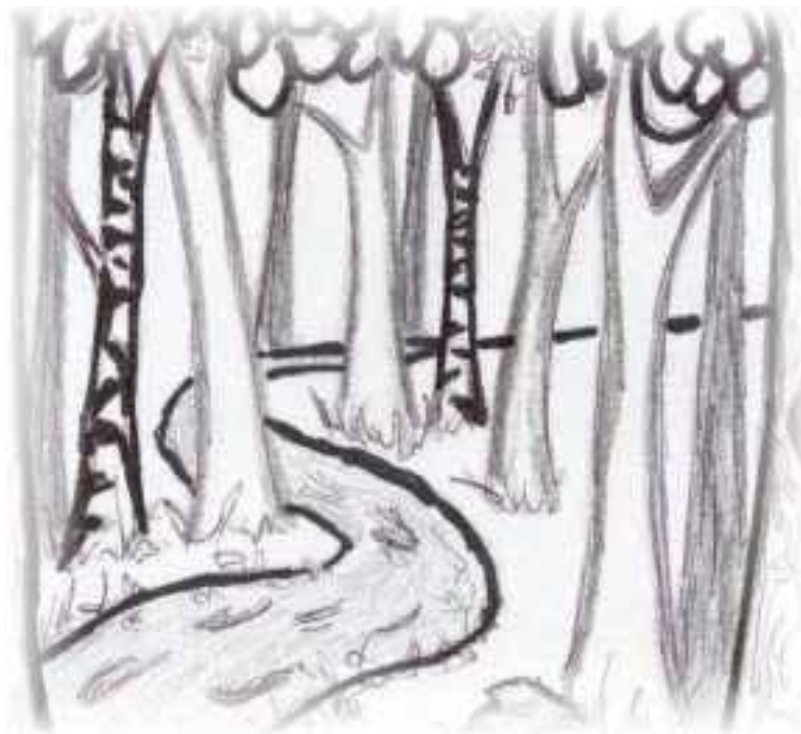


Ontario's Best Trails

Best Practices for the Construction and Maintenance of Sustainable Trails for All Ontarians



Trails for All Ontarians Collaborative
DRAFT as of March 15, 2006

The construction and maintenance “best practices” for trails in Ontario were developed by the Trails for All Ontarians Collaborative. The Trails for All Ontarians Collaborative is a joint partnership of local, regional and provincial organizations involved in trails or representing people with disabilities.

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Table 1: Summary of “Best Practices” Design Standards

Characteristic¹	Best Practice	Sustainable Design²	Universal Design³	Remote⁴
Slope				
Grade (% - m ⁵) on the tread	5 - any 8 - 50 10 - 25	10 - any	5 - any 8 - 60 10 - 10	10 - any 15 - with special ⁶
Cross Slope (% - m) on the tread	5 - any 8 - 10	5 - any 8 - for drainage	2 - any 5 - for drainage	Tread higher than side
Clear Corridor				
Tread Width (m)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6
Tread Height (m)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5
Buffer Width (m)	1.5	1.5	---	1.5
Buffer Height (m)	2.8	---	---	---
Protruding Objects (cm) ⁷	0.0	---	10.0	0.0
Surface				
Substance	Firm & Stable	Firm & Stable	Firm & Stable	---
Material	Natural or Human- made	Natural or Human-made	---	Natural
Openings (cm) ⁸	1.5	---	1.25	---

¹ Refer to **Error! Reference source not found.** for definitions of each characteristic.

² Reference for sustainable design guidelines ??

³ Reference for universal design guidelines ??

⁴ The Bruce Trail Association. (2001) Guide for Trail Workers. 3rd Edition. Hamilton: Author.

⁵ Recommendations for grade and cross slope are given by the percentage slope and the length of continuous slope permitted. For example, “5 - any” indicates a grade of 5% can continue for any distance.

⁶ Slopes above 10% are not recommended, but slopes up to 15% can be used but “special precautions must be taken (pp. 35).

⁷ Distance that an object can protrude into the clear tread width or clear height.

⁸ Opening size is measured perpendicular or diagonal to the user’s direction of travel.

Handout from the Parks and Recreation Ontario 2006 Annual Education forum session on Trail Opportunities for everyone.



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