



THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY

Trails Advisory Committee Agenda

Date: July 14, 2025
Time: 4:00 P.M.
Location: Haldimand County Administration Building
53 Thorburn Street South

Pages

- A. Call to Order
- B. Land Acknowledgement
- C. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest
- D. Approval of Previous Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- E. Items for Consideration
 - 1. New Business
 - 1. Trails Master Plan Update
Amanda Gebhardt, Practice Lead, Lees+Associates
 - 2. Next Meeting Date - September 10, 2025
- F. Adjournment

Haldimand County Trails Master Plan

Trails Advisory Committee Workshop (SWOT Session) | July 15th, 2025



Agenda

- **4:00 – 4:15 | Welcome & Introductions**
- **4:15 – 4:30 | Project Presentation**
 - Project Purpose
 - Engagement Opportunities
 - Outputs of the Process
 - Existing and Currently Proposed Trails
 - Outputs of the Process
- **4:30 – 4:45 | Q&A (Project Process)**
- **4:45 - 5:45 | SWOT Workshop Activity**
- **5:45 – 5:55 | Summary of Key Take-Aways**
- **5:55 – 6:00 | Next Steps**



Introductions & Project Overview

Consulting Team

An overview of team member roles and responsibilities is provided on the following page.



- > Amanda Gebhardt
- > Kelsey Walker
- > Harley Schneider

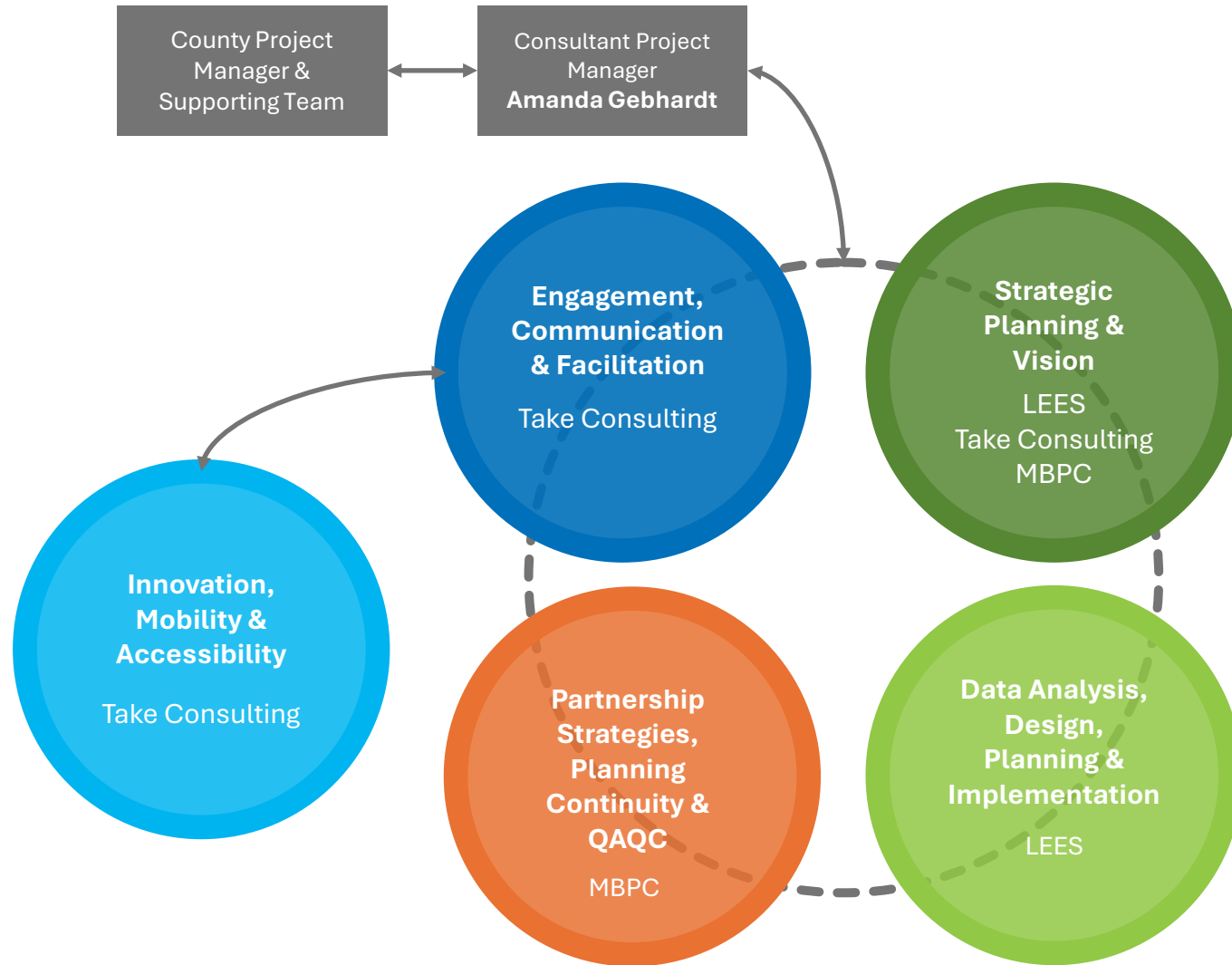


- > Clair Basinski
- > Kate Whitfield
- > Samantha Leger



- > Steve Langlois
- > Dennis Kwan
- > Jayme Hudyma

Roles & Responsibilities



Highlights

- > Consultant PM is the day-to-day contact for the County and will coordinate input from team members when needed
- > Dedicated engagement lead but capacity for engagement leadership from the PM and other team members
- > Team members have worked together on projects of a similar scope and scale before
- > Included dedicated QA/QC
- > Leveraging planning, landscape architecture and design skills to maximize project outcomes
- > Niche experience and expertise related to accessibility, urban design and universal design / human-centered planning

Project Purpose



Goals & Objectives

2009 Vision Statement

“A continuous network of trails connecting people and places of interest in Haldimand County”

1. Assess Progress Since 2009

- *Identify completed trail development projects while highlighting elements of the 2009 plan that are no longer feasible.*

2. Identify Future Opportunities

- Determine new opportunities for trail development and explore potential areas for expansion and enhancement.

3. Ensure Plan Flexibility

- Design a plan that can adapt to evolving constraints and challenges, emerging funding and partnership opportunities, and shifts in available capital and operating budgets.

4. Develop a Long-Term Implementation Plan

- Establish a 20+ year roadmap for trails and active transportation planning prioritizing trail development phases and associated initiatives and provide strategic guidance for implementation.

5. Integrate Budget Planning

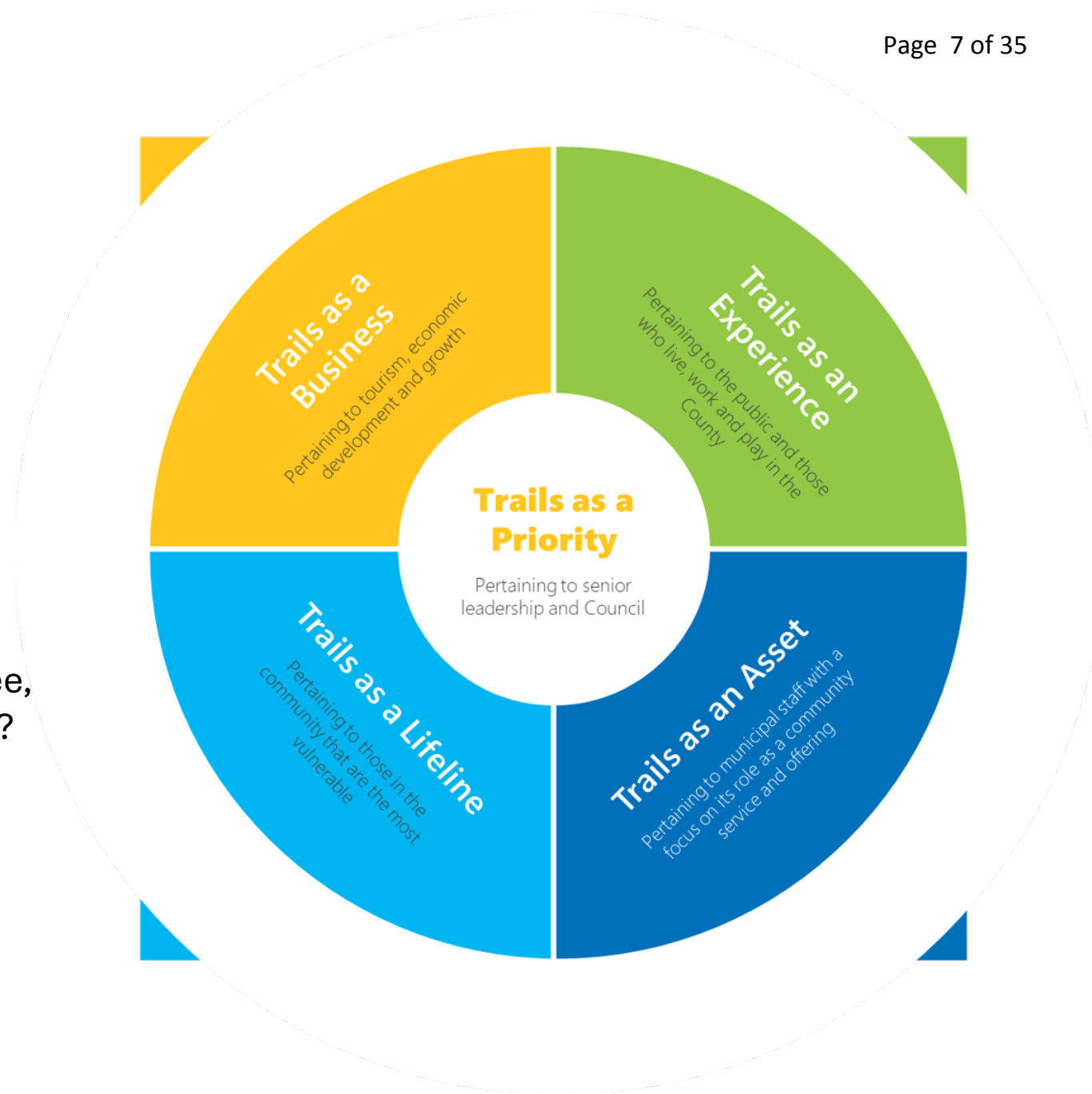
- Align the implementation plan with capital and operating budget planning. Begin budget considerations with the 2026 Capital Budget cycle.

6. Support County and Partner Collaboration

- Enable coordination between Haldimand County and relevant stakeholders.

What is the picture of success for this project?

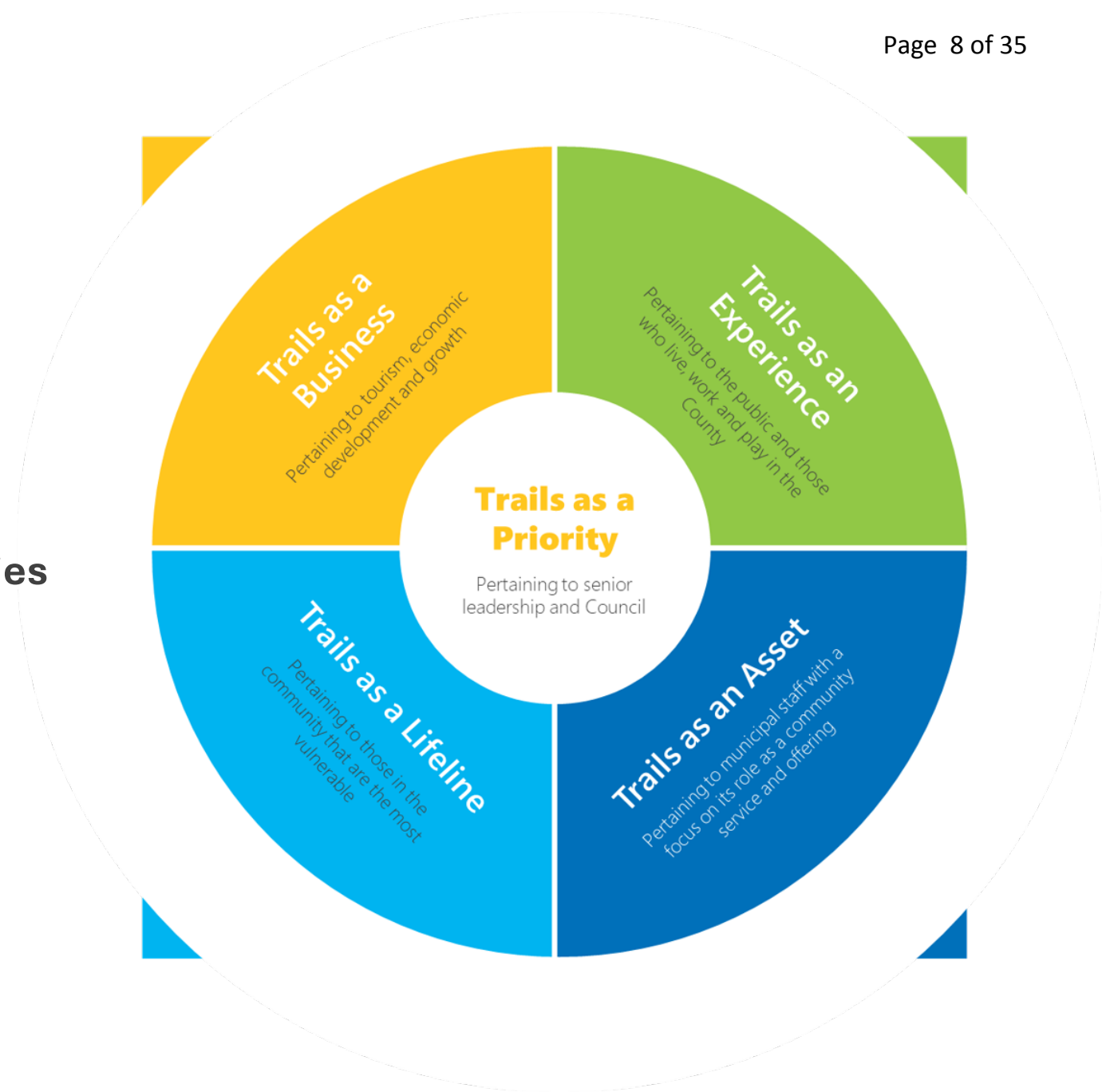
- **What is the Trail Advisory Committee looking for in this plan** to aid trail development and management?
- **What is lacking from the previous plan** that is needed to meet today's needs?
- From the perspective of the Trail Advisory Committee, what is the **long-term vision** for trails in Haldimand?
- What **level of service, infrastructure, and programming is realistic** going forward?
- What is the **legacy you wish to leave** through implementing the trail plan?



Contributions

- > Help us identify opportunities for:
 - > **New Trails**
 - > **Closing gaps and missing links**
 - > **Removing barriers for users**
 - > **Increasing connections within the community**
 - > **Connecting with adjacent communities**

- > Help us identify constraints and issues to address:
 - > **Bad user behaviors**
 - > **Maintenance Issues**
 - > **Trail design or alignment issues**



Engagement Opportunities



Who We Are Engaging



Engagement Strategy



**Committee
Meetings**



**Webpage &
Survey**



**Public
Consultation
Sessions**



Workshops



Engagement Schedule

Commencement
June 2025

Completion
October 2025

JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
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- **Staff Workshop #1**
 - June 24th



- Project Promotion and Online Survey**
 - Active for 3 weeks

- **Trail Advisory Committee Workshop**
 - July 14th
- **Community Stakeholder Workshop (Self-Guided)**

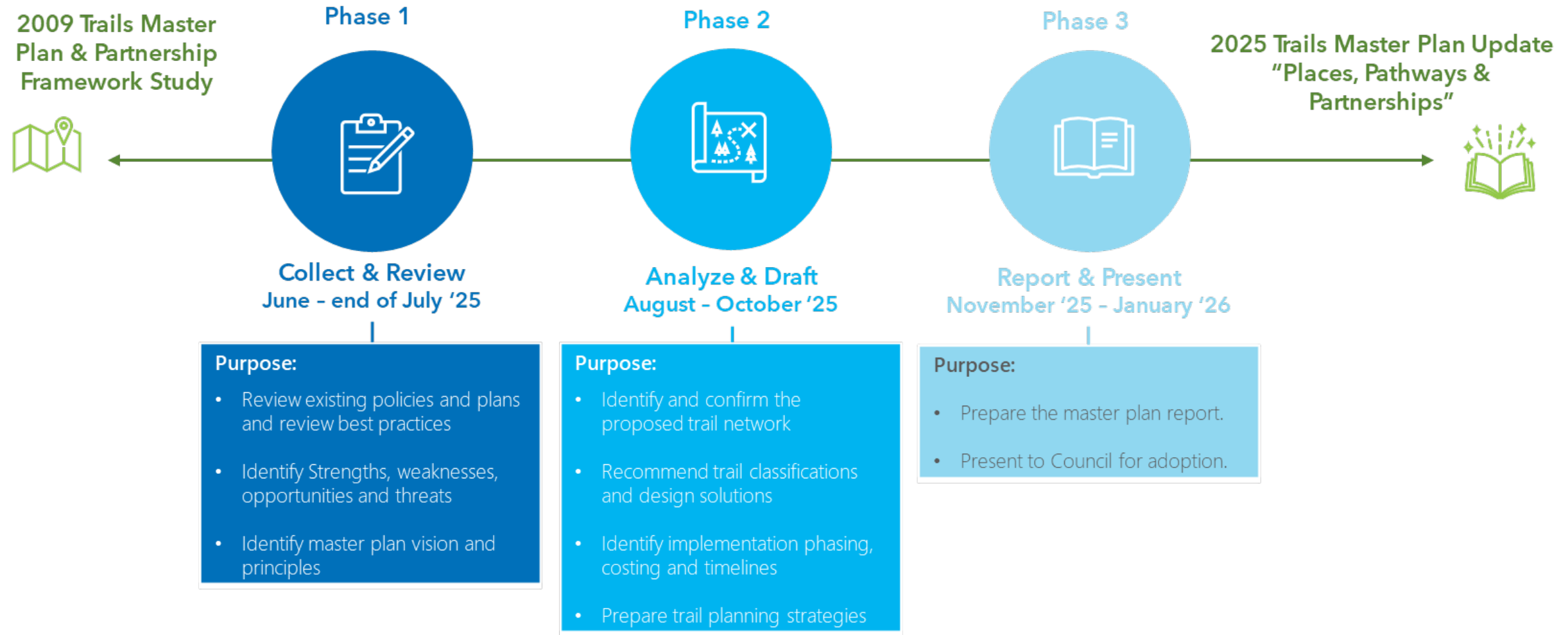
- **Public Consultation #1**
 - Dunville Farmers' Market, July 19th
 - Hagersville Farmers' Market, July 23rd
 - Caledonia Farmers' Market, July 24th

- **Public Consultation #2**
(Farmers' Markets)
 - October

Outputs of the Process



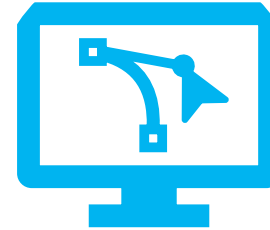
Project Process



Key Deliverables



Trail Strategy Document



Design Guidelines



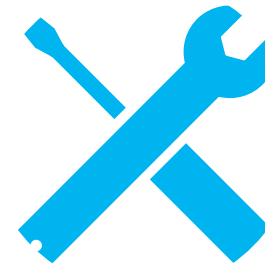
Trail Network Mapping



Engagement Summary



Implementation Plan



**Maintenance &
Management
Recommendations**

Existing and Currently Proposed Trails



Current Trail System

Haldimand County Trails MP									
List of Trails									
Region	Name	Location	Recognized by the County?	Type of Trail	Assets	Distance (Km)	Surface	Cross Slope	Running Slope
Caledonia	Beattie Estates		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		1			
	Chippewa Trail	Haldibrook Road to Haldimand Road 66	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural multi-use trail	Roadside parking, Connects to Hamilton's trail network	2.7	Granular	2%	1-2%
	Empire Avalon Trail		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		10			
	Gypsum Mine Tract	McClung Road to Haldimand Road 9, then south to Highway 54	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use trail, Partially natural, partially on-road	Connects to Chippewa Trail and Rotary Riverside Trail	12.2	Granular	2%	1-2%
	Kinsmen Park Walkway		<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking path		0.8			
	LaFortune Park Trail		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		2.5			
	Caledonia Kinsmen Park Walkway	Runs through Kinsmen Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking path	Paved and lit	0.3	Paved	2%	2-3%
	Northeast Walk		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		2.7			
	Northwest Walk		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		2.6			
	Patterson Walkway	Runs east of Argyle Street along the Grand River	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking path	Paved and lit	0.5	Paved	2%	2-3%
	Ramsay Walkway	Runs along the Grand River between Argyle Street and the Caledonia Old Mill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking path	Paved and lit	0.4	Paved	2%	2-3%
	River Walk		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		7			
	Rotary Riverside Trail	Runs along the Grand River from Seneca Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural multi-use trail, Suitable for walking, hiking and biking Part of Trans Canada Trail System	Parking at Seneca Park	6	Granular	1-2%	2-3%; 10-15% in areas
	South Walk		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		5			
	Thistlemoor Park Pathway	Runs through Thistlemoor Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking path		0.4	Granular	2%	1-2%

