

**Background:**

The County of Brant initiated a Trail Master Plan, adopted by Council and revised in 2017, to increase the quality of life for residents. The plan provides a strategic direction for council, staff and the community and sets priorities and guidelines for future trail development and planning.

**Strategy:**

The Trail Master Plan identifies the priorities for trail development based on a range of recommendations and considerations:

- Provide and promote a network of trails for residents and visitors to the County. Develop trail experiences that will attract visitors to the County and promote overnight stays.
- Continue to foster relations with neighbouring communities and other agencies regarding development of new trails, maintenance of trails and special trail projects.
- Plan for trail development in growth areas and when rural road improvements are underway. Require developers of new residential areas to provide land to be included in the trail network. Connections to the trail system with other recreation facilities, the downtown and other commercial areas, educational institutions and residential neighbourhoods should be included whenever possible in new developments and areas of revitalization.
- Work with trail providers to develop / support a network of trails in the County that offer a range of trail uses appropriate to the location (hiking / walking, cycling, mountain-biking, ATV, snowmobiling, equestrian) in Conservation Areas, crown lands, private lands, etc.
- Designate the use of the former L.E. & N. rail-line from Conklin Rd. to the Mt. Pleasant Nature Park for equestrian use.
- Install tourism and interpretive signs where appropriate including wayfinding signage for all trail systems modeled after the TH & B. sign program.
- Install bicycle racks and bike lockers for short-term use at major destinations and start installing drainage grate covers that are bicycle friendly, placing priority on the recommended cycling routes.
- Integrate cycling routes into existing trails maps. Establish 2 - 3 routes of various lengths that can be showcased in each ward, where possible. These loops will include in-pavement cycling facilities and will require the incorporation of improvements and safety measures as road works are undertaken.
- Ensure risk management measures are implemented such as building and maintaining trails to defined standards, undertaking regular inspections, undertaking trail repairs promptly when identified, providing training for trail workers.
- Investigate all opportunities for cost-sharing and funding sources for trail development, as opportunities arise including; partnerships and collaborative ventures, planning applications, parkland dedication, sponsorship programs such as Adopt-a-Trail, eligible grant programs.

- It shall be the policy of the County to maintain a system of multi-use trails for non-motorized traffic throughout the County. Council shall regard the trail system as a component of the County's transportation infrastructure and shall encourage and promote the use of the trails by residents as a healthy, active transportation choice.

**Timeline and Implementation:**

The Trail Master Plan will be updated every five years. As a guide for future development, the Trail Master Plan recognizes that changes in priorities will occur. To implement this plan, it will be important to understand that specific locations and routings, as well as, timing and details will evolve through community consultation and detailed technical studies, as required.

For more information regarding the Trail Master Plan and to review the full report, please visit [www.Brant.ca/Plans](http://www.Brant.ca/Plans).

# Executive Summary

## Trail Master Plan

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