

Attachment 3 – 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 a number of programs that TRCA has implemented to help alleviate barriers to participation and encourage greater access to nature-based cultural and recreational experiences.

Program with Brampton and Caledon Public Libraries

CVC and TRCA created a program with the City of Brampton and Town of Caledon Public Libraries to provide access to financially challenged individuals and groups. Conservation Parks Family and Friends Memberships are available for "checkout" at Brampton and Caledon public libraries. This program offers free access to TRCA and CVC parks, promoting inclusivity, encouraging nature-based experiences, supporting healthy communities, and increasing awareness of the parks.

Program with the Region of Peel

In partnership with CVC, TRCA has been collaborating with the Region of Peel Healthy Communities Initiative to "get more kids, more active, more often". TRCA and CVC have provided free admission opportunities to students and their families. This program has increased access to the outdoors to promote lifelong engagement. Staff teams are working together to develop new programs that encourage more students to participate more often in nature based recreational and cultural experiences.

Canoo (formerly known as the Cultural Access Pass program)

TRCA participates in the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's *Canoo* program, which celebrates multiculturalism by offering new Canadian citizens free general admission to our country's natural and cultural treasures. As a participating cultural attraction, Black Creek Pioneer Village welcomes Canoo members every year. This initiative has been extended to TRCA's parks to provide Canoo members with greater access to our facilities.

Active Transportation Policy

Committed to promoting active transportation, TRCA continues to work with municipal and industry partners to formalize additional trail access points to Conservation Areas and to expand trail connections. This will encourage more people to enjoy nature-based recreation more often, and will help reduce sedentary lifestyles.

Free Admission Programs

TRCA's public-use facilities offer free admission programs to promote access and inclusion. Black Creek is part of the Museums + Arts Pass (MAP) Program, which is an outreach and social equity initiative managed by Sunlife Financial in partnership with Toronto Public Libraries. This initiative provides free access to cultural institutions for people living in priority neighborhoods.

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 of Vaughan Culture Days (formally Doors Open) and Doors Open Toronto receive free admission to the Kortright Centre and Black Creek Pioneer Village, respectively. In October, the Kortright Centre also offers a Family Adventure Walk in the Forest in October 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 will help people engage with nature more often. Inclusivity and accessibility are priorities at our facilities. Staff is committed to expanding current initiatives and providing our diverse communities with even more opportunities in the years to come.