Last Updated: April 16th, 2025

Current Trail System

Haldimand County Trails MP

Last Updated: April 16th, 2025

List of Trails

Region	Name	Location	Recognized by the County?	Type of Trail	Assets	Distance (Km)	Surface	Cross Slope	Running Slope
Cayuga	Cayuga Grand Vista	Looped route that runs along Munsee Street, Hwy 3, King George Street and over the Grand River	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use trail, perfect for hiking, biking and walking	Parking at Courthouse and in lot off King George Street	3.2	Granular	2%	1%; 12-15% in areas
	Blue Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		2.9			
	Green Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		1.8			
	Pink Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		1.5			
	Purple Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		1.4			
	Thorburn Village		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		0.5			
Dunnville	Blue Heron Way	Runs from Hutchinson Road to the Gord Harry Trail to Niagara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural multi-use trail	Roadside parking	1.6	Granular	2%	1-2%
	Dunnville Walking Path	Runs from Centennial Park to the Farmers' Market	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paved walking path		2	Paved	2%	2-3%
	Rail Park Pathway	Runs between George Street and Cedar Street	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural walking path		1.6	Granular	1-2%	2-3%
	Long Routes x5		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		30			
	Medium Routes x5		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		22.2			
	Short Routes x10		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		28.2			
	Thomson Creek		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		1			
	Restoration Wingfield Walkway		<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		0.65			
Hagersville	Blue Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		2.3			
	Green Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		1.9			
	Pink Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		1.1			
	Purple Route		<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban trail route		2.7			
Jarvis	Jarvis Lions Walking Trail	Runs through Jarvis Lions Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walking path	Paved and lit, Fully accessible	1.2	Paved	1%	1%
	Jarvis Meadows		<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking path		0.4			
	Jarvis Sports Field Path		<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking path		1.3			
	Lake Erie Waterfront Trail	Jarvis and Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use off-road trail		95			
Selkirk	Waterfront Way	Runs from Erie Street to Blue Water Parkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural multi-use trail	Parking at Parkette off Erie Street (Refer to Attachment L)	0.225	Granular	2%	5-10%
Townsend	Townsend Recreation Trail	Runs through Townsend and over Nanticoke Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multi-use walking path	Paved and lit	4	Paved	2%	1-5%

Trail Developments *(In Progress)*

- **Selkirk Waterfront Way Trail Enhancement**
 - *(Construction commencing 2025)*
- **Townsend to Jarvis Connection**
 - *(Feasibility study completed 2022)*
- **Hagersville Residential Development**
 - Includes a proposed trail connection directly west to the Park and the downtown.
 - An additional north-south trail is under consideration adjacent to the development, linking the community towards Caledonia and Jarvis.



TRAIL OPTIONS OVERVIEW



Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| J1 Jarvis Trail Option 1 | R Rail Trail | T1 Townsend Trail Option 1 |
| J2 Jarvis Trail Option 2 | C1 Creek Trail Option 1 | T2 Townsend Trail Option 1 |
| J3 Jarvis Trail Option 3 | C2 Creek Trail Option 2 | T3 Townsend Option 2 |
| J4 Jarvis Trail Option 4 | C3 Creek Trail Option 3 | * Trail Access Point |

Haldimand Trails

- Cycling Route
- Walking Path
- Multi-Use

Potential Routes

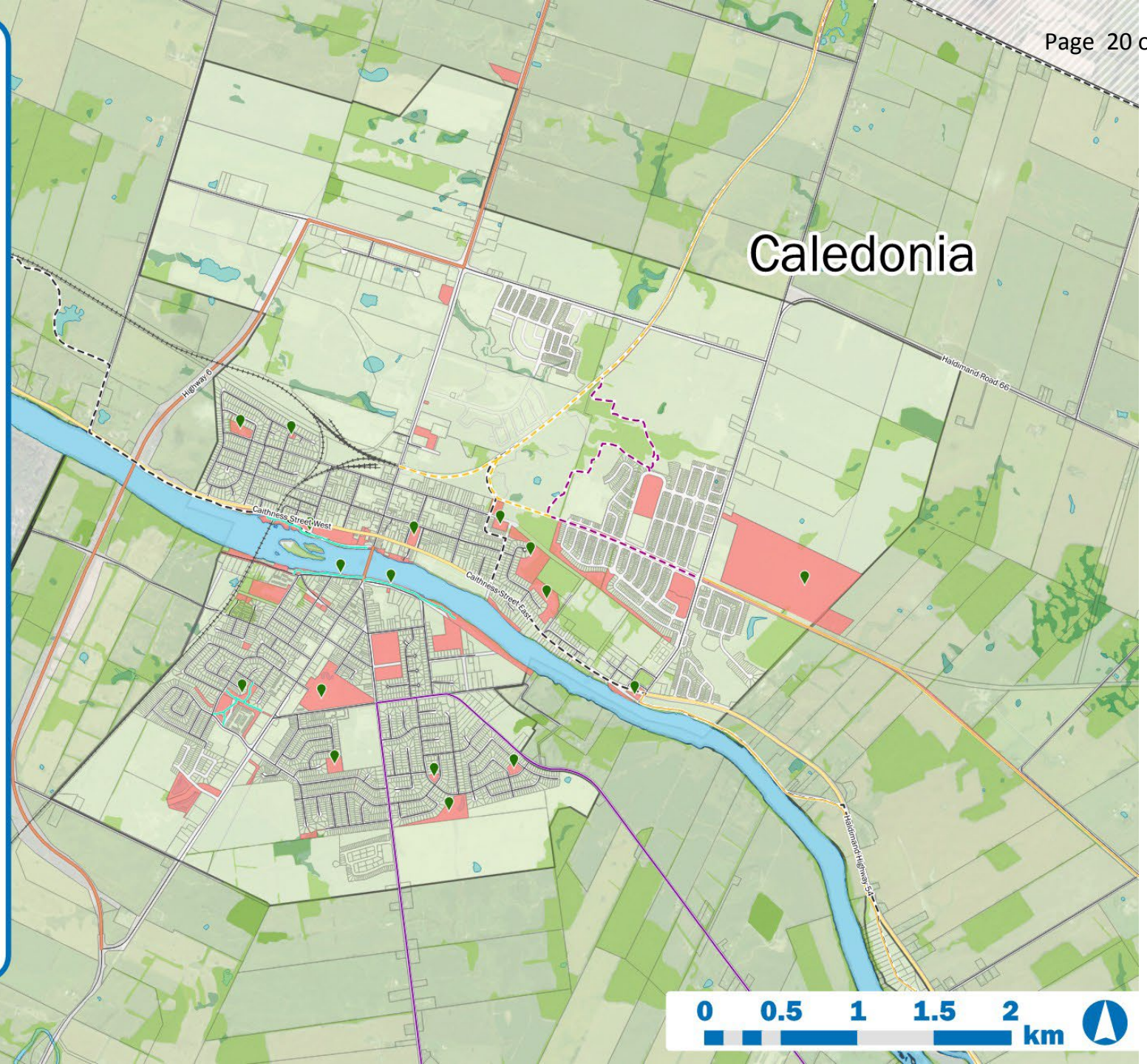
- - - Railbed (Fragmented Ownership)
- - - Avalon Trail (Status Unknown)
- - - In Development / Planned Trail
- - - Mudroad
- - - Ontario Trail Network (Status Unknown)

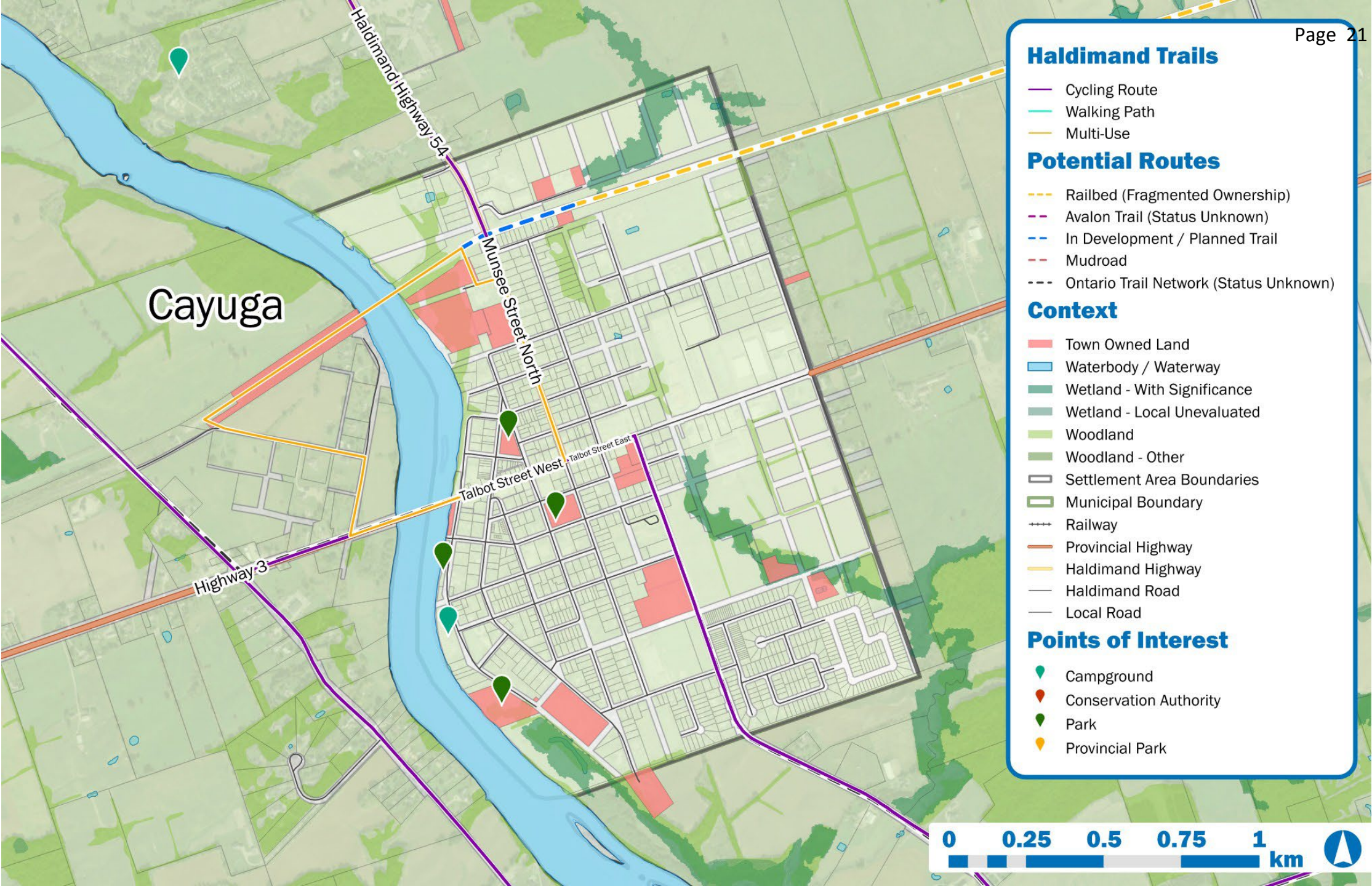
Context

- Town Owned Land
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Wetland - With Significance
- Woodland
- Settlement Area Boundaries
- + + + + Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Haldimand Highway
- Haldimand Road
- Local Road

Points of Interest

- Campground
- Conservation Authority
- Park
- Provincial Park





Haldimand Trails

- Cycling Route
- Walking Path
- Multi-Use

Potential Routes

- Railbed (Fragmented Ownership)
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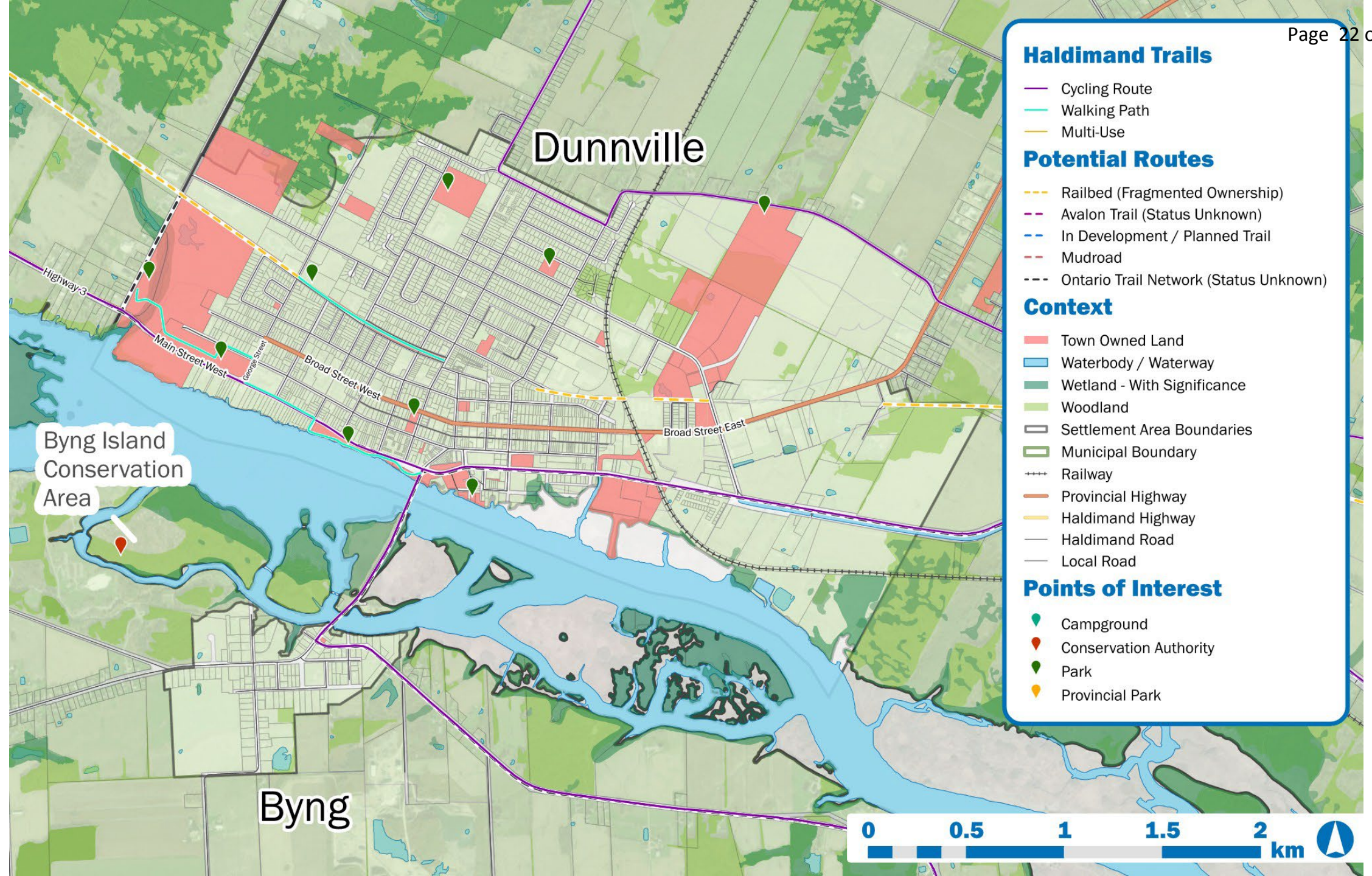
Context

- Town Owned Land
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Wetland - With Significance
- Wetland - Local Unevaluated
- Woodland
- Woodland - Other
- Settlement Area Boundaries
- Municipal Boundary
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Haldimand Highway
- Haldimand Road
- Local Road

Points of Interest

- Campground
- Conservation Authority
- Park
- Provincial Park





Haldimand Trails

- Cycling Route
- Walking Path
- Multi-Use

Potential Routes

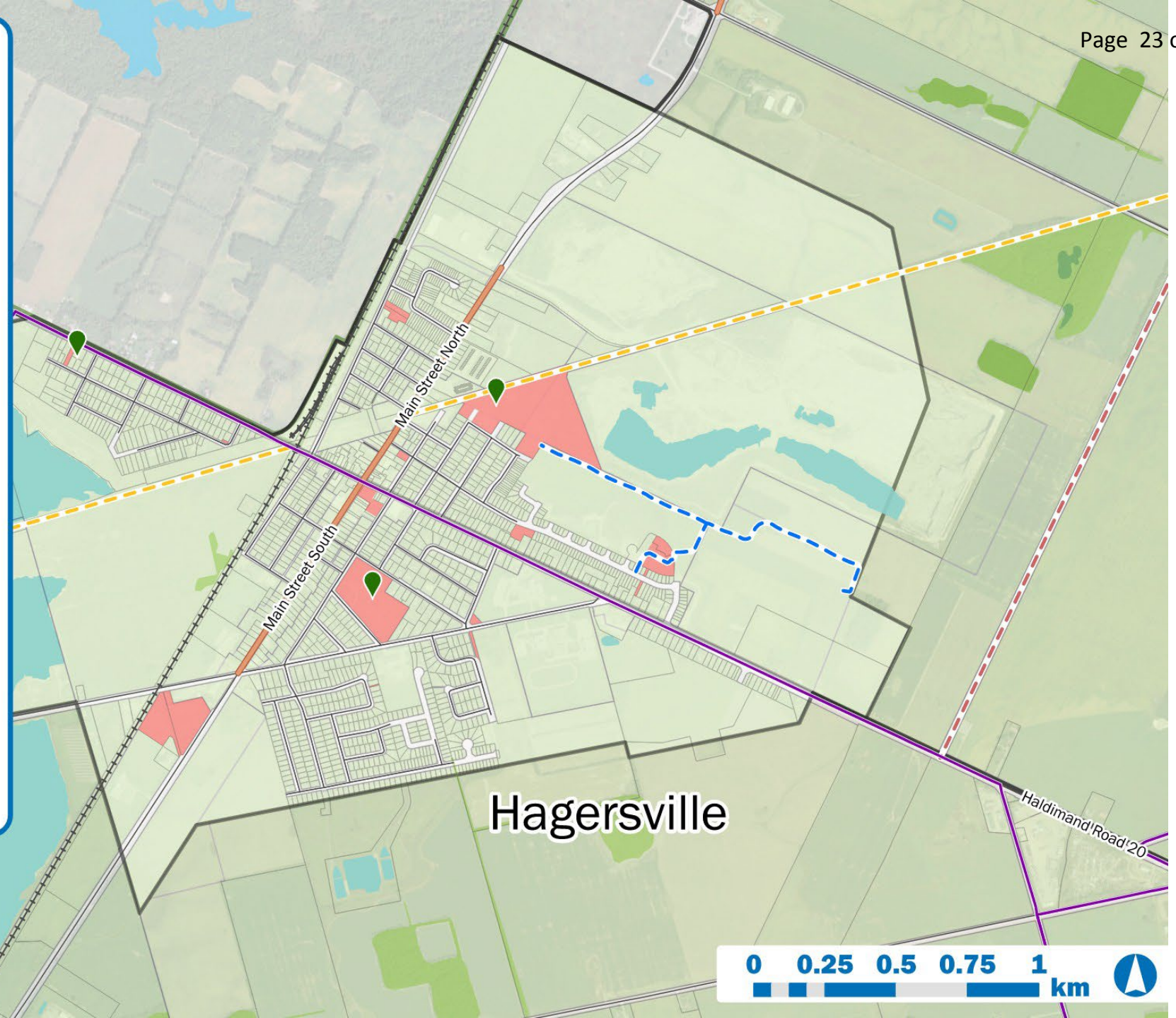
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- Ontario Trail Network (Status Unknown)

Context

- Town Owned Land
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Wetland - With Significance
- Woodland
- Settlement Area Boundaries
- Municipal Boundary
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Haldimand Highway
- Haldimand Road
- Local Road

