



Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension Project: Frequently Asked Questions



1) What is the Leitrim Wetland?

- The Leitrim Wetland is a Provincially Significant Wetland and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest in the City of Ottawa:
- Natural area supports a diversity of plant and animal communities.
- Fen habitats, unique fish and insect species for the area.
- Headwaters for the Findlay Creek which is one of the only cool water streams in the region and home to a diverse and unique set of flora and fauna.

2) Who owns the Leitrim Wetland?

- 330 acres of the current 570 acres to be owned by South Nation Conservation (SNC) through land donations (the area closest to the community of Findlay Creek).

3) Who is responsible for the management and stewardship of the Leitrim Wetland?

- SNC, through a management agreement with the developers Tartan and Tamarack Homes, is responsible for stewardship of the Leitrim Wetland.
- Annual management, stewardship and monitoring is included in an annual work plan that's discussed and approved by the Leitrim Wetland Advisory Committee which meets several times annually and includes representatives from the City of Ottawa, the National Capital Commission, the Findlay Creek Community Association, Tartan and Tamarack Homes, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, residents, and SNC).
- Complete Management Report is available on the website.

4) When was the Findlay Creek Boardwalk first constructed?

- The boardwalk was first constructed in 2011 by SNC and opened to the public in 2012.



5) Why is the boardwalk being extended?

- The boardwalk was never intended to be a “dead end” (this is prohibited in the City of Ottawa’s Accessible Trail Standards) and completing the loop at the time was not financially possible. SNC has been fundraising for the extension since 2012.
- Example: a dead-end trail has only one access and in a wetland almost zero natural surveillance – which makes it a perfect spot for vandalism, inappropriate or illegal activities.
- Alternatively, a through trail has two exits and higher chance of additional people moving through the space that would intercept illegal activities or deter them from happening initially. From a safety perspective, this also provides two options for someone to exit from a potentially unsafe scenario.

**6) What is the cost of the Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension?
Where did the funding come from?**

- \$1 million dollars.
- 75% of this amount is coming from funding support from the Government of Canada.
- 25% is coming from the reserve fund that was created in 2004 between SNC and Tartan and Tamarack Homes.

7) What’s the project timeline for the Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension?

- Stakeholder consultation will be ongoing through January and March 2023.
- Certain construction activities could begin as early as spring (only the helical pile installation, ie, support systems for the boardwalk – which will occur while the ground is frozen [weather dependent] to minimize the disturbance to the wetland).
- Most boardwalk construction activities will occur in late spring and throughout the summer (preferably during low water conditions).
- Construction will be completed in September 2023.

8) What studies and investigations were completed to support the Findlay Creek Boardwalk Extension?

- Environmental Impact Study
- A Hydrological Assessment
- A Geotechnical Assessment



- 9) What are the environmental impacts of the boardwalk? What steps will SNC take to make sure the wetland will not be impacted?**
- The main impacts are from the footprint of the boardwalk and the potential to fragment habitat, and the potential spread of invasive species.
 - Helical piles will be used which minimizes disturbance to the vegetation as the boardwalk will not be resting directly on the ground in the wetland.
 - The Environmental Impact Study included a list of recommendations to follow during construction and this list will be included in the construction tender.
- 10) What consultants and contractors are working on this project?**
- The Environmental Impact Study was completed by Kilgour & Associates Ltd.
 - The Design is being completed by Jp2g Consultants Inc. and Studio Red Landscape Architecture Inc.
 - The geotechnical assessment was completed by Gemtec Consulting Engineers and Scientists.
 - Annual monitoring in the wetland is also completed by SNC and Golder Associates.
- 11) Will the boardwalk still be available to use? When will the extension be open to the public?**
- Yes. The original boardwalk will remain open during construction. Temporary and partial closures will occur to support the connection to the existing boardwalk.
 - The extension will be open in late summer.
- 12) How can feedback be provided on the project?**
- Online feedback forms are available on the project webpage [and can be accessed here.](#)
 - Feedback forms were available at the Open House hosted on February 1st at the Vimy Ridge Public School.
- 13) I have concerns about privacy. What is the distance of the boardwalk to my home?**
- The plan for the looped boardwalk was approved in 2004.
 - The distance from the edge of the backyards on Netley Circle to the boardwalk is ~100 metres (roughly the length of an NFL football field).
 - The earth berm around the northeast section of the wetland, along with the wetland vegetation also limits views from the boardwalk.
 - No sight line from boardwalk into backyards or homes from proposed boardwalk location.



14) Will there be mosquito control?

- A naturally functioning wetland has mosquitos and other insects that form part of the ecosystem.
- While private property owners may use mosquito management devices in their backyards, SNC will not be controlling insect populations through insecticides, or other means.
- This is consistent with the policy and approach of the National Capital Commission.

15) Will there be additional parking areas added?

- The Findlay Creek Village is a planned pedestrian friendly community and this recreational asset was designed for pedestrian access. The accessible sidewalks and the grid street network enable multiple choices of routes, while also having access to multiple greenspaces and natural features within a short walking distance.
- The Leitrim Community is featured in the City of Ottawa's Community Design Standards and includes the use of the Leitrim Wetland and a stormwater management corridor for the location of trails. For more information visit: <https://ottawa.ca/en/leitrim-community-design-plan/section-5-community-design-guidelines>.
- Parking is available at the nearby Diamond Jubilee Park for other visitors.
- SNC and Councillor Desroche's Office will be working with the City of Ottawa to explore traffic calming measures along Findlay Creek Drive to improve accessibility and public safety.

16) Who is responsible for the maintenance of the boardwalk?

- The boardwalk is not maintained during the winter as SNC is not able to use salt and sand inside the wetland habitat to ensure that the boardwalk would be safe for winter use.
- Tree and trail maintenance is completed by SNC on an ongoing basis.
- Weekly maintenance is completed by SNC between May and October.
- Visitors are recorded through trail counters.

17) Will the wetland continue to be protected? Is the City of Ottawa and SNC committed to preserving the natural features of the area?

- Yes. The wetland will continue to be monitored, studied, and protected by SNC.
- The City of Ottawa's official plan for the community of Findlay Creek, states that this community was designed with a connected system of parks, open space and a focus on natural features that will be visible and accessible to residents.



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18) Will a trail be created along the top of the wetland berm?

- The wetland berm is an important piece of infrastructure for the wetland and the community, and public access is not permitted along the berm or near the water control structure.
- No Trespassing signs have been installed along the berm by the developer who currently owns the infrastructure.
- The berm and water control structure will eventually become City of Ottawa property. SNC will work with the City of Ottawa to explore ways to limit public access to the infrastructure and to improve public safety.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.nation.on.ca/water/projects/findlay-creek-boardwalk-extension-project>