

Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan

April 2010



This Management Plan was written by Harold Sellers for the
Oak Ridges Trail Association.



Partners in the development of this Plan were:

The Province
of Ontario

Toronto & Region
Conservation

City of
Pickering

DEL Management
Solutions



The above partners acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Trillium
Foundation which made this project possible.



Table of Contents

	Abstract.....	5
1.0	Introduction.....	6
1.1	Location.....	6
1.2	History.....	6
1.3	Recreational Use.....	7
2.0	Development of the Management Plan.....	8
2.1	Background.....	8
2.2	Purpose of the Management Plan.....	8
2.3	Trail Issues.....	8
2.4	Public Consultation.....	9
2.5	Goal of the Management Plan.....	9
2.6	Broad Objectives.....	9
3.0	Management of the Seaton Hiking Trail.....	10
3.1	Land Owners.....	10
3.2	Historical Trail Management.....	10
3.3	Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail.....	11
3.4	Seaton Hiking Trail Management Committee.....	11
4.0	Trail Uses.....	12
4.1	Surveys.....	12
4.2	Hiking/Walking.....	12
4.3	Mountain Biking.....	12
4.4	Horseback Riding.....	12
4.5	ATVing and Dirt Biking.....	12
4.6	Snowmobiling.....	13
4.7	Other Uses.....	13
5.0	Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail.....	14
5.1	Membership and Structure.....	14
5.2	Roles.....	14
6.0	Trail Maintenance.....	15
6.1	Agreements.....	15
6.2	Trail Inspections and Preventative Maintenance.....	15
6.3	Trail Surface and Width.....	15
6.4	Flooding and Erosion.....	15
6.5	Obstructions.....	16
6.6	Bridges, Stairs and Boardwalks.....	16
6.7	River Crossings.....	16
6.8	Beaver Control.....	17
6.9	Barriers.....	17
6.10	Re-Routes.....	17

Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan

6.11	Closure of Trails.....	17
6.12	Garbage Removal.....	17
6.13	Blazing and Signage.....	18
6.14	Reporting.....	19
6.15	Illegal Use	19
7.0	Signage.....	20
8.0	Trail Access.....	21
8.1	Parking.....	21
8.2	Accessibility.....	21
8.3	Unauthorized Access.....	22
8.4	Trail Links.....	22
8.5	Maps.....	22
9.0	User Activities Program.....	23
9.1	Hike Leaders.....	23
9.2	Interpretive Hikes.....	23
9.3	Other Activities.....	23
9.4	Activity Promotion.....	23
10.0	Promotion and Communications.....	24
10.1	Website.....	24
10.2	Publications.....	24
10.3	Programs.....	24
11.0	Funding.....	25
11.1	Requirements.....	25
11.2	Sources.....	25
12.0	Risk Management.....	26
12.1	Trail Use Monitoring and Control.....	26
12.2	Liability and Insurance.....	26
13.0	Management Plan Implementation.....	27
13.1	Steering Committee.....	27
13.2	Actions.....	27
13.3	Review and Amendment.....	27
14.0	Recommendations.....	29
15.0	References.....	30
Appendix A: Trail Captain Position Description.....		31
Appendix B: Friends Steering Committee Terms of Reference.....		32
Appendix C: DRAFT Licence Agreement Between ORTA and ORC.....		34
Appendix D: Seaton Trail Management Plan Project Management Committee Terms of Reference.....		38
Appendix E: Seaton Hiking Trail User Survey.....		40

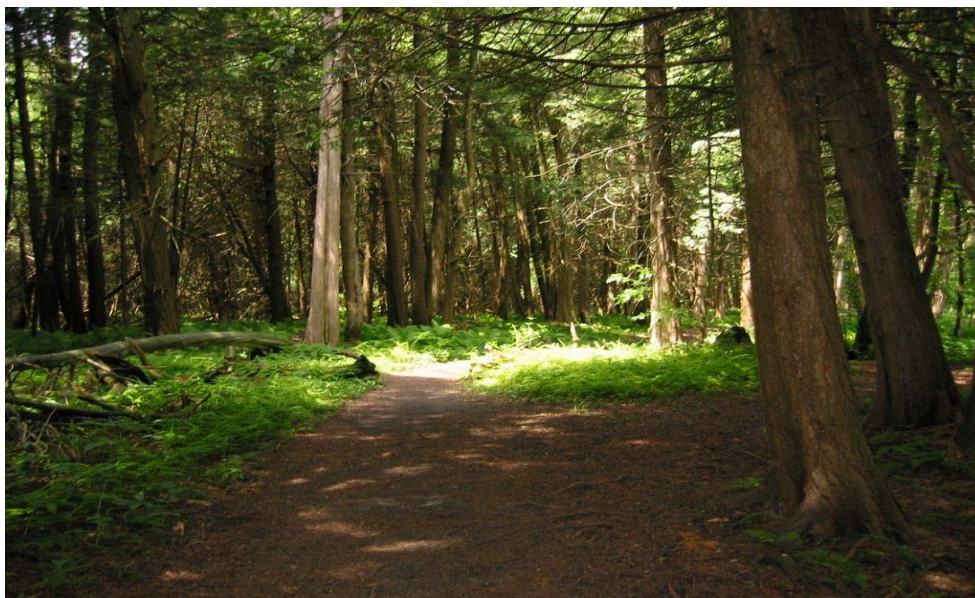
Abstract

The Seaton Hiking Trail is located along the West Duffins Creek in Pickering, Ontario.

In 2007 the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), in partnership with the City of Pickering, the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) and the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), launched a project to create a management plan for this popular trail. A further component of the project was to establish The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation generously provided a grant to ORTA for the project, while the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, the City of Pickering, the Ontario Realty Corporation and DEL Management Solutions provided in-kind contributions of staff time and resources.

Despite the Seaton Trail's popularity, it had not enjoyed consistent protection and care from a community volunteer group. The goal of the project was to put a trail management plan in place for a safe trail, constructed to accepted standards, with committed volunteers taking responsibility for ongoing trail maintenance, public use and environmental protection.



area. The airport has not been built and the community is just now coming to reality, but the Seaton Hiking Trail has been there all this time.

The hiking trail was created by the Ontario government in cooperation with the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (now the TRCA) in the 1970's and was built by high school and university students. It runs along the West Duffins Creek, from the former Camp Pidaca operated by the Boy Scouts to Green River on Highway 7, an actual walking distance of more than 11 kms as it winds through the forest and flood-plain meadows. The Trail was maintained for a good many years by the Boy Scouts, who established markers at points of ecological interest along the trail.

In Central Pickering, the City is planning for a new, sustainable urban community. Its name is Seaton. The vision is for a mixed use community. Upon initial build-out, 35,000 people will work in Seaton, and up to 70,000 people will call it home. Yet, more than half of Seaton's 3,000 hectares will remain in their natural state.

1.3 Recreational Use

Originally designed as a hiking trail, at a time before mountain biking and motorized trail activities became popular, over the years the trail has deteriorated from a combination of poor routing, mis-use and overuse, as well as natural erosion. The terrain, ecology, and vistas make it a popular route all year round. Some sections may be enjoyed by casual walkers, while some sections are more challenging even for experienced hikers, particularly during severe weather conditions. The trail remains open for year-round public use, however safety is a concern in some locations.

Walking and hiking remain the uses approved of by the Landowners. Motorized activities are not permitted, but do occur. Cycling was originally not permitted, but has become common, particular of some sections. The Landowners are willing to work with the mountain biking community to consider appropriate locations, on or off the Trail.

Appendix E presents the results of an 8-month user survey conducted on the Trail.

2.0 Development of the Management Plan

2.1 Background

In 2006, the Oak Ridges Trail Association sought and obtained the approval of the City of Pickering, the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and the Ontario Realty Corporation, to apply to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a grant to be used to produce a management plan for the Seaton Hiking Trail. In the Fall of 2006 the application was approved and work commenced. A Management Plan Steering Committee was formed, with representation from Oak Ridges Trail Association, Ontario Realty Corporation, DEL Management Solutions, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and City of Pickering. This committee met from November 2006 to July 2009.

2.2 Purpose of the Management Plan

The plan's purpose is to achieve a safe and well-managed trail that introduces the public to the area's natural and cultural features, and exhibits environmentally responsible use.

Monitoring and management by community volunteers (The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail) with assistance and support of the City, the Province and TRCA, is a further purpose.

2.3 Trail Issues

- Identify current trail conditions and priorities.
- Identify current trail uses and level of use.
- GPS trail.
- Identify trails to be closed.
- Identify current trailheads, access points and parking.
- Produce mapping and trail guide.
- Identify cultural heritage, aboriginal heritage and environmental priority areas.
- Invite support of community groups.
- Establish "The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail".
- Establish a user activity program.
- Promote the trail.
- Urban development plans for area and their impacts upon the trail.
- Options for restoration and protection of the physical environment.
- Opportunities for accessibility to people with physical disabilities.
- Signage, including blazing, trailhead signage.
- Recommend trail maintenance responsibilities.
- Website www.seatonhikingtrail.org.
- Initiate trail inspection schedule and reporting mechanism.

- Recommendations on permitted trail uses and steps to control undesired uses.
- Potential funding sources.
- Launch trail events, including hiking program.

2.4 Public Consultation

Public meetings were held on April 18, 2007 and June 22, 2009. Residents, private landowners and trail users from the community were invited to learn of the management plan process and to voice their concerns and comments. A meeting specifically to receive input from the mountain biking community was held May 19, 2009. At various times direct consultation was held with adjacent private landowners.

2.5 Goal of the Management Plan

The goal is to have a management plan that addresses development, management and maintenance of the Seaton Hiking Trail for the immediate future. The plan will be implemented by the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail, in consultation with and agreement of the Landowners.

2.6 Broad Objectives

- A written plan for the care and use of the trail.
- Looking at the trail route, trail uses, risk management, maintenance, signage, mapping, access, environmental protection, and best practices.
- Bringing together landowners, trail users, communities and interested citizens.
- Establishment of "The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail".
- Five year plan.

3.0 Management of the Seaton Hiking Trail

3.1 Land Owners

The three major owners of the Seaton Hiking Trail lands are:

Province of Ontario, represented by the Ontario Realty Corporation, with contracted responsibility to:

Del Management Solutions Inc.

310 - Highway 7, Green River

Telephone 905-472-7300

Contacts:

Kirk LeReverend, Property Manager, ext. 233 klereverend@dmsproperty.com

Mike Wirsch, Property Manager, ext. 222 mwirsch@dmsproperty.com

City of Pickering

Contact:

Arnold Mostert, Landscape & Parks Development

905-420-4660 ext. 2143 amostert@city.pickering.on.ca

Toronto & Region Conservation Authority

Contacts:

April Weppler, Project Manager, Land Management

416-661-6600 ext. 5320 aweppler@trca.on.ca

Mark Burkholder

mburkholder@trca.on.ca

The trail crosses additional small land parcels near the southern end of the trail, owned by the City of Toronto, Ontario Hydro and Canadian Pacific Railway.

These organizations were not involved in the Management Plan development.

3.2 Historical Trail Management

The Ontario Realty Corporation has responsibility for land procured by the Province of Ontario. Under contract, DEL Management Solutions performs monitoring, repairs and maintenance on provincial lands.

The Toronto & Region Conservation Authority owns several parcels between Whitevale and Concession 3. TRCA has managed these properties.

The City of Pickering owns and manages the Whitevale Community Park.

The province is funding TRCA through 2010 for work on the Seaton lands, including trail parking lots, restoration, plantings, public consultation and trail improvements.

3.3 Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail

Also see Section 5.

The Friends will be responsible for basic, ongoing maintenance of the trail including blazing and repairs not requiring the use of powered equipment.

The trail will be maintained according to guidelines and standards selected by the Friends Steering Committee or other maintenance procedures which ORC or TRCA may specify [see References, Section 15].

Costs associated with trail maintenance will be assumed according to applicable agreements reached between the Friends and the Landowner(s).

Use of chainsaws, string trimmers and other powered equipment shall be restricted to ORC, the City of Pickering and TRCA and their contractors, unless specifically permitted in writing to the Friends.

The Landowners mentioned above have the right to halt any development, improvement or maintenance operation they consider unsafe, or that does not meet their standards and policies.

The felling of trees having a trunk diameter of 10 cm or more at 2 metres height is to be approved in advance by the applicable Landowner, unless the Friends is acting to remove a threat to public safety. The use of herbicide or any other pesticide on the Trail is prohibited by the Landowners.

