



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Engagement Round 1



Engagement Report

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

September 2026

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	
What We Heard	
How Input Will Be Used	
Introduction	1
Project Background	1
Key Focus Areas	2
Building On What We Already Know	2
Engagement Round 1	3
Purpose.....	3
Who Was Engaged.....	3
How We Engaged.....	3
Engagement Overview.....	4
Project Timeline	4
Activity Details.....	5
What We Heard	11
Key Themes.....	11
Project Next Steps	17
Coming Up.....	17
Appendix A Project Handout	
Appendix B Survey Results	
Appendix C Survey PDF	
Appendix D Sandwich Board Signs.....	
Appendix E Project Display Boards, with Comments	



Executive Summary

In early 2026, the City of Yellowknife (the City) retained Stantec to undertake the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project (the Project). The Project will guide improvements to the existing trail corridor connecting Highway 4/48th Street to Back Bay while supporting a long-term vision for the Niven Lake neighbourhood. The outcome will be a community-informed vision that helps guide future planning, design, and investment decisions for the trail.

Located along the northern edge of the Niven neighbourhood, the Niven Lake Ravine Trail (the trail) provides access to natural areas, recreational destinations, and key community connections. The trail corridor was first identified in the City's Integrated Parks, Trails and Open Space Development Study (2005) and later incorporated into Niven Lake development plans. With subdivision development nearing completion and wildfire preparedness clearing completed in 2023, the City is now exploring how the corridor can continue to support recreation and emergency preparedness while responding to community priorities related to safety, accessibility, environmental conditions, and the overall trail experience.

This report summarizes findings from Engagement Round 1, conducted between June and July 2026. Engagement activities and communications activities included a project website, an online survey, a walk-and-talk session with trail user groups, and three community pop-up events. In total, the project team received 267 survey responses and gathered additional feedback through conversations with 21 trail users, residents, and community organizations.

What We Heard

Across all Phase 1 engagement activities, participants described the trail as a valued community asset. Community members highlighted its role as a year-round recreation corridor, a connection to nature, and an important link between neighbourhoods, Back Bay, and Yellowknife's broader trail network.

Six key themes emerged through engagement:

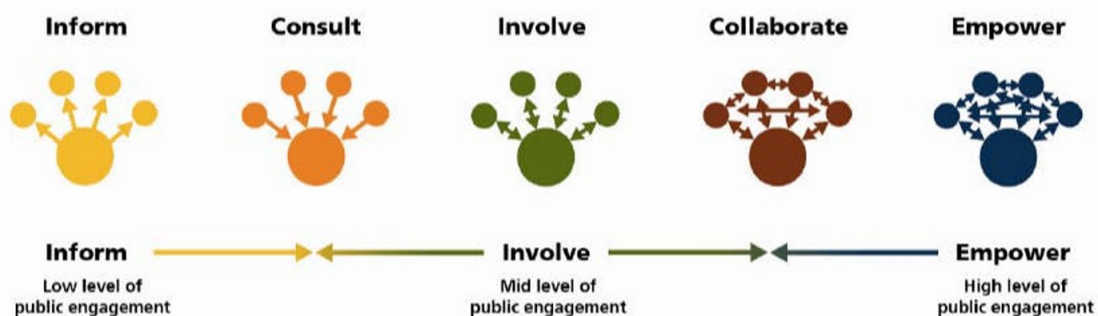
- The trail is a valued community asset that supports recreation, nature connection, and everyday use.
- Participants want stronger connections to surrounding trails, neighbourhoods, and destinations.
- Maintaining the trail's natural character and scenic qualities is a community priority.
- Users support targeted improvements to access, amenities, trail conditions, and maintenance.
- The trail serves as an important year-round recreation corridor for a variety of users for different activities.
- Participants highlighted the need to support continued shared use through improved safety, awareness, and trail etiquette.

Participants consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining the trail's natural setting, open character, and views of Back Bay. At the same time, they identified opportunities to improve drainage, accessibility, wayfinding, maintenance, and overall user comfort. Suggested improvements focused on practical, low-impact measures, including enhanced signage, waste management facilities, trail surface improvements, seating areas, and stronger connections to nearby destinations.

The online survey provided additional insights into trail use and user experience. Responses reflected the diversity of trail users and activities, views on shared use and motorized access, safety and comfort considerations, seasonal trail condition challenges, and the trail's role as a frequently used and accessible part of daily life for many residents.

How Input Will Be Used

In accordance with the City's Public Engagement Framework, Engagement Round 1 was conducted at the **Consult** level. At this level, participants share their perspectives, priorities, and concerns to help inform project planning.



Feedback from Engagement Round 1 confirmed that the Niven Lake Ravine Trail is valued as an important part of Yellowknife's recreation and trail network. Participants also identified opportunities for targeted improvements that could enhance the trail experience while maintaining the qualities they value most.

The project team will consider this feedback alongside technical analysis, existing conditions information, and direction provided by the *YK 2025 Community Plan*, *Let's Move YK Transportation Master Plan*, *Yellowknife Trails Plan*, and *Yellowknife Active Transportation Strategy* as they develop a preliminary trail concept. Once the concept is ready, it will be shared with the community for review and feedback. Community input received during this phase will help refine the preferred concept before detailed design begins.

Introduction

Project Background

In early 2026, the City of Yellowknife (the City) retained Stantec to undertake the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project (the Project). The Project will guide improvements to the existing trail corridor connecting Highway 4/48th Street to Back Bay while supporting a long-term vision for the Niven Lake neighbourhood. The outcome will be a community-informed vision that helps guide future planning, design, and investment decisions for the trail.

Located along the northern edge of the Niven neighbourhood, the Niven Lake Ravine Trail (the trail) provides access to natural areas, recreational destinations, and key community connections. The trail corridor was first identified in the City's Integrated Parks, Trails and Open Space Development Study (2005) and later incorporated into Niven Lake development plans. With subdivision development nearing completion and wildfire preparedness clearing completed in 2023, the City is now exploring how the corridor can continue to support recreation and emergency preparedness while responding to community priorities related to safety, accessibility, environmental conditions, and the overall trail experience.



Corridor Map

Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Legend

- Trail Corridor
- Existing - Niven Lake Ravine Trail
- Existing - Other Surrounding Trails

- Transit Stops
- Roadways
- Trailhead Start



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Key Focus Areas

This Project focuses on:

- **Safety:** Evaluate current trail conditions and identify opportunities to improve user safety.
- **Accessibility:** Assess how the trail serves people of all ages, abilities, and mobility needs.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Consider natural features, environmental constraints, and long-term sustainability.
- **User Experience:** Gather input from trail users and the broader community to understand needs, priorities, and concerns.
- **Future Improvements:** Explore potential design concepts and enhancements to guide future trail development.

The outcome of this project will be a community-informed vision that helps shape future planning, design, and investment decisions for the trail.

Building On What We Already Know

Recent engagement through the *YK 2025 Community Plan, Let's Move YK Transportation Master Plan* highlighted strong community interest in better city-wide trail connectivity, year-round use, network expansion, improved safety (such as lighting), and clearer wayfinding. Building on this feedback, the project will help define a clear future for the trail through technical analysis and community input.

This Engagement Report (Report) summarizes what was learned during the first round of engagement for the Project, which focused on how the trail is used today, what people appreciate about it, and what improvements could make it safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable in the future. Along with other background review findings, this information will help inform the development of a preliminary trail concept as the Project moves into Phase 2.

Engagement Round 1

Purpose

Engagement Round 1 focused on understanding how people use the Niven Lake Ravine Trail, what they value most about the corridor, and where opportunities exist for future improvements. Feedback gathered through this phase will help inform the preliminary trail redesign concept.

Who Was Engaged



- Trail user groups
- Mobility and accessibility advocacy groups
- Niven Lake residents
- Yellowknife residents and community members

How We Engaged



Trail Users and Mobility Advocacy Groups

- Invited to participate in a Trail User Group Walk and Talk
- Offered opportunities for one-on-one discussions with the project team
- Encouraged to provide feedback through the online survey



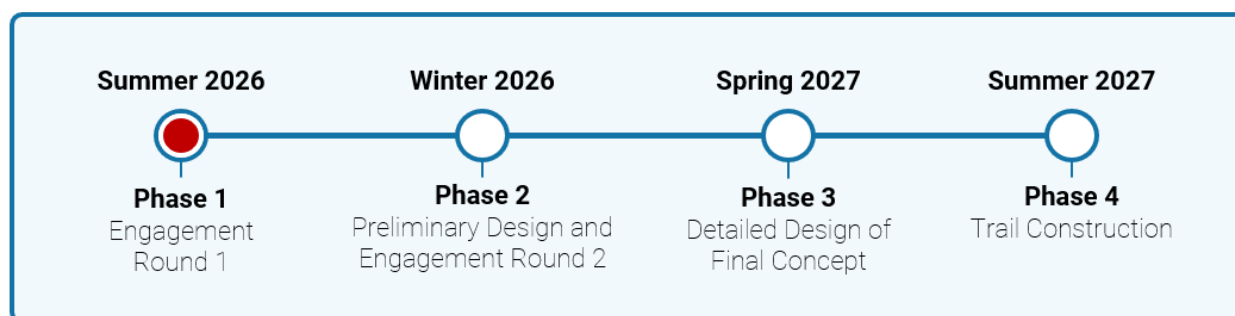
Niven Lake Residents and Community Members

- Engaged through three community pop-up events
- Invited to complete the online survey
- Directed to the project website for information and project updates

Engagement Overview

Project Timeline

The Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project is being delivered through four phases, with community input helping shape the trail vision and future improvements.



Phase	Timing	Key Activities
Phase 1 Existing Conditions and Engagement Round 1	Summer 2026	- Assess the existing trail conditions - Share the project information and gather community feedback - Findings from this Phase are summarized in this What We Heard Report
Phase 2 Preliminary Design Concept and Engagement Round 2	Fall/ Winter 2026	- Assess the trail challenges and opportunities - Develop a preliminary design concept - Present the preliminary design concept to the community
Phase 3 Detailed Design of Final Concept	Spring 2027	- Complete final revisions to the design - Prepare detailed design drawings
Phase 4 Trail Construction	Summer 2027	Construct the trail

Activity Details

Engagement Round 1 focused on understanding how people use the Niven Lake Ravine Trail, what they value most about the corridor, and where they see opportunities for improvement. Through conversations with residents, trail users, and community organizations, participants shared their experiences, identified challenges, and provided ideas to help shape the trail's future.

Across all engagement activities, participants provided input on:

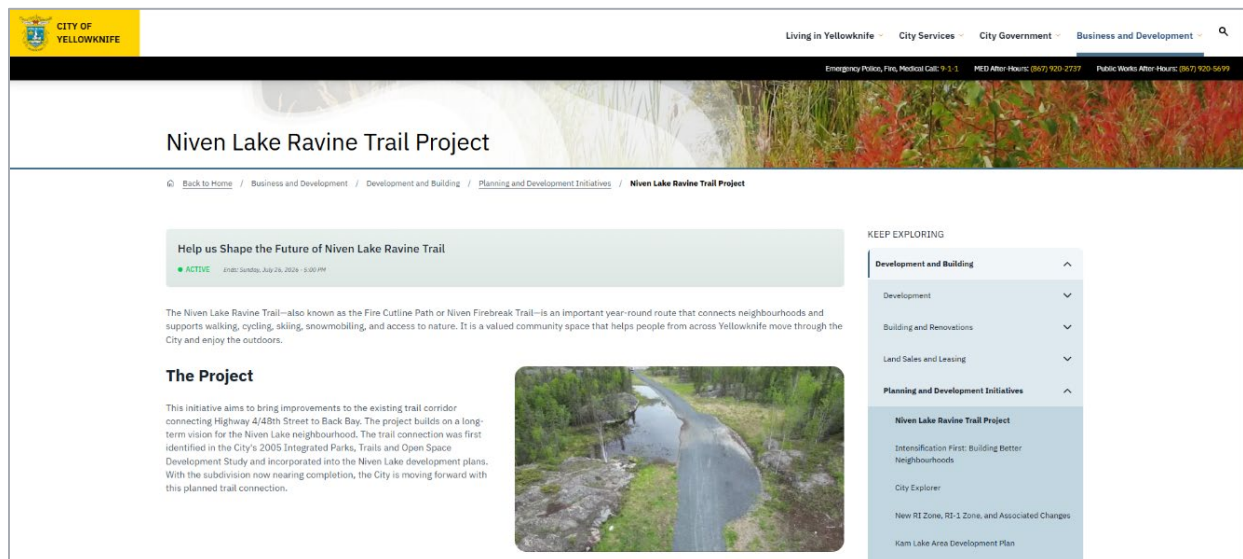
- Trail use patterns and user experiences
- Seasonal maintenance and trail conditions
- Interactions among different trail users
- Safety, accessibility, and comfort
- Opportunities to enhance the trail while maintaining its valued qualities

The engagement process explored a range of topics, including trail maintenance, accessibility, safety, recreation, and the needs of different user groups. The insights gathered will help inform the preliminary trail concept and identify opportunities for future improvements.

The following sections summarize the activities undertaken during Engagement Round 1 and the key themes that emerged.



Project Website



The City launched a project website to share information about the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project and let community members know how they could get involved.

- The website included:
 - Background information about the project;
 - Details about upcoming in-person engagement events; and
 - A link to the public survey.

Trail User Group Walk and Talk



The City and Stantec team hosted a Trail User Group Walk and Talk along the Niven Lake Ravine Trail. The purpose of the event was to walk the trail with user groups, learn how they use the trail, and gather feedback.

The following groups were invited to participate:

- Yellowknife Ski Club
- Shift NWT (attended Pop-up #3 Share and Stroll event)
- City of Yellowknife Accessibility Advisory Committee*
- Great Slave Snowmobile Association – Trail Riders*
- Yellowknife Mountain Bike Club*

** Groups marked with an asterisk were identified by the City but could not be reached or were unable to participate in this round of engagement.*

Project Pop-Ups

The project team hosted a series of in-person pop-up events to help community members learn about the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project, connect with the Stantec team, ask questions, and share feedback. Staff from the City of Yellowknife and Stantec attended each event, providing information about the project and discussing community interests and concerns. Paper copies of the survey were available for those who preferred to provide feedback in person.

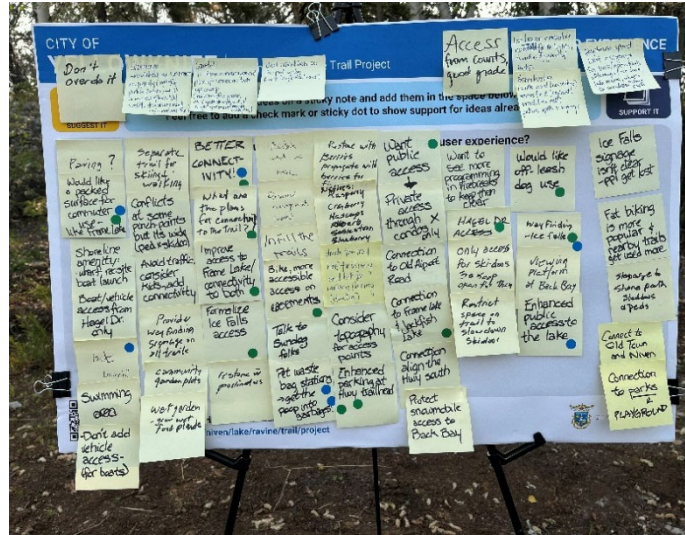
These events supported open, two-way conversations and gave residents multiple ways to participate in the engagement process. The feedback shared helped the project team better understand community priorities and perspectives and will help inform future project planning and decision-making.

Pop-Up #1 - ATCO Aquatic Centre



- Monday, June 29 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm at ATCO Aquatic Centre
- 9 attendees, including youth, residents, business owners, and community organization representatives
- Distributed copies of the project handout to ATCO Aquatic Centre patrons, directing them to the website to complete the survey

Pop-Up #2 - Trailhead Coffee Chat



- Tuesday, June 30 from 7:30am - 8:30am at the Niven Lake Ravine Trailhead
- 6 attendees, primarily consisting of Niven Lake residents with homes abutting the trail

Pop-Up #3 - Share and Stroll



- Tuesday, June 30 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Niven Lake Ravine Trailhead
- 6 attendees, including youth, residents, and representatives from Shift NWT

Project Survey

The public survey provided another way for community members to share feedback on conditions and future improvements for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail.

Survey details

- Open from June 25 to July 27, 2026.
- 267 responses received.
- 21 questions, including multiple-choice, ranking, and open-comment formats.
- Available online through the City of Yellowknife project website.
- Advertised through City of Yellowknife social media posts, through QR codes on posters distributed throughout the community, via emails sent to trail user group representatives.
- Paper copies of the survey were available at all in-person engagement events.



What We Heard

This section summarizes the feedback from Engagement Round 1 of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project. Feedback was gathered through a trail user group walk and talk, pop-up events, and the online survey.

Note:

- These themes reflect feedback from all engagement activities, including written comments and conversations.
- The themes highlight common views and do not represent every individual opinion or the City's position.

Key Themes

The Niven Lake Ravine Trail is a valued community asset that supports recreation, seasonal activities, and access to nearby natural areas. Participants emphasized the importance of preserving the trail's natural character while identifying opportunities to improve safety, accessibility, maintenance, wayfinding, and user comfort.

Six key themes emerged through engagement:

- The trail is a valued community asset that supports recreation, nature connection, and daily use.
- Participants want stronger connections to surrounding trails, neighbourhoods, and destinations.
- Protecting the trail's natural character and views is a community priority.
- Users support targeted improvements to access, amenities, trail conditions, and maintenance.
- The trail plays an important role in supporting year-round, multi-use recreation.
- Participants identified opportunities to improve shared use through enhanced safety, awareness, and trail etiquette.

The Trail is a Valued Community Asset

Participants consistently described the Niven Lake Ravine Trail as an important recreational and community asset. The trail is valued for its access to nature, year-round recreation opportunities, views of Back Bay, and connections to nearby trails and natural areas.

Many participants described the trail as a place to spend time outdoors, connect with nature, and access destinations within and beyond the Niven neighbourhood. Respondents noted that the trail contributes to quality of life and provides a convenient recreation option close to home.

Accessible, nearby, and part of daily routines

The trail's proximity to homes and the Niven neighbourhood makes it an accessible and frequently used part of many residents' daily routines.

Survey results showed that:

- 84% of respondents walk to the trail
- Trail use is highest in the afternoon (91%), followed by the evening (70%)

While respondents generally described the trail as accessible, some identified challenges related to:

- Loose gravel
- Uneven trail surfaces
- Pooling water
- Seasonal ice buildup

These accessibility concerns were often linked to broader discussions about maintenance and opportunities for targeted trail improvements.

Participants Want Stronger Connections to Trails, Neighbourhoods, and Destinations

Participants viewed the trail as part of Yellowknife's broader recreation and active transportation network. Many respondents expressed interest in strengthening connections between the Niven Lake Ravine Trail and other destinations throughout the city.

Commonly identified connections included:

- Frame Lake Trail
- Downtown
- Old Town
- McMahon Court and Findlay Point
- The Racquet Club area
- Other community trail networks

Participants saw opportunities to improve connectivity while maintaining the trail's existing function and character.

