



TRAILS MASTER PLAN EVALUATION AND UPDATE

November 2011

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TRAILS MASTER PLAN EVALUATION AND UPDATE

Purpose

On September 11, 2011 Town Council passed the following resolution:

(a) Town Council direct Administration to prepare a report for Council on the status of trails within the Town of Stony Plain as it relates to the trails master plan and Town policies respecting trails connecting throughout the Town; and

*(b) include comments on trails within the Westerra area.
(Trails Report 275/09/11/SP)*

In response to the above motion, Administration has prepared the following report on the status of trails as related to the 2005 Trails Master Plan. The report seeks to identify portions of the Trail system that have been built and also links that are required to ensure complete connectivity of the network. Ballpark costs for these links have been identified as well as several areas that require further evaluation.

Executive Summary

The Town of Stony Plain adopted the Trails Master Plan in the spring of 2005. Administration determined that various developers and the Town of Stony Plain have invested approximately \$400,000 in trail development since the Trails Master Plan was adopted.

The purpose of the 2005 Trails Master Plan was to create a comprehensive, interconnected, **recreational** trail system to serve existing and newly developing areas within the Town of Stony Plain. Derivative aims of the 2005 Trails Master Plan were to:

- promote trail development, wellness and increase quality of life;
- support the idea of linked parks and open spaces;
- advance the establishment of a distinctive regional trail system that encourages the conservation of natural and heritage resources;
- integrate the regional trail system with other transportation systems and suggest links between existing and potential trails;
- provide opportunities for multi-jurisdictional cooperation in all aspects of trail planning;
- adopt trail construction standards that are environmentally sensitive, sustainable and have low impacts on the land; and,
- promote the use of trails as alternative transportation routes that connect activity centres, parks, open spaces, schools and civic amenities.

Furthermore the 2005 Trails Master Plan noted that recreational trails take many forms including:

Multi-use trails

Accessible Trails

Interpretive Foot Trails

Urban Bikeway Classifications including designated bicycle lanes and Bicycle routes or shared road lane

Greenways

Current thinking about environmental sustainability recognizes that a shift in modal distribution from automobiles to other transportation modes including walking, biking and transit is important. Recreational usage remains an important purpose for trail development but new urbanism constructs of live, work, play in a complete community are rapidly becoming an integral part of planning for future development. Moving forward, the implementation of the 2005 Trails Master Plan should incorporate consideration of all purposes and types of movement.

Since 2005, trail development occurred in the neighbourhoods of Graybriar, Meridian Heights, South Business Park, the North Business Park, Westerra, Old Town, Heritage Park, and Rotary Park.

Recently, significant trail developments include extension of the Rotary Trail in the South Business Park from Golf Course Road to just across Atim Creek, and trail development adjacent to 49th Ave from Brown Street to Golf Course Rd. The

Town has also developed several trail connections to add to the functioning of the trail network as a total system.

The Trails Master Plan has plans for trails in and around developed areas which are more specific in nature and concentrate on trail development that will add to the overall functioning of the trail network that existed in 2005.

The Trails Master Plan also has plans for trails in undeveloped areas which are general and conceptual in nature. More specific plans for trail development are often included in the Area Structure Plan for the area. Area Structure Plans are developed by the landowner in preparation for future development.

The original Trails Master Plan is available on the Town's Website at the following link:

<http://www.stonyplain.com/admin/contentx/default.cfm?PageId=7379>

A map of the trails planned for in the Trails Master Plan and the existing trail network currently developed in Stony Plain is attached.

Administration has identified several segments of trails that would be the next logical steps in implementing the 2005 Trails Master Plan within developed areas. The selection criterion for the trail segments is to improve connectivity amongst the existing trail network. The suggested trail developments are described in detail in the following pages.

Administration has the following recommendations as a result of the analysis:

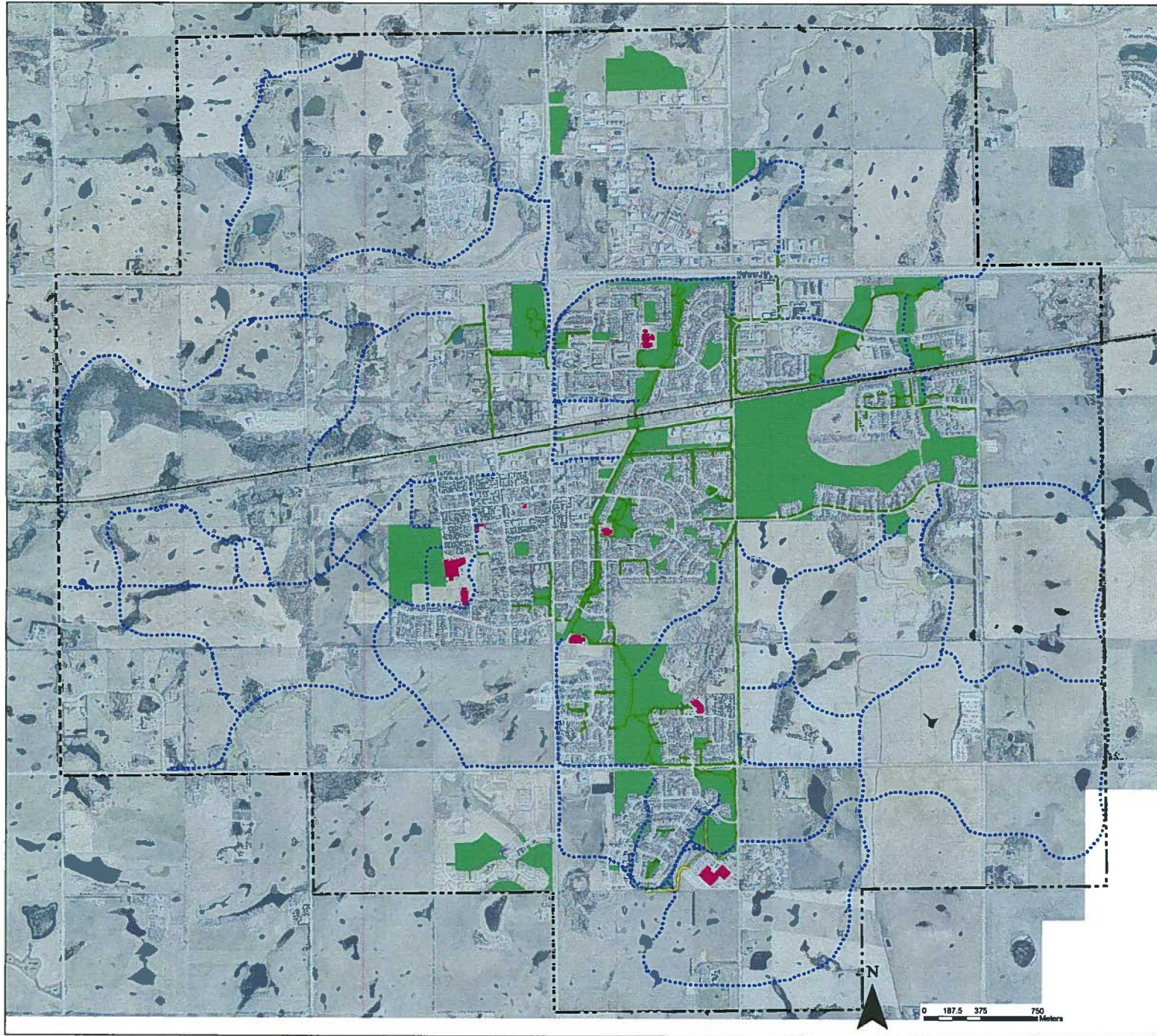
1. Develop a detailed Implementation Strategy that would assist the Town in having developers build a trail network that emphasizes connection with the existing system and expansion of the trail network as new neighbourhoods are developed.
2. The detailed Implementation Strategy should consider how to effectively integrate sidewalks, trails, and roadways into a network capable of safely accommodating a variety of modes of travel.
3. The detailed Implementation Strategy should also set out a capital expenditure program for trails in developed areas.

4. The following projects could be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Capital Budget:

South Business Park connection at South Park Drive and 44 Ave	\$ 7,800
79 Ave trail extension from Willow Wood Lane east to existing trail system	\$ 28,800
Westerra Crescent to High School	\$ 48,000

