

Corporate Policy

Recreational Trail and Pathway Surface Selection

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|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Approved by: | Council | on | MMMM d, yyyy |
| Report No.: | CW-16-17 | Effective: | MMMM d, yyyy |
| Reviewed: | | Amended: | |
| Next Review: | MMMM d, yyyy | Note(s): | |

Purpose:

To provide guidance for determining recreational trail and pathway surface materials in our parks and open spaces.

Policy Statement:

The selection of recreational trail and pathway surfaces will be determined based on the criteria identified in Table 1.

Table1: Performance Criteria

| Criteria | Surface Type | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Concrete | Asphalt | Unit Paving | Limestone screenings | Wood chips | Wood (Bridges & boardwalks) |
| Meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of the AODA and the City's Accessibility Design Standards where practical and feasible | ● ● ● ● | ● ● ● ● | ● ● ● ● | ● ● | v | ● ● ● |
| Supports pedestrian convenience, walkability and a range of active transportation opportunities | ● ● ● ● | ● ● ● ● | ● ● ● ● | ● ● ● | ● ● | ● ● ● |



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| Criteria | Surface Type | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Concrete | Asphalt | Unit paving | Limestone screenings | Wood chips | Wood (Bridges & boardwalks) |
| Enhances significant cultural and urban settings designed to highest aesthetic standards (plazas, waterfront, urban design guidelines) | ●●●● | ●● | ●●●● | ● | v | ●●●● |
| Accommodates high volumes of use, destination oriented traffic, widest range of use abilities | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●● | v | ●●● |
| Economical application for longer trail/pathway distances | ● | ●● | ● | ●●●● | ●●●● | ● |
| Considers lifecycle durability for replacement | ●●●● | ●●● | ●●●● | ●● | ●●● | ●● |
| Supports maintenance vehicles | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●● | ● | ●●● |
| Supports present and future winter maintenance of commuter and active transportation routes | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●●●● | v | v | ●● |
| Supports 3-season use without intentions for winter maintenance | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●●●● | ●●● | ●● | ●●● |
| Installation minimizes disturbance of existing vegetation and sensitive natural heritage areas | v | v | v | ●● | ●●●● | ●●●● |
| Provides trail hardening in existing vegetation and sensitive natural heritage areas for protection from erosion | v | ● | v | ●●● | v | ●●● |

Legend :

●●●● = highly desirable surface

●●● = desirable surface

●● = moderately desirable surface

● = least desirable surface

v = not a desirable surface



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Scope:

This policy applies to all recreational pathway and trail surfaces in the City's parks and open spaces system.

Objectives:

To choose the most effective recreational trail and pathway surface that balances the criteria considered for surface selection.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Concrete | Hard surface material made from stone, sand and cement that is poured in place on a compacted stone base |
| Asphalt | Hard, flexible surface material made from stone and oil based binder material that is spread in place on a compacted stone base |
| Limestone Screenings | Firm, flexible surface made from a mixture of fine particles and small diameter crushed stone that is spread and compacted |
| Wood Chips | Soft flexible surface made of wood or bark chips |
| Unit Paving | Hard surface material made from precast concrete blocks laid on a compacted stone base |
| Wood (bridges & boardwalks) | Solid level surface made of wood with a metal or wood base, concrete footings and railings where required |



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Principles:

No single pathway or trail surface material is appropriate in all locations. Material selection during the design stage must be considered on a site-specific basis that considers accessibility, anticipated use, related cost, seasonal accommodation, maintenance requirements and environmental impacts.

References:

City of Burlington Community Trails Strategy
2016 City of Burlington Accessibility Design Standards
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its requirements

Roles:

Accountable:

Manager of Parks and Open Spaces is responsible for the timely review, updating and dissemination of this policy in the functional area

Responsible:

All City staff working on projects that include the selection of trail and pathway surfaces in parks and open space will work to achieve the task.