Protecting the Trail's Natural Character Is a Community Priority

Participants consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining the trail's natural setting, open character, and wilderness feel.

While respondents generally supported targeted improvements, many expressed concern that extensive development could alter the qualities that make the trail unique. Participants noted that future improvements should respect and preserve the existing landscape, vegetation, and views.

Comments frequently referenced a desire to avoid:

- Excessive clearing
- Overly urbanized trail features
- Widespread paving
- Lighting that would diminish the natural setting

Many participants identified the trail's natural character as one of its defining features and expressed a desire to retain opportunities for quiet recreation and connections to nature.

Users Support Targeted Improvements to Access, Amenities, and Trail Conditions

Participants generally supported practical, low-impact improvements, while also emphasizing that future changes should not significantly alter the trail's natural character.

Frequently suggested improvements included:

- Enhanced wayfinding and directional signage
- Improved trail access points
- Additional benches and resting areas
- Pet waste stations and garbage receptacles
- Drainage improvements
- Improved access to Back Bay
- Trail surface improvements in steep, uneven, or eroded areas

Lake Access and Waterfront Opportunities

Participants value the trail's connection to Back Bay and identified opportunities to enhance access to the waterfront.

Suggestions included:

- Improved water access

- Viewing areas and scenic lookouts
- Small docks or launch points
- Seating areas overlooking Back Bay

Many respondents viewed the waterfront as one of the trail's defining features and expressed interest in improvements that strengthen opportunities to experience and enjoy the shoreline.

Trail Conditions and Drainage

Seasonal trail conditions were identified as an ongoing concern. Participants reported challenges related to:

- Pooling water
- Muddy sections
- Erosion
- Loose gravel
- Spring flooding
- Icy winter conditions

Additional concerns focused on steep grades, uneven surfaces, and sections experiencing erosion.

Perspectives on Lighting

Opinions regarding trail lighting varied. Some participants supported additional lighting to improve comfort and visibility, particularly during darker months. Others opposed lighting because of concerns related to:

- Light pollution
- Preservation of Yellowknife's dark-sky conditions
- Aurora viewing opportunities
- Maintaining the trail's natural character

The Trail Supports Year-Round, Multi-Use Recreation

The trail is used throughout the year by a diverse range of residents and visitors. Survey responses indicated that winter is the busiest season, with 84% of respondents reporting winter trail use.

The trail supports a variety of recreational activities, including:

- Walking, running, and hiking (76%)
- Visiting the ice cave (63%)
- Dog walking (54%)

- Birdwatching and nature viewing (39%)
- Cross-country skiing (34%)

During spring and summer, participants reported using the trail for walking, running, cycling, dog walking, photography, birdwatching, and accessing Back Bay and nearby viewpoints.

Respondents also described using the trail to access natural areas and support activities such as:

- Canoeing
- Swimming
- Rock climbing
- Exploring informal side trails
- Spending time along the shoreline

Destinations such as the ice cave, Back Bay, and the nearby cemetery attract users from across Yellowknife, extending the trail's role beyond the immediate neighbourhood.

During winter, the trail also functions as a snowmobile access route for some users travelling to and from Back Bay.

Opportunities Exist to Improve Shared Use, Safety, and Trail Etiquette

Most participants reported feeling safe while using the trail. However, several recurring concerns related to shared use and user behaviour were identified.

Common concerns included:

- Interactions between pedestrians and motorized users
- Snowmobile speeds
- Off-leash dogs
- Dog waste
- Limited visibility around corners and trail bends
- Garbage and litter
- Trail etiquette and awareness among different user groups

Dog-Related Concerns

Dog-related issues emerged consistently across engagement activities. Participants raised concerns regarding:

- Dog waste left on or near the trail

- The need for additional pet waste stations
- Conflicts involving off-leash dogs
- Opportunities for improved signage and user awareness

Participants generally supported measures that encourage respectful trail use while accommodating the wide range of users who rely on the trail throughout the year.



Project Next Steps

Engagement Round 1 provided valuable input from trail users, nearby residents, and community members. Participants shared how they use the Niven Lake Ravine Trail, what they value most, the challenges they experience, and opportunities for improvement.

What Happens Next

The project team will review and consider feedback from Engagement Round 1 alongside technical analysis, existing conditions information, and direction from the *YK 2025 Community Plan*, *Let's Move YK Transportation Master Plan*, *Yellowknife Trails Plan*, and *Yellowknife Active Transportation Strategy*.

The project team will also work with City departments to identify shared priorities, opportunities, and operational considerations that will guide possible trail improvements.

Using this information, the project team will develop a preliminary trail concept for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail. Once the concept is ready, it will be shared with the community for review and feedback. Community input received during this phase will help refine the preferred concept before detailed design begins.

Appendix A Project Handout

We are developing the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PROJECT GOALS



Improve a key multi-use trail corridor



Help Inform future trail design and upgrades



Enhance access, safety, and user experience



Gather feedback on your experience using the trail

TIMELINE



Phase 1: Engagement Round 1

June - July 2026



Phase 2: Preliminary Design and Engagement Round 2

Fall 2026



Phase 3: Detailed Design of Final Concept

Winter 2027



Phase 4: Trail Construction

Summer 2027

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

**MONDAY
JUNE 29**



Pop-Up 1 ATCO Aquatic Centre

4:00pm - 6:00pm

ATCO Aquatic Centre, 6000 50 Ave.



**Take our
short online
survey**



**TUESDAY
JUNE 30**



Pop-Up 2 Coffee Chat

7:30am - 8:30am

Niven Firebreak Trail Start



Pop-Up 3 Share and Stroll

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Niven Firebreak Trail Start

LEARN MORE AND SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK AT

www.yellowknife.ca/niven/lake/ravine/trail/project



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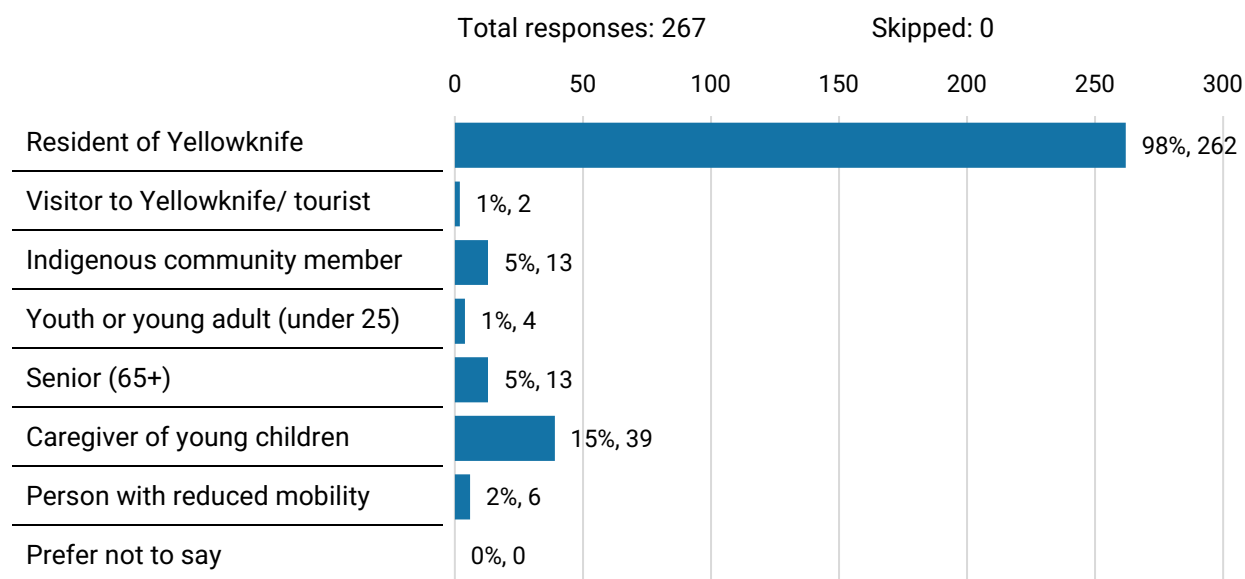
Appendix B Survey Results

Survey Results

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Survey Results

The following are the results of the survey. All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor spelling corrections or redactions where necessary.

Q1. Which best describes you? (Select all that apply)

No comments were collected as part of this question.



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Survey Results

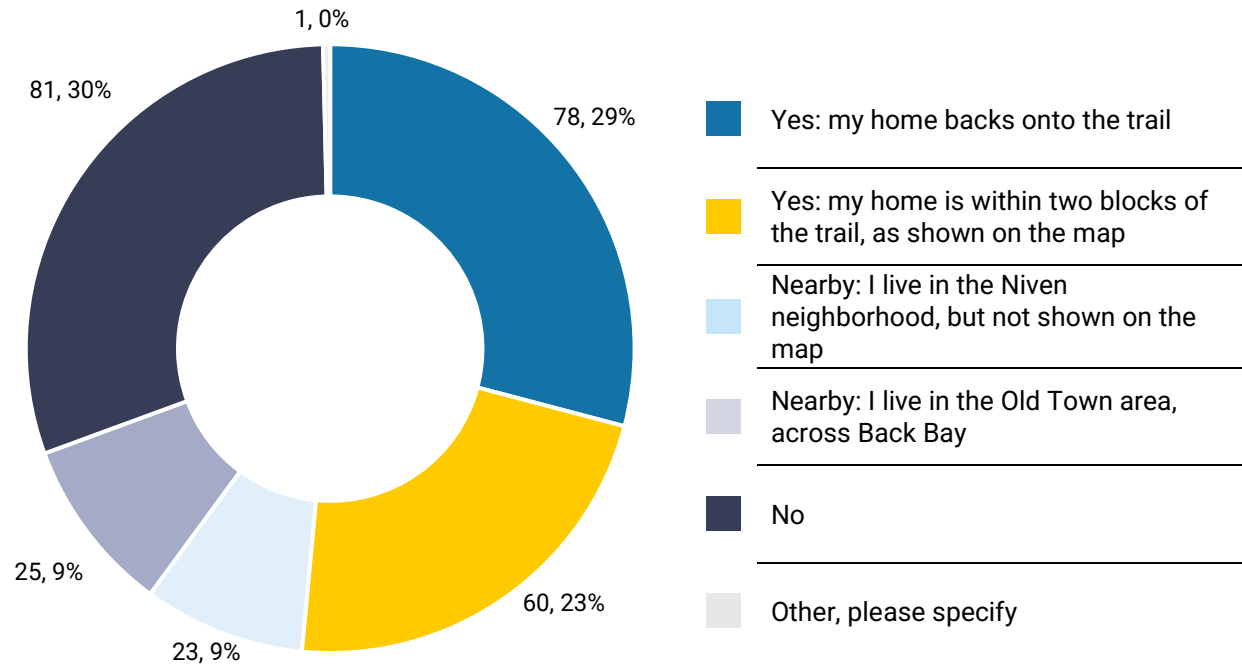
ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q2. Using the image above as a guide, do you live near the Niven Lake Ravine Trail

Total responses: 267

Skipped: 0



Other comments, by theme and response number:

Nearby: Frame Lake

1

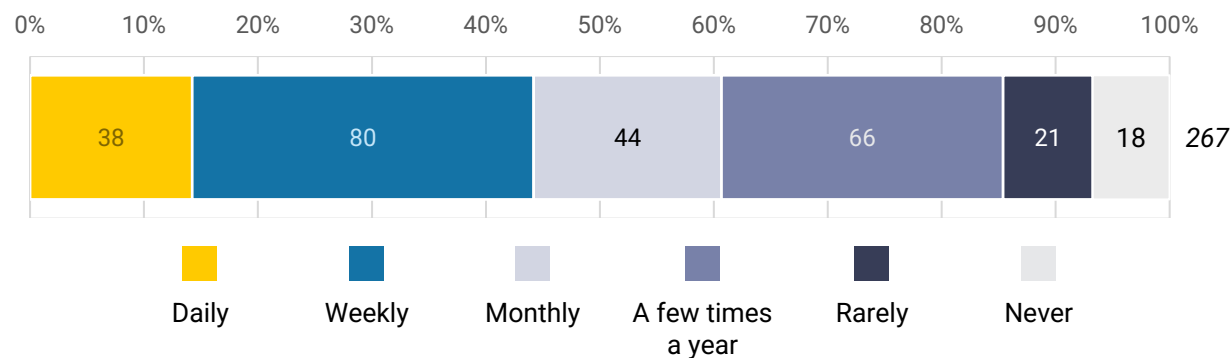


Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q3. How often do you use the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?

Total responses: 267

Skipped: 0

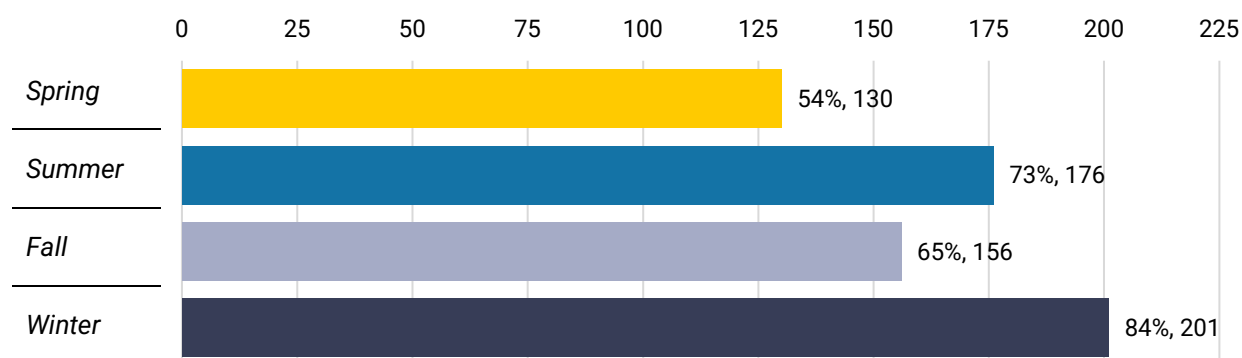


No comments were collected as part of this question.

Q4. During what season do you usually use the trail? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 240

Skipped: 27



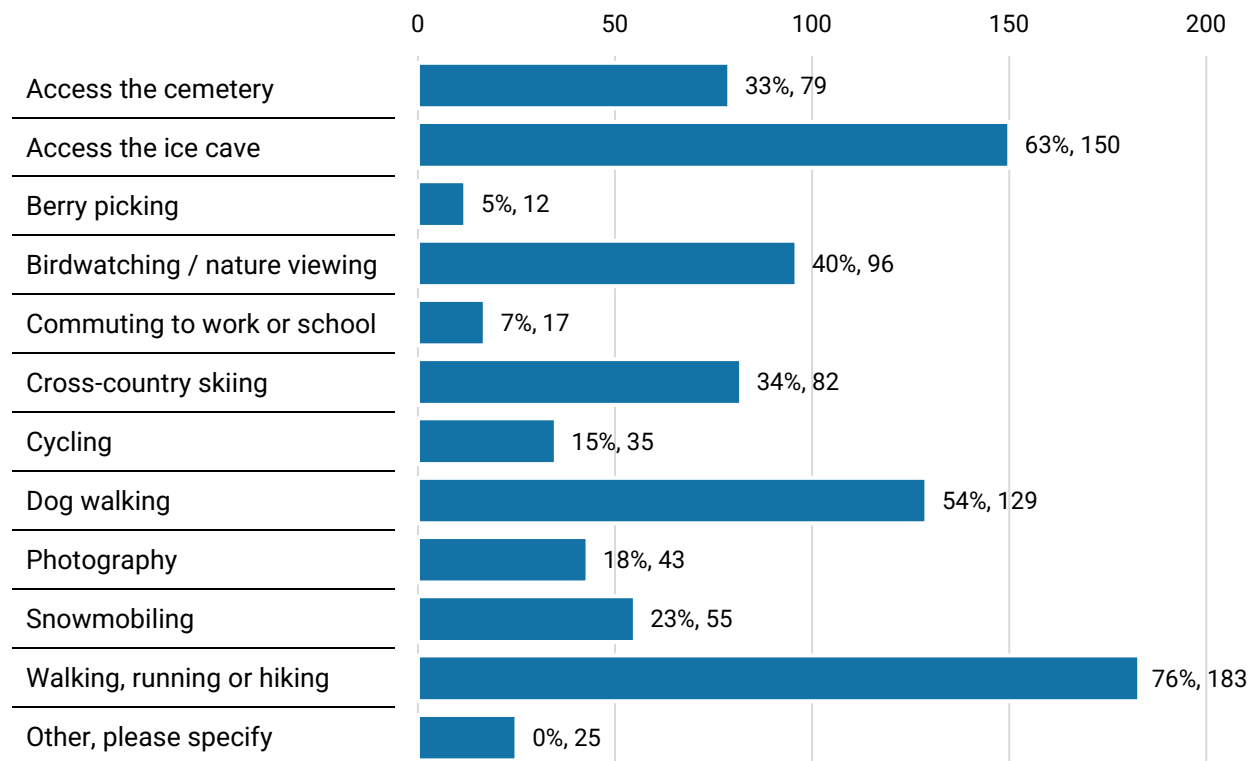
No comments were collected as part of this question.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q5. How have you used the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 240

Skipped: 27



Other comments, by theme and response number:

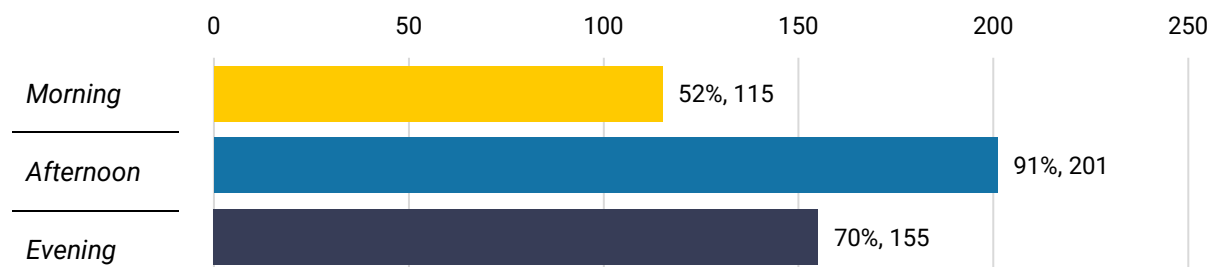
<i>Aurora viewing</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Snowboarding</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Playing music</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>To access Back Bay</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Rock climbing</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>To access bike trails</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Snowshoeing</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>To access Frame Lake</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Side-by-side use</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>To access Old Town</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sledding</i>	<i>5</i>		

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q6. What time of day do you usually use the trail? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 220

Skipped: 47



No comments were collected as part of this question.