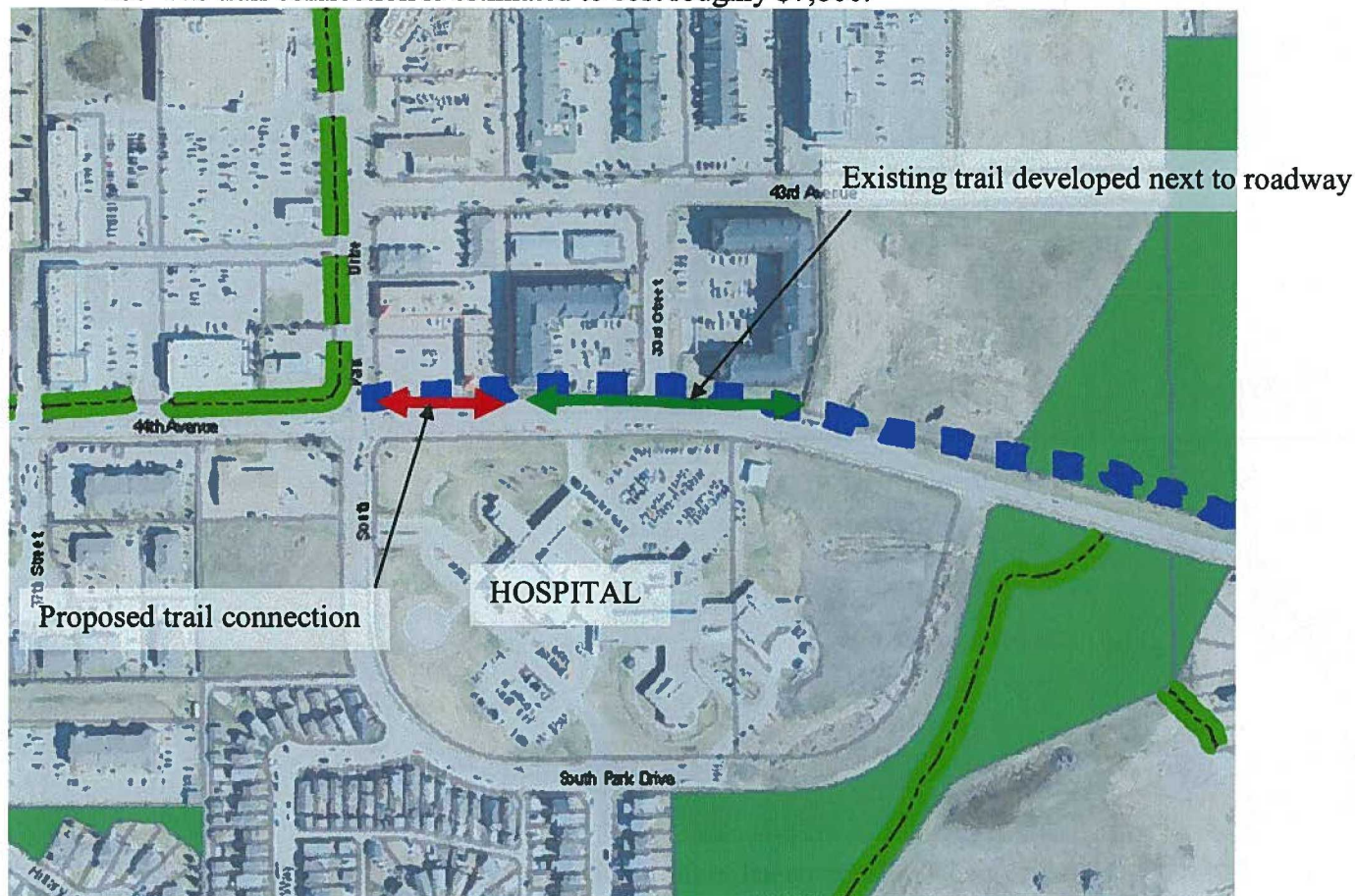
The development of the Rotary Trail extension to Boundary Road (\$70,000) is already included in 2010 Capital Budget.

Existing Trails and 2005 Trails Master Plan



Situation Analysis

1. South Business Park - 65 metres of trail for a connection to existing trail developed adjacent to Station 33. The trail connection is estimated to cost roughly \$7,800.





Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 



Source: Google Maps (Streetview)

2. Trail from 44th Ave around storm water management pond to connect to the Rotary Trail on 28th St. This trail would be approximately 425 m long and cost roughly \$25,000



Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 

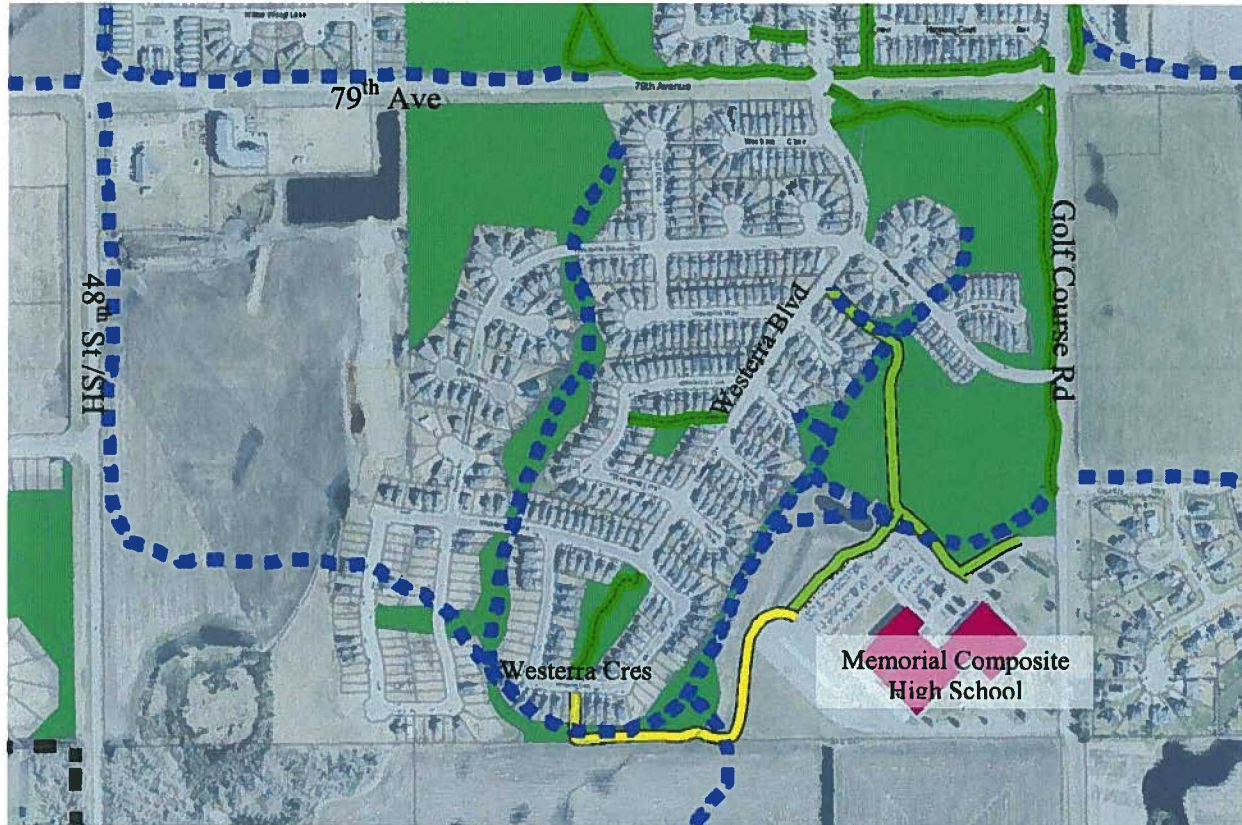


Source: Google Maps (Streetview)

Storm Water Management Pond

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4. The Memorial Composite High School was planned to be a trail head in the Trails Master Plan. The yellow trail to the south is 400 metres long and is expected to cost roughly \$48,000. The green trail to the north will connect Westerra Blvd to the new Memorial Composite High School. This segment of trail is 700 metres long and is expected to cost roughly \$83,000. The Trails Master Plan contemplates a total of 1,100 metres of additional trails to connect to the new Memorial Composite High School Campus which is expected to cost a total of \$131,000 to construct.



