

The recommendations contained in this report reflect a forward thinking, state-of-the-art approach based on extensive research by the consulting team. Many of the concepts are unique to this study and, to the best of our knowledge, are new, groundbreaking concepts intended to improve the overall success and implementation of the Hamilton Master Plan system.

*For example, all projects are organized within each ward under individual initiatives (**Section 5.3**) with a data sheet and accompanying map of each initiative. This allows Council, staff and the public to clearly understand and consider the individual components in detail that comprise the overall system.*

*Another unique concept that is introduced in this Master Plan is the concept of a degree of difficulty rating system for each trail. This degree of difficulty will assist users to make choices for trail use. This is discussed in **Section 4.6, Trail Signage/Pictograms** and further detailed in **Section 5.3, Individual Ward Projects** on the individual data sheets.*

The intent is to create a multi-purpose system that, to the extent practical, caters to the broadest range of users possible. The system is intended to embrace people of varied levels of health, mobility, skill, age and interests. To further enhance this concept, we have developed a signage and pictogram symbology which builds upon the work of the Cycling Committee, Parks and Open Space and others including our team members.

Throughout the document, the concept of improving health, encouraging healthy lifestyles and increasing activity levels is constantly reinforced. From Provincial Planning Policies through to City Policies, the concept of healthy choices and encouraging fitness is considered and addressed throughout the Master Plan. Many positive legislative changes have occurred in the last few years, which will assist in counteracting current poor health and obesity trends within our society.

The Hamilton Recreational Trails Master Plan is well suited to meet the City of Hamilton's challenge to improve community's quality of life by providing opportunities to participate in outdoor fitness and recreation, helping the City meet its corporate goal of creating a "healthy, safe and green City".

The Consultant Team is grateful to have been able to assist the City of Hamilton to improve the quality of life for its residents and visitors.

CURRENT STATUS AND BREAKING NEWS

This document is intended as a working tool that will be constantly references and updated. During the summer and fall of 2007, several on-street initiatives, previously shown as "proposed" were completed. To the extent practical, the authors have updated mapping in the Master Plan.

In addition, work is underway in 2007 to update the on-street cycling network and system. This document, together with the Hamilton Recreational Trails Master Plan will form a two-part comprehensive system.