

## Kelly's Brook Trail Project

The project:

*Kelly's Brook Shared-Use-Path is the first catalyst project coming from the Bike St John's Master Plan. The shared-use path will extend from King's Bridge Road to Columbus Drive. It is mostly in place as a granular walking trail today, linking several neighbourhoods through an important east-west greenway that largely parallels Empire Avenue. Its goal is to provide an attractive and continuous 4.8 km active transportation route in St. John's, connecting popular destinations and amenities along the way. The shared-use path will be designed for use by people of all ages and abilities.*

*The shared-use path will be professionally designed by a team of consultants working closely with city staff. Part of the consultant's contract is to plan and execute public engagement on the design elements, with a focus on the environment, trail users and impacted neighbourhoods.*

We're specifically looking for public feedback to inform these design elements: lighting, surface material choice, trailhead and rest area design, and wayfinding.

There's been quite a bit of public discussion about the potential environmental impacts of working on the section of trail between Portugal Cove Road and Kings Bridge Road so I'd like to spend some time discussing that. It may be helpful to know that we're still collecting data before making any final decisions about this area. The following work is underway ([more details can be found in the RFP](#)):

*Throughout the design and consultation process for these trail upgrades, there will be careful attention paid to the environment, wildlife habitat, and impact on neighbourhoods. The consultant team will:*

- *Investigate impacts to wildlife, habitats, nesting areas and movement patterns – considering both construction and long-term impacts.*
- *Explore alternatives and relative environmental impacts along Rennie's River of installing boardwalk, retaining walls, or shifting the preliminary route alignment.*
- *Complete a Tree Inventory, Tree Protection Plan, and Landscaping Plan. The Tree Protection Plan will identify trees to be retained and protected through the construction process. Where feasible to do so efforts will be made to preserve existing trees and natural features. In areas where removal of existing vegetation is necessary replacement planting will be required.*