

A photograph of a forest path with trees and green foliage. The path is a narrow dirt trail winding through a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green leaves. The ground is covered in grass and fallen leaves. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall scene is a lush, green woodland.

**THE R.M. OF GIMLI
ACTIVE TRAILS STRATEGIC
ACTION PLAN**

**PREPARED BY
THE TRANSPORTATION TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(ACTIVE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI**

MAY 10th, 2022

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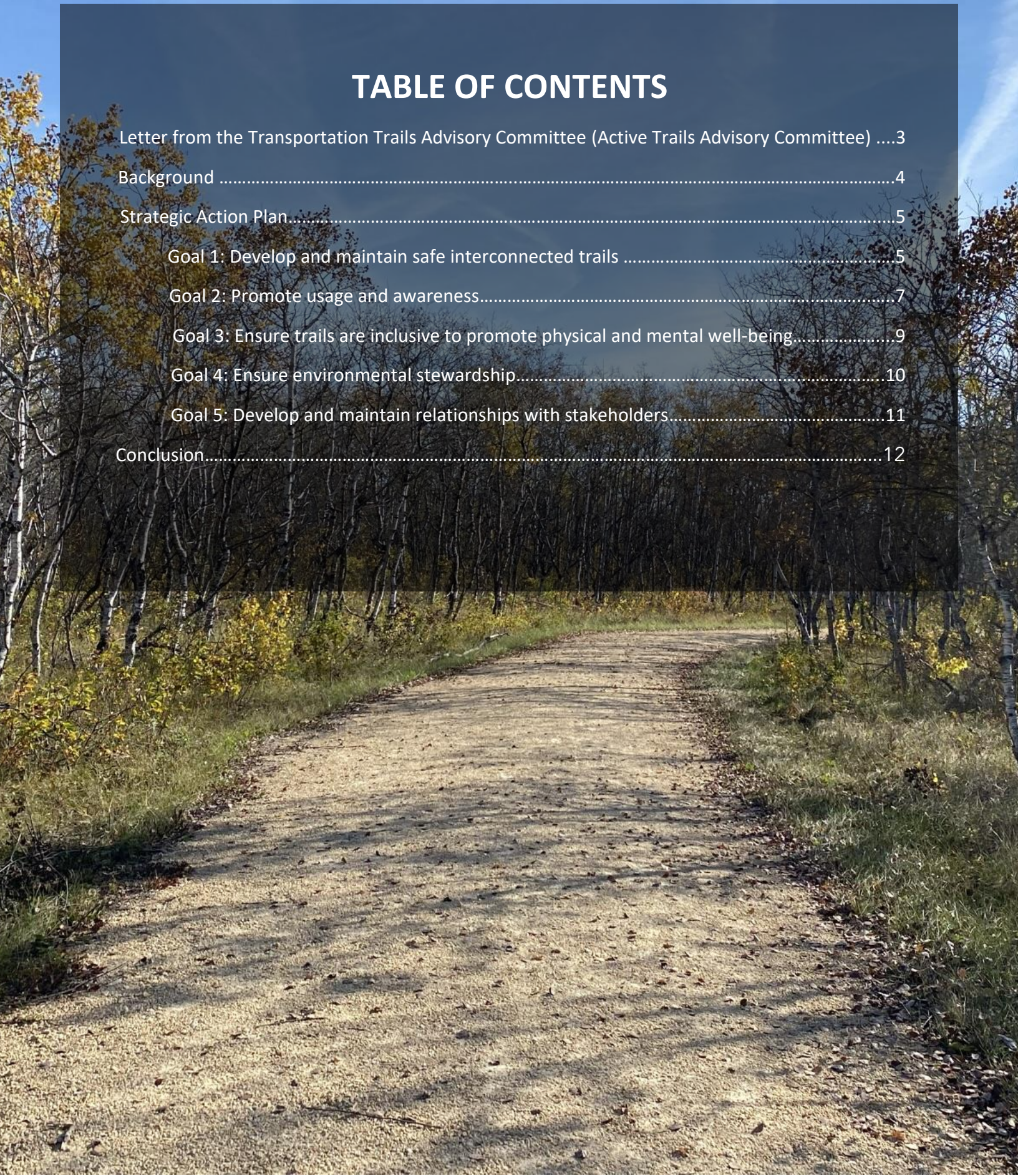
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May 10, 2022