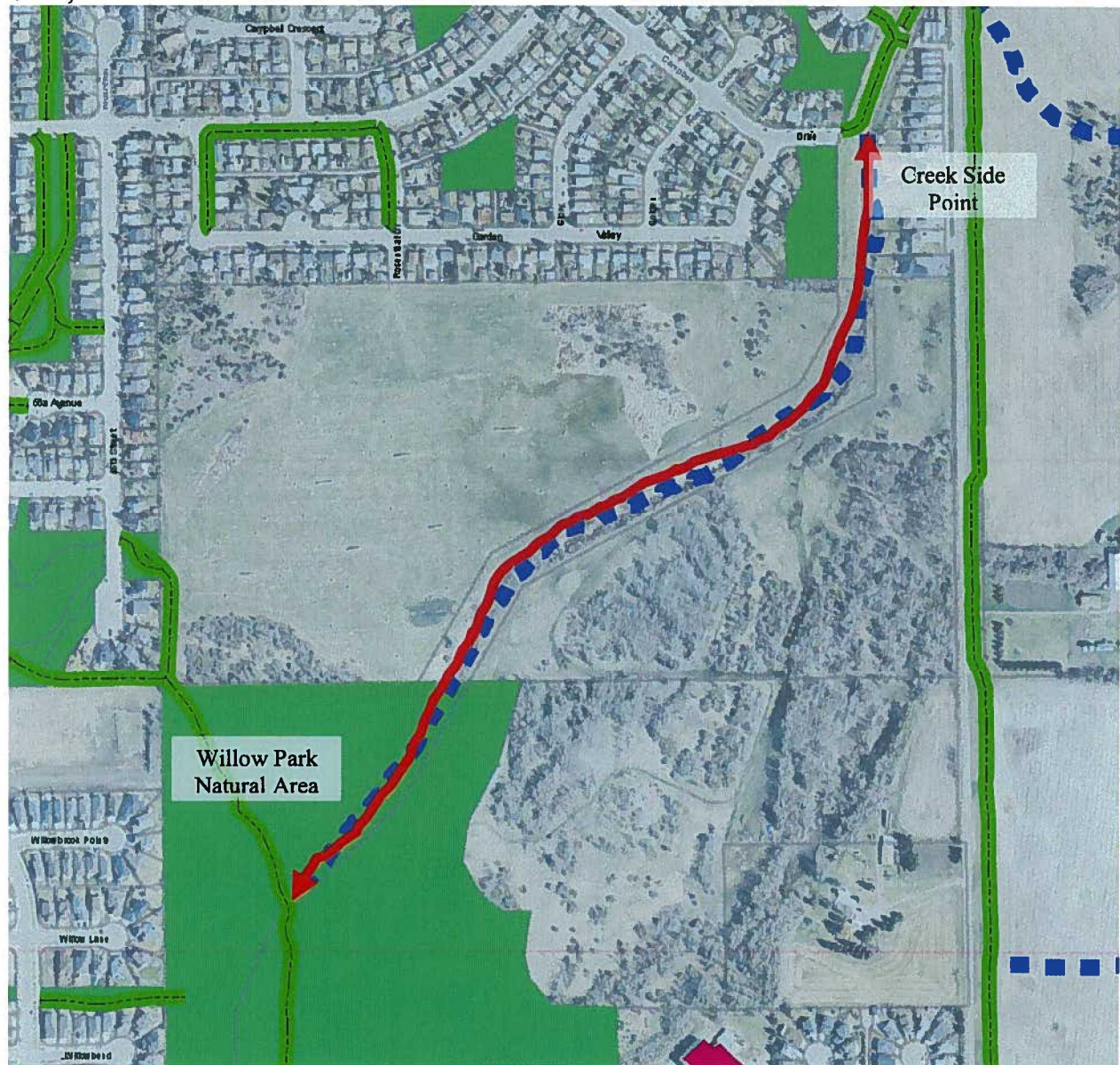
Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 

5. Trail connection from Forest Green School to 55th Ave. This connection is approximately 100 metres in length and is expected to cost roughly \$14,000.



