

## **Attachment 2: Access to TRCA Public Facilities**

### **BACKGROUND**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) recognizes and promotes the full participation of all residents in educational, cultural, and recreational programs and services, as per TRCA's Admittance Policy. Through a variety of offerings, TRCA's public-use facilities engage diverse user groups including persons with disabilities, financially challenged individuals and groups, children, and Active Transportation users.

TRCA continually strives to promote inclusion and access for all. The following outlines several programs that TRCA has implemented to help alleviate barriers to participation and encourage greater access to nature-based cultural and recreational experiences.

### **Programs with regional public libraries**

TRCA's library pass programs, in partnership with CVC, provide City of Brampton, City of Vaughan and Town of Caledon Public Library members access to Conservation Parks. Our partner's Memberships are available for "checkout" at public libraries and offer users free access to TRCA and CVC parks and attractions, promoting inclusivity, encouraging nature-based experiences, supporting healthy communities and increasing awareness of parks.

The Village at Black Creek (VBC) participates in Toronto Public Library's tpl:map pass program along with similar programs with Vaughan and Richmond Hill Public Libraries; each library pass program provides free access to museums and cultural attractions. Individuals may borrow a pass from participating library branches which provides them with free general admission.

### **Active Transportation Policy**

TRCA continues to work with municipal and industry partners to formalize additional trail access points to Conservation Areas and to expand trail connections. This encourages more people to enjoy nature-based recreation more often and helps people to stay active.

### **Free & Discounted Admission Programs**

At all TRCA public-use facilities, free general admission is offered to toddler ages 0-3. Through the Ontario Teacher's College membership, teachers receive free admission at all facilities. Participants in Vaughan Culture Days receive free admission to both KCC and VBC, while VBC also provides free admission during Doors Open Toronto. In October, the KCC also offers a Family Adventure Walk in the Forest where families can participate free of charge and children are encouraged to participate in "forest school inspired" activities.

TRCA also waives admission fees for support persons accompanying visitors with disabilities to alleviate barriers to experiencing culture and nature-based outdoor recreation.

TRCA continues to explore new opportunities that help people engage with nature. Inclusivity and accessibility are priorities at our facilities. Staff are committed to expanding current initiatives and providing diverse communities with even more opportunities in years to come.

VBC also provides free admission to newcomers in TRCA's Professional Access into Employment (PAIE) and Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project (NYGEP) programs and through the Canoo program for newcomers in partnership with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship. Presto Pass holders receive a discounted admission to VBC, promoting public transportation use while making access to the site accessible for a wider range of people.

### **Community Learning Activities**

TRCA provides community learning activities in local greenspaces and neighbourhoods to support local engagement in nature-based activities. These programs are focused on improving opportunities for residents and families to participate in free activities that help improve local knowledge about ecosystems

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and watersheds while contributing to ecological health. These programs are supported through municipal funding and government and private grants and are free to the end user. Information on Community Learning events and activities is available on TRCA's events webpage.

### **Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow**

TRCA works with local schools to provide integrated learning experiences for students from eligible schools to access the Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program at one of TRCA's three overnight centres. Focused on improving student knowledge, understanding and action related to the environment, the Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program provides subsidized experiences for classes from schools in priority areas of TRCA's watersheds. This program is supported through municipal funding and private grants. TRCA works closely with area school boards to identify schools that would benefit from this program.