



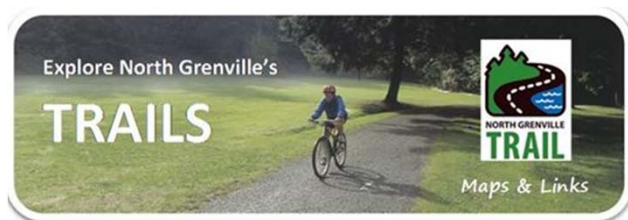
Hello.

North Grenville Integrated Community Trails Strategy

North Grenville's Dandelion Festival, May 28, 2011.

Made possible by the generous support of the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, the Municipality of North Grenville has commenced a study to develop an **Integrated Community Trail Strategy**. The strategy builds upon our community's successful 2006 initiative celebrating Kemptville's 150th anniversary: "150 Kilometres of Trails".

Trails that are **safe, attractive and accessible** for users of all ages will enhance the **quality of life** unique to North Grenville by encouraging **physical activity, and connecting** residents and visitors alike to our communities and its places. The strategy will include a plan to **guide future development** and construction of trails, study how to build and maintain high-quality trails, and establish trail usage and design guidelines.



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PROJECT TIMELINES



What is a 'TRAIL'?

Trail: Infrastructure that enables the use of human-powered modes of transportation and permitted motorized uses that link communities, businesses, and recreation areas.

- Off-road pathways and hiking trails;
- On-road paved shoulders and bike lanes;
- Pathways within the Right-of-Way; sidewalks and walkways.

- Trails enable active transportation and recreation opportunities, including:
 - walking, running, cycling, cross-country skiing, dog sledding;
 - mixed use activities, including equestrian;
 - snowmobiles, ATV's, dirt bikes;
 - Kemptville's waterways have a significant potential role in the use of active modes of transportation (such as canoes and kayaks).



What is a Community Trails Strategy?

1. Long-range plan (0-5 years, 5-10 years, 10 years+) integrating trail infrastructure with existing and future land use planning.

2. Examines the infrastructure system as a group of related projects to plan out the future.



STUDY VISION, OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAILS STRATEGY:

1. Develop a **set of policies for trail development**, uses, location, and implementation that will guide future development of a trails system for the next 10 plus years (phased over 3 periods: 0-5years, 6-10 years, 10 years +);
2. Build upon the existing North Grenville trail system which links together **150 kilometres of existing trails**, North Grenville's Built Heritage, urban streets, rural roads and waterways by developing a user-friendly trail network;
3. **Consult with the public** on trail development, particularly during the master planning process and implementation of individual routes;
4. Guide the **develop promotional and educational materials and programs** to attract residents and visitors to the trails of North Grenville;



TRAIL ROUTE SELECTION PRINCIPLES

Safe: Reducing risks to users and providing facilities that support trail use will be key considerations when selecting routes for the North Grenville network.

Visible: The route should be a visible component the trail system. They should be well marked so that they are easily recognizable and visible by active transportation users and motorists.

Destination-Oriented: Trails should provide access to major destinations in North Grenville including but not limited to Kemptville District Hospital, University of Guelph Kemptville Campus, Ferguson Forest Centre, and downtown Kemptville.

Attractive and Scenic: Trails should take advantage of attractive and scenic areas, views and vistas.

Connected: All routes should be connected to form an overall network that supports connections between existing and planned neighbourhoods, different land uses, and beyond municipal boundaries to North Grenville’s neighbours.



Highlights of Public Consultation

Consultation has been a significant component to development of the Strategy. We received **more than 450 responses** to the online survey, including valuable and pointed input from stakeholders and members of the public at the two previous Public Information Centres. Select themes revealed include:

- **Connection to commercial** areas along 43 are important;
- **Desires to improve infrastructure along CRs 43 and 44** are strong;
- Trails along **waterways are valuable**;
- **Connections to the Ferguson Forestry Centre** are critical;
- **Crossing CR 43 safely** is paramount - ideas presented include pedestrian signalization and safety enhancements;
- **Linkages for motorized uses** of trails - within and outside of North Grenville - are desired;
- **Linkages to communities**, existing and proposed, to one another are valuable community enhancements.



“And the Survey Says”

Existing Trails are well-used.