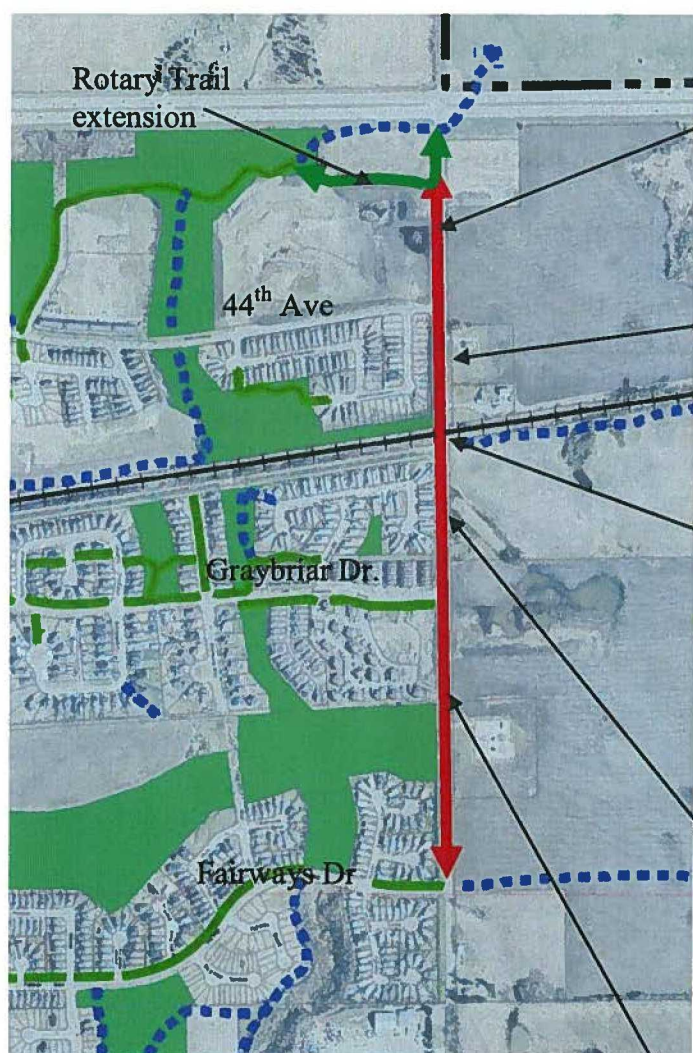
Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 

6. Trail connection from the Willow Park Natural Area along the right-of-way for the East Trunk Sewer Line and Stream Course Number 3 to connect to the existing trail by Stony Creek Point and Creek Side Point. This segment of trail is approximately a kilometer in length and is expected to cost roughly \$150,000 .



Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 

7. The extension of the Rotary Trail from the trail development completed in 2010 to Boundary Road is approximately 500 metres long and is expected to cost roughly \$70,000. There is currently approximately \$70,000 in funds in the current budget to complete this section of trail once the required land is dedicated to the Town.
8. Boundary Road trail development from Fairways Drive to 44th Ave to connect the Graybriar neighbourhood to the rest of the Town on a trail. The option considered below is to construct a trail within the road right-of-way on the west side of Boundary Road and is estimated to cost roughly \$850,000.



Proposed Rotary Trail to 44th Ave, 200 m (\$24,000)



44th Ave to Railway Tracks, 215 m (\$75,000)



Crossing Railway Tracks, 40 m (\$400,000)



Railway Tracks to Graybriar Dr., 265 m (\$200,000)



Graybriar Dr. to Fairways Dr., 525 m (\$150,000)



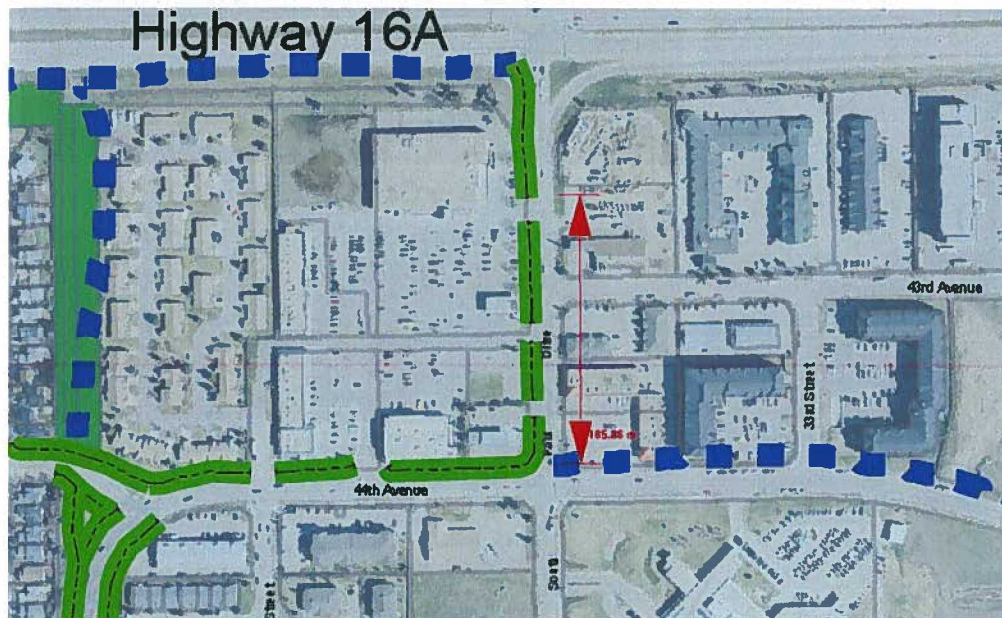
Source: Google Maps (Streetview)

Existing Trail  Undeveloped Trails Proposed in the Trails Master Plan 

9. Trails and bicycle routes into and through the Old Town neighbourhood are being considered by the Downtown Working Group. Currently there is a limited amount of trails and bicycle routes within the existing neighbourhood. Adding connections and enhancing the pedestrian and bicycling routes and connections into the existing neighbourhood will require some redevelopment of roadways, laneways, and on-street parking.

