



June 12, 2019
Our File: 119006-02

Township of Puslinch
RR 3, 7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

Attention: Ms. Karen Landry

Re: Fox Run Park Accessible Trail

Dear Ms. Landry:

Enclosed please find a preliminary concept plan for the proposed accessible walking trail at Fox Run Park in the Township of Puslinch.

Fox Run Park is located within the Fox Run subdivision, adjacent to Brock Road North, about one kilometer north of Aberfoyle. The 2.3-hectare park is bounded by residential dwellings on all sides with narrow access points fronting to Fox Run Drive and Deer View Ridge. Currently, there are no amenities or facilities at this park and no signage identifying its location. Although not a recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, there has been some community interest in the Township providing an accessible walking trail at this location.

The enclosed concept plan has been prepared to facilitate community consultation in relation to this proposal.

Accessibility Requirements

The trail has been designed to meet accessibility requirements for a recreational walking trail outlined in the County of Wellington Facility Accessibility Design (FADM) manual and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), including:

- The preferred minimum width for accessible routes is 1830 mm (72 in.).
- Accessible routes shall have a running slope not steeper than 1:25 and a cross slope not steeper than 1:50.
- Rest areas shall be positioned adjacent to the trail, have accessible ground surfaces of a contrasting ground finish material (to identify functional change); and incorporate at least one bench.
- Entrance gates shall be accessible to persons using wheelchairs or scooters, with a minimum clear opening of between 850 mm and 1,000 mm.
- Where a recreational trail is adjacent to a drop-off, the trail must have edge protection at least 50 mm above the trail surface.

It is noted that there is no minimum spacing for rest stops within the FADM or AODA, rather the requirements for rest stops are determined through consultation.

Trail Design

An approximately 400m long accessible trail constructed of 100mm of compacted limestone screenings, with a 150mm compacted granular 'A' base, is proposed. The trail meanders through the centre of the parkland from the access points to Fox Run Drive and Deer View Ridge. The width of the trail will be 1830mm for the majority of the length, increased to 2.5m wide for the access point at Fox Run Drive to permit maintenance vehicle access.

One rest area located at the midpoint of the trail is proposed. Lockable swing gates and/or bollards will be provided at each access point to permit access for pedestrians, bicycles and Township maintenance personnel, while discouraging access by motorized recreation vehicles.

Some cutting, filling and re-grading is required to maintain the maximum allowable trail slope. In addition, drainage modifications along the east property line of the parkland parcel are required to permit trail construction including re-grading and installation of a new drainage culvert.

It is noted that the eastern area of the parkland block is generally low-lying with difficulty draining. Drainage of this area is largely limited by the elevation of the outlet at the roadside ditch on Fox Run Drive. Re-grading of the drainage swales in this area is proposed to minimize localized ponding and improve drainage to the extent possible, however optimal drainage is not achievable in this area without additional measures such as in-filling or modifications to the roadside ditch.

Additional Requirements and Considerations

Signage:

- In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, signage should be erected at each trailhead that contains the trail length, surface type, average and minimum width, running and cross slope, and location of amenities. It is understood that the Township will obtain and install any required signage. The costs for signage have not been included in this assessment.

Landscaping and Screening:

- Additional landscaping or screening, such as fencing or tree rows, has not been incorporated at this time and would need to be reviewed if directed by the Township. These costs would be in addition to any costs presented.

Cost Considerations

The estimate cost for construction of the limestone screening trail is as follows:

limestone trail	\$ 80,000
retaining wall at entrance	\$ 15,000
grading and drainage	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
	\$115,000

The Township has applied for and received grant funding from Wellington County in the amount of \$43,403.91. The capital budget as approved by Council is \$100,000, including the grant amount. Township staff have advised that the shortfall of \$15,000 compared to the approved budget may be funded through Cash in Lieu of Parkland.

Through discussion with Township parks staff, it is estimated that ongoing maintenance costs for the trail would be in the range of \$8,000 if winter maintenance is required, or \$3000 if no winter maintenance is provided. This is in addition to the grass cutting cost of \$3,240 per year by an outside contractor.

Schedule

The spending deadline for the accessibility grant from Wellington County is November 30, 2019.

If the project is to proceed, the following schedule is proposed to achieve the spending deadline:

- Community consultation (Public Meeting) - July 22, 2019.
- Incorporate comments, finalize trail design – August 7, 2019
- Council approval of trail design – August 14, 2019
- Prepare tender specifications, Issue for Tender – September 4, 2019
- Close tender – September 18, 2019
- Trail Construction – October/November 2019

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

GM BLUEPLAN ENGINEERING

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Pepping', written in a cursive style.

Amanda Pepping, P. Eng.