

## 7.3 User Comments

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**Note:** The following comments are arranged by survey site location and have been edited from their original format for grammar and spelling. Each bulleted point separates the respondent comments from each other.

### *Belleville*

- “The Trail should have been around a long time ago”.
- “Keep up the good work”.
- “This Trail is widely used by fitness clubs along the way, both private and public (Quinte rowing club, etc.). They could be consulted and called upon for support of the Trail”.
- “The Trail should have distance markers”.
- “The pit toilets require maintenance”.
- “The Trail needs more lights”.
- “Separate walkers from cyclists, rollerbladers, etc.”.
- “We have observed that since the inception of the Riverfront Trail the conditions on the Bayshore Trail have deteriorated. Although we enjoy the natural look, very often the gardens, shrubs and trees are overgrown with weeds”.
- “We need more washrooms”.
- “Clean up the water! There are dead fish and gas in it. Other than that the lake is great”.
- “It would be good to have the Trail linked with pavement as opposed to gravel or busy road-ways so people can rollerblade for a longer distance continually or safely bike on a trail rather than a roadway”.
- “Continue to restore the natural flora to the Trail”.
- “A continuous trail will promote outdoor activities, more food vendors, water fountains and washrooms”.
- “There needs to be a connection between trails and a clean-up of Lake Ontario because it is stinky in the middle of the summer”.

- “Civic leaders need to use the Trail to fully appreciate the need for maintenance and policing. If it is allowed to become dirty or unsafe, it will attract exactly that element, and discourage the people who use it often”.
- “I would support a continuous trail if it was paved”.
- “I would like to see maps posted that show the entire route of the Waterfront Trail so that I could ride farther along the Trail. For example maps which show a bike route from Belleville to Toronto”.
- “Make people clean up after their dogs on the beach”.
- “The Trail needs smoother bridges”.
- “Keep commercial ventures off the trail, they distract from the natural beauty and create litter. Also ‘no littering’ and ‘no dumping’ signs should be posted”.
- “The Trail needs more water fountains”.
- “The longer the stretch of trail that is paved, the better. It is good if the extension of the Trail is paved allowing a person on rollerblades to access different parts of the Trail without having to take off their rollerblades”.
- “You should have a Bayshore Trail picnic”.
- “You should increase the number of free community children’s activities ie. Bayshore picnic”.
- “More funding should be given for more workers to keep the Trail clean”.
- “I’ve seen the Trail develop from very little into an excellent resource for people who wish to walk/bike/etc. and commune with our natural resources”.
- “In the winter, the amount of salt used has increased steadily. A plow sent around right after a snowfall would help reduce the salt use. The run-off of salt goes directly into the bay”.
- “Paved sections are needed for touring bicycles or an alternative route should be provided around unpaved sections”.

## *Burlington*

- “I would like to see less construction of apartment buildings on the waterfront. For example in Toronto there is not much of a view of Lake Ontario. In Burlington more buildings are going up on the main road, which is unsafe. Also I think more security is needed on the Trail as well as more shade and trees”.
- “You’ve already done a good job on the Trail”.
- “Keep up the good work!”
- “There should be not be any bicycles or rollerblades allowed on the Trail because somebody is going to get hurt. The Trail just isn’t made for all these modes of transportation”.
- “There should be less surveys, and more trails”.
- “There should be a solid line to divide bikers from walkers, as well as better signage, more shade and trees”.
- “Stop the pollution! There needs to be a water sewage clean up. Air safety is a top priority. The Burlington beach area has eliminated lifeguards and the police patrol has been reduced. Homes along the Trail offer safety (beach and park watch)”.
- “A street-sweeper should be run along the Trail weekly to clear the debris that clogs rollerblades”.
- “Although it would be cost prohibitive, I would like to see rollerbladers on a separated trail (adjacent) as they take up too much of the width of the Trail. I have noticed difficulty for older people who are walking”.
- “There should be a few more areas providing drinks”.
- “There needs to be a clean-up of the beaches and water”.
- “Don’t let all the big guys come in and tear down the cute little beach houses. Keep our natural resources alive. Stop killing the environment for money”.
- “The dust from the cars is very bothersome”.
- “Hamilton should finish its part of the Trail”.
- “Thank you for conducting this survey”.

