

## 9.0 Trail Planning and Construction Check List

During the consultation for this plan, the poor condition of some of the existing trails in the Halifax North West area was raised as an issue. In some cases, the quality of construction was identified as the cause of poor trail conditions. It was suspected that substandard trail construction completed by private developers had been accepted and taken over by HRM. Trails should be considered as all other municipal infrastructure with rigorous construction standards which must be met before infrastructure is accepted by HRM.

The following Check List is provided to assist with the planning and design, evaluation and acceptance of future trails projects. It is a working document, to be presented to HRM for consideration. Comments, corrections or additions are welcomed.

- 1. Is there a community trails group in this area? If yes, are they involved in the various stages?
- 2. Have natural contours, features and assets been utilized to the best advantage without compromise?
- 3. Does the trail width meet standards for trail type and use?
- 4. Is the trail gradient less than 8%?
- 5. Is the trail constructed to barrier free standards if so required (CAN/CSA-B651)?
- 6. For crushed stone trails, has a proper stone product been used (NSDTPW Type 1 Gravel, crusher dust or other approved material)?
- 7. Has a sufficient depth of gravel been provided (min. 150 mm after compaction)?
- 8. Is the surface smooth, even and well compacted and free of erosion?
- 9. Is the surface graded for proper drainage (min 2% slope), free of low spots and depressions?
- 10. Is the surface free of stones and other tripping hazards?
- 11. Have adequate culverts or other structures been provided where required to accommodate water courses and surface drainage? Are culverts safely grated, etc?
- 12. Are side slopes stable (i.e. free of erosion) and not greater than 1:3 (v:h)?
- 13. For side slope gradients steeper than 1:3, have stable retaining walls, rock rip rap or other suitable structure been provided?
- 14. If rock rip rap has been used, has it been carefully placed and blended with the natural environment?
- 15. Have suitable guard rails (as defined in the National Building Code) been provided at all vertical drops greater than 600 mm or any other hazardous conditions?
- 16. Have all disturbed areas been revegetated?
- 17. Have suitable barriers been provided where ever required to prevent vehicle access?
- 18. Has a gate been provided at a suitable location to accommodate maintenance and emergency access?
- 19. Where required, has vegetation been cleared to provide clearance, sight lines and visibility?
- 20. Has signage been provided to identify trail entrance? Is there a map of the trail route and interpretive information?
- 21. Does signage include emergency contact information?
- 22. Have boardwalks or other measures been taken to protect sensitive areas?
- 23. Has all construction debris been removed from the trail site and adjacent/abutting land?
- 24. Has a one year warranty been included in the agreement with HRM?
- 25. Has an end of warranty inspection been completed?