Dear RM of Gimli Mayor Greenberg and Council:

The Transportation Trails Advisory Committee, who request that we be known going forward as the Active Trails Advisory Committee (**ATAC**), has completed an **Action Plan** for your consideration and approval. It includes immediate and long-term plans to better support and sustain the on-going health and well-being of our community.

You have each received the proposed Action Plan for review. We would like to acknowledge and thank new (pending) committee member Zoë Bailey of the East Interlake Watershed District for her facilitation of the planning process and preparation of the document. We look forward to discussion of the Action Plan with you at the **May 25, 2022 Council Meeting**.

The ATAC's primary focus has been on the development and maintenance of an interconnected trail system throughout the area which can connect our community to other areas and communities, providing safer, more easily accessible recreation and active transportation for the health and well-being of residents and visitors. As other progressive communities have demonstrated, a dedicated trail system is a significant enhancement economically and for quality of life. With time, effort and support for a project like this, we are certain that the local economy can and will benefit greatly as our Trails become an identifying asset of our community at local, provincial and federal levels. And, as we work with other organizations such as Trails Manitoba and the Trans Canada Trail, we can maximize the potential we have and create a truly exceptional trails system.

Our goals over the next few months will be:

- **Identification of needed trail connections and areas for development (1-2-1)**
- **Prioritization of future trail developments and amenities needed (1-2-2, 1-2-3)**
- **Development and publicizing of user Code of Ethics (1-3-1, 1-3-2, 4-4-1)**
- **Recommendations for new bylaws for future developments and support of current bylaws (1-4-1, 1-4-2)**
- **Plans for signage (2-1-1, 2-1-2, 2-1-3)**
- **Developing relationships with stakeholders and determining additional sources of funding (5-1-1)**

The Committee is excited to see these plans take shape, building upon what is already in place and for a sustainable future. We look forward to continuing to work with Council and our community.

Yours truly,

Cheryl Bailey, chairperson

on behalf of Committee members: Zoë Bailey, Lynda Dodunski, Chad Ermel, Leona Johnson, Jan Keryluk, Matthew McKelvey, Chris Milne, Calvin Sedleski, Tyler Yellowega, and in cooperation with Thora Palson RM appointed Representative



THE TRANSPORTATION TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACTIVE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Trails Advisory Committee was formed by bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Gimli. The bylaw was passed on December 11th, 2019, and the first meeting was held on February 4th, 2020. The group consists of appointed and volunteer members. From here within, the Transportation Trails Advisory Committee will be referred to as the Active Trails Advisory Committee (ATAC).

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee shall establish a clear set of priorities and an action plan that will inspire good policies and practices for public trails and trail system development throughout the Municipality.

VISION

The Committee will facilitate and promote inclusive healthy community connections through development, enhancement, and safe active use of sustainable, interconnected, diverse-use trails and natural spaces.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Active Trails Advisory Committee met biweekly throughout the winter and spring of 2022 to develop a comprehensive strategic action plan. The Committee participated in multiple strategic planning workshops to determine goals and objectives that align with the ATAC's vision. Please note that the Time Frame referred to throughout the document is the target completion date range.

