

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shawnigan Village Rail Trail pathway linking Old Mill Park to Shawnigan Wharf Park complete

Shawnigan Lake, BC - The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is excited to announce the recent completion of the Shawnigan Village Rail Trail linking Masons Beach Park, Dougan Park, Shawnigan Community Centre and Elsie Miles Park, Shawnigan Village, Shawnigan Wharf Park and Old Mill Park with a multi-use, accessible pathway within the E&N corridor.

Development of a multi-use trail within the E&N corridor has been long supported within the community, inclusive of priority recommendations in the 2010 Shawnigan Lake Community Parks & Trails Master Plan supporting development of the village rail with trail. More recently, support of the community for the village rail with trail between Masons Beach and Old Mill Park was highlighted through the Shawnigan Lake Village Plan Design Charrette process completed in 2020.

“Community members have spoken to me about the beauty of the completed trail and their gratitude to have an accessible path that would have previously been challenging or unavailable to them,” said Area B Director, Sierra Acton. “It’s been a long journey for our community to see this project finished, and all residents can take pride in achieving an accessible, natural and sustainable trail to enjoy lake views, park recreation, and connect to businesses in Shawnigan Village.”

The rail with trail is supported by the Island Corridor Foundation’s objectives “to create trails, and facilitate opportunities for parks, gardens, greenways and other public areas for use of members of the public along the length of the Island Corridor.”

“The Island Corridor Foundation is thrilled to see this trail section completed,” said Island Corridor Foundation Co-Chair, Daniel Arbour. “There is currently over 65km of fully separated rail plus trail infrastructure within the E&N corridor and we congratulate the CVRD and the Shawnigan community for this latest addition.”

The first section of the Shawnigan Village Rail Trail was constructed in 2018 between Shawnigan Wharf Park and Elsie Miles Park and in 2020 the rail with trail was extended north to Masons Beach Park. The final section was constructed between Shawnigan Wharf Park and Old Mill Park in late 2023/early 2024.

The gravel surfaced trail is approximately 1.4 km, all-weather, and suitable for walking, running, and cycling with a generally level grade. The rail with trail complements the Cowichan Valley Trail along the west side of Shawnigan Lake, providing the public opportunities to safely explore and enjoy both sides of the lake.

Major access points/staging areas to the Shawnigan Village Rail Trail are at public parking areas at Dougan Park (off of Renfrew Road), Shawnigan Wharf Park (off of Thrush Road) and Old Mill Park (Recreation Road). Additional access points to the rail with trail are from Masons Beach Park and Elsie Miles Park/Shawnigan Village.

For more information, please contact:

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(left to right) Senior Manager, CVRD Parks & Trails Brian Farquhar, Electoral Area B Director, Sierra Acton, Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) CEO, Thomas Bevan, CVRD CAO, Danielle Myles Wilson, General Manager, CVRD Operations Dept., Darcy Mooney.



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Shawnigan Village Rail with Trail looking South near Old Mill Park.