

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: June 8, 2026	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Public Works Manager
Re: Proposed Eco Depot Trailhead	
Recommendation: THAT Council support the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's proposal to further investigate the development of a recreational trail utilizing a trailhead on District-owned property located at 3732 Louis Creek Road.	

Purpose

To present Council with information regarding a proposal from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) to establish a trailhead on District-owned property located at 3732 Louis Creek Road, Barriere, with the trail continuing through the TNRD-owned Louis Creek Eco Depot property located at 4077 Agate Bay Road, Louis Creek, and to seek Council direction on how Staff should proceed.

Background

The TNRD has approached the District of Barriere regarding a potential recreational trail project that would utilize District-owned lands at 3732 Louis Creek Road as a trailhead location. The proposed trail would then continue through the TNRD-owned Louis Creek Eco Depot property located at 4077 Agate Bay Road.

The TNRD has indicated that it views the project as an opportunity for regional collaboration involving the District of Barriere, Simpcw, and the TNRD. Preliminary discussions have already occurred between the TNRD and Simpcw regarding the importance of undertaking a cultural assessment as an initial step in evaluating the feasibility of the project and identifying any cultural, archaeological, or heritage considerations.

The TNRD has requested feedback from the District regarding its level of support for the proposal and Council's preferred approach before advancing the project further.

Summary

Staff recommends that Council consider utilizing District owned property as a trailhead at 3732 Louis Creek Road.

The project presents an opportunity for collaboration between the District of Barriere, Simpcw, and the TNRD.

The TNRD would be responsible for all project-related costs, including planning, assessments, design, construction, operation, and maintenance. As a result, there are no anticipated capital, operating, or maintenance costs to the District of Barriere.

Benefits or Impact

General

The proposed trail could provide several potential community benefits, including:

- Increased recreational opportunities for residents and visitors;
- Opportunities to promote active transportation and healthy lifestyles;
- Potential economic benefits through tourism and outdoor recreation;
- Strengthened collaboration between the District of Barriere, Simpcw, and the TNRD.

Finances

The TNRD has indicated that it would be responsible for project planning, assessment, development, construction, and ongoing maintenance of the trail. The District's involvement would be limited to permitting the use of District-owned property as a trailhead location.

Strategic Impact

Priority #4 Goal #1 – Increase partnership with Simpcw.

The proposal aligns with community objectives related to recreation, outdoor tourism, active living, and collaborative partnerships with regional and Indigenous governments.

The project also presents an opportunity to strengthen relationships with Simpcw through meaningful engagement and participation in project planning.

Risk Assessment

Compliance: The project may require consideration of applicable provincial and federal legislation, environmental regulations, archaeological and cultural heritage requirements, and municipal policies. Completion of a cultural assessment and any necessary environmental reviews would assist in ensuring regulatory compliance.

Risk Impact:

- Cultural or archaeological impacts;
- Environmental impacts;
- Public safety considerations; and
- Liability associated with public access through the trailhead area.

As the TNRD would be responsible for project development and maintenance, financial and operational risks to the District are expected to be minimal.

Internal Control Process:

Should Council wish to proceed, Staff would work with the TNRD to establish a basic agreement clearly outlining ownership, maintenance responsibilities, liability provisions, and operational expectations to ensure the District incurs no ongoing costs or obligations beyond those approved by Council. Staff anticipates that the parking area may require some generic maintenance.

Next Steps / Communication

- Inform the TNRD of council's decision on the use of District property as a trailhead.
 - Work with the TNRD to accurately define what the trailhead will look like including parking, signage, and limiting vehicle access past the trailhead
-

Attachments

- Maps – proposed trail head and trail network

Recommendation

THAT Council support the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's proposal to further investigate the development of a recreational trail utilizing a trailhead on District-owned property located at 3732 Louis Creek Road.

