



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Planning Committee

**FROM:** Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services

**MEETING DATE:** July 27, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Report PLPD09-040  
Approval of Preferred Location of the Willowcreek Area Trail

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to request approval for the preferred location of the pedestrian trail to serve the Willowcreek Development Area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report PLPD09-040 dated July 27, 2009, of the Director of Planning and Development Services, as follows:

That the alignment of the pedestrian trail along the south side of Meade Creek between Willowcreek Boulevard and Ashburnham Drive with connection to the existing trail on the west side of Ashburnham Drive via a pedestrian crossing at the south entrance into Beavermead Park, as illustrated on Attachment A to Report PLPD09-040, be approved as the preferred location to be designed and constructed as the first phase of trail linkages in the Willowcreek Area.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Capital Budget allocated amounts of \$25,000.00 in 2007 and \$200,000.00 in 2008 for a total of \$225,000.00 for the detailed design and construction of the Willowcreek Trail.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Brief Description**

On August 8, 2005, City Council awarded the consulting assignment for the completion of an Environmental Study Report for the Willowcreek Development Area to TSH Associates of Cobourg, Ontario. The purpose of the Environmental Study Report was to investigate and develop recommended solutions for stormwater management facilities to provide water quantity and quality control in the Willowcreek Development Area. In addition, there was a need to address possible trail routing and design to provide for pedestrian connections between the Willowcreek area, neighbouring subdivisions and Beavermead Park.

To satisfy the consultation activities required by the Class Environmental Assessment process for the Willowcreek Development Area Environmental Study, two Public Information Centre (PIC) meetings were held in July 2006 at the Free Methodist Church at 450 Lansdowne Street West. Although the time and date for the first Public Meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> was advertised in the Peterborough Examiner, there was only one attendee. As a result, an additional meeting was scheduled on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The second meeting was also advertised in the Examiner and notices of the meeting were mailed out to residents of the Willowcreek and Ashburnham Heights neighbourhoods and 35 people attended the meeting based on the sign in sheets.

During the first hour of the PIC, participants were invited to review a series of poster boards and speak to the project team. No formal comment sheets were received, however, two comments regarding the trail alternatives were later received by email.

### **Preferred Trail Locations Alternatives**

The trail route alternatives that were developed and evaluated are detailed below. Each alternative is illustrated at the conclusion of this report. The trails would be approximately 3 metre wide paved surfaces.

#### **1. Alternative 1 – Willowcreek Boulevard to Ashburnham Drive**

Along the south bank of Meade Creek, between Willowcreek Boulevard and Ashburnham Drive, with connection to the existing trail on the west side of Ashburnham

Drive via a pedestrian crossing between Lansdowne Street East and Marsdale Drive (at south entrance into Beavermead Park) or north along the east side of Ashburnham Drive to the existing traffic signals at the Marsdale/Ashburnham intersection.

## **2. Alternative 2 – Willowcreek Boulevard to Farmcrest Avenue**

Along the south bank of Meade Creek, westerly 375 metres from Willowcreek Boulevard and then northerly across proposed stormwater management pond (via berm) and Meade Creek to intercept Farmcrest Avenue, using sanitary sewer right-of-way.

The alternatives were evaluated against technical, social, financial and natural environment criteria to establish the overall recommended alternative solution. During the Public Information meeting, no written responses were received, however, verbal comments and subsequent electronic and written comments were received. These concerns were addressed and incorporated into the study as follows:

### **Water Resources**

Issues raised included ice jamming and potential flooding at a new crossing of the creek. The consultants recommended that any crossing would be designed to mitigate any negative effects due to flooding and ice concerns.

### **Wildlife**

Issues raised included the impact of placing a trail crossing (with lighting) immediately adjacent to creek restricting the movements of small mammals and amphibians on the south shore of the creek. The study stated that the trail would be designed to be remote from the edge of the creek, resulting in its placement south of the proposed stormwater management ponds.

### **Social/Cultural**

Issues raised by residents included that a link between the neighbourhoods north and south of the creek was not preferred. Ice jamming, noise, privacy, lack of sidewalks along Farmcrest Avenue, and the preference of a direct trail link to Ashburnham Drive and beyond were the reasons given against this trail alternative.

Alternative 1 is recommended as the preferred solution. This alternative comprises the preferred and recommended actions emanating from the Study. Based on the comments received at, or after the second Public Information meeting, the respondents provided positive feedback and generally supported the recommended solution. The trail alignment would be designed to provide a direct link to Ashburnham Drive from Willowcreek Boulevard along the existing south bank of Meade Creek to other trails and neighbouring communities. From Ashburnham Drive, connection to the Trans-Canada trail and other City trails would be by means of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing of Ashburnham Drive (opposite the south entrance to Beavermead Park) or by means of a

separate walkway along the east side of Ashburnham Drive northerly to the intersection of Ashburnham Drive and Marsdale Drive. To accommodate a walkway along the east side of Ashburnham Drive, a widening of the east platform of Ashburnham Drive would be required, particularly where it crosses Meade Creek and no room exists between the edge of pavement and the existing guardrail.

