

Report to Council

Report Title: X-Country Ski Trail Collaboration

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: January 11, 2022

Report Number: REC2022-02 **File Number:** REC11

Attachments: Proposed X-Country Ski Trail Route
Equipment Invoice

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number REC2022-02 – X-Country Ski Trail Collaboration, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so endorses a X-Country Ski Trail Collaboration between the Municipality of Brockton Parks and Recreation Department, the Rotary Club of Walkerton and the Walkerton Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Report:

Background:

The Rotary Club of Walkerton- District 6330 actively supports the Brockton Parks and Recreation Department management of the Saugeen River Trail within the Town of Walkerton. The club provides an annual financial donation towards trail maintenance materials and equipment each year as well funding special projects from time to time.

With the development of the Skating Oval at Lobies Park in Jan/Feb 2021 with the support of Bruce Power to provide additional outdoor winter recreation opportunities for residents, staff and members of the Rotary Club and the Walkerton Volunteer Firefighters Association have discussed the idea of facilitating the grooming of a x-country ski trail route (see attached map - 3.5 km track set of 4.8 km groomed) on portions of the Saugeen River Trail and looped through Lobies Park to further enhance winter recreation opportunities. There is no snow removal on the Saugeen River Trail during the winter months. This route is flat and ideal for beginner/novice and family skiers. Some pedestrian traffic will still occur on portions of the Saugeen River trail where only grooming and no track setting would be performed.

As such, staff researched and sourced grooming equipment options and costs from various vendors throughout North America. Many ski trail organizations custom fabricate various types of their own equipment. The attached invoice was shared with the Brockton Recreation Committee, Rotary Club, CFO and CAO in December of 2021. The following pictures illustrate the all-inclusive groomer/track setter equipment

from Happy Trails Personal Snow Groomers manufactured near Kingston, ON www.happytrailsgroomer.ca capable of being towed behind a snowmobile, ATV, or UTV for grooming, track setting and being raised to cross roadways.



Staff also consulted with Brockton Fire Chief Chris Wells about the potential of the Volunteer Firefighters using the Department's side by side track driven utility vehicle to facilitate the towing of trail grooming equipment. Chief Wells noted approval of this as a means of volunteer members getting operating/training hours on the utility vehicle. Both the Rotary Club and the Volunteer Firefighters Association have endorsed this proposed collaboration, with the Rotary Club to donate \$4,684.98 inclusive of shipping and taxes to fund 100% of the purchase cost of the groomer/track setter unit with ownership to be retained by the Municipality.

Analysis:

This proposed community collaboration between the Rotary Club of Walkerton, the Brockton Parks and Recreation Department/Committee and the Walkerton Volunteer Firefighters and Fire Department is an excellent opportunity to enhance the 4-season recreation use of trails and parks by residents in a sustainable manner.

Routine 4-season trail inspection and maintenance to be provided by Parks and Recreation Department. Initial orientation and training on x-country ski trail maintenance and equipment operation to be provide by Director of Community Services (10 years experience building/grooming 26km of urban and backcountry ski trails).

This new recreational opportunity will be promoted to local residents via municipal, club and association information bulletins, website and social media channels. It is anticipated that the Skating Oval and a groomed X-Country ski trail will be operational by mid-January as consistent cold weather and snow conditions set in. Staff recommends that Council receives this report and endorses this collaboration.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?		
• Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance		N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Purchase of trail groomer/track setter to be 100% offset by donation from the Rotary Club. Volunteer time to groom the trail to be supplied by the Walkerton Volunteer Firefighter’s Association. Maintenance costs are minimal and can be covered within existing budget.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Coleman", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer