



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 3:30 pm
Committee Room

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
4. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - 4.1. **August 11, 2022** 3

That the minutes from the regular meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on August 11, 2022 be received.
5. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION
6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
7. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE REPORTS
 - 7.1. **Update from the Special Projects Manager** 5

Re: Natural Infrastructure Fund – Westview Trail.

Trails Development Considerations by Sustainable Trails Inc.

At the September 12th meeting of Council the following resolution was passed:

That the report from the Special Projects Manager be received;

and that Staff be directed to apply to the Natural Infrastructure Fund for a \$250,000 project that focuses on improvements to the Westview Trail in accordance with the eligibility parameters of that fund ;

and that Staff be authorized to apply to other funding programs to support the current scope of work and any future phased development of the Westview Trail;

and that the project be referred to the 2023 budget exercise as a capital

project to refine the municipal share of funds needed to support the project.

7.2. Memo Deputy Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator; Update

54

8. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTING

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1. Update on Accessibility Trail from Boardwalk to Spruce Beach

10.2. Update on Colour Blind Accessible Traffic Lights

10.3. Update on the Placement of Benches (purchased last year)

10.4. Update on Bike Lanes on Arterial Roads

11. PETITIONS

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. ADDENDUM

15. CLOSED SESSION

16. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

17. ADJOURNMENT



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:30 pm
Hybrid Meeting (zoom/chambers)

Present: T. Turner, Chair,
J. Meyer, Member
J. MacKnight, Member (Via ZOOM)
C. Ross, Member

Regrets: D. Marchisella, Ex- Officio

Resources: K. Doyle, Deputy Clerk & Accessibility Coordinator

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 4. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

4.1 March 8, 2022

Res#: 13/22

Moved By: Jeannie Meyer

Seconded By: C. Ross

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 8, 2022 be received

Carried

5. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Ms. Cannon & Mr. Thomas spoke to Item 6 re: "Service Dog" definition.

6. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Herdy; A literary review of Legislation and Terminology in the world of Service Dogs of Ontario

7. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE REPORTS

8. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Share the Road Campaign

Item brought forth by Caroline Ross.

Res#: 14/22

Moved By: T. Turner

Seconded By: J. Meyer

That the committee report be received;

And that this be taken under consideration and brought back to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for information and update.

Carried

8.2 Location of Bus Pass & Ticket Sale

Item brought forth by Caroline Ross.

Res#: 15/22

Moved By: J. Meyer

Seconded By: T. Turner

That the committee report be received;

And that this be taken under consideration and brought back to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for information and update.

Carried

9. OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTING

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. PETITIONS

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. ADDENDUM

15. CLOSED SESSION

16. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Committee meeting is Thursday September 15th at 3:30pm.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Res#: 12/22

Moved By: J. Meyer

Seconded By: C. Ross

That the meeting be adjourned at the hour of 5:00 PM.



STAFF REPORT

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information re. potential funding for accessibility and environmental improvements to the walking trail from the Elliot Lake Boat launch to Spruce/Spine beaches.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Special Projects Manager be received

and that Staff be directed to apply to the Natural Infrastructure Fund for a \$250,000 project that focuses on improvements to the Westview Trail in accordance with the eligibility parameters of that fund

and that Staff be authorized to apply to other funding programs to support the current scope of work and any future phased development of the Westview Trail

and that the project be referred to the 2023 budget exercise as a capital project to refine the municipal share of funds needed to support the project.

BACKGROUND

A potential funding opportunity through the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund has emerged. This Federal fund offers 80% grant funding to municipalities, and has an intake stream that closes on September 27, 2022.

The fund supports projects that deliver one or a combination of the following community services:

- Climate change resilience: Adapting to or transforming to anticipated or experienced climate hazards.
- Increased access to nature: Enhancing the quality or quantity of healthy and safe natural systems to connect people to nature.
- Improved environmental quality: Enhancing the efficiency, productivity, and functionality of ecological processes to provide people with healthy environments (e.g., water, air, and soil quality).
- Enhanced biodiversity and habitat: Reducing fragmentation, loss, or destruction of important habitats and species.
- Climate change mitigation: Increasing the capacity of natural systems and processes to sink and store greenhouse gasses.

Consultation with affected Indigenous communities is a requirement of the funding, and the program outlines criteria for forming First Nations partnerships.

Interestingly, if active transportation (i.e. trail development) comprises part of the project, the project cannot be wholly in support of active transportation. There must be additional components to the project that target additional community services listed above in order to be eligible for funding.

ANALYSIS

Staff is proposing that a submission to the Natural Infrastructure Fund be made for a project with the following intent:

1. Restoration of the existing Westview Trail that currently runs between the Boat Launch / Docks and continues through to Spine Beach. This restoration would include:

- Treatment of the trail surface and/or realignment of the trail route to avoid or repair some existing problem areas as appropriate.
- Reducing the number of boardwalk areas and bridges through realignment of the trail if possible in order to improve sustainability and maintainability.
- Adding fully accessible portions to the trail, with an emphasis on the area between the boat launch and Westview Park.
- These initiatives are aligned with the 'Increased access to nature' eligible community service identified in the Natural Infrastructure Fund's terms.



2. Selective naturalization of the shoreline riparian zone and portions of the park area at Westview Park, Spruce Beach Park, and Spine Rd. Beach Park.

- This initiative is aligned with the 'Improved environmental quality' and 'Enhanced biodiversity and habitat' eligible community services identified in the Natural Infrastructure Fund's terms, and adds additional components to the project beyond active transport initiatives in order to make the project eligible for the fund as a whole.
- This work would entail reinstating native plant and shrub species in the area directly beside the shoreline in the grassed areas of the parks, as well as strategic native species tree, shrub and planting bed areas being placed in those open grass areas.
- Staff anticipates that these restorative measures will help to prevent summer beach closures due to high bacteria levels, and would help to curb Canada Goose nesting in these areas.
- Staff has identified work done in the following jurisdictions that detail some of the design ideas and expected results of doing this restorative work:
 - North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority: www.restoreyourshore.ca
 - The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority: www.lakeheadca.com/stewardship/superior-stewards/naturalizing-yourshoreline
 - The City of Mississauga: www.animalalliance.ca/habitatmodification

3. Potential partnership with First Nations to develop a comprehensive user experience strategy incorporating interpretive trail signage that reflects the indigenous heritage and cultural and natural significance of the trail path.