3.4 Seaton Hiking Trail Management Committee

The implementation of this plan and overall management of the Trail should be a combined effort of the Friends and the Landowners. It is recommended that a Management Committee be formed and meet on a regular basis. Members of the committee should be from the Friends, TRCA, ORC, DEL Management and the City.

Throughout this plan, items that are recommended for referral to the Landowners may be added to Management Committee meeting agendas.

A Terms of Reference for the Management Committee may be modelled on the Terms of Reference, found in Appendix D, for the committee which created this Plan.

4.0 Trail Uses

4.1 Surveys

Between November 11, 2008 and June 28, 2009 six self-serve survey stations were maintained at key access points on the trail. Each station was equipped with a supply of survey cards and pencils in a metal box. Each station had clear signage explaining the survey. The surveys were kept brief, so users could complete them in less than one minute. Surveys were collected, on average, once per week. Results are presented in Appendix E.

4.2 Hiking/Walking

The Trail was originally constructed with hiking and walking in mind. Since the beginning these have been the main uses and this continues to today. Included under hiking/walking are activities such as dog-walking, nature viewing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

4.3 Mountain Biking

Mountain biking began to be noticed on the trail when this recreation gained popularity in the 1980s. Today it is a frequent activity, at least on some sections of the Trail. It is important to note that no part of the main Seaton Hiking Trail has been constructed for mountain biking, according to generally accepted standards.

The Landowners have affirmed their opinion and position that the current trail is not appropriate for mountain biking. However, they are willing to discuss locations on or near the Trail that would accommodate mountain biking. Discussions should be maintained.

4.4 Horseback Riding

Horseback riding has never been a common activity on the trail and in recent years appears to have been very infrequent. Original signage actually prohibited horseback riding on the Trail. Today there are few, if any, horse farms in close proximity. This restriction should remain in place.

4.5 ATVing and Dirt Biking

Within the past decade motorized activity on the Trail has increased, with resultant damage to the Trail and the river valleylands. ATVs and dirt bikes are the most common vehicles and have been accessing the Trail in several locations in all seasons. The Landowners are firm in their position that motorized

use is undesirable on the Trail and efforts should be made to discourage it. This management plan supports their position.

Rutting, water pooling, erosion and damage to infrastructure are all serious results of motorized activity on the Trail. Unauthorized trails have been created by motorized vehicle users. Vehicles also pose significant safety risks for other users of the Trail.

4.6 Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling has never been a common activity on the Trail. Although prohibited, as are other motorized uses, it is not a significant concern at this time due to the infrequent occasions when winter conditions are suitable in the area for snowmobiling. Snowmobiling should continue to be discouraged on the trail.

4.7 Other Uses

Running, for personal recreation or in events - and training for them - is a very common use of the trail. Runners may use the trail individually, in small groups or in events drawing many runners from near and far. The preferences of runners may be kept in mind during the planning of trail construction.

Fishing has always been pursued by some on the West Duffins Creek. As the survey results show, it is common, but not not widespread at the present time. Access to the Trail for the purpose of fishing is primarily from locations providing parking and fishers tend to not travel far from these locations. Fishing has not been a significant contributor to Trail degradation.

Geocaching is a relatively new activity on the Trail. The user survey revealed that the Seaton Trail has become a popular location for geocaches and geocaching. For an explanation of geocaching, visit www.geocaching.com. It is important to monitor that geocaches are placed in locations that do not promote damage to the Trail, the environment or result in trespass.

5.0 Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail

5.1 Membership and Structure

The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail is a volunteer, community-based group of users and supporters of the Seaton Hiking Trail, interested in the long-term protection of the trail, with free and public access.

Guidance and strategic direction is provided to the Friends by a Steering Committee of five or six individuals. This committee has a chair and vice-chair or two co-chairs. Other members fill positions as determined by the committee, such as secretary, treasurer, communications, programs, etc.

Refer to Appendix B for the Terms of Reference for the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail Steering Committee.

Other members of the Friends have roles as hike leaders, trail captains and webmaster.

In the future, the Friends may wish to establish themselves as an incorporated and independent trail organization to avail themselves of insurance and other benefits or services. In the interim they should maintain a relationship with the TRCA for the purposes of risk management and insurance.

5.2 Roles

The Friends fill roles to implement the Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan. These roles include:

- trail maintenance
- establish a management or steering committee
- community outreach
- user activity programs
- trail inspections
- liaison with public and private landowners, stakeholders, community groups
- interface with trail users
- training of trail workers and hike leaders
- maintain mapping
- website
- event planning
- fundraising
- communications with Friends members

6.0 Trail Maintenance

6.1 Agreements

In 2009 a draft trail maintenance agreement was provided by ORTA to ORC. ORTA and TRCA have a pre-existing licence agreement, which covers trail maintenance. Both of these agreements should be revised and pursued by the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail to the point where the Friends have signed agreements with both ORC and TRCA.

If the Friends and the City of Pickering agree on a need, an agreement could also be completed between them.

Under the draft agreement, ORC has encouraged DEL Management Solutions to supply and transport materials required by trail volunteers, within the limitations of their own resources and contract with ORC. The prioritization of tasks is done in consultation with DEL.

6.2 Trail Inspections and Preventative Maintenance

Through their team of trail captains, the Friends will conduct at least semi-annual trail inspections and preventative maintenance. Refer to Appendix A for the Trail Captain Job Description.

6.3 Trail Surface and Width

Trail surface and width will be maintained and kept clear in accordance with the agreements with ORC and TRCA, which are anchored to the trail construction standards and guidelines of ORTA and TRCA.

6.4 Flooding and Erosion

Flooding is an annual and natural occurrence in the river valley and on the Trail. It usually follows spring breakup of the winter ice or heavy rainfalls. Isolated instances of flooding may also be caused by beaver activity (see Section 6.8).

Erosion has two source causes. One is natural. Normal river activity and especially flooding conditions are causing the river bank to erode. As a result the Trail has fallen into the river at numerous times. Erosion is also causing the Trail to shift ever closer to private land in some locations.

Erosion also has human causes. When the trail is located too close to the river bank, trail use hinders the growth of vegetation, which can make the river bank more prone to collapse into the river. The Trail should be located with the long

term in mind; in other words, set back from the river enough that it will be stable for a number of years, while maintaining the “next to the river” experience.

Human activity also causes frequent erosion of hillsides, embankments and slopes. This can result from motorized vehicles, but also from hikers or cyclists if the trail is not properly designed and constructed or overused.

Trails should avoid such areas, but if necessary, they should follow sustainable construction techniques specifically designed to lessen erosion.

6.5 Obstructions

Tree-falls are the most common trail obstructions. If the trees are small they may be cleared through the use of hand tools. If power equipment, such as chainsaws, are needed, the location and description should be referred to TRCA or DEL Management.

Washouts can also lead to obstructions. Debris can usually be cleared by volunteers, but, again, if powered equipment is needed, it should be referred to DEL or TRCA.

6.6 Bridges, Stairs and Boardwalks

DEL Management has constructed many bridges, stairs and boardwalks. TRCA also has the expertise. Minor repairs to infrastructure may be made by volunteers, but major repairs should be deferred to DEL and TRCA.

Construction of new bridges and boardwalks should be recommended to DEL and/or TRCA and included in annual workplans. Friends volunteers should provide GPS coordinates, blaze IDs, description of the issue and/or photographs of the locations.

6.7 River Crossings

Two existing road bridges facilitate crossing of the river. At Forestream Trail Road the trail crosses by means of an old road bridge. Whitevale Road crosses the river by means of a bridge in the village.

In Clark’s Hollow, near the Forestream Trail parking lot, an informal crossing via boulders in the riverbed has existed for many years. This location is at the same location as a buried gas pipeline, which may explain the presence of the boulders. During high water conditions this crossing is particularly unsafe, with the boulders being slippery or even underwater. DEL Management closed the access from Forestream Road in 2009 and this closure should be maintained by keeping signage in place and not clearing treefalls. For liability reasons this crossing should not be encouraged in any way.

6.8 Beaver Control

Beavers are almost always present in the river. The locations may vary from year to year and usually they cause no problems for the Trail. However, on occasion beavers do fell trees across the Trail and these will need to be cleared. There is also the possibility that a beaver dam could cause flooding of the Trail.

Problems with beavers may be referred to TRCA, however, they do not normally remove beavers, so the appropriate response may be to live with them or relocate the Trail.

6.9 Barriers

Barriers to close informal or unauthorized trails may be constructed of available tree trunks, branches and other materials.

In situations where a more prominent barrier is required, such as posts, fencing or concrete blocks, the appropriate Landowner should be contacted for assistance.

6.10 Re-Routes

Re-routes of the Trail may be necessary, from time to time, in response to erosion, riverbank migration, issues with trespass on private property or the creation of unauthorized trails.

Minor shifts in the Trail may be made by the Friends, but significant shifts should be presented to and approved of by the Landowners. A significant shift would be one of more than 3 or 4 meters, one that requires the removal of a number of trees, excavation of soil or the installation of infrastructure.

6.11 Closure of Trails

Closure of informal and unauthorized trails should be discussed with the Landowners and undertaken with their assistance and approval. Unauthorized trails should be identified as soon after their creation as possible and closure action considered. In some cases this may require GPSing the location and route of the new trail.

6.12 Garbage Removal

Most litter accumulates at the public access areas that provide parking. DEL Management and the City of Pickering have placed trash receptacles at the parking areas under their responsibility. Overflowing receptacles and other

problems with garbage should be reported as follows (see contacts under Landowners, Section 3.1):

Green River	-	DEL Management
Whitevale Park	-	City of Pickering
Forestream Trail	-	DEL Management
Concession 3*	-	City and/or TRCA

* The City of Pickering has in the past assisted TRCA with the pickup and removal of garbage at this location.

6.13 Blazing and Signage

Blazing is maintained by the Friends. Metal blazes have been used on the Trail, following the standard practices of the Oak Ridges and Bruce trails, amongst others. Examples of straight path and turn blazes are shown below.



Unique to the Seaton Hiking Trail, each blaze is serialized and its location has been GPSed to aid in identifying specific locations on the trail. The numbering scheme follows the format of the example below.

	2	N	032
	/		\
Trail Section	Direction	Blaze Number	
1 = Green River to Whitevale	North	Sequential Number	
2 = Whitevale to Forestream Trail	or	beginning at 001	
3 = Forestream Trail to Concession 3	South		

6.14 Reporting

Trail concerns and problems may be reported to the contacts listed under Landowners, Section 3.1.

6.15 Illegal Use

Bike jumps and similar, unauthorized, structures will be removed by the ORC and TRCA from their lands. The locations should be reported as soon as they are noted. When reported, provide the nearest north and south-bound blaze identifiers, as well as a written description of the location, structure type and concern.

New access points being used by motorized vehicles, illegal dumping and acts of vandalism should likewise be reported in the same manner.

7.0 Signage

Trailhead, access, instructional, interpretive and hazard signage is generally the responsibility of the appropriate Landowner. As such, issues or concerns related to signage should be reported to the Landowner(s).

Requirements for new signage should be brought forward to the Landowners by the Friends Steering Committee. In most cases, the costs of signage will be borne by the Landowner(s) and also installed by them. Smaller signs may be installed by the Friends, as approved by the Landowner(s).

Models of effective signage programs exist in the GTA area, such as in the Walkers Woods and Glen Major properties of TRCA and in the Durham Forest, managed by the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). These trails are shared by various users in summer and winter. Winter activities include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog walking, hiking, and horseback riding. Summer activities such as mountain biking, dog walking, hiking, horseback riding and geocaching. These models can be adapted to the Seaton lands.

8.0 Trail Access

8.1 Parking

Four access locations, with parking, are maintained by the Landowners.

NORTH: The entrance is located on the south side of Highway 7 at Green River, approximately 8 km east of Markham. Watch for the Seaton Hiking Trail sign beside a long driveway, accessing the trail parking lot. Coordinates: N43.90110 W79.17664. Maintained by ORC and DEL Management.

VILLAGE OF WHITEVALE: Park in the community park on the south side of Whitevale Road, on the west side of the river. The trail goes south out of the park, on the west side of the river. Going north, cross the bridge to the east side of the river and look for the sign. Coordinates: N43.88649 W79.16267. Maintained by the City of Pickering.

TAUNTON ROAD: From Taunton Road, south on Whites Road. Turn east onto Forestream Trail. Before the river turn south and continue a short distance to the parking lot. Coordinates: N43.86954 W79.13171. Maintained by ORC and DEL Management.

