



Burlington's Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting  
Agenda

**Date:** February 12, 2026  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Room 305, City Hall, third floor  
**Contact:** Committee Clerk, Suzanne.Gillies@burlington.ca, 905-335-7600, x 7862

Pages

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

3.1 Approve the minutes from the meeting held January 8, 2026

1 - 4

**4. Delegation(s):**

**5. Regular Items:**

5.1 Staff update - introduction of Dzenana Zildzic (Accessibility Specialist)

5.2 Community Trails Strategy project update: focus area and potential project discussion - Marion Rabeau (Manager, Design & Construction - Parks) and Claire Basinski (Consultant)

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Link to project page on Get Involved:  
<https://www.getinvolvedburlington.ca/trailsstrategy>

5.3 Workplan and budget discussion

5.4 Updates from Committees:

- a. Seniors' Advisory Committee - Jill
- b. Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee - Garth
- c. Inclusivity Advisory Committee - Lucy

**6. Other Business:**

6.1 Good news round table

**7. Adjournment:**



## Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Date: January 8, 2026  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Room 305, City Hall, third floor

**1. Members Present:**

Cheryl Hurst, Deb Strum, Jill Randall, Amy DeHueck, David Owen, Tammy Lyle-Gravlev, Emily Stillwell, Lucy Nixon, Garth Napier, Sona Rai

**2. Member Regrets:**

**3. Others Present:**

Councillor Sharman, Suzanne Gillies (Clerk)

**4. Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

None

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

6.1 Approve the minutes from the meeting held November 13, 2025

On motion the minutes from the meeting held November 13, 2025 were approved as presented.

**7. Delegation(s):**

None

**8. Regular Items:**

8.1 Workplan discussion

a. 2026 Budget discussion

Suzanne provided some background information regarding developing a budget for the approved workplan items. The committee decided to connect with the working groups before the next meeting to discuss potential budget needs for each action item in the workplan. Suzanne will provided past costs for the committee to reference during discussions.

The committee requested a mid-year update on the budget.

b. Working group volunteers

The following members volunteered to be on the working groups as listed below:

1. Strengthen accessibility across Burlington Municipal Services to elevate Burlington as an accessibility leader - Garth, Jill and David
2. National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) - Tammy, Emily, Lucy
3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities - Tammy, Deb, Amy
4. Outreach Activities - Garth, Sona, David, Emily
5. Review, refine and strengthen feedback tools - Deb, Garth
6. Connections with residents - Lucy, Cheryl, Emily
7. Recommend development of electronic 'one stop repository' of tools, technologies, resources and programs for persons with disabilities - Lucy, Cheryl, Amy Emily
8. Accessible Trick or Treat - Tammy, Lucy, Amy
9. Liaise and participate with other citizen advisory committees - Garth, David, Deb, Lucy
10. Complete a committee operations review - Jill, Garth, Lucy

c. General workplan updates

Jill suggested that a member on each of the working groups assumes a lead role and then would take on the responsibility of providing updates at the committee meetings, be a point person, coordinate meetings/tasks and generally provide direction.

The committee discussed the focus of tactic #7 (Resource repository) and suggested language to refocus the efforts on leveraging existing resources and making them available to

residents through the website. Lucy to provide revised language for committee approval.

## 8.2 Next Steps Zoning By-Law project

Garth provided the following update to the committee:

- Understanding that the New Zoning By-law project is happening in multiple phases with phase one dealing mainly with housing and increasing density but after a review of the draft, noticed that there is nothing from an accessibility perspective. There is no mention of barrier free access gaps, retrofitting buildings, no key terms regarding universal design.
- There is mention of accessible parking that is the same as the AODA standards, but not above or beyond the law of the AODA.
- Referring to the pre-circulated document (attached), Garth summarized next steps, starting with a meeting with Councillor Sharman to consult on a path forward. Re-engage with staff on recommendations outlined in the attached document.

Suzanne confirmed that the first phase will be going to a Statutory Public Meeting on February 10 and then to Council on February 19. She also let the committee know that staff are working to an internal deadline of Jan. 9 to provide comment/feedback on the parking recommendations forwarded to staff after the October meeting.

David commented that this timing during the review is an optimal time for engagement and input. The committee would like have more time to review the by-laws more carefully in order to be able to make responsible and thoughtful feedback.

Proposed next steps would be to meet with Councillors and provide prior to the committee meeting to ensure that the concerns of BAAC are heard prior to the meeting and are not coming as a surprise at the last minute.

Councillor Sharman expressed the importance of BAAC providing written correspondence to all Council members and provide a delegation at Committee. Not only should the Committee provide written correspondence but should delegate at the meeting.

Motion: Approve moving forward meeting with Councillors, delegating at COW on Feb 10, 2026 regarding the Zoning By-law and engaging with city staff to discuss concerns and questions. CARRIED

Garth, Jill and David will continue to work on this initiative moving forward.

8.3 Update on Downtown Parking Guidelines recommendations

Suzanne provided an update from Kalyan Edgcumbe (Manager, Integrated Mobility) regarding where the recommendations that BAAC provided stand.

8.4 Updates from Committees:

a. Seniors' Advisory Committee - Jill

No update

b. Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee - Garth

No update

c. Inclusivity Advisory Committee - Lucy

Lucy provided the committee with the following update:

- at the November meeting, invited ITAC members to attend the IDPD flag raising

**9. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

9.1 Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2026, term ending December 31, 2026

On motion Jill Randall and David Owen were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the term ending December 31, 2026.

**10. Other Business:**

Suzanne shared information requested by the committee regarding accessible parking violations.

Lucy put forward a suggestion that at future meetings doing a round-table good news story of what members have seen in the community as accessibility wins.

