



Parks & Recreation Department

TO: Community Services Committee

SUBJECT: Community Trails Master Plan Study Scope

Report Number: PR-34-12

File Number(s): 930-01

Report Date: November 1, 2012

Ward(s) Affected: 1 2 3 4 5 6 All

Date to Committee: December 5, 2012

Date to Council: December 10, 2012

Recommendation: Approve the Community Trails Master Plan Study scope, as outlined in Report PR-34-12.

Purpose:

- Address goal or action in strategic plan
 - Establish new or revised policy or service standard
 - Respond to legislation
 - Respond to staff direction
 - Address other area of responsibility
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Reference to Strategic Plan:

- Vibrant Neighbourhoods
- Excellence in Government
- Prosperity
- N/A

The future we're striving for:

2. Increase the number of people who cycle, walk and use public transit for recreation and transportation.

Strategic Action:

2c) Promote walking and cycling-friendly neighbourhoods to ensure community safety and accessibility.

Background:

In December 2009, Council approved the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Assets Master Plan ("PRCAMP"):

The PRCAMP provides a strategic framework to guide planning and capital budget of parks, facilities and services for the next 20 years, with a focus on the first 10 year period.

Recommendation 17 of the PRCAMP provides the following

direction for a Community Trails Master Plan:

That a twenty-year Community Trails Master Plan be developed for Burlington that is fully integrated with the Cycling Master Plan.

That the development of the Community Trails Master Plan give consideration to the following developments and enhancements:

- Variable distance loops for walking, cycling and fitness
 - Trail heads that provide identified points of access and services such as parking, information boards, directions and service amenities at major trail entry points
 - Incorporation of a Discovery Trail Program
 - Two to three crossings in total of the Queen Elizabeth Way from South Burlington to Aldershot and to North Burlington aligned with the recommendations in the Cycling Master Plan
 - Increased connectivity to park, institutional, retail, employment and other destinations
 - Trail services that facilitate access for all user mobility considerations
 - Four season user capacity where appropriate, focusing on:
 - Primary active transportation and trail routes
 - Key destinations
 - Highway crossings
 - Hard surface sections
 - Appropriate directional, distance markers and other signage; interpretive boards; rest areas and supports; emergency contact systems and related amenities
 - That the Community Trails Master Plan give special consideration to the following potential components of the system
 - Extension and connectivity of the Waterfront Trail along the Lake Ontario shoreline
 - Connection of Lowville Park to Bronte Creek Provincial Park, potentially as part of an eco-tourism initiative
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- Linkages to Hamilton and Oakville trails, the Royal Botanical Gardens and other regional and provincial venues
 - Specialized cycling trails in trail north Burlington that support both distance and speed training, as well as sport tourism events
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Discussion:

The City of Burlington is undertaking a Community Trails Master Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- Provide a vision for linked open spaces
- Identify opportunities and improvements to off-road pedestrian and cycling trails
- Provide detailed mapping, plans and standard construction details for the integration of a linked open space system throughout our parks, special resources areas, aligning with the City's Cycling Master Plan (2009).
- Provide a strategy and recommendations to address missing links in the trail open space system
- Provide a plan for implementation

In order to undertake this project, the following study framework of a staff steering committee and project team will be formed with representatives from the following departments and agencies:

- Parks & Recreation
- Transportation
- Engineering
- Roads & Parks Maintenance
- Planning
- Outside agencies that may include the Region of Halton and Tourism Burlington

Further input will be determined through the development of the Terms of Reference and need for input from interest groups.

Key components of the Master Plan will include:

1. Purpose, function and implementation strategy
 - Vision
 - Guiding policies and directions
 - Definitions, including a hierarchy of trail types
 - Existing Trail System and rationale for expansion and improvement
2. Trail Standards
 - Surface treatments and appropriate widths
 - Responding to environment, conditions and use
 - Appropriate standards for trail hierarchy and intended use