SOUTH: Take Brock Road north from Highway 401 and turn west on the 3rd Concession. Parking is available on the roadside, at the dead-end of the road but outside the gate to the Brock West Landfill site. A large sign shows access to the trail. Coordinates: N43.86403 W79.09846. Maintained by TRCA and the City of Pickering.

8.2 Accessibility

Accessibility of the Trail to persons with disabilities is a possibility in several locations. At the present time the Trail has not been signed or marked in any way to facilitate accessibility.

Although it is unlikely that the entire trail will ever be designated and promoted as accessible, application of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) could be made [see Recommendations, Section 14]. Appropriate signage and documentation could then be put in place for people with disabilities to consider (e.g. trail signage, website mapping).

Physical modifications to the Trail could extend accessibility beyond the general area of the parking lots. Such projects would need to be considered by the Landowners.

8.3 Unauthorized Access

See Section 4: Trail Uses and Section 6: Trail Maintenance.

8.4 Trail Links

As the community of Seaton is developed to the east of the river valley, linkages will be built from its new urban trails to the Seaton Hiking Trail. The City of Pickering, following urban development plans, will be responsible for these access points, but the Friends should maintain a dialogue with the City to ensure they are located and constructed in a manner that protects the integrity of the Seaton Hiking Trail, controls the number of access points and protects the natural environment.

From the south end of the Seaton Hiking Trail there is a potential connection to the City of Pickering's Valley Farm Ravine Park and its trails. In the future, it can be expected that the City will establish a formal trail connection.

The Seaton Hiking Trail fits into the long-term vision of the Oak Ridges Trail Association and its partners for a north-south trail connection from the Oak Ridges Moraine to the Lake Ontario waterfront. This may eventually result in the Seaton Trail physically connecting to the Oak Ridges Trail, the Rouge Park trail system and the Waterfront Trail.

8.5 Maps

TRCA has provided assistance in producing and maintaining maps of the Seaton Hiking Trail. These maps may be found on the Seaton Hiking Trail website as well as at TRCA's own website and in their publications.

Other, more detailed and specific maps, have been produced by TRCA and ORC for internal use.

The Friends will work with the Landowners to ensure the maps remain current and accurate and to determine which maps will be made available to the public.

9.0 User Activities Program

9.1 Hike Leaders

During the inaugural meetings of the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail several people volunteered to be hike leaders. In keeping with the policy of the Oak Ridges Trail Association those who have been trained under the Hike Ontario Certified Hike Leader program [www.hikeontario.com] have been encouraged to begin periodic group hikes. Other volunteers are encouraged to assist with hike leading and to take the Hike Leader course at the earliest opportunity.

9.2 Interpretive Hikes

There is great potential for a formal schedule of guided, interpretive hikes on the Seaton Hiking Trail. Spring through Fall offers excellent conditions for hiking. In the Winter and early Spring icy conditions can make the Trail treacherous.

Hikes may be scheduled any day of the week, with a variety of distances and routes. Any of the parking areas will facilitate meeting locations for group hikes, but Green River and Whitevale are the most popular choices.

Hike leaders are encouraged to learn about the cultural and natural history of the Trail in order to provide an enjoyable experience for hikers.

9.3 Other Activities

The Seaton Hiking Trail is already popular for running events and geocaching. Both of these activities could be the basis of organized programs.

9.4 Activity Promotion

The Seaton Hiking Trail website can be used to promote activities, as can the websites of other groups, such as the Oak Ridges Trail Association and Durham Outdoors Club. E-mail notices may be distributed to members of the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail.

The print newsletters of clubs and groups, as well as community newspapers, are also useful channels for the distribution of activity notices.

The Friends are encouraged to establish a regular schedule of hikes and other activities for people of varying levels of ability. The activities should also be planned to maintain contact amongst Friends and to introduce the Trail to newcomers.

10.0 Promotion and Communications

10.1 Website

www.seatonhikingtrail.org

The World Wide Web is perhaps the most popular means today by which the public seeks and finds information on many subjects, including trails. Used for news and events, recruiting and informing Friends, providing trail maps and access directions, the website is the most important communications tool under this management plan.

The website is maintained by a volunteer. There should be frequent communication between the webmaster and the Friends Steering Committee, which provides oversight of the website and also supplies updated information.

There are costs for hosting the website and maintaining the domain name. The Friends will need to include these costs in their annual financial planning.

10.2 Publications

A printed brochure on the Trail might include a current map, access point information, parking details, approved uses, restrictions, trail history, points of interest, some elevations, distances and contact information. There should also be a disclaimer concerning unexpected trail conditions and route changes and a note that the website is the source of the most recent news.

TRCA has offered to design a brochure as an in-kind contribution. Printing a supply of brochures should be included in the Friends financial planning. A distribution strategy should be developed with consideration of the annual budget for brochure printing.

10.3 Programs

A regular activities schedule has been discussed in Section 9. Other programs which could be initiated by the Friends could include special events hosted on the Trail and to which the community is invited. These could focus on annual trail cleanups, nature photography, birding, introductions to geocaching, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

11.0 Funding

11.1 Requirements

The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail will require funding for a number of ongoing programs and activities. These may include any of the following:

- Trail maintenance supplies
- Signs and Blazes
- Tools
- Website
- Brochures and other printing
- Special Events
- Meetings
- Insurance
- Training

11.2 Sources

The Friends might institute a paid membership program in order to cover some of the above expenses, in particular insurance.

Donations from individuals, companies and charitable organizations will be possible. The Ontario Trillium Foundation funded the creation of this management plan and could be a potential source of funding for future projects. The Friends should therefore consider obtaining charitable status.

Events and activities could also be held on the Trail and serve as fundraisers. The Friends should consider whether permits and licences would be needed for such activities. The permission of the Landowners would be required for such events.

12.0 Risk Management

12.1 Trail Use Monitoring and Control

The Friends should establish a Trail monitoring program utilizing their Hike Leaders, Trail Captains and other volunteers, to monitor for improper and unauthorized trail use, issues of trespass, maintenance needs and hazard conditions. Documented monitoring reports should be filed with the Friends, as well as with the Landowners, in compliance with licence agreements.

It is recommended that an online method of receiving reports from all Trail users be implemented.

Monitoring reports should be reviewed by the Friends Steering Committee and the Landowners on a frequent basis.

Trail modifications and repairs should be documented and archives kept of written reports and photographs.

