

A Strategic Plan for The Oak Ridges Trail



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Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan is a comprehensive document, outlining how the Oak Ridges Trail Association will continue work begun in 1992 to expand, secure, develop, manage and maintain the Oak Ridges Trail as a continuous recreational trail along the Oak Ridges Moraine, from the Niagara Escarpment to the Northumberland Forest. The plan will provide strategic direction for the next five years (through 2008) and promote appreciation and respect for the moraine's ecological, cultural and scenic integrity.

The strategic plan will support the implementation of Section 39 of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan which calls for the development and maintenance of a recreational trail system that will provide continuous access and travel across the entire moraine accessible to all people including persons with disabilities.

The strategy will guide the development of a trail system that is:

- designed to maintain and where possible, improve or restore the ecological integrity of the moraine,
- located in the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas as much as possible, and
- located away from public roads and unopened road allowances to the extent possible.

The location of the trail must also recognize sensitive habitats and result in minimal impact on the natural environment.

The strategic plan will also be used to support project proposals and funding requests to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the Trillium Foundation and other funding organizations to obtain support for the securement, management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail and for the operation of the Oak Ridges Trail Association. It is not the purpose of this plan to recommend the expropriation of land for trail purposes.

Administration of the Oak Ridges Trail

The overall administration and management of the Oak Ridges Trail will be led by the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), a volunteer group working in partnership with a number of other trail clubs, municipalities, conservation authorities, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

The Strategic Plan

The strategic plan contains a number of sections covering such topics as Location and Design of the Oak Ridges Trail, Improved Access to the Trail, Trail Securement Strategy, Financial Sustainability Strategy, Administration of the Oak Ridges Trail, and Monitoring.

Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan is a comprehensive document, outlining how the Oak Ridges Trail Association will continue work begun in 1992 to expand, secure, develop, manage and maintain the Oak Ridges Trail as a continuous recreational trail along the Oak Ridges Moraine, from the Niagara Escarpment to the Northumberland Forest. The plan will provide strategic direction for the next five years (through 2008) and promote appreciation and respect for the moraine's ecological, cultural and scenic integrity.

The strategic plan will be used to implement a number of recommendations contained in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Specifically, the strategy will support the implementation of Section 39 of the Conservation Plan which calls for the development and maintenance of a recreational trail system that will provide continuous access and travel across the entire moraine, accessible to all people including persons with disabilities.

The strategic plan will guide the development of a trail system that is designed to maintain and where possible, improve or restore the ecological integrity of the moraine; is located in the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas as much as possible; and is located away from public roads and unopened road allowances to the extent possible. The location of the trail must also recognize sensitive habitats and result in minimal impact on the natural environment.

The strategic plan will also be used to support project proposals and funding requests to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the Trillium Foundation and other funding organizations to obtain support for the securement, management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail and the operation of the Oak Ridges Trail Association. It is not the purpose of this plan to recommend the expropriation of land for trail purposes.

1.2 Background

The Oak Ridges Trail is a continuous footpath extending over 200 kilometers across the Oak Ridges Moraine with a number of local side trails. The trail is managed and maintained by the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), a volunteer organization inaugurated in May 1992. One of ORTA's main objectives is to develop and secure the Oak Ridges Trail for walking/hiking purposes, "thereby promoting an appreciation and respect for the Moraine's ecological, cultural, and scenic integrity, with the aim of retaining the trail corridor in its natural state." The present route of the Oak Ridges Trail is located entirely on lands owned by other agencies and individuals – federal, provincial, municipal governments, conservation authorities, and private land owners, as these lands have been made available to the association for trail purposes. However, in a number of locations the trail does not follow the route preferred by the association nor does it satisfy the criteria of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Nine chapters of volunteer members and trail workers have helped to build and now maintain the trail sections for public use in all seasons. Moving west to east, the nine trail chapters include Caledon, King, Aurora, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, Scugog, Clarington, Hope-Hamilton and Northumberland. At the present time the Oak Ridges Trail Association has approximately 750 memberships. The association has promoted the trail through its website, local fairs and media, and as a principle sponsor of Walk for the Moraine, which raises funds for the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. Over 250 group outings are organized by ORTA each year. Activities of the association are funded by membership dues, individual donations, grants, and the sale of trail guidebooks.

1.3 Vision for the Oak Ridges Trail

The design and development of the Oak Ridges Trail system as a hiking trail providing continuous east-west access across the Oak Ridges Moraine will be continued in compliance with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. In the future the trail will be extended eastward to the eastern boundary of the moraine and westward to the western boundary. Side trails will continue to be developed linking to other trails, areas of natural, historical or cultural significance and neighboring communities. The trail will be located on public lands in the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas to the extent possible and will provide access to all people including those with disabilities.

1.4 Preparation of the Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was prepared with the advice and assistance of an ORTA Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consisted of Harold Sellers, President of ORTA; Stan Butcher, Vice-President of ORTA; Peter Schaefer, Trail Director of ORTA; Kim Gavine, Program Manager, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation; Fred Johnson, Oak Ridges Moraine Project Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources; and Drew Cherry, Project Facilitator. Preparation of the strategic plan was assisted through a grant provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.

Early in the planning process it was agreed that the strategic plan would cover a number of specific topics: optimum trail alignment, trail route to eastern gateway, connections with other trails, improved access, disabled access, trail securement, financial sustainability, staffing strategy and monitoring. These topics were addressed through a series of focus group sessions, initially held with ORTA Chapter members and other trail clubs and associations. Five focus group meetings were held in June and July 2003 across the moraine to obtain input from ORTA members and members of adjacent trail clubs. Three additional meetings were held in September and October, with staff from municipalities, conservation authorities, stewardship councils, and other trail clubs to expand the information base and obtain a greater range of suggestions and recommendations. The input and recommendations obtained from these focus group sessions have been used to build and refine the strategic plan.

2. LOCATION AND DESIGN OF THE OAK RIDGES MORaine TRAIL

2.1 Existing Trail Alignment

The Oak Ridges Trail presently exists as a continuous walking/hiking trail extending over 200 km in an east-west direction across the Oak Ridges Moraine. Starting near Palgrave in the Caledon Hills, the trail presently extends east to Gores Landing at Rice Lake. One of the objectives of the strategic plan is to have the trail extended beyond Gores Landing to the eastern boundary of the moraine and in the west, beyond Palgrave to the western boundary of the moraine.

At the present time only portions of the trail are ideally located, namely in the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas as shown in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. In some locations sections of the trail are located off the moraine or in the Settlement or Countryside Areas. Portions of the trail are also located on public roads and road allowances. It is recognized that these existing sections of the trail must be maintained until such time as the trail can be relocated to the optimum trail alignment.

2.2 Optimum Trail Alignment

A major element of this study has been to identify the optimum trail alignment. This is presented as a trail corridor approximately 1 km wide extending in an east-west direction across the length of the moraine. The trail itself will be a minimum of 1 metre wide and will eventually be located within the trail corridor.

It is recognized that the optimum location of the trail must conform to the provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The location of the trail will support the requirements of Section 37 (1) of the Conservation Plan for low-intensity recreational uses. The trail will be designed to have minimal impact on the natural environment, require very little terrain or vegetation modification and few if any buildings or structures. Any structures that are required as an accessory use to the trail will be permitted only if it can be demonstrated that the adverse effects on the ecological integrity of the Plan Area will be kept to a minimum.

2.3 Optimum Trail Corridor

Identification of the optimum trail corridor is based on conformity with three selection criteria outlined below. The location of the trail corridor is identified on a series of ten Land Use Designation Maps located in Appendix 'A' at the end of this plan.

The Optimum Trail Corridor – typically 1 kilometer wide – is intended to provide each ORTA Chapter with a guideline for locating an actual section of trail so that it aligns with other sections.

Where the Chapter finds it desirable to locate outside the recommended Trail Corridor, the matter should be brought to the Board, as this may impact other sections and connections with adjoining trails.

One of the first steps in implementation of the Strategic Plan will be to prove, on the ground, the practicality of the corridor shown in this document. Changes to the corridor may be found necessary for various reasons. For example, access to the land is denied by the owner or the terrain makes the routing impractical. Similarly, new opportunities for a more attractive corridor may develop over the years.

2.4 Selection Criteria for the Optimum Trail Corridor

- Designed to provide a continuous east-west trail across the moraine.
- Located in the Natural Core Areas and the Natural Linkage Areas to the extent possible.
- Located on public lands to the extent possible where long-term trail security can be achieved.

2.5 Selection Criteria for the Optimum Trail Alignment

ORTA Chapter Chairs and members, supported by the Board of Directors, will be responsible for locating the optimum trail alignment within the trail corridor. The following eight selection criteria will be used to identify the specific location of the trail within the trail corridor:

- Located off public roads and road allowances to the extent possible.
- Designed to minimize contact with roads and non-compatible trails.
- Designed to follow a safe route when crossing public highways and roads, steep slopes, streams and rivers etc. and designed to avoid hazardous road intersections.
- Designed to provide access for all people including persons with disabilities.
- Designed to provide good opportunities for loop and side trails as well as connections with other hiking trails.
- Designed to maintain and where possible improve or restore the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Area.
- Designed to avoid sensitive cultural and ecological areas and minimize impact on the natural environment.
- Designed to minimize disturbance and interference with adjacent land uses.

In considering any new trails, major trail reconstruction or the establishment of related facilities, ORTA will consult with the appropriate municipality and/or conservation authority to identify any special measures or precautions necessary to ensure protection of the moraine's ecological and hydrological integrity.

2.6 Principles of Environmental Protection

While the purpose of the Oak Ridges Trail is to provide public access, enjoyment and appreciation of the Oak Ridges Moraine, these objectives must be balanced with a respect for the significant and sensitive nature of the natural environment on the moraine, including natural heritage, hydrological features and functions, and its distinctive landform.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan speaks specifically to special measures that need to be taken in the design, management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail and associated

minor recreational uses. ORTA will ensure that the intent of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan with respect to these policies is met by:

- Ensuring the location, design and maintenance of trails and associated features is carried out in a manner that avoids destruction, disruption or degradation of ecologically and hydrologically sensitive features and functions identified in the conservation plan,
- Ensuring that construction and maintenance of the trail and related facilities keep land disturbance to an absolute minimum,
- Incorporating appropriate warnings in signage and other educational materials advising trail users to stay on designated trails and not to pick or collect any plant or animal materials, etc.

2.7 Relocation of the Trail to the Optimum Trail Corridor

The following provisions will apply to the relocation of the existing trail to the optimum trail corridor:

- Where the existing trail is located outside the optimum trail corridor, the long term objective will be to eventually relocate the trail to be in the corridor as shown on the Land Use Designation Maps in Appendix 'A'.
- The individual trail chapters will determine the detailed trail alignment within the optimum corridor.
- If the trail chapters wish to locate the trail outside the optimum trail corridor, they will be required to follow an amendment procedure that will involve obtaining approval from the ORTA Board of Directors. It is recognized that it may not be possible to relocate the trail within the optimum trail corridor across the entire moraine in the short term.
- Until such time as the trail can be successfully relocated, the existing trail will continue to be maintained and managed in its present location.
- The northern trail route through the Town of Aurora will be maintained as a main, alternate trail even though the optimum trail corridor will be located further to the south through the community of Oak Ridges in the Town of Richmond Hill.

2.8 Side and Loop Trails

The connection of side and loop trails to the main Oak Ridges Trail is designed to provide a complete trail system. Side and loop trails are those trails that branch off the main east-west trail. Side trails may provide a connecting link to other trails. Existing examples are the Trans Canada Trail, Nokiidaa Trail and Ganaraska Trail. They may also offer an alternate route to provide hikers with an opportunity to observe cultural, historic, scenic, and in some cases, ecologically significant sites. Side and loop trails may also provide opportunities for disabled access and parking facilities in locations that the main trail cannot offer.

2.9 Adjoining Trails and Other Trail Users

There are presently many other recreational trails located across the Oak Ridges Moraine. These trails are operated by a number of different land owners and trail managers e.g. municipalities,

conservation authorities, other trail clubs etc. and provide a variety of outdoor uses and activities e.g. hiking, cross-country skiing, cycling, snowmobiling, motocross, horseback riding etc. Some of these uses are compatible with the purpose of the Oak Ridges Trail, which is essentially to provide a hiking trail across the moraine; others are less compatible and some would be considered incompatible. The landowner ultimately decides which trail uses are permissible.

The Oak Ridges Trail Association will pursue strategic partnerships and working relationships with other trail clubs and associations in order to support connections with adjacent compatible trails. This could involve joint meetings, trail representatives sitting on each others committees, holding joint workshops and providing joint maintenance on the Oak Ridges Trail and other connecting trails. The goal will be to improve communications, build information and trail management links, coordinate efforts and address trail use conflicts.

Within each ORTA Chapter there has been discussion around connecting the Oak Ridges Trail with other trail systems such as the Trans Canada Trail, Caledon/Bruce Trail, the Nokiidaa Trail, Rouge Valley Trail, Seaton Trail, Waterfront Trail, Uxbridge Naturally, Ganaraska Hiking Trail, Millbrook Valley Trails, conservation authority trails and municipal trails. Some of these connections are already a reality. There seems to be strong support for a more formal agreement between York and Durham Regions and ORTA to use the Regional Forest Tracts for trail purposes. However, other uses permitted in the Forest Tracts include horseback riding, mountain biking, cycling, and cross country skiing. Some of these uses could present a conflict with hiking and walking along the same trail and at some point through partnership discussions, “rules of management” should be developed to prevent or minimize potential conflicts.

2.10 How ORTA will Coordinate Connections with Adjoining Trails

- ORTA will seek to form strategic partnerships and working arrangements with other trail clubs and associations, municipalities and conservation authorities for the purpose of improving communications, coordinating efforts, addressing trail use conflicts and providing connections with other trails.
- ORTA will develop a conflict resolution mechanism to deal with conflicting trail uses. In the short term the strategy may be to share existing trails, however, in the long term the strategy should be to physically separate conflicting trail uses such as snowmobiling, trail bikes and hiking.
- ORTA will look for compatibility with other trail users, (e.g. cross country skiers, joggers etc.). However, where the location of the Oak Ridges Trail is considered to be in conflict with other motorized uses (e.g. snowmobile, motocross) ORTA will investigate the possibility of developing an adjacent, parallel trail for hiking purposes.
- ORTA will pursue a partnership with the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition to ensure continued access to trails on conservation authority lands.
- ORTA will investigate the possibility of obtaining a seasonal pass for its members to access the trail on conservation authority lands across the moraine. This approach will be pursued on a pilot project basis with the Ganaraska Region C.A. in an attempt to obtain access to the Ganaraska Forest trails for all ORTA members based on one seasonal/ annual pass.

- Appropriate signage should note where the Oak Ridges Trail connects with other trails. The placement of signs should note the transition from public lands to private lands and vice versa.
- The Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook should show connecting links with municipal and conservation authority trails where they can be clearly identified.
- ORTA will inquire about the possibility of having the Oak Ridges Trail shown in commercial map publications that cover the moraine.
- ORTA will continue to work with Conservation Authorities and other public bodies to determine which trails on their lands could be closed for restoration, logging or other purposes and when, in order to minimize impacts on the Oak Ridges Trail.

3. IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE TRAIL

3.1 Gateways to the Trail

Decisions on a detailed trail route to the eastern boundary of the moraine will be delayed until Northumberland County has completed its Forest Management Study and the Rice Lake Plains initiative. However in keeping with the Selection Criteria for Optimum Trail Alignment noted above, it is agreed that the extension of the trail should generally follow a corridor through the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas and remain on public lands to the extent possible.

The strategic plan supports a tentative recommendation that the eastern gateway for the Oak Ridges Trail be located in the village of Warkworth, at the intersection of County Roads 25 and 29, north of the 401 and east of Rice Lake, in Northumberland County. Some of the advantages of locating a gateway to the trail in a community include – access to public parking, accommodations, supplies, shopping, emergency facilities etc. At the present time no discussions have been initiated with Warkworth residents or Northumberland County staff to talk about this recommendation.

The strategic plan also supports a recommendation that the western gateway to the trail be extended to Palgrave. In developing this extension, it may be possible to follow the Caledon Trailway to Palgrave. If so, it will be important to recognize the significant contribution that the Caledon Trailway has made to the development and maintenance of the trail in this area. The Caledon Trailway should be involved in any discussions regarding this extension and the construction of a gateway facility or feature.

The plan supports at least one and possibly two gateways on the Yonge St. corridor; one to mark the Aurora route and the second to mark the southern route in the area of Bond Lake near the community of Oak Ridges. Gateways to the trail should have a physical presence, e.g. sign, archway, parking lot, kiosk, interpretive center etc.

3.2 How ORTA will Approach Gateways to the Trail

- Gateways to the Oak Ridges Trail should have a physical presence that will announce their location to the public and provide basic amenities to encourage access to the trail,

e.g. parking, washrooms, a permanent trail map, interpretive materials or an interpretive center.

- At the present time, it is tentatively recommended that the eastern gateway to the Oak Ridges Trail be located at the village of Warkworth in Northumberland County. If Warkworth is accepted as the eastern gateway, the trail will be extended over time to this location.
- The Oak Ridges Trail should be extended to Palgrave at the western boundary of the moraine and a gateway to the trail should be located in Palgrave.
- There should be two gateways on the Yonge St. corridor; one to mark the Aurora route and the second to mark the southern route through the community of Oak Ridges.
- ORTA will explore with the municipalities, opportunities to provide additional gateways to the trail.

3.3 Parking Standards

There is an identified need to provide improved access and more designated (P) parking areas along the Oak Ridges Trail. The strategic plan targets for a designated (P) off road parking area that can accommodate a minimum of six cars to be provided for every 10 km or at maximum 15 km of trail. In some locations this target has already been met, however, in other locations i.e. the eastern portion of the trail, this target has yet to be achieved. A designated, off road parking area will also be provided at the trailheads i.e. the east and west gateways to the trail.

Designated (P) parking areas, where practical, will be located at the junction of side trails and the main trail, and at the junction of other trails and the Oak Ridges Trail. The location of designated parking sites should be considered in conjunction with the location of roadside (R) parking areas and parking areas for the disabled.

Designated parking areas must be properly graded, surfaced and signed. Additional requirements will be necessary if the parking site is to be used for disabled persons, e.g. wider parking spaces designated by site lines, paved surface and reduced grade. Municipalities and conservation authorities will be approached to explore partnership opportunities with ORTA to provide the necessary parking areas. Municipalities and conservation authorities who are interested in partnering will also be asked to assume responsibility for snow removal, grass cutting, grading and major maintenance in parking areas. ORTA will also consider partnering with other public agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) to assist with the provision of designated parking sites on their properties.

