

Section I – Items for Authority Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/18, Wednesday, September 19, 2018

FROM: Carolyn Woodland, Senior Director, Planning and Development

RE: **DRAFT TRCA TRAIL STRATEGY: AN OVERVIEW**

KEY ISSUE

An overview of the draft TRCA Trail Strategy for the Regional Watershed Alliance Members.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the draft TRCA Trail Strategy and staff presentation be received for Regional Watershed Alliance information and Input;

THAT RWA members help to advance the objectives of the TRCA Trail Strategy through known grant or program opportunities, their respect networks, and municipalities;

And FURTHER THAT the proposed working group of RWA on *Greenspace and Ecosystem Services* consider integrating Trail Strategy priorities in their work plan, including the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table.

BACKGROUND

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has a long history of nature-based trail planning, development and delivery. Over the past 60 years, TRCA has worked in collaboration with its regional trail partners to provide responsible access to nature through scenic recreational trails and greenways. In 1989, TRCA proposed the concept of a Greater Toronto Region trail network in greenspace that would connect the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment to the shoreline of Lake Ontario. Inspired by the successful establishment of the Bruce Trail, this proposed trail network would provide continuous public access through the conservation valley lands to the magnificent landscapes of the TRCA region.

Since 1989, TRCA has developed this network in partnership with community groups and all levels of government. Within our jurisdiction, there are currently over 500 kilometres of regional trails in greenspace connecting the municipalities of Mono, Peel, York, Durham and Toronto, including sections of the Bruce Trail, the Lake-to-Lake Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) and the Waterfront Trail. In addition, TRCA has planned and implemented local and neighbourhood trail connections to connect residents to conservation lands and local trail systems. This comprehensive network has become an important conservation mechanism to secure greenspace, mitigate climate change, improve human health and well-being, promote responsible public access and inspire environmental stewardship.

Our region is experiencing unprecedented urban growth. By 2041, our population is projected to increase by 40 per cent to reach close to 10 million residents (Ontario Ministry of Finance, 2017). Twelve of the Urban Growth Centres in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 2017), including 25 new communities, are in TRCA's

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jurisdiction. Increasing the amount of greenspace in our natural system is a primary means to accommodate this projected urban growth while maintaining user experience and ecological function. We must proactively and sensitively locate our trail infrastructure to support these new communities while mitigating the environmental impact associated with this intensification.

Expanding greenspace and providing trails more equitably across our jurisdiction will provide nature-based amenities, recreation opportunities and active transportation options to underserved communities while improving our collective health and well-being. The creation of new trails, trailheads and neighbourhood linkages to our regional system will facilitate access to incredible destinations, allowing people to experience nature through the seasons. We must target our efforts and capitalize on development opportunities to realize these possibilities and service this growth according to our environmental planning policies and objectives. We must also secure adequate and sustainable investment in this community infrastructure that accounts for the full lifecycle costs of trails to maintain assets in a state of good repair so that we can achieve our desired level of service.

In response, TRCA has drafted the Trail Strategy to provide a strategic vision for a complete regional trail network in greenspace that facilitates sustainable living in this next generation of trails. As development accelerates, TRCA will employ this Strategy and partner with municipal colleagues, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community partners and the development industry to continue to acquire, protect and enhance natural assets while connecting people to nature. Through this collaboration, ongoing public procurement of greenspace and the provision of scenic trail greenways will occur. At our doorstep, we have precious natural landscapes with nature-based recreation trails across the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Niagara Escarpment, our nine river valleys and the waterfront. By working together strategically, we can grow and maintain this legacy in support of complete communities, a thriving economy and a healthy environment.