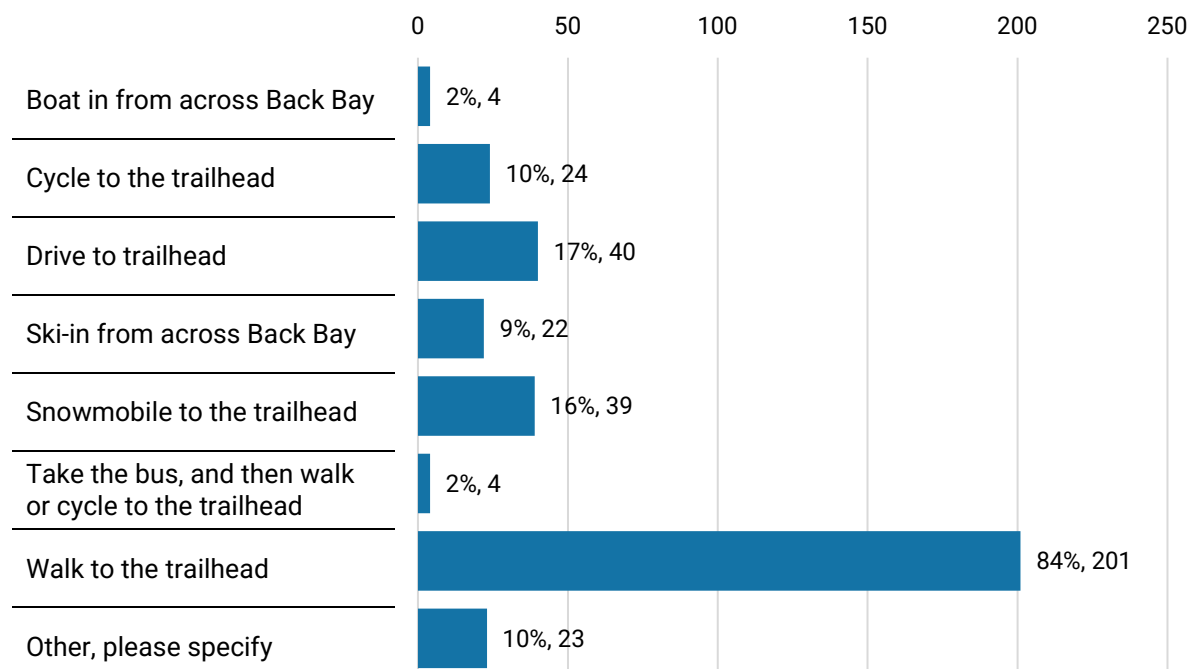
Survey Results

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q7. How do you most often get to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 240

Skipped: 27



Other comments, by theme and response number:

Abutting property	6	Access from Niven Neighborhood	6
Access from Back Bay (winter)	3	Access from other trails	3
Access from Findlay Point	3	Side-by-side	1
Access from Hagel Drive	1		



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Survey Results

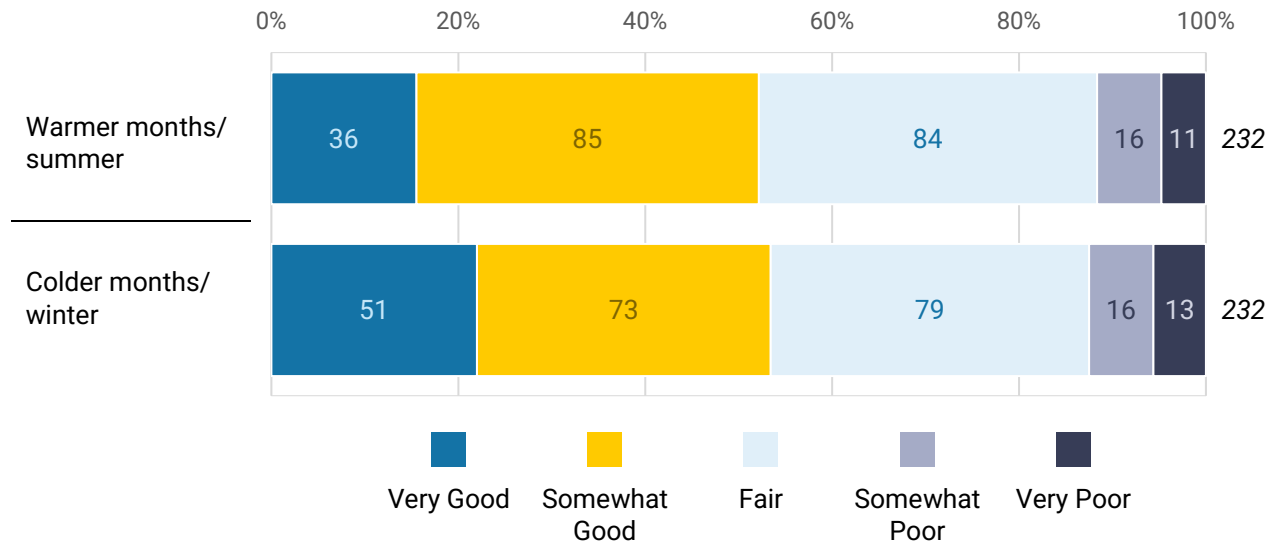
ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q9 & Q11. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail in warmer months/summer and colder months/ winter?

Total responses: 232

Skipped: 35



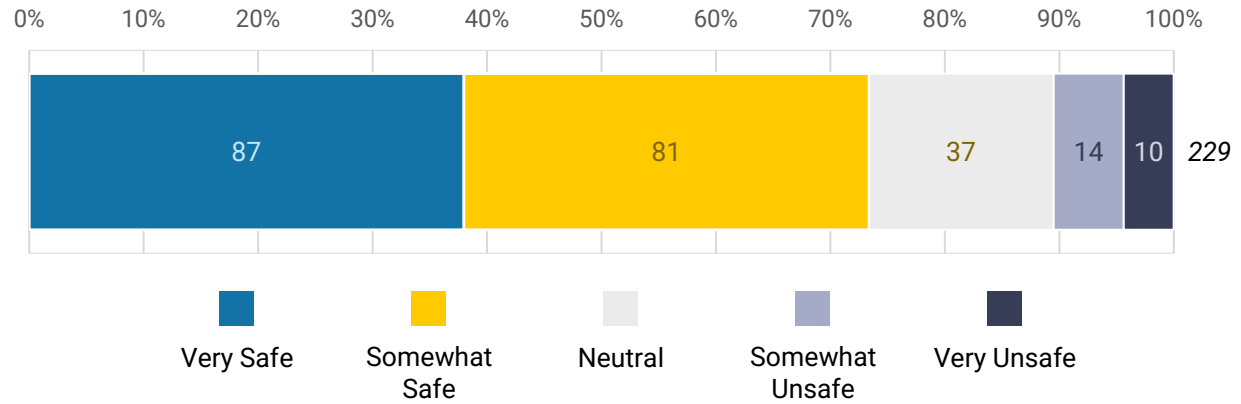
No comments were collected as part of this question.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q13. How safe do you feel when using the trail?

Total responses: 229

Skipped: 38



No comments were collected as part of this question.

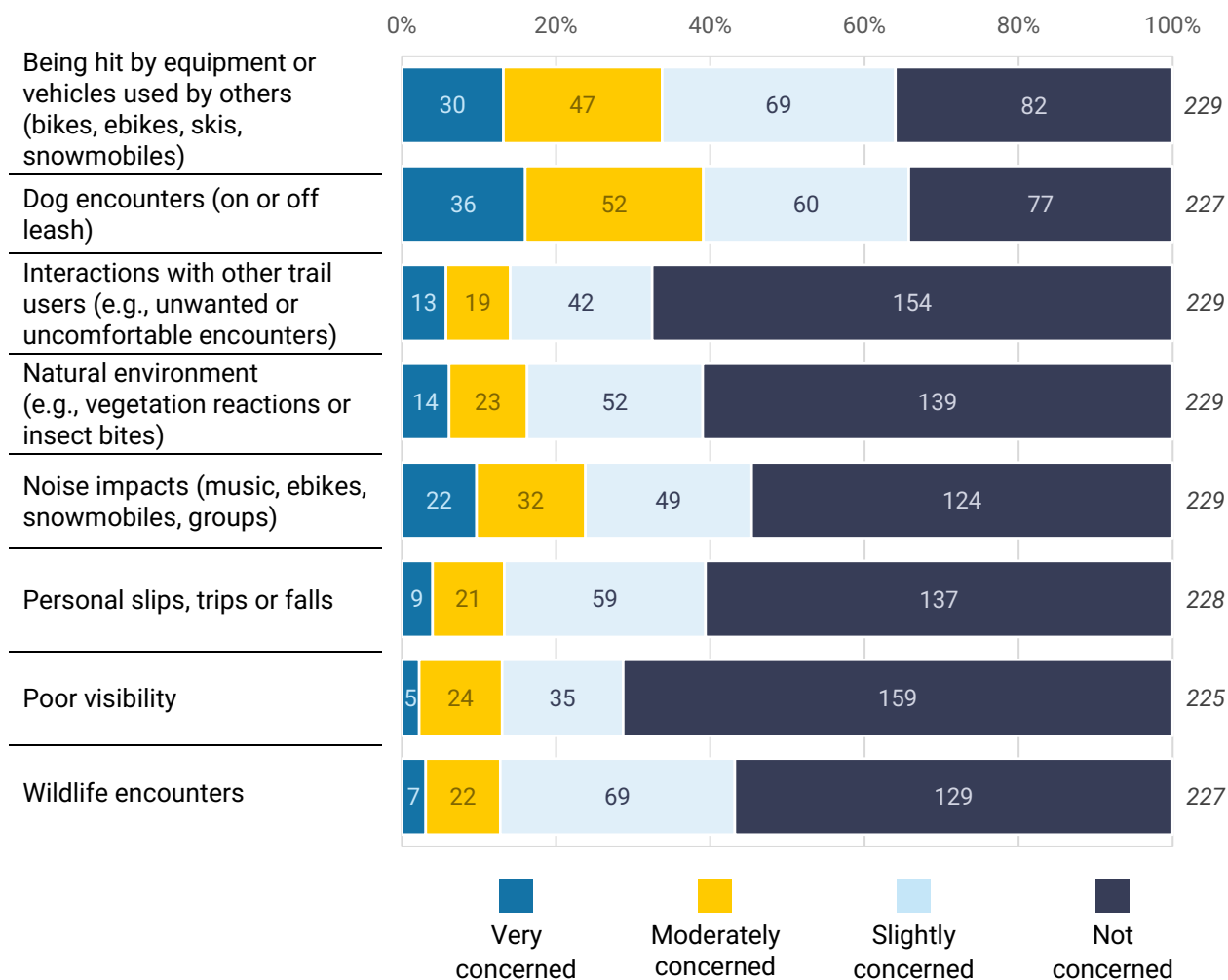
Survey Results

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q14. How concerned are you about the following possible risks to safety, security or comfort on the trail?

Total responses: 229

Skipped: 38



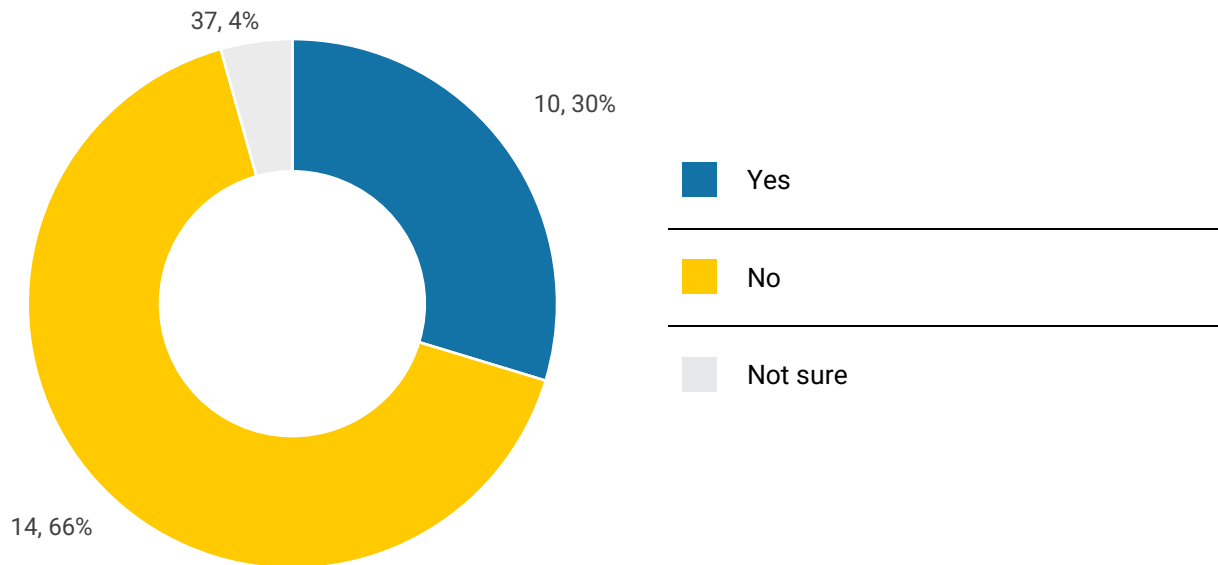
No comments were collected as part of this question.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q16. Have you experienced or observed any conflicts or challenges between different types of trail users on the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?

Total responses: 229

Skipped: 38



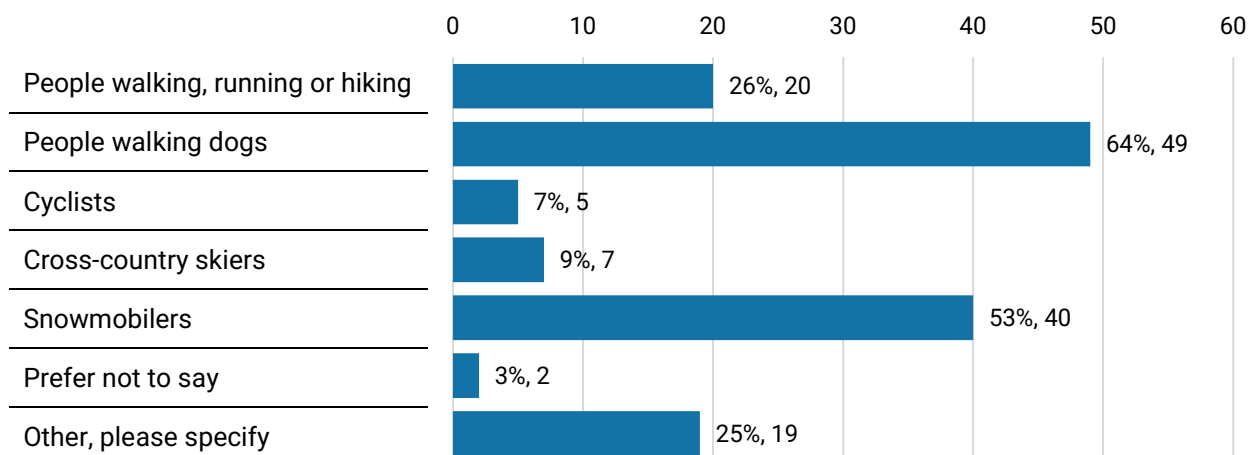
No comments were collected as part of this question.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q17. If yes, what types of trail users were involved? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 76

Skipped: 191



Other comments, by theme and response number:

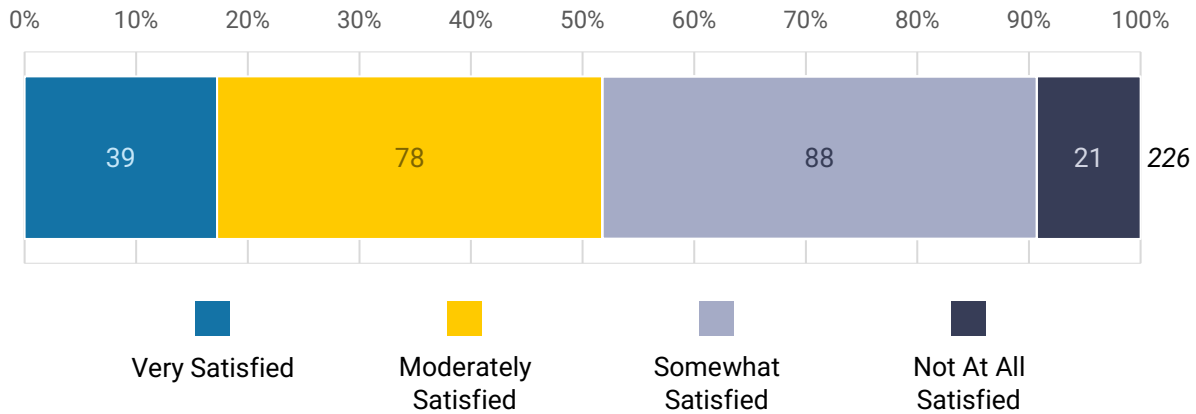
Aggressive dogs	1	Intoxicated persons	2
ATVs	2	Squatters	1
Dirt bikes	3	Vehicles on trail	3
Dogs off leash	4		

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q18. How satisfied are you with the current trail amenities?