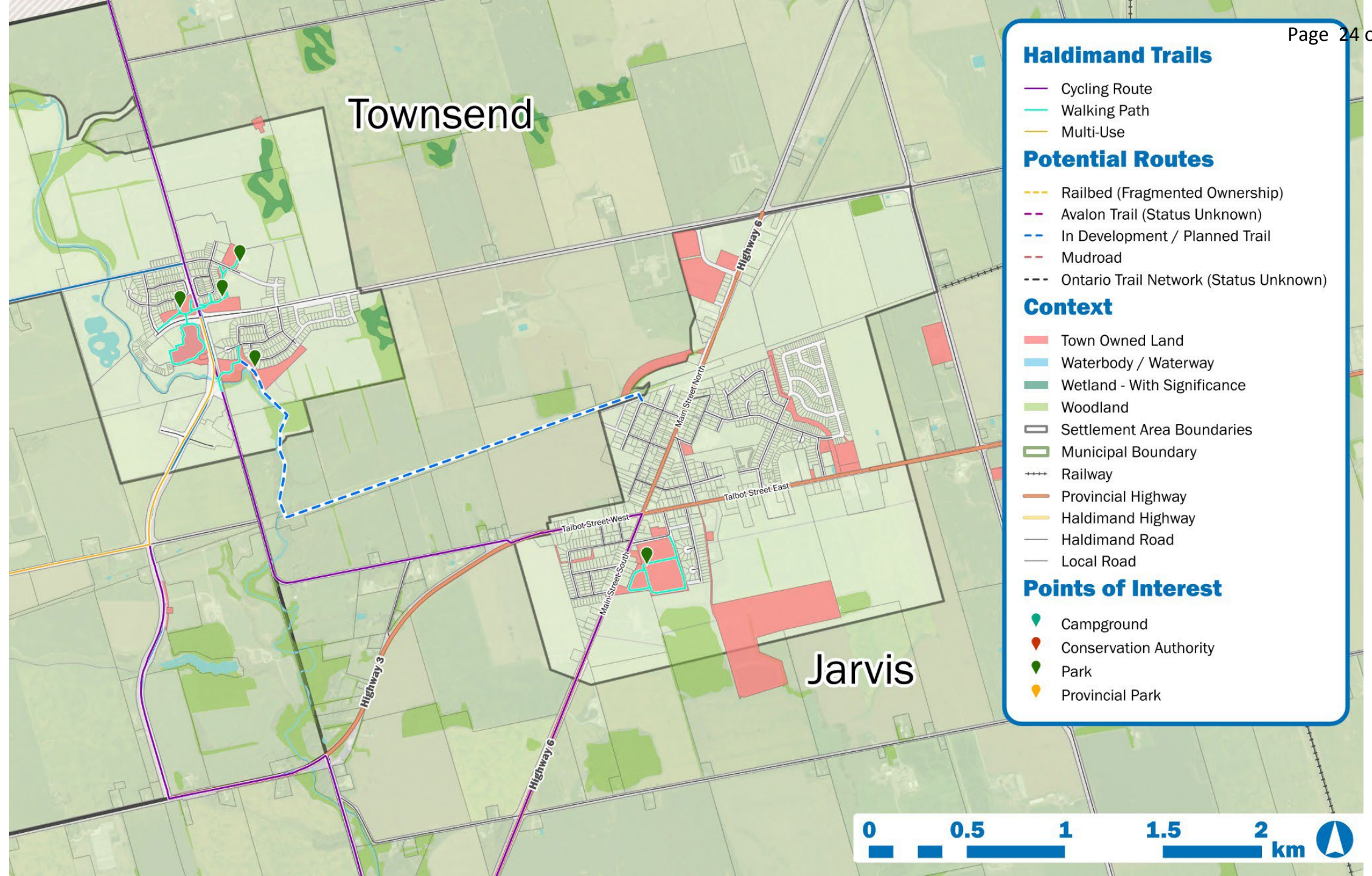
Points of Interest

- Campground
- Conservation Authority
- Park
- Provincial Park



Hagersville





Selkirk

Haldimand Trails

- Cycling Route
- Walking Path
- Multi-Use

Potential Routes

- Railbed (Fragmented Ownership)
- Avalon Trail (Status Unknown)
- In Development / Planned Trail
- Mudroad

Context

- Parcels
- Town Owned Land
- Waterbody / Waterway
- Wetland - With Significance
- Woodland
- Settlement Area Boundaries
- Municipal Boundary
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Haldimand Highway
- Haldimand Road
- Local Road

Points of Interest

- Campground
- Conservation Authority
- Park
- Provincial Park



SWOT Workshop Session



SWOT Analysis Introduction

Purpose of SWOT in the Process

- The SWOT analysis provides a strategic snapshot of Haldimand County's trail system.
- It highlights what is working well and identifies areas for growth or improvement.
- This collaborative exercise will guide the direction of the Trails Master Plan, helping to shape priorities, tackle challenges, and uncover new opportunities from those who know the trails best.



Strengths: What is working well? Internal advantages and existing assets.



Weaknesses: What are the gaps? Internal limitations or problem areas.



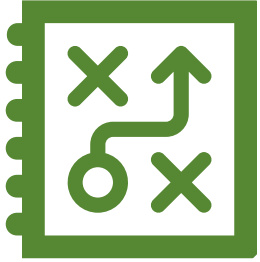
Opportunities: What can we build on or enhance? External chances for improvement and innovation.



Pressures (*formerly Threats*): What external obstacles or risks could hinder success or long-term sustainability?



What are the Current Strengths?



What are the **most notable features** of Haldimand County's **existing trail network**?



Which **trails** are the **most frequently used or loved** by the community, and **what makes them special**?



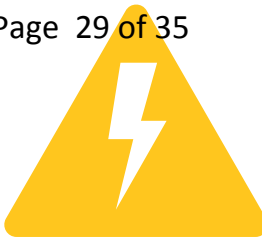
What **successful partnerships** exist (e.g., with local organizations, conservation authorities)?



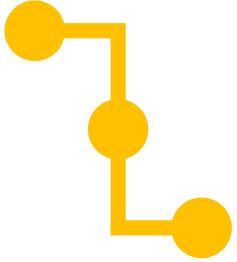
What aspects of **maintenance and signage** does the County currently excel in?



Are there any **unique environmental, cultural, or recreational features** that we should highlight?



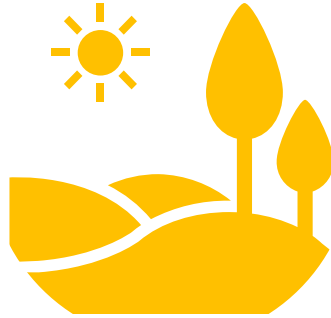
What are the Current Weaknesses?



Where do you see **gaps in the current trail network**—both geographically and functionally?



What **aspects of trail quality** (e.g., surface, signage, accessibility) **require improvement**?



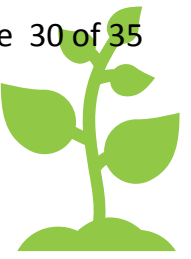
Are there **any barriers** to accessing the trails?



Where is there a **lack of coordination or funding**?



What **recurring complaints or concerns** have been raised by the public or staff?



Where are Opportunities?



Are there **areas within the County** that would benefit from new trail connections?



Are there **underused lands or corridors** (e.g., utility, rail, water) that could be transformed into trails?



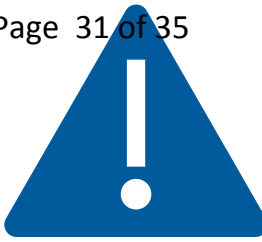
What **opportunities** exist to enhance **tourism, education, or economic development** through the trail network?



How can we **improve connections** between trails and parks, downtowns, schools, or natural features?



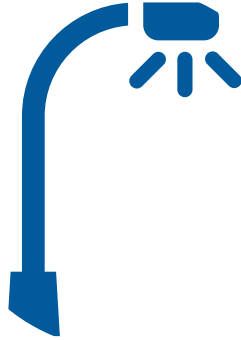
What **technologies** (e.g., apps, counters, interactive maps) could enhance the trail experience?



What are the Current Pressures?



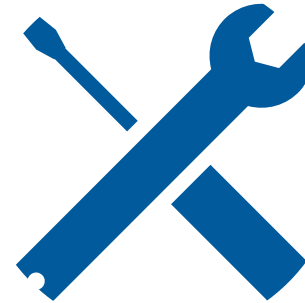
What are the **greatest threats** to trail development or preservation, such as development pressure, erosion, or climate impacts?



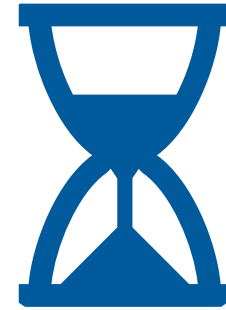
Are there **safety concerns, user conflicts, or recurring complaints** from the public or staff that need to be addressed?



What regulatory, political, or land ownership barriers limit trail development and connectivity?

