

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shawnigan Rail with Trail project to proceed with trail connection from Shawnigan Wharf Park to Old Mill Park

SHAWNIGAN LAKE, BC - The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is proceeding with construction of the Shawnigan Rail with Trail connection between Thrush Road at Shawnigan Wharf Park and Old Mill Park. Construction of the rail with trail will be within the E&N Railway corridor property along the west side of the existing tracks with approval of the Island Corridor Foundation, as owner of the railway corridor.

The Shawnigan Lake Rail with Trail provides residents and visitors of all ages and abilities a safe, separated pathway to walk, cycle or use mobility devices between parks and amenities in the Shawnigan Village Area. When complete, the 1.4 km trail will connect 4 community parks on or near the Shawnigan Lake waterfront. This major milestone in the development of the trail would not have been possible without past public engagement and input from residents, support from partners, a thorough environmental assessment, engagement with First Nations and the support and enthusiasm of Area B / Shawnigan Lake Director, Sierra Acton.

“This trail is not just a pathway beside the lake; it’s a pathway to stronger community connections, to better health and well-being of residents, and economic opportunities for local businesses,” said Area B Director, Sierra Acton. “When I made this promise, I knew bringing our community together was essential for positive change and sustainable progress. We can all be proud of accomplishing this initiative together and holding on to our tight-knit community values.”

“The Shawnigan Rail with Trail project has had a long journey since it’s conception by the community and incorporation into the Shawnigan Lake Community Parks & Trails Master Plan and adopted by the CVRD Board in 2010,” said Senior Manager, Parks & Trails Division, Brian Farquhar. “Proceeding with this section of the rail with trail achieves the community’s longstanding goal to connect Shawnigan Village with local waterfront parks along Shawnigan Lake between Masons Beach and Old Mill Park for residents and visitors to enjoy and experience for generations to come.”

Construction on this section of the rail with trail is currently expected to begin in October 2023 and will continue through to Spring 2024. Hours of construction activities will occur between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and will be subject to change due to inclement weather or otherwise, as determined by the contractor and environmental consultants engaged by the CVRD to monitor the project progress. For safety reasons, the public is asked to stay outside of the active construction areas until the project is complete.

For more information visit the CVRD [About Parks & Trails web page](#) - "Important Notices" sidebar.

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