Total responses: 226

Skipped: 41



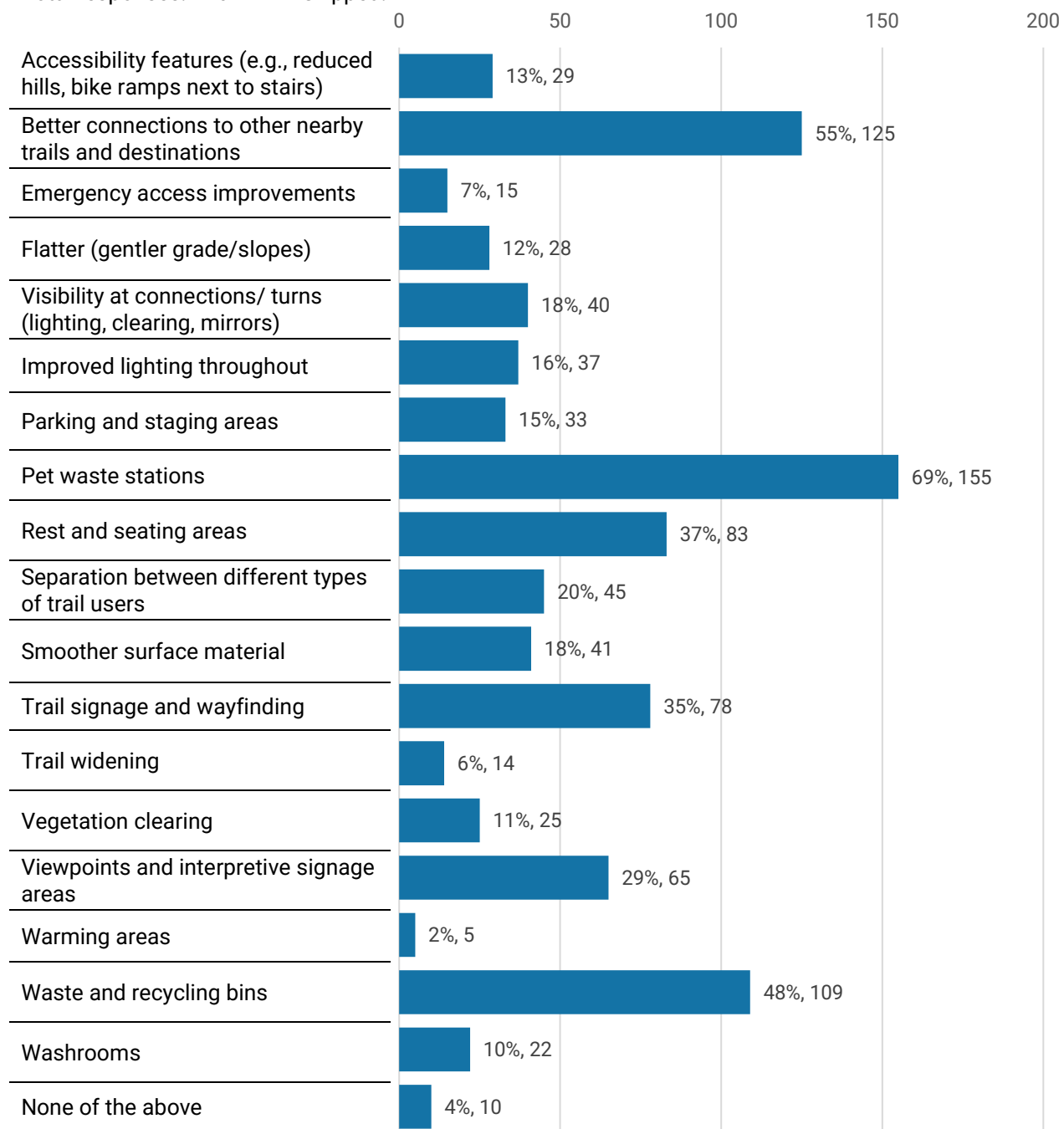
No comments were collected as part of this question.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q19. Which of the following do you think would help improve the user experience for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

Total responses: 226

Skipped: 41



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Q5. How have you used the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? Other (please specify)

- access from niven to old town/snowcastle
- Access to back bay
- Access to climbing areas in the ravine
- Access to other non vehicle trails around Frame Lake
- Access to rock climbing in Jackfish Draw.
- Accessing the lake for swimming
- as access for rock climbing
- aurora viewing
- Canoeing on back bay
- Getting down town
- iNaturalist
- Looking at the plants, trees, vegetation
- Nature
- Northern lights viewing without street lights
- Playing with children. Access the lake.
- Practicing guitar on the cliffs, writing and even filming a music video for [name redacted] documentary: [website link redacted]
- Rock climbing access
- Sledding (5)
- Sliding / tobogganing; access to lake in both winter & summer : access to side trails to ice caves & ridge walk to back bay scenic lookout
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming access
- To access the bike trails north of the outline. They are great for walking on in the winter.
- Used To Sxs Down The Trail
- Water access with canoe



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Q7. How often do you get to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? Other (select all that apply)

- Access from my home which backs onto the trail
- access from the neighborhood
- Can access from the Jackfish Area Trails as well.
- Cross over the highway from the back side of the Frame Lake Trail
- Go to my backyard
- I walk out from my back door.
- I walk out from my backyard and I am inside the trail.
- I walk over the lake from Back Bay or from the Niven Lake Trail.
- I'm a runner, so I run to the trailhead at least twice a week.
- Kayak or canoe from old town
- My house backs onto the trail at the middle point.
- Our backyard backs onto the trail.
- Park on Moyle Dr. and walk in between the Condos and Townhouses.
- Run to the trail
- Run to the trailhead
- SXS To The Trail
- Through cava parking lot or from back bay
- Through Niven height condo or on the trail to the left of Niven heights condo
- Through old access trail that phase 7 (?) built over, through cava, down old trail after last house on left across from playground
- Through the easement on Findlay Point
- Walk down Hagel drive to access it
- Walk from my house
- Walk from our backyard.
- Walk from the Racquet Club trail over the bedrock and through the bush to the ravine trail where it ends at the lake
- Walk in between/behind townhouse and apartment complex



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- Walk out my back door the trail is right there
- Walk to access from Findlay Point
- Walk to an access point that is not the main trailhead
- walk to cross the ravine trail from the bay in winter or other trails off back bay and Niven
- Walk.
- We live in Niven Heights, so we basically walk out our back door.
- walk to the trail via access next to our condo; but not to the trailhead
- ski in from ski club
- Walking from ice onto the trail
- Walk across the lake to the cemetery or trails from peace River flats

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q8. What is your favourite part of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?

- ability to bike into ski club trails...
- Access between Frame and Great Slave
- Access it provides to green space and the lake in general
- Access to Back Bay
- Access to dig swim in lake
- Access to great slave lake
- Access to great slave when frozen. Nice wide path for dogs and kids
- Access to lake and wooded side trails.
- Access to outdoor areas
- Access to the Bay and up to the rocks
- Access to the cliffs for rock climbing.
- Access to the greater trail network
- Access to the lake, well groomed, not mud
- access to trail on ridge above Back Bay
- Access to trails / hiking
- Accessibility and location
- Accessibility to nature and trails. Ability to connect with back bay for cross country skiing.
- Accessible
- Accessible, active-living greenspace within municipal boundaries. There isn't an abundance of this type of space in YK. It is both useful as a standalone greenspace, but also as a connector trail, linking multiple trails in the city together.
- Accessing back bay lookout
- Accessing the lower waterfront areas on Back Bay
- Accessing the ski hills and the rocky hill (not sure the name) that overlooks back bay in the summer.
- All of it (2)
- All of it, from accessing the ice cave, walking the ski trails in the summer, to hiking the rocks and accessing the back bay for a paddle ride.



Survey Results

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- All that is out of sight of the trailhead/Hwy 4
- Being able to sit by the water. It is a rare feature in Yellowknife because most of the walkable areas are blocked by buildings.
- Being able to use it until the rocks were put in so i can't but i enjoyed going to the back bay
- By the water (2)
- Close to home and run into neighbours
- Close to the Niven neighbourhood
- Closer to the lake (2)
- Community access
- Connections: leads to Frame Lake and Back Bay
- Easy access to the lake, but especially the views over back bay
- Easy access, not too busy
- Easy walking/skiing, connects you to the lake
- Everything that made this a favourite route is no longer there since the trail was widened, gravelled, with many trees removed and made more open to skidoos. The only good thing left is the connection to other natural areas.
- good access
- Good easy access to the lake
- Great access to big lake. Good for walking dogs
- great way to connect to ski club or do an ice falls loop
- Having nature so close to home. Natural walking path. Away from cars.
- Hiking up the rocks to the bench facing Back Bay
- Hill going down to Back Bay
- How accessible it is to run on and the ability to watch water fowl on the lack.
- How close by my home it is, and how it is a good place to go for a walk with my children
- Proximity to personal residence (2)
- How it winds and eventually arrives at the lake
- How it's not over developed
- How open it is



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- How wide it is (3)
- I like how large it is; it can accommodate for multiple activities. I also appreciate that it acts as a connector to other trails, particularly in the winter.
- I like how wide and well-maintained it is
- I really appreciate that it has gravel laid on it. It would be nice if it was pea gravel, or something a bit finer and less loose. It provides easy access to the YK ski club ski trails in the winter time and in the summertime It is a main connector to numerous technical single track mountain bike trails.
- I use the trail that connects to the ski club paths. I like that it gives me direct access to it
- I very much enjoy it's very convenient access connecting Back Bay to the highway. This is really great for snowmobiling running and nature hikes in the summer as it is a great greenspace and that is still very accessible.
- Is easy for me to take my dog in a walk there
- It connects to Back Bay and the hiking trails up the rocks and down to the ice cave
- It goes down to the lake & it's not usually muddy
- It is a great connector! I use it as a link between the frame lake trail system/natural area to the ski club trails/back bay, especially in the winter
- It is different than the other trails - a nice change. I like ending at the water area, and then turning around.
- It is very wide and clear and can access the ski trails
- It used to be the trees. Now that it's a fire break it's very swampy.
- It's a walking path
- It's connection to the ski club and frame lake trails
- It's getting a bit too excessive now. Was nicer when it was quieter and smaller
- It's all lovely, but the lakeview is particularly nice.
- It's nice and open, lots of traffic on it daily.
- It's not very long so I like all parts, especially down near Back Bay.
- It's proximity to the Niven Lake Trail and Back Bay
- It's quiet / not used very much, and in fall it has beautiful colours from the many trees
- It's quiet and has a good enough distance.
- It's utility, both for leisure and traveling by snowmachine



Survey Results

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- It's wide. And beautiful and connects to the bike and ski trails that are great for walking
- Ive been a long time user from before the houses were there. Of course I am happy for housing - we need it but please dont add more light pollution as that makes me have to BB walk further and further to find night sky without air pollution.
- Lake access
- Lakeview
- Looking over the Bay and the first bit by the Hwy
- Lots of people are enjoying it!
- My dog runs offleash, and we duck off into the ski club (in summer. winters we go on the lake.) or up on the old trails over the rocks. It's one of the best things about living in Yellowknife.
- Nature (5)
- Near the ice falls area
- Nice and open, well manicured and easy for walking.
- Nice and wide, easy to access and low cost for maintenance. Absolutely necessary for access to Great Slave Lake for snowmobiling.
- Nice trail to walk down
- no favourite part. Least favourite part of walking along shoreline of back bay
- Peace and quietness surrounded by trees and a cleared trail
- Provides access to the bay
- Provides great access to the lake and to other unofficial trails (or what I assume to be unofficial trails branching off, gives good access to the cemetery, ice caves, lake - often will walk down the trail, then across the lake to Old Town and back up to downtown to make a loop in the winter when the snow is packed.
- proximity /access to ski club
- Proximity to nature, the lake for views, houses (meaning I feel safe walking alone), interesting sites (the ice caves/old cemetery), and my own home (it adds variety to daily dog walks around Niven Trail).
- Proximity to where I live. Accessibility to great slave lake.
- Quick connectivity to ski club trails and being able to ski all the way down onto back bay
- quiet non vehicle safe access to the lake
- Quietness



Survey Results

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- Remoteness
- Rock outcrop
- Seeing lots of people enjoying being outside and being together.
- Shouldering nature, access to the hike on the hill
- Sloping hill is fun for fat biking. Also for access to the nature trails.
- Snowmobile access
- Splashing in the spring runoff flood!
- Surrounded by green space, easy to access by walking and cycling.
- That I can access from my house in peace River flats on foot
- that is open and well cleared
- That it connects easily to the lake in winter
- That it is easily accessible and I can walk it with my kids, friends, parents, and that is full of beautiful birds and rocks and bugs.
- That it is gravel
- That it is untouched nature apart from the gravel pathway
- That it leads to the ski club trails and to the water :)
- That it links to Back Bay
- That it's a good a snowmobile trails to get access to the big lake
- That it's not extremely busy and quiet.
- That the Albertans used it to build an apartment complex during the evacuation, and you guys call it a "fire line." :)
- the ability to access the lake
- The access from my apartment The View, leading out to Back Bay. Also, enjoy the trail around Niven Lake.
- the access points to the trails through the ski club property and over the rocks. The whole route is reasonably nice though it would be great if it connected to more of a system.
- The accessible mostly flat trail.
- The are covered (length from one end to the other) and how wide it is, allowing to pass by others without being in the way



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Survey Results

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- The bluffs overlooking Back Bay
- The closeness
- The connection to the ski club
- The firebreak that was created widened the trail and made it safe for different users
- The high view of back bay
- The ice caves during winter. The views during summer, as you hike across the rocks.
- The idea of a trail, the location
- The lake view and watching the birds. I also use the trail as form of exercise to keep fit.
- The look offs and solitude.
- The lower access to Back Bay
- The mid upper section where there are the most trees along the side
- The nature
- The offshoot trails!!
- the other smalls trail into the forest, access to the lake. Missed the old narrow cute trails with shade
- The outlook on the old trails with the very faded and old information plaques (That desperately need revamping).
- The part to the rocks of the ski club and access to back bay
- The parts that connect to trails along the rocks beside the trail
- The screener and biodiversity
- The singletrack on either side of it and access to the ski club trails.
- the spots that can be used as a sled jump when gunning it fast enough
- The trees
- The trees during autumn
- The undeveloped and natural aspect of the trail. We love that the trail is still in it's natural state as much as possible (even though trees were cut for fire break and gravel was added).
- The view down the trail as it follows the natural curvature of the land and the rocks.
- The view of the lake and wide open space.
- The view on the bay

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- The viewpoint from the top rocks - technically not on the trail, but the old trail marker posts and informational plaque signs were amazing. It's so sad that this part of the trail has fallen into disuse because as soon as you climb up from off the trail, the views are spectacular.
- The views from the top, ability to birdwatch, and the fact that it is practically in my backyard makes it very accessible.
- The wide path and access to the lake
- The width of the path, access from highway to great slave lake
- The width. Lots of room for multiple simultaneous use
- There are a few birds 🐦 species to look out for and it's surprisingly secluded
- to get to back bay you don't need to go through residential streets
- Trails and access to the high point on the rocks with amazing views of Back Bay & Old Town
- Unencumbered access to wilderness along the entire length of the ravine.
- View of back bay (3)
- View, nature
- Walking the length of the trail with my dogs off leash.
- Walking to Back Bay.
- Where it reaches the lake
- Wide open space for children to safely play and run
- Wide space, plenty of room for both walkers/hikers , skiers and snowmobilers
- Wideness of the trail - tons of space.

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q10.Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance in warmer months?

- 4x4 vehicles access the trail behind Cavo - not enough boulders to prevent them getting through. Current trail built without drainage ditches or culverts... causes flooding and washouts as water is forced to cross the trail in several places. I don't think I have seen anything that would count as "maintenance "? Does the City maintain this trail? Some trash cans would help with all the doggy bags that get "forgotten "
- A few more well placed bins (maybe entrance and exits) may help prevent littering
- A lot of broken pieces of glass near the lake at the end of the trail. Also, water pools in some areas and people use wood pallets to walk across. It doesn't look great, but it's okay.
- A number of areas are difficult to walk for those with mobility issues
- access to Back Bay could be better
- Allowing and encouraging vehicles damages the surface for other users
- As the snow melts or with higher precipitation, the areas alongside the trail that are lower, especially at trailheads, are so wet and impassable. It would be great to either raise those areas or have boardwalks to cross over those wet areas along all the main trailheads
- Back bay trails are not very clearly marked, I've also noticed garbage from what looks to be abandoned camps as well as bagged and unbagged dog poop.
- big puddles of water, once the snow thaws.
- Bo
- Dirt bikes leaving large gouges in the gravel
- Dog crap, noise, garbage, out of control trail bikes, inconsiderate entitled users
- Dog feces and dog feces bags. Put a few bear proof garbage cans on the trail like many cities do.
- Dog poop (11)
- downhill can be a bit sketchy at some parts
- Drainage poor in spring, very muddy
- drainage problems behind the phase 7(?) condos where the ski trail closest to the highway comes up
- Erosion in spring melts - flooding in places during spring melts.
- fire break was created 3 years ago, trees were removed but no extra work was done, this left the side trail with water ponds after snow melt. grass are high and lots of mosquitos. no one seem to check and clean the trail at all.
- Flooding and the dog poop left behind

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- Foxtail everywhere; depending on the season wetter sections
- Garbage (5)
- gravel could be packed down more, especially on the incline closer to the water, makes it a bit more difficult getting up the hill
- Have not been there this year so have not noticed anything
- Higher crime rate and littering
- Huge puddles at the start
- I didn't realize the City did any maintenance (2)
- I haven't been in summer
- I wasn't aware it was a bonafide trail, it's pretty roughly indicated
- I would encourage better drainage
- Ice buildup along the sides in winter and a stream of running water beside in the spring summer and fall
- Ice forms which cut my dogs paws up.
- I'll admit, I did realize the trail was being maintained. It actually looked better when the fire break was created.
- In some parts its harder than others...lots of loose rock makes it hard to walk. No garbage cans.
- In the spring there can be standing water making it swampy. It can be difficult to access bike trails in the ravine due to rock placements and brush.
- In the spring there's some standing water which makes it hard to walk as the snow melts, but it's not terrible. Maybe improve the grading?
- Include shaded rest areas or small picnic tables. Use centre lines or lane markings in busier sections to separate walkers from cyclists. Install courtesy signs encouraging cyclists to slow down and announce when passing
- It can be wet on the edges coming on/off from other trails.
- It is insanitary and unhealthy. Between the dog [curse word redacted] people leave behind and the squatters in the woods leaving junk behind it's pretty nasty.
- It is not really a proper trail. There should be more trails off the main one, some signage.
- It takes a while to access that trail from Moyle dr because of the snow melt puddles.
- It's a horrible area for mosquitos, which is part of living in Yellowknife, but there are sections where water pools. Not sure if the "dips" on the sides can be smoothed to hopefully not attract them to the stagnant water.



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- its a trail. I havent noticed any maintenance
- It's fine. Lots of dog poop
- Ive had to clean up camps and peoples garbage. Im worried about fires.
- Just seems like some garbage and no trial markers.
- Just too much insects and overgrown bushes
- Lack of waste disposal systems (especially for dog poop)
- Large pond forms at the end of spring melt that gradually evaporates, but still leaves a large mud puddle. Access from Moyle Drive via the short trail goes up and over a rock - clearing some of the trees to facilitate that access would help.
- Loose gravel could be packed down more.
- Lots of water build up and not draining
- Lots of water overflow both winter and spring down near Cavo condo entry point. Causes a lot of ice build up from that point and downward on the trail. Major slip hazard.
- Maybe a bit soggy in the spring?
- Mosquitoes but I don't think there's much that can be done about that. Other than that maybe having a few garbage bins as sometimes people just leave their dog poop. Oh and the entrance into the water - those parts could use some maintenance / boards etc.
- Muddy in spots with standing water
- Need dog poo waste Bins (2)
- Need upkeep on a more frequent basis
- Needs things like garbage cans for all the dog walkers
- never use in summer only winter
- No (8)
- no but the large size gravel is kind of hard to walk on, also hard for little dog feet.
- No garbage cans
- No just concerned about construction taking over the area
- No, I don't use it enough in summer to notice.
- no, i have only used it in the winter
- No, some better signage would be good in all seasons, to know how to easily get to the cemetery, ice caves, lake, ski club...



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- Not a city problem, People dont pick up their dog poop.
- Only use in winter
- Part of the entrance on moyle drive has been flooded
- People don't pick up after their dogs or they leave the bags on the trail. We could use some garbage cans.
- People don't pick up their dogs waste, bylaw needs to patrol the area and ticket people for this.
- People dont pick up their dog poop
- Ponding along the sides (mosquito habitat). Dog poop.
- Poor drainage along sections of the trail. Path deteriorating in some limited, small areas.
- Quite a bit of dog poop
- Ruts when it is soft snow from atvs
- Safety. Very isolated if walking alone. Issues with signage and how to access and exit
- Section between the trailhead and Moyle condos can be wet/flooded in spring.
- Some access point are flooding and wet in the summer months
- Some area require further buildup to avoid springs overflow and ground wash away
- Some garbage lying around. Dog poop bags left on the trail. Some broken glass on the rocks at Back Bay.
- Some parts of the trail have little gravel and can become muddy/slippery.
- Some people don't pick up their dog's poop. The ones that do fill up the garbage bin at the park on Moyle.
- Sometimes a bit dusty.
- sometimes there is garbage as well there is always ++ dog poop
- Steep sections/ braiding
- Swampy in parts since fire break
- The ATVs and dirt bikes make ruts in the gravel and they can accumulate and make the surface uneven. Need to either keep those uses/users off the trail or have regular maintenance/smoothing. In the spring, there is little to no attention given to the issues associated with meltwater or run-off accumulating and flooding. Some attention is needed.
- The centre of the trail is good, but access points from the Niven neighbourhood is often wet. Also access from Findlay and McMahon is a little treacherous (in between houses under construction).