**11. Adjournment:**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.



# Burlington Community Trails Strategy



## Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting #3



February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Meeting Overview

## Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Presentation
3. Discussion and Design Considerations
4. Next Steps

## Purpose

- Update the committee on work completed
- Provide an overview of the current version of the trail classifications (still in development)
- Review comments provided and address how they have been incorporated
- Provide an overview of next steps

# Trail Classification & Standards Overview

Trail Classification Overview	Decision Tool Matrix	Trail Facility Design	Adaptation Parameters	Infrastructure and Amenities	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Quick reference for trail features</li><li>› Provide public-friendly descriptions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› An assessment tool that will help determine the trail classification</li><li>› Formatted as a series of questions based on location, experience, feasibility and function.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Detailed parameters for trail construction</li><li>› Structures to limit variation and adaptation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Identify problem solving measures and other adaptations that are appropriate for each trail type.</li><li>› Identify types of water crossings, ramps, and other adaptive infrastructure.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Quantify location and frequency of amenities by trail type.</li><li>› Identify infrastructure and frequency</li><li>› Allows for per km costing projections</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Identify maintenance actions and frequency</li><li>› Includes: monitoring, snow removal, waste, maintenance, full lifecycle renewal.</li></ul>
Drafted	In Dev.	Drafted	Drafted	Drafted	Drafted

# Intent and Purpose

## Trail Standards address...

- Features within the trail corridor (trail, amenity zones, buffer zones)
- Trail access points and access to trail amenities
- Trail-driven parking
- Trail user conflict management.

## Trail Standards do not address...

- Destination features such as gathering areas, park features, and waterfront boardwalks
- Paths of travel associated with destinations or amenities
- Multi-function parking
- Road crossings, sidewalks, or other active transportation facilities within the road corridor.

# Development Considerations

## Approach

- Review and incorporate approaches in existing City documents
- Draw from national standards and guidelines and best practices, including emerging trends
- Balance conflicts between contrasting priorities, funding limitations, and feasibility
- Develop consistent and clearly communicated expectations

## Considerations

- Where is it appropriate to adjust standards?
- What/where is most critical to provide higher levels of support for users? Where is it less important?
- What could be phased in over time?
- What is appropriate for trail standards vs what will be addressed through existing (not trail-specific) standards on a project-by-project basis?

# Trail Classification: October Refresher

Waterfront Trail	Access Trail	Greenway Trail	Nature Trail	Adventure Trail
<p><b>Experience:</b> Low speed, high volume trail used as a destination to provide access to the waterfront</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of challenge</li> <li>• High level of conflict management</li> <li>• High provision and frequency of amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-typologies:</b> Major Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> Connections to and within parks, schools, and other transportation networks</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of challenge</li> <li>• Low level of conflict management</li> <li>• Low provision and frequency of amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-typologies:</b> Major Access Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> High speed, high volume trail used for commuting and recreation</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium level of challenge</li> <li>• High level of conflict management</li> <li>• Low provision and frequency of amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-typologies:</b> Major Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> Facilitate connection to nature, limiting barriers to accommodate a wide range of users.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium level of challenge</li> <li>• Low level of conflict management</li> <li>• Medium provision and frequency of amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-typologies:</b> None</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> Connection to nature with minimal alterations to the existing landscape, offering challenge and rigour</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of challenge</li> <li>• Low level of conflict management</li> <li>• Low provision and frequency of amenities</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-typologies:</b> None</p>

# Input received

- Emphasis on the need to ensure alignment and confirm the need (if any) for deviations from current City standards.
- Requests for additional provisions .
- A need to investigate the implementation of current standards and how to address existing non-compliant infrastructure.
- Consideration of overlapping systems (trails, parks, roadways) and system considerations / interactions.
- There is a need to determine when the strategy will reference other plans/standards, recommend changes to other standards, or have specialized standards that supersede others.
- Increase frequency for rest areas and include specific details for public eating areas.
- A need for better separation between facilities when abutting – curb, tactile indicator, grade separation, as well as revisit the use of line paint delineation.

# How did / will we incorporate

- Another detailed review of existing standard documents was completed. There will be some standards that this plan may recommend modifying for the trail specific context.
- Increased frequency of rest areas with considerations regarding integrating non-accessible bench options.
- Further consideration of desired frequencies or ratios of the various styles of benches within a linear environment.
- Items such as outdoor dining, signage, and parking will be addressed through a toolkit separate from the trail classification. Preliminary draft concepts presented today.
- Existing applicable standards will be referenced with notations regarding application. Proposed standards that constrict existing and/or requests to evaluate updates to other standards will be clearly identified in the plan
- Recommendations for upgrades to existing trails, including interim measures, advanced upgrades out of lifecycle renewal and identification of priority projects will be included in the strategy.

# Trail Classifications: Interim Update

Type 1: Greenway Trail	Type 2: Access Trail	Type 3: Nature Trail	Type 4: Adventure Trail
<p><b>Experience:</b> Longer journeys with expectations of continuous travel.</p> <p><b>Function:</b> Multiple user types and abilities, facilities for cyclists, and commuting to destinations.</p> <p><b>Sub Typologies:</b> Major Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> Short trips focused on the destination, such as a park, woodlot, or other open spaces.</p> <p><b>Function:</b> Provides direct, barrier-free access to amenities, park features, schools, and links to other trail facilities.</p> <p><b>Sub Typologies:</b> Major Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> Accessible route providing connection to nature and quiet reflection.</p> <p><b>Function:</b> Focus on the trail experience and responding to the land's characteristics.</p> <p><b>Sub Typologies:</b> Major Minor</p>	<p><b>Experience:</b> A specialized trail that caters to a specific user group or activity type.</p> <p><b>Function:</b> A destination trail that does not facilitate access or connectivity for the general community.</p> <p><b>Sub Typologies:</b> None</p>

# Why Subclassifications

*Subclassifications allow for controlled variation of a trail type and clearly communicate to users' key information that may influence their use/experience. 'Major' trails accommodate higher user volumes with larger facilities, increased maintenance, and amenities. Transitions from 'Major' to 'Minor' classification may be used as a phasing strategy.*

## Major Trails

- Wider and sometimes separated facilities
- Winter maintenance, including snow removal or winter use management
- Higher degree of accessibility and accessible features
- Lighting

## Minor Trails

- Narrower
- Material variation
- No winter maintenance
- No lighting
- Moderate to low accessibility

## Specialized Trails

- Special trails where the destination defines the experience
- Trails will allow for more variation in design to reflect the programming and use type of the trail
- Would only be applicable to adventure trail

# Type 1: Greenway Trail (Major)

**Experience:** Longer journeys with expectations of continuous travel in a wide urban utility corridor.

**Function:** Multiple user types and abilities, facilities for cyclists, and commuting to destinations. Used in busy areas to manage user conflicts.

