

Wingham Community Trail Committee Report

TO: Reeve Vincent and Council, Township of North Huron
FROM: Wingham Community Trail Committee
DATE: November 6, 2017
SUBJECT: Improvements/Maintenance Activities: Wingham Community Trail
Proposed Work to be undertaken in 2018

PURPOSE:

To provide council with an overview of the Wingham Trail Committee's activities in 2017
To identify improvements proposed for 2018

BACKGROUND:

In 2014 North Huron Council requested that the Wingham Trail Committee make a report to council on an annual basis.

This report outlines the work that the Trail committee has been involved with over the past year along with the investment of time and funding that have been contributed to the trail and park.

WINGHAM COMMUNITY TRAIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Wingham Trail Committee is comprised of the following people:

Mike Martin

Terry Deyell

Sharon Weber

Inge Wraith

Char Breitmaier

Murray Ritsema

Mike Smolenaars

Phil Beard

Norm Anger: responsible for installing plaques on the Bridge of Memories

2017 Activities:

The Trail Committee met with Larry Meyer from North Huron's Recreation Department back in April to identify work that the Trail Committee could do to assist the Recreation Department with the maintenance of the trail, shrub beds and entrance garden in the Wingham Ecological Park and along the community trail.

The Trail committee was able to accomplish the following work in 2017: (the attached presentation includes pictures of some of the work that has been undertaken by the committee).

1. **Planting of Wildflowers and Shrubs:** Storm water Management Pond. The committee planted additional shrubs and wildflowers at the municipality's storm water management pond located beside the trail near the Maitland River Elementary School in May.

2. **Cedar Rail Fence section:** The cedar rail fence along the east side of the trail was refurbished with new rails and supports in October. We plan to rebuild the cedar rail fence along the west side of the trail in 2018.
An invasive plant called Himalayan Balsalm was removed by Sharon Weber over the summer to keep it from crowding out the native wildflowers that have been planted along the cedar rail fence.
3. **Shrub/Wildflower Planting with TD Bank:** TD Bank through their TD Tree Days program contributed \$2,500 to North Huron to cover the costs of planting a tree/shrub bed along the east side of the trail near the Lion's Picnic Shelter. Staff from TD Bank and the Wingham Ironmen hockey team undertook the planting under the supervision of members of the Trail Committee.
4. **Entrance Garden:** Manitoba Maple and vines were removed from the Entrance Garden. The shrubs and garden were pruned and the bed was weeded and mulched by committee members. The Committee purchased wood chips for mulching the garden.
Additional wildflowers were planted in early October. The wildflowers were donated by the IPM Education Committee from their display.
5. **Pruning:** The committee spent many hours in the spring pruning dead branches from trees and shrubs along the trail.

The Trail Committee invested over 180 hours of time over the past year to help maintain and improve the community trail and park. The Trail committee does this because we think that the Community Trail and the park are important to the wellbeing of our community. There are few communities that have as extensive and beautiful a trail and park system as Wingham has. It is something that we should all take pride in!

Proposed 2018 Improvements/Maintenance Work:

The Trail Committee has identified the following work that they would like to assist with in 2018:

- a) Plant additional wildflowers in the new shrub bed that was planted along the trail near the Lion's Picnic Shelter
- b) Investigate the potential for extending the trail around the Maitland River Elementary School/F.E.Madill School Property.
- c) Continue to remove the Himalayan Balsalm from along the trail.
- d) Repair/replace rails in the cedar rail fence along the west side of the trail.
- e) Pruning of dead trees/shrubs throughout the park.
- f) Add stone dust to erosion prone areas of the trail and in the parking lot area to form a walkway.

SUMMARY:

We appreciate all of the work that the Works and Recreation Department staff put into the trail and park in 2017 and we look forward to assisting them again in 2018.