

YORK REGIONAL FOREST ACCESSIBLE TRAIL UPDATE - Nature for All -

York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee
Wednesday April 25, 2018

Ian Buchanan and Kevin Reese
Environmental Services

AGENDA

- Where – York Regional Forest
- What – 3 Trails – chronology of events
- How – Design Guideline
- What's Next



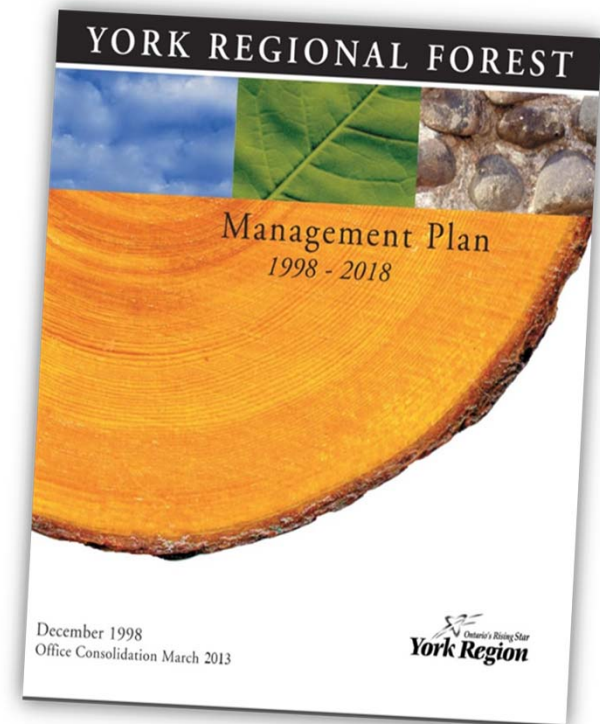
YORK REGIONAL FOREST

- 1800's forests cleared for settlement
- 1920's Agreement Forest Program restores degraded landscapes
- 2001 first public forest to be Forest Stewardship Council certified in Canada
- 21 properties, 2,300 hectares, 120 km of multi use trails



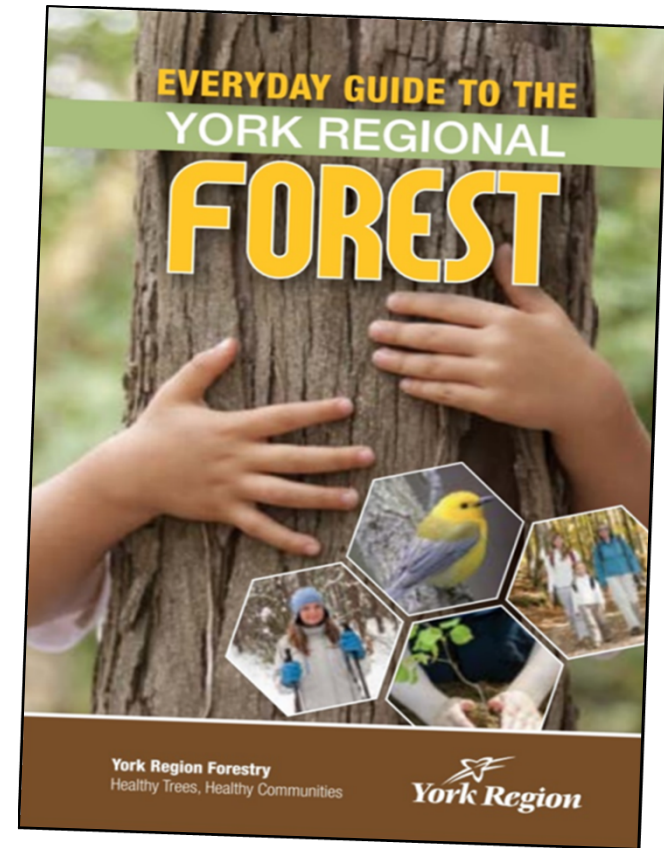
THE FOREST TODAY

- 20 year Forest Management Plan and 5 year Operating Plans
- Ecological, silvicultural and property management
- High Conservation Value “Legacy” Forests
- Operating and capital program
- Public use



PUBLIC USE AND TRAILS

- Multi-use trails
- Public recreation including:
 - hiking & dog walking
 - mountain biking
 - nature appreciation
 - horseback riding
 - hunting
 - snowshoeing / cross-country skiing



ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

- 2008 Accessibility Advisory Committee request to evaluate options for accessible trails
- 2009 Accessible Trail Subcommittee formed
- Regional Forest Public Advisory Team input
- Meetings, tours, site criteria etc.
- Hired an expert to guide the process



Hollidge Tract - 2010

- 1 km loop re-construction in 2010
- Trail design based on draft Built Environment Standard - criteria
- Official opening event
- Province promotes our collaboration and final trail design as a best practice
- Promotion and monitoring – brochure, web, events, trail cam, interviews, surveys ...



