



100 John West Way  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 6J1  
(905) 727-3123  
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
**Memorandum**  
Operational Services

---

**Re:** Request for Trail Maintenance - Tim Jones Trail within the Arboretum

**To:** Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

**From:** Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks & Fleet

**Date:** May 28, 2025

---

## Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Request for Trail Maintenance - Tim Jones Trail within the Arboretum be received for information.

## Background

Interest in increasing service level of winter maintenance on trail between Aurora Seniors Centre (ASC) and Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC).

At the January 22, 2025, Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (ATTSAC) meeting the following inquiry was brought forward during new business:

Inquiry into the feasibility of having the snow plowed on the trail between the ASC and the AFLC. The Chair advised that this requires Council approval of a change in service level, possibly through a member motion to Council, for them to explore with staff.

**Current service levels do not include regular winter maintenance of trails and pathways within parks and open spaces.**

Operational Services are responsible for maintaining a total of 254 km of sidewalks, of which 153 km are classified as primary sidewalks. At the beginning of a snowfall event in Aurora, sidewalks, especially those around schools, hospitals, and public transportation, are prioritized for snow plowing, with main roads and high-traffic areas receiving the first attention. These designated primary sidewalks receive priority for winter maintenance to ensure safe and accessible pedestrian routes in key areas, including sidewalks along regional roads. Secondary routes consist of lower-volume

local roads. As this trail does not fall within the criteria of a primary or secondary sidewalk, it does not meet the requirements for winter maintenance under the Town's existing service levels. In addition, the Parks Division service level standards does not allow for winter maintenance of trail or pathways in parks or open spaces or trail networks.

## **Analysis**

**Operational Services staff investigated winter maintenance request for the trail portion along the Tim Jones Trail and cannot support the request due to various factors, including environmental impacts and increased service level.**

Staff conducted a review of the request to provide winter maintenance, including plowing and salting, on the Tim Jones Trail, within the Aurora Community Arboretum (ACA) extending from the ASC located at 100 John West Way to the AFLC approximately 800 m in length.

After careful deliberation, Operational Services has determined that it cannot support this request at this time due to environmental and operational concerns. This trail also includes a wooden bridge, which staff would not be able to plow due to the material composition of the bridge. The trail is situated within a designated flood plain, and its winter maintenance would necessitate the application of salt to manage snow and ice accumulation to prevent slips and falls. Given its proximity to stormwater management ponds and streams, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) would not endorse the use of salt in this area due to potential adverse environmental impacts on water quality and local ecosystems.

Furthermore, Operational Services does not maintain trails or multi-use paths within Town during the winter season, as certain locations present unique challenges. Trails located in flood plains are particularly susceptible to ice buildup due to prolonged exposure to winter elements. Applying de-icing materials in these sensitive areas raises environmental concerns, as runoff could compromise water quality and disrupt local ecosystems.

In addition, this request constitutes an enhanced service level that is not supported in the Town's current Winter Maintenance Program or Operating Budget.

Taking these factors into account, Operational Services is unable to support this request for winter maintenance on this trail network.

**Aurora Community Arboretum does not support regular trail maintenance through these environmentally sensitive lands.**

Staff have consulted with the ACA Board and, due to the sensitivity of the lands being within floodplain and the use of salt to ensure minimum maintenance standards are met, ACA staff share concerns with Town staff regarding salt sensitivity in the area and potential impact to natural vegetation and introduced commemorative plantings in addition to the impact to the watercourses and table in the surrounding area.

## **Attachments**

None.