- Existing interpretive trail signage along this corridor requires refurbishment, and staff
- identifies an opportunity to incorporate culturally significant messaging in order to
- share the history of the area with residents and visitors.

As a resource to the Recreation and Culture Standing committee, this report was accompanied by a presentation from Bill Goulding Sr. of Sustainable Trails, who has a history of trail development and construction across Canada and around the globe. Mr. Goulding will be commenting in brief on projects that he has worked on in the past that have incorporated accessibility, restorative / naturalization work, indigenous partnerships and hybrid contracting.

The Recreation and Culture Standing Committee received a presentation by Sustainable Trails on September 6th. The video is available at <https://elliottlakeon.new.swagit.com/videos/179984> and a copy of the slide deck used in that presentation is attached to this report for council's review.

Mr. Goulding Sr. will be available as a resource to council via Zoom if questions arise during the council meeting on September 12, 2022.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Natural Infrastructure Fund provides 80% grant support to approved projects. Staff suggests that we address the allocation of funds to support the City's required 20% contribution to the project under this funding program during the 2023 budget process.

\$250k will not be sufficient for the entire boat launch to Spine beach trail. Research is ongoing for other funders to assist in this project (i.e. immediately stacked with the federal funds and/or a subsequent phases). More information will be shared with Council and/or the 2023 budget committee as needed.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

As envisioned, this project would align with the following key sections of the City of Elliot Lake Strategic Plan:

- Economic development and diversification, stabilization and investment readiness
- Continued investment into infrastructure
- Development of strong partnerships
- Environmental stewardship
- Support in the arts and culture community
- Health and community wellness

SUMMARY

Budget work is ongoing with respect to the above-proposed scope of work, and a definitive work plan is not yet ready to be proposed. Staff anticipates that the expense of restoring the existing in-place boardwalk and bridge structures could be significant, and in order to remain within the \$250,000.00 grant-funding limit, the scope of work will have to be reduced in terms of the square area addressed, or altered to find more cost effective ways of producing results. Staff is investigating potential hybrid contracting models where consultants can work with and train City staff, volunteer groups and or outside contractors to lessen the overall expense of the project.



Elliot Lake Trails Presentation

Discussion Outline:

1.0 Our History

2.0 Our Balanced approach to Trail Planning / Design / Construction

2.1 Enhancing the Trail User Experience

2.2 Mitigating Trail Risks

2.3 Environmental Impacts

2.4 Trail Industry Best Practices for Design and Construction

3.0 Environmental Naturalization (Restoration)

User
Experience

Trail Best
Practices

Environmental
Impact

Risk
Management



Sept 06, 2022



1.0 A bit of our trails history:

- Over seventeen years ago I was a volunteer in trail maintenance workshop
- 2006 I was asked to consider becoming a trail building contractor, hence decided to attend trail workshops in the USA and purchase equipment, which resulted in four major (at that time) contracts for our first season.
- 2007, attained a trails mentor - Woody Keen of Trail Dynamics NC - and qualified to become the first Canadian member of the Professional Trailbuilders Association.
- Since then our firm Sustainable Trails has completed projects in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and Newfoundland.
- Over the last seven years we have been contracted by Parks Canada to complete over \$8,500,000.00 of trail work
- As well our crews have worked “off shore”



Sarasota Florida

Rain Forest Theme

Desert Theme



International Projects in:

Patagonia Chile



Mexico



Jamaica



Portugal



What is the primary reason that the public makes use of their valued free time to travel to our natural amazing Places?

Travel on our roads and parking lots? Not necessarily but sometimes provided

To make use of a washroom? Not necessarily but sometimes provided

Enjoy the Visitor's Centers? Not necessarily but sometimes provided

My suggestion – to enjoy immersing themselves in the beauty of the natural environment

And what infrastructure most facilitates their wishes?

TRAILS!!!

At Sustainable Trails we live by this mantra –

We strive to massage the newly constructed trail into the natural environment to offer to the user the best possible experience – Mother Nature Guides Us -



Professional TrailBuilders often refer to their craft
of planning, designing and Constructing Trails as
being:

40% Engineering and 60% Art

Today we are going to explore a bit of both



2.0 Our Balanced Approach to Trail Planning, Design and Construction

2.1 Enhancing the trail User Experience

2.2 Risk Management

2.3 Environmental Impact

2.4 Trail Best Practices

User
Experience

Trail Best
Practices

Environmental
Impact

Risk
Management



2.1 Enhancing the User Experience

A Green Environmental Conscientiousness is growing among the trail users worldwide.

A sustainable trail will Increase the area's visitation rates which leads to increased tourism resulting in higher levels of tourism revenue.

The challenge – ensuring return tourist visits through an initial quality experience in the first place

Generally speaking, visitors that use the loop trails opportunities are motivated by the trail experience (the journey) whereas visitors using a destination trail are more motivated by the strong control point at the end of the trail. Understanding each of these very different motivations is essential to managing trail user groups and providing the appropriate type of trail facility.



