



# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned – Round 2

January 2025

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## Acknowledgements

The City of Salmon Arm acknowledges the traditional territory of the Secwepemc people, with whom we share these lands and where we live and work together.

*The West Bay Connector Trail project stands as a powerful testament to the strength and significance of collaboration between Adams Lake, Neskonlith, and Salmon Arm. This project will leave a legacy for the communities of Adams Lake, Neskonlith and Salmon Arm. By connecting people to the land, nature, culture, and each other. The trail will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike and provides a safe alternative to access neighbouring communities and amenities.*



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# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned – Round 2

### Report Summary

This section gives you the main ideas and big takeaways, so you can briefly see what the project team did and learned. If you are interested in more details, please read the full report.

### The Project

The West Bay Connector Trail project is a collaborative initiative involving the City of Salmon Arm, Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities. This estimated 6.5 km trail will stretch from the Salmon Arm Wharf boardwalk through Neskonlith and Adams Lake communities to the northern edge of Adams Lake, ending near Pierres Point Road.

### Round 2 Engagement

The project team kicked off the second round of engagement with a “campfire workshop” hosted by the Adam Lake Community at Pierres Point Log Building on December 2, 2024. A total of 34 participants attended from Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities, and the City and Shuswap Trail Alliance. The workshop objective was to identify a preferred trail location and design features and amenities such as the trail surface, bridge crossings, viewing and gathering areas.



### Key Themes of Community Feedback

The following is a summary of key themes:



**Safe and Connected Trail Design Features:** Many participants preferred the original trail concept (See page 7). These participants emphasized the need for the trail design to protect and connect to nature with ideas to include Secwépemc design elements and safety features. Participants recommended a trail wide enough to accommodate people walking, rolling (e.g. scooters, skateboards etc.), and biking in both directions. They requested that the trail connects to existing walking paths and includes accessible bridges and boardwalks for all ages and people who walk, roll and bike.



**Scenic Route:** Participants suggested amenities to make the trail a safe, comfortable and enjoyable scenic route, such as lighting, signage, interpretive information and viewing, gathering, and rest areas. They also recommended adding something along the trail to provide safety (e.g. barrier protection and screening).



**Community Collaboration:** Participants recommended integrating Secwépemc design, storytelling, language, and continued collaboration with the Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities such as Elders and youth.



**Health and Growth:** Participants highlighted the importance of providing economic opportunities for Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities.



**Environmentally Friendly:** Participants requested that the trail protects local wildlife, such as the bird sanctuaries and eagles' nests, and use eco-friendly trail materials to reduce environmental impacts.



**Archaeological and Cultural:** Participants encouraged that the trail design honours and protects culturally significant areas while enhancing the trail with Secwépemc design and cultural and educational elements; many participants requested that the trail design honours the local Nations' culture through art, language, and other aspects.

## Introduction

### Project Purpose

Adams Lake Community (Switsemalsh No. 6 and 7), Neskonlith Community (Switsemalsh No. 3), and the City of Salmon Arm have been progressively developing the **preliminary design** for the West Bay Connector Trail.

#### *What is a preliminary design?*

A preliminary design for a trail is like a rough draft for how the path will be built. It includes basic ideas about where the trail will go, what materials will be used, and how it will be safe, accessible, and fun for people to walk, bike and roll.

*The design intends to honour and incorporate Adam Lake and Neskonlith traditional knowledge and connection to the land with technical insight including heritage/archaeological, environmental, engagement, trail design, landscape, active transportation, structural engineering, and safety.*

