

Third Party Trail Agreements – 2021-249

General Correspondence – Revised Agenda

I'm writing in support of the addition of this trail to the Third Party Trails Agreement. I understand that there has been a request by the GHTC to have this trail improvement added as a 4th trail to this Agreement.

This section of trail beside the Speed River is important to link the various trails in the City, and is currently an incredible eye sore. For the last five years I have picked garbage along this section of the river in the spring, and it is disgusting what I have found and the amount of garbage.

I was particularly disappointed this year as I asked the city for some help to remove the garbage in this area, but alas there was no response to my request. In the end I collected over 25 bags of garbage, and had to pile it beside some city garbage bins, a considerable distance from this part of the river.

The only improvement the city has done to this area is put in a sharps disposal bin, which was needed. Additional work needs to be done to ensure that there is no further erosion of the bank, that some of the concrete garbage in the river is removed and that trees are pruned, and new plants planted.

The city also needs to ensure that property owners in this area are doing their part to ensure that their garbage is put into bins, and properly disposed of. Cardboard is always being taken out of these bins for people to use as shelter, and the grease bin used by one of the restaurants is always overflowing.

This trail is important as the trail on the other side of the speed comes to a dead end, meaning that people do not get to see the beauty of the river at this point. At this point in the river there are some incredible, little cascades due to some underlying rock ledges in the river.

It is beautiful to watch the river dance through this section, versus the boring parts of the river downstream. Alas, this is not a well used part of the trail system because of the before mentioned problems.

I hope that you see the wisdom of adding this section of trail to the third party agreement. It is never too late to make changes to do the right thing.

Bill Summers
Riverhouse Condo
[REDACTED] Macdonell Street

Re Item 11.1, Third Party Agreements, 2021-249

To Guelph Committee of the Whole,

I am writing in support of the Staff Recommendation to enter into a three-party license agreement between the City, Guelph Hiking Trail Club (GHTC) and GRCA. I am very pleased that the new Guelph Trail Master Plan supports and recognizes the usefulness of community

partnership and strongly endorse the proposals for the trail routes listed in the Staff Report on Third Party Trail Agreements, September 7, 2021. However, I am very disappointed that this Report does not include the fourth trail requested by GHTC, the Wellington Plaza River Trail.

I do not know the history of the Wellington Plaza, or why the City chose to approve a development that put garbage dumpsters and the ugly backsides of commercial developments along a central stretch of a beautiful river - this, at a time when most cities were striving to develop and enhance their river frontages! At least a trail was built, so that hikers and cyclists could pass safely and enjoyably along the river when crossing between very busy Gordon, and very busy Wellington (which still has no bike lane).

Oh, but that trail has been neglected! Most of us who rely on active transportation, and who would choose to use that trail if it was maintained, now avoid it. It is overgrown, the surface is in terrible shape, and it feels increasingly unsafe. As a solo female cyclist and runner, I never use it anymore, even though I would ideally far prefer using it to crossing the covered bridge, which is frequently congested and difficult to traverse.

How do we mitigate this problem? It's not that complicated. Make the trail attractive again! The GHTC has unquestionably demonstrated their ability to refurbish, improve and maintain trails. I am excited about their proposed partnership with the Guelph Community Health Centre.

Please add the Wellington Plaza River Trail to the Third Party Trail Agreement.

Thank you,

Meg Thorburn

Chair, Guelph Trail User-Groups Coalition

Director, Speed River Cycling Club

Dear Mayor Guthrie ,Councillors and City Staff,

The Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation (GCAT) mission is to increase the quantity - but just as important -the quality , safety and enjoyment of Active Transportation options in Guelph.

We are in full support of the GHTC proposal to include the Wellington Plaza River trail as an attachment to the current list of trails in the Third Party Trail Agreement .

We consider this trail as a very important link in our Active Transportation network for many reasons.

Perhaps the most important reason is its location in the central core of our downtown river trail system as a direct connection ,but it also avoids the noise and distraction of this busy intersection.With views of the Eramosa river it can be a far more enjoyable experience and thus entice more Active Transportation.

Even more reason to maintain this trail is our commitment to reduce our dependence on car use and be carbon neutral by 2050 in line with our CEI.

I use this route myself and have noted the current improvements made by the GHTC .

I am confident that their plans for further improvements will make this area even more enjoyable and more used than in the past .

I am hoping that consideration is given to way -finding signage and lighting improvements by either the City and or the private owners of the area .

Thanks

Mike Darmon

President GCAT

█ Riverview Dr

Guelph

We are writing in support of the request by the Guelph Hiking and Trail Club to add the Wellington Plaza River Trail to the Third Party Trail Agreements under consideration by council at the committee of the Whole Meeting on September 7, 2021.

We live near the eastern entrance to the Wellington Plaza River Trail which provides views of an interesting section of the river that are otherwise not available. Opportunities to have trails added to the third party agreements occur infrequently and it would be unfortunate not to take advantage of this one.

We urge you to take the steps necessary to add the Wellington Plaza River Trail agreement to the list of other trails being recommended.

Sincerely,

Elayne and Ben Pedersen

█ Wyndham Street South,

Guelph ON N1E 7H7

To Guelph Committee of the Whole,

I am the Property Manager/Owner of 23 Wellington Street East Plaza. I am also representing the other shareholder/owners of this property.

I'm writing in support of the addition, of the Trail behind our Plaza, to the Third Party Trails Agreement between the City, Guelph Hiking Trail Club (GHTC) and GRCA. We have been owners since 1990 and this trail has been neglected and ignored for too long by the City. We have tried numerous times to contact the city and its representatives for help but we have not seen any progress. This additional agreement will give us some one to work with that can address our concerns for the benefit of our Tenants and the citizens of Guelph.

We definitely see the benefit in adding this section of trail to the third party agreement and hopefully you do to. Guelph is a thriving high growth City that can continue to flourish with this change.

Sincerely,

David Bianco