



Guelph Trail Master Plan

AAC meeting on December 22, 2020

For more information:

[Guelph Trail Master Plan update](#)

[Community engagement - Haveyoursay.guelph.ca](#)





Main topics for today

- Guidance for building trails and the trail classification system
- The trail network itself
- Sharing information on the trail systems





Project timeline





Specifically through the GTMP we are:

- Using a trail classification system
 - To help with consistent decision making in acquiring, developing, operating and managing our trails
 - To help communicate decision making or trail expectations to the community
 - To help develop standard tools, budgets, measures, maintenance and practices to help our day-to-day work
- Using a trail classification map
 - Previously planned trails
 - Approved and not yet constructed
 - Desired connections
- Mapping the priority of trail construction (low vs high)



Information we use to develop the final plan

Community feedback is just one element we are using to develop the final GTMP. We are also considering:

- Alignment with other plans and strategies (e.g. [Community Plan](#), [Strategic Plan](#))
- Overall community benefit
- Environmental sustainability
- Future trends and population changes
- Technical considerations and operating impacts
- Financial sustainability





What does the plan focus on?

- Trails inside the city boundary
- Trails outside of the road right-of-way
- Trails owned and operated by the City
 - With additional information on third-party trails
- Trails in Secondary Plan Areas like Clair-Maltby, GID and Downtown area.



Photo credit: Katie Duncan





We use trail classifications to:

- To help with consistent decision making in acquiring, developing, operating and managing our trails
- To help communicate decision making or trail expectations to the community
- To help develop standard tools, budgets, measures, maintenance and practices to help our day-to-day work





Trail Classifications (1 of 3)

[Review of Draft trail classification table](#)

Primary trails (e.g. Royal City Park)

- Significant cross-city trails that provide direct routes to destinations
- Higher level of use and widest range of users
- High standard trail type, like: asphalt paving, 3-4m wide, more maintenance

Neighbourhood connector trails

- Connections to destinations such as schools or other community facilities
- Higher level of use and wide range of users
- High standard trail type, like: asphalt paving, 3-4m wide, more maintenance



Photo credit: Katie Duncan



Trail Classifications (2 of 3)

Secondary trails (e.g. Dallan Subdivision)

- Recreational focus
- Moderate level of use and wide range of users
- Moderate standard trail type, like: granular paving, 2-3m wide, less maintenance

Stormwater management trails

- Also a recreational focus
- Similar to secondary trails, but are separate as trail is not the primary function
- Moderate level of use and wide range of users
- Moderate standard trail type, like: granular paving, 2-3m wide, less maintenance





Trails in natural areas or for specialized use

- Trail construction can affect protected natural areas (e.g. floodplains, woodlands, wetlands)
- Accessible trails and protecting natural areas is complicated
- Legislation allows for exceptions, but focus should be on finding solutions that balance both
- Specialized trail types would not be accessible (e.g. cross-country skiing or mountain biking)
- How do we manage this?
 - Provide information so people can choose use based on their abilities
 - Signage and wayfinding
 - Viewing platforms and key information
 - Parallel routes to provide opportunities for both
 - Use community partners to build and manage these trails and focus city efforts on accessible trails
 - Other?



Trail Classifications (3 of 3)

Tertiary trails (e.g. Hanlon Creek CA)

- Recreational focus – destination in itself
- Perfect for hiking or mountain biking
- Low to moderate level of use and smaller range of users
- Low standard trail type, like: packed earth, 1.5m max wide
- May require more maintenance to manage in natural areas

Third party trails (e.g. Arboretum)

- Wide variety of trail types
- Owned or managed by a third party (hiking club, GRCA, schools, university, etc.)



Note: all classifications are draft





Trail class discussion:

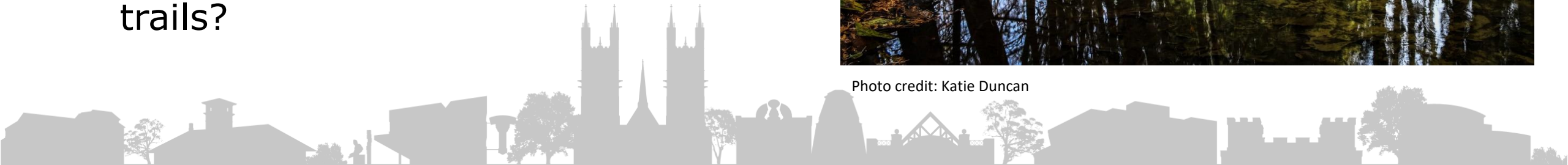
For the different trail classifications, what do you think needs to be considered?

How do you see using the different trail types?

Do you think that this will help people better understand what to expect from the different types of trails?



Photo credit: Katie Duncan





The trail network itself and priorities

Should we expand the network or focus on fixing what we already have?

Are there locations on the trail system where we should make improvements? Tell us a story about your trail use.





Sharing information on the trail systems

The best approach is to tell people what is there, letting people make decisions themselves before accessing the trails

What is the best way to share this information?

Not just a sign with a map





When it is a sign and a map

Information that should be included about the trail includes:

- Trail name
- Length of trails
- Access points with addresses, coordinates
- Surface material
- Trail users
- Grade
- Amenities
- Locations on trail that may pose accessibility barriers (high grade, access barrier)





Next steps

- Review the feedback we receive during this community engagement
- Draft the final master plan
- The master plan will be presented to Council in Q2, 2021





Thank you

Any questions or final comments?