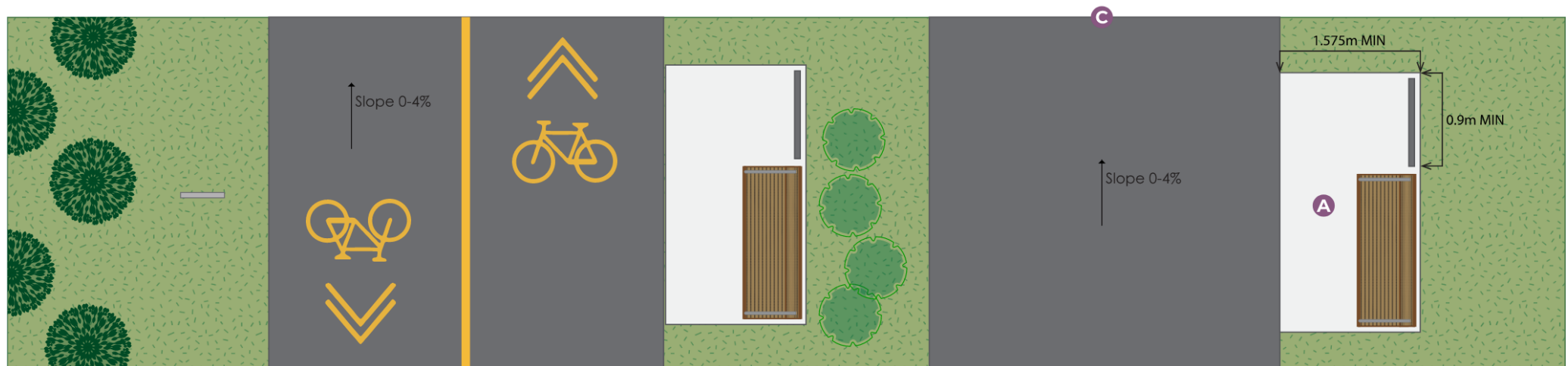
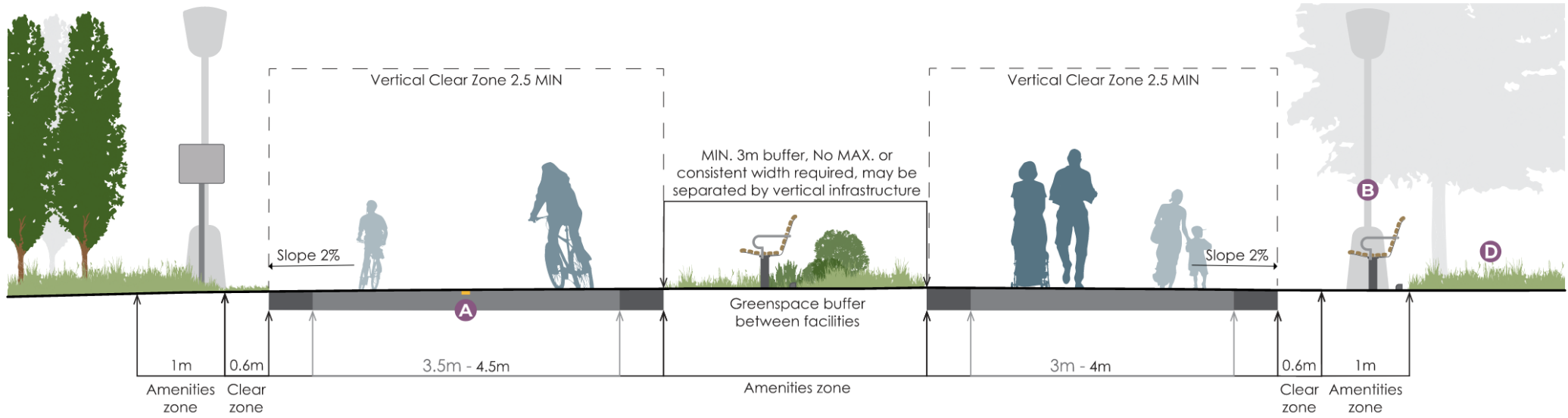
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- Asphalt
- Lighting
- Snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- Separated facilities (landscape buffer)
- Bench seating every 200m on cycling facility
- Rest seating every 30m on the pedestrian facility
  - Benches every 90m (minimum)
  - Seat stones every 30m (minimum)





**● Located:** Within primary utility corridors, and linear corridors, primarily focused on commuting.

**A Surface:** Asphalt (all trail facilities), Concrete amenity pads

**B Infrastructure:** Lighting on both sides that may be phased over time

**C Maintenance:** Winter snow removal for pedestrian zone only

**D Landscape Context:** A low-intensity naturalized landscape that supports ecological function through pollinator meadows and clustered tree and shrub plantings, without the expectation of achieving a full ecosystem or high-quality habitat

**E Adaptation:**

- Minor variation is narrower, with no greenspace buffer
- Segments of the corridor will be lit as applicable

Coloured concrete surface can be used as a delineation between the walkway and seating



# Type 1: Greenway Trail (Minor)

**Experience:** Longer journeys with expectations of continuous travel.

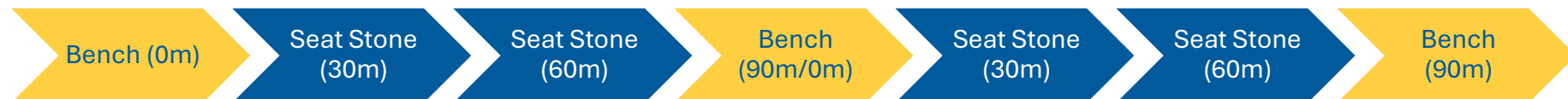
**Function:** Multiple user types and abilities, facilities for cyclists, and commuting to destinations.