Designated parking areas are not usually popular with adjacent landowners because of concerns over increased garbage, parking for purposes other than hiking, increased vandalism etc. The onus is on ORTA to look after the day to day maintenance and assure adjacent landowners that their property rights will be respected. Designated parking areas will be well signed, where the landowner agrees, and trail users should be encouraged to use them wherever possible to avoid parking on roadsides.

3.4 How ORTA Will Improve Parking Access to the Oak Ridges Trail

- A designated (P) parking area capable of accommodating a minimum of six cars will be provided for every 10 km or at maximum every 15 km of trail.
- A designated parking area capable of accommodating a minimum of six cars will be located at the east and west trailheads.
- The location of the designated parking areas will be considered in conjunction with the location of roadside (R) parking areas.
- Designated parking areas will be properly signed with permanent materials, adequately surfaced and graded.
- Additional requirements will be necessary (e.g. paved surface, slope, grade etc.) if the parking area is to be used for disabled persons gaining access to the trail.
- Designated (P) parking areas, (not roadside parking areas) will be used to provide access to the trail for disabled persons.
- Public agencies and NGOs located along the trail will be approached to determine if they would be prepared to partner with ORTA to provide and maintain designated parking areas (e.g. ORTA could look after regular, light maintenance, the municipality or other partners could look after maintenance requiring heavy equipment – grading, snow removal, grass cutting etc.)
- Trail users will be encouraged to use designated parking areas rather than roadside parking areas.
- Key access points to the trail (e.g. east and west gateways, Yonge St. gateways and strategic locations where the main trail links with side trails or other trails) will have adequate parking, permanent signage and adequate access from the parking area to the trail.

3.5 Disabled Access

Section 39 (1) of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan directs that a recreational trail shall be established to provide continuous access and travel along the entire Plan Area, accessible to all including persons with disabilities. The strategic plan recognizes that it would be impractical if not impossible to make the entire Oak Ridges Trail accessible for disabled persons. The plan supports a target that ensures a reasonable portion of the trail, in representative locations across the moraine, is made accessible to the disabled. The target is a minimum of 0.5 km of trail provided for disabled access for every 25 km of trail length. Disabled access will also be encouraged on side and loop trails.

It was agreed that portions of the trail made accessible for wheelchair use would probably provide a sufficient standard to meet most other disabilities as well. Some sections of the trail will have to be resurfaced and possibly paved to accommodate wheelchair access. However, disabled access does not mean solely accessible for wheelchairs; disabled access will also be considered for the blind, the deaf, and the mentally challenged.

Disabled access to the trail should be from designated (P) parking areas, not from roadside (R) parking locations. Some designated parking areas will also have to be resurfaced and/or

regarded to accommodate vehicles retrofitted for the disabled. Disabled access locations should also be clearly and adequately signed.

The Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) will be applied to certain sections of the trail to determine if these sections could be used with some modifications and improvements, to accommodate the disabled. The UTAP evaluation process has been applied to the Case Woodlot and Sheppard's Bush in Aurora. Sections of the trail selected for disabled access should have a number of representative features of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Public Agencies and NGOs will also be encouraged to assist in building portions of the trail that will be accessible to disabled persons. The King City Campus of Seneca College is in the process of providing a portion of their trail, known as Woodland Passage, for disabled access.

3.6 How ORTA Intends to Provide Disabled Access to the Oak Ridges Trail

- ORTA will provide a minimum of 0.5 km of trail for disabled persons for every 25 km of existing or developed trail.
- Disabled access can be designed to accommodate any number of disabilities (e.g. wheel chair accessible, accessible for the blind, deaf or mentally challenged). The design of the trail must be suitable for the disability being accommodated.
- Designated (P) parking areas, not roadside (R) parking areas will be provided for disabled access to the trail.
- ORTA will use the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) to evaluate different sections of the trail to determine which sections could be redesigned to accommodate persons with disabilities. Some basic, generalized costs for providing disabled access to the trail have been provided in Appendix 'B'
- Public agencies and NGOs will be encouraged to partner with ORTA to make sections of the Oak Ridges Trail suitable for access by disabled persons.
- ORTA will reference any available legislation, guidelines and standards to supplement the UTAP evaluation process.

3.7 Signage Standards

Signage will be provided to mark the Oak Ridges Trail, recognize other trail clubs, each landowner, mark parking areas and trail links, and, where necessary, indicate lands to which access is not permitted. Where other trails link with the Oak Ridges Trail, an attempt will be made to partner for a common sign. Signs at designated parking areas should also show connections with other trails. Signs erected at designated parking areas should be permanent e.g. mounted on a laminated plastic, metal or acetate board.

Paper copies of the trail map will not be provided at designated parking areas because of the potential for vandalism and litter. ORTA will explore with Emergency Medical Services a acceptable form of referencing access to the trail. This may include the possibility of using "numbered" signs along the Oak Ridges Trail to indicate the distance hikers have traveled and where they are relative to the Chapter boundaries. Gateways and key access points to the trail should have adequate signage, designated parking areas, permanent maps showing trail routes, and well marked access from parking areas to the trail.

3.8 How ORTA Will Make Use of Signage Standards

- ORTA will strive to use shared signage to indicate where other trails link with the Oak Ridges Trail.
- Signs will be placed at all designated parking areas and will show connections with other trails and identify access to the Oak Ridges Trail.
- Appropriate signage will be provided to note designated, off-road parking areas for the disabled.
- Signs erected at designated parking areas will be permanent e.g. plastic or metal and will be placed to obtain maximum exposure to the public.
- ORTA will explore with Emergency Medical Services an acceptable form of referencing access to the trail.
- Gateways and key access points to the trail will be adequately signed. Access from parking areas to the trail will be well marked.

4. TRAIL SECUREMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Background and Alternatives

The Oak Ridges Trail Association does not directly hold any lands nor does this plan recommend that lands be expropriated for trail purposes. The present Oak Ridges Trail, which extends over 200 km from the Caledon Hills in the west to Gores Landing in the east, is located on lands owned by private individuals, federal, provincial or municipal governments, conservation authorities or other bodies. The Oak Ridges Trail Association does not wish to acquire lands in its name; however, the association is clearly interested in locating the Oak Ridges Trail on public lands where access will remain secure in perpetuity.