While it would be advantageous to link the Willowcreek Subdivision and the Ashburnham Heights neighbourhoods due to the location of Monsignor O'Donohue School and various commercial uses, the extent of the expansive floodplain associated with the Meade Creek severely impacts the possibility of crossing the creek. A trail link across the creek connecting the new trail to Farmcrest Avenue can still be considered in the future.

Staff consider the alignment along the south side of Meade Creek between Willowcreek Boulevard and Ashburnham Drive with connection to the existing trail on the west side of Ashburnham Drive via a pedestrian crossing at the south entrance into Beavermead Park as the preferred solution to be designed and constructed as the first phase of trail linkages in this area. The City Inter-Departmental Trails Committee has endorsed this location. Refer to Attachment A for illustration of the recommended alternative solution.

Accordingly, the next step in the process is the preparation of detailed engineering drawings and contract documents to tender the construction of the proposed trail.

Submitted by,

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Malcolm Hunt  
Director, Planning and Development  
Services

Prepared by,

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Concurred with,

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Manager of Planning

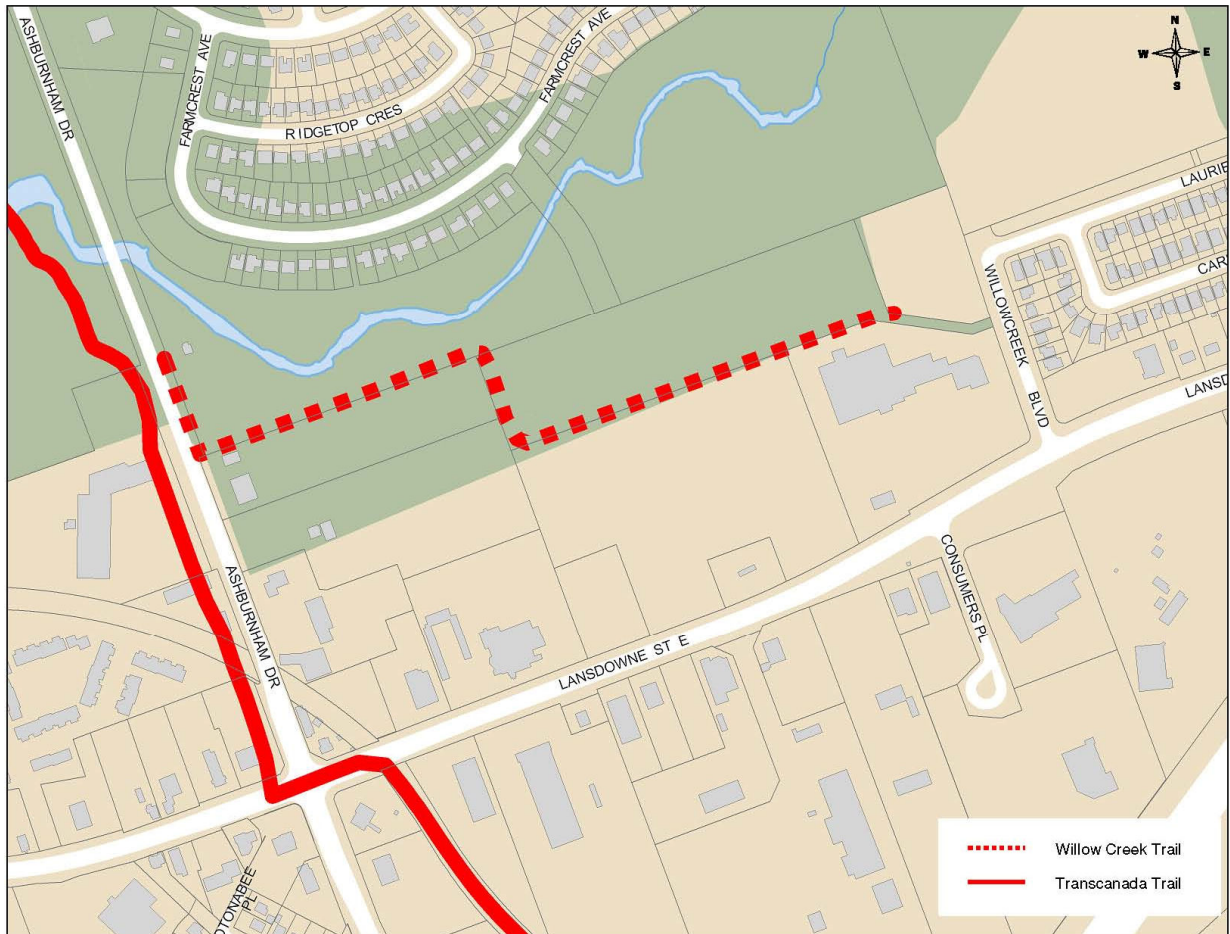
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Attachments:

Alternative Trail Route 1 (Recommended)  
Alternative Trail Route 2

ATTACHMENT A  
ALTERNATIVE 1 (RECOMMENDED)



ALTERNATIVE 2