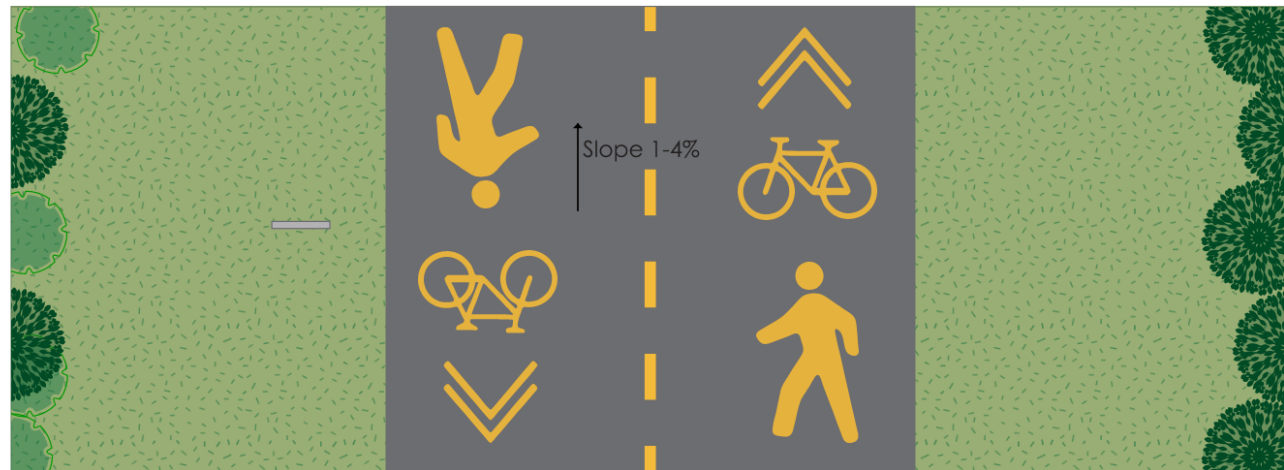
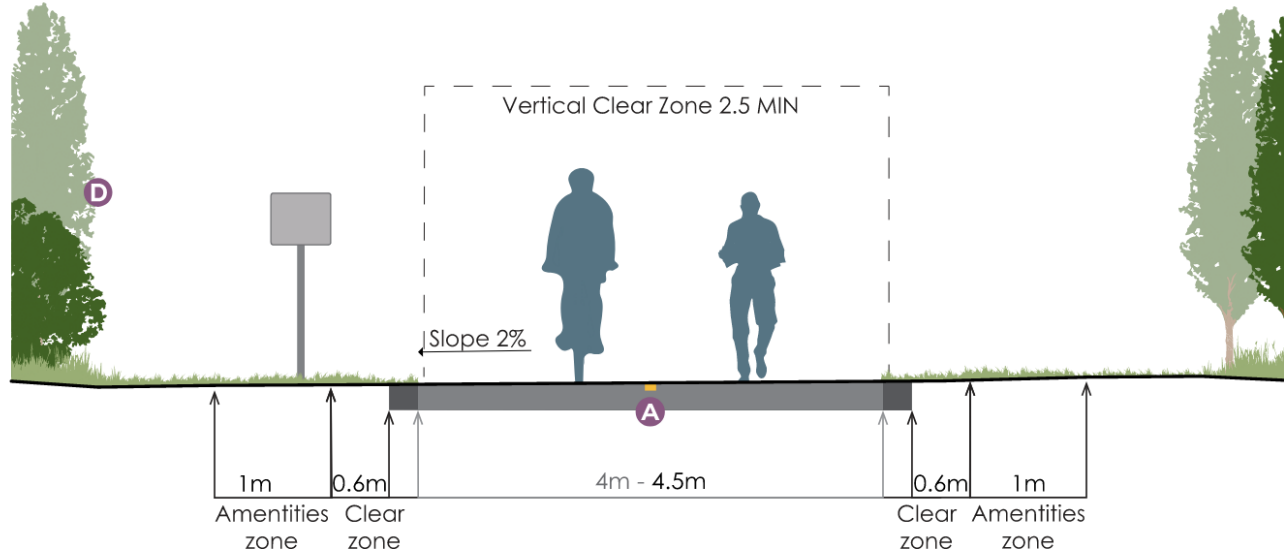
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- › Asphalt
- › No Lighting
- › No snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- › Widened passing zones
- › Rest seating every 30m
  - › Benches every 90m (minimum)
  - › Seat stones every 30m (minimum)





**● Located:** Within primary utility corridors, and linear corridors, primarily focused on commuting.

**A Surface:** Asphalt

**B Infrastructure:** No lighting

**C Maintenance:** No winter snow removal

**D Landscape Context:** A low-intensity naturalized landscape that supports ecological function through pollinator meadows and clustered tree and shrub plantings, without the expectation of achieving a full ecosystem or high quality habitat

**E Adaptation:**

- Maintained year-round to support daylight four-season use.



# Type 2: Access Trail (Major)

**Experience:** Short trips focused on the destination, such as a park, woodlot, or other open spaces.

**Function:** Provides direct, barrier-free access to amenities, park features, schools, and links to other trail facilities.

