



# Diversity & Inclusion

*Fort Macleod*

July 8, 2025

Town of Fort Macleod  
P.O. Box 1420  
Fort Macleod, AB T0L 0Z0

Dear Members of Town Council,

## **RE: RIVER VALLEY WILDERNESS PARK – PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

On behalf of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, we would like to express our support for the proposed installation of a solid surface pathway—such as asphalt—within the River Valley Wilderness Park.

Ensuring that our natural spaces are welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors is a priority that aligns with the Town's broader commitment to inclusion, equity, and community well-being. Currently, individuals with mobility challenges—such as those using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers—may find it difficult or even impossible to navigate the park's natural terrain. A solid surface path would provide safe and consistent access, enabling more members of our community to enjoy the beauty and serenity of this cherished green space.

We also encourage consideration of similar examples in our region, such as the paved trails surrounding the Helen Schuler Nature Centre and along the Whoop-Up Trail system in Lethbridge. These areas demonstrate how a combination of both gravel and solid surface pathways can be successfully integrated into natural landscapes without compromising their ecological or aesthetic value. The result is a network of accessible, inclusive, and visually harmonious trails that welcome a wide range of users while preserving the surrounding environment.

Regardless of the chosen surface material, our committee strongly supports the goal of making the River Valley Wilderness Park more inclusive. Enhancing accessibility ensures that families, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others with varying needs can connect with nature in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We commend the Town for its ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive and accessible community, and we look forward to continued collaboration in support of that vision.

Warm regards,

Fort Macleod Diversity and Inclusion Committee