### Project Highlights

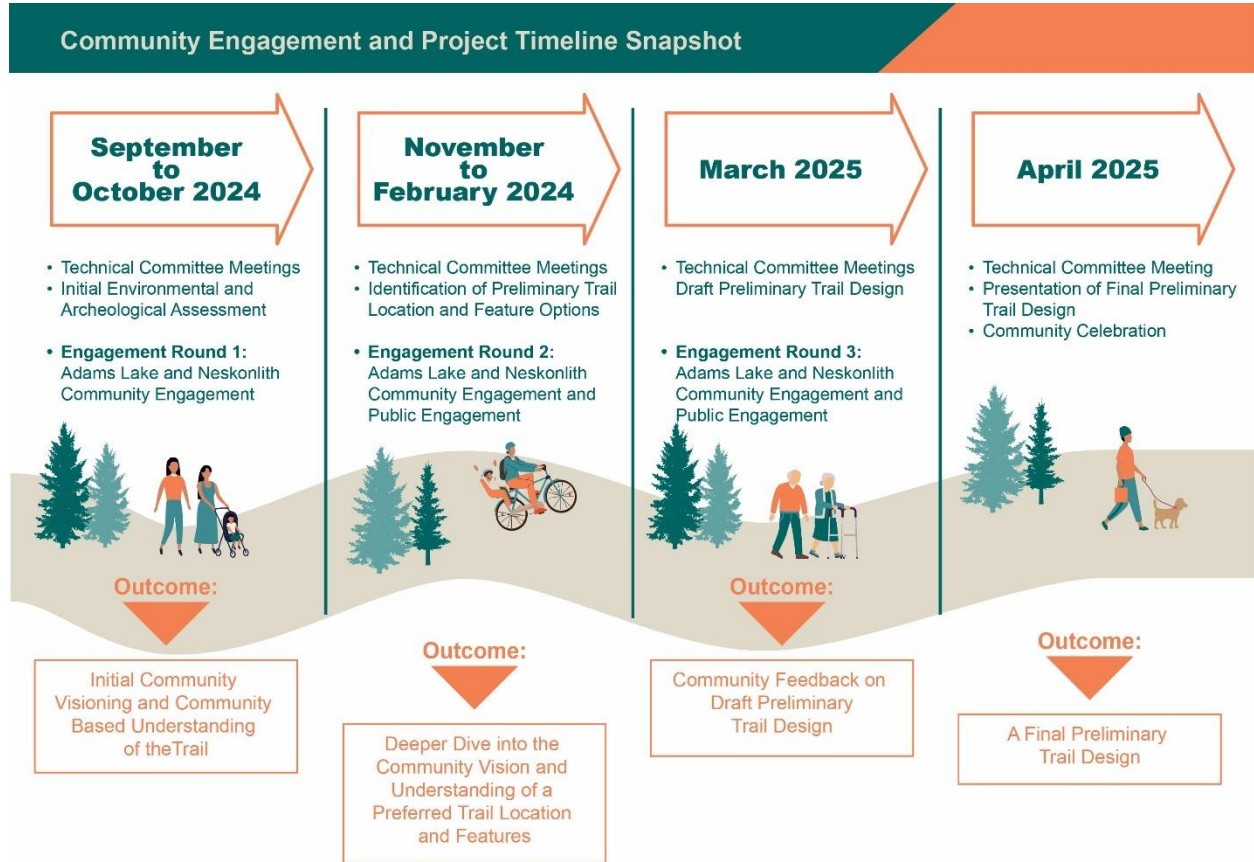
- **Safe and Connected Trail:** Approximately 6.5 km trail for walking, cycling, and rolling. from the existing Salmon Arm Wharf boardwalk through Neskonlith and Adams Lake communities to the northern edge of Adams Lake ending near Pierres Point Road (50 Ave NW).
- **Scenic Route:** Stretching from the Salmon Arm Wharf boardwalk through Neskonlith and Adams Lake communities to the northern edge of the Adams Lake community, ending near Pierres Point Road (50 Avenue NW).
- **Community Collaboration:** Engaging with Elders, knowledge sharers and community members to listen, learn and incorporate cultural knowledge and understanding.
- **Health and Growth:** Promoting community health and economic growth to create a four-season destination trail system.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Review the project trail area for environmental concerns and effects on local ecology and develop mitigation strategies to maintain, enhance, and support habitat along the preliminary trail design.
- **Archaeological Assessment:** Background review and site visit to review and update archaeological information along the proposed trail corridor.

For more information, visit:

[West Bay Connector Trail | Salmon Arm, BC - Official Website.](#)

### Engagement Overview

### The Engagement Process



### Engagement Purpose

The purpose of the second round of community engagement with the Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities and the City of Salmon Arm aimed to:

- **Identify the preferred trail location**
- **Gather input on the hoped-for trail design features and amenities**

During this second round, the project team collected feedback to determine the ideal trail location and understand community preferences of trail features.



# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned – Round 2

### What We Did



#### Promotion

Direct outreach to Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities.



#### Technical Review

Scheduled for January 2025



#### Campfire Workshop

An in-person workshop with Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities:  
December 2, 2024

### Who We Engaged

The project team learned from 34 participants in attendance from Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities, the City of Salmon Arm, and Shuswap Trail Alliance representatives.

### How We Engaged

#### Campfire Workshop – Round 2

The Campfire Workshop was a hands-on event where participants worked together to provide feedback on the proposed trail location(s) and features.

We used community feedback and expert reviews, like checking the environment, archaeology, and flood risks, to decide where the trails should go and what features they should have as part of the preliminary planning and design.

Participants were divided into groups to focus on four sections of the trail (see image on page 7). Within each group, participants looked at trail options and shared their thoughts.

#### Shaping the future trail together

*One of the most important steps in this project is connecting with people who have been involved, are interested, or will use the trail.*

*Community feedback will help shape the early design of a trail to respect cultural knowledge while meeting the needs and aspirations of those who will walk, cycle, roll, and explore along it.*