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- The cleared areas on either side of the trails are muddy/messy/not connected.
- The gravel is too loose and chunky. There is also a lot of dog poop, and would be helpful if there were signs asking owners to pick up after their dog poop, along with garbage cans available along the path to put garbage into. The sides of the path that are all soil are now getting grown in with small shrubs and grasses, it would be nice if this was maintained, or possibly even made into large grassy areas that are well kept kind of like a large summer lawn park. By doing this, it would maintain the fire brake aspect of it without having to come in and cut down shrubs every few years.
- The gravels are uneven and hard to walk on
- The mosquitos
- The surrounding area of the gravel path is very muddy, especially during the shoulder seasons when there is more precipitation/snow.
- There are garbage along side of trail
- There aren't any garbage bins for people to dispose of dog waste nor is there boxes with poop bags. Tons of people walk their dogs on the trail and many of them leave dog waste there. If there were garbage bins or poop bags this issue may go down. The end of the trail that leads to back bay is a little bit rough as well. The cut off it very abrupt
- There is no maintenance. And vehicles have been seen on it.
- There isn't really much to maintain.
- To many mosquitos
- Tons of holes not filled in, no maintenance on garbage and there is a shack build on the trail head illegally
- Too many dirt bikes using the trail.
- Too much mosquitos and swamps
- Trail access points being blocked with construction materials or equipment.
- Trail doesn't need to be maintained as it is nice how it is. The issue since the gravel was put in is people racing on it with their dirt bikes and ATVs. This is really quite loud for all of the houses that bike onto the trail!
- Trash was very evident during the building of the apartment at the Back Bay end. It was hard to believe that construction workers didn't pick up the tyvek and other paper etc that was clearly from their site. Much of it is still in the bush on the far side of the trail. There is also a squatter up on the rocks above the bay and west of the trail. Big mess. Kids 'fort' is fine with me! Apart from those, has there been any maintenance? It is not readily obvious.
- Usually good, perhaps more sign to remind users of the multi-use of trail (hikers, dog walkers, ski's, snowmobilers)?



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- Very swampy by the graveyard/ice-cave area.
- Very wet access from my home (the access from Findlay Point).
- water drainage during spring
- Water pooling across and adjacent to trail
- Water pooling along the trail promotes mosquitos. People not cleaning up after their dogs
Access to the trail from Niven is limited outside of going around the church to the trail head. It would be better to have multiple access points
- Water pools from lack of drainage. Although, it doesn't seem to affect the trail that much.
- We don't use it in summer
- wetness, flooding
- What was once a beautiful trail is now a short, ugly path covered in gravel. Also full of mud.
- Year round issue of people not picking up after their dogs.

Survey Results

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Q12. Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance in colder months/ winter?

- Access points can be harder to use, particularly in the spring when there is runoff that freezes into giant ice sheets.
- again, no maintenance. but its a big wide trail, so it doesn't really need to be
- Allowing and encouraging motorized vehicle use of the trail damages the surface of the trail and creates dangerous conditions for other users (excessive speed and noise)
- As above, dog waste
- Better parking, better signage, and explain connectivity to nearby trails. Use this as the main trail to the ice caves (and mark it well) as tourists often walk through ski club trails and should not.
- Boulders blocking access at highway trailhead
- Bumpy, exposed rock from frequent use, not groomed, skiers think they're superior to snowmobiles.
- Can be a challenge to share with motorized units (snowmobiles; electric, hard to hear "bikes" and some of the leash dogs).
- Could be better groomed. Again lack of markers for off trails is a missed opportunity.
- Deep snow
- Deep unpacked snow makes it hard to walk
- Dog poop (6)
- Squatter camps make this area, unsanitary, and unsafe
- Drainage from the underground water has been much improved. It used to be treacherous to walk or snowmobile along that area.
- Garbage and dog pooh
- Generally snowmobile and foot traffic packs down snow enough to be easily navigable.
- Hard to walk on snowmobile tracks
- Have not really used the trail in the winter
- I assumed this was self maintained by skidoo's driving
- I didn't realize the City did any maintenance
- I don't think the City maintains the trail in colder months? Some speed limit signs / enforcement would help remind the over-excited snowmobilers that they are in a residential neighborhood... for the most part they are very good at sharing the trail with us walkers/skiers



Survey Results

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

-
- I haven't noticed any maintenance work on this trail in colder months.
-
- I rarely use the trail in winter
-
- I try to avoid use in the winter due to the amount of skidoos speeding up and down the trail, i once say an off leash dog almost get hit
-
- I would encourage residents to pick up after their dogs and provide bins for dog poo that get emptied regularly.
-
- Ice conditions formed throughout the year, which means slipperier conditions and unsafe for dogs as it cuts their paws
-
- Icy conditions from water overflow
-
- Is it maintained in the winter? I don't think so.
-
- it could be groomed by the snowmobile club for better experience
-
- It is great when it is packed down in the winter but too difficult to walk in the snow when it is not packed down
-
- it is used by snowmobiles, they seem to be respectful of walkers, etc
-
- It's not maintained that I'm aware of.
-
- It's really not maintained. Users pack down trails.
-
- It's not always as clear as it could be, which can make walking, running, and cycling quite difficult.
-
- It's the first time anyone's described this trail to me as an official trail, I thought I was the only one who knew about it
-
- Lack of designated ski path (the trail can get quite gravelly in the spring when snow is melting and snowmobiles pass over the area)
-
- Lack of signs; for various users
-
- Needs to clean regularly
-
- No (21)
-
- No expectation for winter maintenance
-
- No grooming,
-
- No issues
-
- No issues, snowmobiles keep it well packed.
-
- Not plowed
-
- Nothing significant
-



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

-
- Once again never noticed anyone ever maintaining
-
- People don't pick up their dogs waste, bylaw needs to patrol the area and ticket people for this.
-
- People dont pick up their dog poop
-
- Ppl could pick up their dog poop more often
-
- Same as above.
-
- Same as above. Added issue is snow mobiles racing through and not slowing for pedestrians and dogs
-
- Same as in summer months, A few more well placed bins (maybe entrance and exits) may help prevent littering
-
- Same dog poop and limited trail access issue
-
- Skidoo use tends to make it very bumpy (slaloms) for cross country skiing. But it's an important access for skidoos so multi-use access is more important to keep
-
- Skidoos zip by fast and they always try to cut across our lot
-
- sleds keep the snow packed nicely
-
- Slippery trail with overflow
-
- Snow clearing could happen more often.
-
- Snowmobiles go too fast and dogs loose
-
- Some of the side trails ravines accumulate water and don't freeze well and snowmobiles can get stuck.
-
- Sometimes there are icy spots and bumpy conditions.
-
- Speeding snowmobiles are sometimes a problem.
-
- Steep and icy where the trail meets the lake
-
- Thankful for guerrilla groomers that allow X-country ski access to so many areas. Consideration for encouraging more of this, please :)
-
- The barrier near the lake was pushed down in the winter
-
- The offshoot access sometimes limited by snowbanks (Moyle, near Cavo)
-
- The pathway naturally gets packed over time with use and snowmobiles
-
- The snow and ice part is pretty. But omg the number of people who don't pick after their dog! Having more bins would be helpful. More boards with directions? Or just ribbons on trees or painted arrows.
-

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-
- The trail encourages inconsiderate use by fast, noisy sleds
-
- The trail is not maintained.
-
- There can be quite a bit of ice buildup near Cabo condos but I don't really see that as a trail maintenance issue just a part of the natural landscape
-
- There is actually never any maintenance on the trail that I have witnessed
-
- There is no maintenance.
-
- There is no maintenance. gravel makes it tricky to cross country ski on it dog [curse word redacted]
-
- There is no real separation between user groups (like skidoos vs dog walkers) and the exit point onto Back Bay can be very treacherous once the sun comes back in spring and makes the ramp very icy.
-
- There is really not a lot of maintenance that has to be done to the trail in the winter time, my one comment would be that it would be nice to have some barriers to traffic calm the area to snowmobiles, because there are often snow machines that travel up to 100 km/h on the open path. It would also be nice if it were maintained to some extent for cross-country skiing, with one side of it, perhaps being groomed and track set for cross-country skiing.
-
- There was overflow at the Hagel entrance this spring
-
- there's no maintenance. the end of the trail leading to back bay near the new condos is steep and sometimes slippery
-
- Too many snowmobiles using the trail.
-
- Trail doesn't need to be maintained as it is nice how it is. The same issues for the winter with snowmobiles racing on the trail since it has been opened up. Too much development of this trail will increase the volume of noise in the area. Seeking to keep all of the natural landscape and to not cut any more vegetation and trees down. As a resident of the immediate area concerned, we would love to keep the peace back there please! Thank you hugely.
-
- Water overflow turning to ice that makes access from behind the yellow condo building difficult
-
- Winter is my favorite. I like to fat bike and hike and walk in the winter wonderland. Pleas please dont spoil this by adding lighting. If people want l8ghting there are many other places to go. This os where we go to grt away from the lighting.
-
- winter overflow/icing near cavo, overflow on the connector between the trail under niven and the new firebreak (behind redstone),
-
- Yes. Needs to be cleared properly and more often
-

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Q15. Are there any other possible risks to trail user safety, security, or comfort that you think should be considered?

- A couple of annoying drones
- A separate snowmobile path might be helpful
- Access points to the trail sometimes are blocked by construction materials or piles of snow
- Accessing the trail via the path off of McMahon court, next to the house that's under construction. The 'trail' is very steep to access the ravine trail.
- Adequate signage so all users are aware of risks
- As more people use the trail, there is more opportunity for people to wander off trail. It would be good if there was signage to ensure people don't get lost, or accidentally get off a walking path and get stuck down in the ravine. As more people use the trail, it would also be nice for there to be more garbage cans to prevent litter and benches to improve accessibility.
- As stated above, tourists in rental cars can get in trouble when they think the trail is a road. Also some snowmobilers do not seem to realize it is a multi-use trail, travel much too fast and do not take care when approaching others, especially pedestrians, and particularly through the narrow section with very low visibility as to who may be on the trail "around the corner".
- Aurora today's occasionally attempt to use the trail to drive to ice caves. Perhaps because it's marked as a road on their navigation apps? Need explicit signage at 48th Street trailhead: No cars/trucks. They somehow manage to squeeze past the boulders at the trailhead!
- Better marking on the path to the ice caves
- Dog [curse word redacted]
- Dog owners should be reminded to keep dogs on leash and to clean up after pets.
- Either not allow snowmobiles during the winter, or add safety measures to ensure they slow down. I've also encountered full on vehicles (cars/SUVs) attempting to use the trail and somehow accessed it. Additional measures needed there.
- encampments in the area
- Glass
- gravel makes it tricky to ski in winter - always deadly ice sections from seepage from Niven
- Have been jumped on multiple times by off leash dogs.
- Hidden safety risks and accessibility
- Homeless
- Homeless people
- I am EXTREMELY concerned with snow mobiles and other vehicles on the trail. There are several

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fairly blind corners and elevation changes. Snowmobiles rip down from the trailhead to back bay. As a skier I have to be exceedingly cautious. I love the trail for its access to the ski club and back bay ski trails, but I often take off my skis and walk right next to the tree line. I am always particularly worried walking up from Back Bay onto the trail - meeting a snowmobiler as they get onto the lake could be deadly. The ramp down to the lake is quite steep and the paths are quite narrow.

-
- I am mindful that there can be dens and wildlife traversing around there, so I'm mindful of that with my dogs. There are people living in encampments around the ski trails, and they may have addictions, criminal records and therefore impulse control issues that present safety risks to anyone (especially women and children). I also worry they are leaving garbage and human waste that my dogs could get into. So that's not great for the experience, but I'm not sure what can be done about that. However, I have also come across signs stating that there are traplines set in the area, which is completely ridiculous and unacceptable.
-
- I believe in the summertime, the trail feels very safe. In the wintertime however, there is more use by snowmobiles and skiers. For snowmobilers, there is a blind corner where the trail turns towards the highway and this poses a slight safety hazard for snowmobilers and pedestrians.
-
- I can't think of any
-
- I do think snowmobilers in this area have a tendency to go too fast if people are using it for walking, dogs etc
-
- I don't use the trails in the dark in the winter as it's unsafe being a woman alone in the dark
-
- I don't know why you list ebikes as a noise concern, unless you are referring to emotos or motorbikes? Lighting, the gravel is loose and unsuitable for wheeled items and for elders walking.
-
- I don't think there are any unique risks to this trail.
-
- I have been trampled on several times by large aggressive dogs with owners yelling from a far "they're friendly " The exhaust from the skidoos is also irritating to my asthma
-
- I have seen some snowmobiles travel quicker than they should, but most users are very courteous.
-
- I think the large boulders placed so cars know not to drive down (we have had to help a few tourists get out) and deter fast ski doosers would be a good idea.
-
- I walked right on top of a resting coyote before... was in the ditch between two rocks... looked at me with indifference and walked away. I usually carry bear spray with me. Dogs off leash concerned me as one jumped on our (child). Owners don't seem to get that you can't replace a torn up kid's face or the years of anguish they would feel after the fact. Have the trail connect to an off leash park to accommodate for their needs and ease conflict and danger.
-
- Improve final access to the lake
-
- In the winter months, there is no lighting so it is impossible to see if there is any wildlife around

Survey Results

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- It's getting to busy and too developed

- It'd be great to get some lighting or something natural on here. Charging aggressive dogs is also an issue, while I understand they need to be walked some are particularly intense and not safe for family use.

- Its a major connection point for snowmachines. It would be good if there was a delineation so that snowmachines can have their own lane so to speak. I don't want to see riders get snubbed because this becomes a popular public space for more people, aurora viewers and dogs and then snowmobilers eventually get pushed out. Maybe install speed limit signs and caution signs showing multi use along the trail.

- Just Dogs off leash

- Light pollution

- Lighting, cleaning up cables left on shore and old Gts

- Maintained garbages at the trail entrances. The garbage and dog feces from the new large apartment building down close to the lake is out of control. Whoever manages that building did a terrible job, and it ruins the beauty of its location. It's disgusting.

- Many skidoo users travel at excessive speeds along the route so finding ways to slow them down would help

- Minimize slips, trips and falls. Lights if needed in winter

- N/A (2)

- Niven trail is not just a trail that ends at back bay. there's no proper direction on paths to direct people. for someone that is not living in niven neighborhood, it is not easy to find the right path to walk. most people access the trail through the neighborhood access, not highway access. but limited parking in the neighborhood. with the new condos on hagel dr, their occupants are using side unpaved roads to park, which is right at the entrance of the trail for us.

- No (11)

- No, it's a great trail

- No, the trail is wide enough that I feel safe walking on it both in the winter and summer months

- No. Just those referenced above, icy conditions in winter and spring. Along with some bumpy, uneven walking space in winter season.

- Not enough signage

- not off the top of my head

- now that it is very wide, there could be areas defined for walkers and snowmobilers

- Off leash dogs and people not picking up poop Enforcement on Niven lake trail is nonexistent I fear this will be the same



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- People walking their dogs off leash who do not train them with proper recall. There is only one vet in town who doesn't do emergency situations. MED does not enforce a dog leash policy on the trail. Therefore off leash dogs injuring other dogs is my primary concern about the trail
- People who walk the trail with their off leash dogs with no recall who chase and bite people on snowmobile using the trail. The trail was originally a snowmobile trail and there are no issues having it as a multi-use but the multi-users need to be respectful of each other
- Puddles and swarms and mosquitoes
- Signs of the blind corner to remind snowmobiles to slow Down
- Since this trail has been opened more the increase in users racing around at fast speeds has been dangerous. The odd vehicle has also found it's way onto the trail. It is scary to be out there with children when this happens and is extremely loud from our house that backs onto all of this. Please leave the trail in its natural state and allow the vegetation and wildlife to repair itself. We also do not need any more construction surrounding us as we have had our fill when this trail first got opened and currently have had it nonstop for years in our cul-de-sac.
- Ski doos almost ran us over many times, a lot of kids ride them and go really fast. Also the noise all winter from all the snowmobiles can get a bit too much. There is a bend in the trail where snowmobiles cannot see who is coming on the other side and it is a miracle no one died there yet.
- Skidoos come through very quickly. Our children play on the trail and there have been some close calls.
- Snowmobiles and potential risk of tent encampments along the trail.
- Snowmobiles ATVs at excessive speeds.
- Some parts of it are pretty steep (mainly near the lake) so that can get pretty slippery sometimes
- Some Snowmobiles drive really fast
- sometimes skidoos come ripping thru here too fast. when I have skied and walked here a couple of times I had a close call with a fast skidoo
- Speed and potential collision with a snowmobile is all that concerns me
- Speed limits for skidoos during cold months. Sometimes they are just flying past you. A reminder of sorts that there are others walking on the trail.
- Speed of skidoos is a big issue in any area where there are people walking. Noise pollution, air pollution and dangers of being hit.
- speeding recreational motorized vehicle. Speed limit signs should be installed
- The access to the trail on the easement in Niven is quite dangerous. It would be nice if these easements were developed to facilitate easy access for pedestrians, mountain bikers, and snowmobilers.

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- The current state of vegetation around the trail could increase risk of fire.
- The main trail should be moved to drier ground with no more than 10% average grade.
- The trees used to provide privacy and muffle the sounds of people walking through the bush. Now, the trail runs directly beside my house. The “fire line” explanation never made sense to me—it feels like the city took advantage of everyone’s stress during the evacuation to create a trail.
- There is a portion of the trail that is a hill with a curve. We cannot see if someone is coming on either side.
- There is the icy overflow area in the spring which can be slippery
- There is vulnerability to interpersonal violence just because you are out of sight from residential areas
- There should be garbage bins placed along the trail to encourage people to dispose of their garbage or dog poop bags.
- There's one segment of the trail with a sharp turn where visibility is poor (near where the trail meets the ski club). This creates a risk for children or dogs from motorized vehicles (ATVs, snow mobiles) that may be travelling quickly around the bend.
- This was originally a skidoo trail that has been taken over by people walking dogs. Share some love for the work that skidooers put into the area
- Too many dirt bikes and snowmobiles travelling fast on the trail
- Trail ends at a difficult water access point. Have slipped there many times.
- Trail safety is good.
- Under snow cover, the edges of the trail are hard to see.
- Vehicle use on the trail, including ebikes. People are not mindful of others. Dogs off leash are a huge problem with bad owners.
- walk.
- Wayfinding is totally absent, which is fine for locals, but tourists are not prepared for winter conditions and get disoriented. I've run into tourists in the winter trying to find the ice caves and aren't sure where to go or how to access the trail (outside of the highway). It would be helpful to have an actual 2nd access point close to the Cavo condos so tourists aren't just wandering around that area trying to find the trail when it's -35. Someplace where taxis could drop them off for a slightly shorter
- You have to be careful in narrow sections or around corners as there are lots of snowmobiles that use it. Everyone is respectful though so I just pull to the side, keep my dog close etc while they pass

Q17. If yes, what types of trail users were involved? (Select all that apply)

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-
- As above, the amount of garbage from the new apartment building that is in the bushes/trees, and the amount of dog feces from dog owners who live there and do not pick up after their dogs is insane. Truly disrespectful to the city and residents.
-
- ATV
-
- Dogs on leash are fine it's dogs off leash that are the problem
-
- Dirt bikers
-
- Dirt bikes, ATVs and vehicles....
-
- Dogs off leash and running/approaching me
-
- Homeless- drunk
-
- I have had to ask people to move their construction materials, vehicles, or equipment from the right of way access on Findlay point.
-
- intoxicated individuals
-
- [Name redacted] complaining about sledders
-
- None (2)
-
- Off leash dogs are an issue of concern
-
- People are pretty respectful - some noise problems but not too bad.
-
- People driving motorized vehicles- trucks driving on it, dirt bikes, snowmobile almost hit me when they were racing and I was skiing
-
- People finding access with cars/trucks.
-
- People should leash their dogs
-
- Sometimes snowmobiles are just going way too fast
-
- We walked around the trees and two people were [activity redacted]. We went whoa! Oooopsy and changed direction.