In undertaking the draft Trail Strategy, TRCA has followed a seven-stage process:

Stage 1: Scoping Study and Brief

Stage 2: Research and Context Review

Stage 3: Trails Inventory and Existing Conditions Audit

Stage 4: Trails Value and Demand Review

Stage 5: Strategic Objectives and Concept Plan Development

Stage 6: TRCA Trail Strategy and Implementation Workbook

Stage 7: Communications and Branding Campaign (in progress)

Throughout these project stages, TRCA business units across all divisions were consulted in the draft Strategy development. This engagement also included working sessions with external groups comprised of: Federal staff (Parks Canada), Provincial staff (Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport), Regional staff (Peel, York, Durham and Toronto), Municipal staff (Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Town of Ajax, Town of Aurora, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, King Township, Town of Markham, City of Mississauga, Town of Mono, City of Pickering, Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Uxbridge, City of Vaughan, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville), Conservation Authorities (Conservation Ontario, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), charitable organizations (Ontario Trails Council, Nature Conservancy of Canada) and grassroots associations (Bruce Trail Conservancy, CycleTO, Durham Mountain Biking Association, Green Durham Association, Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Trans Canada Trail, Trans Canada Trail Ontario, Waterfront Regeneration Trust).

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Through this engagement, our external partners communicated their strong support for the draft Trail Strategy. They confirmed that the Strategy addresses current shared challenges in trails development, particularly initiatives that provide greater leadership around, investment in, promotion of and full life-cycle management of the Greater Toronto Region trail network. They strongly support coming together as a united voice to advocate for trail funding at the Regional, Provincial and Federal levels.

OVERVIEW

The TRCA Trail Strategy is a call to action to renew our collective efforts to complete, expand, manage and celebrate the Greater Toronto Region trail network in this next generation of trails. Its purpose is to express TRCA's policy on regional trails in our greenspace system across our rapidly urbanizing watersheds. It also serves as a framework to guide the planning, development and management of these trails in the current landscape of urban intensification. In addition, the Trail Strategy provides rationale to secure greenspace and should be used to support the *Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2016-2020 (GAP)* and its future iterations. As such, it will facilitate the concerted effort of expanding greenways and building the Greater Toronto Region trail network in partnership with our trail community colleagues. The draft TRCA Trail Strategy consists of:

- A vision expressing what we want to achieve
- A concept describing our proposal
- Guiding principles to steer our efforts
- Context outlining dimensions of influence
- Strategic objectives to translate our vision into specific plans and projects
- Implementation plans to execute our concept
- An action plan outlining the strategic roadmap to achieve our vision

The **vision** for the Greater Toronto Region Trail network sees a complete regional trail network in greenspace that connects our growing communities to nature and to each other, supporting active living and enhancing our conservation legacy.

The **concept** for the Greater Toronto Region trail network sees the development of over **570 km of proposed trails** through the Oak Ridges Moraine, the valleys of the Etobicoke, Mimico, Highland, Petticoat and Duffins creeks, the major valleys of the Don, Humber and Rouge Rivers, the Lake Ontario Waterfront, through regional infrastructure corridors, including transit, utility and electric power facility corridors and the introduction of blue trails along our navigable waterways. Combined with the **530 km of existing trails** in our greenspace system, this concept would see the provision of over **1,100 km of regional trails for the Greater Toronto Region**.

This concept builds on the existing regional trail system and capitalizes on current growth and development opportunities to strategically expand greenspace and trails through a variety of development mechanisms. It also proposes investment in 10 conservation destination areas to enhance the trail network and provide amenities. This concept is intended to be a point of departure for discussion. It identifies the existing trail system, key missing links within the regional network, and proposes opportunities for trail connections that would link into both the regional and municipal trail systems that could be accomplished through a variety of development mechanisms. Many of the opportunities to be investigated extend beyond TRCA-owned lands and require collaboration with member municipalities, private landowners and other agencies.

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The proposed trail alignments are conceptual and represent goals.

Five **guiding principles** form the foundation of the Trail Strategy, underpinning the vision of the document and informing the rationale and methodology for its implementation: Lead, Collaborate, Steward, Invest and Celebrate. Eight **strategic objectives** have been developed in support of these principles to meet the challenges associated with trail development in the Greater Toronto Region. These objectives, along with their associated initiatives and actions, will guide TRCA and partners toward achieving the overarching vision of the TRCA Trail Strategy:

1. Organize effective trail leadership
2. Prioritize trail and destination area capital projects
3. Promote greater trail use and awareness
4. Build a sound knowledge base
5. Balance enjoyment and protection of our heritage
6. Promote meaningful community engagement
7. Support complete communities
8. Secure adequate and sustainable investment

The TRCA Trail Strategy includes an **Implementation Workbook** to outline the steps required to achieve our vision, concept and objectives and complete the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. This Workbook consists of:

- Trail Capital Projects: Candidate List
- Destination Area Projects: Candidate List
- Implementation Plans
- Action Plan

The Trail Capital Projects: Candidate List and Destination Area Projects: Candidate List outline prioritized trail and destination area capital projects by region, to inform capital planning efforts by TRCA and municipal trail partners. Each candidate project has been assigned an implementation priority based on defined investment criteria. These capital projects are illustrated in the Implementation Plans required to complete the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. The Action Plan organizes the eight strategic objectives and associated initiatives and actions into an execution timeframe to be phased across short, medium and long-term time horizons.

The draft TRCA Trail Strategy supports The Living City vision for a new kind of community where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity. In particular, it reinforces TRCA's Leadership Strategy 3: Rethink greenspace to maximize its value, identified in TRCA's Building the Living City®: 10 Year Strategic Plan 2013-2022. The expected outcomes of the TRCA Trail Strategy will be:

- Provision of connected routes and corridors for wildlife, recreation and active transportation;
- Provision of natural spaces for play, exploration and recreation;
- Provision and protection of green infrastructure and ecosystem services;
- Protection of our cultural heritage and promotion of its understanding;
- Support for opportunities for local food production;
- Creation of opportunities for land-based education;
- Enhancement of our physical landscapes, informing existing and future development;
- Encouragement of urban regeneration;
- Support for the economic potential of eco-tourism

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- Improvement of social inclusion, equity and accessibility to greenspaces;
- Improvement of opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature;
- Reinforcement of our regional identity;

See **Attachment 1** for the draft Concept Plan: Greater Toronto Region Trail Network.

See **Attachment 2** for the draft TRCA Trail Strategy.

See **Attachment 3** for the draft TRCA Trail Strategy: Implementation Workbook.

RATIONALE

Since the original vision of the Greater Toronto Region trail network proposed in 1989, our region has developed significantly. Thirty years of intensification warrants an update to the Greater Toronto Region trail network concept as well as the development of an associated Trail Strategy to deliver it. TRCA has the ability to bring four key strengths to continue the development of a regional greenway trail network in the Greater Toronto Region:

1. Over 18,000 hectares of greenspace are currently owned by TRCA. This land is largely associated with our large-scale regional natural features, including the valley and stream corridors, Lake Ontario waterfront, Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine. These features also serve as corridors where further securement will allow the completion of an inter-regional trail network.
2. TRCA jurisdiction transcends local and regional government boundaries to include the majority of the river valley corridors and a significant portion of the Lake Ontario Waterfront and the Oak Ridges Moraine within the Greater Toronto Region.
3. Additional trail funding can be facilitated by TRCA and partners, such as the RWA, through municipal grants, private donations and revenues.
4. TRCA has accumulated considerable technical expertise in the field of trail planning, design, construction, maintenance and programming. As the author of the 1989 concept for the Greater Toronto Region trail network, TRCA is positioned to build on this trails legacy.

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is an advisory committee to TRCA and will be engaged in the future consultation, endorsement and adoption of the TRCA Trail Strategy. As per the RWA Terms of Reference, the RWA can help TRCA advance its strategic goals and priorities, including those outlined in the TRCA Trail Strategy. There is an opportunity for RWA members to help achieve the objectives of the TRCA Trail Strategy through the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table working group. In addition, there is an opportunity for RWA members to advocate for the TRCA Trail Strategy in upcoming budget discussions and/or through known government grant programs to support future funding opportunities.

FUNDING SOURCES

Regional trail projects are funded from a variety of sources. At TRCA, these sources include revenues and occasional donations or government grants (see **Table 1: Trail Funding Sources**). Financial resilience will require a greater range of eligible funding sources and leveraging the revenue-generating potential of trails and related facilities. In addition to these

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sources, TRCA will continue to engage with regional trail partners to capitalize on future development opportunities that maximize budgets, time and resources.

Table 1: TRAIL FUNDING SOURCES

TRAIL PARTNER	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DESCRIPTION
TRCA	Donations*	Funds received through The Living City Foundation and/or from trail donation boxes
	Government Grants*	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
	TRCA Revenues	Municipal levies, capital, special projects
Municipalities	Development Charges (DCs)	Development fees
	Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF)	Local infrastructure priority funding
	Government Grants	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
Trail Groups	Municipal Taxes	Municipal operating and/or capital budgets
	Donations	Donated funds, time, labour and materials
Future Sources	Government Grants	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
	Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)	Co-operative funding arrangements
	Pay-Per-Use	Trail user fees (parking / membership fees)
	Road Tolls	Road toll funds

GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

The TRCA Trail Strategy provides the government with a unique opportunity to meet its federal, provincial and municipal objectives in a cost-effective manner. The following government objectives, mandates and program opportunities are provided for the information of the RWA to advocate for future funding for the fulfillment of the TRCA Trail Strategy.

The **Government of Canada** is making historic new investments in infrastructure to build the cities of the twenty-first century and provide communities across the country with the tools they need to prosper and innovate. The **Investing in Canada Plan** provides investment to support three key objectives:

- Create long-term economic growth
- Support a low carbon, green economy
- Build inclusive communities

The TRCA Trail Strategy supports these objectives through provision of the five main infrastructure priorities targeted by the Investing in Canada Plan:

1. **Public Transit Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region trail network is a key component of our region's active transportation network. Trails provide transportation alternatives to cars, helping to reduce traffic congestion and long commutes that make it harder for people to get to work and for families to spend time together. Trails also address the current "first mile/last mile" (FMLM) barrier to the success of our regional public transit system.
2. **Green Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region trail network provides green infrastructure that protects our communities and supports Canada's ongoing transition to a

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clean growth economy. Greenways provide the needed forest vegetation that filters the air and directly improves its quality. The buffering effect of vegetation in our river valleys is important in controlling the delivery of surface pollutants to streams. The development of trails through our greenways offers an opportunity for residents to see and smell, first hand, the benefits of a strong network of natural open spaces in the local community.

3. **Social Infrastructure.** Investing in the Greater Toronto Region trail network is an investment in our social fabric. The TRCA Trail Strategy promotes investment in Indigenous communities, out-of-classroom education, and cultural and recreational infrastructure through trails. Indigenous peoples, educators, volunteers and grassroots organizations are key partners in creating and managing our regional trail network. Working in partnership, meaningful relationships can be created to respect and celebrate various cultural ways and beliefs, improving the quality of life for present and future generations.
4. **Trade and Transportation Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region network supports the development of stronger, more efficient transportation corridors in our region. The provision of trails integrated into our public transit network provide residents with an active transportation alternative to move about their daily lives, helping to reduce road congestion, bottlenecks and capacity issues. Trails help the transportation system withstand the effects of climate change by acting as a climate change mitigation measure.
5. **Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region network connects rural communities in the protected northern areas of the Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt to the growing suburban and urban communities of the Greater Toronto Area. It also connects rural communities beyond TRCA jurisdiction by linking into Provincially and Federally significant trails, including the Bruce Trail, the Lake-to-Lake Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, The Great Trail and the Waterfront Trail.

Furthermore, nine mandates of the **Government of Ontario** are supported by the draft TRCA Trail Strategy:

1. The **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)** has identified walking as one of the most popular active living pursuits in Ontario. Public trails provide an accessible recreation alternative for all Ontarians. Eco-touring throughout Southern Ontario is a growing tourist business that requires a strong network of hiking and cycling trails linking the city to the country. From the standpoint of cultural heritage, trail development in greenway corridors encourages the cataloguing and development of archaeology resources. With over 18,000 hectares of valley and waterfront lands, TRCA is custodian to the largest reserve of archaeological resources in Southern Ontario. The **Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (OSRCF)** is a grant program that supports a vision of getting and keeping Ontarians active in community sport, recreation and physical activity.
2. The **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)** plays a role in the planning and management of natural heritage systems, including the provision of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and education on natural heritage. MNR also partners with the natural resources and forestry industry to demonstrate sound forest and wildlife management in Southern Ontario. Greenway trails provide greater access to managed forests and interpretive trails through Conservation Areas can educate the public on a wide variety of vegetation and wildlife habitats in their communities. In terms of mineral resource management, aggregate resource rehabilitation projects can support the development of

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regional trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment with the cooperation of such groups as the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association. This type of partnership resulted in the successful restoration of a former gravel pit in TRCA's East Duffins Headwaters Properties (EDH) to include for enhanced biodiversity, sustainable nature-based recreation trails and interpretive education.

3. Trails provide opportunities for the **Ministry of Education** and school boards to animate the course curriculum in out-of-classroom education across the disciplines. The 10 proposed Conservation Area destinations, including TRCA facilities such as the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Conservation Field Centres and Black Creek Pioneer Village, offer incredible education opportunities through the interpretation on the trails.
4. The **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** help to build communities that are resilient, inclusive and sustained by the economic and civic contributions of all Ontarians. A sense of community is one of the most critical elements in sustaining a neighbourhood. The development, management and programming of trails is a strong builder of community spirit. The active participation of community service clubs, organized youth groups and creative recreation programs can help build a sense of pride that is critical to the quality of life in our communities. Volunteer contributions range from raising funds to building and maintaining trails. Reduced crime and an increased sense of self-worth are natural by-products when community-driven projects like trails are encouraged.
5. The quality of our air and water are the direct concern of the **Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**. The buffering effect of vegetation in our river valleys is important in controlling the delivery of surface pollutants to streams. The development of trails through our greenways offers an opportunity for residents to experience the benefits of a strong network of natural open spaces in the local community. The **Waterfront Regeneration Trust** provides strong support for Greenway Trails in its legislative mandate and its ongoing work with Provincial agencies, municipalities and shoreline residents. TRCA actively supports those efforts by sharing staff expertise, funding and a coordinated approach to trail management issues.
6. The development of inter-regional trail links throughout the Greater Toronto Region will greatly enhance the community's ability to experience a healthy walk or cycle in a natural setting. The **Ministry of Health** can significantly enhance its promotion of the wellness concept by encouraging communities to use greenway trails. The demonstrated health elements are both physical and mental. A key result of a healthier community will be reduced health care costs.
7. One of the many crossover benefits of greenway trails is the promotion of active transportation and the subsequent reduction in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The **Ministry of Transportation** supports the development of pedestrian and cycling networks as a core part of Ontario's transportation system. Increasing cycling opportunities in Ontario offers many benefits, including improved well-being, lower rates of chronic conditions and reduced health care costs as a result of active living, reduced traffic congestion in urban areas, a cleaner environment and increased tourism opportunities across the province. The Greater Toronto Region trail network will offer pedestrians and cyclists an environmentally safe alternative to move about their daily lives. Improved mapping and signage between existing greenway trails will further enhance the enjoyment and safety of such trails.

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8. The **Ministry of Indigenous Affairs** works to ensure a better future for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Trails provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to enhance awareness about their culture and heritage through the exploration of interpretive trails.
9. The **Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade** supports a strong, innovative economy that can provide jobs, opportunities and prosperity for all Ontarians. There is ample evidence that trails not only enable Canadians to live actively in a healthier environment, but also that trails most often economically benefit both adjacent landowners and the local business community (Go for Green, The Economic Benefits of Trails). Direct impacts of the TRCA Trail Strategy include equal opportunity employment for construction workers, designers, technicians, researchers and planners. Indirect economic benefits include the promotion of private commerce in such fields as increased sales for walking shoes, cross-country skis, bicycles and their repair, public transit use, sport clothing, gift shops and restaurants. The Bruce Trail Association has identified an economic spinoff of \$44 million from their trail system (2018 dollars).

Finally, municipal mandates of the **Regions of Peel, York and Durham** and the **City of Toronto** as well as those of their lower-tier municipalities are supported by the TRCA Trail Strategy. Regional and local governments recognize trails as essential green infrastructure through the inclusion of recreational and active transportation trail policies in Strategic Plans, Official Plans and Transportation Master Plans. These policies set out standards for new communities, managing growth and development and protecting the environment. All of the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area make recommendations to prioritize walking, cycling and transit to meet the needs of residents and develop complete communities. Several Official Plans also include policies to improve connectivity between greenspaces and cover the role of trails in active transportation, recreational service delivery, community engagement and ecological enhancement. In response to population growth and changing community needs, municipalities are constructing significant regional trail routes. For example, York Region, the City of Toronto and the City of Richmond Hill are implementing the Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail. New trail segment construction along the Humber Trail, the Etobicoke Creek Trail and the East Don Trail are also recent examples of successful trail building partnership projects between TRCA, the regions and local municipalities.

Following the adoption of the TRCA Trail Strategy, a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations is required. This exercise will help optimize our collective capital planning efforts. Following this inventory, TRCA staff will develop a comprehensive implementation plan and financial plan to fully implement the Strategy. Based on these overlapping and aligned government objectives, this future implementation plan and funding plan should coordinate a funding request with contributions from all levels of government and include support from public groups and the private sector.

PRELIMINARY COSTING

Basic unit costs per linear meter for the various trail descriptions and types implemented in the concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail network are shown in **Table 2: Trail Unit Costs**. The basis for this costing has come from collaborative analysis with our municipal partners.

Table 2: TRAIL UNIT COSTS

TRAIL DESCRIPTION (TYPE)	UNIT	2018 DOLLARS
Single-use		
Construct new hiking trail in valley/ridge areas	Linear Metre	\$ 130.00
Multi-use		
Construct new asphalt waterfront trail	Linear Metre	\$ 1,240.00
Construct new asphalt trail in valley/ridge areas	Linear Metre	\$ 702.40
Construct new asphalt trail in road right-of-ways	Linear Metre	\$ 555.40
Construct new asphalt trail in utility corridors	Linear Metre	\$ 372.40
Bike-only		
Construct new cycle-track trail along roadways	Linear Metre	\$ 450.00
Other Costs		
Planning	Percentage	10.0%
Design and Engineering	Percentage	10.0%
Permitting	Percentage	10.0%
Contingency	Percentage	25.0%
Natural Heritage and Tree Compensation	Percentage	5.0%

These metrics were used to calculate the preliminary order of magnitude estimates for trail construction project costs per region shown in **Table 3: Trail Project Costs**. This table includes trail construction project costs per region, according to the high, medium or low implementation priority phase of work categorized in the draft TRCA Trail Strategy. The chart further itemizes trail project cost according to land ownership, by TRCA versus Other, per region. The schedule for expenditures is as follows:

Table 3: TRAIL PROJECT COSTS

TRAIL PROJECT COSTS (MILLIONS)				
REGION	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL
Durham	\$2.3	\$16.1	\$21.0	\$39.4
Durham (TRCA lands)	\$1.3	\$0.6	\$1.4	\$3.3
Durham (Other lands)	\$1.0	\$15.5	\$19.6	\$36.1
Peel	\$24.2	\$12.9	\$33.9	\$71.0
Peel (TRCA lands)	\$7.8	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$7.9
Peel (Other lands)	\$16.4	\$12.9	\$33.8	\$63.1
Toronto	\$52.2	\$46.5	\$5.1	\$103.8
Toronto (TRCA lands)	\$11.0	\$3.0	\$0.0	\$14.0
Toronto (Other lands)	\$41.2	\$43.5	\$5.1	\$89.8
York	\$49.9	\$66.0	\$54.7	\$170.6
York (TRCA lands)	\$18.0	\$6.7	\$2.6	\$27.2
York (Other lands)	\$31.9	\$59.3	\$52.1	\$143.4
TOTAL (TRCA lands)	\$38.1	\$10.3	\$4.1	\$52.5
TOTAL (Other lands)	\$90.5	\$131.2	\$110.6	\$332.4
GRAND TOTAL	\$128.6	\$141.5	\$114.7	\$384.9

Based on preliminary high-level costing of the proposed trail connections, the total cost to construct the built infrastructure of the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network is **\$384.9 million**.

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The total cost of these new trail construction projects on TRCA-owned lands is **\$52.5 million**. The accuracy of this estimate is considered to be **+/- 20 to 30% accurate**. This cost is expected to increase annually according to projected inflation. These trail construction project costs include planning, design and engineering, permits and agreements, construction and contingencies. These trail construction project costs exclude crossings, lighting, engineering features, site servicing and trail amenities.

The total annual cost for TRCA staff time to administer the Strategy is **\$423,775.00**. This cost includes staff time for one position in the Greenspace Conservation team of Planning and Development to be assigned to support the Trail Strategy to deliver the Implementation Workbook and organize the working groups. Senior management within the Greenspace Conservation team will oversee the successful management and execution of the Trail Strategy, including its administrative, financial, operating, planning, reporting and advisory components. This annual cost is expected to increase annually according to projected inflation and cost of living increases.

IMPLEMENTATION

TRCA is currently undertaking trail and destination capital project work in support of the draft concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network within approved capital budgets of multiple TRCA divisional and municipal partner programs. In order to develop a more detailed implementation plan and funding plan, a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations is required. The coordination of work and planning mandated through implementation of this Trail Strategy will clarify resources currently dedicated to trail work and will inform any requests for additional future funding. Implementation will also be assisted by the development of a Trail Implementation and Management Handbook, which will form an update to the TRCA Trail Planning and Design Guidelines Manual (1992), conveying sustainable development and best management trail practices. With this in mind, and upon endorsement of the TRCA Trail Strategy, the following three strategic objectives will kick-start implementation of the Strategy:

1. Organize Effective Trails Leadership. Consolidate an internal Trail Working Group to guide the implementation of the Strategy, including developing an implementation plan and a funding plan to coordinate the delivery of the Strategy across business units. Form an external Trail Leaders Round Table as a working group of the RWA to promote knowledge-sharing, build capacity and focus fundraising efforts in support of the Strategy.

2. Prioritize Trail and Destination Projects. Perform a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations. Finalize the prioritized Trail and Destination Area capital projects lists in consultation with the Trail Working Group and the Trail Leaders Round Table. Perform high-level cost analysis for the confirmed capital projects. Develop a comprehensive implementation plan and funding plan to obtain funding and deliver capital projects in partnership with our municipal trail colleagues.

3. Promote Greater Trail Use and Awareness. Produce a digital and print map of the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network to provide clear wayfinding information for improved user orientation and experience. Implement a communications plan to promote the network and to generate support to secure funding to implement the Strategy.

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DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Present the TRCA Trail Strategy to the Authority Board for endorsement in principle (target Fall 2018).
- Continue engagement with external partners to finalize the draft TRCA Trail Strategy (target Spring 2019).
- Develop a comprehensive implementation plan and funding plan to fully implement the draft TRCA Trail Strategy (target Fall 2019).
- Report back to Authority Board with the finalized TRCA Trail Strategy, implementation plan and funding plan for Authority approval (target Fall 2019).
- Report back to RWA with the finalized TRCA Trail Strategy, implementation plan and funding plan for information and advocacy (target Spring 2019)
- Pursue and obtain funding to internally administer the Strategy and deliver priority trail and destination capital projects with municipal trail partners (ongoing).

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Date: September 19, 2018

Attachments: 3

Attachment Link:

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