12.2 Liability and Insurance

During the period of creating this Management Plan the activities of the volunteers and the Friends were covered under the liability insurance carried by the Oak Ridges Trail Association. Beginning in 2010, the TRCA has provided coverage for the Friends.

The Friends are obtaining future liability insurance coverage through participation in the Hike Ontario group policy, which is made available to Hike Ontario member groups.

Licence agreements with the Landowners requires the Friends to have insurance and to name the Landowners as Additional Insureds. This can be provided by the Hike Ontario insurer.

Special events held on the Trail may require specific event insurance and the Friends are advised to consider this.

Hike Leaders should use waiver and assumption of risk forms. These and any incident reports should be archived.

13.0 Management Plan Implementation

13.1 Steering Committee

As detailed in Section 5 of this Management Plan, the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail Steering Committee will have the role of implementing this plan.

13.2 Actions

The following specific actions should be undertaken, under leadership from the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail Steering Committee, to implement this plan. These actions should be taken during the first year of the plan. On the anniversary of the approval of this Plan, the Friends Steering Committee should lead a review of the plan, with an updating of the implementation actions.

- Formation of a Management Committee with membership from the Friends, TRCA, ORC, DEL Management and the City of Pickering.
- A Terms of Reference for the Management Committee.
- Discussions with Landowners concerning accommodation of mountain biking.
- Consider establishment of Friends as an incorporated charitable organization.
- Formalize signed agreements with both ORC and TRCA.
- Semi-annual trail inspections and preventative maintenance.
- Establish an on-line reporting tool for Friends and other trail users to report trail issues and concerns.
- Recommendations for new bridges, stairs, boardwalks and other infrastructure.
- Identify signage requirements and implement signage program.
- Consider application of Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) to facilitate accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Establish timeline for connection to the City of Pickering's Valley Farm Ravine Park.
- Update, produce, post and publish maps of the Trail.
- Increase number of Friends trained as Certified Hike Leaders.
- Establish a regular schedule of hikes and other activities for people of varying levels of ability.
- Establish annual budget, considering costs such as website, insurance, publications, maintenance.
- Consider a paid membership program.
- Print a Trail brochure.

13.3 Review and Amendment

On an annual basis, such as on the anniversary of the approval of this Plan, the Friends Steering Committee should lead a review of the Plan. Proposed amendments should be presented to members of the Friends and the Landowners. Acceptance of proposed amendments could be planned for an annual members meeting.



14.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations stem from comments and suggestions made by individuals during the consultations leading to this Plan. These are items which could not be implemented during this process or which were deemed to require additional consideration and planning.

The Friends Steering Committee will lead consideration of these recommendations.

- Kiosks - Locations: Concession 3 (TRCA), Forestream Trail (ORC), Whitevale Park (City of Pickering), Whitevale Dam (ORC), Green River (ORC). TRCA has resources to provide design of kiosk signage.
- Improvements to and expansion or replacement of parking lots.
- Transfer of provincially-owned trail lands from Province to TRCA.
- Parking lot off North Road (also see next recommendation).
- Mountain biking use of old gravel pit site, located off North Road, north of village of Whitevale.
- Engage the mountain biking community in discussions to determine opportunities and identify locations for their use of the trail.
- Acquisition, by TRCA, of portion of property owned by Carol Ann White, south of Whitevale. The Trail is coming very close to this property due to steep and eroding river banks.
- Application of Universal Trail Assessment Process to the Trail for the purposes of accessibility by people with disabilities [refer to <http://www.beneficialdesigns.com/trails/utap.html>]
- Extension of the trail south of Concession 3.
- Extension of the trail north of Highway 7.

15.0 References

“Guide for Trail Maintenance”, Oak Ridges Trail Association, 2004

“Guide for Trail Workers, 3rd edition”, Bruce Trail Association

“Trail Planning and Design Guidelines: A Handbook for an Inter-Regional Trail System in the Greater Toronto Area”, Metro Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, 1992

Licence Agreement between the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and the Oak Ridges Trail Association, 2005

“Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Single Track”, International Mountain Biking Association

“Managing Mountain Biking: IMBA's Guide to Providing Great Riding”, International Mountain Biking Association

“Trails by Design: Physical and Human Design Essentials of Sustainable, Enjoyable Trails”, Troy Scott Parker.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

TRAIL CAPTAIN POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Trail Captain is responsible to the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail for the upkeep of a designated section of the Seaton Hiking Trail.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Plans, directs and supervises an annual maintenance program for the trail section.
- Conducts maintenance activities in accordance with the current agreements between the Oak Ridges Trail Association and the Ontario Realty Corporation and the Oak Ridges Trail Association and the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, with respect to the Seaton Hiking Trail.
- Recruits volunteers from the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail to assist with trail maintenance.
- Inspects the trail at least twice each year, planning trail maintenance in response to issues noted.
- Arranges and supervises trail maintenance including:
 - Cutting of grass and weeds
 - Removal of deadfalls, branches, and other impediments across the trail
 - Removal of trash across the trail
 - Re-routes as approved by the landowners and Friends Steering Committee
 - Installation or repair of boardwalks, bridges, stairs and other infrastructure as requested by the landowners
- Ensures trail repairs and maintenance requiring the use of powered equipment are referred to the Friends Steering Committee, which will then notify the appropriate landowner (Ontario Realty Corporation, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority or the City of Pickering).
- Reports any unsafe trail conditions to the appropriate landowner as well as the Friends Steering Committee.
- Provides any necessary training to volunteers.
- Provides written reports on trail maintenance activities, with a list of volunteers involved, to the Friends Steering Committee.

APPENDIX B

**Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail
Steering Committee
Terms of Reference**

Background:

The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail is a volunteer, community-based group of users and supporters of the Seaton Hiking Trail, who are interested in the long-term protection of the trail, with free and public access.

Committee Membership:

Five members of the Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail. At least one member shall be a current member of the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

Offices:

Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and others as required. Offices will be filled from and by the Committee members

Meetings:

Quarterly or as agreed by the committee. Days and times of meetings will be as agreed to by the committee.

Function:

Provide strategic direction for the implementation of the Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan.

