

9.0 Route Selection and Evaluation

9.1 Route Selection

The first step in defining the Master Plan Network was to select routes using GIS mapping and aerial photography that would be further evaluated in the field. The principles and evaluation criteria used to develop the Markham Pathways and Trails Master plan were:

Safety: Pathway/trail system should be designed to improve the safety of all users.

Connectivity / Access:

- Pathways/trails should provide access to major destinations in the Town, including natural, cultural, and service facilities, as well as schools, parks, and shopping facilities.
- Pathways/trails should be easily accessible from neighbourhoods within the Town.
- Supportive services and facilities should be available along routes and at destinations.

Convenience: Pathways/trails should be connected to form an overall network, with a minimum of road crossings.

Property Ownership:

Pathways/trails should be respectful of private property, trails on property already in public ownership will be easier to implement.

Attractiveness:

Pathways/trails should take advantage of attractive and scenic areas, and provide a diverse experience for users

Cost:

- The master plan should provide the most cost-effective solution that satisfies the objectives of the Town
- Some pathways or trails may link on-road segments of the bikeway network to achieve connections where off-road links are not feasible



Markham has many valley lands which have scenic natural views.



Pathways should connect to destinations and other modes of transport such as GO Transit or buses.

Integration with Other Modes:

Pathways/trails should be fully integrated with other modes of transportation, particularly public transit and on-road bicycle facilities

Natural/Ecological Areas:

Pathways/trails should be respectful of significant natural areas, while still providing access and passage through them.

User Impacts:

Pathways/trails should be respectful of existing and future users, including adjacent land uses.

Experience: Pathways/trails should provide an interesting and meaningful experience for users

Range of users:

Pathway/trails should address the needs of a wide range of users (i.e. utilitarian, recreational, passive recreation, commuters).

Interpretation:

Pathways/trails should include any opportunities to incorporate historical, cultural, civic or other meaningful, story telling elements

Based on these principals, and in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee, the Candidate Routes for Evaluation in the field, shown in **Map 3**, were identified.

9.2 ROUTE EVALUATION

These routes were reviewed in the field in Summer of 2006. The photographic record of the field work is found in the document “Field Work Record, August 2006”, and is available from Town staff. Based on the site conditions found in the field, each route was evaluated against the initial criteria for selection based on a series of questions. These questions are outlined in **Appendix F**. The field work determined general feasibility and route analysis, and did not include detailed analysis or design. Each route should be subject to detailed design and field review, to determine the final alignment for each route.



Boardwalks may be required in natural areas to allow a natural experience, but respect the ecology of the area.



Routes should accommodate a wide variety of users



Historic locations such as cemeteries and heritage districts are opportunities for interpretation.

