Then executing that vision honestly and realistically.

Asking for the public's opinion, and then actually listening to what is said, and either acting on that, or providing rationale as to why it is not possible.

Non-selfish interests being expressed rather than sentimental, entitled or whingy perspectives. In this scenario, best interests of purposeful dialogue are to for on keeping the forest healthy, even IF to the exclusion of public access.

Purposeful dialogue to me means that my voice and others in the community Are not just listened to and responded to, but actually have meaningful impact on the decisions that are made. Purposeful dialogue does more than inform, it transforms with possibilities brought forward and potentially implemented that otherwise would not have been realized by the city alone.

"This process supports open and purposeful dialog Thx"

Honesty and transparency. Dialogue seeking to achieve resident interests and desires.

The cost to taxpayers should be top of the list, not excluded from the list. Administration doesn't seem to care about using taxpayer money effectively.

Things that show as most important to the participants are consider as important as councillor opinions

Effective communication between citizens and government

The City being clear about what input they are asking for including what is non-negotiable and what has some room for collaborative decision making with citizens. Also, meaningful follow-up on conversations and input. What you heard, why you have chosen to ignore or implement various decisions.

Opinions that are stated clearly and respectfully, considerations and open-minded participants

You actually listen and find solutions that work for engaged citizens.

Make the trail accessible and closed off. This is all that the people on this area want

Na

Discussions specific to the topic at hand

Stay informed and hear our concerns and expectations

Having a voice. We love the trail and want to use it. The only safety issue I have is all the tents set up in this trail over the past few years. I used to use the trail all the time. I don't like when homeless people are living in the trails as I'm a single female and sometimes there is no one else on the trail.

Regular email updates on the progression, surveys such as this one, transparency.

Purposeful dialogue is not enough. You should be listening to people and figuring out a way to do what is wanted by the community.

open and honest communication.

Open and transparent options for decision making.

Setting meaningful priorities and living with monetary limitations.

It means that the City of Calgary sincerely acknowledges and accommodates community interests.

Actually listening to what people have to say - surveys with language that influence or limit the responses that can be given are predatory and lack transparency.

Honest, transparent (what you can and can't do, the why's), ongoing, two way

It means considering the perspectives of user groups when assessing matters like this. That the City not put safety above use of the pathway at all costs.

"Surveys and results and how the decisions are made on the selected option - this should align with the survey results unless there is a very good reason. Blanket rezoning is an example of how not to do engagement (pretend to listen and do what you were going to anyways)"

I agree with this definition

It means listening to Calgarians. The opposite of what happened during the rezoning fiasco.

Listening to each other

Listening to wildwood community voices and implementing effective feedback in a timely manner.

The concern is you hear a community opinion and do what you want to regardless.

It means that the city and citizens who use the Douglas fir trail should see strong elements of their desired outcome in the final result.

Conversations, reporting, and feedback in a timely way that addresses concerns of people, relevant groups or associations that considers best practices.

Giving accurate information to us

It means that the city actually hears and considers the input of Calgarian's. And use the input of Calgarian's and the wants of Calgarian's over the wants of the city. Too often, the city has already made its decision regardless of the input from Calgarian's.

It should really be addressed and listened to for impact.

Conversation that has a clear intention or goal and is meant to achieve a positive outcome for all parties. Discussion does not involve random conversations that don't pertain to the purpose of the meeting.

Engage in dialogue with people who have used the trail and share an interest in public amenities.

Would like some input on this one.

The trail is an important part of the community to stay fit, engaged escape from the city without leaving the city.

Dialogue that the City will actually listen to and base decisions on from taxpayers and users rather than their own agenda.

It means a decision hasn't been made yet. There may be some top options the City has gathered but the final decision requires input from users

Surveying citizens and keeping them informed and listening to them

Inform residents of the work that is being performed and what the end goal is with maintaining the trail for Calgarians.

Open the trail ASAP

Listening to users of the trail on what they would find useful

The easy-to-understand information listed above was helpful. I was not aware that the city was in the process of public engagement regarding the Douglas Fir Trail. I was searching for an update regarding the Douglas Fir Trail and found this website by chance.

Listening to all voices and points of view.

Discussion that has purpose. It is this a trick question? Are you asking how to engage the citizens? Why is this question in double quotes but other questions are not?

Q5. How would you prefer to participate in public engagement activities for this project? Choose your top three.

Online

Engage the community association, go to the neighborhood (Wildwood / Spruce Cliff)

Collaborative approach

only online

Info sessions in other, nearby parks.

Social media

Social media updates

Less engagement, just fix it. My kids have missed years of the DFT usage.

Online group discussions with city planners

No more

N/A

Online

Phone surveys works too!

I really prefer the online and on site pop ups, but I required three options. Making things accessible through online platforms is really important.

Keep it online

Forcing people to pick three ensures a biased result.

Text

Signs on the trail

Voting and polls.

Surveys

Puppet shows

Q6. What helps you feel most comfortable participating in public engagement? Select all that apply.

Fast feedback opportunities

The above options all sound like the “inform” end of public engagement

For the information collected to be openly shared and engaged with.

Often times the city has a plan in place or in mind so engagement feels insincere. I’m hoping the city really listens and then takes what it hears to make decisions and plans.

Short-term and long term costs. Tradeoff information. Consideration of options based on trail segments (W, E and connector) rather than the trail as a single unit only.

Comments and taken seriously

Technical documentation shares pre meeting discussion so that there is time to evaluate and but in valuable well thought feedback

Explicit and detailed plans

A variety of folks who are responsible for the project there to answer questions

Q7. Are there any barriers that could make it harder for you to take part in engagement? Choose all that apply.

If city officials have decided the direction ahead of time. It is evident and shuts down dialogue

The fact that it won’t make a difference because The City does what it wants anyways

To many decisions are made by individuals; who have no hands on experience with proper construction

Fear that it’s just a waste of my time. Has the city already decided what they want to do...

none. why is this not an option

I find long arduous processes frustrating.

No barriers

You always just decide what to do ahead of engagement, and then do it your way anyhow

hard to find information in a timely fashion to be able to fully participate

none

Highly variable schedule; time and energy

Child care and work travel limitations with the hours put forward for general meetings.

Don't schedule meet ups during the week when we are at work. Evenings and weekends are ideal.

Lack of trust in this government.

Please ensure the Douglas fir trail is clear of people living in the trail

Engagement sessions need to also be outside of regular work hours.

Q8. How would you like to receive project updates? Choose up to three.

Community newsletter (Wildwood Warbler)

This should be something that all members of council should be talking about with their constituents.

Online is great, but only if the city is actively engaging with the community