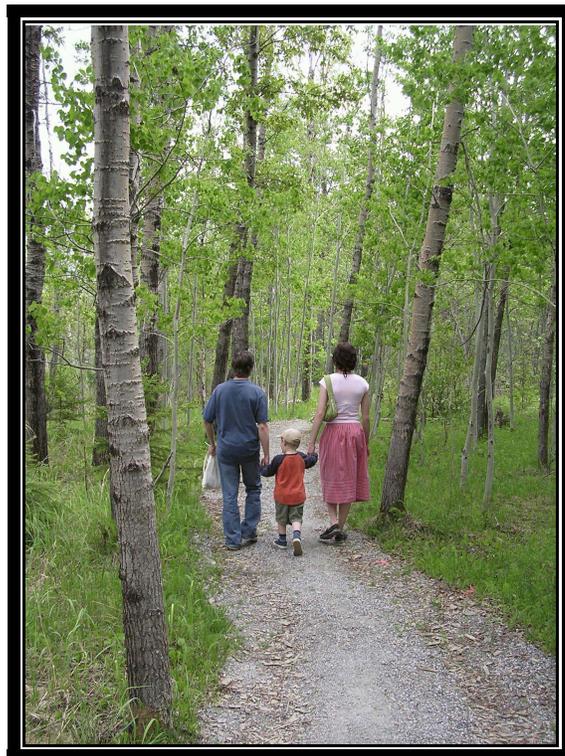


Greater Sudbury's Non-Motorized Trail Strategy June 2005

Creating a “Wellness Epidemic”



June 2005

We are pleased to present our report, Greater Sudbury Non-motorized Trail Strategy, which examines and analyzes the current condition of Sudbury's pedestrian trails and makes recommendations toward future growth.

This is a work in progress and further research must be done, especially as concerns where future trails could/should be developed. Area trail groups must be fostered to embrace new trail development in all parts of Greater Sudbury.

This report focuses on walking trails or paths but we did collect data on cycling and horseback riding that have been included in the Appendices F & G.

There are overriding messages coming from the public which we want to share with council through this report. These messages concern trail signage, linkage and destinations.

We trust that this report will stimulate the dialogue and actions required to develop a trail system in Greater Sudbury that is both used and admired.

Sincerely,

Deb McIntosh
Exec. Director
Rainbow Routes Assoc.

Shannon Katary
Trail Development
Coordinator, RRA

Jeff Pafford
Leisure Services Dept.
City of Greater Sudbury



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Executive Summary & Recommendations

The Goal:

To develop a non-motorized trail system for the City of Greater Sudbury that is economically feasible and maintainable.

The Methodology:

1. Review Subject literature and past studies. Appendix D
2. Investigate and examine trail development in other jurisdictions.
3. Consult Local Stakeholders
4. Consult with General Public
5. Collect written input at Stakeholder Meetings, Public Input and via Rainbow Routes Association website. Appendix E.

The Results:

- ! Need to properly sign all the trails within the City
- ! Need to link the existing trails in the City
- ! Develop trails that either (a) loop back on themselves (recreational) or (b) lead to a destination (e.g., shopping, employment or school as a means of transportation)

Please see Appendix H for ward by ward results of public input.

The Conclusion:

Greater Sudbury does have a number of trails within its borders, however:

1. The public is, to a large extent, unaware of their existence
2. The trails are not linked to one another to connect different parts of the City.
3. People want trails not only for recreational purposes but also as a means to reach particular destinations (work, school, shopping).

Recommendations:

1. Promote existing trails in Greater Sudbury through comprehensive and consistent signage and a broadsheet map.
2. Complete the Trans Canada Trail through Greater Sudbury and the Junction Creek Waterway Park Plan.
3. Develop new trails to link existing trails and permit safe active transportation to key destinations.
4. Foster area trail groups to develop new trails.
5. Pass new city bylaws to encourage walking.
6. Develop a City Trail Maintenance Policy.

Background

What We Have:

- ! The City of Greater Sudbury currently has approximately 90 km of formal walking and hiking trails (linear parks). These are used for recreational walking and as a means of active transportation.
- ! They have been inventoried to some degree by the Greater Sudbury Trail Guide produced by Rainbow Routes Association in partnership with the City of Greater Sudbury.
- ! The trails are poorly marked both in indicating where they are in the City and directionally while you are on them.
- ! The trails are in various states of repair.
- ! There is an imbalance of trail development throughout the greater city owing to the fact that some former towns made trails and linear parks a priority while others did not.
- ! Some trails are well used, e.g. Bell Park, while others remain relatively unknown, e.g., Junction Creek Trail, leaving from Ray Hnatyshyn Park.
- ! The Trans Canada Trail and the Junction Creek Trails remain incomplete.

In the Fall of 2004, CGS City Council set a healthy communities priority. In response, the Citizen and Leisure Services Department addressed the Priorities Committee and determined that "using the community development model of consultation" they would "review current trail plans and trail development ideas and develop a list of prioritized trail development projects."

Rainbow Routes Association working in partnership with the City has gone beyond that mandate to explore all issues surrounding trail development and usage.

"Create a culture of healthy living and people will search out the trails. "

Jeff Sewell, Sudbury

Random Trail & Active Living Ideas (From Fellow Citizens)

- ! Closing outside lanes of Paris Street on Sunday mornings for cycling, inline skating and skate skiing from May to October every year.
 - " On those same days close the inner downtown to motorized traffic. Close: Cedar, Lisgar and Durham Sts.
 - " Closing of streets on Sundays currently takes place in Ottawa, Timmins and Winnipeg.
- ! Remove the Rail Lines from the centre of Town...turn them into a non-motorized trail.
- ! Bike Racks on City Buses in order to access trails without using a car
- ! Encourage developers to build pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods
 - " Put sidewalks into new housing developments
- ! Trail Maps indicating all available formal trails
- ! Need signage both at and on trails
- ! Sunday pedestrian connection from New Sudbury to the South End
- ! Inline Skating Loops around golf courses (done in other parts of the world)
- ! Measured and signed Urban Walking Loops
- ! Dog Dropping Disposals
- ! More bike racks in downtown area (Ottawa sells ads on their bike racks)
- ! Removal of snow from sidewalks in areas frequently used by pedestrians, (snowbank removal in downtown area)
- ! Discourage the storage of unused unsightly vehicles in neighbourhoods.
 - " Kitchener has a bylaw insisting that all vehicles must have a current licence sticker.
- ! Encourage indoor walking in the Winter:
 - " Walking Groups in the Malls
 - " Decorate Stairwells of Larger Buildings
 - " At Elevator Doors indicate where the stairs are
- ! Create Walk-a-Thon Routes

"Remove the CP Rail lines from downtown and create a tourist attraction along with interconnecting trails."

Claire Warren, Sudbury

Conclusion

The voices heard throughout the input sessions for the Greater Sudbury Non-motorized Trail Strategy were many and varied, passionate and thoughtful, concerned and energetic.

From all ages, wards and users groups the message was clear - the city needs to promote the trails it already has and connect the existing trails to one another to permit citizens to make their way about town in a safe and physically active way.

People are unaware that Sudbury does currently have trails throughout the city. There is very little in the way of trail signage in Sudbury. This includes signs directing walkers to the local trails, at the trail heads, on the trails and signs that provide information with regard to distance, level of difficulty and the trail destination. And while there is a limited number of Greater Sudbury Trail Guides in circulation providing individual trail maps, there is no publication giving an overall picture of Greater Sudbury's Trails and how they connect.

We asked where the public would like to see trails developed and the public have responded overwhelmingly with many ideas for non-motorized trail development. The suggestions ranged from recreational hiking trails to trails that would permit access to work, school and shopping. We have plotted the majority of these ideas on our Proposed Trail Map (Appendix A), but it should be noted that many of these proposals require further study and community support to determine their feasibility. If the community embraces a trail project, the trail is more likely to be used and taken care of in the long term.

This study has come out of a "Healthy Communities" priority of City Council. The public agrees that developing and promoting trails is a move in the right direction to getting more people physically active.

"We need to see more people and hear of more people using trails. Once we get that critical number of people using them, then it snowballs on its own!"

Tamara Brady, Sudbury.

Recommendations:

1. Promote the existing trails in Greater Sudbury:

The key is to promote the trails to encourage both non-trail users as well as current users.

Develop a **city wide signage program** that is easily identifiable and consistent.

Place directional signage both on and near the trails.

Place Trail signage, which includes a complete map of all trails, throughout the City in high traffic areas to educate both trail users and non-users as to trail locations (e.g., Shopping Malls).

Develop a **city trails/active living broadsheet map** indicating where the existing trails are. Maps would be distributed via Citizen Service Centres, CGS Tourism brochure racks and possibly through participating local businesses.

The CGS Leisure Guide would be used to promote both the signage and the map. We are exploring the possibility of including this map in the Spring 2006 Leisure Guide.

2. Complete Trans Canada Trail through Greater Sudbury and the Junction Creek Waterway Park Plan.

Both plans provide for extensive trail networks across the City of Greater Sudbury. They will meet the needs of both recreational and active transportation users.

The completion of the Trans Canada Trail is the primary objective of the Rainbow Routes Association.

The completion of the Junction Creek Waterway Plan should be implemented in accordance with the Community Improvement Plan (See Appendix D).

3. New Trail Development:

People want trails near their homes in order to get daily walking exercise.

They want trails for recreational nature hikes.

They want trails and safe passage to destination points.

See Map with potential trail projects plotted for Greater Sudbury. Appendix A

See Chart with timelines for Trail Development Recommendations. (Page 5)

Sidewalks: Upgrade *all* city streets to the same standard with regard to sidewalks and/or bike paths, e.g., Long Lake Road should have a sidewalk on one side under the current standards.

Project priorities for trails will ultimately be based on political determination, funding availability and community trail groups embracing various trail projects.

4. Foster area trail groups to encourage new trail development (partnerships) in various parts of the city.

Some of these groups have already started to form through the development of Community Action Networks. These C.A.N.s require some seed money to develop trails; they already have very willing volunteer labour.

5. New City Bylaws & Changes:

Bylaws need to be enacted to help new trail development and encourage walking.

Develop an enforceable CGS Parks Bylaw.

Identify Trails as Linear Parks

Identify uses and penalties for misuse.

Sewer and Water easements: "Other municipal interests" to include pedestrian trail use.

New Subdivisions:

Make the installation of sidewalks mandatory.

Encourage the use of 5% green space to be used for trails connecting neighbourhoods and to afford easy access to other facilities, e.g., library, shopping, work, schools.

6. Trail Maintenance & Safety

1. A definitive schedule of trail maintenance needs to be established.
2. A formal reporting process for identifying problem areas needs to be established.
3. Make the trail maintenance budget a regular line on the annual City budget.
4. Investigate lighting walking trails in built up areas of town:
e.g., Junction Creek Trail.

Rationale: Reduces liability, ensures continued usage, and limits the need for large capital outlays for major reconstructive work in the future.

" Trails are poorly marked. "

Deborah Pero, Sudbury

The Greater Sudbury Trail Strategy involved four phases:

1. Collecting and reading reference materials

Through the City Planning Department we were able to procure a number of old planning documents (See Appendix D) for the 7 former towns and the Regional Municipality of Sudbury. All references to trail development were noted and a complete trails resource binder prepared.

Also, through the planning department, maps (aerial, crown land, city owned land, existing trail maps) were prepared for both our stakeholder meetings and public consultations.

2. Stakeholders' Meetings:

Three stakeholders' meetings were held in February 2005. Non-motorized trail user groups and individuals were invited to discuss trail issues and indicate where new trails could be developed. They were asked to complete the form in Appendix E. The form was also available on the Rainbow Routes' website.

Individuals with pertinent expertise were also consulted on an individual basis. (See Appendix C).

3. Public Consultations:

Six Public Input Sessions (all wards) were held in March-April 2005. A brief power point presentation was made explaining background information and clarifying what we were expecting from the consultations. All participants were asked to complete the same form as the stakeholders. We broke the participants into groups of approximately six people each to discuss a separate list of questions (See Appendix E1). Each group reported back to the whole group and the findings were recorded.

4. Report preparation:

All feasible trail development ideas were mapped alongside the existing trails in Greater Sudbury, cross-referenced to planning documents (See Appendix D) and shared with Bill Lautenbach of the City Planning Department. All data collected was collated to define key themes and ideas.

Who We Consulted

Appendix C

The following individuals and organizations were consulted in the development of the Greater Sudbury Non-motorized Trail Strategy. We thank them all for their time and enthusiasm.

Dr. William Crumplin, Urban Geography, Laurentian University
Dr. Peter Becket, Biology, Laurentian University
Ron Larwood, Laurentian University Active Living
Patrick O'Connor, Ontario Trails Council
Dan Andrews, Trans Canada Trail Ontario

MPP Tim Peterson, Ministry of Tourism & Recreation
Peter Merritt, Ministry of Tourism & Recreation
John Cannard, JL Richards & Assoc.

Joel Kirk, Student & Cyclist, Laurentian University
Matt Livingstone, Communications, City of Greater Sudbury
Bill Lautenbach, Planning, City of Greater Sudbury
Tin-Chee Wu, Planning, City of Greater Sudbury
Peter Chiesa, Co-ordinator of Projects-Engineering, City of Greater Sudbury
Frontier Trails Association
NEOTTA, Northeastern Ontario Tourism Trails Assoc.
Linda Petahtegoose, Economic Development, Whitefish Lake First Nation
Carrie Regenstrief, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
Carol Coffyn, Sudbury District Health Unit
Barb Eles, Heart Health Coalition
Emily Barisas, Sudbury Hiking Club
Roel Teunissen, Ministry of Natural Resources

Barry Willet, Rayside Balfour Leisure Trails
Martha Cunningham Closs, Onaping Falls C.A.N.
Lise Leblanc, Onaping Falls Nordic
Sergio Grillanda, Voyageur X-Country Ski Club
Ian Campeau, Windy Lake Provincial Park

Heather Jessop Falcioni, Valley East C.A.N.
Kim & Andre Bertand, Wagon Wheel Ranch
Ben Robinson, Valley East Trail Masters
Kevin Campbell, Member of Local Snowmobile Club (Ward 4)

Dick Moss, Track North
Bob Hanson, Laurentian Nordic

John Lindsay, Minnow Lake C.A.N.
Brian Smith, Rotary Park

Several Members of the General Public at Public Input session held in March & April 2005.

Donovan and Area Community Improvement Plan Steering Community and the Long Range Planning Section Regional Department and Development. "Donovan and Area: Community Improvement Plan." 1995.

Fryer, William / Site Works Incorporated, Regional Planning and Development Department, Junction Creek Technical Advisory Committee. "Junction Creek Waterway Park: Community Improvement Plan." 1991.

James, Castellan Luciw and Architects, Rodger Todhunter Associates Landscape Architects. "Greenway Park: East End of Ramsey Lake Master Plan." S.A. Kirchhefer Limited, 2001.

Long Range Planning Section, Department of Planning and Development, The Regional Municipality of Sudbury. "Proposed Trail System." 1992.

Long Range Planning Section, Department of Planning and Development, The Regional Municipality of Sudbury. "The South End: Local Area Development Plan City of Sudbury." 1995.

Moriyama and Teshima Planners Limited. "The Ramsey Lake and Watershed Community Improvement Plan: A 100 Year Vision." Toronto, Canada, 1991.

Nicholls, Yallowega, Belanger. "Bell Park Master Plan: Imagine Bell Park in 50 Years." 2000.

Ontario Parks Association, Parks and Recreation Ontario, Ontario Trails Council. "Backgrounder: Parks and Trails - Future Of the Outdoor Experience." 2005.

Planning Services Division, Department of Economic Development and Planning Services. "Onaping Falls Secondary Plan." 1981 (revised 2000).

Planning Services Division, Department of Economic Development and Planning Services. "Rayside-Balfour Secondary Plan." 1996 (revised 2002).

Planning Services Division, Department Economic Development and Planning Services. "Secondary Plan for the Nickel Centre Settlements of Coniston, Falconbridge, and Garson." 1983 (revised 2000).

Planning Services Division, Department of Economic Development and Planning Services. "Sudbury Secondary Plan." 1987 (revised 2001).

Planning Services Division, Department of Economic Development and Planning Services. "Valley East Secondary Plan." 1980 (revised 2003).

Planning Services Division, Department of Economic Development and Planning Services. "West End Community Improvement Plan." 2000.

Planning and Development Department, The Regional Municipality of Sudbury and the City of Sudbury. "Ramsey Lake West End (Pedestrian Bridge Component): Community Improvement Plan." 1991.

Regional Municipality of Sudbury Planning and Development Department and the City of Sudbury. "Minnow Lake Community Improvement Plan." 1991.

Regional Planning and Development Department and the Ramsey Lake Technical Committee for The Ramsey Lake Steering Committee City of Sudbury. "Ramsey Lake: Community Improvement Plan." 1994.

Rodger Todhunter Associates Inc. "Trans Canada Trail Master Plan." August 2001.

Sowerby, Richard, Judy Sewell. "Recreational Trail Plan for Town of Walden." 1995.

Strong, Richard, Steven Moorhead Limited. "Whitson River Conservation Area Master Plan Study Chelmsford, Ontario." Nickel District Conservation Authority, 1976.

"Sudbury Planning Area: The Official Plan." 1978 (revised 2004).

Tiernan, Jos. M. "Field Notes of the Township of Hanmer." 1894.

Area Documents Cited: Cross reference to Page 5

- I Junction Creek 1991
- II Sudbury: CGS 1987 (amended 2001)
- III Recreational Trail Plan Town of Walden 1995
- IV West End 2000
- V Proposal Trail System - Regional Municipality of Sudbury - draft 1992
- VI Whitson River Conservation Area Master Plan Study (Chelmsford) 1976
- VII Rayside-Belfour 1996 (amended 2002)
- VIII Ramsay Lake 1994
- IX Township of Hanmer - Field Notes 1894
- X Bell Park Master Plan 2000
- XI The South End 1995
- XII Greenway: East Ramsay Lake 2001
- XIII Minnow Lake 1991
- XIV Trans Canada Trail Master Plan August 2001

Purpose of Public Input Sessions

To draft a master trail strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury which will encourage use of existing trails and provide direction for future trail development (non-motorized).

1. In what ward do you reside? (Circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. What type of activity do you want trails for? (Circle one or more)

i) Walking Biking Running Rollerblading Horseback Riding

X-Country Skiing Snowshoeing

Other (please specify) _____

ii) Recreation Transportation (to work or school)

3. Do you currently use any trails in your area? Yes / No Which ones?

4. What do you like or dislike about the trails you use? (e.g., trail surface, width of trail, length, location, etc.)

5. Suggestions as to where new trails should/could be located:

6. Why do you think people don't walk on the existing trails?

Please Turn Over

Group Discussion/Brainstorming

1. Why do you think some people are not using the existing non-motorized trail systems?
2. How can we encourage people to use the existing non-motorized trails?
3. In this specific ward how can we get most of our population out walking everyday for 30 minutes?
4. Where can we develop new trails?
5. Besides trails, how else can we get people physically active?

Major issues:

- ! Lack of bike lanes
- ! Lack of respect for bikers on the roads - a bike is a vehicle
- ! Roads too narrow, not marked well
- ! Primary roads are in poor condition
- ! Concerns about vandalism; not enough bike racks
- ! Highways are uncomfortable and not safe for bikers

Suggested New Bike routes/paths:

- ! Bike trail from Lively to Sudbury
- ! Link Azilda to Sudbury
- ! Behind Long Lake Public School
- ! Linking Junction Creek to Downtown
- ! Hannah Lake
- ! L.U. alternate access road
- ! Sudbury to Northbay
- ! Bike path behind St Joseph's Hospital
- ! Azilda to Chelmsford: when 4 laning occurs add in bike lanes
- ! Maley-Garson sand pit - behind Garson strip mall
- ! Along power lines - good opportunity for mountain bikers
- ! End of Lasalle to Garson-Coniston road
- ! South of the S.W. bypass to McFalane Lake
- ! The rail bed between Capreol and North Bay
- ! Countryside to Harrison Dr. (When underpass goes in at Long Lake)
- ! Bikers want a safe path from Sudbury to North Bay (CN rail line)
- ! Bikers: Long Lake, Garson-Coniston, and Maley: too narrow, need to be better marked
- ! Junction Creek for bicycles (paved)
- ! Along Paris, Notre Dame, Lasalle, Kingsway, Barrydowne (all main streets) bike lanes
- ! Bicycle trail through Bell Park
- ! Bicycle lane on Bancroft to Howey

★ **This information has been forwarded to the newly formed Bicycle Advisory Panel.**

Major issues:

- ! Fire access roads possibly being blocked off illegally
- ! Trails don't go anywhere - no destination
- ! Trails are not suited for horses - gravel gets stuck in the horses' shoes
- ! Motorized vehicles on horse trails, traveling too fast
- ! No trail etiquette
- ! Horse trails are not official, thus can be denied access

Suggested Horse Riding Trails:

- ! Gravel to Kenneth Dr. to Dominion Dr. to Main road (along fire access roads)
- ! From Valleyview road - loop incorporate Langdon Park
- ! To Sandy Beach via Dominion Dr.

Apparently, there are 8000 horses residing in Valley East.

A petition was received in the course of our public consultations from 115 horseback riders in Ward 3 with the following wording:

"We the undersigned respectfully submit this petition for the development of Langdon Park in Valley East, at the corner of Valley View and Martin Road in Ward 3 as horseback riding trails. We will dedicate ourselves to the developing and promotion of the Trans Canada Trail and other Trail Networks to help shape the future of non-motorized trails in the City of Greater Sudbury by becoming a part of the local trail organization in our area."

- ★ **Rainbow Routes Association will work with the Frontier Trails Association (with which this group is connected) to help develop horsebacking riding routes in this area.**