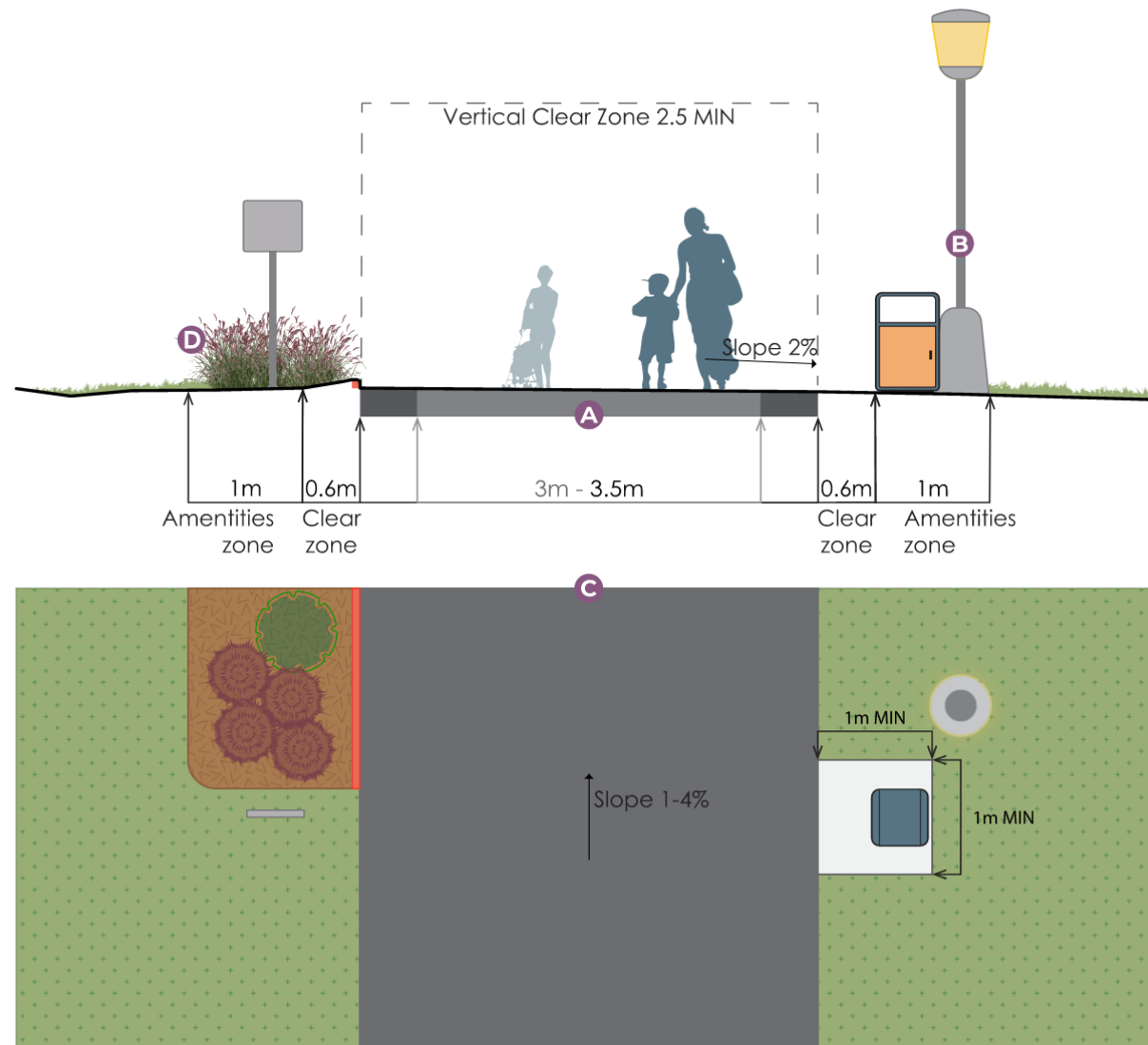
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- Asphalt
- Lighting
- Snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- Rest seating every 30m
  - Benches every 60m (minimum)
  - Seat stones every 60m (minimum)





**Located:** Within parks or urban woodlots, providing a connecting to parks, schools or open spaces.



**A Surface:** Asphalt

**B Infrastructure:** Lighting

**C Maintenance:** Winter snow removal

**D Landscape:** A context-responsive landscape that reflects surrounding conditions (manicured, woodlot, or naturalized parkland), with targeted specimen tree planting to provide shade and shelter along the trail

**E Adaptation:**  
 • none

# Type 2: Access Trail (Minor)

**Experience:** Short trips focused on the destination, such as a park, woodlot, or other open spaces.

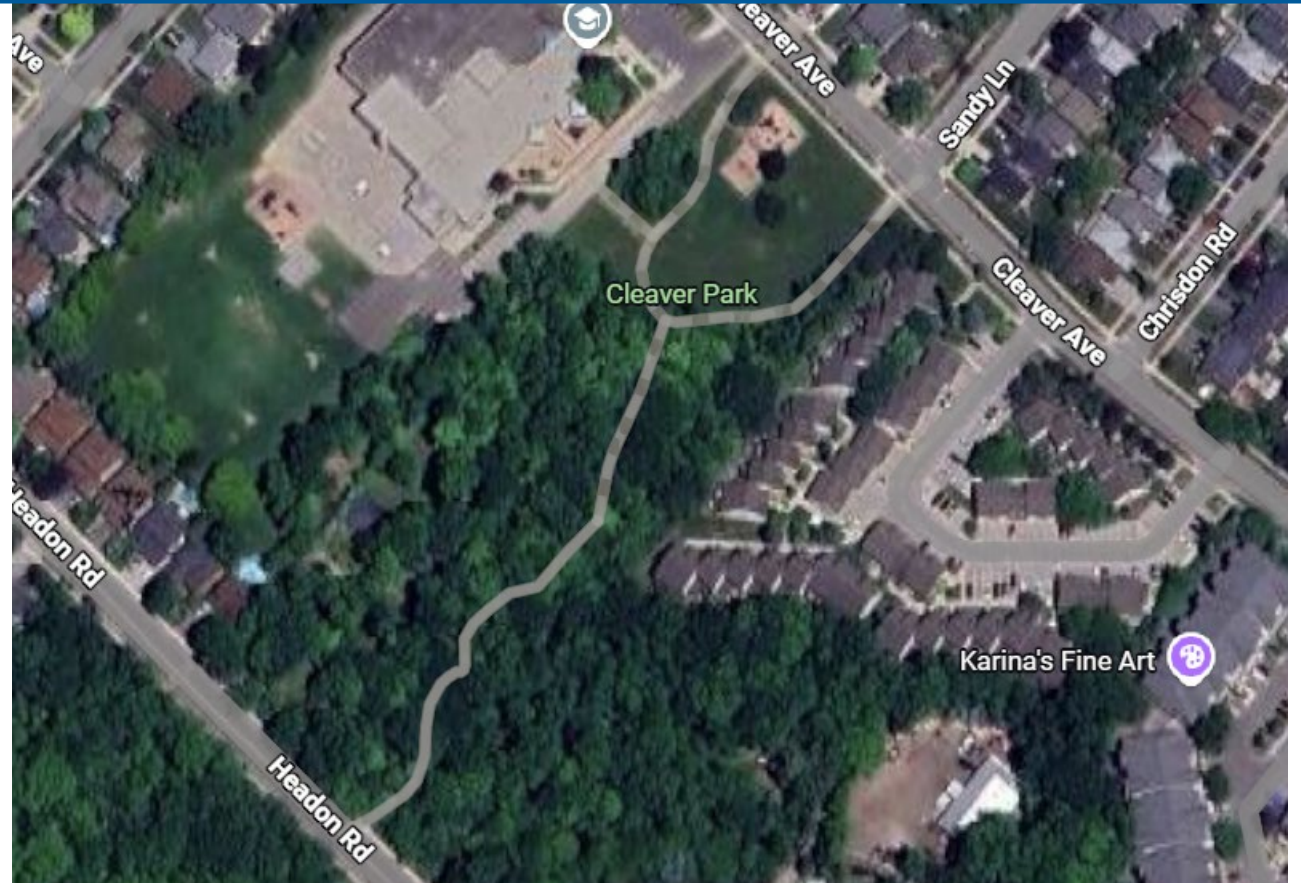
**Function:** Short trips focused on the destination, such as a park, woodlot, or other open spaces.

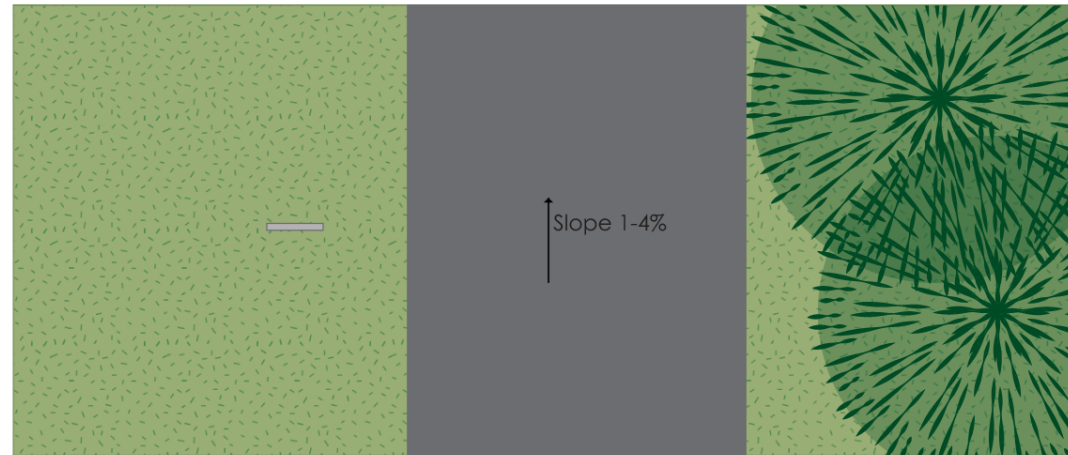
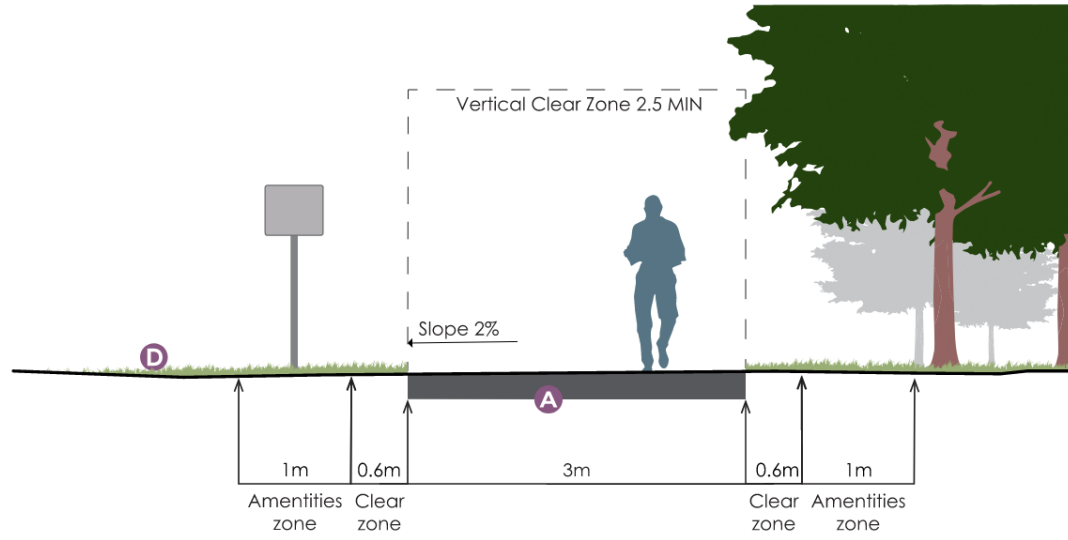
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- Asphalt
- No lighting
- No snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- Shared facilities
- No assigned rest areas, all features at the destination point or point of entry to another trail facility





**● Located:** Within parks or urban woodlots providing a connection to Major Access Trails



**A Surface:** Asphalt

**B Infrastructure:** No lighting

**C Maintenance:** No winter snow removal

**D Landscape:** A context-responsive landscape that reflects surrounding conditions (manicured, woodlot, or naturalized parkland), with targeted specimen tree planting to provide shade and shelter along the trail

**E Adaptation:**

- Winter snow removal added to support accessible four-season use or access to schools
- For unique circumstances, width can be reduced to 2.4m (width of maintenance vehicle)