## *C o b o u r g*

- “Keep the Trail well maintained. I find it most enjoyable, although a bit more of a safety effort could be made”.
- “I have enjoyed areas of the Trail for 25 years or more”.
- “Maintain the cleanliness and improve the Lake Ontario water quality, increase public awareness of the Trail, and keep up the good work!”
- “Clean up the dead fish in Cobourg”.
- “There should be some dog clean up enforcement. There should not be any bikes/rollerblades allowed on the Cobourg section of the Trail”.
- “I appreciate the Trail being accessible to all of us”.
- “There needs to be more activities for everyone”.
- “Keep up the good work”.
- “There are some problems of continuity. There are places where there are breaks in the Trail and it would be nice if things were smoother”.
- “There should be more information available about the Trail and more education around honouring and respecting nature”.
- “There should be more organized waterfront (beach) activities. There should be some naturalists to lead organized tours attractive to both young and old”.
- “Keep the Trail going”.
- “I think the Trail is a great idea!”
- “Keep up the good work”.
- “You should have school children frequent the Trail”.

## *T o r o n t o*

- “There should be proper signage about dogs as rollerbladers often take their dogs on the trail, which is very hazardous”.
- “There have been wonderful improvements to Toronto’s Trail and Mississauga’s part is a very pretty, fun trail”.
- “Improve the path near Lakeshore/Park Lawn to 1st Street (very dangerous because of trucks/traffic)!”
- “Parking should be free, but the cost is fairly reasonable if it isn’t raised”.
- “Continuous, smooth paths are important”.
- “Pave the Trail and provide more activities”.
- “Fix the surface of Mimico Creek Bridge. Unite the Toronto and Etobicoke sections of the Trail along the waterfront”.
- “Improve the paved surfaces. The new boulevard section is a good start. Extend the Trail through Harbourfront”.
- “Repave the Trail where necessary and finish the parts where the public streets are used. You need to educate workers on the hazards associated with water and hoses that are left lying across trails”.
- “There needs to be more emphasis on the restoration of waterfront habitats as the water quality is still very poor because of sewage treatment effluents and geese”.
- “More money should be allocated to trail sustenance in the Golden Horseshoe area as well as more security, more safety measures, more programs, and more public awareness”.
- “There should be signs reminding people of the proper etiquette on the trail as kids are often wandering aimlessly without supervision and people are on the wrong side of the Trail, etc”.
- “There should be better lighting in the winter and longer hours for washrooms in the winter”.
- “The Trail needs more trees”.
- “There should be a promotional campaign regarding the size of the Trail and all that it offers”.

- “I enjoy spending time on the Trail, keep it up, I appreciate it”.
- “The Trail should be patrolled at night for safety. There should also be some considerations about cleaning the lake water”.
- “Better signage is required in certain areas. Signs indicating bike repair depots or emergency phone numbers should be posted along the way for assistance. The fact that some sections of the Trail are on service roads next to heavy and fast traffic (needs to be addressed). There should be more shelters”.
- “There should be someone that goes around and cleans up the bird poop on the trails, etc. there’s too much of it everywhere”.
- “I love the Trail!”
- “There should be smoother paving in old areas and a widening of the Trail would be nice”.
- “Please fix the Trail for rollerblading by providing a continuous smooth surface. The Trail needs more bathrooms, more cops on bikes, and a clean-up of trash from the Lake”.
- “There needs to be more washrooms and some music”.
- “The geese poop needs to be cleaned up from the waterfront boardwalk from time to time”.
- “Consider city street bike lanes like in Montreal and European cities (Germany, Austria) as a model for us. Avoid the use of decorative paving as it is hazardous to rollerbladers and never have planks on bridges that run in the direction of travel (Etobicoke Creek) because it is extremely hazardous”.
- “There should be more garbage bins and regular emptying of bins”.
- “I love the trail and really wish it actually reached from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Gananoque. The re-routed, incomplete, “wishful” sections of the Trail west of Marina del Rey and east of Victoria Park are really inhospitable for long rides”.
- “Improve the Trail surface areas, especially near the Sunnyside Pool. Trail access to downtown Toronto is poor and not very continuous”.
- “I have no issue with the quality of the pavement as I am accustomed to city streets. However pedestrians are the bane of my existence on this trail. Parents who fail to look after their children are creating a mutual danger”.