In order of ranking *by questionnaire* mention, the Top Ten trail uses in North Grenville are as follows:

1. *Walking/Jogging (85%);*
2. *Hiking (68%);*
3. *Cycling (63%);*
4. *Cross Country Skiing (49%);*
5. *Snowshoeing (42%);*
6. *Dirt Biking (26%);*
7. *In-Line Skating/Rollerblading (19%);*
8. *ATV'ing/Snowmobiling (16%);*
9. *Dog Sledding/Skijoring (13%);*
10. *Other (Geocaching, Horseback Riding, Tobogganing, Seasonal Uses) (7%).*

Trail Use

Motivation for trail use, in order of *questionnaire* mentioned, is heavily geared toward the enjoyment of ‘The Great Outdoors’, fitness, and recreation:

1. *Enjoyment of the Natural Environment (86.8%)*
2. *Exercise and Fitness (81.4%)*
3. *Destination oriented trips (travel to visit family/friends/errands etc.) (9.7%)*
4. *Commuting to Recreation Centres (8.1%)*
5. *Commuting to School (4.4%)*
6. *Commuting to Work (3.6%)*



“And the Survey Says”

- 60% of respondents have experienced North Grenville’s “150 kms of Trails”;
- 97% of cyclists currently use the road network for cycling;
- 89% of respondents use Trails for **Enjoyment of the Natural Environment**.

- 4% use trails to commute to work;
- 10% use trails for destination-oriented trips;
- 4% use trails to commute to school.
- 86% of respondents use trails for walking/jogging;
- 82% use trails for fitness and exercise.

- **93% of respondents would use trails if available, connected, and enjoyable to use.**

“And the Survey Says”

Challenges

1. **Cost** (budget, construction, maintenance, need for volunteers, staffing).
2. **Physical & Geographic Constraints** (available space, disruption and integration with natural environment, linking of large geographic area, sidewalks, road crossings, Hwy 43, accessibility, jurisdictional conflicts, parking).
3. **Community Acceptance** (political will, leadership, lack of community/business/public interest, need for education, incentives, volunteer potential).
4. **Land Ownership, Development and Land Permissions** (growth management, railways, trespassing, zoning, pace of on-going development versus policy, visioning, privacy, multi-year plan).
5. **Conflicting Trail Uses** (trail usage policies, seasonally, snowmobiles, off-leash dogs, litter, vandalism, enforcement).
6. **Safety** (speed of traffic on roads, lighting on trails, road crossings, time to implement safety precautions).
7. **Site Improvements** (way finding, advertisement of trails, signage, staging areas).
8. **Infrastructure Priority to Cars** (Hwy 43, roundabouts, ‘roads are not trails’).



“And the Survey Says”

Trails have the Opportunity to:

1. Improve **quality of life and health** of North Grenville residents **(81.0%)**
2. Provide **access to natural** areas **(78.6%)**
3. Provide **places to walk and cycle** within neighbourhoods for recreation **(78.1%)**
4. **Improve walking and cycling** as transportation options **(64.6%)**
5. **Connect the villages and new developments** in North Grenville to one another **(49.2%)**
6. Provide **access to historic/cultural destinations** and support tourism and economic development **(47.4%)**

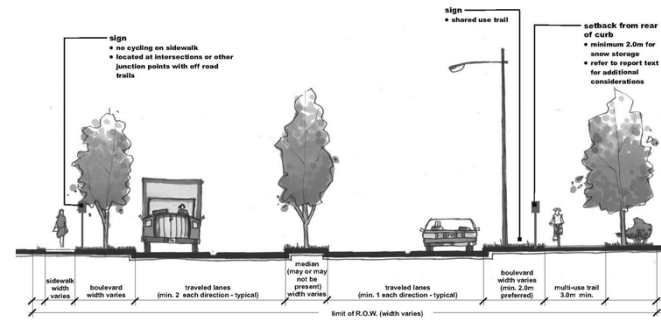
Select Draft Recommendations

The Municipality should **ensure the safe movement of pedestrians** throughout the municipality and local communities by providing safe pedestrian facilities such as:

- Safety **enhancements to pedestrian crossings on Rd. 43**
- Sidewalks of sufficient width;
- Protective barriers and buffers between streets and sidewalks.