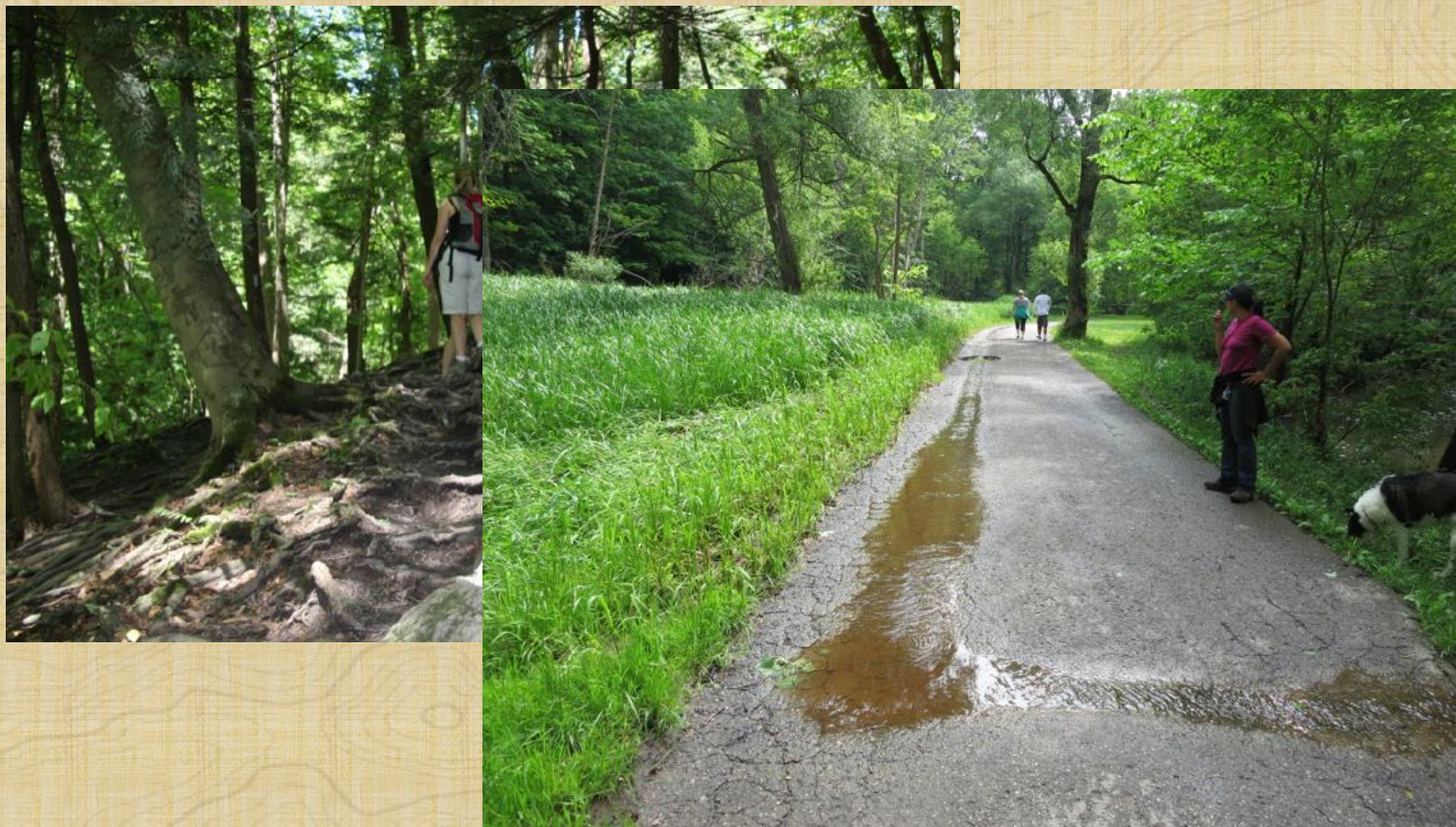
2.1 Enhancing the User Experience

Trails should be interesting and fun to travel on and efforts should always be made to enhance the user experience. Trails should flow through their landscapes and mimic shapes found in nature. Design elements for new trails and enhancing current trails should focus on landscaping principles such as the use of anchors, gateways, and trail edge effect to enhance human interaction with the trail facility.

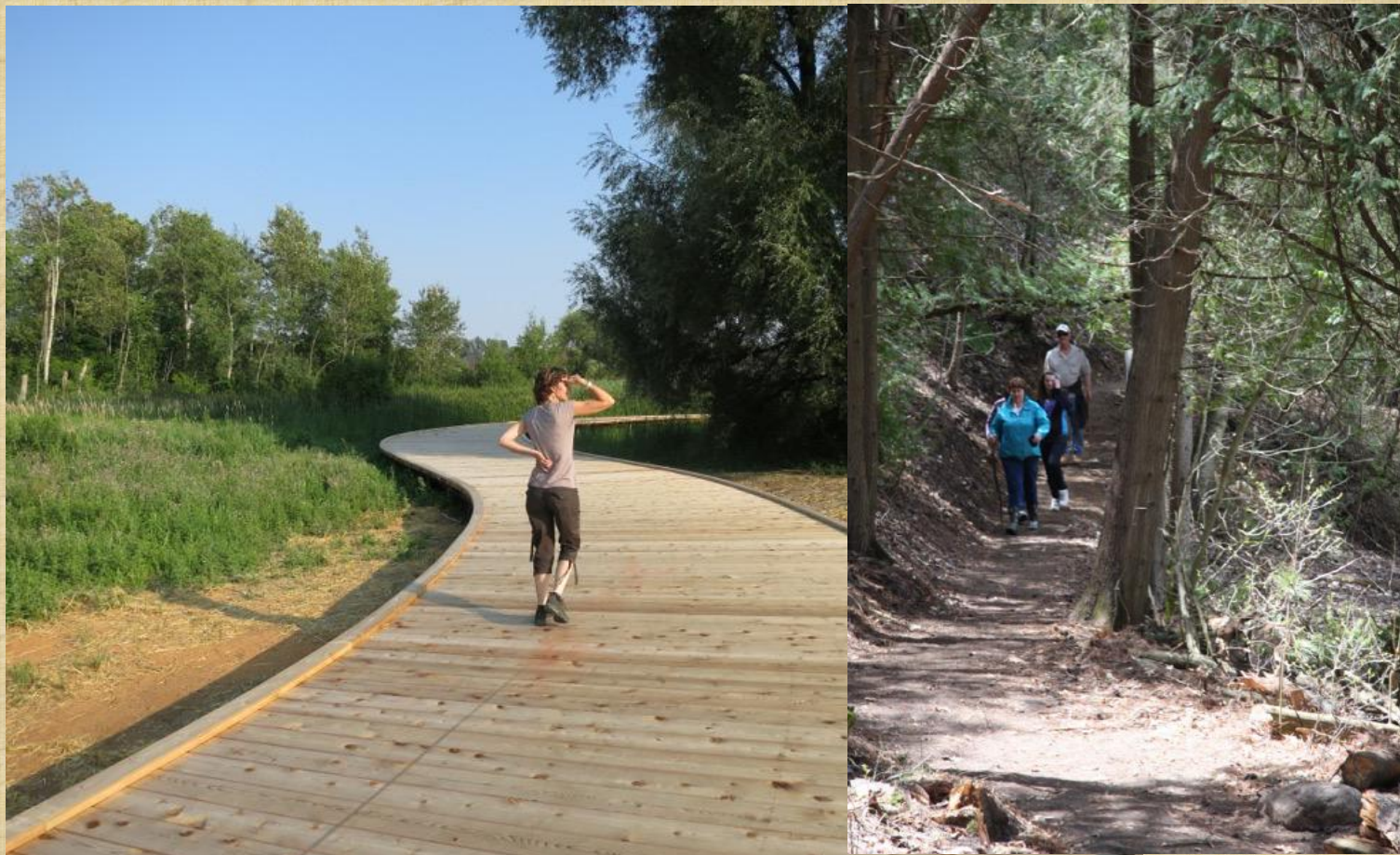


Does this Enhance the User Experience?

