

FURTHER TO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD #3/06  
To be held Friday, July 14, 2006

Pages

FURTHER TO:

7. SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

NEW ITEM - ITEM 7.8

7.8 PROPOSED DURHAM REGION TRAIL NETWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORK

54-57

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board  
Meeting #3/06, July 14, 2006

**FROM:** James W. Dillane, Director, Finance and Business Services

**RE:** **PROPOSED DURHAM REGION TRAIL NETWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORK**

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**KEY ISSUE**

Request for endorsement of the Proposed Durham Region Trail Network and Implementation Framework.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the Proposed Durham Region Trail Network and Implementation Framework be endorsed ;**

**THAT staff work with the Durham Trails Coordinating Committee as they prepare and recommend an implementation strategy for the trails network ;**

**THAT staff report back to the Authority on the details of the implementation strategy ;**

**AND FURTHER THAT The Regional Municipality of Durham be so advised .**

**BACKGROUND**

On May 26, 2006, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) received a request from the Planning Committee of Durham Regional Council for consideration and endorsement of the Proposed Durham Region Trail Network and Implementation Framework.

In 2004, Durham Regional Council established a Durham Trails Coordinating Committee (DTCC) to develop a proposal for a regional trail network (phase 1) and to facilitate the implementation of the approved proposal (phase 2).

In developing the trail network, DTCC first identified a base of existing higher order trails that formed the framework for a region wide system. The higher order trails included the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail, Oak Ridges Moraine Trail and the Trans Canada Trail, all of which exist on TRCA-owned land. Important linkages and gaps to complete the network were then identified and mapped, such as destination points, unopened road allowances, and connections to trails external to the region. The four key missing links that were identified in TRCA's jurisdiction included:

- West Duffins Creek, from the Seaton Trail to the Oak Ridges Trail;
- a cross link from the Rouge watershed to the top of the Carruthers Creek watershed;
- a cross link in the Rouge - Duffins Wildlife corridor; and
- an additional link to the Uxbridge Countryside Trail.

The draft Regional Network was completed at the beginning of the year and submitted to Regional Planning Committee prior to the start of the public consultation process.

Public consultation lasted three months and involved:

- placing notices in the local newspapers and on the regional web site;
- co-hosting a joint open house with the regional Cycling Plan Study;
- hosting open houses in each area municipality; and
- circulating the draft network to area municipalities, conservation authorities and other stakeholders for comment.

The vast majority of feedback from the consultation indicated full support for the development of the Regional Trail Network.

In May 2006, the DTCC completed the implementation framework that would guide the development of a more detailed implementation strategy that would be undertaken following receipt of partner endorsement. The implementation framework identified:

- resources available to municipalities, conservation authorities and non-government agencies to implement the Regional Trail Network;
- ongoing support of area municipalities and others in implementing the network by regional Planning staff, as may be required;
- guidelines for trail signage and standards to be endorsed and forwarded to our municipalities and others for their consideration; and
- on-going monitoring of the implementation of the network by regional Planning staff through an annual report to Planning Committee.

## **RATIONALE**

The Proposed Durham Region Trail Network and Implementation Framework provides a regional perspective and coordination of trail systems that connects public open space and supports an active and healthy lifestyle. The proposal will help to improve public use and enjoyment of the trails across the region.

The proposal is consistent with TRCA's vision for The Living City, A Watershed Plan for the Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek, Duffins Creek Headwaters Management Plan and the Waterfront Plan. In addition, conservation authorities and partner municipalities have been invited to participate in this project. TRCA staff previously provided information and comments to Durham Region Planning on this project including an inventory of trail networks. The proposal supports the ongoing trail work of TRCA in the region and it has identified the important roles of the region in implementation, including making resources available.

**DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

- Work with the DTCC on the development of the detailed Trail Network Implementation Strategy.
- Report back to the Authority on the implementation strategy.

**Report prepared by: Mike Bender, extension 5287**

**For Information contact: Mike Bender, extension 5287 or Kathy Stranks, extension 5264**

**Date: July 06, 2006**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1