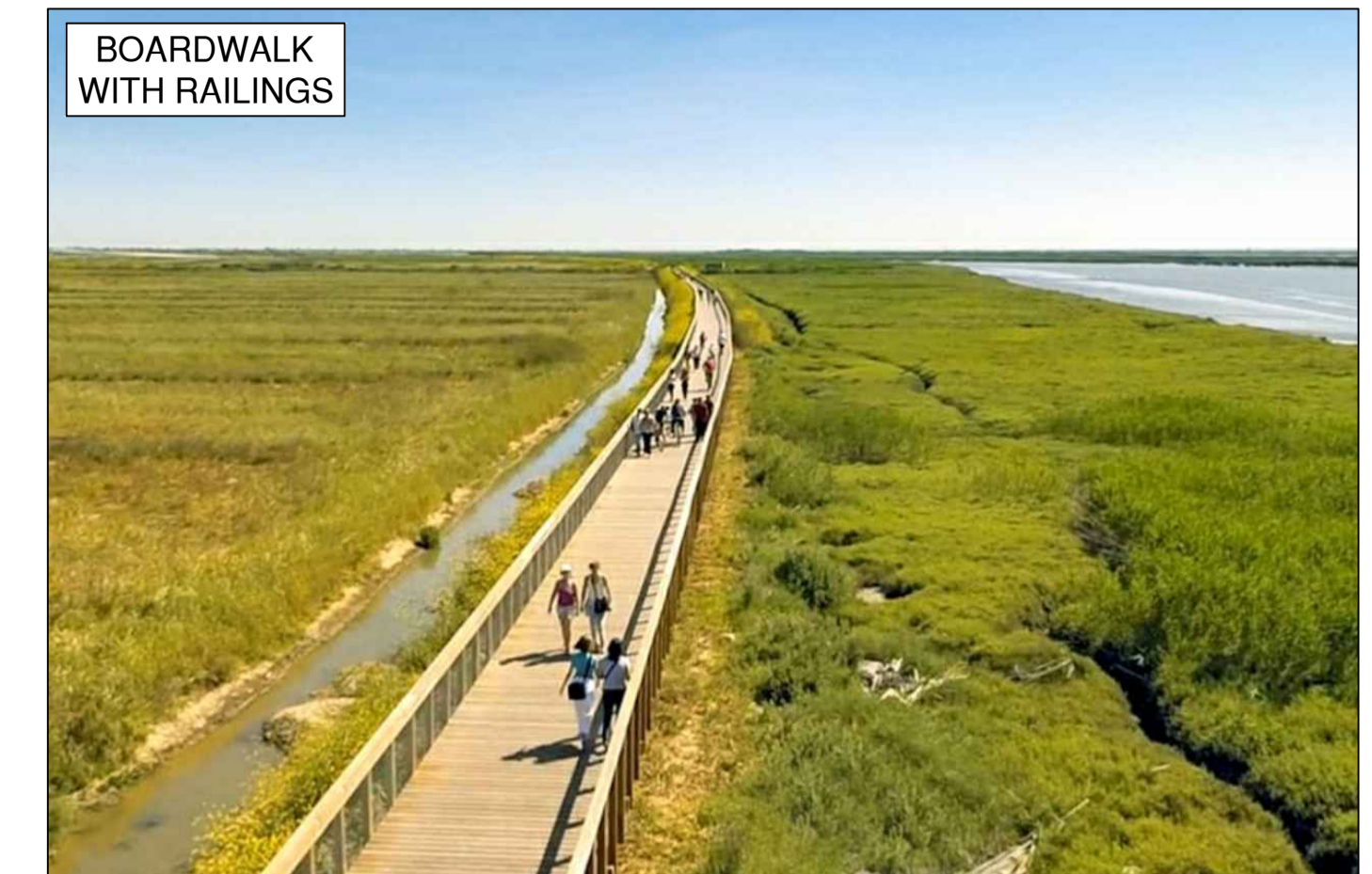
MULTI USE PATH BY RAILWAY AND ROAD



MULTI USE PATH



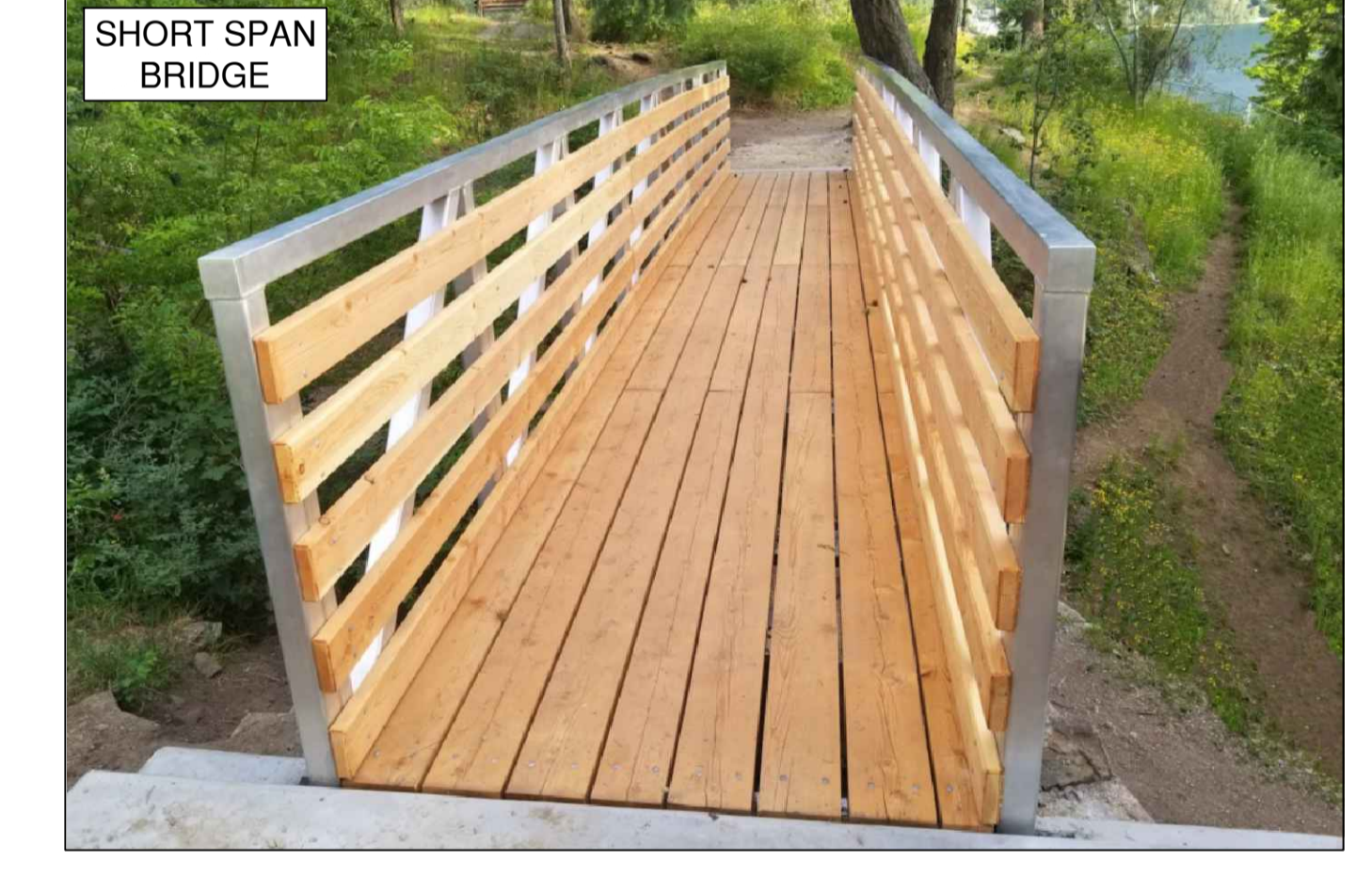
BRIDGE AND BOARDWALK



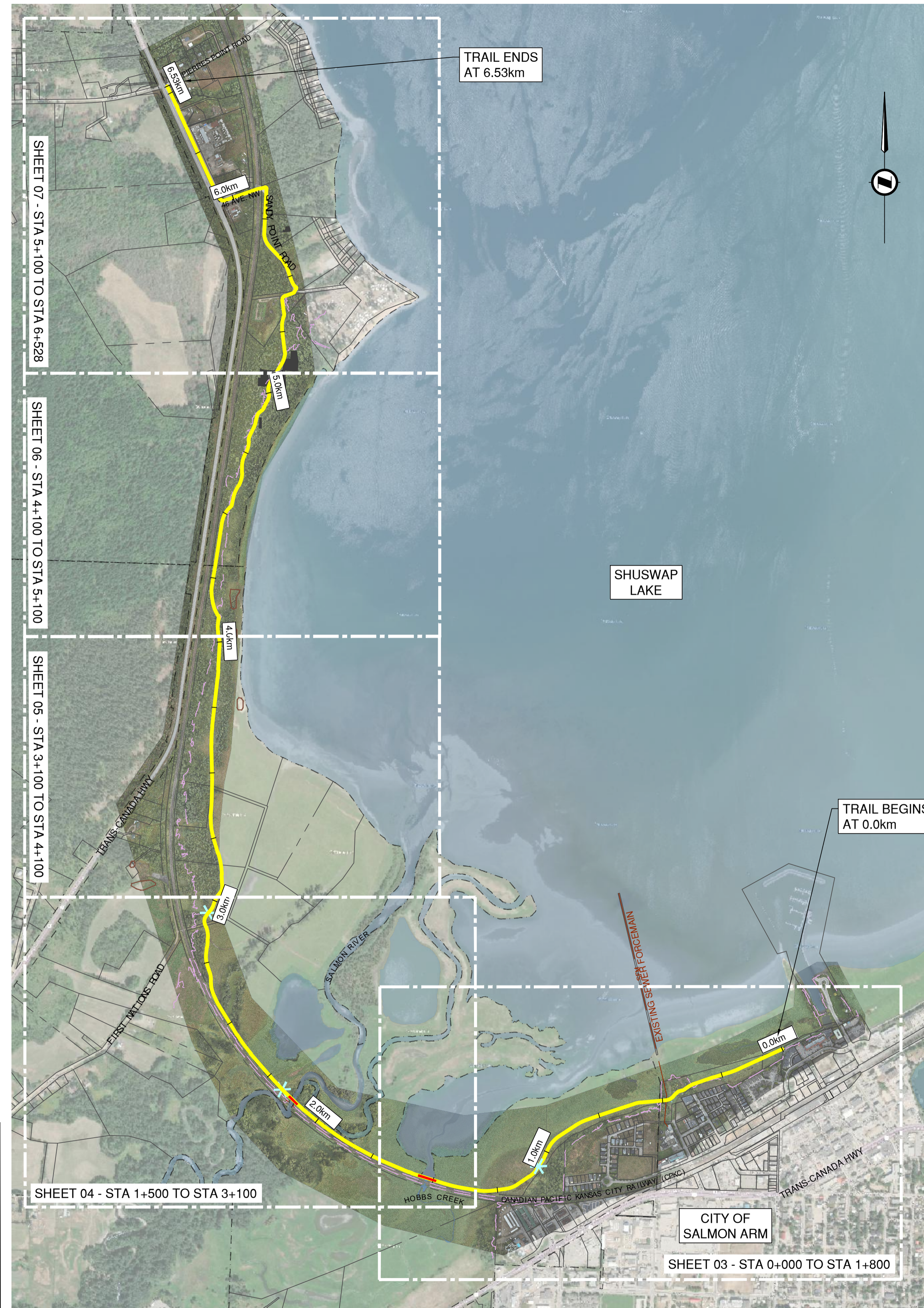
BOARDWALK WITH RAILINGS



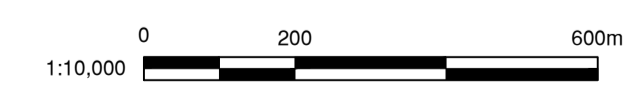
BOARDWALK WITHOUT RAILINGS



SHORT SPAN BRIDGE



PLAN  
SCALE: 1:10000



LEGEND				
	WEST BAY CONNECTOR TRAIL ALIGNMENT (PREFERRED)			
	BRIDGE SEGMENT			
	APPROXIMATE ADAMS LAKE & NESKONLITH COMMUNITY BOUNDARY			
	APPROXIMATE CRITICAL LAKE WATER ELEVATION (349.00m)			
	PRELIMINARY LOOKOUT AND MEETING PLACE LOCATION			

File: C:\ADS\AC\CC\03\33967 - SAL West Bay Connector Trail (P\Main Design)\Project Files\02\_CADD\00\_Drafting\33967\_PLAN.dwg

REV NO.	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DATE	DRAWN	APPRD
1	ISSUED FOR CAMPFIRE WORKSHOP	24/11/29	POL	RAS
2	ISSUED FOR ENGAGEMENT SURVEY	24/12/23	POL	RAS
3				
4				
5				



