



Committee Report

To:	Chair and Members of Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Committee Date:	May 10, 2023
Subject / Report No:	PDR-JAAC-22-23
Title:	Recreational Trailhead Study Phase 1 Report
Prepared by:	Natalie Mechalko
Reviewed by:	Tara Warder and Scott Taylor
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW83-23; Endorsed by County Council July 22, 2023, per Resolution CC42-23.

Recommendation

- 1. That Report PDR-JAAC-22-23 regarding Grey County's Recreational Trailhead Study Phase 1 Report be presented for review and comment.**

Project Description

Grey County has retained GM BluePlan to complete a Recreational Trailhead Study to assess the public access points of select trails and Beaver River access points located within the County. The Study is intended to help guide the future planning and management of seventeen trailheads and four Beaver River access points. Ultimately the Study will set the infrastructure roadmap required to meet the visitor demand of the natural recreational areas within the County.

Specifically, this Study will help direct trailhead improvement efforts to ensure that improvements are focused on areas where needed the most, or where opportunities permit, as possible i.e., in association with other proximal County or Municipal capital road works. The properties identified for consideration were areas where issues or needs were previously identified, through public feedback, stakeholder consultations or general observations. Not all of the trailheads or Beaver River access points will be future County or Municipal infrastructure projects, as there are various ownership interests and costs associated with future projects.

Phase 1 of the Study included ranking each parking area to categorize the locations into low, medium, and high priority properties based on a study-specific ranking and categorization

system developed as part of the Phase 1 assessment. Phase 2 involves further analysis and management of the information and data collected in Phase 1 and includes a preliminary overview and assessment of the high priority locations identified as part of the initial Phase 1 review process.

As part of the Study, an evaluation of applicability of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) was completed. The results of this evaluation can be found on page 18 in Table 7-1 of Phase 1 Draft Report which is linked below. They are further discussed in Section 7.6 of the Phase 1 Draft Report beginning on page 21. Two locations, the Kimberly Forest, and the Rail Trail System in Chatsworth, were identified as being potentially AODA compliant. Opportunities for implementing accessible features at other trailheads are discussed in Section 7.6.3, which is found on page 22 of the Phase 1 Draft Report linked below. AODA compliant features highlighted in the report include the following:

- Detailed signage about the trail system at each trailhead that includes information about the trail's length, surface type, width, slope and the location of amenities, and
- Wheelchair accessible portable toilets that include an accessible entryway, a self-closing door, spacious interior and grab rails.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

O. Reg. 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards: Design of Public Spaces. Municipalities must consult with the public, people with disabilities, and their accessibility advisory committees when constructing new or redeveloping recreational trails.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Economic Development and Tourism staff; Planning and Development staff; Transportation Services staff; Accessibility Coordinator
- External (list): Grey County Outdoor Management Group

Appendices and Attachments

Table 7-1: Grey County Trailhead Study Ranking Criteria and Relative Ranking System: Detailed Summary and Comparison

[Phase 1 Draft Report](#)

[Phase 1 Draft Report Appendices](#)

