

# Grandview Heights River Valley Stairs Rehabilitation

What We Heard  
February to  
November 2019

ADVISE

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Edmonton


# River Valley Stairs Rehabilitation: Grandview Heights Stairs Design Plan

## Project/Initiative Background

The River Valley Stairs Project involves the rehabilitation/construction of stairs at:

- **Emily Murphy Park** (116 Street and Saskatchewan Drive)
- **Highlands** (Ada Boulevard and 52 Street)
- **Grandview Heights** (131 Street and Grandview Drive)
- **Jackson Heights/Minchau** (42 Avenue and 46 Street)
- **Walterdale-High Level-Kinsmen Stairs** (109 Street and 90 Avenue)

These locations are a component of a larger effort to rehabilitate river valley stairs and embankment paths at various locations throughout the City of Edmonton. In order to rehabilitate existing stairs or build stairs where only paths exist in a manner that reflects the needs and desires of Edmontonians, the City is conducting public engagement and communication activities that inform Edmontonians, and, where appropriate, gather input and feedback about the intended projects.

<b>Name</b>	<b>River Valley Stairs Rehabilitation: Grandview Heights Stairs</b>
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Online survey:</b> February 2019 <b>In-person public engagements:</b> May 16, September 28, October 24 and November 14, 2019
<b>Locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Online survey:</b> City of Edmonton website</li> <li>● <b>In-person public engagements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May (122 participants) and November (125 participants): Grandview Heights Community Centre (in collaboration with Building Great Neighbourhoods events).</li> <li>○ September (60 participants): Pop-up event at the bottom of the Grandview Heights river valley stairs.</li> <li>○ October (35 participants): Alfred H. Savage Centre.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Online survey:</b> There were <b>1,411 responses</b> to the survey.</li> <li>● <b>In-person public engagements:</b> More than <b>340 people</b> attended the four in-person events. Overall, the majority of attendees were residents of Grandview Heights. Other attendees represented a good cross-section of stair users from across the city. The vast majority of attendees participated in offering feedback and/or voting on their preferred design option.</li> </ul>
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<b>Level of public engagement</b>	
<b>Description</b>	A public engagement program was planned, promoted, implemented, and reported back on regarding the rehabilitation of the Grandview Heights river valley stairs. An online survey was offered in February 2019 followed by four in-person public engagement events from May to November 2019.

Participants were invited to:

- Learn about and provide input on the rehabilitation of the stairs.
- Provide their feedback regarding two concept designs.

Participants were also informed about the closure of the stairs during the 2020 construction season.

## 1. Executive Summary

The established stairs between Whitemud Park and Grandview Heights have exceeded their lifecycle and do not meet the current City of Edmonton standards. The stairs are heavily used with a total of 254 stairs from top to bottom. This set of stairs is a very popular place for stair climbers and others who use them to access the River Valley Trail system and the Alfred H. Savage Centre. The new stair design will need to accommodate this type of usage and accommodate the existing set of side stairs leading to the east, towards the toboggan hill.

### Design and construction objectives include:

- Replace stairs to meet current City of Edmonton standards.
- Improve safety for users.
- Design stairs with the recommended maximum number of steps between landings, with no more than two flights without a change of direction.
- Achieve a stair alignment that considers water runoff and erosion within the proximity of the stairs as well as beneath the stairs.
- Keeping a similar stair alignment.
- Tie in to the existing granular trail at the top and bottom of the stairs.
- Provide a defined granular pathway to connect the bottom of the staircase to the parking lot.

### Audiences

1. Grandview Heights neighbourhood citizens.
2. Stairs, parks and river valley users.
3. Exercise enthusiasts that regularly use the stairs.
4. Other Edmontonians who may use the stairs now or at some future point.

### Key findings

1. **Stair rehabilitation:** The vast majority of participants were pleased to see that the existing stairs will be replaced.
2. **Stair design:**
  - a. **Width:** The vast majority of participants requested that the stairs be wider.
  - b. **Consistent rise/tread:** The vast majority of the participants agreed with a consistent rise/tread for the stairs:
  - c. **Rise:** While most participants agreed with the consistent rise being at 7", there were a number of exercise/fitness users who were passionate about the rise being set at 6".
  - d. **Landings:** There are two divergent views on the preferred design, based on the number of landings and whether the participant uses the stairs for exercise/fitness or casual/leisure use. The overall finding from engagement events was that the concept design with fewer landings, rather than more, is preferred.