## WEST BAY CONNECTOR TRAIL OVERALL SITE PLAN



PRELIMINARY		DESIGN NO.	33967
SCALE	1:10000	CREATION DATE	24/11/15
DRAWN BY	POL	DESIGN BY	RAS
CHECKED BY	RAS	APPROVED BY	BB
PLOT DATE	December 23, 2024		
DWG. NO.	02	OF	07
			REV. 2

## What We Learned

### Key Themes

- Safe and Connected Trail
- Scenic Route
- Community Collaboration
- Health and Growth
- Environmentally Friendly
- Archaeological and Cultural

Below is a summary of what participants shared during the Campfire Workshop (Round 2 Engagement). Some ideas might appear in more than one section because they are connected to many themes.

### Safe and Connected Trail Design Features

Participants provided feedback on trail design features for the project team to consider when creating a draft preliminary trail design as presented below:

#### **Trail Route Preference:**

- Preference for the original concept alignment.
- Address any safety issues related to crossing existing roadways and near the railroad tracks.

#### **Trail Width and Surface:**

- **Multi-use width and path:** Accommodate bikes and pedestrians for safe passing (e.g., 3-4 meters). Consider parts of the trail to have curves (e.g., zigzags) instead of a straight trail, slowing down cyclists and creating a dynamic trail design.
- **Metal walkways:** Like other local trails, metal walkways (known as precast concrete with metal grating) are preferred.
- **Elevated section:** Consider the first kilometer or more of the trail to be elevated.

#### **Railings:**

- **Mesh screening:** Propose mesh material for dog safety but also to provide privacy near homes. Viewing areas: Consider low, safe railings that preserve clear sightlines to nature. Railings should not be too high (e.g., Wharf railings are too high) to ensure views are not obstructed.

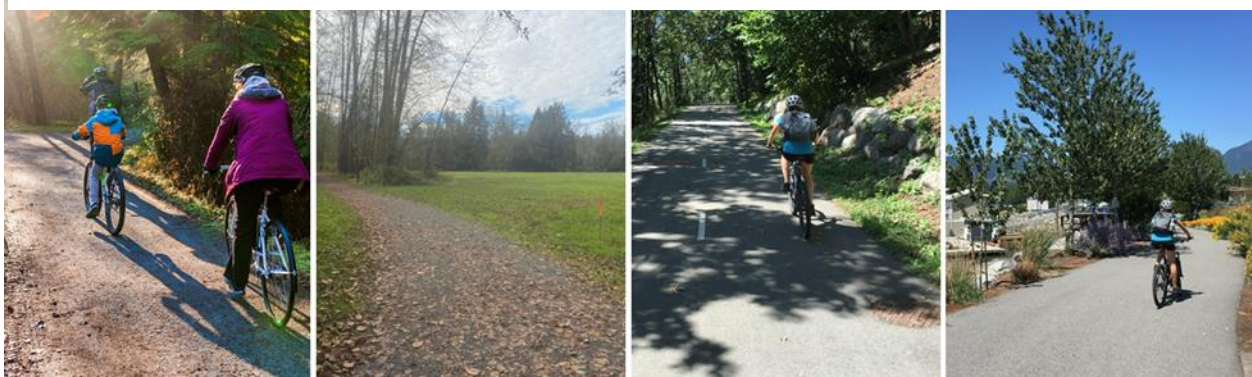
### What are trail design features?

