

Policy Title: Park Trail Lighting

Policy Number: 05-02-08

Section: Property and Facilities

Effective Date: November 20, 2020

Approved by:

Council

Subsection: Facility Planning

Last Review Date: March, 2024

Owner Division/Contact:

**Park Planning Section,
Parks Forestry and Environment Division**

Policy Statement

Asphalt Park Trails that serve as linkages connecting centres of activities such as Parks, schools, public facilities, institutions, shopping centres and transit connections will be planned, designed and constructed with adequate provisions for trail lighting systems.

Purpose

This policy outlines the process for approving locations for Park Trail Lighting, in accordance with established illumination standards, criteria and guidelines to ensure that trail lighting adequately provides a reasonable expectation of safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists.

Scope

This policy applies to all Park Trail Lighting, as defined below.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Community Services Department or their designate.

“CPTED” means Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

“CPTED Principles” are the pro-active crime prevention strategies utilized by planners, architects, police services and security professionals in the belief that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and improve quality of life.

“Cyclist” means a person riding a non-motorized conveyance, with the exception of motorized wheelchairs or other accessibility devices.

“IESNA” means the Illumination Engineering Society of North America. The IESNA is the governing authority that establishes criteria and lighting levels for all lighting systems, including Pedestrian and Bikeway Design Criteria.

“Lit Outdoor Facility” means a facility such as a baseball or soccer field and tennis courts.

“Park”, as defined by the City of Mississauga Parks By-Law, means the land, including any body of water, buildings or structures located therein, that is owned by or made available to the Corporation by lease, agreement, or otherwise and that is established, dedicated, set apart or made available for use as public open space; but does not include a marina, golf course or cemetery.

“Park Trail” means an uninterrupted asphalt or concrete surface, not less than 2.4 metres (7.8 feet) wide, connecting destinations. Park Trails may be referred to as pathways, multi-use recreational trails and off road trails.

“Park Trail Lighting” means a system of lights consisting of preapproved light fixtures and poles that conform to Community Services Department’s Park Development Design Guidelines and illumination criteria conforming to IESNA Pedestrian and Bikeway Design Criteria.

“Pedestrian” means a person walking, running or on non-motorized conveyances, such as walkers and strollers, with the exception of motorized accessibility devices, such as but not limited to, wheelchairs and scooters.

“Woodland” means forested land covered with wooded vegetation.

Criteria for Acceptable Trail Lighting Locations

Parks being considered for trail lighting must meet the following criteria:

Location Criteria:

- Provide direct access to and from major public destinations such as community centres, schools, libraries, shopping centres and major transit connections, or
- Serve as a Pedestrian route to Lit Outdoor Facilities, and/or
- Where no other alternative lit on-street route is available

Design Criteria:

- Paved with a minimum width of 2.4m (7.8 feet)
- CPTED Principles as outlined in the CPTED Review section of this policy are satisfied, and/or
- Receive winter maintenance

Areas Not Lit

Park Trail Lighting will not be provided for or along:

- Natural areas
- Through an extensively treed area or Woodland

- In Parks without outdoor facilities, or
- Where Park Trails are restricted by utility infrastructure and agreements

All existing Park Trail Lighting systems that do not comply with this policy will be re-evaluated at the end of their life cycle and may be subject to removal.

Standard Lighting Systems

New or replacement Park Trail Lighting systems must conform to the Community Services Department's Park Development Design Guidelines and IESNA Pedestrian and Bikeway Design Criteria.

Review Process

CPTED Review

A CPTED review of an existing and/or proposed Park Trail Lighting system, as well as public requests, will be undertaken by a Parks, Forestry and Environment Division representative on behalf of the CPTED Advisory Committee, which will be consulted as required.

The CPTED review will include an audit of the subject site that will evaluate the following:

- Witness potential of Park Trail users from adjacent streets and residences
- Access for security vehicles and police patrols
- Availability of optional routes using adjacent street sidewalks illuminated for night use
- Confirmation that the Park's facilities are programmed for night use
- Destination(s) beyond the Park, such as community centres, schools and transit routes, and
- That the Park Trail does not lead into secluded areas

The CPTED auditor will make a recommendation to the Park Planning Section, Parks Forestry and Environment Division, once the review is complete.

New Lighting Systems and Life Cycle Replacements

The installation of new Park Trail Lighting systems that are part of a new development or redevelopment or lifecycle replacement will be reviewed and designed according to the Criteria for Acceptable Trail Lighting Locations outlined in this policy.

Existing Lighting Systems

In circumstances where incidents of concern are occurring along an existing, grandfathered lighted trail in which a reasonable expectation of safety for Pedestrians cannot be provided and CPTED cannot be fully applied, recommendations to remove the lighting system will be made in writing to the Commissioner by Peel Regional Police, CPTED or the Community Services Department.

Parks, Forestry and Environment staff will recommend the extent of public input to be solicited for the removal of grandfathered Park Trail Lighting systems. Removal of the system will then be considered by City Council on a case-by-case basis.

Public Requests

All requests from the public for new installation of Park Trail Lighting are reviewed by the Park Planning Section, Parks Forestry and Environment Division, Community Services Department.

Parks, Forestry and Environment staff will consult with the applicable ward councillor regarding the extent of public input to be undertaken.

Parks, Forestry and Environment staff will make a recommendation to the Commissioner, who will consider the recommendation, along with the other stated criteria and any comments received from the public, if applicable, and determine the most suitable course of action.

The Commissioner will advise the requestor of the decision to install or not, including the rationale for the decision, and inform the applicable ward councillor.

Revision History

Reference	Description
GC-5090-2013 – 2013 10 30	
July 15, 2016	Scheduled review; administrative revisions
December 18, 2017 – Director approval	Renamed Park Trail Lighting (was Park Pathway Lighting)
November 20, 2020	Scheduled review. Revised to reflect current practices.
March 19, 2024	Scheduled review. Minor housekeeping revision to update owner division information.