- Appropriate use or need for lighting of trails
 - Hierarchy standards
3. Trail Crossings
- Termination points and supporting infrastructure
 - Safety
 - Appropriate signage
4. Signage Program/Strategy
- Distance routes
 - Identification of linkages to destinations
 - Challenges on trail route
 - Rules and Regulations
5. Accessibility
- Standards appropriate to conditions and environment
 - Communication through sign strategy
 - Route challenges
6. Opportunities and expansion
- Utility Corridors
 - Environmental constraints/opportunities
 - Under-utilized Special Resource Areas
 - Other opportunities such as Stormwater Management Areas and Creek Blocks
7. Connectivity:
- Providing opportunities to link to destinations such as schools and recreational facilities
 - Transit connections
 - Road Crossings, including 400 series highways
 - Creating complete transportation routes
 - Linkages to partner trail providers, including
 - Bruce Trail
 - Royal Botanical Gardens
 - Conservation Halton
 - Waterfront Trail
 - Any others
 - Regard for other related studies
 - Transportation Master Plan
 - Official Plan Review
 - Transit Master Plan
 - Cootes to Escarpment Plan
 - And others that may be identified
 - Neighbouring Municipalities
 - Oakville
 - Hamilton
 - Milton

- Region of Halton
- Rural Area

8. Maintenance Standards

- General Maintenance standards for different surface treatments
- Seasonal opportunities and maintenance requirements

9. Public Engagement

- Development of a public engagement plan
- Sustaining the trail plan and on-going public engagement

10. Communication and Promotion of Trail Network

- Trail promotion program
- Tourism opportunities
- Interpretive and educational program development opportunities

11. Policy Development for Council approval

In the development of the Community Trails Master Plan, various measures of success will be taken into consideration, including:

- More people walking or cycling
- A higher level of satisfaction with opportunities for walking and cycling
- More complete neighbourhoods with connected green space opportunities
- Trail treatments that provide opportunities for users of varying abilities
- Increased distance of accessible trails
- Sustainable trail system

Timing:

- January/February 2013 - A Request for Proposals will be prepared for sale to engage a consultant to undertake the Trails Master Plan.
- April/May 2013 - Initial engagement for input. This will include input from interest groups, citizen committees of Council and partner trail providers
- June/September - Preparation of plan
- September 2013 - Public consultation on plan
- December 2013 - Report to Committee and Council

Financial Matters:

Prior approved funding to undertake the Community Trails Master Plan was approved in the 2010 Capital Budget and Forecast in the amount of \$125,000 (PO-PD-877).

The 2012 Capital Budget & Forecast approved \$123,000 for commencement of phased implementation of the Community Trails Master Plan (PO-PD-877/PD0170).

Future funding for the phased implementation has been identified in the 2013 Capital Budget & Forecast in the amount of \$777,000 (2017- 2022).

Other Resource Impacts:

Through the development of the plan, various City departments will be engaged and consulted to provide input and identify any resource requirements that may result from the plan.

Environmental Matters:

Through the development of the plan, environmental considerations will be taken to protect environmental features and provide residents with a safe and responsible opportunity for enjoying environments such as woodlots and special resource areas.

Communication Matters:

A full communication and public engagement plan will be developed to ensure comprehensive consultation throughout the completion of the Community Trails Master Plan. The public engagement will include:

- Website Surveys
- Advertisements to solicit input
- Social Media to solicit input
- Community Public Information Centres
- Stakeholder user input, including:
 - Cycling Committee
 - Accessibility Committee
 - Road Safety Committee
 - Tourism Burlington
 - Halton Region Health Department
 - Sustainable Development Committee

Throughout the Community Trails Master Plan development, staff will use the IAP2 participation goals as follows:

- Commencement of study: Inform, consult and involve
- Plan development: inform and consult
- Plan finalization: inform

As the plan is initiated and undertaken, there may be further public engagement opportunities.

Conclusion:

The undertaking of the Community Trails Master Plan as outlined in Report PR-34-12 will fulfill the direction in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Assets Master Plan to provide the community with a comprehensive, connected trail program for phased implementation. Implementation of the Community Trails Master Plan will result in enhanced neighbourhood connections, increased residential participation and satisfaction with community trails.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte O’Hara-Griffin
 Supervisor Park Planning & Development

Notifications:
 (after Council decision)

Name	Mailing or E-mail Address

Approvals:

*required

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 *Department City Treasurer General Manager City Manager

To be completed by the Clerks Department	
Committee Disposition & Comments	
	01-Approved 02-Not Approved 03-Amended 04-Referred 06-Received & Filed 07-Withdrawn
Council Disposition & Comments	
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