Survey Results

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Q20. Are there any other amenities you would like to see?

- A dock at the bottom of the trail! Drainage & culverts where necessary to prevent erosion of the trail Signs connecting to Findlay point access trail, back bay scenic viewpoint trail and especially the ice caves trail that was built by the ski club to help tourists avoid walking on ski trails
- a dock at the water for canoe/paddle board/kayak access in summer. a seating area overlooking the water/backbay
- A map with a connected trail network for residents and tourists
- A please leash your dog sign here and at Tin Can hill
- A small dock down at the lake end.
- A water refill station would be amazing!
- A waterfront recreation area.
- BEING ABLE TO USE A SXS ON IT. YOU CAN USE A SNOWMOBILE IN THE WINTER BUT NO OFF ROAD VEHICLES
- Better access from Findlay and McMahon
- Block off use of dirt bikes and snowmobiles.
- Brush/open the old trails back
- Connection to a broader trail system. Runners have to go directly on the highway to connect to other routes and contend with trucks
- Connections to other streets in Niven
- Consider placing a seasonal dock at the base of the trail for better use of and access to Back Bay and the trail.
- Currently the trail is just a one-way path. It has zero connectivity to other trails and neighbourhoods that I'm aware of. This is a missed opportunity that could be addressed for pretty minimal cost and effort.
- do not spend my tax dollars on studies like this or improvements on this trail
- Easier water access
- Enforcement of bylaws
- Enough money has been spent on this trail. It is effective and does everything required of it.
- Ensuring that access points are clearly marked and designated. I would advocate for less development of the trail and keep it more as wilderness rather than turning it into a park environment. Before it was widened it felt more like a wilderness trail and that feel should be maintained.



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- For tourists and people who don't come to Niven often, some signage of how to get to the cemetery, ski club or use the old trails over the rocks might be helpful.
- Garbage bins at trail heads is appreciated. Regular maintenance of trails (over-growth, tripping hazards, garbage pick up)
- Hard to access, need better entry as opposed to walking in between housing complexes by residents yards
- I actually dont want the amenities. Those already exist on frame lake. I love it here because there are wildish spaces eithing town. And I have MS and am a bit unsure on my feet and someday wont be able to use this trail and Im ok with that. We need to ha e some places that are not all smoothed and perfect. making it accessible for some makes it not attractive for others. We already make Niven lake accessible. please dont make the wildish places all boring and lit.
- I can't think of any
- I think it's super important that this trail have good connections to the rest of the trail network in the city of Yellowknife. When I walk or cycle to work, it's critical to have a connected and safe path in which I can get downtown as efficiently as possible. Or to other parts of town.
- I think lighting should be very carefully considered. It is a nature trail. Safety is extremely important but the city lights are far too bright. There needs to be a balance and there are other ways to deal with the safety issues other than lighting.
- I understand the desire to add lighting, but it does detract from the natural environment and leads to light pollution, I would recommend that lighting be used sparingly and strategically to avoid overkill.
- I would like to keep amenities to a minimum and would strongly discourage too much lighting or putting in washrooms.
- I would like to see a comprehensive and equitable consideration of trail amenities across Yellowknife. The focus should not be just on trails in the Niven area (ie this trail and Jackfish Ravine). Any survey about a specific trail should explain the context for why the city is asking about this trail at this time, and where the engagement fits into overall planning and engagement on trails in the city.
- I would like to see a rest area with picnic tables unbreakable lounge chairs, some benches on top the rocks for viewing the back bay, and a large dock to put our feet in the water or for docking a boat.
- I would like to see a similar trail extension for range lake trail system/parker park/fire break. Feels like Niven gets all the city amenities and everywhere else gets shafted.
- i would like to see signage indicating that dogs should remain leashed. as someone with a reactive dog and kids with fear of dogs, too many people walk their dogs off leash and allow them to approached people who don't want to be approached by an unknown dog. then they have no recall or control over their dog. There also seems to be an issues with people using the tail as a skidoo trail in the winter, I have seen people racing at high speeds and almost hit someone's

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dog. revving engine also creates excessive noise for the people who live along the trail. one occasion in the past 2 weeks there was a truck driving up and down the trail.

-
- I would like to see signage to keep dogs in leash- I'm tired of people letting their dogs come up into peoples backyard, and signage to say no motorized vehicles. In the winter skidoos rev up and down the trail all hours of the night. It it's very noisy and disruptive to the residents
-
- I would like to see the trails stay as natural looking as possible, but a few small additions, such as wayfinding and pet waste stations could help improve the user experience. While I can appreciate the fact that some people may want better lighting to safety purposes, I have found the trails to be a pretty good place for aurora viewing and would hate to see those opportunities diminished due to excess lighting.
-
- I would love to see more flowers
-
- I would rather have city budget directed to other services - so much vegetation was cleared already - how could more clearing possibly be considered?!
-
- improved parking area at the Trail head
-
- Improved trailhead access during wet/shoulder seasons. It gets very wet and muddy or impassable
-
- It is important to distinguish between the YK Ski Club trails - SKIING ONLY October-April - and the multi-use trails.
-
- It would be lovely to plant some native wildflowers, like wild rose or fireweed along the trail! Not only would it be great for pollinators and wildlife but it would also look beautiful. My condo faces the trail, and my spouse and I would love to see more plants/flowers that are natural rather than just dead grass and mud
-
- It would be nice to have a dock/deck or some sort of area to sit by the water at the bottom of the trail.
-
- It would be really nice to have a marina and dock at the bottom of the fire break to be able to access the water better. It would be amazing if there was a large docking area for people that live in Nivn to keep their boats. Would be nice to have some trail improvement to some of the highly technical single track mountain bike trails that connect with the ravine Trail. I would also love if the ravine Trail connected better going across the highway to connect over to the frame Lake Trail, that you could easily pop over and get to the legislative assembly and to downtown via the ravine trail. It is somewhat odd that there is as well developed trail that then suddenly ends at the airport loop without anywhere to go for pedestrians and cyclists aside from walking or biking on the highway. In addition to a possible marina, it would be nice to have a swimming area and docks at the bottom. This is one of the nicest lake access points in Yellowknife for the public, and it's unfortunate that it isn't developed at all.
-
- It's a trail, I hope it can remain a bit wild, without too much light
-
- Keeping it natural and low key is fine with me. Some signs to encourage pet owners to clean up are always needed. City already has plenty of park areas to maintain, so adding fancy stuff to

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another one will stretch resources and person-power. City should only take on what they can maintain - for example Walcer park area outside the tw baseball diamonds is completely ignored and never watered etc, even though the infrastructure is there. Don't take on more work unless willing to hire more workers!

-
- Less developed not more. Maybe connect to old town but that's it
-
- Main things I would like to see is pet waste/garbage & recycling bins. And, connecting trails around Back Bay towards Old Town.
-
- Make it a bit flatter, especially the area by the lake, and please clear the trees at lake entrance. Also by the end of the trail it gets too steep and difficult and I usually have to carry my children through this section going up.
-
- Maybe more access down by the water such as sitting areas, other trails
-
- More access points or paths to the ravine trail. Specifically off of McMahon Court.
-
- No (6)
-
- No, I would prefer to keep the trail exclusive to those that already have access.
-
- No, there is already a trail there that is disrespected some dog owners no need to spend tax dollars for an area that is just gonna fill up with dog [curse word redacted]
-
- No. I live in the trail and don't want snowmobiles etc there at all hours of the night and many residents use for dog walking so would prefer it not to become a place where it's constantly crowded.
-
- No. Please don't waste money paving this small trail to nowhere. There have to be 700 better things you can do around town. People use it just fine right now.
-
- None
-
- None of the above as the natural beauty of this trail will be lost. The forest has already been significantly interrupted and trees are continuing to die. Please do not touch anything. Thank you.
-
- Not often talked about: but considerations for emergency access in case someone has a heart attack or emergency, as former EMS I wish that was more common in planning activities. Steep grades and hills with a patient on a stretcher are problematic in case there is a problem on the trail and fast access is necessary. Having some sections that branch out to the road, lit, would be a godsend for emergency vehicle access.
-
- Not that I can think of at this time.
-
- Part of the point of the trail for many users is to get away from the light pollution while in enjoying quiet, conflict free nature. There are already lots of motorized trails and city sidewalks are used by bikes, scooters and e bikes. Can pedestrians and runners not have just one place of our own to enjoy nature?
-
- Paved bike trail, lighting, Rest stations with decent seating.

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- Paved so we can run, walk, bike and skate easily on it
- Permanent binoculars would be nice
- Personally not a big fan of trail widening and vegetation clearing. Let nature be and we can learn to coexist better. Smaller, minor but helpful changes are always welcome. Nothing that involves cutting down tree cover and taking away the already little space the wildlife around Yellowknife has. Lights during winter months may be helpful. But then they would take away the experience of northern lights. So maybe not. Just let the trail be, add a few signs, find sustainable ways to make it more user friendly. And please please please poo disposal stations for dogs!
- pet waste stations at 3 places along the trail. Before the expansion as the fire break - I would leave a 5 gallon pail with bags there. People would use it if it was close by - further up the trail there was still [curse word redacted] everywhere
- Planting native species/berry bushes in the cleared areas beside the gravel path; weeds really took over the summer after the cutline was made
- Please please make garbage bins a regular feature of all YK trails and streets. There are very few and I'm sure it would help reduce the terrible littering that people perpetually do year round
- Proper water access interface (plateau to launch SUPs, wading into water, seating). The trail needs to be connected over land to the Back Bay cemetery area along the waters edge or over the hill.
- Put some garbage cans and make an effort to empty them. Maintain the fire break No further investment in this trail is require There are higher priorities and other city [curse word redacted] that need funding and attention before this trail
- Revegetation of the side or the trail or gardens.
- Safety stations
- shaded resting areas, picnic table?
- Signage on the highway where the skidoo crossing is would improve safety, since the steep grade on the Frame Lake side of the highway forces you to put your skidoo right onto the shoulder of the highway to gain visibility.
- Signs to clarify ski club vs walking/snowmobile trails
- Simply a pair of signs at both sides of the bend with low visibility (near where the trail meets the ski club) requiring motorized traffic to slow down / proceed cautiously / warning of risk of low visibility to causing an accident with a child or dog.
- sliding hill portion for winter
- Smooth trails and better connectivity
- Speed limit signs for snowmobiles and ATVs - and occasional bylaw patrolling.
- the least possible! keep it wild. Could we add low vegetation (like local wildflowers) along the

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side of the trail rather than mud?

-
- There should be some sort of lookout at the water level
-
- This survey should be about Niven area trail improvements, why is it just focused on the ravine?
-
- This trail is so short, there is no need to add anything to this "trail".
-
- Trailhead information that this is not a road, it is a multi-user trail for recreational use; better barricades to prevent access by vehicles at trailhead; clear signage about speed restrictions for snowmobiles; signage/information on where to travel to connect to other trails (Moyle Park, Niven Lake, trail to ice caves, and ski club trails). Please DO NOT add lighting, as that would negatively impact those living next to and others using the trail, especially those who value the trail because of its semi-natural condition and proximity to forest and Back Bay. The dark sky environment is important to maintain also.
-
- Turns or bends so people don't fly through on snowmobiles or ban them and disconnect from the highway where people access with snowmobiles
-
- Up on the rocks between the trail and the ski club would be the perfect area for disc golf. We use some of the old trail posts as improvised goals currently, but there's so much potential
-
- visitors are confused about access to Back Bay cemetery. We have met a few who are lost.
-
- We bought our home on Moyle when they were being build and were led to believe that the trail would connect to others in the city. CONNECT THEM ALL!! It will benefit everyone and be great for tourists and residents alike.
-
- would LOVE to see in the future a trail from the end of this route at back bay, connecting to old town area... that would be an insane trail improvement within the city and it would be used OFTEN

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Q21. Are there any other priorities or features you would like considered for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? If so, please describe why they matter to you.

- A bike path or multi-use path separated from the highway, that helps continue the bike/people route from around Chateau Nova area to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail. Likewise, Chateau Nova should be held responsible for developing a multi-use path that connects to the Niven lake trail behind their property - directly to the highway multi-use trail.
- Access from McMahon court
- Again, I think it's great that you are looking to improve this trail. Please don't forget that it's not as valuable when this trail is considered in isolation. It needs to be connected to the city's trail network. The surface of the trail needs to be smooth and flat to ensure safe cycling and walking, and accessibility.
- Am eager to start using the trail! Definitely feel like the trail network should be either developed and heavily promoted to residents as a way to stay fit while using city infrastructure! N
- As mentioned, waste & recycle bins, and connecting trails around Back Bay towards Old Town & Racquet Club.
- As somebody who actively uses the space for physical activity and snowmobiling I understand the essential part that this trail plays for both sides. I am afraid however, that with the engagement, snowmobile access will be completely cutoff or heavily restricted due to strong pushback from residents in the area. Snowmobilers often use this route to connect from their houses to back bay meaning this route is an essential part of the trail network in Yellowknife. I strongly believe that this area can be a great shared space for all and implementing certain guidelines can help facilitate the design. On the skiing/running/walking side of things, I often use the trail during the day and feel very safe. Drainage could be improved as well as installing waste bins to mitigate garbage. Looking into options for expanding and connecting to other existing walking trails in the area is also a great idea as the surrounding area have some amazing trails and views. I look forward to seeing what the city does.
- BEING ABLE TO USE SXS'S OR QUADS ON THE TRAIL. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE THE TRAILS SNOWMOBILES CAN.
- Better access from Findlay point and McMahon, thanks!
- Better signage to access the ice caves. Connect to other trail systems a priority. Loop trails better than in and out trails.
- City needs to address the off leash dog issue if they want to make the trail more popular. The veterinary care in this city is already lacking and strained. Increasing usage of the trail will make the problem much worse if a leashed dog policy is not enforced
- Clearer wayfinding and distance markers, and interpretive signs about local wildlife, plants, geology, and Indigenous history
- Connect the trail to all the others! 1.9 mil is there I believe to do so.



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- Connect to old town but do not further develop Niven trail. It's already too busy
- Connect trail and need better entry/exit points - walking through complex property is not ideal
- Connection
- connection through backbay to old town
- Connection to a broader trail network near the highway
- Connections to other streets in Niven should be a high priority
- Connects to other trails so it connects to downtown. And make it paved so it is smooth to walk, bike and skate.
- Consider other uses for the cleared areas alongside the trail (community gardens? a dog run?)
- Consideration needs to be made of whether snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles should be allowed if it's going to be advertised as a trail for walking/hiking/skiing etc
- Creating better access to the water, such as through a dock (without taking out any vegetation) would be great! I'd love to see a small public canoe/kayak rental system set up by the lake!
- do not spend money on this, we in the City of YK have limited funds and this trail is not a priority, it existed for many years without any consideration or spending until 2023 when it was widened to be a firebreak of sorts
- Do not spend any more money on this trail. Fix up and invest in your other trails such as the frame lake trail between the legislature and the petro pass. The state of that trail is more of a concern and is used more by tourists than Niven is.
- Dog waste stations would be appreciated
- Don't add too much lighting. It's nice to have natural areas nearby that are light polluted. I frequently use that area for northern lights viewing and photography without the city lights ruining the view.
- Don't overdevelop or over regulate the uses of the trail. Keeping the ravine itself relatively wild should be part of the consideration as that is what attracts people in the first place.
- Easier access to the trail from neighborhoods. Safer water access. Signage for snowmobiles to slow down.
- Enhance multimodal connectivity between Findlay Point, McMahon Court, and Hagel Drive through the formalization and upgrading of existing 3.0 m-wide access lanes, along with improvements to the Hagel Drive cul-de-sac. Works should include surface rehabilitation, drainage optimization, and geometric adjustments where required to support safe and accessible use. Complement these upgrades with the installation of clear, standardized wayfinding and regulatory signage to improve visibility, navigation, and user safety. Consider incorporating pedestrian-priority design elements and all season traffic-calming measures to ensure compatibility with all kind of trail users.



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- Ensure the axis points along the trail are clearly marked and designated. During the winter months Daley I watch tourists wandering around trying to find the trail access. I don't think it needs to become something that is actively maintained. It's a wilderness area, keep it that way, help it feel that way. Although I would not be against having canoe racks installed by the lake and I will be willing to pay a user fee for that.
- Establish secondary/ tertiary access points from Niven and post dog on leash and clean up after pet reminders
- Highlights dog [curse word redacted], noise, inconsiderate users anxiety and stress. Not certain that was the intent.
- [Curse word redacted].
- I can't think of any
- I didn't know it was there. Some signage and marked access points would be nice
- I do not want extra light, it would spoil the more natural setting of the trail
- I don't see any issues with snowmobiles and people sharing the trail and worry you'll spend too much money or do something unnecessary for us to be adults who share a trail.
- I think having groomed xc skiing is important and the city should get into this, and access to the water for all residents
- I think it is important not to overthink/overdevelop this area. Nature trails are meant to be exactly this -- Natural!
- I think it would be wonderful if the City itself or through public volunteerism cleared, marked, maintained, and promoted its many official and "unofficial" trails.
- I want to see the niven trail connect to the rest of the cities trail network rather than stop at the lake
- I will take this opportunity to highlight some areas missed by the City when maintaining the Niven Trail. Gravel crush has been sorely needed for many years now at the base of the low bridge. People have to ram their way over the timbers, and they've been damaged over the years as a result. Until I got a fat bike, I had to dismount my commuter bike to get onto this bridge. There is also a small portion of the access trail between 229 and 231 Niven Drive connecting Niven Drive to the trail with large rocks that can't be navigated by most bikes and is probably not great for strollers or anyone with mobility issues. Crush should be added here. As should crush in a few low lying areas around the trail that are used for commuting downtown, such as where the trail connects to the trail behind the Chateau Nova.
- I wonder why at the beginning of this survey there was reference to who I may be and the question as to if I was indigenous.....why ask that question?
- I would also suggest better connectivity across the highway to the Frame Lake Trail and the Niven Lake Trail, that could involve extending the sidewalk or some segregation from the road and a crossing on the highway by where the snowmobiles cross from Frame Lake - improve that

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trail into an all season trail to connect to Frame Lake.

