



Colchester County Trail Strategy*

Vision

Colchester County has a diversity of high-quality trails which add vibrancy to the community, are integrated into the community, and are recognized as essential components of the community. Trails in Colchester County provide a variety of exciting and interesting opportunities that link people, communities, and natural and cultural heritage. Colchester County is known as having among the best trails in Nova Scotia.

The Municipality of Colchester is committed to supporting and guiding trail development which enhances the quality of life in Colchester County, encourages active living and a healthy community, promotes environmental appreciation and protection, creates a sustainable trail framework, provides opportunities for all residents, and supports tourism.

Guiding Principles and Goals

Quality of life

Trails offer numerous personal, community, environmental and economic benefits. Trails should make our communities and our County a better place to live.

Goal: Council will strive to ensure that trails enhance the quality of life in Colchester County.

Trail diversity

A variety of types of trail should collectively provide a diversity of experiences and opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities. Trail planning and development should recognize the diversity of residents, communities, geography, topography, trail types and trail uses.

Goal: Council will strive to build on the continuum of types of trails in Colchester to create a diversity of trail experiences.

Sustainability

Trail development should strive to be sustainable through good planning, design and construction; ongoing support for maintenance; effective management; strong partnerships; and a varied resource base.

Goal: Council will strive to ensure that trails and the trail development framework are sustainable.

* from A Trail Strategy for Colchester County, approved by the Municipality of the County of Colchester, 2005

High quality infrastructure

Trail facilities should be well constructed, maintained and managed to ensure a positive user experience in terms of safety, satisfaction and enjoyment. Trail facilities should complement the character of the area in which they are located.

Goal: Council will strive to ensure that trail facilities are of high quality.

Environmental protection

Trails should encourage environmental awareness, appreciation and protection. Trails should be planned and constructed in such a way as to mitigate negative environmental impacts.

Goal: Council will strive to ensure that environmental considerations are key components of all trail initiatives.

Connections

Trails should connect people, communities, nature and heritage. Where appropriate, trails should be connected physically to form trail networks and links to other municipal units. Trails should also be connected conceptually or thematically through programs, activities, and promotions.

Connections can be at local or regional scales.

Goal: Council will strive to ensure that trails physically and conceptually connect people, communities, nature and heritage.

Active living and transportation

Non-motorized trails are a component of a physical environment which encourages active living through recreation, fitness and alternative transportation. People are more active in communities where there are safe and direct routes for pedestrians and cyclists to common destinations. A safe cycling network should be created, particularly within central Colchester, as a transportation alternative.

Goal: Council will strive to create communities which are safe and enjoyable for pedestrians and cyclists through active transportation planning and design.

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to successful trail development. Where the goals of this strategy overlap with those of other organizations, partnerships should be explored and developed to strengthen the common goals; this commonality should be a catalyst for project planning, integration of facilities and pooling of resources.

Goal: Council will strive to create and nurture partnerships and build on the long history of volunteer and community support for trail initiatives.