Responsibilities:

- Direct the implementation of the Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan.
- Provide direction to the Friends in the areas of trail monitoring, marking and maintenance, hiking programs, community outreach and communications, training, mapping, fundraising, and other roles as may be identified.
- Liaison with community partners, ensuring they are well informed of all decisions, activities and proposals. Representatives from community partner groups may be invited to committee meetings as required.
- Keep written records of meetings and decisions, making copies available to the Friends.
- Provides copies of all minutes, decisions and reports to the Oak Ridges Trail Association Board of Directors (or designate) to maintain committee status with O.R.T.A. for reasons of risk management practices and liability insurance coverage.
- Ensure that, at all times, at least one committee member holds current membership in the Oak Ridges Trail Association, as per reasons in #5.

- Determine project finances as required, approving budgets, budget revisions and financial reports.
- Establish sub-committees as needed, to work on particular recommendations and projects.
- Represent the concerns and interests of the Friends to landowners and other partners.
- Make decisions by consensus of the committee members.
- Establish communication strategies and reporting processes to communicate activities and accomplishments to the public and stakeholders.
- Review and revise the Seaton Hiking Trail Management Plan in accordance with the timeline of the Plan or as the Committee determines to be necessary.

June 30, 2009

Rev.

APPENDIX C

DRAFT Licence Agreement Between ORTA and ORC

THIS LICENCE AGREEMENT made as of this day of , 2009, effective as of , 2009.

BETWEEN:

THE OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION

(hereinafter called "ORTA")

- and -

ONTARIO REALTY CORPORATION

(hereinafter called "ORC")

WHEREAS ORC is the registered owner of certain lands and premises described in Appendix "A" hereto, hereinafter called "the Property";

AND WHEREAS ORTA desires to coordinate basic maintenance and use of the Seaton Hiking Trail, hereinafter called "the Trail", the approximate location of which has been identified on the map included in Appendix "B" hereto;;

NOW THEREFORE WITNESSETH in consideration of the mutual covenants herein and the payment by ORTA to ORC of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), the receipt of which ORC hereby acknowledges, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. ORC hereby grants to ORTA a right in the nature of a licence to establish and operate the Trail for the purposes and upon the terms and considerations hereinafter set forth.

2. The precise location and route of the Trail shall be mutually agreed upon in writing by ORTA or its authorized representative and ORC, and flagged in the field to the satisfaction of both ORTA and ORC. ORTA shall submit Trail Development and Management Plans to ORC for its written approval at least 60 days prior to implementing the work. The location and the route of the Trail and any developments or improvements thereto may be varied from time to time by mutual written agreement by both parties hereto without affecting the validity of the terms hereof. No development or improvement of the Trail will occur without the prior written approval and consent of ORC.

3. ORC shall be responsible for construction and maintenance of the Trail and its structures in a condition that is clean and safe for pedestrian travel by the public. ORTA shall be responsible for basic, ongoing maintenance of the Trail including blazing and repairs not requiring the use of powered equipment. ORTA shall be responsible for all costs of every nature and kind associated with the repair, maintenance, inspection and ongoing use of the Trail, except that ORTA will not be responsible for property taxes.

ORTA shall maintain the Trail to the standards identified in the "Guide for Trail Maintenance", ORTA, 2004, or other maintenance standards which ORC has

established for its lands and has provided in writing to ORTA, provided that these are consistent with the management of the Trail as a simple footpath which lies lightly on the land.

Use of chainsaws, string trimmers and other powered equipment shall be restricted to ORC and its contractors, unless specifically permitted in writing to ORTA.

ORTA and its staff reserve the right to halt any development, improvement or maintenance operation it considers unsafe, or that does not meet ORC standards and policies.

The felling of trees having a trunk diameter of 10 cm or more at 2 metres height is to be approved in advance by ORC staff, unless ORTA is acting to remove a threat to public safety. The use of herbicide or any other pesticide on the Property by ORTA, its officers, employees, servants or agents is prohibited.

4. The parties hereto will allow use of the Trail by the general public without charge.

5. ORTA will exercise during the currency hereof such duty of care to persons using the Trail as is imposed on owners by the Occupiers' Liability Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.2, including amendments thereto or successors thereof.

6. ORTA shall comply with all provisions of law, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, federal and provincial legislation, municipal by-laws, and any other government or municipal regulations which relate to the establishment, maintenance and use of the Trail.

7. ORTA will ensure that the Trail is marked in the following manner:

- a) By visible markings of a white colour, of a size of 5 cm by 15 cm, on trees or other landmarks at a height between 1 and 2 metres, or of a size, colour, text, height and locations as approved by ORC; and
- b) By a sign of a type approved by ORC and in locations as approved by ORC; and
- c) By additional signage and/or markings as may be reasonably requested by ORC from time to time.

8. ORTA shall conduct a complete inspection of the Trail and its structures each spring and fall, submitting to ORC a completed written inspection report by April 30th and by September 30th of each year, and then submit to ORC a written follow-up report no more than one month later showing the required maintenance work proposed by ORTA and/or ORC.

In addition, ORC may conduct its own inspection at any time during the currency of the licence and request in writing any management actions which are consistent with the above mentioned standards, and ORTA shall complete or commence and conduct such actions within one month of receiving the written request from ORC.

Should ORTA fail to undertake the necessary management actions within the time specified, ORC may terminate this agreement pursuant to the notice requirements in paragraph 12.

9. ORTA will, during the currency hereof, indemnify and save harmless ORC from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or other proceedings by whomsoever made, sustained, brought or prosecuted in any manner based upon, occasioned by, or attributable to anything done or omitted to be done by ORTA, its officers, employees, servants or agents in connection with the Property in fulfilment or purported fulfilment or required fulfilment of any of the provisions of this agreement, or from any claim, demand, losses, costs or damages made or suffered by

any invitee of ORTA or for any claim made against ORC pursuant to the Occupier's Liability Act, provided that ORC shall not, without the written consent of ORTA or the insurer assume or admit liability with respect to any claim made against it for which it seeks indemnification pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph.

10. ORTA shall at all times during the currency hereof maintain comprehensive general liability insurance with an insurance company and in a form and content satisfactory to ORC in an amount not less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence for bodily injury including personal injury and death, showing ORC as an insured. ORTA shall provide a copy of the Policy and renewal thereof, prior to entering upon the Trail, and prior to the expiration of any prior policy provided herein.

11. Nothing herein shall be interpreted or construed as giving rise to a claim by ORTA that it has acquired title by possession or prescription to the Trail or any part of the Property either during the currency hereof or upon the termination of same. It is agreed between the parties hereto that this licence shall not be registered on title.

12. This licence agreement will run for a term of one year from the date of signing and will thenceforth be renewed annually for one year on the anniversary of that date upon the mutual agreement of the parties hereto provided notice of the intention of ORTA to renew is given to ORC at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the prior term and ORC has not notified ORTA that it is unwilling to renew within the 30 day period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, this agreement may be terminated:

- (a) by mutual agreement of both parties at any time;
- (b) without cause by either party giving ninety (90) days written notice to the other party;
- (c) by ORC immediately if ORTA is in breach of paragraph 10; or
- (d) by ORC if ORTA is in breach of any of the terms of this agreement other than paragraph 10 hereof, and if within sixty (60) days following written notice of the breach to ORTA, ORTA has not corrected the breach.

If there is a dispute between the parties regarding the existence of a breach, or the satisfactory correction of such breach within the time stipulated, an arbitrator shall be appointed to resolve the dispute according to the provisions of the Arbitration Act of Ontario, 1991, S.O. 1991, c.17. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding on both parties and no further actions shall be taken by either party. Upon termination pursuant to this paragraph or otherwise, ORTA shall restore the Trail as nearly as possible to the condition that it was in at the time of the execution of this agreement, if requested by ORC.

ORTA shall review Appendices to this agreement on an annual basis, and provide necessary updates to ORC prior to this agreement being renewed.

13. Any notice, direction or other document required or permitted to be given hereunder may be effectively given if sent by prepaid registered post addressed to ORTA at:

Oak Ridges Trail Association
The Gatehouse, 13990 Dufferin Street North
King City, Ontario
L7B 1B3

or to ORC at:

Ontario Realty Corporation
1 Dundas St. W., Suite 2000
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2L5

Attention: Chris Daffern

and any such notice, direction or other document so mailed shall be deemed to have been received by and given to the addressee on the fifth business day following the date of mailing. Any party may at any time give notice in writing to the other of any change of address for these purposes. In the event of actual or threatened postal interruption in Canada, no such notice shall be deemed to have been received until it has in fact been received by the party for whom it is intended.

14. This licence is given subject to any and all prior rights of first refusal, licences, easements, leases, restrictions, options and any other interests that may have been granted in the Property by ORC.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED in the presence of:

) **THE OAK RIDGES TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

)

) Per:

) _____

) President

)

) Per:

) _____

) Secretary

)

)

) **ONTARIO REALTY CORPORATION**

)

) Per:

) _____

)

) Per:

) _____

APPENDIX D

**Seaton Trail Management Plan
Project Management Committee
Terms of Reference**

Membership:	Appointed representatives from: Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) City of Pickering Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) Del Management Solutions Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail
Chairperson:	ORTA Executive Director
Meetings:	at least once every two months
Function:	Provides strategic direction, representing stakeholder sectors, towards the creation of the Seaton Trail Management Plan.

Responsibilities:

- Provide advice and direction for activities related to the Seaton Trail Management Plan within the established time-frame and budget.
- Liaison with community partners, ensuring they are well informed of all decisions, activities and proposals. Representatives from community partner groups shall be invited to committee meetings as required.
- Keep written records of meetings and decisions and provide copies to all committee members.
- Review project finances, approving budgets, budget revisions and financial reports.
- Establish sub-committees as needed, to work on particular recommendations and projects.
- Represent the concerns and interests of the constituents of the stakeholder groups.
- Review project process, results, goals and objectives.
- Make decisions by consensus of the committee members.
- Establish communication strategies and reporting processes to communicate activities and accomplishments to the public and stakeholders.

- Review and approve management plan in draft and final versions, providing copies to each body represented by the committee members as well as to all recognized stakeholder and partner groups.

Rev. December 22, 2006

APPENDIX E

Seaton Hiking Trail User Survey

Between November 11, 2008 and June 28, 2009 six self-serve survey stations were maintained at key access points on the trail. Each station was equipped with a supply of survey cards and pencils in a metal box. Each station had clear signage explaining the survey. The surveys were kept brief, so users could complete them in less than one minute. Surveys were collected, on average, once per week.



Above: Survey Station

**Seaton Hiking Trail
Survey**

The Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail is undertaking a management plan to improve and maintain the trail for safe and enjoyable public use. Please help us determine existing trail use by completing this survey.

Deposit Completed Cards in Rear of Box

Date : _____

Number in Party: _____

Trail Use: ☐ Walking/Hiking
 ☐ Running
 ☐ Dog Walking
 ☐ Biking
 ☐ Fishing
 Other: _____

I use the trail ☐ once a week, or more ☐ twice per month
☐ once a month ☐ a few times per year ☐ my first time

I live within 30 minutes of the trail ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank You!

Friends of the Seaton Hiking Trail
www.oakridgestrail.org/seatontrail

Above: Survey Card

SURVEY RESULTS

Period of Survey Nov. 11, 2008 thru June 28, 2009
229 days

Total Number of Survey Collected 828

Number of Surveys by Month:

Month	Number
December	59
January	60
February	70
March	129
April	151
May	204
June	88

Comments:

As Spring arrived and progressed, use of the trail increased. The June drop-off may be due to a decline of use in the Summer and/or due to users having previously completed surveys.

Number of Surveys by Day of the Week:

Day	Number
Sunday	242
Monday	103
Tuesday	74
Wednesday	72
Thursday	66
Friday	97
Saturday	174

Level of Use at Access Locations:

Location	Number
Green River trailhead	150
Whitevale, north of Whitevale Road	104
Whitevale, south from park	174
Clark's Hollow, east of old bridge	71
Clark's Hollow, trail to boulder crossing*	86
Concession 3	243

* This trail was closed on June 5, 2009 and the survey station removed.

Total Number of Recorded Users for Survey Period: 2,109

Users by Activity:

Activity	Number
Walking/Hiking	644
Dog Walking	316
Biking	52
Running	44
Fishing	22
Photography	17
Birding/Nature	14
Geocaching	9

Some surveys indicated more than one use.

Other reported uses were: cross-country skiing (5), ATVing (3), snow shoeing (3), environmental monitoring (3), dirt biking (2), skating (1), horse riding (1), meditation (1) and fiddlehead collecting (1).

Frequency of Trail Use:

Frequency	Number
Weekly	294
Twice per month	149
Monthly	68
Few times per year	215
First time	93

User(s) Lives Within 30 Minutes of the Trail:

Yes 657

No 149

Not Stated 22