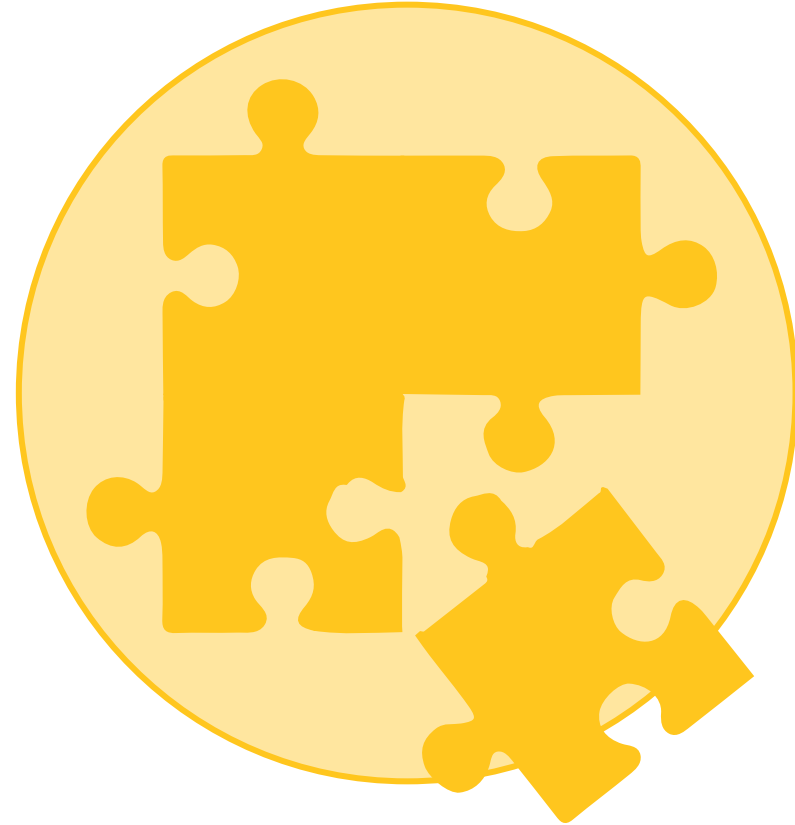


Are there maintenance, liability, or long-term sustainability concerns affecting the trail system?



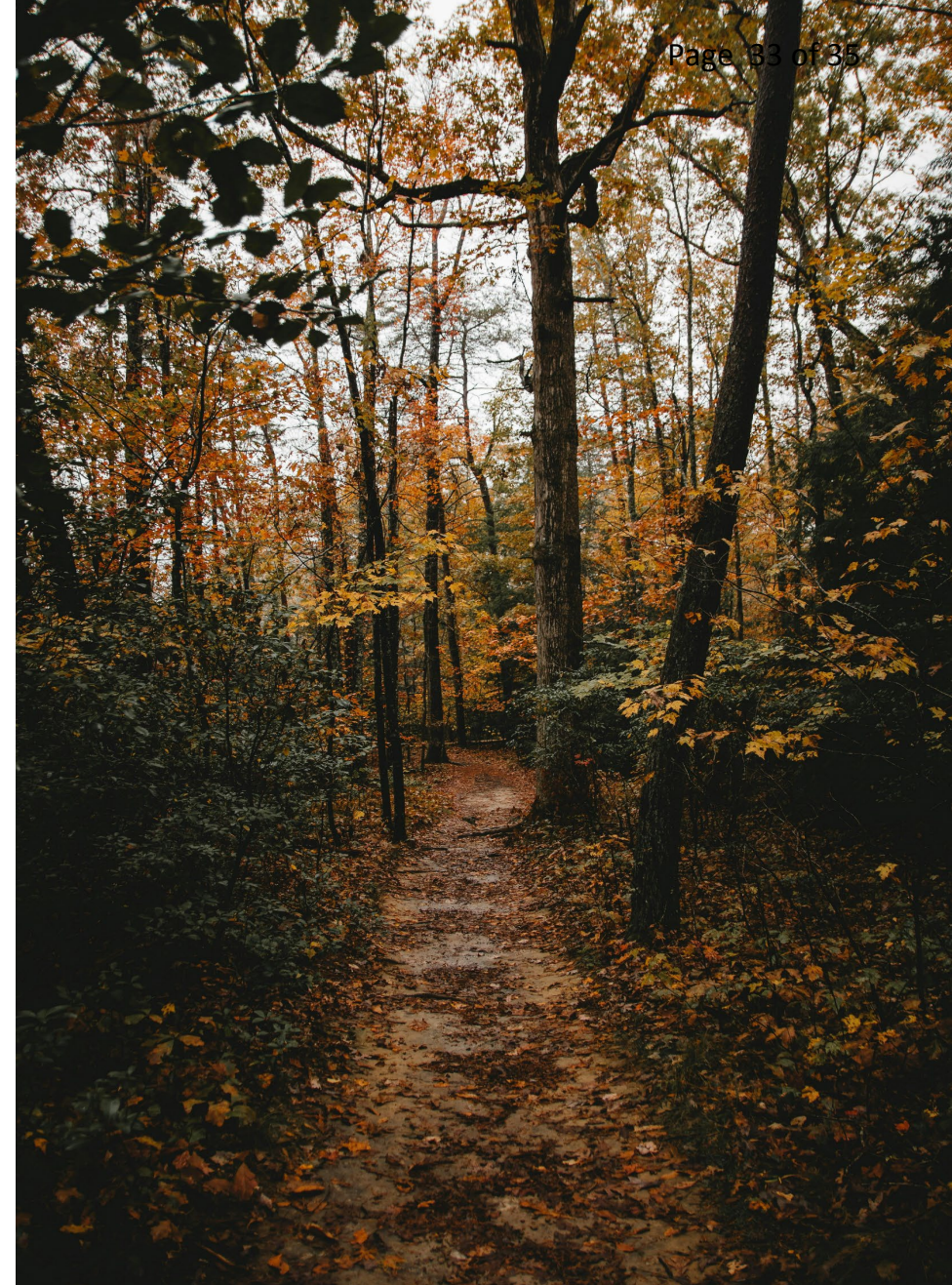
What are the risks if we do not take timely action to expand, improve, or protect the trail network?

Next Steps



Logistics & Next Steps

- > **Upcoming meetings and engagement sessions:**
 - > Targeted SWOT Interviews with Community Groups
 - > Public Consultation Session #1 (Farmers' Market(s) – Late July)



Haldimand County Trails Master Plan Update

Key Audience	Organization
Technical Agencies	City of Hamilton Brant County Norfolk County Township of West Lincoln Township of Wainfleet Grand River Conservation Authority Hamilton Region Conservation Authority Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Long Point Region Conservation Authority Haldimand County Tourism Regional Tourism Office 1 Grand Erie District School Board Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board Ministry of Transportation Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry CN / CP Rail Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
Community Interest Groups	Ontario Trails Council Hike Ontario Oak Rides Trail Association Norfolk Pathways for People Waterfront Regeneration Trust (Great Lakes Waterfront Trail) Share the Road Cycling Coalition Sit to be Fit Program (Alzheimer Society) Minds in Motion EarlyON Centre Dunnville Running/Walking Club Grand Valley Trails Association Grand Trails Network Forest Fit Program Friends of LaFortune Park Ruthven Park Trans Canada Trail Dunnville Horticultural Society Quad Niagara ATV Club
Committees to Council	Trails Advisory Committee Accessibility Advisory Committee DEI Committee Business Development & Planning Advisory Committee Youth Advisory Committee Seniors Advisory Committee

Halidmand County Staff	<p>Office of the CAO Haldimand County Tourism Community Safety & Wellness Department Public Works Operations - Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & For Public Works Operations - Roads Operations Engineering & Capital Works- Facilities Capital & Asset Mana Engineering & Capital Works - Engineering Services Corporate & Social Services Financial & Data Services</p>
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Haldimand County Council	<p>Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley Councillor Debera McKeen Councillor John Metcalfe Councillor Dan Lawrence Councillor Brad Adams Councillor Rob Shirton Councillor Patrick O'Neill</p>
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Rights Holders / Indigneous & First Nations Communities	<p>Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations Six Nations of the Grand River Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council</p>
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