

Village of Port Williams Trail System



Three-Year Recreation Trail Expansion Plan for commission approval

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Introduction

The Village of Port Williams Service Commission recognizes the importance of outdoor recreational spaces for use by the community. Further, the Commission understands that residents want active living routes that include trails and sidewalks between residential areas to access Village amenities such as parks, sports facilities, and local businesses. Finally, the Commission determined that recently purchased undeveloped land intended in part for Source Water Protection (SWP) planning would also serve as potential Village greenspace.

In December 2021, the Village Commission, having received general interest in trail expansion from the Village Community, passed a resolution directing staff to determine a multi-year plan for the expansion and development of trails in the Village.

Scope

Currently the existing trail system in Port Williams consists of various unconnected trails and greenspaces that are in close proximity and that may be connected into one large trail system. The trail sections or potential trail sections have been divided as follows

1. **Water tower trail:** From Collins Road and adjacent the Village recreational throw pitch / water tower is a large meadow area with a grassed walking path around its circumference, that is especially popular with dog walkers. As the space is relatively large and owned by the village, there is potential for other recreational uses that blend well with a trail system.
2. **Steepleview trail:** An existing gravel trail maintained by the Village Public Works leaves Steepleview drive near its end and heads south, branching southwest to connect with Highway 358 and branching southeast to connect with the Port Williams Park and playground. This leg of the trail passes through the Park's Collins Road access before turning back towards the playground and Highway 358 access. The trail connects to a short walking loop within the main park area. The park contains many recreational features such as a basketball court, playground equipment, a sun/rain shelter, washroom facilities, and is the future home of the Village splash pad.
3. **Peach Lands:** Scrubland purchased by the Village for source water protection has been flagged for use as scenic trail with access to a large pond and greenspaces which have a variety of potential uses. The land is referred to colloquially as the "Peach lands" in reference to their previous owner. There may be an opportunity for community involvement in naming this trail.

Trail Map



Legend	
1	Existing water tower trail
2	Existing Steepleview / park trail
3	Phase 1 – Planned trail on “peach lands”
4	Phase 2 – extending trail to loop pond
5	Phase 2 – connector trails

Concept

The concept of this plan is to develop existing trails alongside new trails in a manner that creates an overall recreational trail network for the Village, linking together dense residential development with recreational spaces through attractive natural pathways that encourage active transit and an overall healthy lifestyle for the community and visitors alike.

Goals:

1. Develop new trails and public greenspaces
2. Connect trails and link village recreation assets with residential zones and other amenities
3. Consult the public to include additional assets based on the input of community stakeholders

Timeline

This project is divided into three phases of activity to be completed over a three-year period

Phase one

Phase one of the plan focuses on unmaintained scrubland purchased by the Village in part for the purpose of source-water protection. This is the “Peach Lands” referenced under the scope section above. Wellheads in the area have restricted development zones surrounding them and acquiring the land ensured the wells are protected from undesirable development or activity that may risk water quality. These otherwise unused spaces are consequently available for low-risk activity such as the development of trails and low impact green spaces.

Phase one looks at developing a main trail route in the Peach lands from their access point near Civic 1151 Highway 358 to the old water reservoir / pond situated at the north end of the property. This length of trail would be approximately 380metres end to end, but the incorporation of a loop around the pond area in later phases of development, as well as trails branching from the main trail route, will add to the overall length. The work to develop this trail would consist of removing organic materials along the trails path, leveling, and infilling where necessary, adding drainage as needed, and covering the trail with a top layer of gravel. The intention is for this graveled portion of the trail to be accessible to as many community members as possibly, using gradual changes in grade and an even surface to walk, bike, or travel by other active means.

The clearing process will allow Public Works staff to identify property markers and clearly define the Villages property lines. The main arterial access and defined property

lines will allow stakeholders to safely enter the property and assess for areas of interest and identify locations for future branch trails, rest areas, and other activity features.

Phase one will also focus on finalizing long term lease agreements with the Municipality of Kings for the portions of Village trail on land owned by the Municipality, but which have been leased and maintained by the Village since their inception. Work on renewing the terms of these leases is underway and will be finalized in early fiscal 2022-23.

Finally, in Phase one the Village Recreation Department will conduct public consultation within the Village Community and among recreational stakeholders to determine additional features to incorporate into the trail and surrounding greenspace.

Phase Two

Phase two will focus on connecting existing trails by obtaining easements over private land or through partnering with developers who have interest/requirements to incorporate greenspace into future development. The trails will be connected at two points:

1. The peach lands trail developed in phase one will be connected to the water tower trail by accessing one of two parcels of land. One parcel of land is currently part of an active planning process and may involve opportunity for linking greenspace from that development to the trail system. If the easement was limited to connecting the two trail systems, its length would be approximately 105metres.
2. The beginning of the Peach land trail will be connected to the Steepleview trail by accessing lands currently owned by the Village as well as by the Municipality. The length of trail required to connect the two sections would be approximately 100metres, depending on layout. No easement is necessary to make this connection.

Phase two also involves looping the peach trail around the pond and incorporating other recreational features determined through public consultation conducted during phase one. Examples of features could be rugged trails branching off the main route or rest areas. These yet to be determined recreational features may be added in later phases, depending on what is identified and the associated material and labour costs. At minimum the pond loop would add approximately 180metres of trail.

Phase Three

Phase three of this project will consist of beautifying and formalizing the trails as a connected system using directional and interpretive signage, benches, and other assets such as gardens or attractive features.

The addition of features to the trail system should be driven by community input gathered in the earlier phases of the project. Financial considerations will be made now to build the trail fund towards the goal of adding features in this phase. Buy-in for this project from local stakeholders will help to shape the final phase of the project. Many groups have already identified an interest in this project and may offer resources including in-kind donations (materials / labour).

Budget

Phase 1 Budget

The Village Commission has approved over \$8,000 in capital funding for the 2022-23 capital budget. Blending village contributions and grant funds was done to develop a phase one trail budget of approximately \$50,000.

Most expenses are allocated to materials, primarily gravel for the surface of the trail and machine hours to clear and grade the main arterial route of the trail in phase 1.

Port Williams Trail Expansion Phase 1 Project Budget including HST rebate detail	
Expenses	2022-23
100 loads gravel @ \$225/load	\$22,500.00
New trail signage	\$500.00
New dog waste station	\$600.00
Bulldozer service 100hrs @ \$100/hr	\$10,000.00
Mini-excavator service 100hrs @ \$100/hr	\$10,000.00
10% Contingency	\$4,360.00
Subtotal	\$47,960.00
Non-refundable HST @4.29% (Village receives 10.71% HST refund)	\$2,057.48
Total Phase 1 Budget	\$50,017.48
Inside Funding	
Village Capital Funds	\$8,344.99
Outside Funding (pending)	
Municipality of County of Kings	\$25,000.00
CCTH Rec Trail Expansion Program	\$16,672.49
Total Phase 1 Funding	\$50,017.48

Funding demonstrated above is subject to successful grant applications.

Phase 2 and 3 Budget

The budgets for phases two and three will identify future funding opportunities, stakeholder fundraising, and will be influenced by the results of public consultation conducted in phase one. Below are preliminary phase 2 and 3 budgets based on best estimates:

Port Williams Trail Expansion Phase 2 Project Budget including HST rebate detail	
Expenses	2023-24
Legal fees / surveys re: easements	\$2000.00
75 loads gravel @ \$225/load	\$16,875.00
Bulldozer service 50hrs @ \$100/hr	\$5,000.00
Mini-excavator service 50hrs @ \$100/hr	\$5,000.00
10% Contingency	\$2,887.50
Subtotal	\$31,762.50
Non-refundable HST @4.29% (Village receives 10.71% HST refund)	\$1,362.61
Total Phase 2 Budget	\$33,125.11

Port Williams Trail Expansion Phase 3 Project Budget including HST rebate detail	
Expenses	2024-25
Plants / gardens	\$2000.00
Interpretive Signage	\$2000.00
Benches 4 @ \$800	\$3200.00
Features TBD	\$10,000.00
10% Contingency	1,720.00\$
Subtotal	20,400.00\$
Non-refundable HST @4.29% (Village receives 10.71% HST refund)	875.16\$
Total Project Budget	\$21,275.16

Funding

Initial funding has been identified at both the Municipal and Provincial levels and applications are pending for phase one of the plan:

- The Municipality of Kings Community Trail grant offers up to 50% of costs to a maximum of \$40,000 for capital projects.
- The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage offers up to one-third of the total capital cost of a project, up to a maximum of \$150,000.

The above noted grants as well as additional funding may be identified for phases two and three. In addition, community contributions may be available including in-kind contributions of labour, equipment time, and materials.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders for this project include:

- The Recreation Advisory Committee
- The Municipality of Kings
- Local developers and landowners, especially those with lands abutting the trails
- The Village trail user base
- Local recreational and community organizations (runners, schools, teams, etc.)

Summary

Phase one of this trail plan will set the groundwork for developing a cohesive trail system in Port Williams that will further connect neighborhoods, increase active transit routes, and grow alongside active development in the Village Growth Centre. Information gathered in this phase will influence the final outcome developed in phases two and three.

Phase two will further the work started in phase one to create a true trail network through the addition of connector trails. The trails will develop character as components learned from public consultation are incorporated. Phase three will further this work and include the finishing touches to create a trail system that welcomes visitors, serves as an active transit route, and makes the community feel connected. As the phases unfold, community stakeholders will feel emboldened to participate in the process as the trail vision takes form.