Goal 1: Develop and maintain safe interconnected trails			
Actions		Time Frame	Lead (L) Support (S)
Objective 1: Identify existing trail system and designate trail use			
Action 1	Create map of trails and current amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate usage, seasonality, etc. 	June 2022	Trail Committee (L) East Interlake Watershed District (S)
Action 2	Update trail database (to match map)	June 2022	Trail Committee (L)
Objective 2: Identify future trail connections and areas for development			
Action 1	Identify, map, and prioritize gaps for trail connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify property titles where applicable Explore liability insurance for trails (private land, public land, etc) Ensure signs are included in new trail developments (e.g. bridge connection from Gimli Pavilion Park to Sports Park, Sports Park to Rail Trail) Discuss need for reduced speed areas to allow trail access. Meet with R.M. of Gimli, Highways, and Trail Committee to discuss reduced speed between North 5th and Thomson Drive. 	June 2022 – June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S) Residents – survey (S)
Action 2	Identify, map, budget, and prioritize future areas for development and connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize future trail developments (e.g. decommissioned lagoon system in South Beach, rail trail to Aspen Park, etc.) 	June 2022 – June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S) Residents – survey (S)
Action 3	Determine sites that require amenities and prioritize amenity order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider site requirements/amenities for 3 season vs 4 season use Prioritize amenities (e.g.: Phase 1 – benches and bike lockups, Phase 2 -, etc.) 	June 2022 - June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S) Residents – survey (S)
Action 4	Install amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure infrastructure is lasting and functional. 	June 2024 - June 2034	R.M. of Gimli (L)
Objective 3: Establish trail etiquette guidelines to decrease maintenance demands and increase safe use			
Action 1	Develop a Trail User Code of Ethics that details trail etiquette, respect for property, environmental sustainability, etc.	June 2022 - December 2022	Trail Committee (L)
Action 2	Publicize expectations for trail uses (work with Goal 2)	Indefinitely	R.M. of Gimli (L) Trail Committee (S)
Objective 4: Advise RM Council about current and potential bylaws			
Action 1	Make recommendations for RM Council to develop a bylaw that includes provisions for pathways and trail connections in community developments for all in-process, new, and future development.	June 2022 – June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Communicate to Council the importance and expectation of enforcement of by-laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of trail users Minimize town liability 	June 2022 – Indefinitely	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)

Objective 5: Communicate with RM about trail maintenance and bylaw enforcement			
Action 1	Develop a public forum (that the Trail Committee has access to) on the RM of Gimli website that allows trail users to leave comments/suggestions/concerns.	December 2022 – June 2024	R.M. of Gimli (L)
Action 2	Each Committee meeting will include an update on the state of the trails via information gathered from the forum as well as personal observations, including, but not limited to maintenance and bylaw enforcement/compliance that will be communicated to the RM.	Indefinitely	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)



Goal 2: Promote usage and awareness			
Actions		Time Frame	Lead (L) Support (S)
Objective 1: Trail signs are created and installed so users can easily find and follow the trails			
Action 1	Develop a plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizes the order in which trails receive signs • Creates deadlines for sign installation • Determines locations for signs and sign types • Addresses new trail development sign requirements • Has a detailed multi-phase budget 	June 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Develop a sign guideline document that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the different types of signs (e.g., trail head signs, sub-trail signs, trail location signs, etc.) • Outlines which information must be included on each sign type (e.g., distance, bathrooms, trail etiquette, map, land acknowledgement, etc.). Work with RMs/Province for criteria. • States appropriate sign construction to ensure long-term, quality signs. 	June 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 3	Design trail signs. Potential design ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possible graphic designers and obtain quotes • Investigate partnership with Explore Gimli for sign design • Involve the local community by hosting a trail logo design contest • Partner with other RMs for trails that are multi-RM 	September 2022 – June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (L) Neighbouring R.M.s (S) Local Community (S)
Action 4	Trail signs are created and installed	December 2022 – June 2024	R.M. of Gimli (L)
Objective 2: Trail head sites are developed			
Action 1	Develop a plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and prioritizes trail head sites and type of trail head (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary) • Identifies ownership of significant areas • Creates deadlines for trail head construction • Addresses new trail development sign requirements • Has a detailed multi-phase budget 	December 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Develop a trail head guideline document that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the different types of trail heads and the amenities that should be provided (primary, secondary, tertiary) • Identifies the necessary features at each trail head site (e.g., map/description of trail, trail etiquette, history/interesting facts, parking, kiosk, restrooms, lighting, seating/benches, garbage/recycling bins, etc.) • States appropriate trail head construction for different features (to ensure long-term, quality amenities). • Involves consultation with groups such as Trails MB and the Trans Canada Trails 	December 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 3	Trail head sites are constructed and installed	June 2023 – December 2033	R.M. of Gimli (L)