2012 – Building on success

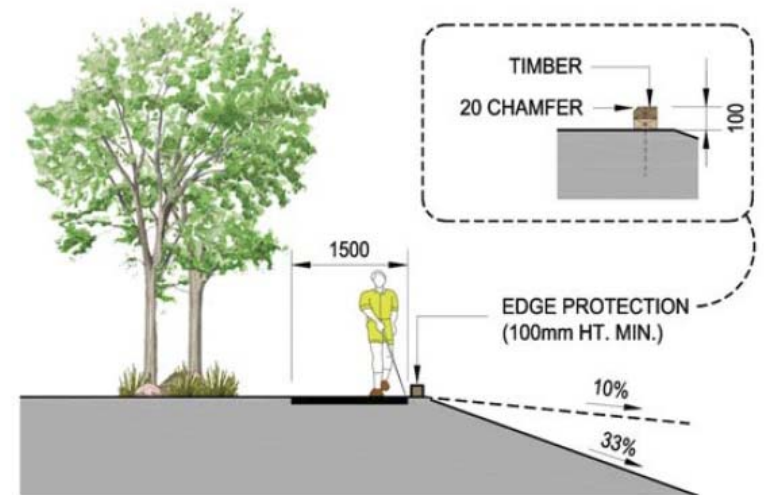
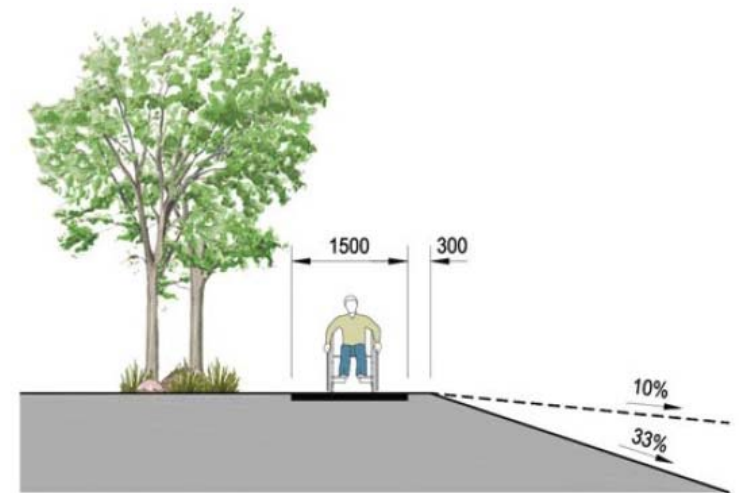
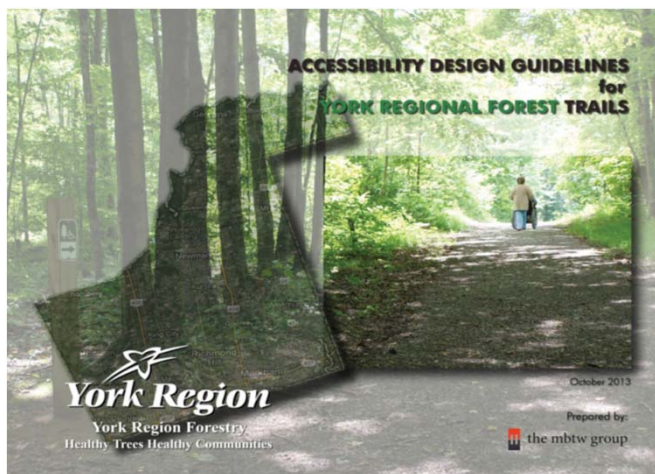
- AODA – 2012 Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation Sect. 80.9 (1) requirements
- Fall 2012:
 - developed Accessible Trail Design Guidelines to address regulation
 - created detailed design for accessible trails in 4 tracts - shovel ready



Accessible Trail Design Guideline

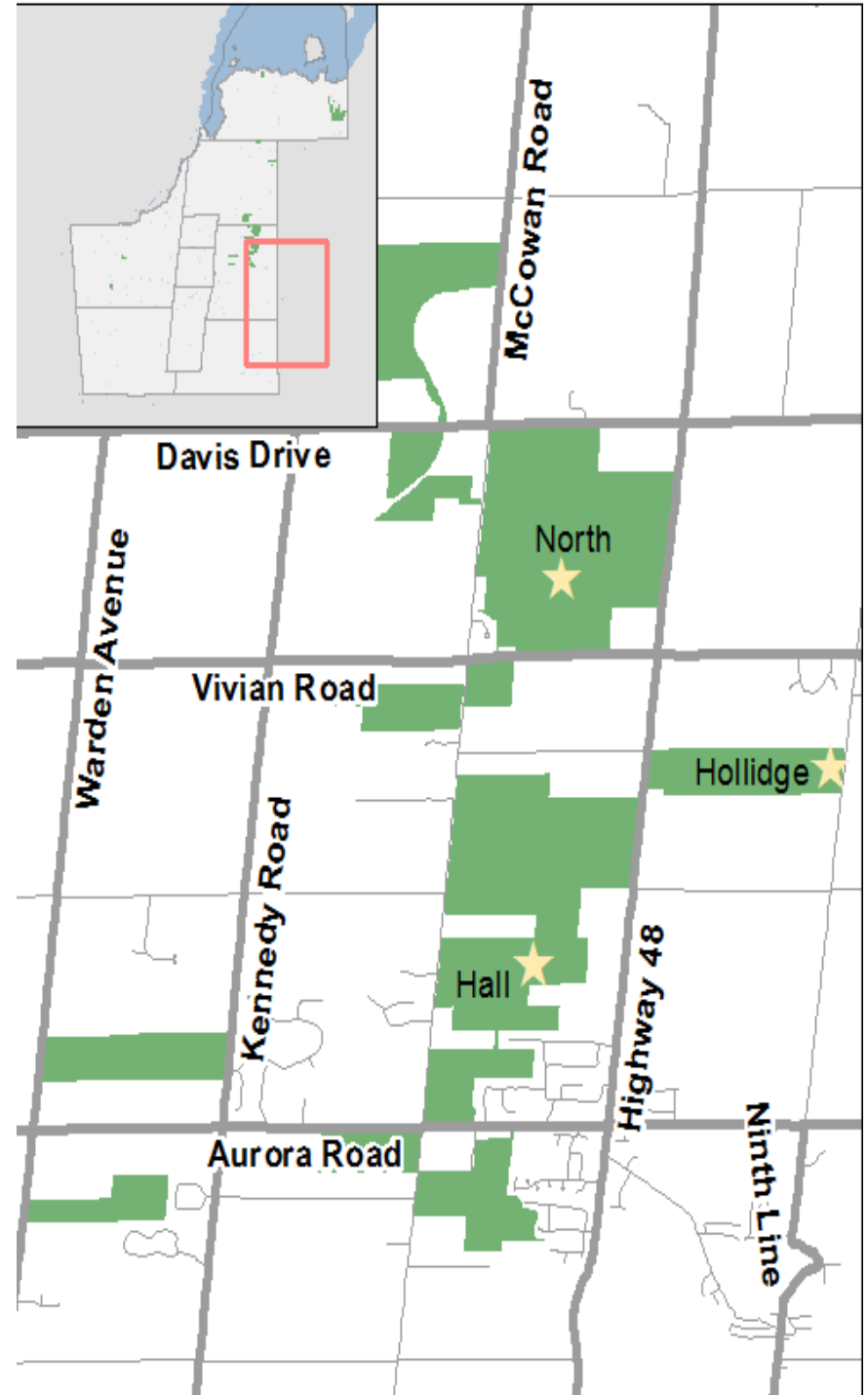
2013 reviewed by Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- width 1.5m allows for turning
- surface firm, stable (screenings)
- cross slope recommended $< 1:20$ (5%)
- running slope of $1:20$ (5%)
- resting intervals and seating



2014 to 2017

- 2014 - construction of 1.7 km loop in North Tract
- 2016 – construction of 1.6 km loop in the Hall Tract
- Continued promotion of accessible trails – tours, events, spread the word



What's Next

- Upgrade of the Hollidge Tract Accessible Trail
- Proposed accessible trail at Jackson's Point, Town of Georgina in memory of Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler
 - Jackson's Point Harbourfront redevelopment area
 - Town and Region staff continue to meet to review - project timing (tentative 2019)



What's Next . . .

- Accessible trail tours and promotion – note links to Seniors Strategy
- Opportunity to host guided trail experiences with one of our partners - Oak Ridges Trail Association
- How to promote the accessible trails to persons with disabilities
- What groups to reach out to – best options?



THANK YOU

For more information contact:

- Ian Buchanan, Manager Natural Heritage and Forestry
ian.buchanan@york.ca Extension 75204
- Kevin Reese, Program Manager Forest Conservation
Kevin.reese@york.ca Extension 76033