



2017 Benchmark winning designs, located along the Bishop Grandin Greenway



2018 Benchmark winning design, located along the Pandora Pathway
Photos by Stationpoint Photographic

MAKING A MARK ON THE GREAT TRAIL: THE 2018 / 2019 “BENCHMARK” COMPETITION

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Storefront Manitoba and the Winnipeg Trails Association launched the 2018 / 2019 Benchmark Design Competition, an international competition that aims to challenge and transform the idea of the ‘common’ bench and create landmarks along Winnipeg’s trail systems. The future locations of the winning designs will be along The Great Trail (TCT) which is made up of hundreds of local trails, together forming the longest recreational trail in the world.

“Design is a chance to take our most valuable resource - time - and use it to weave together the intangible magic of human creativity and special public places. Benchmark is one of those projects that gets people to pay attention and this year we are excited to have two locations along The Great Trail (TCT) in the mix. For almost two decades, Winnipeg Trails has lent its support to the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) vision. Our immediate priorities for the TCT in Winnipeg include upgraded wayfinding, top-notch infrastructure and, of course, placemaking which is what Benchmark has done so well for the past two years. We can’t wait to see what happens.”

- Anders Swanson, Executive Director, Winnipeg Trails Association

Placemaking is an important aspect of transportation, recreation and city building. A design competition to spur creative placemaking ideas is an opportunity to permanently and continually raise awareness of the beauty of Winnipeg’s trails system while providing practical benefits to present and future users. The benches will be unveiled in June 2019 and everyone will be welcome to meet the design teams and their creations.

Benchmark 2018 / 2019 is supported by the City of Winnipeg and Trails Manitoba.

For more information on Benchmark, please visit:

<http://storefrontmb.ca/about-benchmark/>

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