

## **TRENDS AND ISSUES FACING ONTARIO'S TRAILS**

The following is a bullet point outline of what Hike Ontario feels are the major themes and issues associated with Ontario trails. The intent of the report is to provide our trail clubs and partners with Hike Ontario's view of the major issues, trends and influences on Ontario Trails today.

### **Risk Management**

- Insurance situation in Ontario
  - Where we are at and why
  - Where we'd like to be and why
  - Ways of getting there
- Recognizable trail liabilities
  - Infrastructure
  - Environmental hazards
  - Uses
- Common hazards and threats
  - Trees
  - Surfacing – aging footprints
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Prohibited or unsafe uses
  - Increased and diversifying uses
- Risk Monitoring/ trail audits
  - Signage
  - Monitoring needs/ checklists
  - Sustainable management
- Trail club needs

### **Sustainability**

- Membership needs and trends
- Liability/ insurance concerns
- Volunteerism

### **Benefits of Ontario's Trails**

- Health
- Economy
- Environment
- Social

### **Trends On Trails**

- Diversifying uses
- Increased demands
- New opportunities...liabilities
- Demographics of trails in Ontario
- Nature vs Motor
- Accessibility

## **Conflicts**

- User conflicts
- Environmental conflicts
- Ownership conflicts
- Management conflicts

## **Management and Development**

- Diversifying needs leading to trail development demands
- Costs of management are going up significantly
- Need for partnerships
- All things to all people or...specific things to specific people
- Lack of resources
- Acquisition constraints
- Standards needed

## **Gaps**

- Standards in design, management, maintenance and monitoring
- Mapping, references
- Promotion and marketing
- Political influence

## **Towards a Future**

- Ontario Trails Strategy
- Diversifying the demographic
- Managing the risks properly and cooperatively
- Promotion, marketing and education

### **For more information contact:**

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