

# Information Report

**Title:** Trail Blazers Volunteer Program

**Report Number:** Recreation and Community Programs-2023-13

**Director:** Community Services

**Manager:** Recreation & Community Programs

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

---

## Executive Summary:

The Municipality is looking for individuals that frequently use sections of our trails to volunteer to be Trail Blazers when they are out walking, hiking or biking. The role of the Trail Blazer volunteers are to identify any hazards or concerns on the trails and report them back to the Community Services department for evaluation and action where required. The presence of these volunteers will greatly enhance the quality and safety of our trails.

## Context and Background:

Kincardine's trails are an important part of the community as they are enjoyed by residents and tourists for hiking, cycling, walking and more. The Trail Blazers volunteer program provides an opportunity for the community and trail users to assist in keeping our trails safe and enjoyable for all without providing or requiring hazardous physical labour.

The Municipality is looking for individuals who frequently use the trails to volunteer as Trail Blazers for the Municipality when they are out using the trails. The role of the volunteer is to identify any hazard or concern on the trails and report them back to the Community Services department for evaluation and action where required. The presence of these volunteers will greatly enhance the quality and safety of our trails.

## Consultation Overview:

The Trail Blazers volunteer program will assist municipal staff in identifying issues or concerns that need to be addressed.

Staff have consulted with the existing trails volunteers regarding this volunteer program and they are supportive of the Trail Blazers program

**Origin:**

The public has expressed an interest in keeping our trails safe for all uses, therefore the Trail Blazers volunteer program will assist with this moving forward.

**Implementation Considerations:**

Volunteers would be required to review the Volunteer Management Policy, and complete Schedule B Volunteer Information Form – Low Risk Opportunities.

Volunteers would attend an orientation session where responsibilities would be outlined.

Volunteers will be identifiable with a lanyard that recognizes them as a municipal volunteer.

Program statistics would be provided to Council in the Community Services Department quarterly updates to Council.

Similar programs have proven to be successful in neighbouring communities, and staff are confident that it will be well received in Kincardine as well.

---

**Attachments:** N/A

**Prepared by:** Karen Kieffer, Manager of Community Programs

**Submitted by:** Jayne K. Jagelewski, Director Community Services