-
- I would like to hear from the City about why this trail is considered a priority at this time. The work on this trail during the 2023 firebreak operations was in a completely different (better) category from the work that was done in other areas. This trail is already in significantly better shape than many other city trails, and this survey is contributing to the perception that Niven gets more attention and resources than other neighbourhoods. For example, there are areas on the Frame Lake trail that have needed firesmarting for at least 10 years. Requests made 10 years ago to the City to work on these areas seem to have been ignored. As another example, as far as I know there has never been any City effort, aside from a sign or two, put into the portions of the Rat Lake trails on city land, such as the trail between Rycon Drive and the end of 52nd Street. I would like to see city resources for trail planning and engagement equitably distributed across the city.
-
- I would like to see it connect better to other trail systems like the Frame Lake trail
-
- I would like to see more trail connection between the whole Niven neighborhood, over to frame lake trail, and much better maintenance of the already existing Niven lake trail. There must also be some bylaw presence to find those who do not pick up their pet waste.
-
- I would like to see that whole singletrack area on either side protected and better signed to improve user access. I love the idea of a dogwaste disposal and of a washroom.
-
- I would love this trail system to be better mapped and publicly available, and ideally hook into other trail networks in the summer so people could enjoy them even more!!
-
- I would love to see stricter rules around off-leash dogs. I have fallen several times on the Niven Lake Ravine trail because off-leash dogs have wound themselves between my legs. Their owners did not apologize. I would also like to see berry planting along the trail. Berries would bring even more people to the trails, and foster increased biodiversity in what is ultimately a somewhat degraded area. Edible berries are a great way of encouraging people to visit the trail, and remind everyone of the importance of local foods in promoting biodiversity and food sovereignty.
-
- I'd love to see an accessible trail from the Back Bay entrance around the bay to Old Town. While it's fantastic to walk in the bay in winter, I've not found a trail that aches me along the lake side in summer. Please note I am new to living in Yellowknife and may have missed an existing trail. Finally, I wish to commend the city on having such a fantastic trail system. I love to walk. The trails provide brilliant places to explore and to simply enjoy nature in the North.
-
- If you put in interpretive signage, please maintain it. The signs around the backside of the Frame Lake Trail have been in appalling condition for at least a decade.
-
- Improvements that allow an individual to go from downtown to the ski club and back through a combination of walking on sidewalks or trails as well as cross country skiing would be a fantastic addition to recreational options in the city.
-
- Investing in fumigation of the location
-
- It is a beautiful multiuse pathways, very similar to others in town. I would like to see it stay multiuse. (Sleds, cyclists, pedestrian and pets - if pets cannot recall, leashes should be encouraged and poop picked up)

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- It is nice as it is so anything you add will be a plus value.

- It's a great trail. Maybe more promotion to make more residents aware of it?

- It's a treasure that just needs a few tweaks and minor improvements. Please keep it the way it is, more or less, as it does not need major improvements, paving, lighting or widening.

- Its a nice trail, but it's also wide af. continued development in the area has cause traffic to increase dramatically. I'd be just as happy to see pedestrian infrastructure as well as a road connecting to the highway, since reducing traffic between Niven dr and Niven gate itself would be a net positive for all residence in the area.

- It's fine the way it is. Leave it as it is.

- Just like we're not developing new lots outside of the city core, please consider putting a focus on using the limited budget we have for maintenance on existing facilities and trails.

- Just want to re-emphasize that this project feels super inequitable considering there's other areas of town that could use a trail like this, like behind the Finlayson Neighbourhood/Parker Park.

- Keep adequate signage near the intersections with ski trails so that walkers and skidoos don't interfere with these trails that are cared for so well by volunteers. All the ski trails should be well protected against skidoos and walkers. Otherwise, I enjoy this area and don't have any complaints besides dog walkers who don't pick up.

- Keep it as close to nature as possible. Don't clear and pave etc. put up signs for people to pick up after their dogs. People leave dog poop.

- Keep it as wild as possible for us and the wild life Provide residents with information about the hazards of dog pop not being picked up- to the wildlife that is unvaccinated and to our respiratory systems as it turns to dust.

- Keep motorized vehicles other than snowmobiles off the trail

- keep sledders allowed on it

- Let's not blow our brains out spending a lot of money on improvements in this economy

- Like I said before, I think a large missed opportunity is creating better lake access at the bottom. There's a huge opportunity for a pedestrian access Marina, for people that live in the neighborhood to dock their boats. It could also be developed into a swimming area with the building of a few swimming docks that extend out into deeper water. Otherwise, I am hugely thankful that the fire break trail was created, and I think there are a few relatively simple fixes outlined above that could improve it for the use of everyone in the neighborhood. Like I mentioned before, improving the surface material from the chunky, loose gravel, improving the soil sides of the trail perhaps into a law or at least a bit landscaped, putting some garbage cans and signs to remind dog owners to pick up poop, developing a bit more of the pre-existing single track mountain bike network that is on Trailforks, extending the trail to the frame Lake trail near the legislative assembly, and developing the easement from various streets in Niven that are

Survey Results

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currently quite dangerous and poorly defined. Thank you for creating this survey and for listening to my feedback. I live in a house that immediately backs onto the fire break and I am one of its most consistent daily users for various activities, including cross-country skiing, mountain, biking, jogging, walking my dog, and snowmobiling. I also stash a canoe at the bottom of the trail locked to a tree. Perhaps having a canoe rack for public use down there would be nice too.

-
- Make decisions with respect to families whose homes back on to the trail...noise, lighting, access points, etc. This is essentially the back yard and many bought those homes because of the piece and quiet and access to undisturbed nature. Consult them directly.
-
- More trail network connections would be awesome
-
- N/A
-
- No motorized vehicles no off leash dogs
-
- No thank you
-
- no there's nothing i can think of.
-
- None
-
- Not all trails require upgrades, they are what they are for the users, provided all users respect each other.
-
- Nothing besides the illegally built shed on the trail behind the niven "view" apartments
-
- Parking at the trailhead is unclear. A dog waste station or two (similar to Tin Can Hill) would be appreciated.
-
- Perhaps expanding the trail network and smoothing out access to those side trails
-
- Pet waste disposal, connectivity to existing trails and clear delineation between YK Ski Club trails and multi-use trails in the winter.
-
- Please consider not allowing motorized vehicles. On multiple occasions I have seen people driving a truck down the path. I have lost been hit by a skidoo while skiing- 2 young people were racing up the trail and didn't see me. Also dirt bikes race up and down at high speeds. I have also see numerous people driving side by sides and quads
-
- Please do not pave this trail to nowhere. There are 700 better uses of city money. People using it to walk dogs don't need it paved.
-
- Please don't take away access to snowmobiles. Our city is being overtaken by people from the south and we are already losing so much of our northern ways of living. We don't need to now lose this trail because people don't want to share with snowmobiles. It was a snowmobile trail originally.
-
- PLEASE ensure that snowmobilers use the trail safely. As a skier it terrifies me. I am always so cautious, stay to the side, walk when I feel it is not safe to ski, and wear bright clothing.... and I still worry about getting hit.



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- Please keep it as is.
- Please maintain it in it's current state at least. It's a great trail!
- Please nothing. Leave this trail to be natural and beautiful. We don't have many spaces left like this. Thank you.
- Possible issues with lighting the trail and those residents who back onto the trail. Light pollution for immediate residents. Noise pollution from greater access to recreational vehicles.
- Posts with dog waste bags and garbages.
- Preserve snowmobile access as this is an important connection point. Connect to other trails. A dock at the lake and lake side development to have better access/comfort would be amazing
- Preserving the access to wilderness along the length of the trail - that is the best feature of the trail.
- Priority to respecting the natural environment including winter dark sky (what's left of it) and avoiding adding anything that will be left to deteriorate when there is no OM funding. Having connected active transportation routes allows me to routinely walk to destinations across the city.
- Quick and easy - garbage disposal bins, painted arrows / ribbons tied on trees for directions.
- Reallocate this money to other higher needs like rat lake trail system and the kilometers of broken city owned sidewalks that are in disrepair
- Remind users of the given lake ravine trail with signage to not walk on the nearby cross ski trails, especially in the tracks
- Safety signage at corners to prevent accidents (snowmobiles go too fast and are completely blind in the bends just behind Niven Heights Condos/ Townhouses.
- Safety, make it all about safety.
- Signage, safety, multi use trail
- Smooth and cemented trails
- The trail behind our home has become increasingly disruptive to the residents who live alongside it. At all hours, there is a constant stream of quads, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles creating excessive noise that echoes through the neighbourhood, making it difficult to enjoy our properties or simply have some peace and quiet. In addition to motorized traffic, many dogs are routinely off-leash, creating safety concerns for pedestrians, children, and other pets. The ongoing disregard for trail rules and regulations by many users has turned what should be a shared community amenity into a source of frustration, stress, and diminished quality of life for the people who live here. Greater enforcement and accountability are urgently needed to restore respect for both the trail and the surrounding neighbourhood.
- The trail should connect safely and efficiently to downtown.



Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

- The trail that branches off the Niven trail and overlooks back bay could use some maintenance and upgrades to improve signage and accessibility. The City could help the ski club to cut a trail to the ice caves so that people don't walk on the ski trails.
- There are fat bike trails in the bush next to the fire trail. The fire trail provides an easy way to get back to the top of the hill, so I can do the loop several times during lunch break. It's amazing to have this option so close to downtown!
- There is money put aside to develop this area and I hope we use it all. A trail down to the park near the Racquet club would be awesome for our children.
- This is a great trail that has a lot of potential to connect to other hiking/skiing trails. It would be nice to see some formal mountain bike trails developed off the main branch. Do not make this a road and take away the recreational aspect of it.
- This is a natural trail for all to use. It's great for walking, pets and everyone. If someone doesn't want pets, pets off leash, snowmobiles or bikes then there are plenty of other trails for those people to use that are on leash, no motor vehicle trails. This trail should be kept as is with maybe the addition of some garbage cans and benches.
- To make it a off leash area for dogs
- Tracks, signage, doggy poop bag distribution and dumpster
- Trail access from peace River flats in the summer months
- Trails should be built with provision for many dustbins to manage litter from peoples activities during use of trail like dog poo, food packaging and just trash. Also tar the trail so it's smooth on the feet. Consider planting rows of beautiful trees and flowers to beautify the trail.
- Ultimately a paved bike path with interconnections to other trails and streets would be very nice to have. If this were paired with other trail upgrades to make the Ravine Trail more cycle friendly (which also includes reasonable separation of various traffic types) it would be really nice to have. In winter, some minor modifications could improve skidoo safety. Another item to consider is a small off-leash area for dogs, which creates a clear expectation to keep dogs leashed on other parts of the trail. Finally, when planning these improvements I would like the city to consider them as part of a larger holistic trail management plan for the city.
- Unfortunately I refuse to use the trail due to the amount of aggressive, unhoused and substance abusing individuals who lash out unprovoked. We need to have. Cameras ALL over the main trail from the Stanton territorial hospital all the way down to city Hall. In the recent years, the crime rate has only gone up and the amount of people who end up getting lost along the trail and dying as result of the cold weather. We need more cameras for not only the safety of our people but also to help law enforcement better prosecute dangerous criminals
- Walking patrol
- We help tourists trying to find the ski clubs' access trail to the ice caves several times a day during aurora season ... there is very little info to help them, so they use google maps, which directs them to the findlay point trail access, which is very steep or to the trailhead parking which

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is not plowed. A map at the trailhead, plowed parking and a brochure at the visitor's centre would be a big help. Also - a summer connection through to the Frame Lake trail would be nice.

- What about the Parker park one that was just left as a mess and full of the garbage people who made it left ?
-
- Yellowknife is a city surrounded by water, but because of industrial legacies some lakes are not usable (Frame, Jackfish). The City ought to take advantage of every reasonable opportunity to improve safe water access to residents. The Niven Lake Ravine Trail is such an opportunity. It doesn't have to be a large promenade (would be nice), but anything is better than at this point.
-
- Yes ,you need to make it mixed use. Right now the type of gravel does not allow people to cycle and if you have any sort of mobility challenge you simply cannot use it. Also, developing a single trail without interconnection is poor planning. You should be starting with attempting to interconnect existing trails in Niven. Right now this trail starts on the highway and ends nowhere. Consider linking it with the Niven lake trail, the mixed use bike path that also ends non-where by the substation, and across the lake side to Don Josha way (path that goes from Niven Drive access point to the Lake trail to the Racquet Club) to create a walking loop.
-
- You could use the cleared land on either side of the wide trail for planting like a community garden. It's solid soil that could grow food.

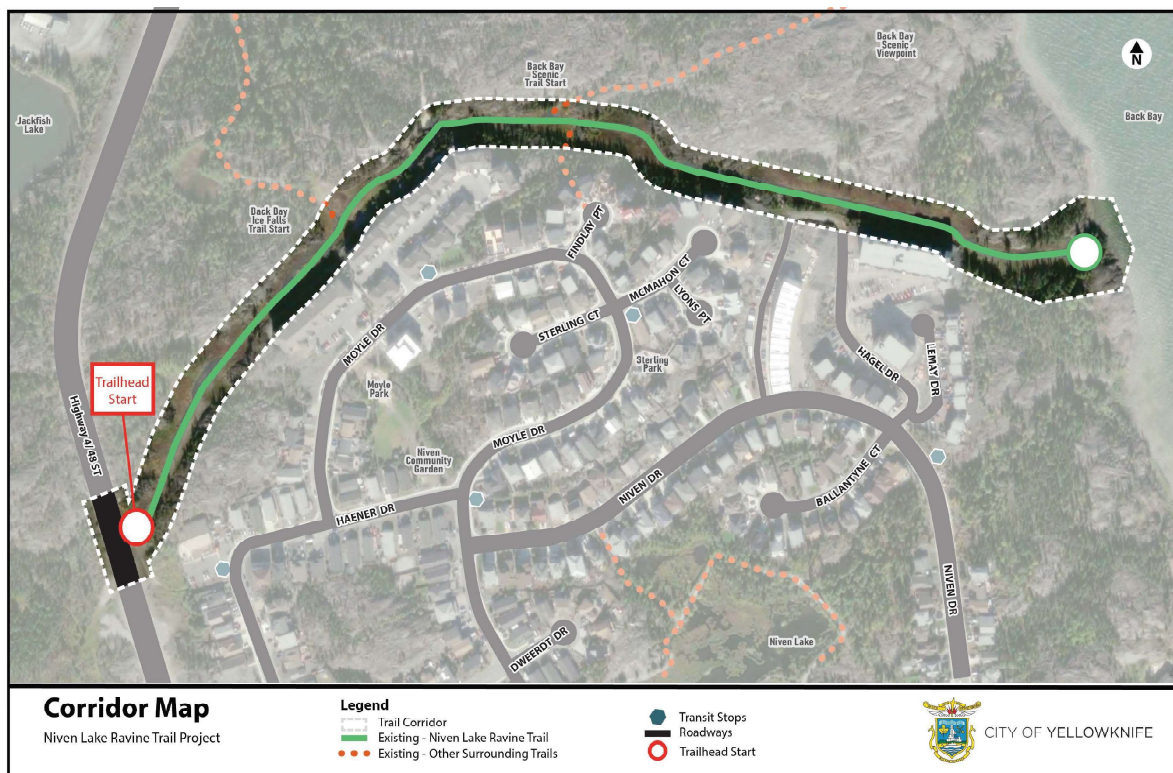
Appendix C Survey PDF



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

The City of Yellowknife is working on a project to guide improvements to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail. This project will help shape how the trail functions, including how it supports year-round use, connects to nearby areas such as the highway, ski club trails, Niven neighbourhood, and Back Bay; and responds to natural constraints and weather conditions.

The Niven Lake Ravine Trail —also known as the Fire Cutline Path or Niven Firebreak Trail—, runs from Highway 4/ 48th Street to Back Bay on Great Slave Lake, as shown in the map below.



Background

The Niven Lake Ravine Trail is an important community connection, linking neighbourhoods and providing access for year-round recreation such as walking, cycling, skiing, and snowmobiling.

In 2023, the trail corridor was cleared to support wildfire preparedness. The City is now reviewing how the corridor can continue to support both recreational trail use and emergency preparedness, while considering safety, accessibility, and environmental conditions.

What We Already Heard

Recent engagement for the Community Plan update and the Transportation Plan (Let's Move YK) highlighted strong community interest in better trail connectivity, year-round use, network expansion, improved safety (such as lighting), and clearer wayfinding. Building on this feedback, this project will help define a clear future for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail using both technical analysis and community input.

Why Your Input Matters

This survey asks how you use the trail today, what works well, and where improvements are needed. Specifically, we're looking for input on: maintenance, safety, and user experience.

Your input will help set clear priorities that will be reviewed alongside technical studies, environmental factors, site conditions, and City standards. Together, these insights will guide practical, well-informed trail design options that support the needs of the community.

☐ Estimated time to complete: 7 minutes

☐ Survey closes: July 26

Start the survey!

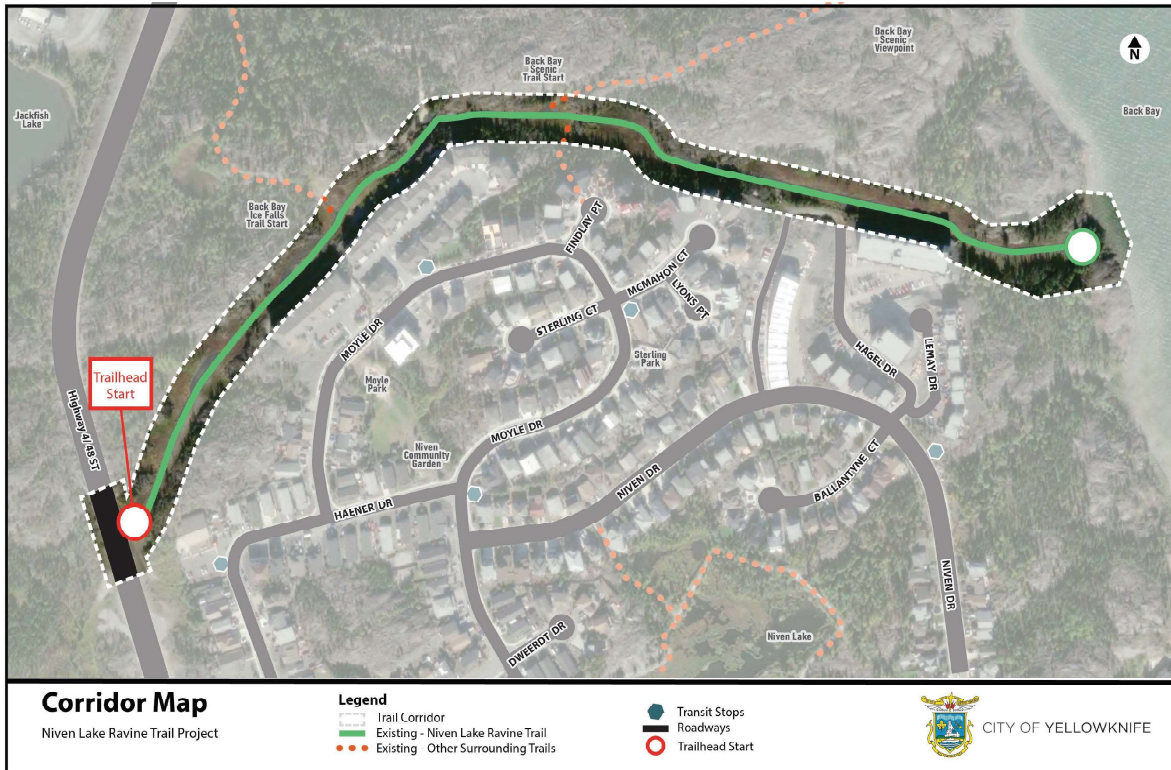


Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

About You

* 1. Which best describes you? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Resident of Yellowknife
- ☐ Visitor to Yellowknife/ tourist
- ☐ Indigenous community member
- ☐ Youth or young adult (under 25)
- ☐ Senior (65+)
- ☐ Caregiver of young children
- ☐ Person with reduced mobility
- ☐ Prefer not to say



* 2. Using the image above as a guide, do you live near the Niven Lake Ravine Trail (shown in green)?

