



Staff Report

Community Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: March 23, 2021
Report Number: CSOPS.21.013
Subject: Georgian Trail Annual Operations Report
Prepared by: Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.013, entitled “Georgian Trail Annual Operations Report” for information purposes;

And that Council endorses collaboration with the Georgian Cycle and Trail Association to enhance sections of the Georgian Trail.

B. Overview

The Georgian Trail Annual Operations Report is required to be brought forward to each of the three participating partner municipal Councils: Municipality of Meaford, Town of The Blue Mountains, and Town of Collingwood. The purpose of the report is to update Council on the maintenance and operations specific to the Georgian Trail.

The Georgian Cycle and Trail Association has offered to financially support work with The Town of The Blue Mountains, Collingwood and Meaford to enhance some sections of the trail that are narrowing.

C. Background

Staff from each of the three participating partner municipalities have contributed to the summary of work completed on the Georgian Trail in 2020. Council approved grooming of the Georgian Trail for the 2020/21 winter season. Staff will be bringing a future report forward to address winter grooming moving forward.

Trail counters were installed in September of 2020, unfortunately the data was not accurate due to a set-up issue. As the operation of these counters was refined, credible data is available from November 2020 moving forward. All four counters combined showed more than 60,000 trail users in November and December of 2020. Staff look forward to showing year over year data in future annual reports.

D. Analysis

Municipality of Meaford (Kilometer 1 to Kilometer 7.2 - 22% of Trail)

Work and inspections completed:

- Monthly trail inspections
- Lifted tree canopies twice from Swathmore drive to Christie beach Road
- Refurbished stone path and both sides every bridge
- Fixed numerous washouts between Swathmore Drive and Christie Beach Road
- Contracted out 2 concrete pads for bicycle repair stations
- Removing snowbanks at road crossings during winter months for pedestrian access
- Garbage collection along trail twice a year and empty 10 containers distributed along the trail daily

Town of The Blue Mountains (Kilometers 7.2 to Kilometer 27.7 - 62% of Trail)

Work and inspections completed:

1. General operations:

- Monthly inspections completed from April 1 to November 1
- Weekly inspections completed during winter trail grooming operations
- Three cuts of grass along trail including trimming around benches
- Contracted by the Municipality of Meaford to cut the grass on their section of the trail
- Removal of dead trees along various sections of trail
- Noxious weed control program (June)
- Winter trail groomed daily when there is adequate snow
- Removal of snowbanks at road crossings weekly
- Garbage collection at 10 locations twice per week
- Placement of privies at 3 locations Peace Park, Camperdown Road and Lakeshore Road for the winter months

2. Maintenance and repair works:

- Top dressed trail section from Tenth Line to Peel Street
- Continued with the removal of ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer from Lakeshore Road East to County Road #19
- Removal of dead and hazardous trees along various locations of the trail
- Contracted the removal of ash trees from Georgian Peaks to Wards Road
- Installed stop ahead signs at all road crossings
- Installed sound your bell signs along sections of the trail
- Installed p-gates along the section of the trail behind Home hardware
- Installed new ECO-Viso trail counters at Lora Bay, Bruce Street, Camperdown Road and Craiglieth Heritage Depot
- Installed garbage receptacles and dog waste bag receptacles at various locations

Town of Collingwood (Kilometer 27.7 to Kilometer 33.0 - 16% of Trail)

Work and inspections completed:

- Monthly inspections completed from April 1 to November 1
- Monthly grass cutting along the trail including trimming along benches
- Removal of any fallen/hazardous trees along the trail
- Repairing washouts as needed
- Contract weed spraying
- Grooming of the trail during winter months when there is adequate snow

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communications and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

All activities are completed with as little environmental impact as possible.

G. Financial Impact

Municipality of Meaford

General Operations \$8,000
(14.9% of total)

Town of The Blue Mountains

Recorded expense of \$42,982.04 for 2020 operating season; includes:

- \$16,387.06 for general operations
- \$596.27 for equipment rentals
- \$411.18 for insurance
- \$25,587.53 for contracted ash tree removal

(80.4% of total)

- December Trail Grooming costs include portable toilet rentals, staffing, equipment, signs, and waste collection:
- \$5,238.82

Note: These are only the estimated December 2020 costs

Town of Collingwood

General operations \$2,500.00
(4.7% of total)

Total: \$53,482.04

H. In consultation with

Municipality of Meaford – Jesse Bedard, Foreperson Parks and Facilities Services

Town of Collingwood – Wendy Martin, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Terry Green, parkstrails@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Green
Manager of Parks and Trails

Ryan Gibbons
Director of Community Services

For more information, please contact:
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