# Type 3: Nature Trail (Major)

**Experience:** Highly accessible route providing connection to nature and quiet reflection.

**Function:** Focus on the trail experience and responding to the land's characteristics.

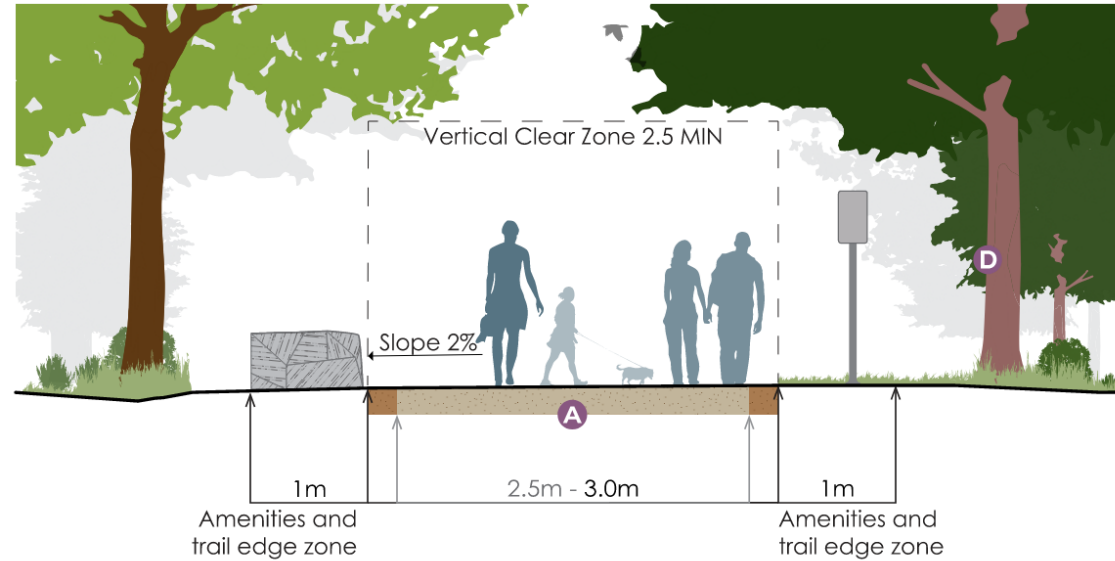
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- › Compacted screenings
- › No lighting, except at Destination and Major Trailheads
- › No snow removal on the trail, snow removal for parking areas where applicable.

## Access + Accessibility:

- › Shared facility
- › Widened passing zones
- › Rest seating at points of entry, vistas, and interpretive areas





- **Located:** Within a forest or in a naturalized urban setting prioritizing accessibility
- **Surface:** Compacted screenings
- **Infrastructure:** No lighting
- **Maintenance:** No winter snow removal
- **Landscape:** A naturalized landscape that emphasizes habitat protection and ecological enhancement, with minimal intervention and seasonal trail-edge mowing
- **Adaptations:** Restricting select users  
Add tripassing areas in select high-conflict areas



# Type 3: Nature Trail (Minor)

**Experience:** Allows for more rigorous terrain and barriers for some users, connection with nature, and quiet reflection.

**Function:** Offshoot trails that do not provide primary access to the area's nature experience, maximize protection to the natural environment, and have low design intervention.

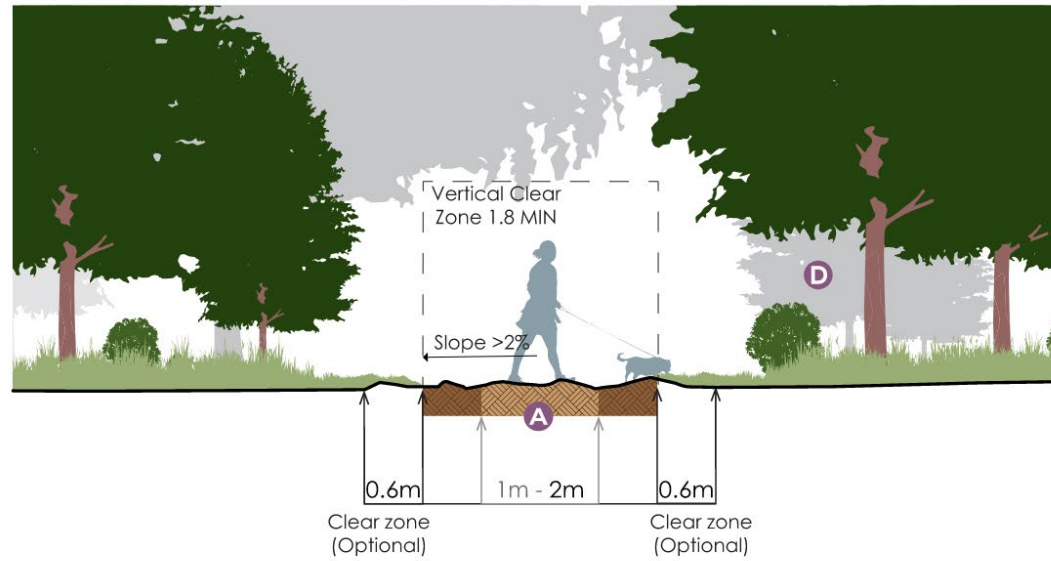
## Trail Facility Characteristics:

- Earthen surface, uneven, steep slopes
- No lighting
- No snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- Shared facility, possible restricted use
- May limit users with low mobility
- Rest seating at points of entry, vistas, and interpretive areas