Focusing on the trail tread



Better Examples of User Experience



Don Valley Mountain Bike Trails Toronto



Laura Secord Trail Niagara Falls



Good vista and natural seating

Trail Gateways

Enhance the User Experience? Focusing on the trail Vistas



Goose River Trail
Fundy National Park, NB

Positive Control Points –

Great Vistas!!



Trail Vistas



Lookout Trail
Gros Morne National
Park, NL

Over looking Bonne Bay



Unusual Trail Vistas



A natural herd (200) of
roaming buffalo.
Prince Albert National
Park, SK

2.0 Our Balanced Approach to trail Planning, Design and Construction

1 User Experience

2 Risk Management

3 Environmental Impact

4 Trail Best Practices



2 Risk Management

The word risk has several meanings as it relates to trail management. The first meaning is in the relationship of the trail user to the risks involved (***both perceived and real risk***) of traveling in an uncontrolled environment. The second and perhaps more important meaning in trails management is the risk (incurred by land managers and private land owners) of providing access to recreational trails for a variety of uses.

Another important premise is that we cannot eliminate all risk (both definitions of the word) as it relates to trails; we can however identify them, reduce them (if desired) and create a management plan for dealing with them.

A good risk management plan should be proactive instead of reactive, and begins with updated modern planning, design and construction techniques .



2 Risk Management - Liability Issues:



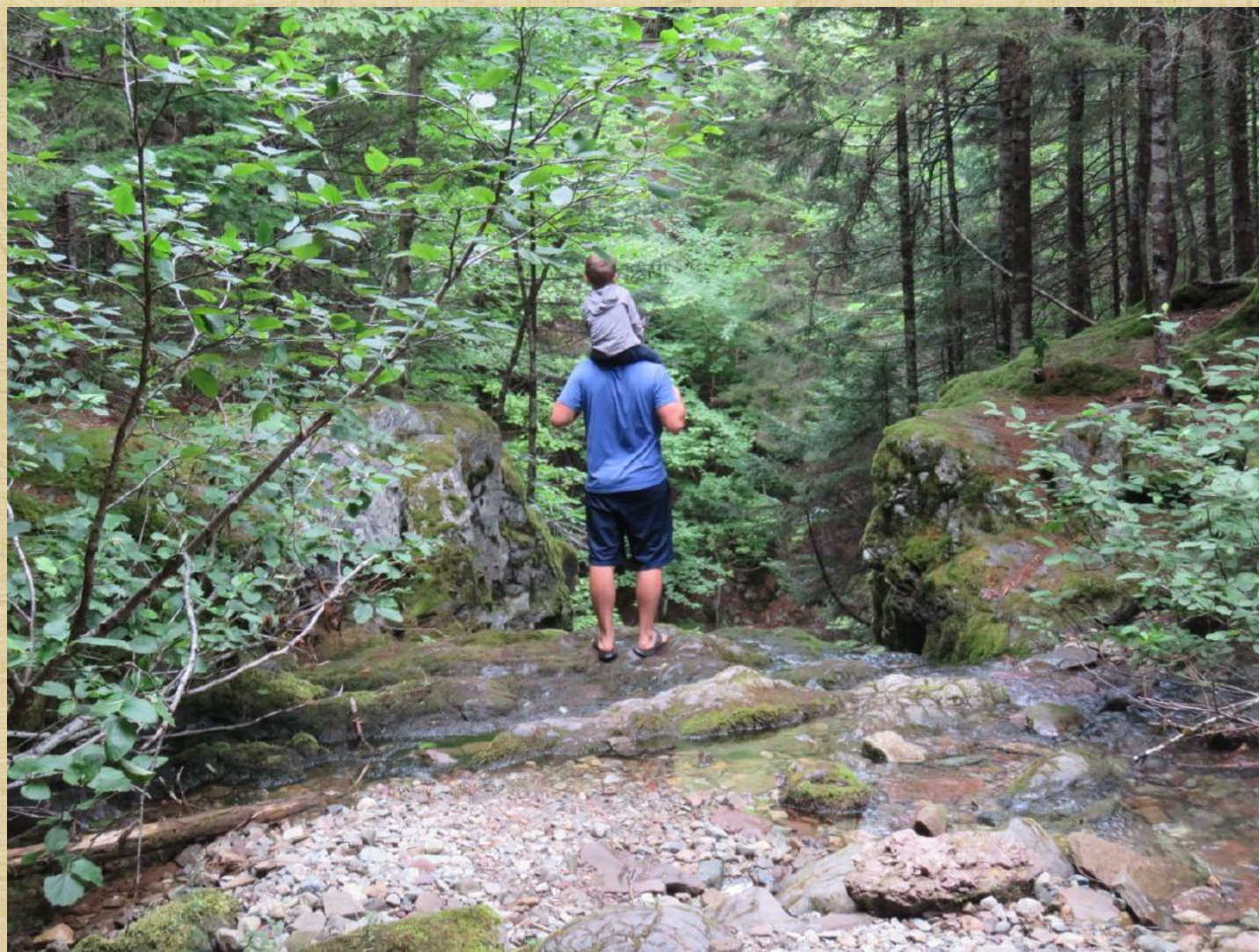


Lack on routine inspection and maintenance.