## 2. Engagement Techniques

### Online survey

An online survey was offered to participants through the City of Edmonton website. The survey was also emailed to the Edmonton Insight Community for response. There were 1,411 responses to the survey.

### In-person public engagements

Four in-person public engagement events were staged:

#### **May 16, 2019: In association with the Building Great Neighborhoods public engagement event**

(Grandview Heights Community Centre)

Three display boards showed the design schematics and pictures of the existing stairs. The public engagement consultant, City of Edmonton project manager, and design consultant project manager invited people to comment and provide input. Attendees stopping by for conversation provided verbal and handwritten comments that were captured by the representatives.

#### **September 28, 2019: Pop-up engagement event** (bottom of Grandview Heights river valley stairs)

Two display boards showed the design and pictures of the existing stairs. The public engagement consultant and assistant, plus a City of Edmonton project coordinator, were on hand to take feedback and answer questions. People stopping by for conversation provided verbal comments that were captured by the representatives. The representatives also handed out cards informing participants of a further in-person public engagement event to take place October 24, 2019 at the Alfred H. Savage Centre.

#### **October 24, 2019: In-person public engagement event** (Alfred H. Savage Centre)

Participants were informed on What Has Already Been Decided and were asked for feedback on What Has Yet To Be Decided. Two concept designs were presented for participants to learn about and consider. City of Edmonton project leaders, design consultant representatives, and the public engagement consultant team were on hand to answer questions, receive verbal and written feedback, and ask people to place a star/dot on their preferred design.

#### **November 14, 2019: In association with the Building Great Neighborhoods public engagement event**

(Grandview Heights Community Centre)

Participants were informed on What Has Already Been Decided and were asked for feedback on What Has Yet To Be Decided. Two concept designs were presented for participants to learn about and consider. City of Edmonton project leaders, design consultant representatives, and the public engagement consultant team were on hand to answer questions, receive verbal and written feedback, and ask people to place a star/dot on their preferred design.

## 3. What was said?

### Online Survey

#### Usage (Grandview Heights river valley stairs)

- 15% of the respondents stated they used the Grandview Heights stairs within the last 12 months.
- Participants from the overall survey stated their primary use of the stairs was for fitness/exercise (71%). Less than half (41%) used them to access river valley trails, while 33% used them to get to river valley parks and facilities. Only 6% said they used them to get to work, school, entertainment or restaurants.
- The largest majority of written comments regarding the Grandview Heights stairs project called on increasing the width of the stairs to increase safety and accommodate a diversity of users. Almost as many people urged that the trail next to the stairs be properly maintained and/or improved to prevent erosion, muddy or icy conditions and enhance use.

#### Importance and Priority (All five river valley stairs projects)

- Three-quarters (75%) of all respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that rehabilitating river valley stairs was important to them. Only 12% somewhat or strongly disagreed.
- Similarly, a significant majority (68%) strongly or somewhat agreed that rehabilitating river valley stairs should be a

priority for the City of Edmonton. Seventeen percent somewhat or strongly disagreed.

**Features** (All five river valley stairs projects)

- Among the presented options, the majority of respondents favoured features that would enable easy access to stairs (68%), stairs that were bicycle friendly (65%), benches at the top and/or bottom of the stairs (63%) and good viewpoints (60%). Less than half (43%) selected accommodation of people with disabilities and pet friendly stairs (39%) as important features. Only 25% of respondents selected landscaping as a feature river valley stairs should have.
- Among all respondents, easy access to river valley stairs was considered the most important feature (33%), followed by bicycle friendliness (22%), viewpoints (15%) and accommodation of people with disabilities (15%). Benches, pet friendliness and landscaping were considered the least important among the presented options.
- Among those who mentioned other features they would consider important, a significant majority commented that it was important for people using the stairs to feel safe and secure. For the most part, they suggested this could be done by ensuring stairs had appropriate step heights/slopes, non-slip handrails and steps and lighting. Many of the comments mentioned the need for proper maintenance to ensure safety, particularly clearing ice and snow in the winter.
- Many other respondents called for the width of stairs to be increased to allow for easy passage of a variety of stair users. More than three dozen wanted to see benches or rest areas created in the middle of a string of stairs to allow seniors, children and others in need to rest.

**In-person public engagement events**

- Please refer to **7. Addendum** (What Was Said?), for participant comments gathered at each of the four events.

**4. What did we hear?**

**1. Stair rehabilitation**

The vast majority of participants stated they support reconstruction of the stairs. The vast majority of participants shared their appreciation and/or passion for having the stairs available for them to use.

**2. Design**

- **Width:** The vast majority of participants supported wider stairs.
- **Rise:** All participants agreed with a consistent rise. There are divergent views on the specific depth of the rise as a number of fitness participants opposed the rise being at 7", preferring 6". (See below.)
- **Tread:** All participants agreed with a consistent tread.
- **Landings:** A majority of participants prefer the design concept with less landings, although this continued to be a controversial discussion point in all four in-person engagements.

**3. Exercise and Fitness Use vs. Casual and Leisure Use: Opposing Views**

The public engagement process led to participants providing specific comments relating to whether they used the stairs for exercise and fitness, or whether they used the stairs for casual and leisure use. The views are distinctly divergent as the two distinct groups have differing viewpoints on how the stairs should be designed, based on the way they use the stairs. The exercise and fitness users prefer a set of stairs with a higher "degree of difficulty", fewer landings and steps, longer flights, and a specific rise between steps to accommodate the best possible workout. The casual and leisure users prefer a set of stairs that is easier to get up and down, more landings and stops, shorter flights, and a rise that is easy to move up or down on.

**5. How did citizen input affect the project/initiative with this engagement?**

Participant input confirmed that a compromise in a design that meets the needs of both the exercise/fitness user and the casual/leisure user must be accomplished to create a satisfactory result for both groups. The typical Grandview Heights resident that uses the stairs for casual/leisure use prefers a design that accommodates this type of use whereas the typical exercise/fitness user prefers a design more suitable for stair exercise and fitness.

The in-person engagements demonstrated that the exercise/fitness user community has participants who were very passionate about the design of the stairs fitting their requirements, while the casual/leisure typical user was more moderate in preferring a design that accommodates stair usage by people from all groups.

The engagement process also provided the City with an opportunity to educate participants on City design standards for river valley stairs and inform participants about the upcoming stair closure during the 2020 construction season.

## **6. What's next?**

The online and in-person public engagement process to help inform the stair design has been completed. The data in this final (February to November) What We Heard report will be used to help inform the design, inclusive of the data from the three previous reports. The final design and construction plan will be shared online and presented at a final in-person communication event before construction starts in 2020.

## 7. Addendum (What was said?)

**This section includes additional participant comments that were gathered at each of the four in-person public engagement events.** In addition to survey responses and data gathered at each event, written and verbal comments from participants were encouraged and gathered at each event, e.g., handwritten comments and post-it notes, citizen verbal comments mentioned to event hosts. Almost all comments pertained to items within the scope of this project (with a few comments not directly related to this project).

**May 16, 2019: In association with the Building Great Neighborhoods public engagement event**  
(Grandview Heights Community Centre)

### Design feedback and requests

- Add more sitting areas if possible.
- The long flights of stairs currently are hard to manage and it is hard to get out of the way of bypassers.
- Wider landings would be great to get out of the way of bypassers.
- Can rails on the side be lower for safety reasons? Kids can slip through as they are now designed.
- Consider spacing of rail and provision of bottom rail (safety for children).
- Increase the size of lookout point (x2). (currently out of project scope)
- The bottom of the stairs gets icy, a better runoff is required. (x2)
- Appreciate the stairs will be slightly wider due to the amount of traffic on the stairs and the need to get out of the way of bypassers.
- More mulch and gravel is appreciated.
- Agree with the grade staying the same.
- Check the grade of stairs.
- One citizen showed vehement disagreement with an increased number of landings. The citizen uses the stairs several times daily for fitness groups and does not agree with more landings as they will interrupt fitness regimens.

### General

- Think it's great! (x3)
- More stairs in other locations in the neighbourhood would be great.
- Ask for a possible fee for fitness groups
- Need control of fitness groups as they are using the stairs for business and making money. Hours should be posted for fitness use (also to stop people parking at the top at 5:30 am and disturbing residents).
- Make sure there is no metal on the stairs.
- Can you push the construction to Sept-Oct so we can use the stairs in the summer? The fall sees less users. (x2)
- Traffic on the stairs is an issue due to fitness people.
- Install signage at the bottom and top asking fitness users to have courtesy for regular walkers.
- Consider the provision of additional signage around stairs etiquette. Concerns with conflict of users exercising and walking noted by many.
- Ask for an emergency communications mechanism at the top like at the bottom.
- Should be more visibility for safety purposes.
- Consider the provision of waste receptacles.
- OK with not providing bike access and bike ramps based on this part of the River Valley not permitting cyclists (x5).
- Toboggan hill once extended to the top of the hill and the area east and west of the stair was clear of trees.
- Comments on the informal trail/ goat track west of the stair, supportive of removing and restoring.

### Parking

- People should be encouraged to park at the bottom, instead of the top.
- Parking at the top is a problem. Many comments wanting no parking at the top of the stairs. (x2)

### Maintenance

- Compliments to the City for placing sand on the stairs in winter (x2).
- Dead trees are taking out live trees in the forest close by. Ask for more tree clearing

### Other trails, stairs, and parks

- The trail is in poor condition. (out of project scope)

### September 28, 2019: Pop-up engagement event (bottom of Grandview Heights river valley stairs)

#### Design feedback and requests

- **Width**
  - Wider makes sense or support wider. (x6)
  - Wider stairs make for easier passing.
- **Rise**
  - Please make the rise between stairs consistent.
- **Tread**
  - Eliminate wider-spaced stairs at bottom. Keep consistent.
- **Landings**
  - Same number as now please.
  - Include platforms along the route for those who want a rest and/or allow people to pass by easier.
  - Consider if any cross-training stations can be built into the design.
  - More landings is good.(x2)
- **Bench**
  - Can we have a bird feeding stand beside the stairs halfway up? So people can sit and watch the birds and enjoy the view from the bench?
  - I have never seen anyone using the bench halfway.
  - Push/bump out the benches so more room.
  - Install bench on landing after toboggan hill landing.
  - More benches, enclaves on landings.
- **Platforms**
  - Make top and bottom platforms sizeable enough to do stationary exercises without impeding traffic.
- **Bike ramps**
  - I have never seen cyclists here so no bike ramps is good.
  - Include side bicycle ramps.
- **Lighting**
  - Add solar lights so I can use in winter safely.
- **Bottom and top start areas**
  - Some issues with wetness at the bottom of the stairs. Especially in winter and spring.
  - Upgrade top and bottom walkway areas so not so muddy.
  - Request cool down area at the bottom of the stairs.
- **Other**
  - Place to put water bottles at the bottom.
  - Include changes of direction for stairs occasionally, with rest points at junctures.
  - I have seen people with health issues also exercising here, maybe a portion less steep for these people?
  - These stairs as-is work fine for me.
  - I would like the goat trail rehabbed as well. (*It should be noted that several exercisers were seen using the goat trail for exercise as well.*)
  - Bottom part of the stairs need to be built for kids using the toboggan area in the winter. To accommodate their sleds as well.
  - Request counting mechanism on the bottom posts as people put little rocks there to count the number of climbs. The rocks can be dangerous.
  - Don't overbuild, do work in an environmentally friendly way. Similar footprint.

#### General

- City is doing a great job in the river valley ... good job! Or similar.(x3)



- Really appreciate this engagement and informing people! Or Similar. (x6)
- The space requires a sitting/gathering area for boot camp groups and others. Maybe just east of the centre so not in toboggan area?
- Maybe a boot camp area near the City art (balls) on the freeway?
- I do not support reconstruction. They are not that old. Can't the City find other ways to waste money?
- What is the altitude rise from bottom to top?

#### Construction

- 10 to 12 weeks for construction is fine. (x3)
- There are lots of alternate places for people to climb stairs.
- There are splinters on the rails coming down. Can you apply something to the new wood to stop this?
- Please use environmentally friendly materials and use materials that protect integrity.

#### Parking

- Please ask the City for more parking in this area, you can see it is really full here today.
- I come to these stairs as there is adequate parking here, unlike other river valley stairs in the city. Really appreciated.

#### Maintenance

- Compliments to the City for maintaining the stairs better over the last one year to eighteen months. (x2)
- I used to have to screw down the stairs myself. Much better this year.

#### Other trails, stairs, and parks

- The Wolf Willow stairs in Riverbend area are too steep, would like to see them rehabbed as well.
- What if there was a fire in the river valley like the Fort McMurray fire? What's the plan? Need fire hydrants in the river valley. People need to be informed of the risks with smoking, etc. More vigilance and bylaw enforcement needed.

#### October 24, 2019: In-person public engagement event (Alfred H. Savage Centre)

#### Design preference

- Most participants preferred Concept Design B (fewer landings) vs. Concept Design A (more landings), based on informal measurement at this event (via placement of a "star" by participants on their chosen option).
- More than 20 stars were placed on Concept Design B, while approximately 5 were placed on Concept Design A. Some people did not place a star or state a preference. (Some participants also used one or more stars informally, e.g., to add emphasis to their written feedback or highlight a phrase.)
- It should be noted that strict controls were not in place to control the use of stars as indicators at this event.

#### Design feedback and requests

- **General**
  - There were many appreciative comments on staging the engagement and inviting/engaging participants.
  - Prefer Option B over A, but the existing stairs are perfect; rebuild as is.(x2)
  - Keep them the same number of flights, steps and grade.
  - Please keep as close to the original stairs as possible.
  - Like Option A because it blends into the hillside more and is less obvious.
  - Like the pitch, etc. of existing stairs.
  - Prefer the same pitch and grade.
- **Landings**
  - More landings is more social; and good for walking with kids.
  - The landings are important for more senior walkers as rest areas. It is an access, not just a training area.
  - Polygon landing; rather than rectangular ... to accommodate turnarounds.
  - Like the current number of landings. Prefer fewer changes.
  - Prefer same number of landings.

- o For both options, can you sit on the landings? Is there a bench?
- o I would like to have landings (platforms) with benches, so when you sit down, your feet don't stick out into the central (walking) path.
- o I would like to see at least three platforms with benches; given the area demographics/aging population.
- **Width**
  - o Wider would be great so more room for people.
  - o Like the idea of wider stairs; makes it easier and safer for passing.
  - o Wider steps like at Glenora.
  - o Make stairs wider.
- **Rise**
  - o Height of the rise should be less than that of Wolf Willow stairs.
  - o Keep the rise at 6 inches; 7 is getting too steep
  - o Rise of 6 – 7 inches.
- **Tread**
  - o Eliminate wider-spaced stairs at bottom. Keep consistent.
  - o Try to stay as close as you can with tread/run.
- **Bench**
  - o Like to have benches along stairs.
- **Platforms**
  - o I would like to see larger platforms at top and bottom, so there's room to do crossfit stretching/activities.
  - o Longer benches at the top of the stairs.
- **Bikes and bike ramps**
  - o It would be very nice to have a bike ramp (on the stairs) to connect east and west bike routes around Grandview as I have to frequently sling my bike over my shoulder, which is a hazard.
  - o We need a bike ramp on the stairs to access our neighbourhood (Grandview) when we are going to/coming from the west end. There are no access routes for cyclists to get to the river valley bike paths or bike routes to Brookview or Whitemud Bridge.
  - o Bike ramp needed to commute onto bike trails.
  - o Need more signage where bikes are not allowed.
- **Lighting**
  - o Lighting – Top, Bottom and Middle (x2) ... or every Landing.
  - o Lights on side (solar). (x2)
  - o Lighting along the stairs for the winter when it's dark after 4pm. (x3)
  - o Lights at the top and bottom.
  - o Solar lighting. (x5)
  - o Better lighting at the bottom.
  - o Better lighting at the top.
- **Bottom and top start areas**
  - o Can you "shave down" the roots near top of stairs (tripping hazard) (x2)
  - o Need to keep the path at the top of the stairs maintained – it also gets icy and muddy.
  - o Top lookout area, for more users.
  - o Path from the bottom of the stairs to parking lot is an icy mess; seems to be an underground spring. A real hazard!
  - o Repair access at bottom; in winter it is a skating rink.
  - o Remove or cover white PVC pipe that is apparent at the bottom of the stairs.
- **Other**
  - o Need railing at bottom for stretching.
  - o Spread out the number of steps (not all sets of 15, then sets of 30). A variety of sets is suggested.
  - o Reflective strip on header.
  - o Many people use the stairs for a workout. Is it possible to keep the same or even higher incline, on at least part of the flight?
  - o Stair boards should have roughness to them, so they're not too slippery.
  - o White line in middle.
  - o I like the idea of direction changes, so it's not just a straight line up and down.

- o Include a number on every tenth step. (This would be helpful when advising the City of maintenance required.)
- o Number the stairs.

#### **Construction**

- Please use enviro-friendly materials for the stairs; no creosote wood preservative.