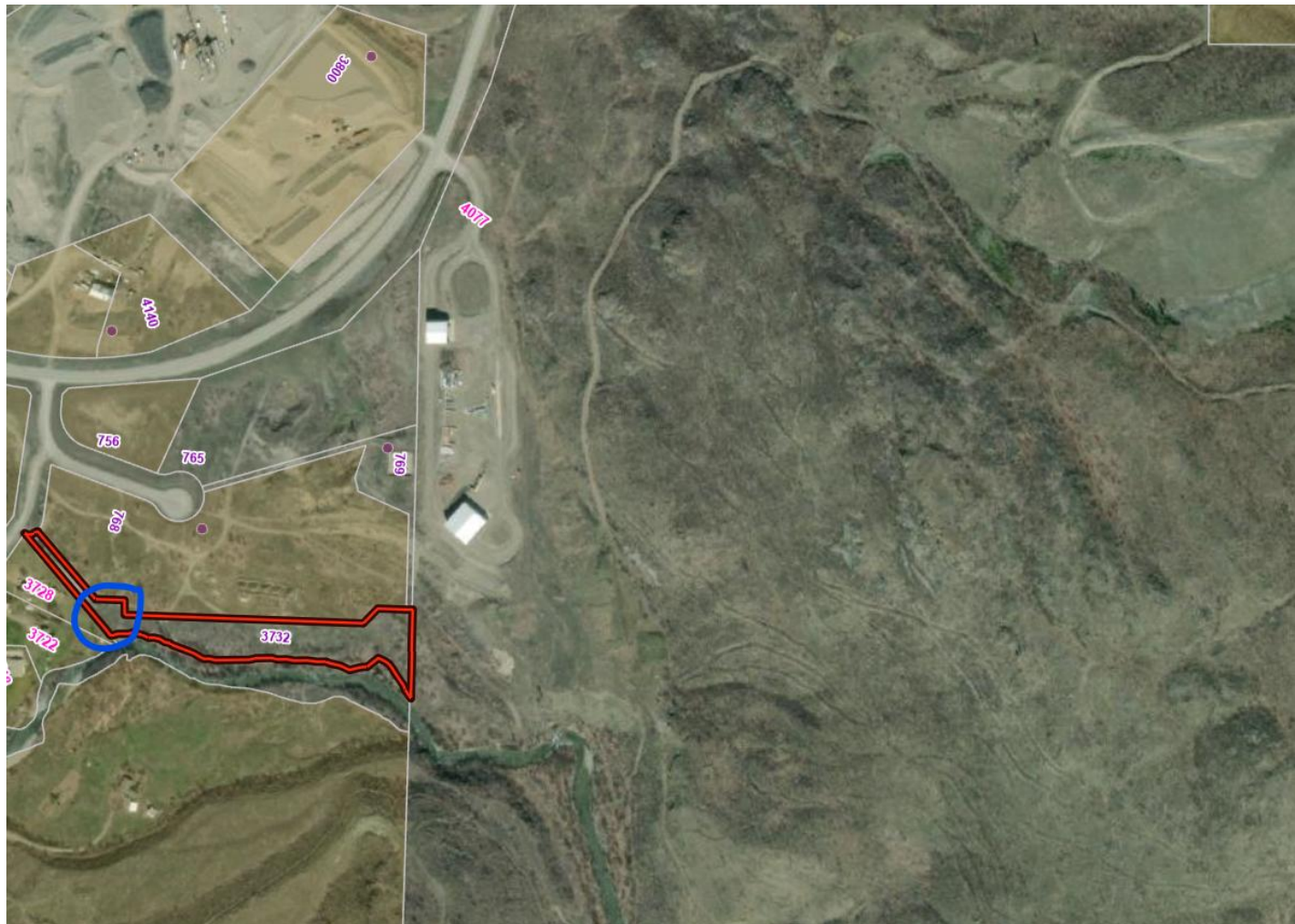
Alternative Options

1. Council could choose not to utilize District property as a potential Trail Head
2. Council could choose to find an alternative location for a Trail Head

Prepared by:

C. Matthews, Public Works Manager

District Property (red) and Trail Head location (blue)



Proposed Trailhead



Proposed Eco Depot Trail