Subjects outside of the designed trail corridor at Kelso Conservation Area, Ontario





Again -
Subjects
outside of the
designed trail
corridor at
Dixon Falls –
Fundy
National Park

*Photo courtesy of S.
Butland*





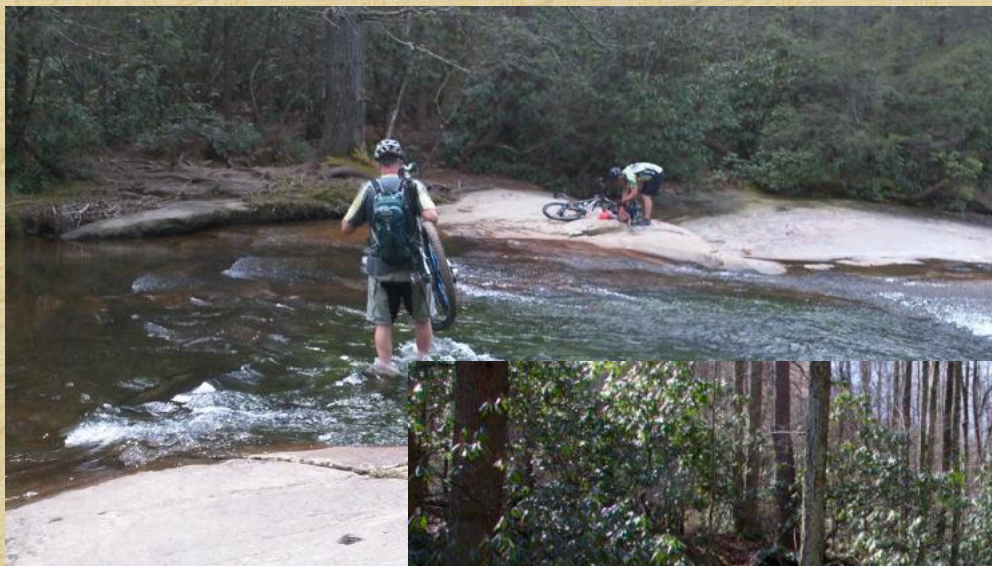
Peterborough ON



Acceptable Levels of Risk



Dupont State Forest – North Carolina



2.0 Our Balanced Approach to trail Planning, Design and Construction

2.1 User Experience

2.2 Risk Management

2.3 Environmental Impacts

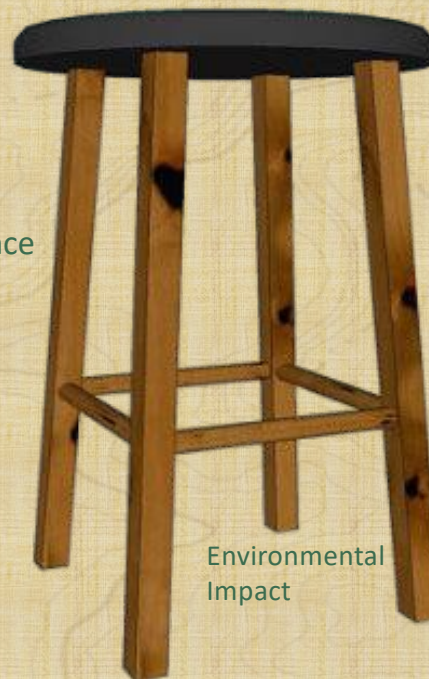
2.4 Trail Best Practices

User
Experience

Trail Best
Practices

Environmental
Impact

Risk
Management



3 Environmental Impacts:



An Example of the
Failure of Man Made
Materials Used As
Stabilizing the Trail Tread

Sea Side Trail

Kejimikujik National
Park, NS

3 Erosion Issues:





Man Made Structures



Always plan for more flow
than expected





2.0 Our Balanced Approach to trail Planning, Design and Construction

2.1 User Experience

2.2 Risk Management

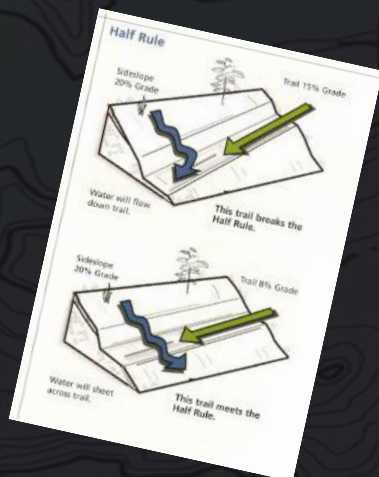
2.3 Environmental Impact

4 Trail Best Practices

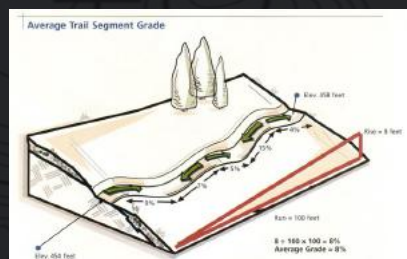


The Five Essential Elements of Sustainable Trails for Designing and Constructing the Trail Tread

1. The Half Rule



2. The Ten Percent Average Guideline

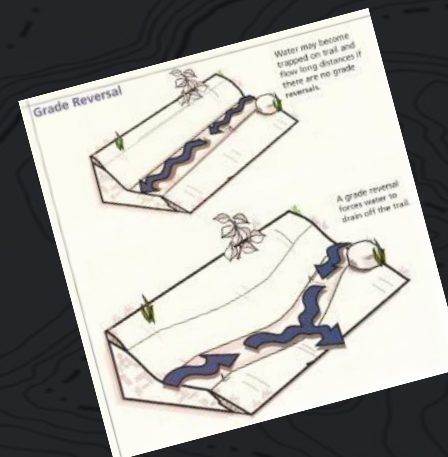


3. Promoting Sheet Flow

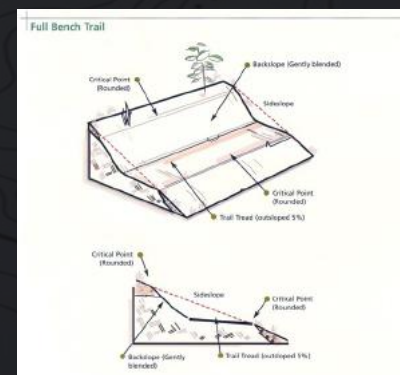
The Goal – to make the trail seem invisible to the environment