The Municipality and Council formally recognize the multi-function of a trails network as community infrastructure for non-motorized and self-propelled transportation - for utilitarian as well as motorized and non-motorized recreational purposes by including **the Network Plan** developed as part of this Strategy **as a Schedule in the Official Plan** as part of its next update.

Where practical, new multi-use **spine trails and trailheads** be designed to be **Universally Accessible**. Existing and new trails should be signed to indicate whether they are universally accessible.



Select Draft Recommendations

That the route development and selection principles identified in this plan should be considered when future network changes are explored, new opportunities identified and when individuals routes are entering into the detailed planning and design stage of implementation – that **all new development proposals and all public works proposals be required to consult/review/consider the trails strategy.**

Update the Municipality's **sidewalks inventory** to include sidewalks proposed in potential new development areas, and once completed, identify missing sidewalk links so the can be prioritized for future development / implementation.

That the Municipality of North Grenville's multi-use trail system in parks and linear **corridors be designed with a trail width of 3.0m.** In constrained corridors the trail width should not be less than 2.4m for a multi-use trail.



Select Draft Recommendations

The Municipality should **acquire and develop existing abandoned and to be abandoned rail corridors/spurs** for future use as critical multi-use recreation facilities throughout North Grenville and linking to adjacent municipalities.

The Municipality should **develop additional pedestrian crossing over Kemptville Creek** in the vicinity of Pine Hill Road and Riverside Park.

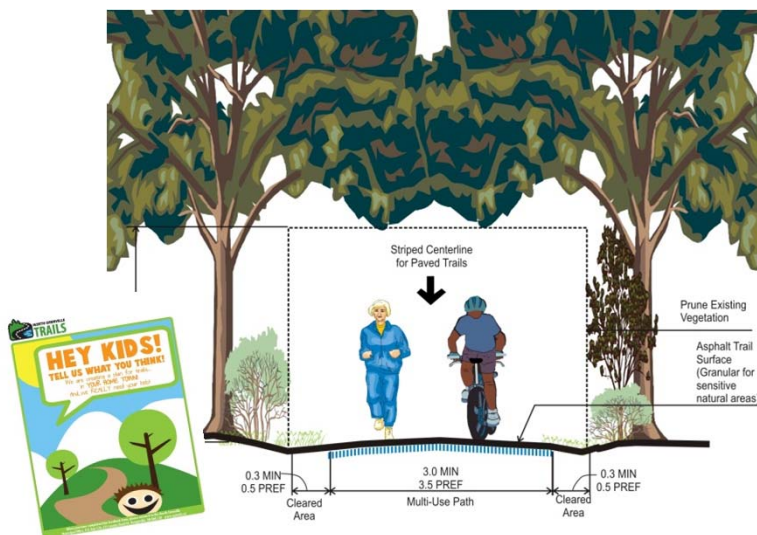
The Municipality should build upon the expertise of the Steering Committee established for the development of this strategy to **develop a Community-Based Trail Advisory Committee.**



Promoting Trails

Promotion of trails is integral to the strategy, and will include, but not be limited to:

- Build upon existing walking tours, considering opportunities for interpretation of Community Assets (Built and Natural Heritage, Cultural amenities and unique aspects of The Hamlets).
- Promote natural beauty of existing trail systems such as the Ferguson Forest , Limerick Forest, and University of Guelph campus trails;
- Youth and Schools – incorporate ‘Fit for Life’ Program and promote trail usage;
- Promote use of trails through various Tourism outlets;
- Promote trail etiquette and use as part of active and healthy living;
- Promote trails and cycling by providing bicycle-friendly infrastructure at commercial and community facilities, for example, ‘Welcome Cyclists’ Program;
- Consider Bike rental facilities and programs, such as the ‘Yellow-Bike Program’.





NEXT STEPS and DATES

- **June 03, 2011**
 - Finalize Draft Proposed Route Network, Implementation Strategy, and Promotion/Marketing Program.

- **June 20, 2011**
 - Tabling of Report – Committee of the Whole

- **June 27, 2011**
 - Presentation to Council

Stay in touch:

- Visit the project website at www.ngtrails.ca
- Fill out a comment form, visit us online, or contact us directly.