



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PR2025-002

Meeting Date: March 4, 2025

Title: 2024 Annual Trails Update

Description: An annual trails report highlighting maintenance work, Trail Master Plan Update (TMPU) accomplishments and future trail considerations.

Author and Title: Ryan Smith, Manager, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation(s):

That Report PR2025-002, **2024 Annual Trails Update**, be received;

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

In 2023 Council approved the Trails Master Plan Update (TMPU) which serves as a strategic guide for the development, management and promotion of trails within the City of Kawartha Lakes. The TMPU recommended that an annual report be generated by staff to provide feedback on the progress and implementation of the plan.

This report is for information only.

Rationale:

The 2024 Annual Trails Update is essential to ensure that the City of Kawartha Lakes continues to develop and maintain the trail network in a manner that aligns with the strategic objectives and recommendations identified within the TMPU. Since the adoption of the TMPU the Parks and Recreation Division has made strides towards the implementation of these recommendations. The TMPU is intended to be implemented over a 20+ year horizon through a series of recommendations designed to achieve the City's trail vision and principles. Through the TMPU, a Trails Action Plan was developed with a phase-based approach for implementing the recommendations. Three horizons were established:

- Short Term indicates the first 5 years between 2023 and 2028
- Medium Term is the 6 to 15 year horizon between 2029 to 2038
- Long Term is the 16 to 20 year horizon for 2039 and beyond

The Annual Trails Update, Appendix A, serves to review the overall activities involved with the trail system including operations, capital investment, TMPU recommendations implemented, partnerships, education/outreach, enforcement and challenges/opportunities.

In conclusion, the Annual Trails Update plays a crucial role in ensuring that the City of Kawartha Lakes continues to make progress in developing and maintaining its trail network in alignment with the strategic goals outlined in the TMPU. This update not only highlights key activities and achievements but also underscores the importance of partnerships, education, and addressing challenges to ensure the trail system remains a valuable asset for the community.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives are being considered.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The 2024 Annual Trails Update report aligns with the following strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

Healthy Environment by encouraging active recreation

An Exceptional Quality of Life by improving the health and well-being of residents

Good Government by ensuring municipal assets are well maintained and managed.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Capital Investment: The TMPU outlines various trail development and enhancement that were incorporated into the 2024 Capital budget.

Operating Budget Impact: The Parks and Recreation Division currently receives an annual operating budget of \$100,000 specifically for trail maintenance. However, as identified within the TMPU, this amount is insufficient for the upkeep of the entire trail system. As enhancements are incorporated, there will be a need to increase the maintenance budget, in future budgets, proportionally to ensure all trails remain safe and accessible.

External Funding and Partnerships: To mitigate the financial burden on municipal resources, the Parks and Recreation Division will continue to pursue external funding opportunities through partnerships and grant programs.

Consultations:

Supervisor, Trails and Cemetery Operations

Attachments:

Appendix A – Annual Trails Update



Annual Trails
Update (2024).docx

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Department Head: Jenn Johnson