4. Grade Reversals



5. Out slope



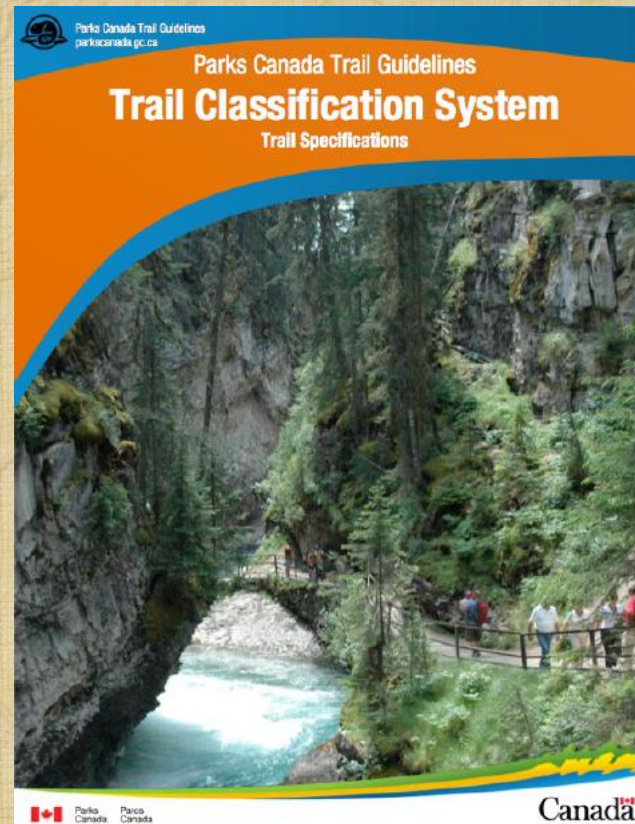
Formulating a Plan

- Steps in a Trail Master Plan
 - 4.1 Research
 - 4.2 Best Practices
 - 4.3 Trail Assessments
 - 4.4 Remediation Strategy – Addressing the Issues



4.1 Methodologies – Research - Trail Types

Suggested Guidelines for differing Trail Types, recently developed by Parks Canada Trails Specialist, Mark Schmidt.



Elliot Lake



4.1 Parks Canada Trail Classification System



Parks Canada:

Sample Trail Type

Multi- Use Trail

General Description:

Detailed Specifications

3.0 Trail Specifications (Multi-Use)

Trails can be built, managed and operated for use by more than one single use. To design a trail for a combination of single uses refer to the Trail Specifications for each type you are considering. The user with the largest requirements (i.e. widest trail, largest clearing zone, and most gentle gradients) will determine the design specifications of the trail.

3.1 Trail Specifications for a Multi-Use Trail

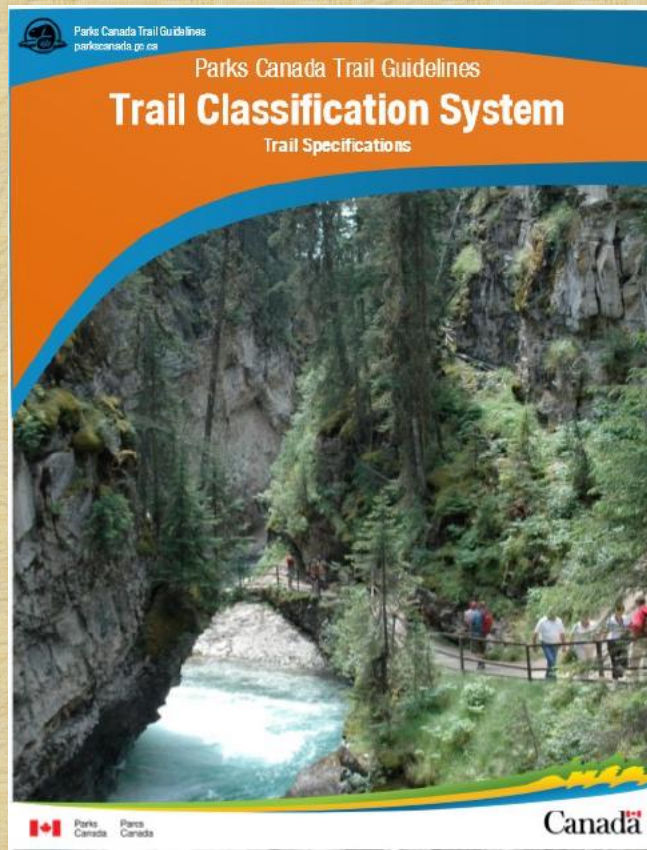
(pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian)

Refer to the single use trail specifications above and add them in a table as below. The user with the largest requirements (i.e. widest trail, largest clearing zone, and most gentle gradients) will determine the design specifications.

