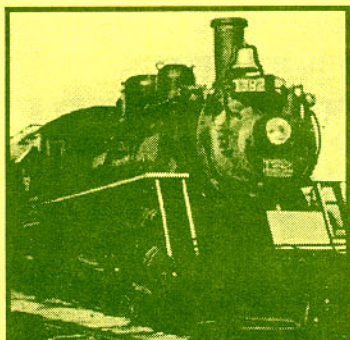


Rails to Trails Facts



a proven track record

Recreational trails have been very successful. Elk Point's Iron Horse Trail has proved to be a welcomed addition in the community. Residents love to use it, and enjoy living along it. In over eight years, only one negative issue has been recorded!



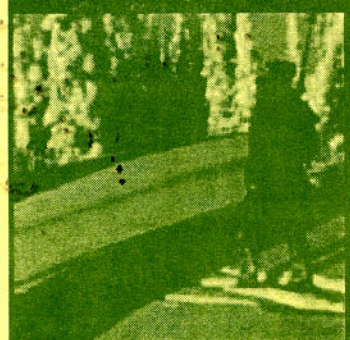
a managed trail is a safe trail

We are committed to managing and maintaining trail landscape and regulations so that potential users have a safe, signed, insured, clean, and comfortable trail to enjoy both today and in the future.



improve your quality of life

A public trail system provides many benefits: quality family recreation, a chance to experience our rich history through recreation, and a legacy to leave for the future of the people and places that make this area a great place to live.



economic benefits

Dollars spent here in our own communities strengthen the area economy as a whole. The result: a strengthened tax base that will provide increased services to all rural residents.



Vote YES Oct 15

Public Trail Supporters: publictrails@hotmail.com

Are you aware of the recreational trail question on the October 15 County ballot?

We Need You to Consider the Facts:

- CN is removing the railway tracks from Waskatneau to Cold Lake, and from Abilene Junction (Ashmont) to Elk Point. **They have no intention of ever relaying the tracks from Ashmont through St. Paul to Elk Point.**
- The ten local communities have secured their interest in owning the abandoned corridor as a group. They recognize the **future potential and benefits** of owning this corridor as a whole. **They will not be giving or selling this land to any party for private ownership.**
- The municipalities' **primary usage** for the line is a **utility corridor**.
- A recreational trail would be a perfect second usage! CN is leaving the corridor in a cleaned, smoothed, and graded condition; and bridges are repaired, decked, and railed to safety code. **The trail is all but made for us at NO COST to residents and ratepayers.**
- Local entities will be used to do all the work required to have the corridor operational. The positive economic impact has already begun to be seen.
- Twenty years ago, the railway tracks joining Elk Point and Heinsburg were removed. Eight years ago, the County of St. Paul capitalized on the opportunity to purchase the land, and together with the Elk Point Historical Society developed the scenic **Iron Horse Trail**. This trail has been a **hugely successful multi-use recreational trail providing recreational and community benefits to both recreational enthusiasts and a large majority of adjacent landowners**. The trail will remain.
- Public Trail Supporters, a large group of historically, tourism, and recreationally minded people, would like to work with the municipalities, adjacent landowners, and all user groups to create a similar success story with a public recreational trail on the rest of the abandoned rail line. **Imagine a beautiful recreational trail joining all of the communities in the Lakeland!**
- A locally owned and managed trail would include *stop signs and speed barriers at road crossings, comprehensive insurance coverage, and enforceable bylaws for speed limits, noise control standards, and hours of use*. Today's user groups self-regulate themselves to keep the privilege of using such a trail.
- **Committees comprised of municipal representatives, user groups, and landowners would provide improvements, handle concerns, and perform necessary maintenance.**
- The municipalities would govern, regulate, and have final say in the use of the corridor. It will be for the people of the region, and governed by the people of the region.
- The Public Trail Supporters funds their responsibilities regarding the trail through

The rail bridge shown is one of several "hidden treasures" in N

membership participation; trail functions, and applicable grants. **County taxes would not be affected in any way if the trail were made. It has been stated that a trail would actually cost less to maintain than the railway crossings.**

- A few people openly oppose trail development, and have lobbied for a vote on the issue in conjunction with the October 15 Municipal election. We think this is a great idea! **The question on the ballot gives all people a chance to express their desire for new recreational opportunities here at home with a YES vote.**

This is not an issue of landowner rights or the government not listening to farmers. It is an issue of making the best possible use of publicly owned land that will benefit the lives of many, not just satisfy the wishes of a few.

- A controlled trail would give people a safe place to recreate away from the dangers of our highways, while also reducing random riding and trespassing.
- **Quad's come equipped with exhaust spark arrestors to prevent fires, as farmers know because many now use quads on their own land without such a problem.**
Various organizations, such as the Alberta Snowmobile Association, provide insurance to protect adjacent landowners from being negatively affected by the aforementioned events. A new local quad club is being formed to provide the same needed protection and insurance for ATV users. We all look forward to that!
- **A trail on the county-owned corridor will be on municipal land: Existing farmland is not needed for this project. Among all three counties, an average of 40% of the proposed trail runs beside highways and does not go through farmland.!**
- Those in opposition want solid guarantees against any undesirable events occurring along a trail. Nobody can give that:
 1. *We don't have insurance for everything we still live our lives*
 2. *People have auto accidents we still drive our cars*
 3. *Banks get robbed we still have banks*

We cannot guarantee perfection, but what we can guarantee is a committed effort to do our best in seeing that the concerns and needs of all involved are met to the highest degree possible. We can guarantee a commitment to safety, a commitment to community, and a commitment to the future of recreation in our area.



**YES for Public Trails on
October 15, 2001**

Public Trail Supporters can be reached at: 826-3141

645-4429

656-4233 or publictrails@hotmail.com

IE Alberta that a YES vote will help save for trail users of the future.

Helping You See the Clearer Picture:

What does a NO vote mean?

The abandoned corridor itself will be left in a state suitable for trail use.
A **NO** vote will mean:

- NO Organization
- NO Insurance Protection
- NO Safety Guidelines

What does a YES vote mean?

- Trail users from many organized recreational user groups will work together to manage, maintain, and keep the trail safe and organized for all to enjoy.
- Trail user will work together with adjacent landowners to hear their concerns and solve problems in a manner that will satisfy everyone.

A group effort will make this work!!!

1. Trail users will raise money to make improvements and add amenities such as signage, rest areas, and picnic tables to the trail. Taxpayers will not carry any financial load!
2. Our towns and villages will prosper with increased exposure, and increased business
3. The trail will be open for all to use, enjoy, and take pride in a new piece of our local identity.

HELP US TO REALIZE THESE BENEFITS!



Vote YES for a municipally regulated trail!