




MAY 20, 2022

**AZAN TRAIL**  
LICENCE OF OCCUPATION 2022

DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE  
Bag 340 1 Mackenzie Blvd



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## 1. Project Overview

The purpose of the proposed trails is to expand recreational opportunity immediately adjacent to Mackenzie town-site. The Azan Trail, is partially complete; the majority of the trail has been constructed under on District of Mackenzie land under the municipalities authority. The Azan Trail will provide a multi-use easily accessible trail for both summer and winter use adjacent to the town of Mackenzie that is accessible for all non-motorized users. The primary user demographic for this trail is expected to be residents of all ages and ability. The trail will promote personal fitness and help improve community health. The trail will also tie into the larger trail network around Mackenzie strengthening the community as a tourist destination that will bring business into the community. This new section on the Southeast end of town will be an accessible portion for all users in the community.

The entire trail will be machine build flow style cross-country trail without any technical trail features, beyond bridges and boardwalk sections that will be designed to mitigate wet soils and drainage issues. Trail surface will be natural-found on site for the section applicable to this application. The District is seeking a 30 year tenure with the opportunity for renewal as these sections will be an integral part of the Azan trail network.

The southwest section of the trail that we are looking to permit has been partially constructed to date. The southeast section of trail on crown land has not been completed, however the sections leading up to the 180m stretch on crown land have been under construction. Please see attached photos.

### **Standard Selection Criteria**

1. The proposal is conducive with the OCP of Mackenzie as well as the Trails Master Plan (2017).
2. This promotes healthy lifestyles and active living as well as gives residents greater access for recreation activities in both summer and winter.
3. Promotes healthy lifestyle, the trail is signed for safety and wayfinding.
4. The trail has the support of the Council and user groups in Mackenzie, it is being developed by a local contractor who puts care and diligence in his work to minimize the footprint while creating an attractive trail for the residents and tourists to enjoy for years to come.
5. This will support the families and residents to appreciate the outdoors and interact with nature at their doorstep. The sections of the Azan trail that have been completed in the District's boundary have had great use year round.
6. MORATA has secured funding through the Mcleod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Grant as well as the District of Mackenzie Grant Program for the development of this trail.

## **Seasonal Expectation of Use**

These trails will be designed to create a bikeable loop that is easily ridden by beginners but has enough flow and undulation to be fun for more experienced riders. trail design will allow easy use for dog walkers, elderly walkers, and families. Biking, walking and trail running are the planned main uses of the trail network during the summer and snowshoeing, fat biking and walking will be the main uses for winter. The trail will also be built to a black diamond adaptive standard.

## **Construction and Maintenance**

We will construct to IMBA trail standards using the Whistler Rating System. Signage as per District of Mackenzie standards. Any bridging/boardwalk if applicable will follow Rec Sites and Trails BC standards.

MORATA is building a trail maintenance ethic in Mackenzie. They have implemented monthly maintenance days for local trails and hired a trail crew in previous years, which may be done again if funding comes available. MORATA has also secured grants to help fund ongoing maintenance. MORATA already has a maintenance shed built and all of the trail maintenance tools purchased through grant funding.

## **Vegetation Removal**

- There will be some vegetation removal, the trail will work with the path of least resistance flowing with the "natural path" and using existing abandoned trails as references and guides.

## **Soil Disturbance**

- There will be soil disturbance including clearing grubbing, excavation as shown in photos, trail will be approximately 6ft across.
- The area to be excavated does not have the potential to be a brownfield site.
- There has not been any archaeological studies done in the area, opening it up for the possibility of historical findings.

## **Riparian Works**

- The SW section of the trail is located adjacent to a 15 Ha wetland complex, however it does not cross, the objective of the trail was to avoid any wet areas. The project runs close to the 30m mark from the wetland at certain areas.
- There will be no use of herbicides or pesticides during use or maintenance.

## **Visual Impacts**

There will be no adverse effects to the residents or other users sightlines, it will only increase the accessibility for the views of the mountains, valley and wetland on both sections of the trail.

### **Access**

Access to the Southwest portion of the trail will be at Bell Place and Mackenzie Blvd. Access to the Southeast section will be from the Cicada Dr on both trail heads.

### **Location Justification**

One of the primary purposes of the Perimeter (now Azan) trail was to provide access to the residents of Mackenzie regardless of where they were living. The location for the SW section of the trail connects residents from the west side of town to the south side of town, originally part of this section was to be accessible for all users but due to slope and wetness the SE section of the trail was deemed more appropriate. The SE section of the trail has an accessible section with a look out, it will be built using the Spinal Cord Injury BC / BC Parks Accessibility framework, as well as having residents who face accessibility barriers being consulted.

## **2. Additional Information**

### **2.1 Environmental Works**

- The southeast section of trail does not cross any classifiable riparian features or NCDs.
- The south west section of the proposed trail does not cross any classifiable riparian features or NCDs however the trail is adjacent to a large (~15ha) wetland complex.
- The project could lead to an increase chance between wildlife/person encounters.
- The project should not lead to any additional erosion or sedimentation, due to the high building standard.
- The project does not require water diversion.
- The project should not have adverse effects on the endangered species in the area.

## **3. Socio-Community**

### **3.1 Community**

- The project area is within 1km of Mackenzie BC, it is expected that there will be an increased use of the trail if conditions are brought up to standard and maintained.
- To date there are no known plans that could affect the or limit the proposed use of the land.

### **3.2 First Nations**

Morata has provided info regarding the trail to McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB) on the trail location and have collaborated with the band on the trail name and are talking with MLIB about further collaboration on interpretive signage.

### **3.3 Accessibility**

The south east section of the trail will have an accessibility piece built to the standards referenced in Parks Canada Design Guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Facilities. This will offer access for residents and tourists who would like to see the outdoors while reducing the risk of injury and incidents.