For this example below the trail will be a Type 2 Multi-Use Trail

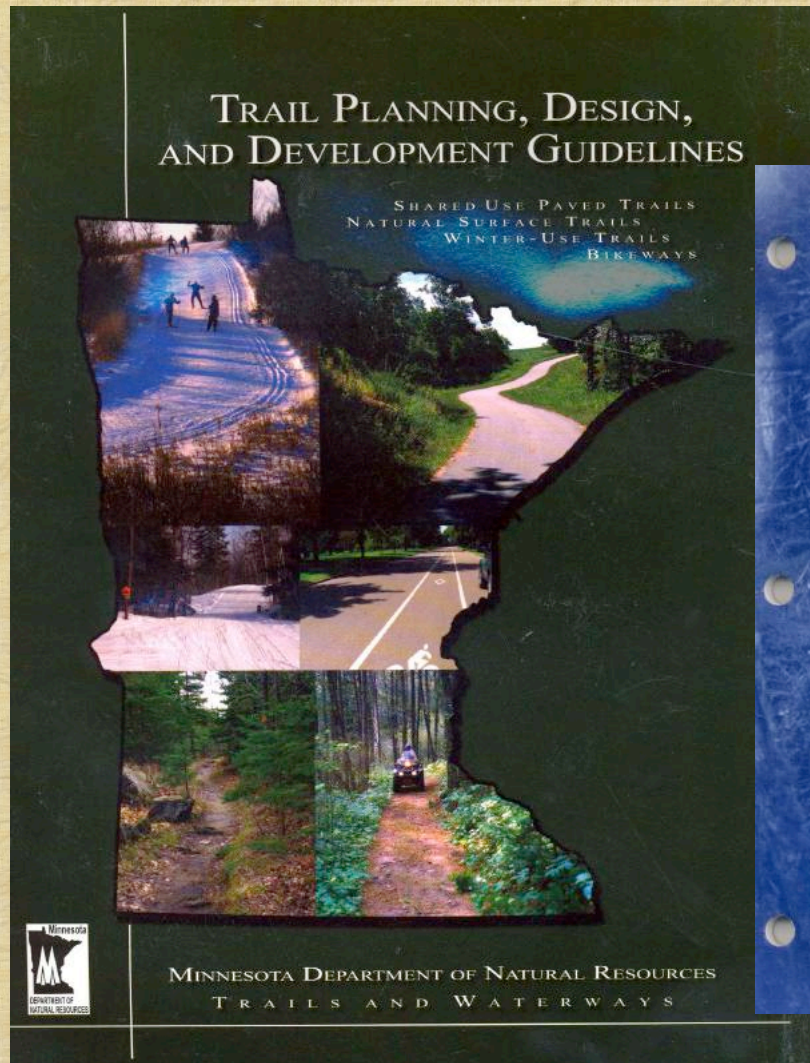
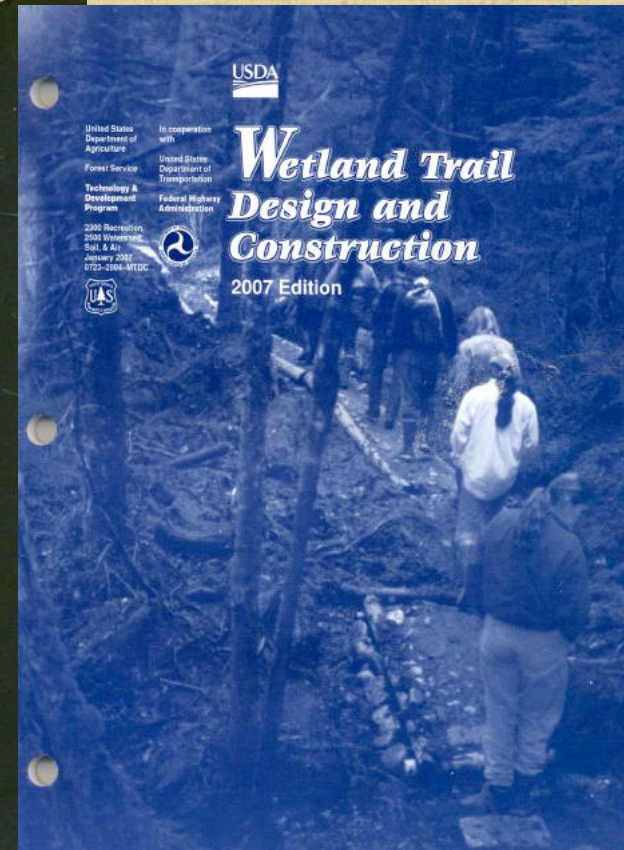
Specifications for a Multi-Use Trail (pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian)			
Element\Type	Type 2 Pedestrian	Type 2 Bicycle	Type 2 Equestrian
Image	 <i>Hikers on a Type 2 pedestrian trail</i>	 <i>Mountain biker on a Type 2 bicycle trail</i>	 <i>Horseback riders on a Type 2 equestrian trail</i>
Trail Surface	Hard packed Natural material or loosely packed natural material	Hard packed Natural material or loosely packed natural material	Hard packed Natural material or loosely packed natural material
Gradient	Up to 15%	Up to 15%	Up to 15%
Tread Width	0.5–1.5m	0.5–1.5m	1–3m
Clearing Width	2–3.5m	2–3.5m	2–4m
Clearing Height	3m	3m	3.5m
Obstacles or Stairs	Obstacles infrequent, stairs may be present	Obstacles infrequent, no stairs	Obstacles infrequent, stairs may be present
Unique Features for Multi-Use Trails	None	Avoidable TTF 0.5m or less, width of deck is greater than half the height	None

