



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Zach Prince, Planner
Date: Thursday, April 08, 2021
Subject: **2021 Trail Update**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the 2021 trail work plan and report on other trail matters.

2. 2021 Work Plan

This year we intend to use the Planning and Development Department's \$36,100 trail budget on maintenance and trail promotion as described below.

Maintenance

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE: \$28,100

The County maintains a combined distance of approximately 12.5 km trails including the Kissing Bridge Trailway, Trestle Bridge Trail and Cottontail Road Trail. The budgeted maintenance includes trail mowing three times a season, including trimming around benches and barrier gates at road crossings. The start of 2021 has seen a high volume of trail users. We expect to see the higher number of users to continue through the spring and summer.

Staff assessed the state of the Trestle Bridge Trail based on feedback received by residents and determined that ditching, invasive species removal, grading and resurfacing along a portion of the trail would be appropriate. The construction would last approximately 3 days and is tentatively scheduled for May of this year.

Trail Promotion

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE: \$8,000

The County Trail Guide (Wellington Walks) was updated and released in 2020. There continues to be high demand from the public for the guides. At this time, the guides are available at the County Libraries and Museums and a digital copy is available on the County website (<https://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/trails.aspx#>). The guide will be available at Town and Township offices when they reopen to the public.

With an increase in new trail users we plan to explore messaging strategies to educate users about the County Trail etiquette. With that, staff will continue to develop a strategy with the Communications department and have budgeted possible messaging in the Wellington Advertiser.

Staff posted temporary signage (Attachment 1) at the entrances of the trails, based on the feedback we have received we will be looking in creating this signage more permanent.

Steward Group Work Plans:

GUELPH HIKING CLUB: Continues to be the major Steward Group charged with maintaining the trails that the County has responsibility over. Their volunteers are critical to maintaining and improving the trails within the County and include maintaining the section of the Kissing Bridge Trailway within the County. Without the ability to hold large gatherings, the group has still been able to complete work safely along the trail in smaller groups. Staff are in frequent communication with members of the Club.

GUELPH 2 GODERICH (G2G): Continue to promote the entirety of the trail, including the Kissing Bridge Trail in the County. The G2G is engaged with the City of Guelph to try and work towards a possible connection from the existing Kissing Bridge Trail to the City.

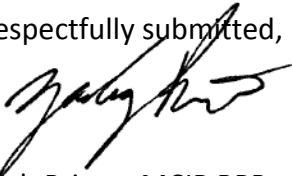
3. Impacts of COVID 19

The County operated trails have remained open during the pandemic. With many people staying at home, there has been a steady increase in users at our trails in all seasons and especially as the weather improves. Staff have received an increased number of calls from residents with the main concerns being litter along trails and at parking areas, dogs running off leash, and people entering private property. As noted earlier, staff have posted temporary signage (Attachment 1) at the trails and will continue to post notices on County Social Media Platforms to remind all trail users of the etiquette required at trails.

4. Recommendation:

That the 2021 Trail Update Report be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Zach Prince, MCIP RPP
Planner

Attachments:

1 – Signage posted at trail entrances

ATTACHMENT 1:
Signage posted at trail entrances



- **Keep all dogs on leash and please pick up after your pet.**
- **Stay only on the trail surface and please stay off of private property.**
- **Maintain a safe distance when passing someone.**
- **Carry out all garbage.**
- **No motorized vehicles permitted.**

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