Two of the Selection Criteria for determining the Optimum Trail Alignment included the following:

- Located off public roads and road allowances to the extent possible, and
- Located on public lands where long term trail security can be achieved.

Notwithstanding the above, ORTA will consider the use of unopened road allowances for trail purposes, if they provide the most suitable alignment for the trail and the municipality gives ORTA reasonable assurances that the road allowance will not be opened for public motorized transportation or placed in private ownership.

As of June 2003, the status of the Oak Ridges Trail was as follows:

- 42% of the trail located on public roads
- 18% of the trail located on road allowances
- 32% of the trail located on public lands
- 8% of the trail located on private lands

The basic Trail Securement Strategy for the Oak Ridges Trail Association will be to move as much of the trail as possible from public roads and private lands to public lands. There are a number of different ways to secure land for trail purposes. Five different alternatives are discussed below. These alternatives are not ranked in any particular order:

- Donations – A trail association, land trust or other public body could receive land through a donation for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a trail. The landowner receives a tax receipt for the value of the land donated. The donation may be in the form of a fee simple transfer or donation of an easement for trail purposes.
- Fee Simple – Land is purchased outright at fair market value for trail purposes. The land can be held either by the trail club/organization or by a second party such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust or the Ontario Heritage Foundation.
- Easement – The landowner is paid money or receives a tax benefit for a partial right on his/her lands i.e. the trail association obtains the right to construct and use a trail over the landowner’s property. The cost of the easement is based on a before and after valuation of the land included under the easement and the easement must be monitored and inspected on an annual basis.
- Licence Agreement – this is a formal written agreement; although no significant money changes hands i.e. the trail association pays \$1.00 for the licence agreement, which allows them to construct a trail on private property. Either party can terminate the agreement at any time with 90 days notice. This form of agreement is generally used for public agencies and NGOs.
- “Handshake” Agreements – there is no formal or written agreement, the landowner simply agrees to allow the trail association to construct and use a trail over his/her property. This is the least secure form of land tenure and can be cancelled at any time by the landowner. ORTA has a number of “handshake” agreements for portions of the Oak Ridges Trail.

4.2 How ORTA Intends to Secure the Oak Ridges Trail

- As a preference, ORTA will seek to have the trail located on public lands held by public agencies and NGOs. This option will also be dependent on the principle of a willing buyer and a willing seller. Lands will not be obtained for trail purposes through expropriation.
- Where public ownership is not an option, consideration will be given to the use of easements held and administered by conservation authorities, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) and/or the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF). The easement holder takes responsibility for managing and monitoring the easement and ORTA takes responsibility for constructing, managing and maintaining the trail.
- ORTA has now entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding with the ORMLT. Under this agreement the ORMLT can obtain and hold lands for conservation purposes. ORTA will develop, manage and maintain the trail across these lands.

- Where the first two approaches are not feasible, ORTA will continue to develop and maintain the Oak Ridges Trail on private lands through licence agreements or informal “handshake” agreements with the landowners.

5. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

5.1 Funding Sources for Financial Sustainability

To date the Oak Ridges Trail has been developed largely through private and public donations. The Oak Ridges Trail Association needs to secure funding for the long term in order to ensure the ongoing management and operation of the trail remains financially sustainable. Funds are necessary for the day-to-day and long term operations of the Oak Ridges Trail Association which include: maintaining the trail, determining the optimum trail alignment, securing the trail, extending the trail to the eastern and western boundaries of the moraine, improving access, providing connecting links with other trails and ensuring sections of the trail are made accessible to persons with disabilities.

5.2 Potential Funding Partners

The Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan provides direction to ORTA for developing, managing and maintaining the trail over the next five years. However, equally important, the strategy will also be used to support project proposals and future funding requests to such bodies as the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. In addition to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Trillium Foundation there are a number of other organizations and support groups that may provide funding for trail building projects. These potential funding organizations and foundations are described in more detail in Appendix ‘C’.

5.3 How ORTA Will Obtain Financial Sustainability

- ORTA will pursue as a first priority, a funding partnership with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation for developing, managing and maintaining the Oak Ridges Trail in compliance with the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
- Such an arrangement with the Foundation will be further supported by partnerships and agreements with other groups and organizations doing work on the moraine such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.
- ORTA will seek support from other funding organizations such as the Trillium Foundation, Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, Shell Environmental Fund and TrailPAQ, as appropriate, for trail management and maintenance purposes.
- ORTA will pursue a more formalized partnership with public agencies and NGOs on the moraine to secure a long term commitment to funding and assistance with trail management, land securement for trail purposes, parking and disabled access.
- ORTA will develop a long term financial sustainability strategy that will consider added revenues through increased membership, individual donations and planned giving.

6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE OAK RIDGES TRAIL

6.1 Administration and Management

The overall administration and management of the Oak Ridges Trail will be led by the Oak Ridges Trail Association working in partnership with other trail groups and clubs, municipalities, conservation authorities, public agencies and NGOs, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. At the present time ORTA is a charitable, non-profit organization with 750 memberships, administered entirely by volunteers.

ORTA is governed by a Board of Directors elected at an Annual General Meeting. The Board consists of a President, Vice-President, Past President, Treasurer, Trail Director, Membership Director, Publicity Director, several Directors-at-Large and nine Chapter Chairs. The Board of Directors is responsible for sustaining the organization and ensuring security of resources and records.

The President and Vice-President spend a substantial amount of time administering the day-to-day operations of the association. The association is organized into nine Trail Chapters along the moraine, so that local knowledge can be used to plan, develop and maintain the trail. Each Chapter is represented on the Board of Directors by a Chapter Chair and is responsible for the maintenance and management of their section of the trail. All members have input into trail development and maintenance and vote on ORTA business.

6.2 Human Resources Staffing Plan

If ORTA is going to continue as a viable organization, it needs to establish a human resources staffing strategy. Although ORTA has been highly successful in developing and maintaining the trail with a volunteer organization, the number and complexity of issues presently facing the association requires the services of a number of full-time, paid staff. These staff positions are considered essential to facilitate redevelopment and assist with the ongoing operation and management of the Oak Ridges Trail to meet the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan.