4.1 Trail Reference Materials

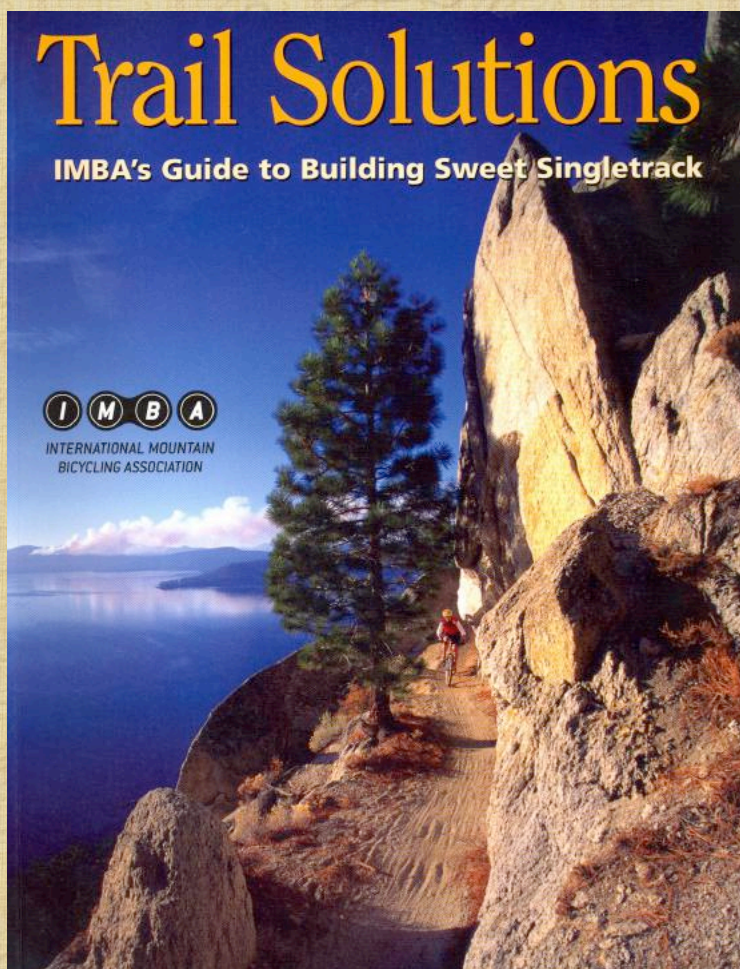


Elliot Lake





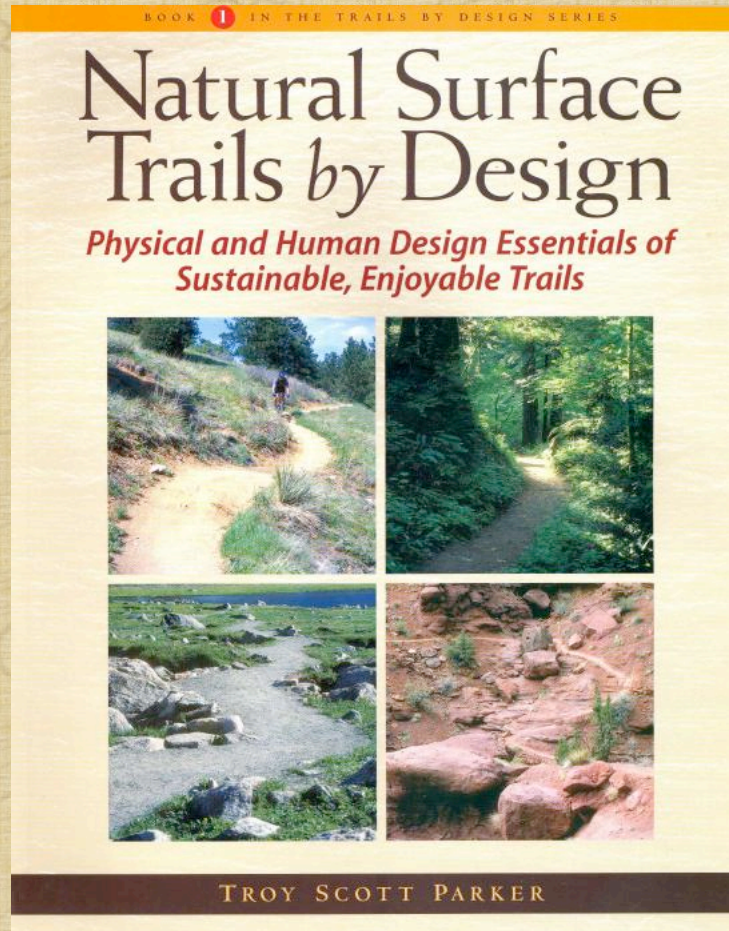
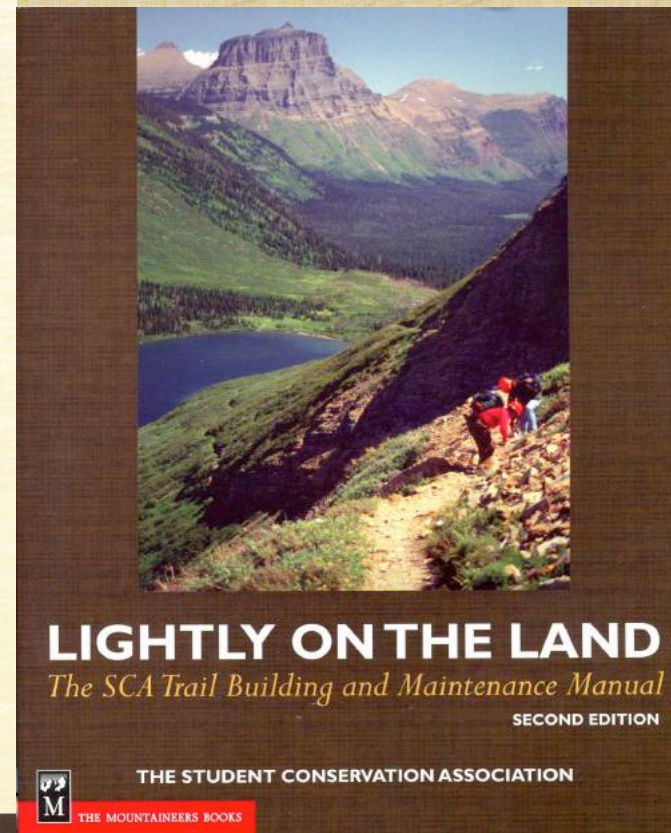
4.2 Methodologies - Best Practices



Reference Publications:

IMBA's Trail Solutions

4.2 Methodologies - Best Practices



Elliot Lake



3.0 Environmental Naturalization (Restoration)



After Naturalization

3.0 Environmental Naturalization (Restoration)



After Naturalization

3.0 Environmental Naturalization (Restoration)



Naturalization Workshop

Questions ?





MEMO

To: The Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: The Deputy Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator

Date: September 15, 2022

Subject: Update on Previous Meeting Items

Service Dog Definition

Due to the feedback received, the definition of “*Service Dog*” will be taken out of the By-Law and all members of the Elliot Lake community will pay the same rates for dog license identification tags with no option for exemptions.

Bus Pass Sale Location

Staff will look into potential implementation of an online sale option for bus passes. As far as the physical location, the capacity is not currently available to have and/or orchestrate any third party partnerships in relation to the city transit bus passes. The city owned locations will be reviewed in the future. A full transit review has been on the docket within the City of Elliot Lake and is currently on the radar. This undertaking will address a centralized stop, stop additions, route adjustments to be determined within the scope of work of the applicable department.

The Specialized Transit System (Handi-Lift Bus) has been in operation since 1997 and remains a viable option for those who have limited mobility to utilize the city transit system, might have difficulty with the City transit system or those who might have difficulty walking from designated stops to desired location. Public Works will be communicating more information on this once available.

Mobile Charging Stations

Staff recently put out communications via city website and social media to inform the public of the locations of the newly implemented charging stations. It has been brought to staffs attention that some of the stations might be difficult to locate. Therefore, staff is working on adding photos of each location listed in the “*Our Community*” portion of the webpage. Further communications will be provided once this is complete and ready for public view.

On the Radar

The following items have been brought to the attention of staff and will be looked into for next year.

- Accessible Swings
- Smaller scale sensory equipment installation
- Additional accessible mats for Sheriffs Creek and pathway to mobi mats at Spine Beach

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristine Doyle".

Kristine Doyle,
Deputy Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator