



Council Report

Report Number: PR2022-004
Meeting Date: September 27, 2022
Title: PR2022-004 – Trails Master Plan Update
Description: Provide an update on the status of the 2022 Trails Master Plan and proposed next steps.
Author and Title: Jenn Johnson, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation(s):

That Report PR2022-004, Trails Master Plan Update, be received for information.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

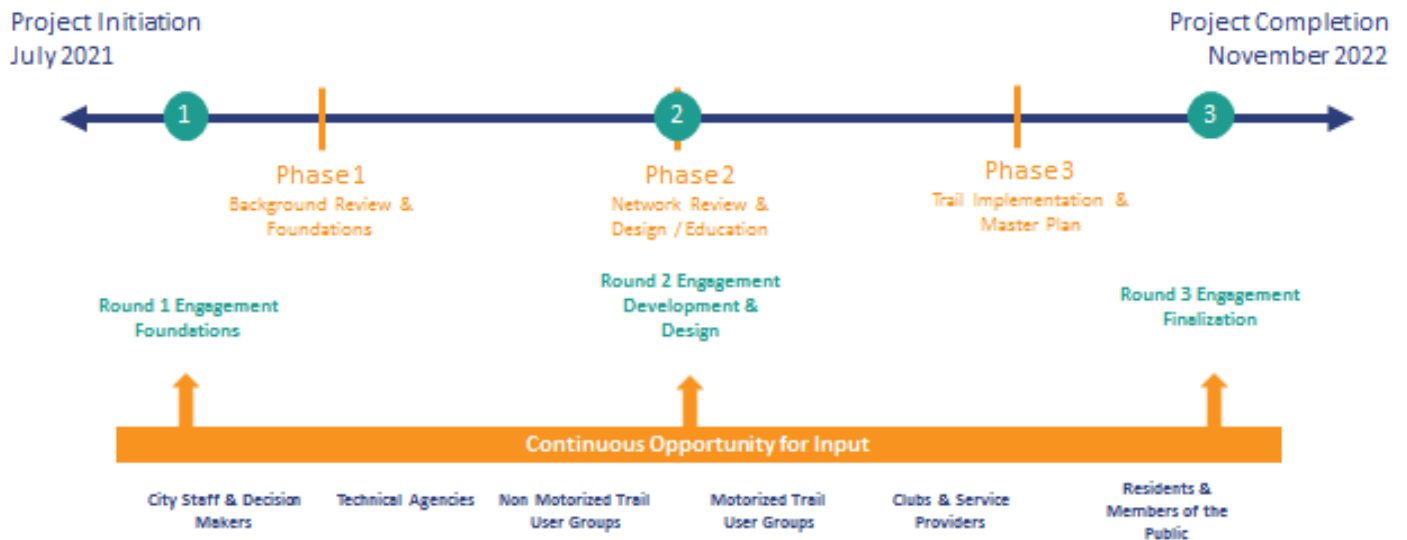
The inaugural Trails Master Plan for Kawartha Lakes was completed in 2006. Almost 15 years have passed and it has been determined that an update to the original plan is needed to address current concerns and standards. The current process began in July 2021 and has steadily moved forward to the final report stage.

This report is intended to provide an update on the overall process and identify next steps.

Rationale:

The original Trails Master Plan document has formed the starting point for this process. The updated 2022 document will include relevant sections of the original plan that are still considered applicable, will adapt some sections, will upgrade some content that require additional details and clarification based on new best practices and, lastly, develop new content that applies to current trends and standards.

The planning process is currently in Phase 3. See the image below for a description of the elements included in the development of the 2022 Trails Master Plan. Community engagement was a foundational piece in the overall process to update the plan. Input from technical agencies, stakeholders and user groups, Community Working Group and the general public was gathered at specific points throughout Phase 1 and 2 of the planning process. The Community Working Group was comprised of representation from Council, Kawartha Lakes Parks Advisory Committee, Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association, Green Trails Alliance, Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club, and Kawartha ATV Association. Round 1 of engagement provided information on the master planning process, vision and principles, and the existing condition analysis. Round 2 introduced the proposed area-specific approach and trail improvement areas. Feedback on the proposed design guidelines, projects, and future trail priorities was gathered. The information received through the engagement and outreach sessions provided direction and support to help guide the basis for 2022 Trails Master Plan recommendations. Along with the scheduled sessions, there was a continuous opportunity for the public to provide input into the development of the plan. The Jump In platform was utilized to share and gather information.



During Phase 1 – Background Review and Foundations, an updated vision and supporting principles and objectives were developed to provide the basis for decision making throughout the remainder of the project.

2022 Vision

"Trails in Kawartha Lakes will be fun, accessible (where appropriate), safe and comfortable for users and will be a key contributor to community health, connectivity, livability and sustainability."

Supporting Principles and Objectives

- **Design for User Comfort & Safety**
Improve user experience and safety with updated trail classifications, designs, signage and management.
- **Provide Barrier-Free Access Where Appropriate**
Improve accessibility and reduce trail barriers through upgrades and maintenance.
- **Connect Community Destinations**
Focus on key area, destinations, and link to on-road facilities.

- **Identify Feasible Solutions**

Prioritize recommendations that are environmentally, socially and economically responsible, and optimize municipal resources.

- **Support Sustainable Implementation**

Address funding, maintenance and monitoring as well as achievable phase-based targets.

- **Establish Clear Communications**

Manage user experience via trail classifications, signage, wayfinding and encouragement strategies.

- **Foster Stewardship**

Involve people and groups via stewardship partnerships, education and encouragement strategies.

- **Establish Consistent Monitoring**

Establish clear targets, practices, and monitoring methods.

Although still in draft, the 2022 Trails Master Plan contains six recommendation categories:

- Trail Infrastructure
- Trail Design
- Implementation & Management
- Trail Education & Outreach
- Trail Costing & Funding
- Maintenance & Evaluation

Each category will have multiple recommendations that support the overall vision, principles and objectives of the updated plan.

The next, and final steps, of the planning process include:

- Review and revise necessary recommendations based on Council and/or public feedback generated from Project Summary & Recommendations Overview presented at Council.
- Prepare and finalize the 2022 Trails Master Plan document.
- Present the final report to Council no later than end of Q2, 2023.
- Undertake a public campaign to increase awareness of completion of the 2022 Trails Master Plan.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no other alternatives being considered at this time due to the 'For Information' context of the report.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

This report aligns with the strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan of:

1. An Exceptional Quality of Life
2. Good Government
3. A Vibrant and Growing Economy

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Consultations:

NA

Attachments:

NA

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