The optimum staffing structure being recommended would consist initially of an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant. Depending on the need and funding availability, a Development Coordinator and a Land Administrator/Land Manager could be considered at a later date. ORTA will form a Staffing Committee to determine how and when these positions should best be filled. The committee should discuss funding for the positions, terms and conditions of employment, part-time vs. full-time, benefits, salary or other forms of compensation, reporting relationships etc. Outline job descriptions for the four positions noted above are provided in Appendix 'D'.

6.3 How ORTA Will Develop a Staffing Strategy

- ORTA will form a staffing committee to implement the staffing plan noted above. This committee should discuss the type of position(s) most needed to serve the ORTA

organization, funding for the positions, terms and conditions of employment, part time vs. full time, benefits, salary or other forms of compensation, long term need for the position, reporting relationship etc.

- The strategic plan recommends the following priority for the filling of staff positions:
 1. Executive Director – full time position
 2. Administrative Assistant – full time position if possible, alternatively, the position could be shared with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
 3. Development Coordinator – part time position
 4. Land Administrator/Land Manager – part time position
- Full time staff will be located in a permanent office facility where all administration and support functions can be conducted and essential records and data bases will be maintained. Ideally, this would be in the same building as the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.

6.4 Monitoring

ORTA must develop a monitoring framework to:

- identify targets and performance measures discussed in the strategic plan, and
- report on the accomplishment of those targets to its membership and the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.

The monitoring framework would also establish a system to evaluate progress on a regular basis including the preparation of an annual progress report and a detailed evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategic plan in achieving its purpose and objectives prepared every five years.

A sample year one work plan had been provided in Appendix ‘E’ and a number of performance targets and measures that should be reported on an annual basis, has been provided in Appendix ‘F’.

Appendix 'A'

Optimum Trail Corridor Recommended Through Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan, December 2003.

The following maps are available as a PDF file. Please contact the ORTA office at: (905) 833-6600 or execdir@orta.on.ca.

Map 1 – Towns of Caledon, New Tecumseth and Mono, Township of Adjala/Tosorontio

Map 2 – Township of King

Map 3 – Towns of Aurora, Richmond Hill and Newmarket, City of Vaughan

Map 4 – Towns of East Gwillimbury, Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville

Map 5 – Township of Uxbridge, City of Pickering

Map 6 – Township of Scugog, Town of Whitby, City of Oshawa

Map 7 – Municipality of Clarington

Map 8 – City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan

Map 9 – Municipality of Port Hope, Township of Hamilton

Map 10 – Townships of Alnwick/Haldimand and Cramahe, Municipality of Trent Hills

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Aurora District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources for providing the custom cartography produced for the Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan.

Appendix 'B'

Costs for Disabled Access Trail Preparation

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has established some isolated costs for the construction of their trail at Island Lake Conservation Area. This trail is considered and promoted as accessible for disabled users. The trail is 3.5 meters wide, treated with screened, crushed limestone and boarded in places with treated 6"X6" lumber. The following costs were provided for the construction of this trail:

Treated Pathway:	\$ 35.00 / m2
Fixed Boardwalk:	\$ 410.00 / m2
Viewing Platform Areas:	\$25,000.00 each
Primary Information Kiosk:	\$15,000.00 each

These isolated costs could serve as a general guide for the construction of portions of the Oak Ridges Trail to accommodate disabled users.

Appendix 'C'

Potential Funding Partners

Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation

The core purpose of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation is to provide support and encouragement for activities that preserve, protect, and restore the environmental integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine and support a trail along it. The Foundation will operate primarily by funding the work of others and will offer leadership and coordination for Moraine-wide activities where appropriate.

Amounts: the ORMF has received \$15 million from the provincial government. Approximately, \$13.5 million will be used over the next three years to fund Foundation activities. No specific amount has been allocated for trail development, however, the securement, planning, access and development of the Oak Ridges Trail System is considered a priority.

Deadlines: no specific deadline

Information: <http://www.ormf.ca>;

Ontario Trillium Foundation

The goal of the Ontario Trillium Foundation is to work with others to make strategic investments to build healthy, caring and strong economic communities in Ontario. The OTF receives annually \$100. million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. ORTA can apply to the Toronto Catchment Area.

Amounts: single or multi-year grants of up to \$250,000/ year for up to five years, grants of up to \$75,000 for renovations/repairs and equipment purchases over one year.

Deadlines: ongoing, no specific deadline

Information: <http://www.trilliumfoundation.org>; Telephone 1-800-263-2887

Shell Environmental Fund

Shell Environmental Fund (SEF) provides financial support for grass-roots, action-oriented projects that improve and protect the environment.

Amounts: up to \$5,000

Deadlines: February 28th and September 15th

Information: <http://www.shell.ca/code/values/environment/sef.html>; Telephone (403) 691-2071
Write Shell Environmental Fund, 400- 4th Ave. S.W., P.O. Box 100, Station M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2H5.

Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation Community Fund

The purpose of the Friends of the Environment Foundation Community Fund is to provide funding support for worthwhile community-based initiatives that make a positive difference to the Canadian environment. Applications for the Community Fund are reviewed throughout the year.

Amounts: not stated

Deadline: none

Information: <http://www.fef.ca>; Telephone 1-800-361-5333

Molson Local Heroes

Local Heroes is a neighborhood-based program where Molson provides funding to individuals of legal drinking age to help repair, revamp or revitalize existing adult recreational facilities in a community.

Amounts: up to \$5,000 or up to 1/3 of the total project cost.

Deadline: March 31st

Information: <http://www.molson.com/home/main.ghtml>; Telephone 1-800-665-7661

TrailPAQ Community Fund

The TrailPAQ Community Fund is sponsored by Compaq Canada Inc. and administered by Go for Green. Go for Green's new Community Fund will focus on the promotion of trail initiatives in Canada. A trail promotion project should complement Go for Green's efforts to encourage an active lifestyle and a healthy environment.

Amounts: \$3,000 to one trail in each province or territory

Deadline: October 1st

Information: <http://www.trailpaq.ca>;

Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network & Fund

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists serves as the coordinator for the GLAHNF. The fund is designed to assist non-profit, non-government, grassroots environmental and community groups with small grants to improve the future prospects for our wetlands, rivers, lakes and nearshore areas.

Amounts: up to \$3,500 U.S.

Deadline: April 30th and September 30th

Information: <http://www.ontarionature.org>; or Telephone 1-800-440-2366 ext. 243.