Trail design features are the built-in parts of the trail, like natural or human-made elements, which make the trail unique. They are a core part of how a project team designs a trail.

# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

Examples of Multi-Use Trail Options



### Bridge Crossing Options and Materials:

- **Benches:** Placement of benches close to the preliminary bridge locations (see bridge crossing example below).
- **Elevated and floating sections:** Essential to safely address water level ups and downs.
- **Material preference:** Consider aluminum or stainless-steel bridges are favored for their ease of maintenance and resistance to rain and snow.
- **Bridge covering:** Consider seasonal elements such as snow and rain. Bridge covers will also provide shade and protection from hot and sunny weather. Be aware that cedar logs with hooded covers last longer.
- **Cultural elements:** Design the trail using Secwépemc art and cultural elements such as plasma cutouts of salmon, turtles, and other animals that can be shown at bridge crossings.
- **Safety:** Ensure the bridge is safe for children.
- **Accessibility:** Examine accessibility concerns of different users. The trail should be accessible to everyone, including those who use rollerblades, skateboards, scooters, mobility devices, or wheelchairs.

Examples of Bridge Crossing Options



# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

### *Boardwalk Options over Water*

- **Connection to nature:** Consider a wide wooden boardwalk with an open style that feels more connected to nature.
- **Safety:** Think about the safety of people on boardwalks. Suggest mesh railings for protection, especially where the risk of a fall or injury is significant.
- **Cost concerns:** Understand cost constraints. For example, elevated boardwalks may be expensive. Focus on using cost-effective materials that are easy to repair and maintain, such as concrete or wood.

*Examples of Boardwalk Options over Water*



### *Accessibility and Safety:*

- **Seasonal accessibility:** Consider winter trail conditions that could affect accessibility and use. Participants expressed winter snow removal and other maintenance concerns.
- **Accessibility for people who use mobility aids:** Ensure the trail is accessible for wheelchairs, crutches, and scooters.
- **Safe passing areas:** Designate areas for people who use bikes, electric or other rolling devices (e.g., scooters, skateboards, e-bikes, etc.) to safely pass people walking on the trail or turning around on the trail.
- **Security measures:** Implement measures to prevent damage and unauthorized access to private property.

### *Connections and Access:*

- **Interpretive center:** Connect to the existing interpretive center.
- **Old road trail:** Consider a potential connection to the old road trail.
- **Community gateway:** Create a gateway connecting communities.
- **Parking:** Include parking at both ends of the trail and potentially at the midpoint of the trail with clear parking signage.

# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

- **Community access points:** Ensure convenient access points for existing trail users, especially for locally used locations such as First Nations Road and the Salmon River. Consider the original old access (campground maintenance road).

### *Emergency Preparation and Access:*

- **Flood zone:** Ensure the trail remains accessible during flood events.
- **Width:** Suggest the trail is wide enough for people to move out of the way, especially for emergencies and safety purposes.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 60 comments shared by participants*

## Scenic Route

Participants shared various trail amenities for a scenic route that they wanted the project team to consider. The following is a detailed description of what participants shared:

### *Memorial:*

- **Third lookout:** Suggest a third lookout located to honour and remember family members who tragically lost their lives on the train tracks or the highway. The memorial could also be used to explain the trail's purpose of safety and connecting the three communities.
- **Memorial kiosk:** Suggest that community information is made available, such as at a memorial kiosk.
- **Seating area:** Consider benches with "in memory of" plaques to honour and remember family members.

### *Lighting:*

- **Energy efficient friendly:** Ensure lighting is environmentally friendly and cost-efficient, such as solar-powered and motion activated sensor lights, but not white lighting.
- **Safety:** Consider areas where lighting is needed for safety, especially in winter.
- **Protect wildlife:** Consider low lighting at viewing areas to avoid disturbing wildlife.

### **What are trail amenities?**

*A trail amenity is anything along a trail that makes the experience better, more comfortable, safer, or more enjoyable for people using it. These amenities can be different depending on the trail's purpose, location, and who is using it.*

# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

Examples of Wayfinding Options



### Signage and Wayfinding:

- **General and interpretive signs:** Provide information and guidance about the trail and include community education throughout the trail.
- **Plaques:** Use plaques to educate trail users about the natural habitat. Consider placing these in seating areas.
- **Stone materials:** Use authentic stone materials for monuments, not human-made ones.
- **Welcome sign/statue:** Create a welcome sign and recommend that a local artist carve the sign. The sign could also be a salmon statue.

### Viewing Area Options:

- **Kiosk stand:** Make spaces for stands for small vendors near viewing areas.
- **Birdwatching:** Ensure viewing areas are designed for birdwatching.
- **Safety:** Suggest safe lookout points for children.
- **Space:** Consider the width and the space that can be used. Suggest that they should be useable for school and educational groups.

Examples of Viewing Area Options



# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

- **Shape:** Be aware of the importance of viewing area shape. Suggest that they are octagon-shaped, like a turtle shell or a circle. The viewing area could resemble a spearhead in the location where spearfishing occurs.
- **Seating:** Suggest benches, pullouts, and seating areas for resting and viewing.
- **Cover:** Include covered lookouts, especially during hot summer months.
- **Wheelchair accessibility:** Create wheelchair-accessible viewing areas, allowing for turn-around areas and lakeside accessibility.
- **Material:** Consider metal railings with a wood structure.

### Public Transportation:

- **Bus terminals:** Suggest bus terminals at both ends of the trail.
- **Bus service:** Expand city bus service during summer.

### Other Key Amenities:

- **Dog park and washrooms:** Include a dog park and washrooms.
- **Washroom facilities:** Install washrooms midpoint of the trail near the First Nations Road crossing. Include changing rooms within these facilities.
- **Rest stops/areas:** Include rest stops with seating areas along the trail that offer shelter from the heat.
- **Garbage cans:** Ensure garbage cans are available along the trail.
- **Seating:** Include benches, pullouts, or other seating areas for resting and viewing.
- **Food areas:** If there are food areas, ensure washrooms and garbage bins are located nearby.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 55 comments shared by participants*



# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

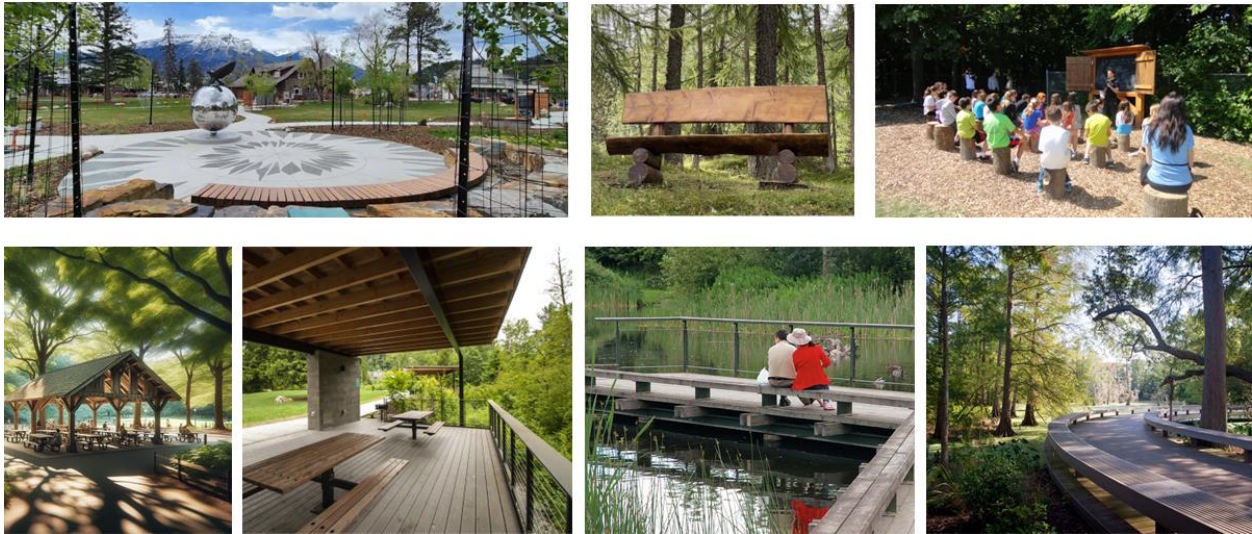
### Community Collaboration

Participants discussed what community collaboration means for the design and planning of the preliminary trail location. The project team have summarized their recommendations below.

#### *Gathering Areas and Pride of the Community:*

- **Secwépmeç Trail Design:** Integrate Secwépmeç aesthetics and cultural elements into the trail.
- **Various Gathering Areas:** Include diverse types of gathering areas.
- Suggest a circle gathering area with benches at the beginning (south), covered and curved.

*Examples of Gathering Areas*



#### *Connections in the Community:*

- **Hire Locally:** Consider hiring a First Nations contractor to manage and oversee projects.
- **Usage by Adams Lake and Neskonlith:** Consider how many people will use the trail from Adams Lake and Neskonlith and how the community will benefit.
- **Trail Ownership:** Consider who owns the trail and takes on a maintenance role.

#### *Connecting with Youth:*

- **Engaging Youth:** Develop programs and educational activities to engage with and connect the youth in the community.

### Cultural Sharing with Community:

- **Education Boards:** Educate through information boards and stories, such as throwing fish upstream over silt weirs. Incorporate information about local animals and historical figures, such as women who were Wapato potato pickers.

### Respecting Communities:

- **Signs:** Install carved signs by local artists. Signs could feature landmarks or important wildlife (e.g., salmon).
- **Community Roots:** Highlight the stories of the land, people, wildlife, flora, and fauna.
- **Local Trails and Wildlife Management:** Refer to local trails and wildlife management areas, such as Creston's trail and the Kootenay Columbia Discovery Centre, to consider local best practices for the preliminary design.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 20 comments shared by participants*

## Health and Growth

Participants discussed what health and growth mean for the design and planning of the trail. Their suggestions are summarized below.

