Upcoming Work - Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail

Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail, also known as Brotherhood Bridge Trial or Mendenhall River Trail, will be rerouted in 2019. A portion of the trail has been closed at the Brotherhood Bridge parking lot since August 2018, due to erosion along the banks of the Mendenhall River, creating steep, unstable banks. Until the trail is repaired, users can still access the trail from the end of Wildmeadow Lane, from the River Road entrance, or from the Dimond Park entrance via the pedestrian bridge.

The map shown on the left illustrates the closed section of trail and other access points for users until the trail reroute is completed. Limited parking is available at the Wildmeadow Lane entrance; vehicles can still park at the Brotherhood Bridge lot and walk to the entrance via Wildmeadow Lane.
2019 Reroute - Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail

Plans to reroute the closed section of trail in 2019 are underway. The City and Borough of Juneau is working with PDC Engineers to develop a planset for construction. The approximate alignment of the new trail is shown below. The reroute would maintain an 8’ width and be paved to keep the trail stable and accessible. The new alignment will avoid impacting the popular view point at the start of trail, where people typically take photos, by heading west around the patch of fireweed.
Future Work - Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail Reconstruction

CBJ is working to secure federal funding to reconstruct and repave the entire Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei trail and address erosion issues at the pedestrian bridge over Montana Creek. The project would also involve enhancements including:

- Improving and paving the trail that connects to Wildmeadow Lane and the equestrian trail from Pederson Hill subdivision
- Installing new interpretive signs to exhibit the scenic, historic, cultural, natural, and recreational merits of the trail and surrounding area
- Modifying rest areas to meet Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) guidelines and improve accessibility
- Improve the pedestrian bridge over Montana Creek with a longer span bridge and/or add bank stabilization measures to protect the existing bridge
- Adding a bike rack to the fishing trail by Montana Creek

Construction for this reconstruction project would not take place until 2020 or later.

History

The Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei trail was completed in 1996 by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Previously, local foot trails and an old logging road existed along the Mendenhall River.

DOT added the pedestrian bridge connecting the trail to Dimond Park in 2000, which provides access from Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei to a multitude of amenities directly across the river, including the Dimond Park Field House, sports fields, Thunder Mountain High School, Riverbend...
Elementary School, Dimond Park Aquatic Center, and the Mendenhall Valley Public Library. Within ½ mile of the trail entrances at Brotherhood Bridge and Dimond Park, users can also access grocery stores, restaurants, the post office, and more.

The trail has not been repaved since completion in 1996. The pedestrian bridge over Montana Creek was repaired in 2006 to address erosion undermining the north end of the bridge. The original bridge foundation is now completely eroded away, and the north end of the bridge rests on beams attached to helical piers installed in 2006.

Recent photo of erosion under Montana Creek Bridge- the north end is now supported by metal beams as the foundation beneath the bridge has eroded away completely.