Municipalities

Municipalities located on and off the moraine should be encouraged to participate in the management and funding of the Oak Ridges Trail. This could be done through direct financial donations, the donation of time and capital or the donation of lands for trail purposes.

Municipalities could also be approached to permanently close unopened road allowances for the purpose of securing land for the trail. Municipalities could be asked to assist with the provision of permanent, designated parking locations adjacent to the trail.

Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authorities who are members of the Moraine Coalition could also be encouraged to participate in the funding and management of the Oak Ridges Trail through direct financial

contributions, free access to the trail where it is located on Conservation Authority lands and free access to C.A. owned parking areas.

Public and Private Corporations

Public and private corporations located within the moraine could be approached and encouraged to participate in the funding, management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail as responsible corporate citizens. This would require the development of a corporate marketing strategy geared towards securing donations from the corporate sector.

Individual Donations

In the past much of the management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail was accomplished through individual donations, membership fees and the sale of trail guidebooks. With 750 memberships and an individual membership fee of twenty dollars, sufficient funds could be generated to carry out basic maintenance and management. However, as the trail system expands and management costs increase, membership fees and individual donations will not be sufficient to meet demands. ORTA should attempt to secure donations beyond its existing membership base. This could be accomplished through expanded membership drives or by approaching individuals and organizations that could be considered philanthropic supporters of the Oak Ridges Trail.

Planned Giving

As part of a marketing strategy, ORTA could promote planned financial donations or bequests to support the management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail.

Appendix 'D'

Outline Job Descriptions

- Executive Director – This position would be a full-time, salaried position responsible for the day-to-day as well as the long term management activities of the trail association. The executive director would report to the ORTA Board of Directors and would be responsible for implementing Association policies and specifically the recommendations contained in the strategic plan, making recommendations to the Board of Directors, coordinating project proposals and grant applications, supervising other full and part-time staff, developing and managing ORTA's annual budget, developing a long term financial strategy for securing funds, negotiating and managing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with partners such as the regional municipalities, conservation authorities, ORMLT and others.
- Administrative Assistant – This individual would be responsible for filing, record keeping, minutes, providing administrative and secretarial support to the Executive Director of ORTA, handling incoming mail, providing phone and reception services, banking of cheques, mailing correspondence and trail guides, assisting with the preparation of grant and funding proposals, coordinating grant applications, maintaining and updating budget information, preparing general correspondence and helping to organize volunteer events.
- Development Coordinator – The Development Coordinator would report to the Executive Director and would be responsible for fundraising and membership development, and maintaining the Association Database.
- Lands Administrator/Land Manager – This individual would report to the Executive Director and would be responsible for maintaining and keeping track of the agreements with public and private landowners for the use of their lands for trail purposes. This person would also be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Land Trust, working with the Chapter Chairs to assist the Land Trust in developing a prioritized list of land holdings suitable for acquisition for trail purposes, developing partnerships with private land owners, maintaining good land owner relations, monitoring conservation easements, developing MOUs with conservation authorities, municipalities and other organizations to secure trail access across their lands.

Appendix 'E'

Sample Template for Establishing Annual Work Plan

The Executive Director working in conjunction with the Board of Directors will establish annual priorities.

Establishment of Optimum Trail Corridor and Optimum Trail Alignment

- The ORTA trail chapters have identified a 1 km wide optimum trail corridor, within which the optimum trail alignment will be located. The optimum trail corridor provides a continuous east-west route across the moraine; is located within the Natural Core and Natural Linkage areas to the extent possible; and is located on public lands where possible. This target has been completed as a first priority.
- Using the Selection Criteria, the trail chapters will identify the optimum trail alignment within the trail corridor. Optimum trail width will be approximately 1 metre wide. All nine trail chapters will attempt to identify the location of the optimum trail alignment within 18 months of approval of the Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan.

Connections with Other Trails

- Each of the nine trail chapters will identify all of the connections with other trails in their chapter area within one year of approval of the strategic plan.
- Each trail chapter will investigate and if possible develop a working partnership with one other trail club, association, municipality or conservation authority, per year over the five year life span of the strategic plan.
- Within the first year of approval of the strategic plan, the ORTA will investigate the possibility of developing a partnership with the Conservation Authority Moraine Coalition to ensure continued access for ORTA members to Conservation Authority trails.
- ORTA will investigate the possibility of a pilot project with the Ganaraska Region C.A. to provide an annual/seasonal pass for ORTA members to access the GRCA trails in the Ganaraska Forest. Time frame for discussions should begin within one year of approval of the strategic plan.
- ORTA will develop a conflict resolution mechanism within 18 months of the approval of the strategic plan, to address conflicting trail uses on parts of the Oak Ridges Trail.
- The Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook will be modified to show connecting links with other trails operated by municipalities, conservation authorities and other trail clubs. ORTA should be able to demonstrate some progress on this target within one year of the approval of the strategic plan.
- ORTA will inquire about the possibility of having the Oak Ridges Trail shown on commercial map publications that cover the Oak Ridges Moraine. ORTA should be able to report on this target within one year of approval of the strategic plan.

Gateways to the Oak Ridges Trail

- Within one year of approval of the plan, ORTA will have initiated discussions with the Town of Caledon and the Caledon Trailway to determine the possibility of extending the Oak Ridges Trail to the Town of Palgrave and identifying Palgrave as the western gateway to the trail.
- Within 18 months of approval of the plan, ORTA will have initiated discussions with the County of Northumberland to determine the extension of the Oak Ridges Trail to the eastern edge of the moraine and to identify the location of an eastern gateway to the trail.

Parking Standards

- ORTA has accepted a standard of providing 1 designated (P) parking area that can accommodate a minimum of six cars for every 10 to 15 km of trail. The ORTA trail chapters will identify where additional parking areas are required.
- Where a need has been identified for new parking areas, the trail chapters will attempt to negotiate with the local land owner (e.g. public agencies and NGOs) for the development of one new parking area each year as required to meet the above noted target.
- The trail chapters will attempt to negotiate with the appropriate public agency or NGO for the long term maintenance of designated parking areas e.g. snow removal, grass cutting etc.
- A member of the ORTA Executive Committee along with the Chair of the Hope Chapter will undertake negotiations with the Ganaraska Region C.A. in an attempt to obtain parking at a nominal cost for ORTA members in the Ganaraska Forest Center parking lot located at the intersection of 10th Line and Cold Springs Camp Rd. in the Township of Hope. These negotiations should begin within ten months of the approval of the strategic plan.