**● Located:** Within a forest or naturalized setting

**A Surface:** Earthen irregular with mulch in select areas

**B Infrastructure:** No lighting

**C Maintenance:** No winter snow removal

**D Landscape:** A naturalized landscape that is suited for an intended audience and no trail-edge mowing.

**E Adaptations:**

- Look for opportunities to upgrade to major where possible



# Type 4: Adventure Trail

**Experience:** A specialized trail that caters to a specific user group or activity type.

**Function:** A destination trail that does not facilitate access or connectivity for the general community.

## Trail Facility Characteristics:

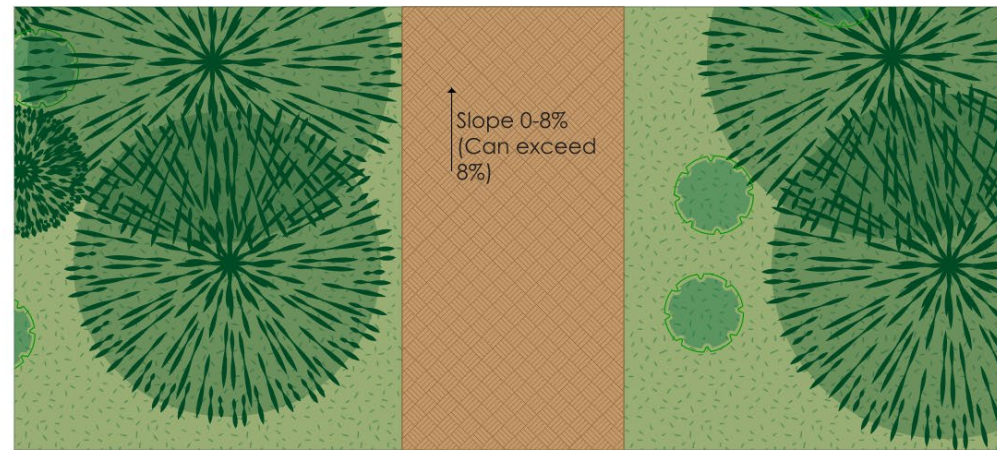
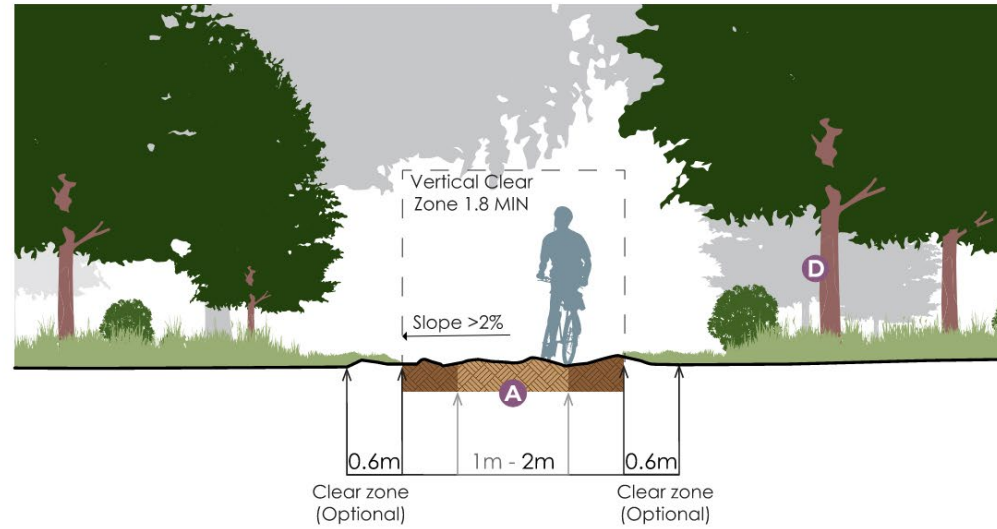
- › Earthen surface, uneven, steep slopes
- › No lighting
- › No snow removal

## Access + Accessibility:

- › Focused use and / or user mode
- › May limit users with low mobility
- › Rest seating at points of entry, vistas, and interpretive areas



## Type 5: Adventure Trail



**● Located:** Destinations for optional experiences for targeted users in naturalized settings



**A Surface:** Earthen irregular with mulch in select areas

**D Landscape:** A naturalized landscape that is suited for the intended audience

**B Infrastructure:** No lighting

**E Adaptations:** none

**C Maintenance:** No winter snow removal

# Conflict Management

## Landscape Buffer

3m wide minimum, no maximum

Separate cyclists and pedestrian facilities

Example: Greenway Trail (Major) or when trails abut other facilities/programming

## Grade Separation

Secondary approach when landscape buffers are not possible

Example: constrained trails at connection points or along the waterfront

## Tactile Indicator Plates

Points of entry and road crossings

To indicate furnishing locations in select classifications

Separating facilities when buffers/grade separation cannot be achieved

## Line Paint Separation

Separating directional use of a facility

Example: Greenway Trail (Major)

## Passing Areas

Applied to conflict areas

Widen sections of trail to allow for passing

0.5m for 10-15m on both sides of trail as needed

## No Separation

Trails that do not separate user types or provide lanes for directional use

Example: Access Trail (Major + Minor), Nature Trail (Major + Minor), Adventure Trail

# Trailheads and Access Points

*All trailheads and access points provide paths to associated amenities, the trail network, and the transportation network. Design of these spaces shall follow City engineering and accessibility design standards. Materials will reflect the trail classification type and local context. Amenities may be shared park amenities within close proximity.*

Major Destination	Destination	Service Hub	Major Access Point	Minor Access Point
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identified for urban or high-volume locations</li> <li>➤ Trail map and information signage</li> <li>➤ Vehicular parking (defined accessible stalls) and lighting</li> <li>➤ Charge station</li> <li>➤ Public use eating area</li> <li>➤ Seating area</li> <li>➤ Waste receptacles</li> <li>➤ Shade and/or rain shelter</li> <li>➤ Washroom access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rural or low-volume locations</li> <li>➤ Trail map and information signage</li> <li>➤ Vehicular parking (defined accessible stalls)</li> <li>➤ Seating area</li> <li>➤ Waste receptacles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wayfinding and trail information signage</li> <li>➤ Charge Station</li> <li>➤ Repair Station</li> <li>➤ Lighting</li> <li>➤ Bicycle parking</li> <li>➤ Seating area</li> <li>➤ Waste receptacles</li> <li>➤ Washroom access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Trail map and information signage</li> <li>➤ Bicycle parking</li> <li>➤ Public user eating area</li> <li>➤ Seating area</li> <li>➤ Waste receptacles</li> <li>➤ Lighting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wayfinding and trail information signage</li> </ul>

# Questions & Discussion

- › Do you think that comments and input have been appropriately addressed?
- › What is working well for accessibility in these draft classifications?
- › What items need further review and discussion?
- › Do you think that the classifications appropriately capture current and future trail use and conditions in Burlington?
- › What are your thoughts on proposed frequency of rest areas and use of informal seating (seat stones)?
- › What details would be helpful when developing the trailheads/access point classifications?
- › How would you like the City to approach managing existing infrastructure vs the new standards?

# Next Steps

## Technical Steps

- Continue to discuss and refine the trail classifications including details pertaining to accessibility, amenities and maintenance
- Consider application through the decision-making tree
- Consider hierarchy of staging areas or trailheads
- Apply classifications to new proposed projects or proposed improvements to existing trails
- Once classifications have been confirmed proceed with trail standards

## Engagement Steps

- Continue to coordinate with the accessibility committee and other key stakeholders / interest holders
- Engage with the public online