

Reconnecting a Town with Nature

Red River Mutual Gives \$12,000 To Rejuvenate and Expand The *Scallion Creek Trail* in Manitoba

Virden, MB - (July 26, 2021) - Halfway between Winnipeg and Regina is the Town of Virden. Here you'll find the Scallion Creek Trail - once a heavily used walking trail, it's now damaged and overgrown due to time and municipal neglect. To help bring the trail back into usable order, Red River Mutual's [Spruce Up Your Story](#) has awarded \$12,000 to the Scallion Creek Trail Committee. They also plan on building a bridge over the creek, restoring the fishing dock, and installing additional picnic tables for relaxation.

The trail will also act as a connection point between two major parks in the town. "Virden has Victoria Park with a nice amphitheatre, tennis courts and lawn bowling. And then there's Centennial Park, which is a massive area." explains Matthew Russell, secretary of the committee. "So we're hoping that by building a scenic trail along the creek,... we can draw people to other beautiful areas of town that are right now underutilized."

This isn't the first time there was an attempt at revitalizing the trail, but with this new committee, Virden is finally getting the clear and beautiful path that they deserve. According to Gerry Gately, an original trail committee member, over 20 years ago they planned but never completed their proposed renovations. The new committee is on-track to complete everything that they've set-out to accomplish, which is being fast forwarded by Red River Mutual.

But the most important thing is bringing back what it means to be a kid on the Scallion Creek Trail, says Russell; "I just remember as kids, we used to hop on our bikes as soon as we were done school, or supper. We would cut across the trail. I didn't realize how much we used it until it was gone."

Thanks to Red River Mutual and the committee, that child-like feeling has returned. Since revitalization has begun, the community has seen a greater number of people walking, running, or biking on the path and a renewed interest in the area.