Disabled Access

- The ORTA trail chapters will seek to identify 0.5 km of trail for disabled access for every 25 km of trail in existence. Chapter members will work on identifying and evaluating the appropriate location for disabled access within their length of trail. Disabled access can be provided on the main trail, side, link and loop trails. This work should be initiated within one year of the approval of the plan.
- Each trail chapter will work towards the achievement of their target to provide disabled access to a portion of the trail over the four years following approval of the strategic plan.
- Trail chapter members will provide access to the portion of the trail identified for disabled persons from a properly signed and designated parking lot.

Signage Standards

- An ORTA sub-committee will develop appropriate signage to indicate where other trails link with the Oak Ridges Trail. This target should be accomplished within 18 months of approval of the plan.
- Explore with Emergency Medical Services an acceptable form of referencing access to the trail and implement appropriate signage standards within one year of approval of the strategic plan.

Trail Securement Strategy

- Trail chapter members supported by ORTA will strive to move 2.5% of the trail per year from private lands and public roadways to public lands over the life of the strategic plan.
- ORTA chapter members will attempt to relocate 2.5 % of the trail each year from private lands and public roads to Conservation Easement lands held by the ORMLT or other foundation.
- ORTA chapter members will attempt to reduce by 2% per year the amount of trail secured through “handshake” agreements.
- Portions of the trail removed from “handshake” agreements and placed on public lands or Conservation Easements would satisfy two of the above noted targets.

Financial Sustainability

- ORTA will establish a funding partnership with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.
- ORTA will apply for financial support from the Trillium Foundation, Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, Shell Environmental Fund and others to support the ongoing management and maintenance of the Oak Ridges Trail. Applications should be submitted to the appropriate organizations within 12 to 18 months of the approval of the plan.
- ORTA will seek funding partnerships with municipalities and conservation authorities to assist with the provision of designated parking areas, disabled access to the trail, signage and major maintenance of parking areas. This target will be accomplished over the life of the strategic plan.

Staffing Strategy

- ORTA will form a Staffing Committee to consider the value and necessity of hiring one or more full or part-time positions. This committee should be set up within six months of approval of the strategic plan.
- ORTA will develop a funding proposal, as noted above under the section titled Financial Sustainability Strategy.

Appendix 'F'

Performance Targets and Measures

Optimum Trail Corridor (OTC)

Target: The main Oak Ridges Trail (ORT) located entirely within the OTC

Measure: % (total km) of the main Oak Ridges Trail located within the OTC

Optimum Trail Alignment (OTA)

Target: The main ORT located entirely on public land/easement

Measure: % (total km) of the main ORT located on public land

Target: The main ORT located entirely off road

Measure: % (total km) of the main ORT located off road

Connections With Other Trails

Target: All major connections required with other trails identified

Measure: % (#) of all major connections required with other trails identified

Target: All major connections with other trails completed/finalized

Measure: % (#) of major connections with other trails completed/finalized

Gateways:

Target: Location of all gateway sites confirmed

Measure: % (#) of gateway sites confirmed

Target: All gateway sites established

Measure: % (#) of gateway sites established

Parking Standards

Target: All existing or required off road parking facilities identified in conjunction with public agencies and NGOs

Measure: % (#) of all existing or required off road parking facilities identified in conjunction with public agencies and NGOs

Target: All required off road parking facilities established in conjunction with public agencies and NGOs

Measure: % (#) of required off road parking facilities established in conjunction with public agencies and NGOs

Disabled Access

Target: All existing or required disabled access trails identified in conjunction with partners

Measure: % (total km) of existing or required disabled access trails identified in conjunction with partners

Target: All required disabled access trails established in conjunction with partners
Measure: % (total km) of required disabled access trails established in conjunction with partners

Signage

Target: All trails appropriately signed
Measure: % (total km) appropriately signed

Appendix 'G'

Definitions

Countryside Areas – A designation contained in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The purpose of Countryside Areas is to encourage agricultural and other rural uses that support the Plan's objectives.

Designated (P) Parking Area – A designated parking area located off the public road as shown on the trail maps in the Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook and marked by a capital P.

Gateways – Gateways to the Oak Ridges Trail identify a public entrance to the trail and will have a physical presence such as a sign, archway, parking lot, kiosk, permanent map of the trail etc.

Natural Core Areas – A designation contained in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The purpose of Natural Core Areas is to maintain and where possible improve or restore the ecological integrity of the Plan Area.

Natural Linkage Areas – A designation contained in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The purpose of Natural Linkage Areas is to maintain and where possible improve or restore the ecological integrity of the Plan Area and to maintain and where possible improve or restore, regional-scale open space linkages between Natural Core Areas and along river valleys and stream corridors.

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) – Organizations that may or may not be funded by government but are independent of and work at arms length from the government. Examples include the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

Oak Ridges Moraine – The area subject to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as outlined on the maps in Appendix 'A'.

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan – An ecologically-based plan established by the Ontario government to provide land use and resource management direction for the 190,000 hectares of land and water located within the moraine.

Optimum Trail Alignment – The best or most favorable location for the trail as outlined in the Selection Criteria for Optimum Trail Alignment in the strategic plan. The trail will be a minimum of 1 metre wide, located if at all possible, in the Optimum Trail Corridor and designed to have minimal impact on the natural environment.

Optimum Trail Corridor – The best or most favorable location for the trail corridor as outlined in the Selection Criteria for Optimum Trail Corridor in the strategic plan. The Optimum Trail Corridor will be approximately 1 km wide, and will extend in an east-west direction across the length of the moraine in the Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas to the extent possible.

Public Agency – Agencies, departments, ministries representing the federal, provincial or municipal government. For example the Ministry of Natural Resources is a public agency representing the provincial government.

Roadside (R) Parking Area – A roadside parking area as shown on the trail maps in the Oak Ridges Trail Guidebook and marked with a capital R.

Settlement Areas – A designation contained in the oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The purpose of the Settlement Areas is to focus and contain urban growth.

Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) – An evaluation process that provides an objective method of documenting trail conditions. The resulting Trail Access Information (TAI) provides information such as grade, cross slope, surface, width and obstacles found on the trail. TAI enables users to make informed decisions about whether a trail suits their abilities and interests.

Appendix 'H'

References

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