



2024 Budget Request

Request: Multi Use Trails

Department: Community & Environmental Services

Request ID: CES2024BUDGET-C-04

Financial Ask: \$150,000

Funding Source: Capital – Road Construction

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Background and Strategic Priority

The Recreation and Trails Master Plan establishes a commitment to managing a network of trails that support recreation. Trails are also able to support active transportation.

Analysis

The Township manages two short (each approximately 150m long) sections of paved trail.

The first is a section of trail in an unopened road allowance between Finden Street and 8th Avenue West, near Keppel Sarawak Elementary School. At some time, a narrow, asphalt/tar and chip trail was established in this road allowance providing for an alternative access to the school for pedestrians.

This trail is in an advanced state of disrepair and is not currently winter maintained. The existing surface would not support winter maintenance activities.

Over the past years, some residents have advocated for this trail to be maintained in winter, and improved, to encourage greater use of this as a pedestrian access to the school for residents from the west and north. 24th Street West is used as a primary access for vehicles accessing the school in the mornings and afternoons and vehicles



queue on this road before entering the school parking lot for pick up and drop offs. As such, this road can, at times, be congested with vehicles, with less room for passing traffic. There is no sidewalk, which can force students off the road to avoid parked cars.

While the re-establishment and maintenance of this trail would not alleviate all student concerns, it would provide an alternative access and may lessen the potential use of other roads around the school.

Part of this trail does cross school board property and so agreement over any enhancement or maintenance would need to be reached; no discussion with the school or board has yet occurred.

The second section of trail runs between Sutacritti Street and Presqu'ile Road and provides access to Sutacritti Park. The trail is also a service corridor that includes a hydro service line, the water supply line that used to take water from the bay, and an existing new watermain that extends onto Presqu'ile.

The trail surface is in a declining condition and is breaking up leading to resident concerns and complaints. The local resident's group has contacted the Township on multiple occasions in respect to the trail condition, particularly concerned with surface discontinuities and trip hazards.

Winter maintenance activities in 2022/2023 removed some of these trip risks, but in so doing, did further damaged the surface of the trail which staff believe will see elevated degradation over subsequent winters.

In both examples, staff believe that the base and surface of the trails are in need of replacement and would recommend the removal of surface, adding depth, re shaping and compaction of base materials and new surfaces.

The trail at Sutacritti is winter maintained and staff are recommending that this service be duplicated at Keppel Sarawak in support of active transportation.

Financial Impact

Staff estimate that \$150,000 will allow for the replacement of asphalt surfacing on both Multi-Use Trails. Staff are recommending that, subject to the approval of Bluewater District School Board, the trail at Keppel Sarawak Elementary School be added to snow clearing programs at approximately \$150 per trip; or approximately \$3,000 per year.