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## Purpose

Township of Southgate is committed to and strives to provide excellent recreational programs and service delivery. The purpose of this document is to present The Township of Southgate's formal position on Recreational Trail development.

## Goal

The Township of Southgate's goal is to: develop beneficial and usable trails within the Municipality that is off-road wherever possible and supported by on-road links where necessary.

The primary objectives to achieve our goals is to:

1. Develop a Municipal Trail Plans.
2. Develop an understanding of the needs and desires of trail users in Southgate.
3. Develop and implementation a plan that describes trail routes and construction methods, priorities and capital costs.

## Policy

1. Trail location and design should be planned in consultation with a Development Group consisting of Southgate Recreation Department, Southgate Planning Department, Dundalk developers, area land managers including Conservation Authorities, other knowledgeable sources and the community.
2. Trails development shall support diverse and unscheduled recreation activities, provide opportunities for enjoying and interpreting diverse scenery, landforms, geological, cultural and historical features, ecosystems and natural communities.
3. The needs of individuals with mobility impairments should be considered.
4. The environmental impacts of trails, including aesthetic and social impacts, should be minimized through proper planning, location and construction techniques, with special attention to drainage and preserving the natural and human environments.
5. Trails should be planned, designed, constructed and maintained to standards established in consultation with the development group, taking into consideration sensitive areas, approved levels of service, kinds of use, maintenance requirements, costs, user safety and wildlife issues.



6. Trails should be managed and maintained by Recreation Department or other departments of responsibility.

### **Planning for Trails**

1. Provide strategies for making trail connections across Southgate and with neighbouring municipalities.
2. Outline route selection as a basis for development planning prior to final approvals being granted.
3. Consult route selection with the Development Group.

### **Building Trails**

1. Southgate will specify design guidelines and details for the construction of the trail network.
2. Major destinations should be linked by the trail system such as economic and recreational locations within the community.

### **Permitted uses on Southgate Trails**

1. Permitted use will be define by Development Group, Southgate Council and other governing bodies with final considerations based on public safety.
2. Permitted use may include:
  - Walking/hiking, and jogging/running;
  - Persons with mobility-assisted devices (motorized and non-motorized);
  - Cycling;
  - In-line skating, and other small-wheeled uses (e.g. skateboards);
  - Cross country skiing; and
  - Snowshoeing.

### **Restricted uses on Southgate Trails**

- Motorized vehicle of any kind other than mobility-assisted devices;
- Equestrian uses or for the purpose of riding any animal;
- Camping
- Parking of any motorized vehicle; and
- Building structures of any kind which encroach onto the municipal trail property.

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHGATE

Policy #78

Recreational Trails Development Policy

Approved by Council on: June 5, 2019



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### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Township of Southgate will systematically monitor and evaluate Recreational Trail Development with reference to this Policy.
- Trail Maps will be updated and included in this Policy as guidelines for future development.
- This policy will be reviewed annually.