

CHAPTER 7 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

General/Master Plan Administration:

1. The Master Plan should be adopted as the basis for the systematic implementation of an integrated community trail network in the City of Guelph.
2. The network concept as proposed in the Master Plan is intended to be flexible. The Master Plan should be reviewed, evaluated and updated where necessary, at least every five years. The purpose of this review is to take advantage of opportunities that may arise; to reestablish or reallocate priorities, and to generally update the findings of the current project. This should include a public consultation process. The first review should be scheduled for 2010.
3. A municipal staff position (part-time) should be allocated to oversee the coordination and implementation of the trail network and supporting programs. This may involve new staff, an intern, or reallocation of responsibility of an existing staff person(s).
4. The off-road trail system should be implemented as an extension of the Parks and Open Space system, and the on-road components of the system should be implemented as an extension of Public Works, including all adequate provisions for insurance.

Planning for Trails

5. All new development/redevelopment (greenfield and brownfield/infill) and road reconstruction proposals shall follow the recommendations outlined in the GTMP beginning at the preliminary design stage and continuing through to the completion of construction.
6. Ensure that new development/redevelopments plan for efficient movement of people, which includes connections with main trails, destinations and linkages with other modes of transportation.
7. Appropriate references to the GTMP will be included as part of the next update to the Official Plan. This will include but not be limited to;
 - a) A Schedule depicting routes (i.e. GTMP Map 4);
 - b) Cross referencing of the GTMP under the appropriate sections in the Official Plan;
 - c) An update of Schedule 7 and 9C where appropriate.
8. References to, and supporting the GTMP shall be included in other long range City planning documents such as those that deal with land use, environmental and transportation planning.
9. Staff and Council will protect and develop the network as illustrated on Map 4, which includes off-road and on-road routes. Efforts will be made to improve and expand upon this network, add missing links and overcome physical barriers. Amendments to the network plan will not be required for route revisions provided that continuity of the network can be maintained.
10. As part of assessing and developing new trail routes and making modifications to existing trail routes, follow the guiding principles and route evaluation criteria outlined in Sections 4.2 and 4.3.

11. Trail development should be restricted to public lands; private lands will not be considered until a mutually agreeable arrangement has been prepared.
12. Retired road and rail rights-of-way, and other linear corridors will not be sold until it has been clearly demonstrated they do not/cannot perform a trail network function. If and when they are sold, attempts will be made to maintain a public easement.
13. Staff and Council should review the required parkland dedication under the Planning Act with a view towards determining if, and under what circumstances the provision of trails can be included as part of the parkland dedication.
14. Based on the criteria outlined in Section 4.4.5, staff and Council should review and develop a consistent approach related to the placement of trails in relation to environmental buffers.
15. An interdepartmental communication process should be developed and implemented so that Recreation and Parks staff who are responsible for implementing the GTMP are aware of new infrastructure development and upgrades to existing infrastructure that has an effect on or may be affected by the trail system.
16. Council should continue to empower Recreation and Parks staff representative(s) to work with other agencies and municipalities in developing strategies for trail connections to surrounding municipalities.

Building Trails

17. The City will develop the trail network illustrated in Map 4, the recommended hierarchy and design details as described in Chapter 5.
18. The network will be phased in over time in association with development, and municipal infrastructure improvement projects. Projects may also be implemented based on changing construction opportunities or specific trail related demand.
19. All streets with proposed on-road route links (existing developed areas and new development areas) will also have sidewalks and/or boulevard trails to accommodate pedestrians and other trail users.
20. Detailed route design will involve a public consultation process with the local neighbourhoods and agencies where consultation is deemed appropriate by City staff.
21. To take advantage of the benefits represented by the implementation of this trail network, annual capital budgets should be established for the organized implementation of the system.

23. All other sources of funding and viable partnerships should be considered in implementing the GTMP.

Supporting Trails

23. Trail use will be supported as a viable and desirable form of recreation and transportation by highlighting the benefits of trails.

24. Staff and Council will support and promote trails. This may include:
 - a) The formation of a Trails Advisory Committee to assist staff with appropriate aspects of the implementation, promotion and care of the trail system;
 - b) Raising the profile of trails by employing strategies outlined in Section 6.2 and others that may be developed over time. These include promotion, education and awareness products and programs. Some programs will be designed and implemented by the City whereas others will be developed through partnerships with other agencies and organizations having a common interest in trails. Annual capital budgets should be established for the development of programs to support trails.
 - c) The development of a new and distinctive logo to replace the existing Royal Recreation Trail identifier. This logo should be used at every appropriate opportunity for trail-related design, signing, promotion and events.
 - d) Evaluating the benefits of membership in the Ontario Trails Council, and making a decision regarding membership;
 - e) Monitoring and caring for existing and new trails based on the recommendations outlined in Section 6.4 which includes establishing annual operating budgets and sufficient staff resources for the organized maintenance of the trail system.