



Staff Report

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Report To: General Government Committee

Date of Meeting: November 29, 2021

Report Number: PWD-032-21

Submitted By: Stephen Brake, Director of Public Works

Reviewed By: Andrew C. Allison, CAO

Resolution#:

File Number:

By-law Number:

Report Subject: Cost for Snow Clearing on Trails

Recommendations:

1. That Report PWD-032-21 and any related communication items, be received;
2. That Council support the on-going clearing of snow from the 7.8 kilometers of recreational trails that were maintained during the winter of 2020-2021;
3. That Council provide direction to Staff regarding the provision of snow clearing service on additional sections of Clarington recreational trails; and
4. That all interested parties listed in Report PWD-032-21 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

The Covid-19 Pandemic has resulted in the increased use of Clarington's Recreational trail system and a much greater demand by users for the trails to be cleared of snow during the winter months. This report addresses Council Resolution GG-205-21 that was passed on February 16, 2021, requesting that Staff report back with costing to clear all 20 kilometers of trails in Clarington for next year.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the General Government Committee meeting held on February 16, 2021, Council passed Resolution GG-205-21. This specific resolution directed Staff to report back with costing on clearing all 20 kilometers of trails in Clarington for next year.
- 1.2 During the April 7, 2021 meeting of the Active Transportation and Safe Roads (ATSR) Committee, members commended the Municipality and Council for maintaining trails during the winter of 2020-2021. Resulting from the positive feedback that was received from numerous trail users, the ATSR Committee subsequently passed the following recommendation:

“That the Municipality permanently undertake winter maintenance and consider expanding the program to trails located throughout Clarington to allow residents to take advantage of the trail network year-round.”
- 1.3 Clarington currently has approx. 20 kilometers of recreational trails that are primarily located in the southern area of Clarington with significant portions forming the Waterfront Trail system along Lake Ontario. These facilities provide an option for residents to engage in various active lifestyle activities such as walking, jogging, cycling and nature walks.
- 1.4 The recreational trails that were cleared of snow by the Municipality during the winter of 2020-2021 included the following sections:

Section	Trail Name	From/To	Length
1	Farewell Creek Trail	South from Old Kingston Road	567 meters
2	Bowmanville Valley Trail	Roenigk Drive to Baseline Road	2,224 meters
3	Soper Creek Valley Trail	Soper Creek Park to Sprucewood Crescent	3,083 meters
4	Newcastle Lions Trail	Sunset Boulevard to King Avenue West	535 meters
5	Samuel Wilmot Nature Valley Trail	Cobbledick Road to Toronto Street	1,370 meters
Total			7,779 meters

2. Analysis

- 2.1 The Municipality currently provides snow clearing on municipally owned pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks that front onto parks and open space or on walkways that lead into parks or connect roadways. Winter maintenance is also provided on some pathways in parks that connect to schools and serve as a walking route. Recreational trails, however, have historically not been included in the level of service for winter maintenance provided by the Municipality.
- 2.2 Snow clearing services are presently outsourced to a third-party contractor. At the end of the 2020-2021 winter season the existing contract for snow clearing services expired. This contract has been recently re-tendered and was awarded by Council to a new vendor on October 18, 2021.
- 2.3 Based on the terms of the new contract, it is estimated that the annual cost to provide snow clearing service on the 7.8 kilometers of trail sections noted above is \$58,000. The specifications of the contract require that the trails are cleared to full width and that a sand/salt mix is placed after each call-out to serve as a melt agent and an abrasive for traction.
- 2.4 Due to the short timeframe that existed between awarding the new contract and the anticipated on-set of winter conditions, the trail sections identified above have been included with the level of service required for the winter of 2021-2022, and beyond. Should Council provide direction, however, that these trail sections are not to be maintained they can be easily removed from the contract quantities.
- 2.5 The remaining sections of paved Recreational trails that could be added to the level of service for winter maintenance include the following:

Section	Trail Name	From/To	Length
6.	Waterfront Trail	Along Lakebreeze Drive from Toronto Street	1,647 meters
7.	Waterfront Trail	Port of Newcastle Drive to Shipway Avenue	610 meters
8.	Waterfront Trail	South Service Road to Bennett Road	1,733 meters
9.	Waterfront Trail	Along Port Darlington Road	2,000 meters
10.	Waterfront Trail	West Beach Road to Port Darlington Road	500 meters
11.	Waterfront Trail	West Beach to Bowmanville Avenue	1,415 meters
12.	Courtice Shores Trail	East from Courtice Shores Drive	1,300 meters
13.	Bowmanville Valley Trail	Baseline Road to Waterfront Trail	615 meters
Total			9,820 meters

- 2.6 The estimated annual cost to provide snow clearing service on the additional 9.8 kilometers of trail noted above is \$73,000. Similar to the specifications for the existing recreation trails being cleared, the contract requires full width snow removal and the application of a sand/salt mix.
- 2.7 Based on the above summaries, the annual cost for providing snow clearing along the entire 17.6 kilometers of Recreational trails would be approximately \$131,000. This amount does not include the cost of any possible upgrades or modifications that may be necessary to prepare the trail sections including the removal of bollards, etc.

3. Concurrence

This report has been reviewed by the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer.

4. Conclusion

It is respectfully recommended that Council provide approval for staff to continue providing snow clearing services on the 7.8 kilometers of recreational trails that were maintained last winter. Direction is also being requested from Council on the inclusion of any of the additional sections of recreational trails as outlined above.

Staff Contact: Slav Potrykus, Traffic Engineering Supervisor, 905-623-3379 extension 2315 or spotrykus@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Locations of Trails Included in the Review

Interested Parties:

There are no interested parties to be notified of Council's decision.