

Humber Trail Feasibility Study

Summary of online public survey findings

September 2021

Following the completion of the draft Humber Trail Feasibility Study (the “Study”), Staff solicited public input on the Study through an online interactive Have Your Say platform and survey branded as “Building the Humber Trail – Boyd Conservation Area to Steeles Avenue West”. The online platform and survey ran from June 8 to July 4, 2021. Through the online platform and survey, participants were able to:

- Watch an 11-minute video to learn more about the proposed route options;
- Use an interactive map and provide comments directly on the map;
- Complete a survey to rank five identified priority areas;
- Share ideas on how to encourage more residents to use recreational trails; and
- Access a draft of the Study.

The online “Have Your Say” platform and survey was advertised through City and TRCA social media channels, targeted social media marketing, digital signboards, three mobile signs along Islington Avenue, Councilor e-letter, email distribution to key stakeholders including local ratepayer groups, and posters at the Boyd Conservation Area gatehouse.

In total, the survey received positive responses, with 240 participants visiting multiple pages of the platform, and approximately 130 participating in the survey, providing feedback, and identifying route options on the interactive map. Over 170 contributions were recorded across four online tools on the “Have Your Say” platform.

Below are participation statistics:

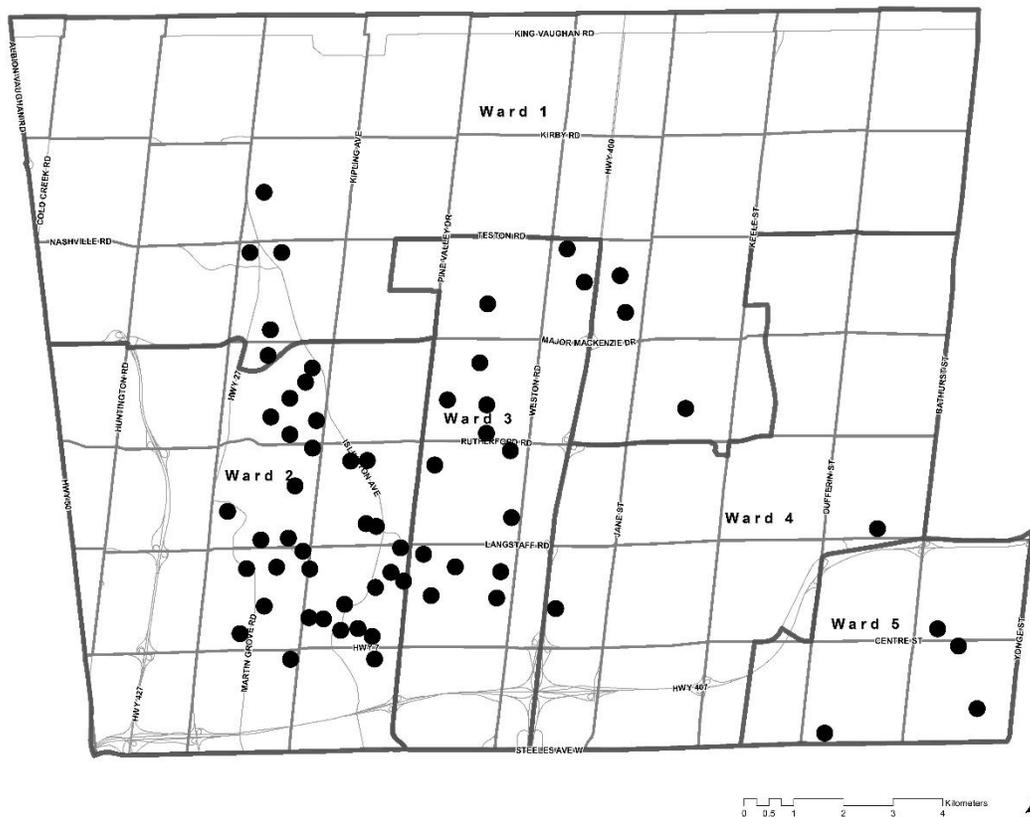
Participant Type	Description of participation	Number
Aware Participants	Participants who visited at least one page of the online Have Your Say platform	740
Informed Participants	Participants who visited multiple pages of the Have Your Say platform	240
Engaged Participants	Participants who contributed to a tool of the Have Your Say platform - survey, providing feedback and identifying route options on the interactive map	132

Table 1: Participant by type

Tool type	Engagement Tool Name	Contributions
Interactive Map	Explore the Humber Trail route alternatives	30
Ideas	Tell us what the City can do to encourage more residents to use Vaughan's trails!	18
Quick Poll	What activities do you enjoy most when visiting the Humber Trail (William Granger Greenway)?	54
Survey	Humber Trail Prioritization Survey	71
Total		173

Table 2: Contributions by tool

The majority of feedback was from residents residing in the Woodbridge and Kleinburg/Nashville communities as illustrated in the map below.