- “There should be more police patrols”.
- “More signs with maps of the Trail are needed. Resurface from the top of the Boulevard Club Hill to Ontario Place, especially under the trees on the windy bit of path”.
- “There should be more rest areas, more shade and the Trail should be away from the Gardiner, closer to the Lake”.
- “The Trail needs more parking spots”.
- “Improve the lighting on the Trail as well as the surface”.
- “Please empty garbage bins near (between) the Palace Pier and Marina del Rey. They are always overflowing”.
- “I didn’t know there was a website or any flyers about the Waterfront Trail”.
- “Books and maps are needed when riding in some communities. Going west from Toronto isn’t bad but push for the extension from Scarborough to Pickering fast”.
- “There should be bigger signs and improvements in the Trail surface”.
- “Improve the surface of the Trail for skating. The downtown Toronto parts of the Trail are missing, ie. From Bathurst to Cherry Street. We really need a cycling path through the center of the city to connect east and west parts of the Trail”.
- “Pavement surfaces of the Boulevard Club to Ontario Place should be redone. Around the Boulevard club its great but east of it gets awful on rollerblades”.
- “Keep expanding the Trail and keep investing”.
- “There should be cultural stores/restaurants that provide different types of food and music in day and evening settings. The water quality should always be posted. There should also be more police patrol on weekends, especially around Caribanna time when for some reason all hell breaks loose”.
- “There should be more and larger signage. See, for example, the signage in London’s Springbank Park. The Trail should have signs posted so that people walk on the walking trail, which is usually concrete or interlocking, and not on the bike trail. Users should keep single file whether on bike or roller blades”.
- “Keep being creative and keep building the Trail”.

## *H a m i l t o n*

- “I enjoy walking on this Trail all year”.
- “There should be wider trails in Hamilton for better space (always have to slow down/stop when rollerblading by people)”.
- “Is there a possibility of using public transport as a shuttle service to access other sites of the Trail by bikers (bicycle racks on buses)?”
- “Why are there no parking signs on the north end of Grays Road? Is it so that people who do not live close by the Trail are unable to come for a walk in the park?”
- “Do not allow dogs on the Trail or at least make people pick up after their dogs. Also, rollerbladers should be made to go on the bike path and should be fined for recklessness”.
- “The pavement should be made wider or else there should be two parallel paths. The pedestrian side should be on the scenic side (since pedestrians are more likely to stop and admire the view)”.
- “The Trail should be an attraction for people to enjoy, almost like “cottage country”. The beach needs to be more attractive and more businesses (ie. shops, cafes) need to open”.
- “Pedestrians are blind to the bike path markings and it gets worse every year”.
- “Keep the Trail as near to the water as possible and have flowers planted”.
- “These are my suggestions for the Trail; 1. more washrooms, 2. clean up dead trees, 3. get rid of dandelions, 4. replace trees”.
- “There should be more promotion made on the Trail”.
- “There needs to be wider paths, lighting at night, more security, more leashes on dogs, more tree planting, more security (younger people walking the path). However, I don’t like the security driving on the park path”.
- “There should be a linking of all trails. Try to keep the Trail smooth, ie. don’t tar cracks because it’s a hazard in the summer as rollerblade wheels catch and people fall”.
- “There should be more parking and more lighting”.
- “Keep up the good work by continuing to improve the Trail”.

- “There should be a resurfacing of the walkway. Cyclist and rollerbladers should be notifying walkers on their approach, ie. passing on right, passing on left (safety recommendation)”.
- “Best wishes on the success of the Trail. It has some great features”.
- “You should rake the sand along the shore line and add some sand, other than that it’s great! It’s part of my everyday life!!! That’s why I moved here! I would like to see this Trail continue to along the shoreline from Burlington to Oakville”.

## ***K i n g s t o n***

- “There should be a water test done on Lake Ontario”.
- “There should be more spiritual activities offered along the Trail. Also the lake should be cleaned up”.
- “There should be direct links made to the Trans-Canada Trail. Also please maintain public access to waterfronts; rebuild swamps and wetlands, prevent/reduce pollution; encourage people to use the Trail with cultural activities; hold community clean-ups/ plantings and involve boaters”.
- “The Trail is an excellent idea”.
- “Just have a specific trail for bikers and a separate one for pedestrians”.
- “Clean up Lake Ontario”.
- “I would like to know more about the Trail. I would also like to see it wider to accommodate multiple users more easily and to have a paved trail that would increase user diversity”.
- “This trail will bring us back!!”
- “I would prefer not to see any events along the Trail”.
- “More attention should be paid in order to create safe bike paths where there is no trail established and you have to go on the streets. The Trail surface varies from fair to excellent”.
- “Warning signs should be posted to boaters that there are swimmers in the water. There should be more water fountains. Also if you want people to know this section is part of the Waterfront Trail - put up signs! Overall I think it is a wonderful park and I take advantage of it!”