#### **Other trails, stairs, and parks**

- Don't get rid of the "goat trail" on the west side of the stairs (running up beside the stairs on the other side of the toboggan run)
- Keep hiking trail on right side of stairs (x2)

#### **November 14, 2019: In association with the Building Great Neighborhoods public engagement event**

(Grandview Heights Community Centre)

#### **Design preference**

- 46 participants placed a dot on Concept Design B (fewer landings) as their preference, while 35 participants placed a dot on Concept Design A (more landings). Approximately 10 participants stated they were neutral and did not place a dot.

#### **Design feedback and requests**

##### **General comments and design options**

- Happy with new construction, wider width; doesn't have a preference.
- Want everyone to use it (accessibility); the City should not make a design that excludes people.
- Thank you for doing this.
- Stairs too busy with exercisers.
- Especially (need) the width.
- Keep the stairs as they are (repairs only).
- Leave (stairs) as they are.
- Tree roots at top of stairs could be a trip hazard.
- Are the boards nailed or screwed in place? (currently nailed, prefer screwed)
- We (husband and I) are in favour of increasing the width of the stairs to improve safety. Currently, the volume and pace of people using the stairs as a fitness training facility creates real challenges for those walking at a more leisurely pace – and especially for those helping small children up and down the stairs. My husband and I are Grandview residents who use the stairs regularly to access the river valley, although when they are too busy with fitness types, we take the trail down instead due to safety concerns. We have small grandchildren who accompany us on the stairs at times. On several occasions we have experienced issues with overly zealous fitness users, oblivious to the safety of others – I assume due to the focus such intense exercise requires.
- We (husband and I) assume any increase in the depth of each individual stair will be based on increased pedestrian safety, so support that.
- Anything you can do to make the stairs more safe and accessible for Edmontonians of all ages and fitness levels is much appreciated.

##### **Landings**

- More people can access the stairs if more landings; fitness people can use those as well.
- Consider greater accessibility for an aging population.
- More view(point) opportunities.
- Maybe go back to 7 landings for a redesign, maybe even 5.
- Either design okay.
- Make sure to provide at least one rest area/seat on stair.
- If you make it difficult, I would never use the stairs ... more landings would be better. (senior participant)

## Rise

- Several participants stated they agreed with the rise at 7" and the consistency.
- My husband and I are also in favour of increasing the step rise to 7 inches, which is consistent with stairs found in most residential and commercial buildings. Currently, the lower step rise presents mobility challenges to some people who have balance or gait issues, as it is inconsistent with what they are familiar with in everyday life. This shorter step rise can cause vertigo in people like me, who struggle with making the mental adjustment required to negotiate the stairs safely – especially on the way down.
- Higher rise will give younger people joint/knee issues later in life.
- Appreciates consistent rise and tread.
- Use 6" riser; this is consistent with home stairs.
- Lower rise better for people doing physiotherapy.
- Should keep at 6" (x7).
- Keep the rise and run the way it is; taller hurts my knees.
- Prefer 5-6" rise, not 7" (higher is tougher on knees, achilles, tendons, etc.)
- Keep rise at 6" for health and safety and no injuries.
- More concerned about neighbours and friends (lower rise better).

## Lighting

- Please provide a light at the top. (x3)
- Follow-up with lights on stairs.
- Lights at top and bottom.
- Wondered if lighting can still be considered/what became of it?
- Could a light be placed halfway up and at the top of the stairs?
- Light at bottom of stairs is out of order (advised to follow up with 311).

## Fitness users

- Please consider that the steps are used mostly for sports; it'd be nice to keep the steps numbered; maybe use some sort of tally method/tool to show/mark number of climbs; right now people use pebbles to mark/count from 1 to 12, people would love little details that show understanding.
- People leave water and clothes at the top; they lean on railings to recover and stretch.
- U of A varsity teams use the stairs.
- Fitness users use the lookout and lookout seat as part of their fitness routine.

## Bikes/bike ramps

The majority of overall comments indicated that people understood why there will not be a bike ramp or path, however, avid cyclists still prefer a ramp.

- Wants bike ramp to connect the river valley paths.
- Can we have bike ramp/racks?
- Understood why no bike ramp but does not necessarily agree.

## Other

- Cross-country ski track, groom in neighbourhood.
- Toboggan hill should stay.
- Maintenance and cleanliness of stairs requested.
- No asphalt; natural terrain. Good the way it is.