The Cedar Sands Trail Rehabilitation Project at Sandbanks Park 2024 - 2027

Some History:

The original trail was in place before the Friends of Sandbanks came into being in 1993. One of our first projects was to fund the two lookouts that will now be replaced after over 33 years of service and countless thousands of visitors.

The area itself is noted for its diversity of flora and fauna. Several trail guides have been produced and funded by the Friends of Sandbanks over the years, from this first very simple version, to the most recent version that has been in use for almost twenty-five years. As the trail is upgraded, a new digital version of the guide will be produced.

The Planning Stages:

Our plan was to replace and enhance the aging trail structure as required, and Friends' Board Member John Lowry agreed to oversee this ambitious project. An initial survey was undertaken, and many images of the trail construction were made in June 2024 to accompany other older views.

Sandbanks Provincial Park suggested that the Friends should have a professional survey of the old trail by a local architectural company. After making enquiries to several such local businesses, only one was interested in bidding on that survey, Scott Wentworth at https://wentworthlandscapes.com/

As it happened, his father had been involved in the original Cedar Sands Trail project over 40 years ago.

The Construction Process:

The idea was that as soon as possible to replace aging wood that was a safety issue and to produce a plan to replace and repair other elements of that trail as deemed necessary. The basic footprint of the trail was to remain the same; and aside from a possible widening from four feet (1.219 m) to five feet (1.524 m); *(subject to cost),* there are no plans to make the trail more mobility-accessible in this restoration cycle.

No additional wooden walkways over the historic cedar and dune-sands of the East Lake bar are planned… the original route, structure and character of this original and favourite trail will be lovingly maintained.

By mid-August, the Park had made some necessary repairs to maintain the public safety of some of the weaker wooden elements of the walkways.

And by late October, the drawings and plans had been submitted by https://wentworthlandscapes.com/ to the Friends and the Park.

http://www.friendsofsandbanks.org/sandbanks_2024/Cedar_Sands_Trail_Version_1.0.pdf

Friends Chairman John Brebner assumed the oversight of the trail rehabilitation project in 2025, and discussions proceeded as to what was the best course of action. Our original plan was to tender the entire project to local contractors, but because of financial constraints and scheduling issues, this was not feasible.

The idea of a collaborative project between Sandbanks Park and the Friends of Sandbanks was then proposed.

After some internal discussions with the Friends Board and Park Management, it was decided in the spring of 2026 to follow the following course of action:

- The Friends would supply $10,000 per season (assuming funds are available and the work is incomplete).
- The Park will keep on some staff after the Summer season and pay them to build each section based on our established plans.

Construction began in November 2026 with signage posted at the trail entrance noting the temporary closure.

Any possible construction hazards will be well posted.

This will be a landmark, and expensive project for the Friends of Sandbanks, and one that will likely take several years to complete with the help of Sandbanks Provincial Park and our dedicated volunteers and financial donors.

That will be the focus of our fund-raising efforts in Sandbanks Park for at least three years. As construction proceeds, the page below will be updated. Refer to that for all views of the ongoing project.

Master Page: Master Cedar Sands Page, construction progress, historical documents

© Friends of Sandbanks, 2026