



DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY TEAM AGENDA

Thursday August 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

To observe the meeting, please use the following link:

<https://dufferincounty-ca.zoom.us/j/84301218181>

Password: 451033878

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that Dufferin County resides within the traditional territory and ancestral lands of the Tionontati (Petun), Attawandaron (Neutral), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe peoples.

We also acknowledge that various municipalities within the County of Dufferin reside within the treaty lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and two of the Williams Treaties of 1818: Treaty 18: the Nottawasaga Purchase, and Treaty 19: The Ajetance Treaty.

These traditional territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

Roll Call

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

DISCUSSION

1. FOREST ADVISORY TEAM – August 25, 2022 – ITEM #1
Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan – Summary of Public Comment

A report from the County Forest Manager, dated August 25, 2022, to provide information about the public input to the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan, as of August 15, 2022.

Next Meeting

To be determined



REPORT TO Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

To: Chair Gerrits and Members of the Team

From: Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager

Meeting Date: August 25, 2022

Subject: **Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan – Summary of Public Comment**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the public input to the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan, as of August 15, 2022. The public comment period will end on August 31, 2022.

Background

Public comment on the draft operating plan was solicited through Mailchimp, Join in Dufferin, ads in local newspapers, information on the County website, and direct e-mail to local municipalities and other stakeholders.

In order to give members of the public the opportunity to discuss the draft plan with County staff, two open houses were held, one at the Edelbrock Centre on August 4 (3-7 pm) and one at the Museum of Dufferin on August 6 (11 am – 4 pm). Two members of the public attended at Edelbrock and eleven attended at the Museum of Dufferin. All those who attended the open houses were advised to submit their comments in writing in order to have them considered during the development of the final draft of the outdoor recreation plan.

Summary of Input

Although relatively few comments were received on the draft outdoor recreation plan (eleven on the Rail Trail section and twenty-one on the County Forest section), a number of those have been quite detailed in their input and analysis, which is helpful in trying to produce a comprehensive document such as the draft outdoor recreation plan.

The comments have an open-ended structure, divided only according to the Dufferin Rail Trail and the Dufferin County Forest. The following are trends in the comments:

1. The necessity to better define what is meant by electric motorized vehicles as these are increasing in diversity and not all may be appropriate for use in the County Forest and/or on the Rail Trail.
2. Satisfaction with the separate trails for horseback riding and mountain biking that are currently in place in the Main Tract of the County Forest.
3. Satisfaction with the proposed introduction of more infrastructure, including portable toilets, signs, and winter parking lot maintenance.

Respondents were also asked to complete some demographic questions as part of the Join in Dufferin survey, or if they completed a paper copy of the questionnaire. The demographic questions show that most of the respondents are County Forest users. The most common ways they found out about the review were through a direct email from the County Forest Manager, or through an e-mail newsletter. None of the respondents indicated that they identified with any of the diversity representations.

Respectfully submitted by:

Caroline Mach, R.P.F.
County Forest Manager

Attachments:
Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan
Public Input to August 15, 2022



NEW ROUTES

Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

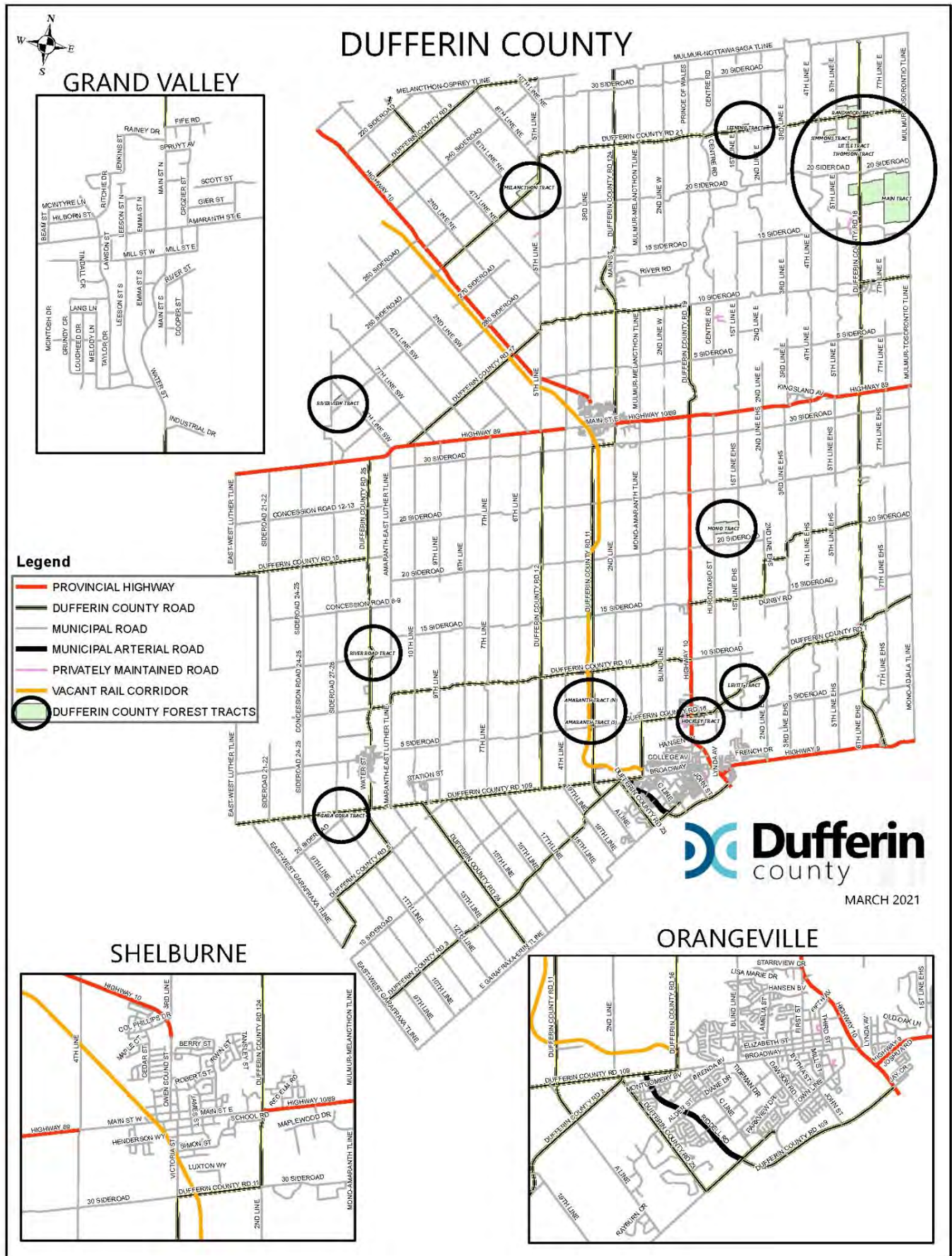
The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.



Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.
Add Rail Trail information to the County website.
Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.
Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest.
Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.
Improve printed information products through better graphic design.
Communicate key information through radio ads.
Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.
Continue to communicate information through County website.

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.
Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.
Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).
Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.
Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.
Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").
Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.
Speed limit signs for motorized users.
Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.
Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.
Signs describing flora and fauna.
Guided interpretation walks.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

2. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

3. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

5. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.

Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.

The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract.

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the Trespass to Property Act.

Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Guided interpretation walks.

Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.

Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026* (Table 8, pg. 27).

3. Trails

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

6. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the

tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. Foraging

In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging.

10. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

12. Campfires/Cooking

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities.

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.

Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.

Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing	Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking	Mtn Biking
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y	n	n

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting	OFSC Trails	Other Motorized Vehicles
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n	n	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n	n	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Thomson	managed	12	n	n	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From:

To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event:

For Profit

Non Profit

Intended Use:

Camping

Cross Country Skiing

Hiking

(Check all that apply)

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.
- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.

Have Your Say

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

10 January 2019 - 15 August 2022

PROJECT NAME:

**New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan Refresh | Regrow |
Recreate Draft Plan Review**



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | **Comments on Rail Trail Section (you can write as much as you want)**

Anonymous

6/28/2022 04:53 PM

test

Anonymous

6/29/2022 11:53 PM

Establish brand identity and logo for recreational assets. DCF logo is awful

Anonymous

7/04/2022 11:48 AM

I have not used the rail trail as I am not sure if horses are permitted on it and if so, where there is parking access for a truck and trailer.

Anonymous

7/05/2022 02:43 PM

Love it!

Anonymous

8/04/2022 09:58 PM

Dufferin Rail trail needs to be refinished (I read that it would happen over the next couple years). Rail trails have increased in popularity and have become tourist attractions, they are a great way to safely cycle long distances away from motorized vehicles. The Caledon Trailway is a great example of "doing it right" and attracts a lot of cyclists and pedestrians, there are businesses such as brew pubs, coffee shops, and a bike shop along the route that have also benefitted from groups of cyclists. There has been an explosion in "gravel cycling" (essentially road bike with wider tires and mountain bike-like geometry) which includes rail trails and gravel roads as many road (asphalt) cyclists are getting away from dangerous busy roads. The Dufferin Rail Trail is a great jumping off point to get out of town and onto gravel roads in Dufferin and create loops that circle back home. However I worry that with constant ATV use it will quickly get rutted again and while I'm sure there are a lot of ATVs vs cyclists, long term they don't mix safely. I've cycled a lot of rail trails in Ontario and very rarely do you have both ATV traffic and cyclists, ATVs are forbidden on most trails and if the long term goal of the Dufferin Rail Trail is to become an "active transportation corridor" then a decision will have to be made at some point. Planting trees along the route to make it less open is also a very nice feature. When rail trails have great forest cover they are very pleasurable to ride on as they have welcome shade and a buffer against wind. I am very happy to hear that there are long term plans to upgrade this corridor and with the plans for the former Orangeville railway south of town it is a very exciting time to be a cyclist and have a "network" of trails, I have had discussions with other cyclists and they agree!

Anonymous

8/14/2022 01:14 PM

The overall plan does not have an executive summary indicating key statistics on inventory. The rail section does not provide detail on the map legend showing the different types of trail conditions. I am not sure why a separate social media account is needed for the trail. Working with different trail activity groups and promoting on their social media would be better. There are many commercially available apps for trails around the world. Dufferin county should be listed and work with these established platforms. Trail details should include trimming and cleaning activity frequency. No KPIS or metrics have been established. Moreover, the plan should discuss expanding the tree canopy along the route. Large sections of this trail have no trees. This would help improve air quality and trail experience for users. Suggest cataloging current trees along trail. Could seek government grants from various organizations to retain a consulting firm. Introducing garbage bins, and benches along viewing points would be a much nicer experience for various users. It would be great to learn about the history of this area. Please see example. <https://firststoryblog.wordpress.com/>. Ideas: 1. Seek government grant to do a comprehensive inventory of the trail using drone capture process. Will improve asset management plan for county along with provide opportunities to add to tree canopy. 2. Look at technology experiences and apps to incorporate education element of the trail experience 3. Develop KPIS for asset management, trail operations to show value of investment. Do we have trail entry counters at key points? 4. Add amenities on trail such as garbage bins, and benches at key points 5. Improve signage information at road crosses, with information for various users with information of local businesses in the area to help economic development. 6. Incorporate into appendix public engagement findings from draft plan to final plan. 7. Working with Tourism Dufferin improve trail awareness for horse riding, mountain biking and ATV use with organizations in Southern Ontario. 8. Has electric snowmobiles and ATV infrastructure been considered the Federal government has allocation \$2billion for EV infrastructure. Locating 1-2 chargers at key points at the trail will increase adoption of these zero emission vehicles. 9. Exploring naming the trail after the aboriginal community in the area? 10. To reduce cost of maintenance of trail explore sponsorship of sections of trail to local businesses or community groups. Acknowledge sponsorship with signage in the section. 11. Capital and operating cost for the trail should be included in the study.

Optional question (6 response(s), 10 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q2 Comments on County Forest Section (you can write as much as you want)

Anonymous

6/28/2022 04:53 PM

test

Anonymous

6/29/2022 11:53 PM

Establish new brand identity and logo. Make it simple and visually appealing, something that can be used as a marketing asset in the future

Anonymous

6/30/2022 10:36 AM

Dufferin County Forest should consider allowing foraging for personal use, similar to Simcoe County Forest's policy. If impact on species is a concern, there are 2 ways to mitigate this: 1. Restrict it to mushrooms (since foragers are just picking the fruiting body of a larger underground organism, long term studies have indicated that there is no impact the species as a whole:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222572829_Mushroom_picking_does_not_impair_future_harvests_-_Results_of_a_long-term_study_in_Switzerland) 2. Consider selling a foraging license similar to the hunting license that you sell. This could be used to fund regeneration projects or other infrastructure projects within Dufferin County Forest.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 11:48 AM

I am primarily a user of the Dufferin Forest Main Tract for horseback riding. The access to the field parking area when events are not booked is good. The new maps of the main tract are very helpful. If maps were made available at a second kiosk in the field parking area it would be even better. The addition of signs in the forest at intersections, etc. is beneficial. I rode with OTRA at the Main Tract in June and allowing the OTRA/Chesley groups to have a porta-pottie onsite for their rides this season is a nice convenience. I agree with the requirement for equestrians to ride with helmets as noted in the draft plan. I feel the overall draft is good and hope that all user groups can come together to communicate their wants and needs and work together for the benefit of all recreational users of the forest.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 12:00 PM

It would be very helpful if there was a water source for horses at the Main Tract.

Anonymous

7/04/2022 12:56 PM

Please keep the forest open as multi use. Allowing only one group to take over the whole forest is not fair no matter how big their organization is. It should be enjoyed by all unmotorized sports.

Anonymous

7/05/2022 02:43 PM

Again, love it! My family loads up the horse trailer with equestrian and cycling equipment, enjoy the day doing our respective sports, sometimes cross paths.

Anonymous

7/26/2022 10:02 AM

Please continue the separation of trails by user group..since its inception the user groups have gotten along much better with minimal conflicts. The trails also experience less erosion and deterioration. In my opinion this separation has been beneficial to all interested parties

Anonymous

7/27/2022 11:06 AM

The separate trails used for horses and mountain bikers is a great idea. Less erosion for the trails in general and no road apples on the bike trails.

Anonymous

8/04/2022 09:58 PM

Very happy with the mountain bike trails, Mono has become a great fitness routine for my friends and myself. Same for Main Tract. A small parking lot at Mono Tract would be nice, especially for Fatbiking in the winter.

Anonymous

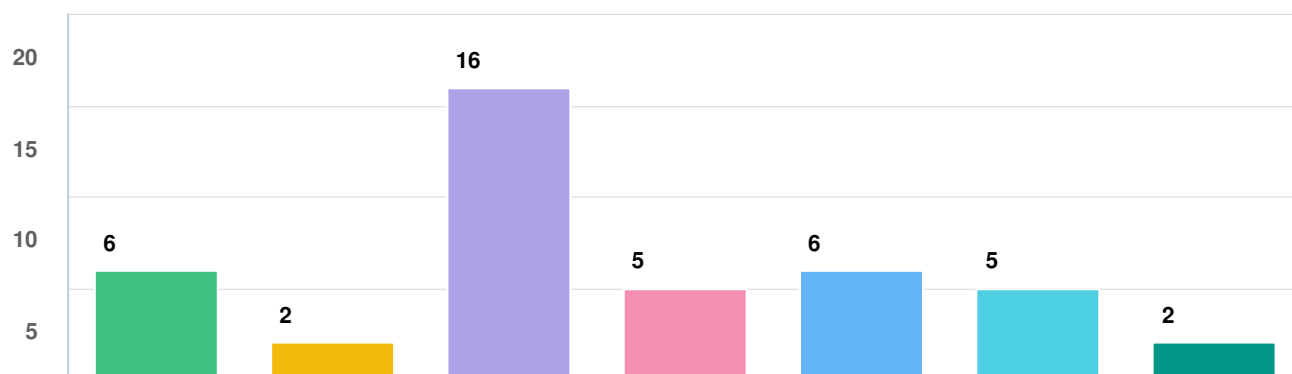
8/14/2022 01:14 PM

As mention in other section no executive summary for the overall report. The forestry section idea of a second kiosk sounds like a good idea. What is the cost of building this kiosk and what are the asset management lifecycle considerations. 5. Electric Vehicles Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval. This might need to be tweaked as mental health issues have been issued accessibility permits. A more broader definition of this section needs to be done. This can be challenged at the human rights level. The plan does not mention electric bikes or electrically assisted bikes? Why are snowmobiles allowed and other motorized vehicles prohibited? Seperation of trail uses sounds like a good plan. I think establishing a pilot program approach, KPIs would be helpful could trail other uses on the trail. Dufferin County advisory panel. This seems like a good idea however the frequency should be a minimum of twice a year. This way seasonal uses can be better discussed. Add in membership section qualifications nice to have in the field of forestry, urban development, environmental stewardship, Zero Emission operations Ideas: See ideas from CP Trail section 1. Develop programs for local community groups to enjoy Forest with planned activities 2. Introduce more amenities for trail users such as benches, garbage bins. 3. overall operating and capital budgets for this forestry management should be included in the plan. 4. Introducing EV charging at parking lots would be a great idea. 5. Providing permits to food drinks at key times of year would be great to promote economic development. Thank you for letting me provide my feedback as a recent resident of Dufferin County I think its important we balance protection with enjoyment of these great outdoor spaces.

Optional question (11 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q3 Are you (check all that apply)?



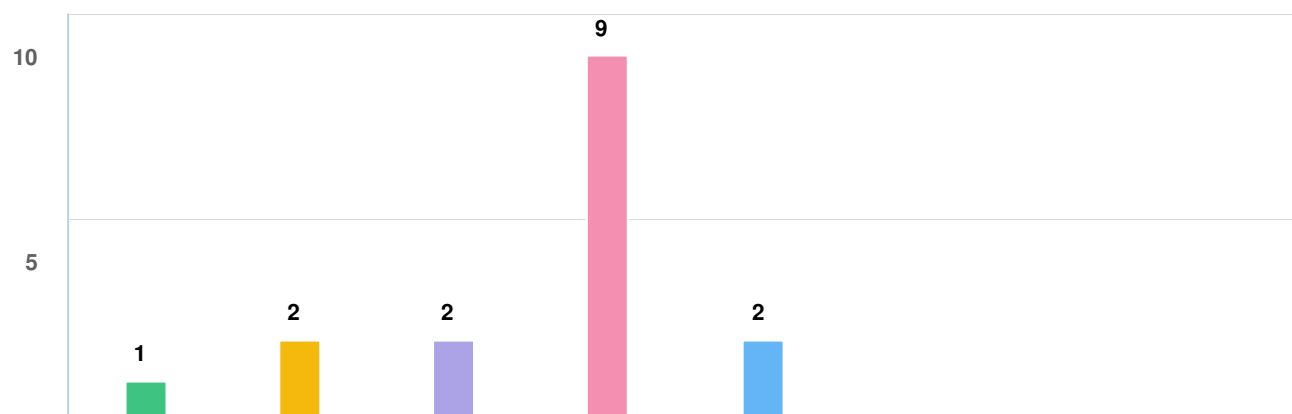
Question options

- Rail Trail User
- Rail Trail Neighbour
- County Forest User
- County Forest Neighbour
- Member of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest
- Interested Individual Residing Within Dufferin County
- Interested Individual Residing Outside Dufferin County

Optional question (16 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 Representation from across the Dufferin community matters, and having a diverse set of experiences, skills, and perspective...



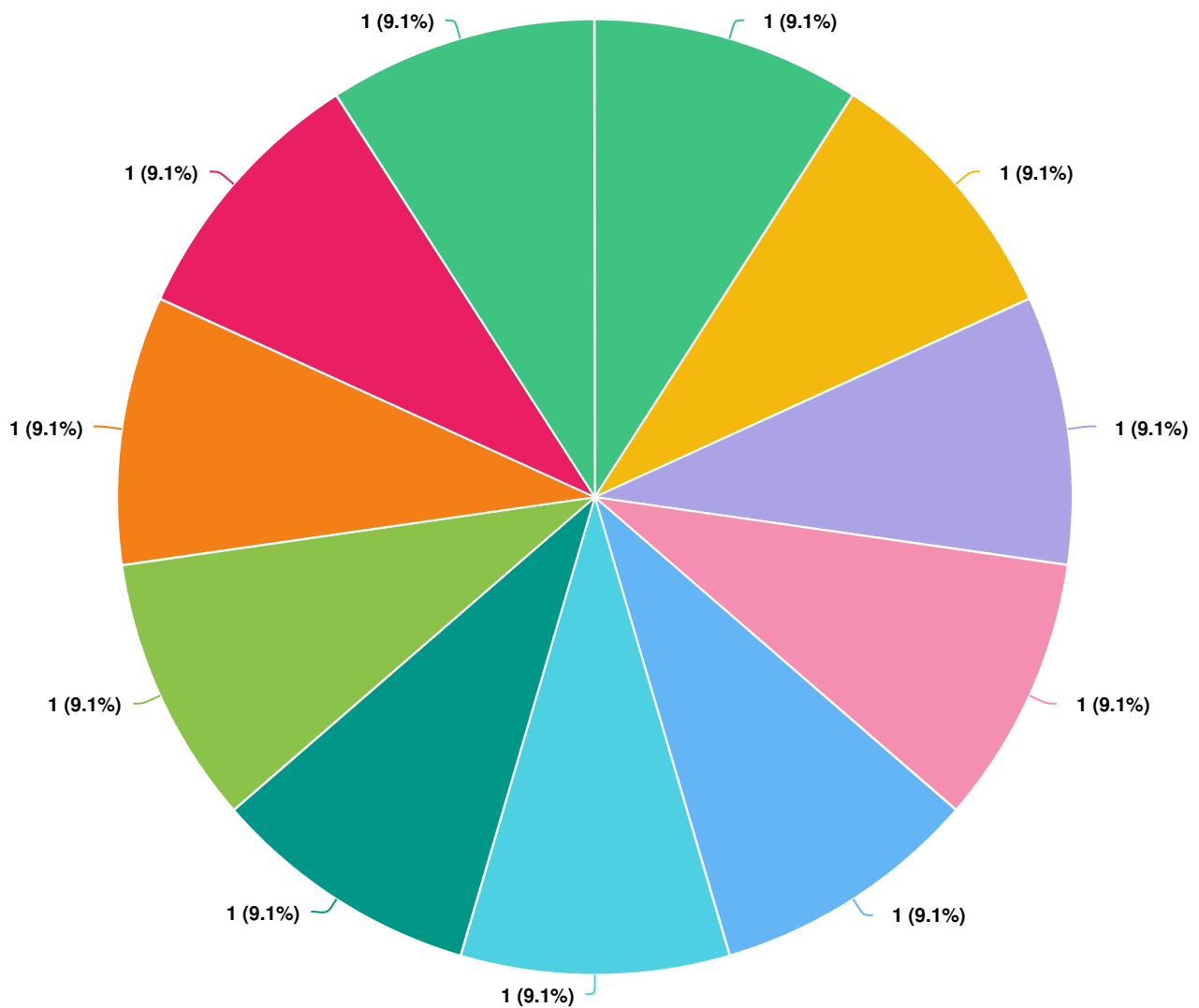
Question options

- Indigenous
- Person of Colour
- Person with a disability
- I do not identify with any of the above
- I prefer not to say
- Black
- 2SLGBTQIA+
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (14 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 Please provide your postal code.

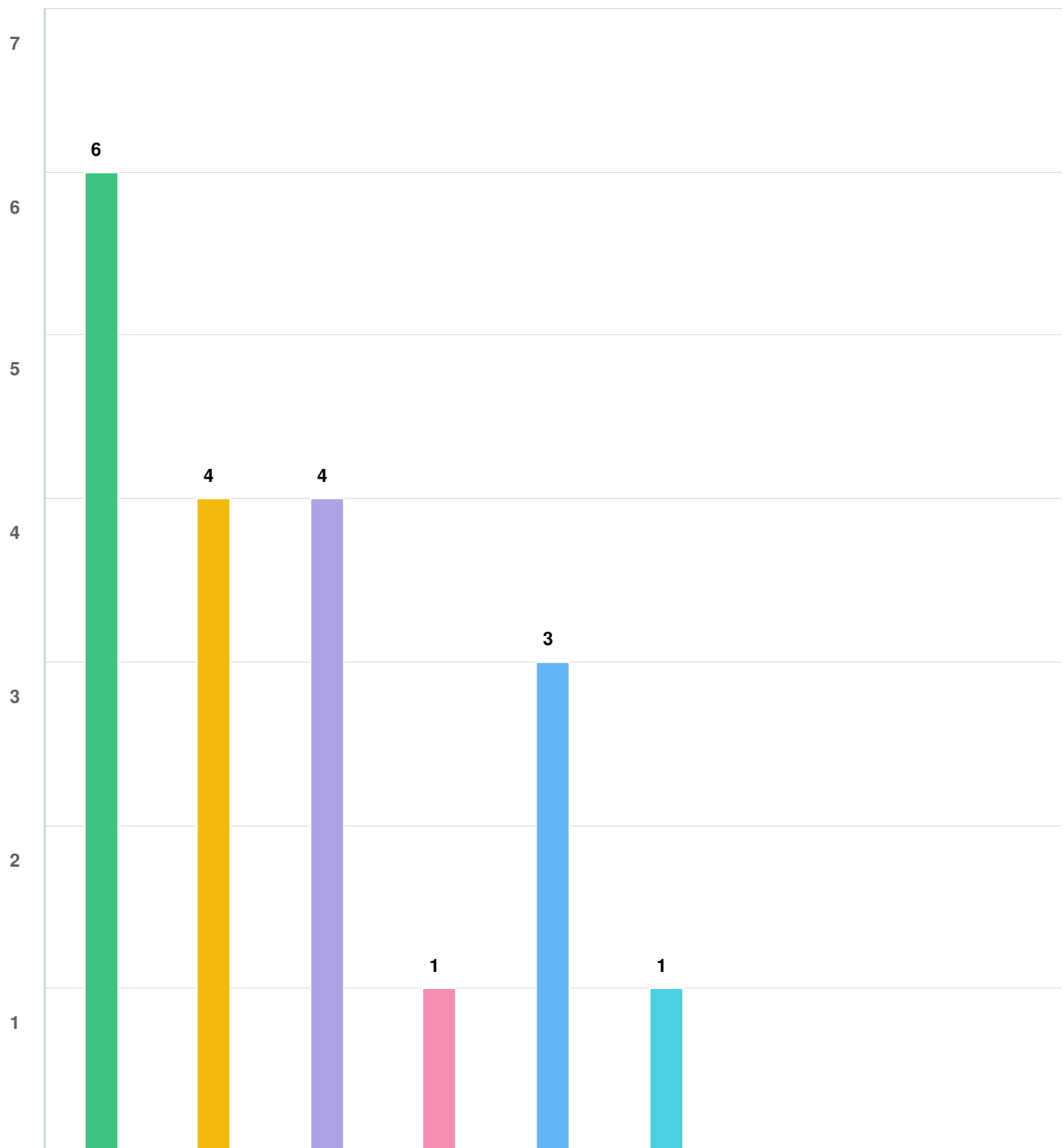


Question options

- Mulmur, ON, L9V0L3
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0C2
 ● Mono, ON, L9W5P5
 ● Caledon Village, ON, L7K0N8
- Georgetown, ON, L7G4S4
 ● Alliston, ON, L9R1V2
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V3H9
 ● Orangeville, ON, L9W2G8
- Thornton, ON, L0L2N0
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0S4
 ● Mulmur, ON, L9V0P8

Optional question (11 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Region Question

Q6 How did you find out about the review?



Question options

- direct email from the County Forest Manager e-mail newsletter Facebook Twitter
friend or family member Other (please specify) newspaper radio Instagram

Optional question (16 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Feedback for the Draft Plan of the County Forrester Review

from Page 5

Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest. – Great Idea

Add Rail Trail information to the County website. – Great Idea

Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest. – we don't need a new app, there are all ready trail apps we should join in on. And use the social media accounts to relay basic information. Don't re invent the wheel!

Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc. – yes, definite need some better maps and in trail signs. Some maps in the middle of the trails to help people get out if they have an emergency.

Improve printed information products through better graphic design. - yes

From page 5 and 6

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted

uses. – yes it needs to be a smoother trail surface to encourage more human power activities like walking, running, cycling

Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne. – yes, especially if you want human powered users.

Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne. – maybe – need to see how much use the trail gets with better surface/ parking / signage before we place toilets that just might sit outside getting no use!

Signs

Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going

south). – Yes, also include the big picture, distance to Port Credit in the south and Owen Sound in the North. This is a huge piece of provincial infrastructure. We need to look big picture.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses. - yes

Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings. - yes

Speed limit signs for motorized users. – should we allow motorized vehicles? Can a single trail support ATV, Dirt Bike, Snowmobile, Cycling, Running, Hiking? I think we need to first decide if there are motorized vehicles in the first place. Personally, I picture user groups consistent with Caledon and Orangeville and Owen Sound rail trails. Again, picture the big picture that this becomes a huge north south route in the current rail trail network. And focus on non motorized vehicles.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment

with them. – always am import point. Less signs is more

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor

recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail. – what does this mean in plain English? There is no appendix explaining like appendix A showing the uses of the tracts. We need to figure this out.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

-6-

2. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas. – any options for small parking lots where the trail crosses some side roads? Like the Caledon rail trail.

3. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the

Rail Trail. – I personally agree, but is that realistically enforceable? All trails struggle with the “head phones” issue. I think mandatory bells and a potential awareness campaign is more effective. And stick to the right side of the trail is a more realistically way to minimize conflict and improve safety.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail. – excellent

multi user groups – if we re going to allow multiple distinct user groups, we need more specific rules and language for how they need to interact. How does a bike pass a horse? How does a ATV pass a bike? For example.

5. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted. – make sure there are garbage cans at the parking facilities.

From page 6 and 7

County Forest

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable

toilets at the Mono Tract. – Yes this is a needs to be addressed!! With more people using the mono tract, we need to make some basic parking arrangements, before an incident happens on the road side. A small off road parking lot will be safer for users. Think something like the “split rock” parking lot for the bruce trail on 2nd In north of 25th sideroad. And maintained year round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the

Main Tract. – great idea! That’s a very dry and hot parking lot in the summer

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field

at the Main Tract. – yes more signs showing maps and trail entrances are good.

Signs

Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website

address and/or a QR code to link to the website. – and a map of the specific tract

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses. – always a good idea

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land (“land acknowledgement”). – a good step in the process of reconciliation

For the Main Tract, “you are here” style maps. – excellent

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

From Pages 7, 8,9,10

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for

game retrieval. – this needs to be expanded for the inevitable rise in e bikes. There are multiple classes of e bikes, and some are indistinguishable from a traditional pedal powered bike, where others are becoming more like electric motorcycles. Need more details and focus. <https://www.bosch-ebike.com/us/everything-about-the-ebike/stories/three-class-ebike-system> for a basic overview. But Class 1 E bikes should be allowed.

8. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation

of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail

permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin

County Forest. - This current practice is ok, and hopefully a similar agreement can be made on the rail trail. But some more summer trail work needs to be done to limit the erosion issues caused by the grooming equipment.

10. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest. – great wording. Under control is just as important as on leash. And an off leash dog can be a great trail companion and non destructive to the forest and other users.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield

Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-

country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following

year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County’s discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to

make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same

requirements as any other organized recreational event. – Happy to see this agreement keep working and moving forward.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish

separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to

users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract. - This is a good policy. Cyclists do not want to hit Hikers, and Hikers don’t want to be hit by cyclists. Same with equestrian, we need separation in the big main

tract and other highly used tracts to keep individual user groups safe and conflict free. Groups can mingle and be respectful on common trails and parking facilities, but in the trails, users should be separated. This concern is what needs to be figured out for the rail trail corridor. And solved when the trails are “quiet” and not wait for a flash point event like we saw with increased Covid Use of all trail systems.

18. Fees.

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's

fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request. – I would like to see the county and towns put some money towards the forests upgraded facilities. We can spend millions on a pool / hockey arenas, but we can get funding for a parking lot for trail users?

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated

recreational trails. – advanced communication and collaboration can go a long way and help in this area.

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one

member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at

least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose

of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest

are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will

be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as

required to replace or add members. – good idea would like to sit on this team one term – need to find a way to encourage younger people to sit on committees, we need youth, and “child rearing” aged people on committees. As well as a specific strategy to increase cultural diversity. The population demographics are changing, and we need committees to reflect that too.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Comments
Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 9:38:30 PM
Attachments: [Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hello Caroline,

I have had a chance to look at the draft recreation plan and first off I'd like to say thank you for including many of the previous requests from all the different trail users. The draft plan looks very good.

I have marked up the existing document with areas that could use clarification. Hopefully this will help with the creation of the final document.

Because I cannot attend either of the open discussion dates due to other commitments, please feel free to email me any questions you may have about my comments.

Thank you for all your efforts.

[REDACTED]



NEW ROUTES

Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

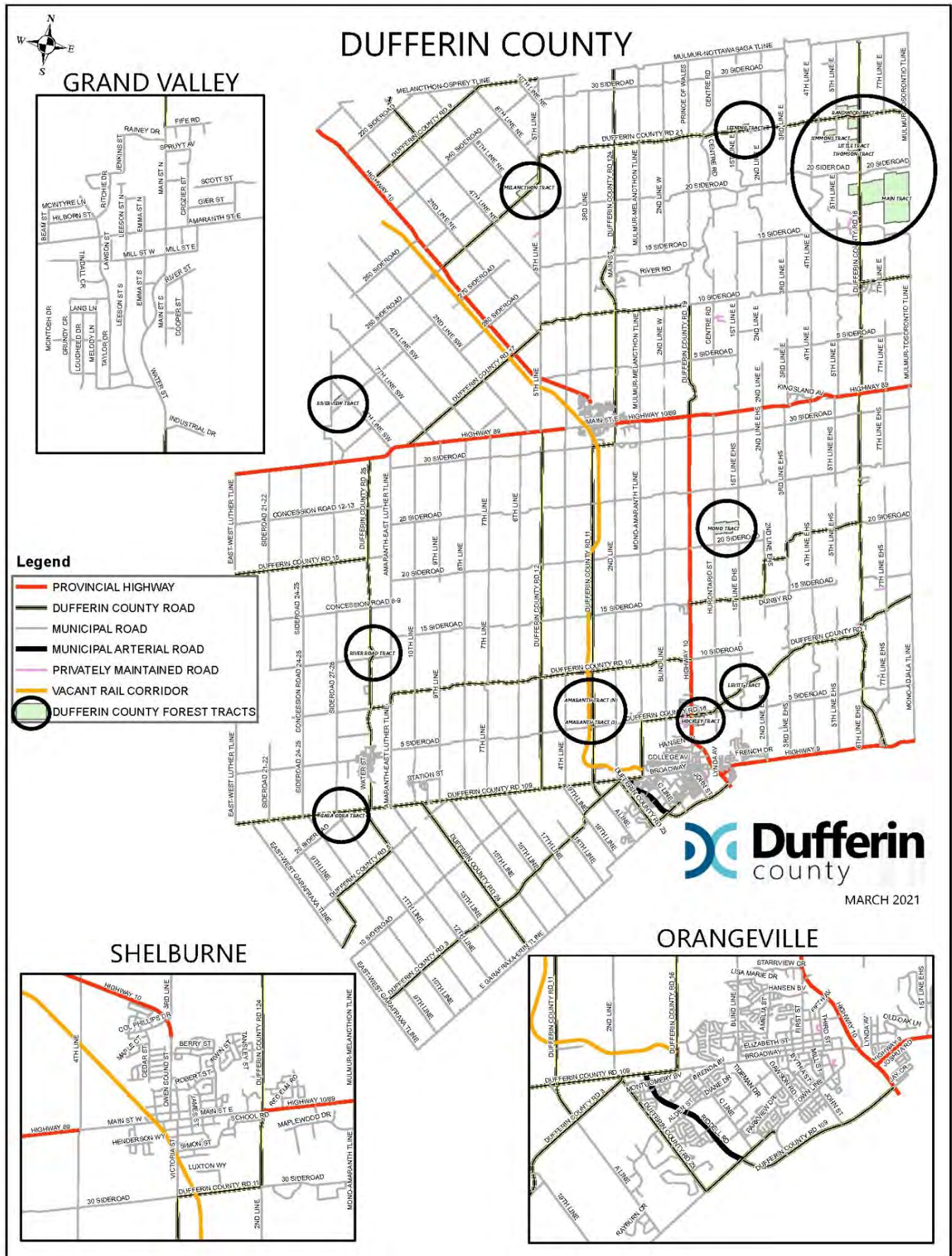
The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan



Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.
Add Rail Trail information to the County website.
Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.
Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest.
Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.
Improve printed information products through better graphic design.
Communicate key information through radio ads.
Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.
Continue to communicate information through County website.

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.
Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.
Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).
Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.
Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.
Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").
Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.
Speed limit signs for motorized users.
Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.
Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.
Signs describing flora and fauna.
Guided interpretation walks.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

2. **Parking**

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

3. **Dogs**

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

4. **Safety**

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

Possibly change the wording from "mountain bike" to "bicycle or all types of bicycles". That eliminates the interpretation of the rules based on the various bicycle types. (mountain, fat bike, gravel, road, e-bike, etc)

5. **Respect for Property**

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.

Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.

The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract.

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the Trespass to Property Act.

Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Guided interpretation walks.

Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.

Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026*

(Table 8, pg. 27). Should this be referenced as Appendix A, pg. 11-12 within this document or is the intent to reference the *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026*?

3. Trails

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

What is the County interpretation of a motorized vehicle? Are e-bikes electric motorized as stated in #5? If e-bikes are not allowed it should be clearly stated. Here is a link to the Ontario Regulations for e-bikes. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/riding-e-bike#section-2> Also here is a link to IMBA Canada and their direction on e-bikes <https://imbacanada.com/imba-canada-and-e-bikes/>

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

What is the County interpretation of an electric motorized vehicle? Are e-bikes of all types acceptable? Some are throttle controlled like motorcycles, pedaling is not required. The majority of e-bike users do not have mobility difficulties.

6. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the

tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. **Snowmobiling**

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. **Foraging**

In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging.

10. **Dogs**

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. **Safety**

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

Possibly change the wording from "mountain bike" to "bicycle or all types of bicycles". That eliminates the interpretation of the rules based on the various bicycle types. (mountain, fat bike, gravel, road, e-bike, etc)

12. Campfires/Cooking

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

How would daily users know when restrictions are in place?

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities.

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.

Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.

Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

This has been a positive change over the past couple of years, hopefully this remains the same.

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

Is this a day use fee or only for permit required activities?

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

What is the purpose of this clause within this document? This sounds like a county controlled item and I'm assuming this includes things like logging contracts, inventory, road work, construction, etc. Can logging tenders actually be held accountable by existing contracts?

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing	Fat (Winter) Mtn Biking	Mtn Biking
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y	n	n

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting	OFSC Trails	Other Motorized Vehicles
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n	n	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n	n	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	y	n
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept 30)	n	n
Thomson	managed	12	n	n	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From:

To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event:

For Profit

Non Profit

Intended Use:

Camping

Cross Country Skiing

Hiking

(Check all that apply)

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.

Are campfires allowed with a permit only? Should that be clarified in #12 on Page 9 where it states - Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest? Is "Foraging" for firewood allowed? If so, #12 on Page 9 should be clarified.

- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Feedback - Updated Plan
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:03:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Dufferin Forest Manager,

I utilize and very much appreciate the Main Tract mountain biking trails (have done so on and off, mostly summer but sometimes winter – for over 10 years). My parents retired about 3km from the trail (grew up skiing at Mansfield).

I particularly appreciate the separate trails for Equestrian and Cyclists/Hikers. I find that this keeps the trails safe for all (easy to safely pass a hiker, less so when passing one or more on horseback). I also believe that this allows the cycling/hiking trails to maintain a high level of quality/safety, which isn't possible with horse hoof traffic degrading them.

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in,

Take care,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: FEEDBACK: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Sunday, August 7, 2022 10:43:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline!

I hope this email finds you well. I had hoped to make it to see you at the in-person session at MOD, but admittedly I was playing in the forest and missed the time window!

I have some feedback that I hope strengthens and simplifies what I believe is the intention of a couple of sections (without overburdening the document -- I know only too well the challenge of municipal policy making). I'll put the points in sections.

Rail Trail (pg 6, point 4 -- Safety)

Recommendation: *"Helmets are required for anyone [REDACTED] biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail."*

Rationale: Rail trails are very popular and used by a wide range of types of bicycles. A helmet should be used by every cyclist. The use of "mountain" could create a technical loophole that would need to be closed once the rail trail starts to gain popularity. This will be especially critical as the section of rail trail from Brampton to Orangeville, which was just bought by Peel, Brampton and Caledon, is opened for use and more users head into Dufferin from the south.

County Forest (pg. 7, points 4 and 5 -- Motorized Vehicles and Electric Vehicles)

Recommendation: Collapse the two sections into one, as follows, with subsequent numbering changed to reflect the new order:

"4. Motorized Vehicles, including Electric. Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. Access by off-road vehicles is permitted for game retrieval only. Pedal-assist electric bicycles (Class 1) are considered regular non-assisted bicycles and are permitted on any trail where biking is already permitted."

Rationale: My reasoning is four-fold:

1. The current language in sub-points 4 (Motorized Vehicles) and 5 (Electric Vehicles) could be exploited by those in the moto/ATV/UTV community, where throttle-based electric systems are exploding in availability. Electric moto/ATV/UTV are extremely quiet, but have the same torque as those with traditional combustion motors and operate at high speeds. They are attracting new riders who may not think they are "motorized." And their silence in the forest could result in serious user conflict and safety for hikers, horses, equestrians and mountain bikers.

2. At the same time, hunters may be using ANY ATV/UTV for game retrieval, not just electric. I am sure they would question whether they can use a gasoline-powered vehicle for the same purpose, so simplifying the language may help. A motor vehicle is a motor vehicle, regardless of its fuel source.

3. The original language permits use of electric powered vehicles *"for users with mobility difficulties."* This is potentially problematic if interpreted literally and someone believes they can drive an electric car or truck into any of the properties. I know that sounds laugh-worthy, but we both know how municipal policy is interpreted by the average resident (or citizen).

In addition -- and from my own experience with privacy issues and MFIPPA -- I also know that disclosure of "mobility difficulties" is legally problematic. This type of language could be interpreted as personal health information and subject to the rules of PHIPA (not MFIPPA), while at the same time seen as a violation of AODA standards (and even Human Rights) because of the perception that unnecessary disclosure of private information may be required. I can fill you in on the pain of PHIPA if you would like (I have to deal with it every day), as well as the challenges of policy that is intended to be inclusionary, but ends up innocently exclusionary. Plus it would be a by-law enforcement nightmare that could put the officer in a touchy situation if they even ask a user. I always recommend wording that eliminates that kind of risk.

4. The current language could inadvertently restrict those of us (me included) who use speed-restricted, non-throttle pedal-assist bicycles in Dufferin Forest. These bikes are powered by muscle power and any assistance immediately stops when muscle power (pedaling) stops. Adding simplified inclusionary language that Class 1 pedal-assist bicycles are considered traditional bicycles provides clarity and reduces the potential for interpersonal conflict between users.

The class system for electric bicycles is used widely in Europe and in many US states. There is a good summary of the three classes on this [page](#). Class 1 bikes are speed-restricted, assist-only and have low-watt support electric motors. Class 2 and 3 have higher output motors, go faster and may have a throttle, so referencing the class gives clarity without overdescribing.

As you can see from my long message, I'm pretty passionate about the clarity on intended/excluded use around pedal-assist bikes. I would love to chat through these points with you if you have time during your work day. We could do it by phone or I am

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!

On Wed, Jun 29, 2022 at 3:34 PM Caroline Mach <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: FW: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 11:15:19 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi, I just reviewed the plan you are suggesting and as mentioned before my property backs onto the rail trail at [REDACTED] Your plan is adding more things like horseback riding, cycling, etc. than what is happening right now which is inviting more activity and people to be on the trail near my property.

What are the plans in place for the people who's properties back onto the lands to stop the following concerns that are already an issue and to make sure it doesn't get any worse with more people using the trail: people leaving their litter on properties, walking onto properties to relieve themselves, etc, walking their dogs without leashes and just let their dogs walk onto properties off the trail, noise with people blaring music, hunters walking onto private properties and not in forests, etc.

I am not trying to be negative about this but I have some real concerns about what is being suggested to landowners near the expanded use of the trails, forests, etc and what is going to be put in place to help them with any issues that arise because of the expanded use of the land.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "<County Forest Manager>", County of Dufferin <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>
Reply-To: "<County Forest Manager>", County of Dufferin <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com>
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 10:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Review

From: [Scott Martin](#)
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Cc: [Beverley Frank](#)
Subject: FW: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 3:00:38 PM

Hello Caroline

I'm not sure that the trail survey is still active. Please include [REDACTED] comments that she would like to see the trail sections around Shelburne cut more often.

Thanks

Scott Martin

From: Public Works <publicworks@dufferincounty.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Scott Martin <smartin@dufferincounty.ca>
Subject: FW: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Public Works <publicworks@dufferincounty.ca>
Subject: Notice of property owner to destroy weeds

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

I find it extremely annoying that a bunch of senior citizens of [REDACTED] in Shelburne have called the town numerous times and the county, yet nothing has yet to be done and everyone denying ownership. There is a creek and railway path.

The ironic part is there was even a notice in this week's paper how residents will be charged accordingly if the town/county has to remove a long list of weeds from private property but the county/town can't even look after their own property that is impeding of senior residents that pay their taxes.

There is everything from different weeds, wild Turnip, ticks coming on their properties to mice, rats,

snakes and other rodents.

It is also a fire hazard now and when/if this gets cut as it would be so long and to be cut and left to dry it would become even more of a fire hazard. Especially with the direction of the winds in this area.

This area should be regularly maintained as the parks and other fields are and the residents should not have to go through this stress on a yearly basis.

It would be a shame to have to take this issue public as no one will address the issue.

We are all hoping this issue will get resolved this week as it's been left far to long.

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 4:19:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline,

Thank you very much for this draft recreation plan.

Could you let me know where orienteering would fit in the draft rules, as it is a low-impact off-trail recreational running activity?

Our club and our fellow Ontario clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to find forests for our events that still allow off-trail access.

Thanks very much for any clarification.

[REDACTED]
Toronto Orienteering Club board member

On Wed., Jun. 29, 2022, 15:34 Caroline Mach, <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, Dufferin residents weighed in on what recreation meant to them, and we used those ideas to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Now, we're opening the draft plan up for public feedback. Check it out and let us know your thoughts via our webpage, www.joinindufferin.com/draftrecplan.

In person opportunities to discuss the draft plan with County staff:

Thursday, August 4, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St., Orangeville

Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Museum of Dufferin, 936029 Airport Road at Highway 89, Mulmur

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Caroline Mach](#)
Subject: Re: Review of Draft Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Date: Monday, July 4, 2022 9:48:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.

Hi Caroline

Page 10 has some points that I would like to comment on/seek clarification on.

#20 will there be a new set of members established for the DCFAT in the fall as there will be a fall election for local council?

#18 does this mean that there will be fees for day use of the trails?

#17 I am glad that there will be continued designated trails for specific use

[REDACTED]

On Wed., Jun. 29, 2022, 3:34 p.m. Caroline Mach, <forestmanager@dufferinmuseum.com> wrote:

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan
Refresh | Regrow | Recreate
Draft Plan Review

We've got a draft outdoor recreation plan!

This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, Dufferin residents weighed in on what recreation meant to them, and we used those ideas to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Now, we're opening the draft plan up for public feedback. Check it out and let us know your thoughts via our webpage, www.joinindufferin.com/draftrecplan.

In person opportunities to discuss the draft plan with County staff:

Thursday, August 4, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St., Orangeville

Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Museum of Dufferin, 936029 Airport Road at Highway 89, Mulmur

Feedback is due by **August 31, 2022** and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

Dufferin C

on Plan

- Changing ^{recreation activities} demographics
- Rapid increase in population
- increased usage of public spaces
- open road use → out-knifed
- snowmobiles → no stay for local municipalities
- evaluation of impact on environment
- workshop facilities / garbage can
- ✓ is the trail right of way part of Rec. Plan? **Yes**
- ∴ designated access points?
- proven to get a new use acknowledged approved

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Introduction

In 2022, in concert with a review of the recreational use policy for the Dufferin County Forest, the County expanded the public input and review process and subsequent documents to include the County-owned vacant rail corridor, the Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, besides addressing permitted and restricted uses, the outdoor recreation plan addresses other aspects of public use, including infrastructure, signs, interpretive and educational features, and communications. With regard to the County Forest, much of this information was brought in from the recently completed five-year operating plan (2021-2026) and informed by the current public input and review process. For the Rail Trail, these sections were informed by past experience with the Rail Trail and the County Forest, as well as the current public input and review process.

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin (map on next page). The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities. A Recreational Use Policy/By-Law for the County Forest was passed in 2017. Several amendments have been made to the policy/by-law since then, most of them minor in nature. This is the first full-scale public review of the policy/by-law. The items other than permitted and restricted uses are discussed in the Five-Year Operating Plan and Twenty-Year Management Plan for the Forest.

The Dufferin Rail Trail is the 38.1 km Dufferin portion of the former rail corridor running from Orangeville, through Amaranth, Shelburne and Melancthon, to Dundalk (map on next page). Historically there have been agreements in place with the local ATV and snowmobile clubs for use of the trail. There are no other documents related to use or management of the Rail Trail.

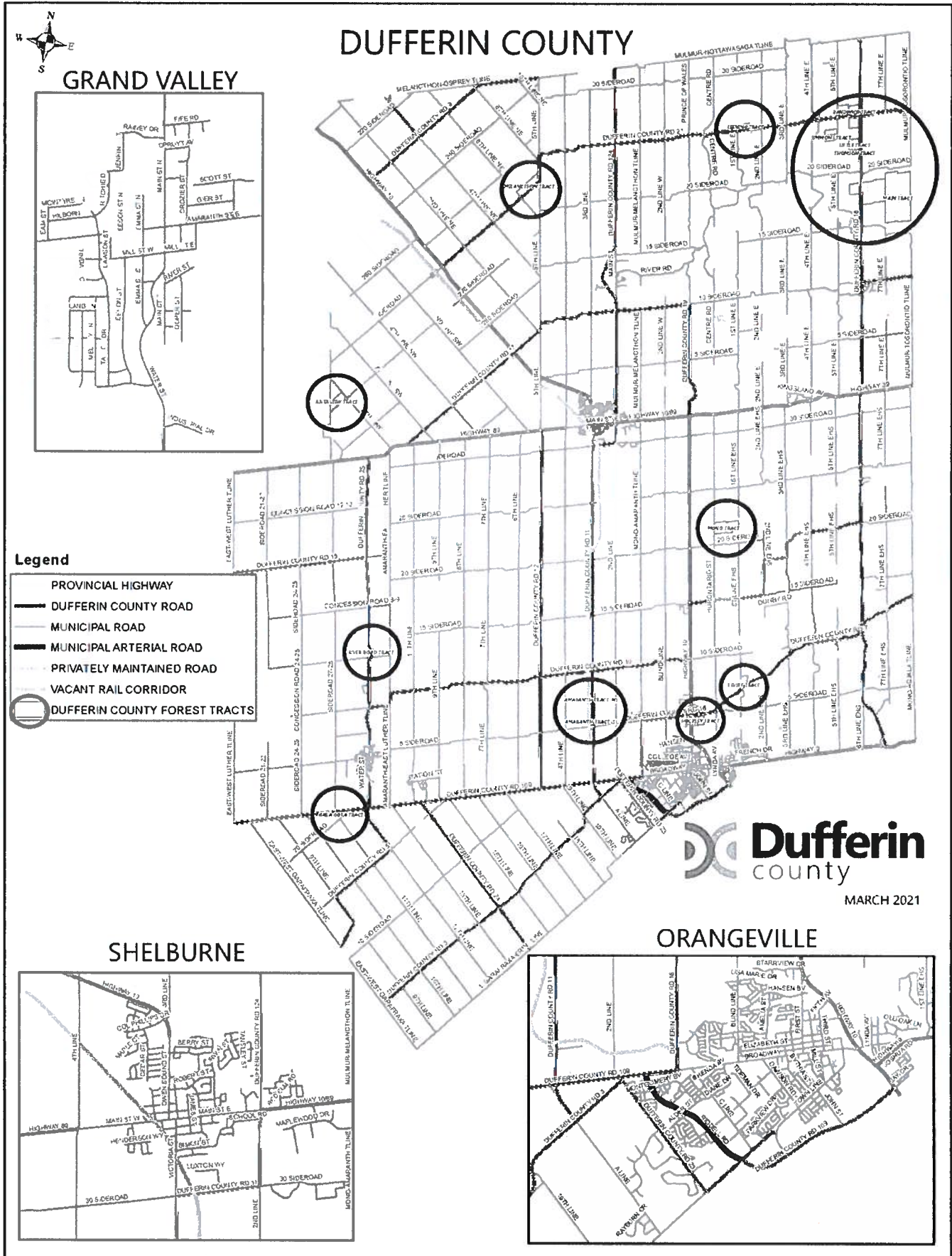
While considering the limits of available natural and human resources, the County is committed to making both the Rail Trail and the County Forest available to as diverse a group of users as possible. In consultation with the County's Tourism Division, the promotion of the Rail Trail and the County Forest will be focused on the residents of Dufferin County.

The implementation of this plan will require the participation and co-operation of the residents of Dufferin County, the users of the Rail Trail and County Forest, volunteers, and the following County Divisions: Climate Change, Transportation – Operations, Tourism, Economic Development, Museum of Dufferin, and Forestry.

A number of the actions outlined in this plan (in particular with regards to infrastructure and signs) have cost impacts beyond current budgets. Without further budgetary commitments by County Council they will not be implemented.

- ① - More council - not consulted on snowmobile routes using municipal roads. i.e. 1st line - concerned re safety, enforcement left to users?;
- Concern that too much is being demanded of County staff
 - Communications will be key with users & many will be (visitors)

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan



Communications

Establish social media accounts for Rail Trail/County Forest.

Add Rail Trail information to the County website.

Distribute information about the Rail Trail/County Forest through related local businesses.

Look into development of an app for the Rail Trail/County Forest.

Improve the Main Tract trail map to make it more user-friendly through graphic design and information about trail distances, difficulty etc.

Improve printed information products through better graphic design.

Communicate key information through radio ads.

Continue to communicate key information through local newspapers.

Continue to communicate information through County website.

Headwaters Tourism ? Trail ?
role of
co-ordination with OPP & emergency services ?

Rail Trail

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surface of the rail trail will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to year-round parking areas at Orangeville and Shelburne.

Portable toilets will be placed at suitable locations in Orangeville and Shelburne.

Signs

essential for travellers - garbage waste
experiences around Mono Cliffs & Bruce Trail - impact on
neighbouring businesses (Mono Centre)
Distance markers will be posted from both Orangeville (going north) and Dundalk (going south).

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

Road name and road crossing signs will be posted at road crossings.

Speed limit signs for motorized users.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

good info for users.
what data needed for emergency location identification - e.g. posts ?

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Signs describing flora and fauna.

Guided interpretation walks.

good.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted on the Dufferin Rail Trail.

? **electric bikes -*

-5-

who monitors and decides ?

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

- major challenge as local businesses homes often impacted

3. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times while on the Rail Trail.

- enforcement is always a concern

4. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted on the Rail Trail.

- Island Lake even with separate plastic bag & garbage containers still have 'shit' all around trails

- often unable to hear electric bikes

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or using a motorized vehicle on the Rail Trail.

5. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures on the Rail Trail is not permitted.

County Forest

Infrastructure & Maintenance

The surfaces of the trails and roads will be maintained in such a manner as to facilitate permitted uses.

Consideration will be given to a year-round parking area, information kiosk, and portable toilets at the Mono Tract.

Portable toilets will be placed at the Main Tract.

The main parking area at the Main Tract will be maintained year-round.

A source of non-potable water (primarily for horses and dogs) will be established at the Main Tract.

Consideration will be given to establishing a second information kiosk at the event field at the Main Tract.

Signs

Red dots inside the perimeter of all of the forest properties as described in the Trespass to Property Act.

✓ Signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website.

Pictographic signs indicating permitted/prohibited trail uses.

Signs describing historical significance of particular areas/locations with a particular focus on Indigenous history.

Signs acknowledging Indigenous history and current presence on the land ("land acknowledgement").

For the Main Tract, "you are here" style maps.

Signs will be maintained and replaced as needed.

Very good recommendation

- discouraging of foraging

Best efforts will be made to balance the need for signs without littering the environment with them.

Interpretive Features/Education

Signs describing history and significance of the area, with a focus on Indigenous history.

Guided interpretation walks.

Development of school programs related to forest history, local flora and fauna, importance of the natural environment etc.

Development of wetland interpretive trail at Melancthon Tract and/or Thomson Tract.

- opportunity for a school to adopt a section of trail.?

Permitted/Prohibited Uses

1. Generally Accepted Uses

Unless otherwise restricted in this policy and associated by-law, generally accepted outdoor recreational activities are permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

2. Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Land Use Classes

Appendix A shows the main permitted and restricted activities divided according to the land use classes in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Operating Plan 2021-2026* (Table 8, pg. 27).

3. Trails

Users must stay on established trails at all times while in the Dufferin County Forest.

4. Motorized Vehicles

Motorized vehicles, other than snowmobiles, are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

- address new electric assisted bicycles.

5. Electric Vehicles

Access by electric motorized vehicles is permitted for users with mobility difficulties and for game retrieval.

- motorized wheel chairs on some sections can accommodate

Good!!

6. Parking

Parking is permitted only in designated areas.

- more is better

7. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping

*- Bruce Trail might be a model
@ distance apart.*

In general, hunting is not permitted in all tracts of the Dufferin County Forest, please refer to Appendix A for tracts where hunting is permitted.

There is no hunting or discharge of firearms allowed in any Dufferin County Forest between June 1 and September 30.

Patterning/sighting of firearms is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Between October 1 and May 31, hunting and discharge of firearms are permitted only on the

- use of cross bows -?

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

tracts as listed in Appendix A and within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Only temporary portable tree stands are permitted. Tree stands may be in place in the Forest only from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31.

- sites identified and removal date as part of permitting

Hunters are required to purchase a permit from the County for hunting in the Dufferin County Forest. The permit will be valid from October 1 of a given year until the following May 31. If deemed necessary, the County may restrict the number of permits issued.

All hunters must be members in good standing of a recognized organization that provides a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance for its members while they are engaged in hunting activities and are required to present proof of membership prior to obtaining a permit to hunt in the Dufferin County Forest.

Fishing is permitted only within seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. However, there are no significant fishing opportunities in the Dufferin County Forest.

A signpost that trapping is happening?
Trapping is permitted only within the seasons and other restrictions and requirements as determined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and only at the following tracts: Melancthon, Riverview, and Amaranth South. Trapping areas will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, renewable annually at the County's discretion. All trappers are required to present proof of membership in the Ontario Fur Managers Federation prior to being granted permission to trap.

8. Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest is permitted on designated Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trails only. Snowmobilers must display a current OFSC trail permit and follow all OFSC rules/regulations while using the designated trails in the Dufferin County Forest.

9. Foraging

✓ In order to conserve the natural environment, users are not permitted to disturb, cut, kill, remove or harm any plant, tree or natural object in the Dufferin County Forest, including for the purposes of foraging. *i.e. mushroom picking*

10. Dogs

Dogs must be under control or on-leash at all times within the Dufferin County Forest.

11. Safety

The use of audio devices that impair your awareness of other users is not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest.

Helmets are required for anyone mountain biking, horseback riding, or snowmobiling in the Dufferin County Forest.

12. Campfires/Cooking

Campfires are not permitted in the Dufferin County Forest. The use of portable cooking stoves may be restricted due to weather conditions.

- fire hazard danger level awareness?

13. Respect for Property

Discarding of garbage, including yard or garden waste, in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

Willful damage to any structures in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted.

14. Drones

Use of drones in the Dufferin County Forest is not permitted without prior authorization from the County Forest Manager or his/her designate.

15. Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The County of Dufferin has a long-standing exclusive land use agreement with the Mansfield Outdoor Centre for lease of designated trails in the south part of the Main Tract for cross-country skiing/fat biking between December 1 of a given year and March 31 of the following year. The agreement will be renewed annually at the County's discretion.

Organized recreational events taking place at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre that wish to make use of trails in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest will be subject to the same requirements as any other organized recreational event.

16. Organized Recreational Events

Non-profit groups wishing to hold an event/tour for more than 30 people in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit. For-profit/commercial groups of any size wishing to hold an event/tour in the Dufferin County Forest will be required to obtain a County Forest Event Permit (Appendix B) or have a use agreement in place with the County of Dufferin.

A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

- any maximum # of times per season?

Groups are advised to inquire as to date availability for events as soon as possible (at least three months in advance of event date) to avoid disappointment. In order to minimize conflicts, only one event per tract per day will be granted an event permit.

Groups participating in forest stewardship activities such as trail building, trail maintenance, and garbage removal are not required to have an event permit for such activities. *- must be registered with County Forester*

Access to the open area at the Main Tract for overnight stays/event staging will be limited to groups holding organized recreational events having a valid County Forest Event Permit.

There will be no camping permitted in the Dufferin County Forest other than as part of an event for which there is a valid County Forest Event Permit.

Event dates for the following calendar year can be reserved starting on November 1 of the current year.

Virtual events will not be subject to the requirements of organized recreational events.

17. Separation of Trail Uses

The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will work with stakeholders to establish separate designated trails in the Main Tract for user groups. Trail maps will be distributed to users through a variety of means and signs will indicate designated trails in the Main Tract.

18. Fees

Fees for recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest will be established in the County's fees by-law and will be available on the County website and by request.

*review yearly as part of budget process
one
County*

19. Forest Management

Forest management activities will be conducted so as to minimize impacts on designated recreational trails.

*- on going use impact study & changes could
be made as necessary*

20. Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

The County will establish a team made up of five residents of Dufferin County and one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee. The team will meet at least once annually to discuss the management of the Dufferin County Forest. The purpose of the team will be to ensure that the interests of stakeholders in the Dufferin County Forest are represented and effectively communicated to the County of Dufferin. Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. The Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team are in Appendix C.

Appendix A: Main Permitted and Restricted Activities by Dufferin County Forest Land Use Class

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Hiking/Running/Nature Appreciation	Skiing/Snowshoeing
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	y	y
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	y	y
Leening (50)	natural	8	y	y
Levitt (51)	natural	4	y	y
Little (48)	natural	47	y	y
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	y
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	y
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	y
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	y
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y
River Road (45)	managed	3	y	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y
Thomson	managed	12	y	y

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Tract & Compartments	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Horseback Riding	Hunting
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	n	n
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	n	n
Leening (50)	natural	8	n	n
Levitt (51)	natural	4	n	n
Little (48)	natural	47	n	n
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316	y	n
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	y	n
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	y	n
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68	y	n
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	y	y (except June 1-Sept
River Road (45)	managed	3	n	n
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Simmons (47)	managed	42	y	y (except June 1-Sept
Thomson	managed	12	n	n

Appendix B: County Forest Event Permit Application

Applications must be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the event.**

Submit to: County of Dufferin
Corporate Services – Clerk's Office
55 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W1E5
Phone 519-941-2816
Fax 519-941-4565
info@dufferincounty.ca

Once submitted, you will receive confirmation of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by the Clerk's Office and the County Forest Manager. You will be contacted regarding your permit status within 30 days.

Once issued, the County Forest Event Permit must be available for viewing at all times during the event.

Please note that acceptance of your application is in no way approval or confirmation of your request.

The following documentation is required before the permit will be issued:

1. Completed and signed application
2. The signed Terms and Conditions page
3. The signed Hold and Save Harmless and Indemnity Agreement
4. Proof of Insurance in the minimum amount of \$5 million dollars liability showing the Corporation of the County of Dufferin as an additional insured and including a provision for cross liability for insurance against all damages or claims for damages or liability
5. An event description
6. An event route map

NOTE: Your event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.

Fee Schedule (as per By-Law 2015-41):

Application Fee: \$50 plus 13% HST

Per Person Event Fee: \$2/Person Attending the Event plus 13% HST

Application fee is due upon permit approval. Permits will be issued following payment of fee.

Per Person Event fee is due following the event.

If several events are substantially the same, you may submit one application form listing all event dates. However, separate application and per person event fees will still be required for each event. An event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by the same group will not be permitted.

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization/Group:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Event Information

Name of Event:

Date: From:

To:

Number of Participants:

Type of Event:

For Profit

Non Profit

Intended Use:

Camping

Cross Country Skiing

Hiking

(Check all that apply)

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Snowshoeing

Other:

Forest Tract Requested:

Brief Description of Event:

Description of Route Markings:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

For Office Use Only

Received By:

Reviewed By County Forest Manager:

Date Received:

Date Reviewed:

Event Description Approved
of Participants Confirmed
Proof of Insurance Received
Event Route Map Received

Special Permission Letter from Forest Manager
Application Fee Received
Indemnity Agreement Received
Terms & Conditions Signed
Permit Issued – Permit #:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Terms and Conditions

- The user is responsible for complying with regulations set out in By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy (Policy No. 4-6-1).
- The user's event description must be approved by the County prior to being used to promote the event.
- A single event can extend over only one Friday-Monday period. Consecutive events by one group will not be permitted.
- The user is responsible for all costs relating to maintaining the property for use made of it during the event. The County has no obligation to maintain or repair the trails and/or bridges on the property for the benefit of the user. The user is responsible for ensuring that the event route is passable prior to, and following, the event.
- The user is prohibited from cutting any trees, branches or brush without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user agrees that any cutting or other damages, that in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, has been caused by the users shall be rectified at the user's expense upon written notice by the County.
- The route of the event must follow the route set out in the permit application.
- No new trails may be created for the event without prior written approval from the County Forest Manager or designate.
- The user is responsible for posting signage on all trails and/or bridges or other signage as requested by the County. Any signs for the event may be posted no sooner than two weeks prior to the event date and must be removed no later than two weeks after the event. If the user is holding multiple events in a calendar year that use the same route(s), event signage may remain in place until two weeks after the final event of the calendar year.
- All trails and/or bridges on the property must remain open to the public for other permitted uses and the public shall be allowed to use them without being charged a fee by the user.

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Upon completion of the event, the user will restore the property to a state, which in the opinion of the County Forest Manager or designate, is as good as or better than the original condition prior to the event.
- The County reserves the right to cancel an event permit in case of predicted severe weather.
- In order to reduce the chances of introduction of invasive species, no firewood is to be brought in to the camping area from outside the Main Tract.
- For events that include participants staying overnight/camping, at least one portable toilet must be provided for the use of participants.
- The user agrees to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and other laws, statutes, ordinances and requirements.
- The County may refuse to issue or revoke the permit if the user does not provide the necessary supporting documentation or fails to comply with By-law 2017-39 and the Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy.
- The County of Dufferin reserves the right to add any conditions as required. If conditions are not being adhered to, the County of Dufferin may stop, suspend or cancel the event.

As the organizer and person responsible for the event, I have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and the conditions set forth by these above terms and conditions.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

COUNTY FOREST EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION
Save and Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement

The User, _____, agrees to indemnify, save harmless, and waive all rights against the County of Dufferin from and against all suits and claims for loss, damage, accident, death, or injury of any nature or kind whatsoever arising out of or connected with the use and maintenance of the property or any preparation or construction of or on the property by the user, its members, employees, agents, or any other person using the property.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix C: Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest Goal:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.



This year, the County of Dufferin is embarking on an extensive public consultation of the Recreational Use Policy for the Dufferin County Forest. The goal is to have a broader Recreation Plan for both the County Forest and the County-owned Rail Trail, with consideration for the best ways to use these spaces as well as what services and facilities to implement in the future.

Earlier in 2022, you submitted your great ideas and we have used these to develop a draft outdoor recreation plan.

Share your feedback on the draft below.

Feedback is due by August 31, 2022 and participants have a chance to win 1 of 3 \$50 gift cards to an independent business of their choice in Dufferin County.

PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- I totally appreciate designated use for trail use. This is a safety item as well as a trail maintenance issue. Having dedicated trails works well for all users. Having more education / signage to ensure that appropriate speeds and yielding at intersections occur.
- #18 refers to Fees for recreational use - does this mean trail passes will be req'd?
- If toilet facilities to be provided ensure they are located in an area that Forest users can access but are not visible from City R18s.
- Full parking lot has been an excellent use of space 😊
- Logging in the Forest is important but it would be great if the logging contract includes minimizing damage to trails or some provision for trail restoration

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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- ☐ 2SLGBTQIA+
- ☒ I do not identify with any of the above

- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please specify)

3. Please provide your postal code. L9W 6H7

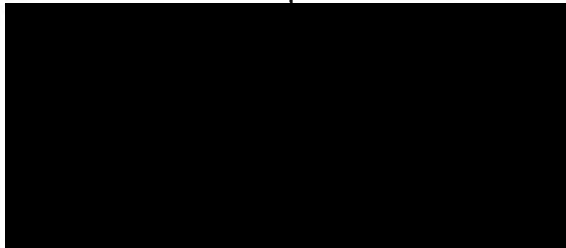
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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

Continued separation of trails, i.e, horse trails, mountain bike trails, multi-use etc

Addition of garbage cans

Additional trail building - mountain biking

Regular trail grooming days.

Snow removal for parking lots - all

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- Designated Equestrian parking area in the "field" both in event + non-event times
- retention + expansion of separate trail networks
- prevent damage to trails during logging operations
 - fund repair efforts from logging / County funds.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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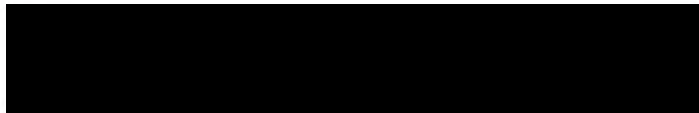
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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

Most of these comments pertain mostly to the DCF (Main Tract) Mountain Bike trails. Perhaps mostly for me, the main reason for my Biking in the Forest, is for a 'Reset' or a place to have a place of a Sanctuary of sorts. I would say, that a ride will bring me back to 'Center', mind / Body / spirit feeling from a ride. Fixes a bad day, and makes better a fine day.

- - As far as the designated trail structure, I am a fan of. It has been quite a bit safer to not have to worry about a surprise encounter with an Equestrian + Horse.
- This has happened previously before
- trail designation that exists now.

PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

- Great Place to be!
Thanks Very Much for your support

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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PART A – Comments on the Rail Trail Section

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PART B – Comments on the County Forest Section

Suggestion for South P. lot Dufferin (field parking) forest

- horse trailers not to park on obvious
Bike trail through field
- designated trailer parking so other users can
also enjoy shade of trees.

PART C - A Few Demographic Questions

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