Map 1: General location of online participants based on postal code submissions.

Participants opted to indicate where they fall within the below age brackets listed in Table 3. Most participants are within the 45- to 54-year-old bracket and tapering off at upper and lower age brackets.

Age Bracket	Numbers	Percentage
18-24 years old	6	8%
25-34 years old	16	22%
35-44 years old	11	15%
45-54 years old	20	28%
55-64 years old	11	15%
65+ years old	5	7%
Prefer not to say	3	4%
Total	72	100%

Table 3: Participant age brackets

Segment Comments

Below are key comments received through the online public engagement “Have Your Say” platform related to each of the trail study segments.

Segment	Key Public Input
One – Pine Grove Road to Boyd Conservation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safety and accessibility improvements at the Islington/Langstaff intersection. • General concern of the on-road option and preference to remain within the natural areas.
Two – Thistlewood Avenue to Pine Grove Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for the trail option within the natural area. • Concern with privacy and disturbance of natural area. • Provide safe road crossings.
Three - Highway 7 to Thistlewood Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for all routes. • Suggestions that all routes should be implemented to provide user experience options.
Four - Highway 407 to Highway 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe on- road crossings and underpass crossings. • General concern of the on-road option and preference to remain within the natural areas. • General support for all routes and an indication that all routes should be implemented to provide user experience options. • Consideration of impact to natural features.

Five - Steeles Avenue West to Highway 407	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General preference to the trail route along the riverbank. • Concern with the use of switchbacks. • General support and excitement of connecting to the City of Toronto trail system.
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Table 4: Key segment comments

Humber Trail Prioritization Survey

Phase 1 priority areas within each of the five segments are described in the table below along with ranking received through the “Have Your Say” survey.

Segment priority areas	Public Survey Ranking
Segment One – Pine Grove Road to Boyd Conservation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversion of an existing maintenance path to a public use trail in Boyd Conservation Area. • Make a connection over the Humber River to Langstaff Road. • Exploring opportunities to commemorate the bowstring bridge. 	47%
Segment Two – Thistlewood Avenue to Pine Grove Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of new trails within Doctors McLean District Park linking Islington Avenue to Clarence Street. 	
Segment Three - Highway 7 to Thistlewood Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen existing Riverwalk Trail in Nort Johnston District Park. • Extend trail further south under Highway 7, with improvements to Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena parking lot. 	4%
Segment Four - Highway 407 to Highway 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new trail in Legion Park on the east side of the Humber River from Highway 7 to Legion Court Road, • Extend trail under Highway 7 or at the intersection of Highway 7 and Islington Avenue. 	10%
Segment Five - Steeles Avenue West to Highway 407 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a short section of trail and a series of switchbacks in Thackeray Park. • Connect Humber Trail to the City of Toronto, linking to existing asphalt trail network. 	22%

Table 5: Segment priority areas survey ranking

Ideas contributed by participants

Through the survey, respondents indicated that they enjoy trails for an opportunity to bike, walk/hike and experience nature. Additional comments were received through the online Ideas Tool on how the City can encourage residents to use trails. 16 submissions were recorded with several ideas upvoted by other users. The comments are summarized below.

Trail Activation	Make trail more interactive for residents and consider introducing programs such as nature photography, storytelling, tree caching, organized hiking groups and online platform to share experiences.
Trail Signage/Wayfinding	Provide signage for biking etiquette, cultural and heritage signage, natural heritage educational signage, and Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.
Programming	Organize or encourage local destination such as outdoor events or markets around trail heads. Consider providing off-leash dog areas.
Outreach and Promotion	Promotion of local trails through various channels such as online engagement, public facing maps, incentives for trail use e.g., badges.
Safety	Developing safe biking and pedestrian infrastructure along major roads, crossing and intersections.

Table 6: Idea tool summary contribution

Quick Poll Results

Users had the option to participate through quick poll in answering the following question: “What activities do you enjoy most when visiting the Humber Trail (William Granger Greenway)?”.

54 users participated with results summarized below. Biking has been identified as the most popular activity enjoyed along recreational trails with walking/hiking ranking second.

Activity	Percentage
Enjoying nature (e.g., streams, plants, animals)	17%
Snowshoeing/Cross-country skiing	0%
Running / jogging	6%
Dog walking	6%
Walking / hiking	27%
Biking	44%
Total	100%

Table 7: Quick poll survey results