

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



June 6, 2024

Cowichan Valley Trail section closed since late 2021 to be rebuilt with secured funding

DUNCAN, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has now obtained all necessary funding and approvals to proceed with the major repair work to a 40-metre section of the Cowichan Valley Trail (CVT) damaged during an atmospheric rain event in 2021.

In November 2021, a major culvert running beneath the CVT near Agira Road in Duncan suffered a catastrophic failure, causing a large area of built up land under the Cowichan Valley Trail to collapse. This resulted in the loss of approximately 40 metres of the regional trail and lands underneath up to six metres in depth. In addition to loss of the trail, the washout exposed buried Telus fibre optic cables and a City of Duncan waterline.

Fortunately, in July 2023, the CVRD received confirmation that an application for financial assistance to rebuild the regional trail and large culvert over Bings Creek was approved through the British Columbia Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Program to a maximum of \$848,575. With funding in place, the project proceeded to complete engineering and environmental assessment work, and the CVRD has now awarded a contract to Cutting Edge Enterprises, a local contractor in the Cowichan region, to commence with the work to restore the regional trail. Under the guidance of an environmental monitor, the first phase of work will see the fabrication and installation of a 7-metre-wide steel arch culvert over Bings Creek, followed by rebuilding up the area of land washed away and re-establishing the section of trail along the top.

“The extensive damage to our parks and trails during the significant atmospheric river event in 2021 was unprecedented,” said Aaron Stone, Chair of the CVRD Board of Directors. “Thanks to the efforts of our Parks & Trails staff and the support of the Province we’ve secured the required funding and implemented the action plan to fix this important section of the Cowichan Valley Trail. We thank the public for their patience, and look forward to a reopening later this year.”

This section of the Cowichan Valley Trail between Sherman Road and Agira Road will remain closed until the works to rebuild this section are completed. Nearby alternate trail access routes to bypass this section of the closed regional trail remain in place along Agira Road and Skinner Road.

- 30 -

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