- ☐ Yes: my home backs onto the trail
- ☐ Yes: my home is within two blocks of the trail, as shown on the map
- ☐ Nearby: I live in the Niven neighbourhood, but not shown on the map
- ☐ Nearby: I live in the Old Town area, across Back Bay
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 3. How often do you use the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ A few times per year
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ I have never used the Niven Lake Ravine Trail



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Trail Use

* 4. During what season do you usually use the trail? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Spring
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ Fall
- ☐ Winter

* 5. How have you used the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Access the cemetery
- ☐ Access the ice cave
- ☐ Berry picking
- ☐ Birdwatching / nature viewing
- ☐ Commuting to work or school
- ☐ Cross-country skiing
- ☐ Cycling
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Snowmobiling
- ☐ Walking, running, or hiking

Other (please specify)

* 6. What time of day do you usually use the trail? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Evening

* 7. How do you most often get to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Boat in from across Back Bay
- ☐ Cycle to the trailhead
- ☐ Drive to the trailhead
- ☐ Ski-in from across Back Bay
- ☐ Snowmobile to the trailhead
- ☐ Take the bus, and then walk or cycle to the trailhead
- ☐ Walk to the trailhead

Other (please specify)

8. What is your favourite part of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Existing Trail Conditions

* 9. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail in warmer months/ summer?

Very poor

Somewhat poor

Fair

Somewhat good

Very good



10. Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance in warmer months/ summer?

* 11. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of the Niven Lake Ravine Trail in colder months/ winter?

Very poor

Somewhat poor

Fair

Somewhat good

Very good



12. Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance in colder months/ winter?



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Trail Safety

* 13. How safe do you feel when using the trail?

Very unsafe

Somewhat unsafe

Neutral

Somewhat safe

Very safe



* 14. How concerned are you about the following possible risks to safety, security, or comfort on the trail?

	Not concerened	Slightly concerned	Moderately concerned	Very concerned	Not sure
Being hit by equipment or vehicles used by others (bikes, ebikes, skis, snowmobiles)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dog encounters (on or off leash)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interactions with other trail users (e.g., unwanted or uncomfortable encounters)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Natural environment (e.g., vegetation reactions or insect bites)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Noise impacts (music, ebikes, snowmobiles, groups)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal slips, trips, or falls	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Poor visibility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wildlife encounters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

15. Are there any other possible risks to trail user safety, security, or comfort that you think should be considered?

* 16. Have you experienced or observed any conflicts or challenges between different types of trail users on the Niven Lake Ravine Trail?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

17. If yes, what types of trail users were involved? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ People walking, running, or hiking
- ☐ People walking dogs
- ☐ Cyclists
- ☐ Cross-country skiers
- ☐ Snowmobilers
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

User Experience

* 18. How satisfied are you with the current trail amenities?

Not at all satisfied

Somewhat satisfied

Moderately satisfied

Very satisfied



* 19. Which of the following do you think would help improve the user experience for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Accessibility features (e.g., reduced hills, bike ramps next to stairs)
- ☐ Better connections to other nearby trails and destinations
- ☐ Emergency access improvements
- ☐ Flatter (gentler grade/ slopes)
- ☐ Improved visibility at trail connections and turns (lighting, clearing, mirrors)
- ☐ Improved lighting throughout
- ☐ Parking and staging areas
- ☐ Pet waste stations
- ☐ Rest and seating areas
- ☐ Separation between different types of trail users
- ☐ Smoother surface material
- ☐ Trail signage and wayfinding
- ☐ Trail widening
- ☐ Vegetation clearing
- ☐ Viewpoints and interpretative signage areas
- ☐ Warming areas
- ☐ Waste and recycling bins
- ☐ Washrooms
- ☐ None of the above

20. Are there any other amenities you would like to see?



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Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Thank you for your interest in the Niven Lake Ravine Trail project. The majority of questions in this survey are designed to capture existing users' feedback on the trail.

As a non-user of the trail, you will be redirected to the open comment portion of the survey.



Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Final Thoughts

21. Are there any other priorities or features you would like considered for the Niven Lake Ravine Trail? If so, please describe why they matter to you.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Appendix D Sandwich Board Signs

POP-UP EVENT

TODAY!

NIVEN LAKE RAVINE TRAIL PROJECT

We want to know:



How you use the trail



When you use the trail



What could be improved



PROJECT TEAM ON SITE FOR Q&A



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

**Take our short online survey
and share your feedback.**



SCAN
ME!



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

NIVEN LAKE RAVINE TRAIL PROJECT

We want to know:



How you use the trail



When you use the trail



What could be improved



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

**Take our short online survey
and share your feedback.**



SCAN
ME!



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE



Appendix E Project Display Boards, with Comments

Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

Project Background

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Note: All respondents are transcribed exactly as written with only minor redactions included where necessary.

Project Background

CITY OF
YELLOWKNIFE

Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

PROJECT GOALS

- Improve** a key multi-use trail corridor
- Enhance** access, safety, and experience
- Inform** future trail design and upgrades
- Share** your experience using the trail

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- This project intends to guide future improvements to the Niven Lake Ravine Trail, with a focus on **safety, accessibility, and long-term use.**
- Trail was cleared in 2023 to act as a potential **firebreak** creating new opportunities and challenges.
- The trail connects Highway 4/ 48 Street to Back Bay, running along the north edge of the Niven neighborhood.
- Community input on this project will help to identify:
 - safety issues,**
 - maintenance needs,**
 - opportunities to improve connections and wayfinding, and**
 - much more.**

PROJECT AREA

Legend

- Trail Corridor
- Existing - Niven Lake Ravine Trail
- Existing - Other Surrounding Trails
- Transit Stops
- Roadways
- Trail Start and End

TIMELINE

- Phase 1: Engagement Round 1** June - July 2026
- Phase 2: Preliminary Design and Engagement Round 2** Fall 2026
- Phase 3: Detailed Design of Final Concept** Winter 2027
- Phase 4: Trail Construction** Summer 2027

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Tell us how you use the trail and what could be improved.

LEARN MORE AND SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK AT
www.yellowknife.ca/niven/lake/ravine/trail/project

No comments were collected as part of this display board.

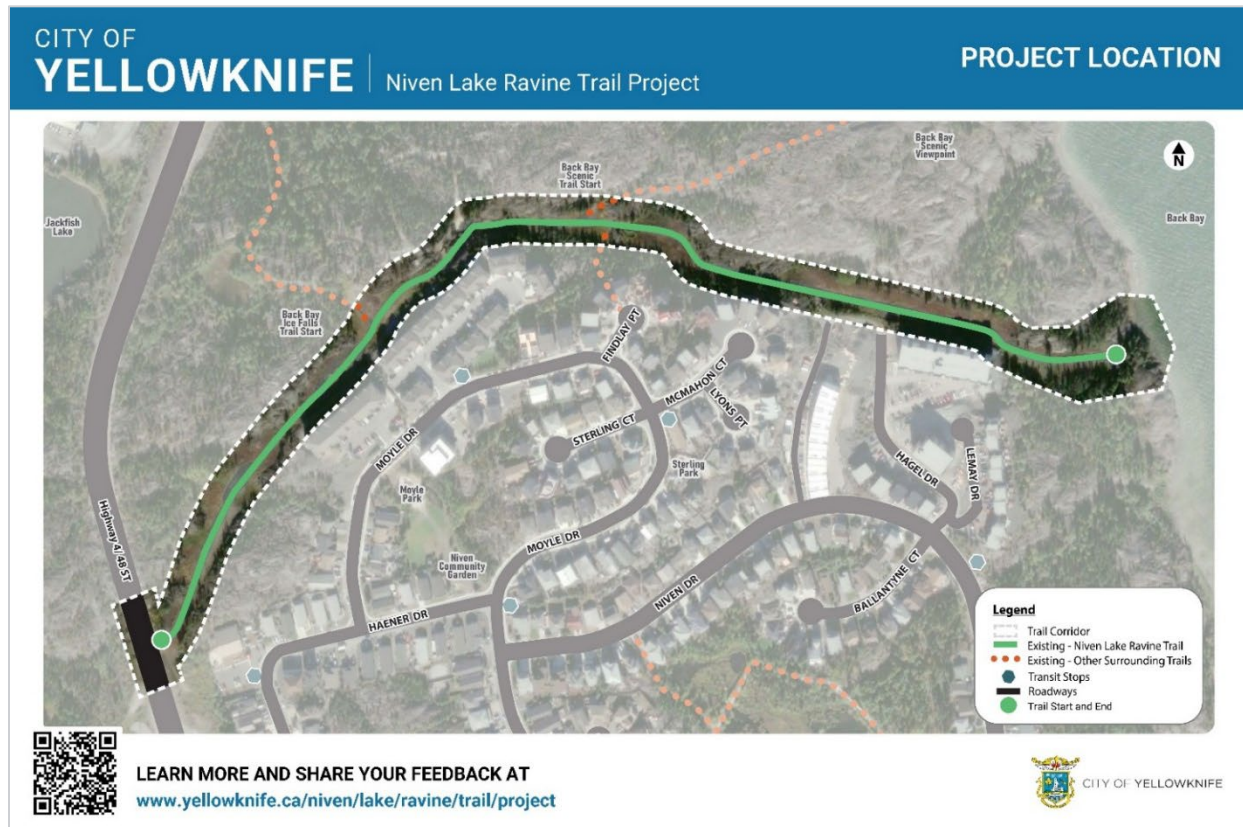
CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

E-1

Project Location

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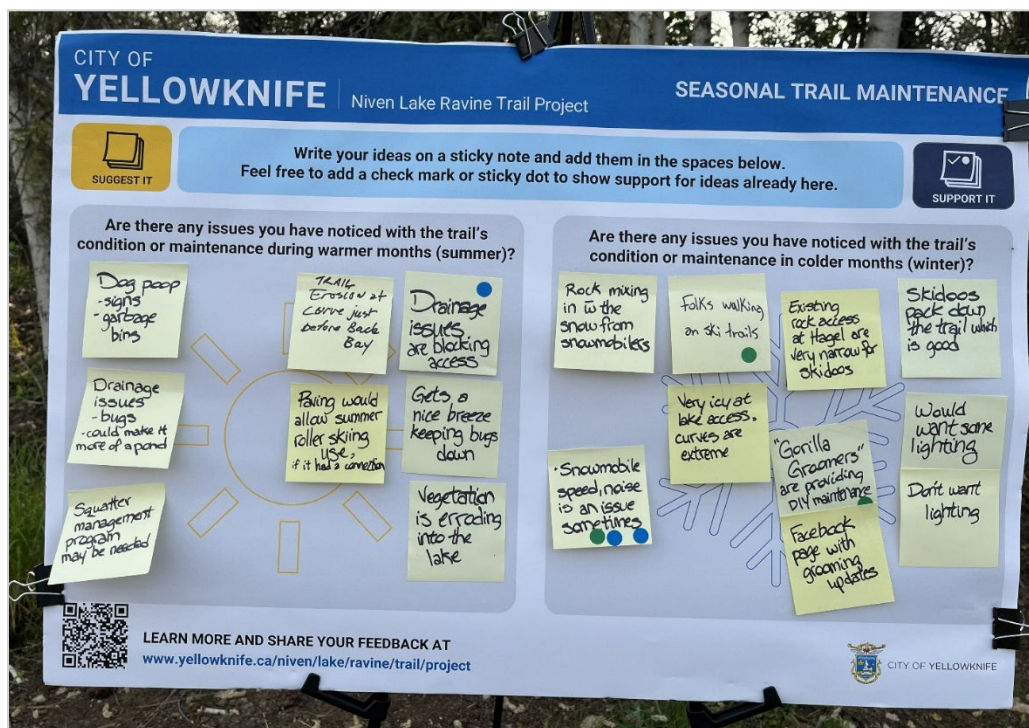
Project Location



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Seasonal Trail Maintenance



The above image showcases many but not all comments received. All comments received are listed below.

Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance during warmer months (summer)?

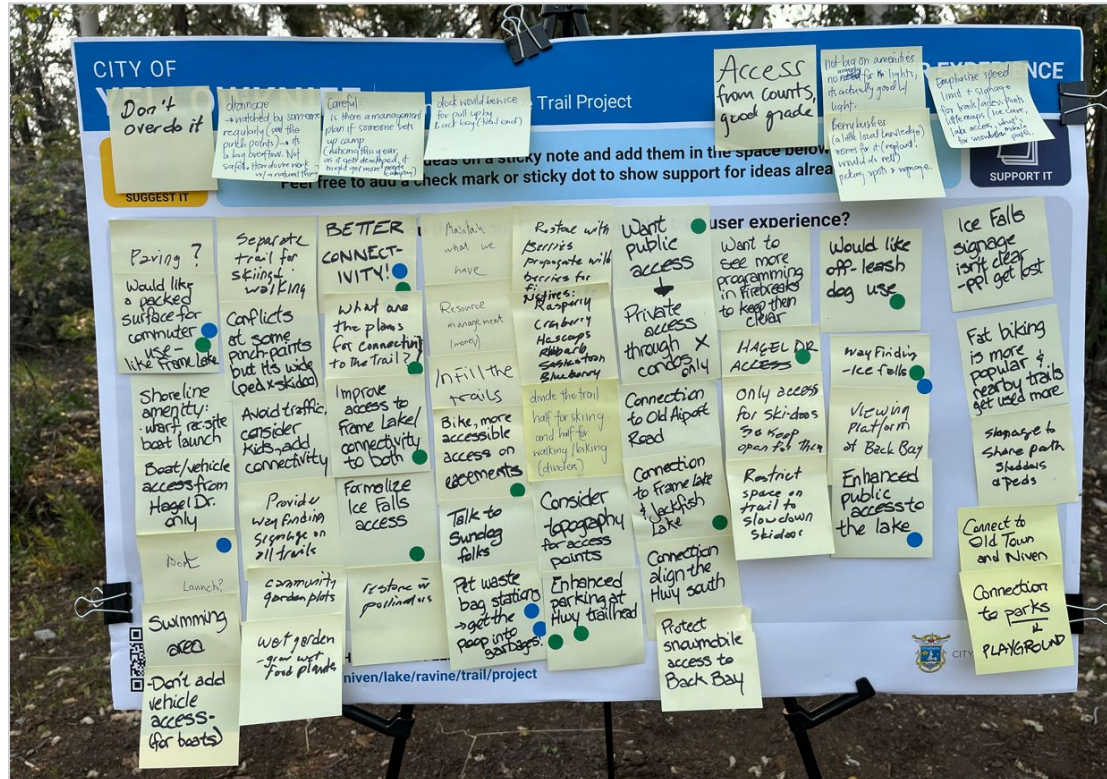
- Bugs
- Could make it more of a pond
- Dog poop
- Drainage issues
- Drainage issues are blocking access
- Garbage bins
- Gets a nice breeze keeping bugs down
- Signs
- Squatter management program may be needed
- Trail erosion at curve just before Back Bay
- Vegetation is eroding into the lake

Are there any issues you have noticed with the trail's condition or maintenance in colder months (winter)?

- Don't want lighting
- Existing rock access at Hagel are very narrow for skidoos
- Facebook page with grooming updates
- Folks walking on ski trails (1)
- Rock mixing in with the snow from snowmobiles
- Skidoos pack down the trail which is good
- Snowmobile speed, noise is an issue sometimes (3)
- Very icy at lake access. Curves are extreme
- Would want some lighting

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User Experience



The above image showcases many but not all comments received. All comments received are listed below.

What do you think could help improve the trail user experience?

- “Gorilla Groomers” are providing DIY maintenance (1)
- Access from counts, good grade
- Avoid traffic, consider kids, add connectivity
- Berry bushes (a little local knowledge) zones for it (replant! Would do well) picking spots and signage
- Better connectivity (2)
- Bike, more accessible access on easements (1)
- Boat launch? (1)
- Boat/vehicle access from Hagel Dr. only
- Careful: is there a management plan if someone sets up camp (noticing this year as it gets developed, it might get more people camping)
- Folks walking on ski trails (1)
- Formalize ice falls access (1)
- Hagel Dr. Access (1)
- Ice falls signage isn't clear – ppl get lost
- Improve access to Frame Lake/connectivity to both (1)
- Infill the trails
- Maintain what we have
- Natives: raspberry, cranberry, haskaps, rhubarb, saskatoon, blueberry
- Not big on amenities no urgency for lights its actually good with light
- Only access for ski-does so keep open for them
- Paving
- Paving would allow summer roller skiing use, if it

Niven Lake Ravine Trail Project

User Experience

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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- Community garden plots
- Conflicts at some pinch points but its wide (ped x skidoo)
- Connect to Old Town and Niven
- Connection align the hwy south
- Connection to Frame Lake and Jackfish Lake (1)
- Connection to Old Airport Road
- Connection to parks and playground
- Consider topography for access points
- Divide the trail half for skiing and half for walking / biking (dividers)
- Dock would be nice for pull up by Back Bay (trail end)
- Don't add vehicle access (for boats)
- Don't overdo it
- Drainage – watched by someone regularly (see the pinch points) it's a big overflow. Not safe. How does one work with a natural thing?
- Enhanced parking at hwy trailhead (2)
- Enhanced public access to the lake (1)
- Emphasize speed limit and signage for trails/ access points little maps (ice cave, lake access, what's for snowmobiling path)
- Facebook page with grooming updates
- Fat biking is more popular and nearby trail get used more
- had a connection
- Pet waste stations – get the poop into the garbage cans! (2)
- Private access through condos only (x)
- Protect snowmobile access to Back Bay
- Provide wayfinding signage on all trails
- Resource management (money)
- Restore with berries propagate wild berries for fire break
- Restore with pollinators
- Restrict space on trail to slowdown skidoos
- Separate trail for skiing and walking
- Shoreline amenity; warf, rec site boat launch
- Signage to share path sledders and peds
- Swimming area
- Talk to Sundog folks
- Viewing platform at Back Bay
- Want public access (1)
- Want to see more programming in firebreaks to keep them clear
- Wayfinding (ice falls) (2)
- Wet garden – grow wet food plants
- What are the plans for connectivity to the trail? (1)
- Would like a packed surface for commuter use – like from frame lake (2)
- Would like off-lease dog use (1)

