



## Staff Report

---

**Report To:** Council

**Report From:** Kodey Hewlett-Mowbray, Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer

**Meeting Date:** November 5, 2024

**Subject:** Community Services – Riverside Park Trail – Motorized Use Update

---

### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of staff report 'Community Services – Riverside Park Trail – Motorized Use Update', Council directs staff to proceed with allowing motorized use (snowmobile only) on the section of trail between Riverside Park and Douglas Street.

### Highlights:

- In the 2023/2024 winter season West Grey permitted the Durham Trailblazers to access the trail between Riverside Park and Douglas Street for a pilot project.
- Following the pilot, staff launched a public engagement campaign with two thirds of respondents in support of snowmobile use.
- Staff are supportive of continuing with seasonal snowmobile use, provided the previous years safety precautions are continued by the club.

### Previous Report/Authority:

[Recreation Services – West Grey Recreation Trails Survey Update](#)

### Analysis:

For the 2023/2024 winter season the Municipality of West Grey permitted the Durham Trailblazers to use the 1.4 km section of trail between Riverside Park and Douglas Street under a pilot project for way of access to gas and other amenities within the downtown core of Durham.

The pilot project permitted the use with various safety precautions put into place by the club including limited speeds, increased signage, and trail marking. Following the pilot project, staff launched a public engagement campaign collecting feedback from the

community to garner their support for motorized (snowmobile) use on the Durham Trails. Out of the 69 responses received, 66 percent were in support of permitting motorized use, with 33 percent being opposed. Out of those who were opposed, approximately half stated they would be supportive of motorized use provided safety precautions were put in place, which the club is prepared to put into place for the 2024/2025 season (increased signage on trails to demarcate bends and blind curves, and reduced speed limits to 20km/hour).

Given the survey results, and in consultation with the West Grey Police Service, staff are supportive of permitting motorized use for the purpose of snowmobiling.

### **Financial Implications:**

There is no anticipated budget impact anticipated with permitting limited motorized use on the trail.

### **Communication Plan:**

Following Council direction, staff will provide an update to the Durham Trailblazers and organize for posting of trail signage (if approved by Council).

### **Consultation:**

Durham Trailblazers (snowmobile club)

West Grey Police Service

### **Attachments:**

None.

### **Recommended by:**

Kodey Hewlett-Mowbray, Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer

### **Submission approved by:**

Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer

For more information on this report, please contact Kodey Hewlett-Mowbray, Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer at [khewlett@westgrey.com](mailto:khewlett@westgrey.com) or 519-369-2200 ext. 240.