Further study is needed to determine the various options for potential improvements to enhance the pedestrian or cycling routes in the Old Town neighbourhood. Several of the options being considered are:

- 51 Street trail or bike lane
 - Trail enhancements on 50th Street from 49 Ave to 44th Ave
 - Trail connection from 50th Street or 49th Street through laneway, around Lions Park and connect to existing trail on 48th Street
 - Bicycle lane development in laneways on either side of 50th St
10. Trails and bicycle routes around the apartments in the South Business Park will be examined in the future. The image below shows the distance of possible sidewalk/trail development on the east side of South Park Drive from the intersection of 44th Ave and South Park Drive to the access to the McDonalds restaurant. This section of sidewalk/trail is approximately 180 metres in length; it might cost approximately \$30,000 to construct.



Implementation

Administration has identified several segments of trails that would be the next logical steps in implementing the 2005 Trails Master Plan within developed areas. The selection criterion for the trail segments is to improve connectivity amongst the existing trail network. The suggested trail developments are briefly summarized in the following table. Note that the costs and trail segment lengths provided are rough estimates.

Table 1: Trails Construction Summary

	Location	Length (m)	Estimated Cost
1	South Business Park connection at South Park Drive and 44 Ave	65	\$ 7,800
2	Trail around stormwater pond in South Business Park	300	\$ 36,000
3	79 Ave Trail extension from Willow Wood Lane east to existing trail system	240	\$ 28,800
4	Connections to Memorial Composite High School from Westerra		
4.1	Westerra Crescent to High School	400	\$ 48,000
4.2	Westerra Blvd High School	700	\$ 83,060
5	Connection from Forest Green School to 55 Ave	100	\$ 14,000
6	Somerville Trail Connection from Willow Park Natural Area to existing trail by Creekside Point	1,025	\$ 153,750
7	Rotary Trail Extension to Boundary Road (already have funds to construct this portion of trail)	500	\$ 70,000
8	Boundary road Trail from Fairways Dr to 44 Ave	1,245	\$ 849,000
8.1	44th Ave to CN Right-of Way	215	\$ 75,000
8.2	Crossing CN Right of Way	40	\$ 400,000
8.3	CN Right-of-way to Graybriar Dr	265	\$ 200,000
8.4	Graybriar Dr to Fairways Dr	525	\$ 150,000
8.5	Boundary Road 44th to Rotary Trail	200	\$ 24,000
	Total	4,575	\$ 1,290,410

Areas Requiring Further Investigation

9 Downtown Trails and Bicycle Lanes Special Study for Old Town Area

9.1	Description of potential trail and bicycle lane development options
9.2	51 St trail or bike lane
9.3	Trail enhancements on 50th Street from 49 Ave to 44th Ave
9.4	Trail connection from 50th Street or 49th Street through laneway, around Lions Park to connect with existing trail on 48th Street
9.5	Bicycle lane development in laneways on either side of 50th St

10 Other

A possible sidewalk/trail development on the east side of South Park Drive from the intersection of 44th Ave and South Park Drive to the access to the McDonalds restaurant could be examined.

Recommendations

Develop a detailed Implementation Strategy that would assist the Town in having developers build a trail network that emphasizes connection with the existing system and expansion of the trail network as new neighbourhoods are developed.

The detailed Implementation Strategy should consider how to effectively integrate sidewalks, trails, and roadways into a network capable of safely accommodating a variety of modes of travel.

The detailed Implementation Strategy should also set out a capital expenditure program for trails in developed areas.

The following projects could be considered for inclusion in the 2012 Capital Budget:

South Business Park connection at South Park Drive and 44 Ave	\$ 7,800
79 Ave trail extension from Willow Wood Lane east to existing trail system	\$ 28,800
Westerra Crescent to High School	\$ 48,000

The following trail development was already included in the 2010 Capital Budget:

Rotary Trail Extension to Boundary Road	\$ 70,000
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