



*Pathways and Trails create opportunities
to connect people and places.*

Executive Summary

The Town of Markham Pathways and Trails Master Plan is a statement of Town Council’s continued commitment to provide a wide range of leisure, learning and healthy lifestyle opportunities for the residents of Markham. That commitment was first expressed in the Town’s “Parks, Recreation, Culture and Library Master Plan 2005-2021” to provide “a connected system of trails and pathways”. *The Pathways and Trails Master Plan is intended to improve walking and off road cycling routes to better serve residents.*

The Pathways and Trails Master Plan sets out the means for improving and expanding Markham’s trail system. It provides a vision and objectives for Pathways and Trails to guide the development of the network in Markham. The vision is:

An *interconnected system* of pathways and trails, which;

- Accommodates a wide variety of users
- Achieves Town’s priority as identified in the Town of Markham’s Parks, Recreation, Culture and Library Master Plan 2005-2021
- Provides a diversity of experiences which allow greater appreciation and enjoyment of the natural, cultural and heritage environment.
- Provides improved connections to existing and planned sidewalks
- Is more accessible and connects neighbourhoods to key destinations in the Town.

It also identifies a Town-wide off road pathway and trail system. The components of this system connect the destinations within Markham. The facilities that make up the network include Primary Town Wide Pathways, Secondary Town Wide Pathways, Park Pathways and Trails.

To assist in the development of Markham’s Pathway and Trail Network, design standards and guidelines are provided for each of the various facility types.



“The Town of Markham is blessed with a beautiful natural landscape containing the Little Rouge River and Rouge Park.”



“The vision is “an interconnected system of pathways and trails”

Finally, an implementation strategy lays the ground work for continuing to build pathways and trails in the Town based on a phased approach. The implementation action steps include:

1. Amend and update the Official Plan to adopt or provide greater support of this study;
2. Hire / Appoint a Staff Person to Manage the Implementation of the Pathways and Trails Master Plan;
3. Establish a phased, multi-year, inter-departmental budget for implementation of Pathways and Trails Infrastructure, which will be overseen by the Pathways and Trails Manager;
4. In years 2008-2009 take advantage of Gas Tax Funding and additional capital funding to implement the pathways and trails identified as the 0-5 year priority;
5. Suggest priority projects including those with minor barriers, and no major property acquisition / easements required;
6. Adopt the Pathways and Trails Implementation Process as outlined in **Figure 13.2**;
7. Further define a specific approach to acquisition and easement negotiation with the Real Estate Department, and begin negotiations / discussions with land owners;
8. Establish additional maintenance funding for new trails and pathways as they are implemented;
9. Provide benches, garbage receptacle and other support facilities at appropriate locations along the pathway and trail network;
10. Increase the amount and quality of bicycle parking facilities; and
11. Continue to actively promote and market the pathways and trails system to increase use and awareness through CPAC and other Town initiatives.