

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.0 DIRECTION OF THE MASTER PLAN

1.1	Why Develop a County-wide Trails Master Plan?.....	1-1
1.1.1	<i>Support for the Development of Trails</i>	1-1
1.1.2	<i>A History of Trails in Oxford County</i>	1-5
1.2	How was the Master Plan Developed?	1-10
1.3	Learning from Oxford County Citizens and Stakeholders.....	1-12
1.4	Setting a Direction	1-13
1.4.1	<i>Study Objectives</i>	1-13
1.4.2	<i>Master Plan Vision & Goals</i>	1-13
1.5	Trails Master Plan Assumptions.....	1-14
1.5.1	<i>Trail Users</i>	1-14
1.5.2	<i>Trip Purpose</i>	1-15
1.5.3	<i>Accessibility</i>	1-16
1.5.4	<i>Coordination & Connectivity</i>	1-16
1.5.5	<i>Personal Security & Safety</i>	1-17



2.0 TRAILS IN OXFORD COUNTY: THE BENEFITS & POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

2.1	Establishing the Business Case	2-1
2.1.1	<i>A Role for Trails in Active and Healthy Living</i>	2-1
2.1.2	<i>Enhancing Community Safety with Trails</i>	2-3
2.1.3	<i>Trails, Tourism, and Economic Development</i>	2-4
2.1.4	<i>Environmental and Transportation Benefits</i>	2-6
2.2	What are the Opportunities and Challenges?	2-9
2.3	Learning from Others: Summary of Select Best Practices.....	2-13
2.3.1	<i>Committee Development and User Groups</i>	2-14
2.3.2	<i>Designing for Other User Groups</i>	2-16
2.3.3	<i>Keeping the Master Plan Relevant: Frequent Updates</i>	2-18
2.3.4	<i>Implementation & Design</i>	2-18
2.3.5	<i>Signage & Branding</i>	2-20
2.3.6	<i>Promotion, Marketing & Education</i>	2-21
2.3.7	<i>Maintaining On and Off-Road Facilities</i>	2-24

3.0 DEVELOPING & DESIGNING THE TRAILS NETWORK

3.1	The Network Development Process.....	3-1
3.3.1	<i>Developing the Network: An Eight-Step Process</i>	3-1
3.2	Building on What has Been Done: A Summary of Existing Conditions	3-2
3.2.1	<i>Oxford County</i>	3-3
3.2.2	<i>External Organizations</i>	3-3
3.2.3	<i>Conservation Authorities</i>	3-3
3.2.4	<i>Local Municipalities</i>	3-3
3.2.5	<i>Surrounding Municipalities</i>	3-4
3.3	Establishing a Set of Candidate Routes	3-4
3.4	Selecting the Preferred Routes	3-5
3.5	Defining the Trails Network in Oxford County	3-7
3.6	The County-wide Trails Network	3-9
3.6.1	<i>What Will the Network Look Like</i>	3-9
3.6.2	<i>Interpreting & Understanding the Mapping</i>	3-9
3.7	Identifying Future Priorities.....	3-11



3.7.1	<i>Immediate Priority Projects</i>	3-12
3.7.2	<i>Secondary Priority Links</i>	3-15
3.7.3	<i>Priority Zones</i>	3-17
3.8	Using & Adapting the Master Plan	3-17
4.0	FACILITATING & COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION	
4.1	Next Steps: Tools to Facilitate Implementation.....	4-1
4.1.1	<i>A Coordinated Approach</i>	4-2
4.1.2	<i>A Network Management Tool</i>	4-3
4.2	Planning, Building & Maintaining the Network	4-4
4.2.1	<i>Planning for Trails in Oxford County</i>	4-4
4.2.1.1	Creating New Trails in Established Neighbourhoods.....	4-4
4.2.1.2	Trails in New Development Areas.....	4-5
4.2.1.3	Trails in Utility Corridors and Abandoned Railways Rights of Way and Unopened Road Allowances	4-6
4.2.1.4	Trails in the Official Plan	4-6
4.2.1.5	Trails and the Development Charges By-Law	4-7
4.2.1.6	Risk Management and Liability	4-7
4.2.1.7	Land Acquisition and Securement Strategies.....	4-9
4.2.2	<i>End of Trip Facilities</i>	4-9
4.2.3	<i>Trail Maintenance</i>	4-11
4.2.3.1	A Maintenance Plan for Oxford County	4-11
4.2.3.2	Maintenance Plan Template	4-13
4.2.3.3	Winter Maintenance Approach.....	4-14
4.3	Increasing Trail Awareness: County-wide Promotion & Outreach.....	4-15
4.3.1	<i>Using a “Five E” Approach</i>	4-15
4.4	Establishing a Partnership Framework	4-19
4.4.1	<i>Establishing Partnerships with Local Businesses & Interest Groups</i>	4-20
4.5	Putting Dollars to the Network.....	4-21
4.5.1	<i>Where Will the Money Come From?</i>	4-21
4.6	Monitoring & Evaluating the Plan	4-23
4.9	Plan Summary	4-23



LIST OF TABLES & FIGURES

Table 1.1 - Summary of Existing Trails within Oxford County	1-5
Table 1.2 – Overview of Potential Trip Purposes	1-15
Table 2.1 – Summary of Network Opportunities.....	2-9
Table 2.2 – Summary of Network Challenges	2-12
Table 3.1 – Eight-Step Trails Network Development Process	3-1
Table 3.2 – Oxford County Trail Route Selection Criteria	3-5
Table 3.3 – Trails Network Summary.....	3-9
Table 4.1 – Summary of Master Plan Implementation Tools	4-1
Table 4.2 – Summary of Potential Risk Management Strategies.....	4-8
Table 4.3 – Program Elements in the Staging Area Hierarchy.....	4-10
Table 4.4 - Proposed Communication & Outreach Initiatives for Oxford County.....	4-16
Table 4.5 - Oxford County Partnership Framework.....	4-20
Figure 1.1 – Oxford County Trails Master Plan Development Process.....	1-11
Figure 4.1 – Oxford Trails Master Plan Coordinated Approach	4-2
Figure 4.2 – Hierarchy of Staging Areas.....	4-10

APPENDICES

- A** Summary of Background Information: Policies, Plans and Initiatives
- B** Summary of Study Consultation Initiatives and Input
- C** Trail Designers’ Toolbox
- D** Land Acquisition Strategies
- E** On and Off-Road Route Maintenance Considerations
- F** Unit Price Schedule
- G** Performance Measures