- “You should publicize the Trail more often”.
- “I have been on this trail in many cities but never realized it was part of a single trail”.
- “This is an excellent trail and it must be kept”.
- “Consider adding public beaches along the shoreline and easier access to parking”.
- “There should be more advertisements of the Trail route”.
- “There should be more lights. Lake pollution from Dupont must be stopped”.
- “The Waterfront Trail was badly needed”.
- “There needs to be more benches”.
- “Over time, there should be separate bike lanes that are funded by tolls from cyclists”.
- “There should be better beach access”.
- “The Trail should be made more continuous, perhaps through the donations of private and/or government land or right-of ways”.
- “There should be better swimming areas with sand. The swimming areas should also have posted water quality signs”.
- “The planning of such an endeavor needs careful and conscientious planning of urban planners, park planners/architects, and geographers. Do not interfere with nature. The effects of health and time must be considered”.

### *M i s s i s s a u g a*

- “Good work! I love the Trail, but didn’t realize how long it was”.
- “There needs to be more emergency telephones and designated emergency stations”.
- “I hope to see more of the Trail along the water”.
- “Just try to get the Trail away from the city streets more, especially the busy ones!”
- “The water quality, poor smell and disease in Lake Ontario have to be addressed! The area where I live was threatened by expropriation to put in the Trail. That is not the way of doing things in a democratic society but I do love the Trail”.

- “There isn’t a designated biking path in many areas so pedestrians sometimes get in the way/path of cyclists. It would be safer to have designated markings on the ground (some areas do). Also there isn’t a bike path from Humber Park”.
- “Are there links to the waterfront trail on each community website where it runs?”
- “My suggestions for the Trail are that there should be more water stations, natural areas should be protected, better signage for bikes around Rattray Marsh, and more signage on natural trees, birds, habitats, etc.”
- “There should be signage at the beginning and end of each section describing the entire trail and where the next section (east or west) begins, to encourage use of the adjoining sections. Keep the Trail natural, and limit events, shows to public park areas”.
- “A Map-Art map of Mississauga shows the route of the Trail through Rattray Marsh as a bike trail. Bikes are forbidden there”.
- “There should be more trails close to the lake and less near busy roads (exhaust fumes). There also needs to be soap in the washrooms, and all food/retail outlets should allow rollerbladers”.
- “The surface of the Trail is rough in some parts. The Ontario Place section of the Trail should be re-done, as the east part is very rough. It would be great to up keep it for rollerbladers”.
- “I think the Trail should be made a little easier for those who are handicapped. In some areas there are only stairs and no ramps when there should be both”.
- “There should be umbrellas and chairs for rent”.
- “I would appreciate more signs on the road portion of the Trail”.
- “Plant more flowers and provide a row boat rental”.
- “Twin the Trail whenever possible and bridge the gaps in the Trail. The Trail Guide needs to be up-dated (ie. past Trenton)”.
- “People should be aware that the Trail is not truly continuous. This avoids disappointment”.
- “I think the environment here is pretty good. This is my first time to come here but it’s very beautiful. I want you to increase the grill numbers, thanks!”

## *N i a g a r a - o n - t h e - L a k e*

- “I like the Trail just the way it is”.
- “There should be widening of the Trail wherever possible to separate pedestrian and cycling traffic”.
- “There should be widening of the Trail where possible and established rules for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid conflict”.
- “I think the Trail is great! It is very well looked after and maintained and we are very fortunate to have its use!”
- “Put signs up at playgrounds and picnic areas to warn children not to play on the Trail or cross without looking”.
- “Post the rules of the Trail so people don’t yell at me when I stop in the wrong spot”.
- “Please extend the Trail along Lakeshore Road between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Port Delouse. Also it would be nice to have a paved trail between Queenstown and St. David’s”.
- “The loudspeaker and noise from the jet boat are very disturbing. The section of the Trail from St. Catharines to Niagara along Lakeshore is nonexistent and therefore dangerous so link all towns in Niagara-on-the-Lake”.
- “The length of the Trail directly impacts the amount of money and length of time I spend. I am always looking for trails that lend themselves to a week long bike trip”.
- “This Niagara Trail is excellent”.
- “Great job! We love this trail, it is truly a treat”.
- “There should be some more road signs indicating where the Trail is going, especially at the cross sections”.
- “Create a better surface for inline skating”.
- “Something needs to be done about the central Toronto section and the Ajax to Whitby section of the Trail”.
- “Ensure smoothness of the Trail”.
- “I think the Trail is great and I am pleased to find out there is more of it and I would love to see more developed”.
- “Stop the development that would infringe on the Trail”.
- “I am a believer in the Trans-Canada Trail and all good trail ideas. Publicize all trail ideas!”
- “Make sure to keep the Trail simple as it is easier to take care of”.
- “The lines on the Trail are too narrow for passing. The Trail needs signs to instruct everyone where to pass”.

## *O a k v i l l e*

- “Clean up the mess of the Canada Geese!”
- “Where landscaping is part of the Trail more regular maintenance would make the very excellent work outstanding. I realize this depends largely on parks/boards budgeting”.
- “There should be more portable food vendor carts. Shoot the geese that foul the docks and grass and wash the grass because there is no place to sit on a blanket”.
- “Don’t let private businesses block off or cut off the Trail access. There should be more green space, plants and trees”.
- “I feel strongly that the conference center should not have been built over common path”.
- “Keep the Trail clear of geese”.
- “Continue to stay as close to the lake as possible and gradually eliminate those sections that follow regular roadways wherever possible”.
- “Continue this magnificent venture. It is natural and nurturing for people to be closely knitted by sun and water”.
- “Put the Trail on the water through Burlington instead of along Lakeshore Road”.
- “I wish that private interest did not encroach onto the trail”.
- “The bike and walking paths should be separated by colours that are different from the city trails!”
- “Please clean up the goose dirt and can the bathrooms be open early in the season?”
- “There should be continuous and up to date signage and clear maps en route”.
- “There should be better signage”.
- “I support the Trail but there should still be respect for private property”.
- “Please build the bridge across Bronte Creek as was originally proposed. It will give access to Bronte Beach, the Bluffs, etc., will lessen crowding in the summer, and will be safer than using the Lakeshore Road bridge”.
- “Publicize each section of the Trail to the others”.
- “I wasn’t aware of where the trails start and end”.
- “I would attend more trail events if parking was free, and there was accessibility for wheelchairs”.
- “More Trail promotion is needed”.
- “There are too many geese”.

## *O s h a w a*

- “However much money we spend on providing the public with quality waterfront accessibility it is not enough”.
- “I definitely support the idea of a continuous trail”.
- “The Trail is well kept up”.
- “There should be an area on the beach for people who come down with their dogs. I bring my dog with me every time I come down and today I went to lie down and catch some sun and was told my dog wasn’t allowed on the beach”.
- “Inconsiderate dog owners are a problem, ie. They don’t poop and scoop and their dogs are unleashed”.
- “There should be more benches”.
- “There could possibly be more advertising of the Trail and local descriptions of natural habitat. Also a few more lookout areas would be good”.

## *P i c k e r i n g*

- “There should be some signs that explain what’s growing or going on along the Trail (spawning, what kind of fish and birds, etc.)”.
- “There should be more concerts/festivals at the Millennium Waterfront and possibly a gazebo”.
- “There are a lot of dog messings on walkways along the Pickering Trail”.
- “There should be more access to Lake Ontario’s fantastic sport fishing; i.e. boat launch ramps”.
- “Boat launch access should be provided. There used to be access from the west shore area, but that has been cancelled/removed because of the Waterfront Trail”.
- “Keep housing and commercial business away from the waterfront”.
- “Keep industrial and residential development away from the trail!”
- “The Trail is very good although it could be a bit smoother”.
- “Good job in Pickering, well done!”

- “I’m thankful that the Trail exists as I always take my visitors to the waterfront”.
- “A pedestrian bridge over the entrance to Frenchman’s Bay would be preferable to pontoons. The pontoons would handicap the movement of the yachts. The Coolwater Farm should have been bought by the city to ease the obvious parking problems”.
- “If accessible, the west spit should be turned into a park with benches and facilities (as should have been the Coolwater Plant)”.

### *Port Hope*

- “I wouldn’t want food/retail outlets on the Trail”.
- “I think there should be more water fountains, playgrounds, lifeguards and food stands (somewhat like Cobourg)”.
- “I think you need more attractions along the Trail”.
- “You could make the Trail wider”.

### *St. Catharines*

- “The Trail signs appear to show that this is a local waterfront trail and not a Waterfront Trail that is 650km long”.
- “Just build it [a continuous trail]!”
- “Please link the Trails”.
- “More advertising about the Trail is needed”.
- “There should be more information, more pamphlets, maps and more promotions. I am truly impressed with the new construction by Happy Ralph and I wish it were already complete. Perhaps the Trail could have some circle trails that you could complete in an hour or day”.