

July 22, 2026

Public Invited to Provide Input on a New Regional Trail

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is planning a new regional trail along the Island Rail Corridor between Top Bridge Crossing and Despard Avenue in Parksville. The trail will connect Top Bridge Regional Trail to the Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail to improve active transportation options, increase recreational opportunities and create better connections between existing trails. Now in the concept design phase, the project will use community input to identify safety concerns, connectivity gaps and accessibility barriers, and to ensure the proposed design features meet community needs.

The RDN invites residents to share their input by attending the outdoor, drop-in open house or by completing the online survey by August 12, 2026.

Open House

Date: July 29

Time: 3 - 7 p.m.

Location: Butler Avenue railway crossing in Parksville (maps.app.goo.gl/3kLhJbE4Nieor2VR9)

Details: Visit the booth to speak with the project team, ask questions and share your input and ideas about the trail.

Online Survey

Complete the online survey by August 12, at getinvolved.rdn.ca/rail-trail-top-bridge-despard.

The results of the input gathered at the open house and received through the online survey will be used to inform the detailed design of the trail. Construction of the trail improvement is expected to take place in 2027. Once complete, there will be a continuous 16-kilometre trail route connecting Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park to Coombs.

To learn more about the project, to complete the online survey and to sign up online for project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/rail-trail-top-bridge-despard.

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