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# *Ontario's Trails: Planning Recreational Trail Use*

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THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



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TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO

### Mission – to promote preservation, development, management and use of recreational trails

- ❖ lead organization for trail issues in Ontario
- ❖ 4 Years of Growth
- ❖ 96 organization and 60 individual members
- ❖ Advocacy - position papers, public comment pieces on trail issues
- ❖ Greenbelt, Smart Growth, Provincial Policy Statement, Municipal Act, Recreational Policy





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## Provincial Challenges



- ❖ Lead Ministry – Health Promotion
- ❖ Active 2010
  - ❖ Provincial trail strategy
- ❖ Provincially Coordinated Trail capacity development
- ❖ Policy development via MMAH municipal rules and regulations
- ❖ Insurance and Tort Reform
- ❖ Provincial level Public Education and training



### Professional

- ❖ Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- ❖ Park and Recreation Ontario
- ❖ Rural Ontario Municipal Association, FONOM

### Sector

- ❖ Farmers – OFA, Anglers and Hunters – OFAH, Ducks Unlimited, Naturalists – FON, Conservation Ontario, We Conserve etc.

### Industry

- ❖ Motorized Sports Companies
- ❖ Private Sector Suppliers – Trailhead etc.
- ❖ Tourism Marketers and Promotions





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## About Ontario's Trails

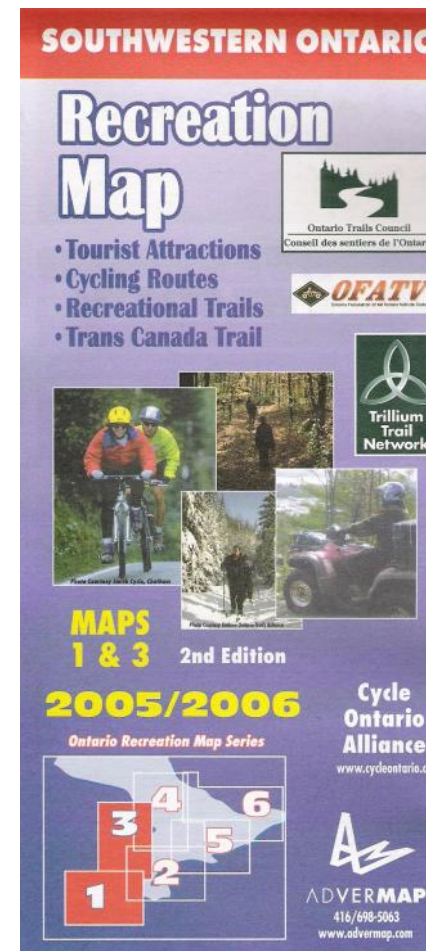


### Capacity

- ❖ 64,000km multi-use – made up of:
  - ❖ 4,000km Trans Canada Trail
  - ❖ 42,000km Snowmobile
  - ❖ 2,000km Provincial Park
  - ❖ 16,000km hiking, cycling, equestrian, dirt-bike, mountain-bike, dog-sled, atv etc.

### Plus

- ❖ 8,000+km plus municipal park trails
- ❖ 100,000km+ water trails





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## Ontario's Trail Inventory



- ❖ 1,078 organizations support trails in Ontario
- ❖ 234 Conservation Authorities and areas support trails
- ❖ 325 Municipalities support some form of trail
- ❖ 47 Health Units promote trail use
- ❖ 140 Chambers of Commerce promote trails awareness
- ❖ 9 regional tourism offices promote trails tourism
- ❖ 27 tourism associations promote trails
- ❖ 50 MHP Consultants promote trails

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### Types of Trails

- ❖ Multi and single Use
- ❖ Motorized and non-motorized
- ❖ Destination and Experience
- ❖ Clustered
- ❖ Conservation and parkland
- ❖ Rail and Heritage trails
- ❖ Tourism and Product based
- ❖ Government, private and public access trails



[healthunit.com](http://healthunit.com)

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## Ontario's Trails - Economic Impact



- ❖ Rail to trail conversions have positive economic impact – **Greenbrier River Trail Economic Impact Study, 2001**
- ❖ Trails as an outdoor recreational infrastructure are relatively low cost to build and maintain – **Hamilton Regional Government trails report 2006**
- ❖ Trails represent a significant economic impact as part of the overall tourism economy in the region – **York County Trail Tourism Impact Study, 2001**







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## Generic Content Trail Plans



- ❖ Why People Use Trails
- ❖ Who Benefits from Trails
- ❖ Trail Types
- ❖ Characteristics of Shared Paths
- ❖ Characteristics of Recreational Trails
- ❖ Potential Design Conflicts
- ❖ Design Specifics
- ❖ Surface





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## Generic Content Trail Plans



- ❖ Trails Obstacles and Changes in Level
- ❖ Openings
- ❖ Grade and Rest Intervals
- ❖ Cross Slopes
- ❖ Passing Space
- ❖ Vertical Clearances
- ❖ Protruding Objects
- ❖ Edge Projections
- ❖ Trail Crossings





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## Plans that Work



### Elements of a Successful Trail Plan Template

- ❖ Long term focus
- ❖ Inclusive
- ❖ Responsive
- ❖ Clear and concise
- ❖ Balanced
- ❖ Cost Effective
- ❖ Community Supported
- ❖ Consistently Applied





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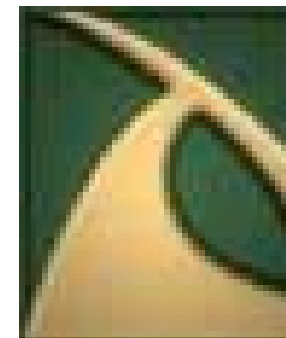
## Conclusion and Recommendation



### ❖ Simcoe County – Best Practice in Planning

#### *We need your help to establish:*

- ❖ A Province wide planning mechanism
- ❖ Work with Support of AMO/ROMA/FONOM
- ❖ A Delivery Mechanism
- ❖ Create a works Committee?
- ❖ Planning Processes – to review current practice and establish processes in growth areas



## Conclusion

Ontario Trails Council: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)

Ontario Trails Strategy:

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/trails.asp>

Ministry of Tourism:

<http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca/english/tourdiv/research/index.html>

Canadian Urban Institute: <http://www.canurb.com/>

Waterfront Regeneration Trust: [www.trtrust.com](http://www.trtrust.com)

Ministry of Health Promotion: [www.mhp.gov.on.ca](http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca)

Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership: [www.ontariooutdoor.com](http://www.ontariooutdoor.com)

Trans Canada Trail Ontario Economic Impact Study:

[http://www.tctrail.ca/index.php?section\\_id=7&lang=en&text\\_id=5946&](http://www.tctrail.ca/index.php?section_id=7&lang=en&text_id=5946&)