

## URBAN EDGE

The largest and most urban area of the River Walk, Area 1, is dominated by the 15-foot high concrete retaining wall that stretches 1600 feet along the riverbank of west Trail. The retaining wall is a prominent component of the river edge and has cut the city off from the river. The retaining wall extends beyond the street level to form a concrete guard rail that obscures views from the city and prohibits access down to the river's edge. Lowering the concrete guard to street level and replacing it with a transparent guard rail will allow increased visual connection to the river from the upper streets and activate the view corridors from the downtown by allowing the river to be seen.

At the base of the retaining wall is a narrow bank of large river rock and concrete. Tree growth has occurred along the base of the wall over the years with some success. It is recommended that planting continue along the length of the wall to soften the impact of the retaining wall when viewed from across the river. This area is also subject to the rise and fall of the river. Stabilizing the bank through the use of gabions would allow a more permanent pathway of crushed rock to remain despite occasional flooding. The pathway should extend along the entire base of the retaining wall to connect the gardens of Area 2 with the City of Trail Civic Complex Plaza and New Bridge to the north. A steel bridge should be constructed to allow the pathway to continue over the water outlet at the end of Farwell Street. A light steel access stair should be introduced at the south side of the New Bridge to connect the lower River Walk with the existing upper pathway and bridge walkway.

Located at the midpoint of the retaining wall is the site of the proposed City of Trail Civic Complex Plaza. The urban pedestrian plaza is formed by the closure of Esplanade Street at Spokane and Helena Streets. The Plaza is the formal entry to the Civic Complex and is intended for public gatherings and civic events. The hard surface plaza links Jubilee Park to Spokane Street south of Dewdney Avenue and cantilevers over the existing retaining wall and river bank below to afford views of the Columbia River and valleys beyond. The Plaza is level with the main floor of the Civic Complex for ease of access and is large enough to allow for vehicular drop off and pick up areas for users and visitors as well as event set up. The plaza has a formal planting of trees to enhance the space, providing shade, visual interest, color and scale for pedestrians. A feature stair and accessible ramp are planned to allow access from the plaza to the river's edge below.