



March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Attention: Brenda Andress, Project Lead-Strategic Recreation Initiatives

Norfolk Pathways for People (P4P) would like to express support for the following recommendations in the drafted Norfolk County Master Recreation Plan:

- 6.2.3 Recommendation to develop a detailed Trails and Parks Master Plan within the next two years and Master Norfolk Waterfront trails study.
- 7.4.3 Recommendation to construct a gravel pathway loop utilizing unopened road allowances.

#### **Recommendation 6.2.3**

The development of a Trails and Parks Master Plan is a key initiative to outline long-term plans and goals of improving trails in Norfolk County. Promoting physical activity and the natural amenities of Norfolk County is valuable in building a healthier community and aligns with P4P's mission. Improvements to trail amenities has direct benefits to physical and mental health of individuals and additionally can support environmental and economic benefits to Norfolk. P4P believes the development of this plan will help identify gaps in trail connections and develop feasible steps towards improving Norfolk County's trail network.

#### **Recommendation 7.4.3**

The proposed bike loop trail project is supported by P4P as it will enhance trail amenities in Norfolk County while increasing connectivity to existing trails. This initiative supports safe active transportation in Norfolk County providing another option for travel in addition to recreational use. Additionally, as gravel cycling increases in popularity, this initiative would provide a unique trail opportunity to cycling enthusiasts. The proposed trail with no associated cost to riders supports low-barrier access to all residents. P4P believes this project is a great step towards building a healthier community and enhancing Norfolk's recreational options and amenities.

Norfolk County's [Active Transportation Plan](#) (ATP), approved in 2016, complements proposed recommendations regarding trail connectivity with a focus on improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists. The ATP includes objectives that align and support the recommendations discussed above (i.e.



## PROMOTING pathways

FOR WALKING AND CYCLING IN NORFOLK

pgs. 11-12). These objectives would be beneficial to reference when developing the final version of the Norfolk County Recreation Master Plan.

P4P would like to highlight the following considerations to incorporate into the Recreation Master Plan as applicable and/or in subsequent plans (i.e. Trails and Parks Master Plan).

- Linking the Recreation Master Plan into subsequent plans to ensure all plans work together to meet identified goals and not limit the progress of one another.
- Enhanced consideration of current gaps in Norfolk County's road cycling systems and identify strategies to enhance existing assets and address gaps (i.e. paved shoulders, interim signage, etc.).
- Special consideration to enhanced trail connections, particularly to the gaps in the Delhi Rail Trail and lack of connection to the town of Delhi.

We appreciate your determination in prioritizing improvements to our local trail systems and enhancing recreational opportunities for residents of Norfolk County.

### BACKGROUND

Pathways for People is a committee of dedicated community volunteers who advocate for the development and improvement of connected pathways in Norfolk County. Since 2008, Pathways for People has hosted trail events, attended community events, authored letters of support and presented deputations for active transportation projects and promoted the "Share the Road" program.

Sincerely,

Gordon Mason, Chair  
Norfolk Pathways for People  
[www.norfolkpathways.ca](http://www.norfolkpathways.ca)