

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: September 25, 2024
To: Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee
From: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Report Number: ITS24-018
Attachments: Avon Trail Blazing Plan

Title: Avon Trail Blazing Request

Objective: To consider a request from the Avon Trail Club to blaze the Stratford Side Trail from the Devon Street playground through the City to the TJ Dolan.

Background: The Stratford Side Trail runs from the Devon Street playground through the City to the TJ Dolan natural area. Currently, the trail is not properly blazed throughout the City.

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) has designed an informational trail sign to be placed in Confederation Park to assist trail users with navigating the trail, including how to read trail blazes. This project was included in the 2024 approved budget. The sign is only effective if the trail blazing is completed.

In 2021 blue side trail blazing was completed on City installed posts in TJ Dolan with the assistance of Community Services staff.

At the November 22, 2023, Active Transportation Advisory Committee the following motion was passed:

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends to Stratford City Council that they permit and support the blazing of the Avon Trail through the City of Stratford.

Analysis: If approved, all blazing will be completed by trained and experienced Avon Trail volunteer members with a template and high-quality paint and will be kept to the minimum number required for walkers to easily follow the trail. All blazes will be painted blue and will be 5.08cm x 15.24cm (2 inch x 6 inch), which is the standard size on trails throughout Ontario.

The following locations have been requested for installation of a trail blaze:

- Devon Street playground along existing riverside trail for 600 m to where the trail joins Devon Street on approximately 12 trees;
- Devon Street to Romeo Street and crossing into Upper Queens Park on approximately 8 posts and 2 trees;
- Upper Queens Park to Lakeside Drive to the William Hutt Bridge on approximately 6 posts;
- William Hutt Bridge to John Street on approximately 7 posts and 1 tree.

Prior to installation all locations will be reviewed and approved by City staff.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable:

There are no financial implications to be reported because of this report. The blazing including any required materials is to be funded by the Avon Trail group.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Enhance our Infrastructure

This report aligns with this priority as it will improve active transportation in the community.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Travel and Transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the request from the Avon Trail to blaze the Stratford Side Trail from the Devon Street playground through the City to the TJ Dolan natural area be considered.

Prepared by:

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk

Recommended by:

Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer