

To: Community and Operations Services Committee

From: Kevin Alexander, Commissioner,  
Community and Operations Services Department

Report Number: CO-24-57

Date of Report: November 13, 2024

Date of Meeting: November 18, 2024

Subject: Snow and Ice Clearing from Trails

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

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## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this Report is to respond to the following Council directive of January 29, 2024, concerning Item CO-24-06:

“Staff be directed to investigate the clearing of snow and ice from trails included in new or redesigned neighbourhood parks.”

## **2.0 Recommendation**

That the Community and Operations Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report CO-24-57 dated November 13, 2024, Snow and Ice Clearing from Trails be received for information.

## **3.0 Input From Other Sources**

- Legislative Services
- Legal Services
- Safety and Facilities Services

## **4.0 Analysis**

### **4.1 Definitions**

Sidewalk: A path along the side of the road which is commonly used by pedestrians, typically consisting of a concrete surface.

Multi-Use Paths: A hard surface path that is located within the right-of-way and designed to be shared by pedestrians, cyclists and other forms of active transportation. (Example: Taunton Road West, south side from Thornton Road to Somerville Street)

Walkways: A means of connection or access between right-of-way and other City-owned or managed properties, with the exception of building access. (Examples: walkway from Samac Court to Taylorwood Court and Paddington Crescent to Tiffany Circle)

Park Pathways: A City-endorsed pathway within a park that is not classified as a walkway or multi-use recreational trail. (Examples: Deer Valley Park and Summerglen Park)

Off-road, Class II, trail facilities: Multi-use recreational trails that have a dividing line, a paved or compacted granular surface, wayfinding signage, minimum 3.0m width, and span multiple neighbourhoods that connect different destinations in the City. (Examples: Michael Starr trail and Oshawa Creek Trail)

## **4.2 Criteria for Winter Maintenance**

Sidewalks: The City is responsible for winter maintenance activities on all sidewalks that are adjacent to City owned property and throughout the Central Business District. The abutting property owner is responsible for clearing the sidewalk.

Multi-Use Paths: The City is responsible for winter maintenance activities on all paths.

Walkways: The following criteria for each Series of walkway must be met for winter maintenance activities to occur.

1. Walkways Series 1000:
  - Must have a hard surface.
  - Must connect street to street; or
  - Leads from right of way to the recreational trail system that is cleared; or
  - Leads from right of way to a City facility; or
  - Leads from right of way to a parking lot that is cleared by the City.
2. Walkways Series 2000:
  - Must have a hard surface.
  - Leads from right of way to the recreational trail system that is cleared; or
  - Leads from right of way to a City facility; or
  - Leads from right of way to a school (not into the school yard) and is City owned; or
  - Leads from right of way with lighting.

Park pathways shall not receive winter maintenance except in parks that Council have directed to be declared all-season parks (Examples: Lakeview Park and Ed Broadband Park)

Off-road, Class II, trail facilities: Winter maintenance shall be performed on paved sections of trail only.

Walkways and trails that do not meet the criteria above are currently not considered for winter maintenance.

#### **4.3 Level of Service for Winter Maintenance**

Sidewalks, Multi-Use Paths, Walkways and Off-road, Class II, trail Facilities: Snow and ice removal shall be completed no later than midnight of the first day after the precipitation has ended.

The Winter Access By-law 92-2009, as amended ("Winter Access By-law) requires the property owner to provide snow and ice removal from the abutting sidewalk. The By-law coincides with the same level of service on City maintained sidewalks, multi-use paths, walkway and off-road, class II, trail facilities.

#### **4.4 New or Redesigned Neighbourhood Parks**

As detailed in sections 4.2 and 4.3 and unless noted otherwise, park pathways do not meet the criteria for winter maintenance.

Should Council want to add all park pathways and amend levels of service for winter maintenance, the following should be considered:

- Reviewing the criteria for winter maintenance
- Redefining all-season parks
- Reviewing parks construction standards
- Impacts to other winter maintenance activities
- Availability of resources
- Potential budget impacts

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

## 6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Lead: Governance and Service Excellence” with the goal to embrace innovation and advance continuous improvement initiatives and actions.

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Mike Harrington, P.Eng., PMP Director,  
Parks and Roads Operations Services - Interim

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Alexander". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "K." and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Kevin Alexander, Commissioner,  
Community and Operations Services Department