

Bridgenorth Trail

Stewardship Plan

The goal of Trail development is to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles through physical activity
- Provide affordable, accessible recreation
- Preserve the natural environment
- Encourage community development and involvement
- Create educational opportunities
- Enjoy the natural environment of our Township

1. Trail Stewardship Guidelines

Trail Stewards will work closely with the Township Manager of Recreation Services to keep the Trail in an attractive, clean, safe, and usable condition. Stewardship will involve activities that include:

- Clean-up activities - every user becomes a steward, and can volunteer to clean-up and maintain *the Trail*.
- Inspections - according to the inspection checklist.
- Fundraising - for ongoing enhancements, repairs and maintenance.
- Public Relations/Awareness activities - promote enhancements of *the Trail* for future trail development.
- Communications – feedback process to ensure that issues are reported and needed repairs/maintenance are completed.
- Liaison with adjacent landowners and trail users – a liaison process to provide an opportunity for adjacent landowners and trail users to provide ongoing feedback regarding the Trail.

The activities of the Stewards and their volunteers are covered under the liability insurance of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield.

2. Trail Stewards

B.E.L Rotary as a partner in the development of the Trail will be a key Trail Steward. B.E.L. Rotary will select a liaison representative to communicate with the Recreation department.

Every user becomes a *'trail steward'* by respecting trail use guidelines and restrictions, e.g. no littering, reporting unsafe conditions and being respectful of neighbouring properties and the environment.

3. Contacts - Risk Management Plan

Emergency Services

Police/Fire/Ambulance: 911
Public Works after Hours: (705) 740-6036

Design/Planning/Budget/Maintenance and User Issues

Manager of Recreation Services
Ed Barber: (705) 292-8774

4. Maintenance

Maintenance of various fixtures and improvements along the Trail shall be carried by the Stewards, volunteers, and/or municipal staff – depending upon the nature of such maintenance or improvement.

- Garbage receptacle pickup at the trail entrances will be conducted by municipal staff.
- Semi-annual clean-up will be conducted in the spring and fall by the Stewards, volunteers, and/or municipal staff.
- Repairs and enhancements will be conducted Stewards, volunteers, and/or municipal staff.

5. Inspections:

The Liaison will arrange for two BEL Rotary volunteers to carry out inspections of the Trail as outlined below:

- Spring
Inspectors - 2 BEL Rotary Volunteers and the Manager of Recreation Services or designate.
- Summer
Inspectors - 2 BEL Rotary Volunteers
- Fall
Inspectors - 2 BEL Rotary Volunteers

A *Trail Inspection Checklist* will be used.

The Manager of Recreation Services will be advised of the inspection date. At the time of each inspection, any unusual items requiring specific attention shall be documented on the *Trail Inspection Checklist* and provided to the Manager of Recreation Services.

The Manager of Recreation Services will ensure that appropriate maintenance/repairs occur as soon as reasonably possible, keeping in mind the urgency of the maintenance and the need for safe conditions.

6. Liaison with Adjacent Landowners and Trail Users

Annually, as a minimum, the Recreation Department will organize a meeting comprised of adjacent landowners, trail users, Township staff and any other interested parties to obtain feedback regarding the trail. This feedback is intended to respond to any issues and plan for improvements to the Trail.

7. Financial Resources

The Stewards may engage in ongoing fundraising by various methods, in order to finance the Stewardship Program, as well as maintenance and enhancements of the Trail.