

# **Terms of Reference – Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team**

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team (DORAT or DORA Team) is to:

- provide a forum for discussion of issues related to recreational use of County assets
- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail and implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Plan
- assist County staff in communicating information about the Outdoor Recreation Plan and related by-law (2017-39) and any revisions

## **Mutual Respect Principles for Team Operation:**

- Everyone has wisdom
- Everyone's wisdom is needed for the wisest results
- There are no wrong answers
- The whole is greater than the sum of the parts
- Everyone will have an opportunity to hear and be heard

## **Assumptions:**

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

## **Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:**

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact on other users;
- activity must be compatible with County 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.

## **Trails, Dufferin County Forest:**

A group wishing to establish and maintain a trail or trail system in the Dufferin County Forest is required to seek the approval of the County of Dufferin.

- a) If the primary consideration is safety of users, re-routes of existing trails will be at the discretion of the County Forest Manager in consultation with the Director of Public Works/County Engineer.
- b) If the primary consideration is not safety, trail changes will be brought to a meeting of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team for discussion and forwarded to the County Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee for approval.

- c) The above guidelines will apply to any trail changes to the map that forms Schedule C of By-law 2017-39, whether they are completely new trails, or additions of existing but unmaintained/unmapped trails.

**Membership:**

Members are expected to attend regular meetings, participate, and contribute to the work of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team. If members are not able to attend a scheduled meeting, they may send an alternate representative.

One representative will be solicited from each group/club known to use the Dufferin County Forest and/or Dufferin Rail Trail. In addition, two members of the general public will be solicited. Groups will be asked to keep diversity, equity and inclusion principles in mind when choosing representatives. Group representatives will be added at the discretion of the County with input from Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team members. The County may request an alternate representative if an individual is not adhering to the Terms of Reference of the Team. Representatives should have:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team;
- respect for their fellow recreational users;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members; and
- willingness to serve as volunteers on the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team.

Members will act as a liaison between their organization or stakeholder group and the County.

**Structure:**

The Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team is an advisory body and may make recommendations to County staff and County Council (through staff), but in general will not be making decisions regarding uses of County assets. The Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team will meet at least once, and up to four times, annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The group members will appoint a Chair from amongst the members present at each meeting. The County Forest Manager or their designate will attend all meetings, along with other County staff as needed. County staff will prepare meeting agendas with input from group members and record and distribute meeting minutes. The group may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public and may establish sub-groups if desired.