### Economic Opportunities:

- **Boosting Local Commerce:** Encourage vendors at key locations to increase local commerce. Support and promote merchants at Sandy Point to enhance economic activity. Consider having a Bannock Stand.
- **Economic Benefit:** Consider the types of financial benefit the trail could bring to Adams Lake and Neskonlith communities.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 8 comments shared by participants*

## Environment

Participants expressed the importance of trail maintenance, wildlife conservation, environmental revitalization, and minimizing environmental impact. The following is a summary of key themes that emerged from conversations:

### Animals:

- **Crossings: Design animal crossings.** Protect deer, moose, and coyotes crossing the trail. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit would have information about moose crossings.
- **Moose Tracks:** Be aware that moose tracks are visible in the soil today (e.g., December 2, 2024).

### **Birds (ducks, pheasants, ospreys):**

- **Bird Sanctuary:** Protect the bird-sanctuary by keeping people away at a safe distance.
- **Bird-Watching Stations:** Install bird-watching stations at rest areas.
- **Lighting:** Ensure lighting does not disturb wildlife, particularly the eagles and all species of birds.
- **Eagles:**

#### *Eagle Nests and Habitats:*

- Protect Eagle nests in farmers' forest fields.
- Be aware that there are six eagle nests from 3+000 to Sandy Point.
- Be aware that people can view eagles near First Nations Road.

#### *Impact of Human Activities:*

- Consider that the alternative trail alignment in Section 2 is too close to eagles' nests.
- Ensure lights are okay for eagles and preserve eagle habitat.

### **Wildlife and Fish:**

- **Spearfishing Locations:** Preservation and highlight of spearfishing locations.
- **Education Boards:** Create education boards with stories about throwing fish upstream over silt weirs.
- **Otters:** Be aware that otters are present in the area.

### **Environmental Impact:**

- **Development Offset:** Ensure environmental offset from development at West Harbour Village.
- **Flood Zone:** Ensure the trail design is sustainable and resilient in the flood zone.
- **Construction Materials:** Use environmentally friendly construction materials for boardwalks, especially for environmentally sensitive areas. Avoid the use of cast-in-place concrete (lime).
- **Waste management:** Consider who will be responsible for maintaining the trail's cleanliness and the methods they will use to achieve this.

# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

*Examples of Boardwalks over Environmentally Sensitive Areas*



### **Maintenance and Stewardship:**

- **Salt Usage:** Be aware of concerns with salt usage for winter trail maintenance.
- **Hemp Areas:** Be aware that there is potential to use hemp areas for revitalization by the river.
- **Native Fruits and Plants:** Plant native fruits. Revitalize native plants in designated planting areas.
- **Mosquitoes:** Be aware that there are many mosquitoes during certain seasons.
- **Responsibility:** Questions about who will maintain the trail (e.g., City, Adams Lake and Neskonlith Band).
- **Snow management:** Use a snowblower/plowing, especially on elevated sections.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 33 comments shared by participants*

### Archaeological and Culture

Participants highlighted various archeological and cultural aspects of the trail design. The following recommendations are summarized below.

#### *Respectful of the Land, Flora, Fauna, and People:*

- **Spearfishing Locations:** Identify and preserve spearfishing locations that hold cultural significance.
- **Welcome Sign:** Create a welcome sign carved by a local artist and featuring salmon.
- **Local Aesthetics:** Enhance the area to reflect local First Nation aesthetics and cultural elements.
- **Privacy Trees:** Use trees to block the view of the cemetery for privacy.
- **Graves:** Acknowledge and safeguard potential graves from the early 1900s.
- **Cultural Designs:** Incorporate cultural designs such as photographs and bird cutouts.
- **Walking Feet Designs:** Add walking feet designs burned into the trail.
- **Artwork:** Hire local artists and integrate their artwork into the trail design (e.g., Willard, Tania, etc.).

#### *Language, Place Names, and Stories:*

- **Language:** Use Secwépmeč language to name landmarks.
- **Welcome Trail Arch:** Create an arch at the beginning of the trail with the word "WEYTK" (WELCOME) in the Secwépmeč language and Secwépmeč Trail.
- **Community Welcome:** Use the Secwépmeč name to welcome the community.
- **Potato Picking Story:** Highlight the historical story of women using their feet to extract potatoes.
- **Salmon Landmark:** Create a landmark featuring salmon.
- **Place Names:** Use Secwépmeč names for various places.
- **Community Hangout Spot:** Designate "The Jungle" area as a community hangout location.

*Number of Comments: Approximately 15 comments shared by participants*

# West Bay Connector Trail

## What We Learned

### Next Steps

The perspectives and insights shared by Adams Lake and Neskonlith Elders, knowledge sharers, community members, Salmon Arm and the Shuswap Trail Alliance representatives have begun to help shape the project teams' development of the preliminary West Bay Connector Trail's design.

In January 2025, the project team will invite the broader City of Salmon Arm community to share their perspectives and ideas. By March 2025, the project team will present the draft preliminary design developed based on community feedback and seek final input before moving forward.