Objective 3: Promotion campaign will be developed and executed to inform residents and tourists.

Action 1	<p>Develop a promotion campaign that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A annual promotional campaign that general promotion plan and an event-specific promotion plan with timelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Promotion Campaign includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for different media platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social media ▪ Maps/Brochures (printed and virtual) ▪ Apps (e.g., All Trails) ▪ Radio ▪ TV ▪ Print (local and provincial) ▪ Websites (e.g., RMs, explore Gimli) • Event-Specific Promotion Campaign includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School involvement - encourage school trips and programming that links to science, history and culture curricula. • Community involvement - find local volunteers (or Nature MB, CPAWS, etc.) to host free interpretive walks (natural or historic) • Partnerships with local festivals (e.g., make some of the trails part of the programming for ICE Fest, Icelandic Festival, Film Festival, etc.) • Contests • Geocaching or Bio Blitz events • Proposed budget 	June 2023 – December 2033	R.M. of Gimli (L) Explore Gimli (S) Gimli Rec Centre (S) Trail Committee (S) Tourism Advisory Committee (S)
Action 2	Distribute maps and promotional information to local/tourist websites, stakeholders, and brick and mortar locations. (Use stakeholder list from Goal 5).	June 2023 - June 2024	Trail Committee (S) R.M. of Gimli (L)

Goal 3: Ensure trails are inclusive to promote physical and mental well-being

Actions		Time Frame	Lead (L) Support (S)
Objective 1: Evaluate all trails for accessibility			
Action 1	Develop an evaluation process to assess accessibility (look at Provincial standards)	June 2024 - June 2026	R.M of Gimli (L)
Action 2	Review list of trail inventory and create order to evaluate	June 2024 - June 2026	Trail Committee (L)
Action 3	Assess trails for accessibility	June 2025 - June 2027	R.M of Gimli (L) Trail Committee (S)
Action 4	Create a timeline to re-assess each trail	June 2027 - June 2033	R.M of Gimli (L)
Objective 2: Ensure inclusivity by encouraging involvement of all to access and use the trails			
Action 1	Develop inclusivity parameters to eliminate barriers to allow for full and equal participation. (e.g., colour coded maps to easily explain and promote these trail features).	June 2024 - June 2026	R.M of Gimli (L)
Action 2	Ensure diversity standards are met in information/promotions, etc.	Ongoing	Trail Committee (L) R.M of Gimli (S)
Action 3	Review history of areas including groups that have inhabited the areas, animals/plants indigenous to the area. (Perhaps use this info to develop trail names)	June 2025 - June 2027	Trail Committee (L) Historical Society (S) New Iceland Heritage Museum (S)
Action 4	Develop outreach plan to interest/culture groups identified by inclusivity parameters and interest groups.	June 2025 - June 2027	Trail Committee (L) R.M of Gimli (S)
Action 5	Develop and execute outreach plan to receive input from inclusivity groups (focus groups, interviews, surveys, camera to tally usage, etc.)	June 2025 - June 2027	R.M of Gimli (L)
Objective 3: Facilitate inclusive recreational activities/groups to encourage physical and mental well-being			
Action 1	Develop list of current and potential groups/clubs that could use the trail system and investigate local interest.	December 2022 – June 2023	R.M of Gimli (L) Gimli Rec Centre (S)
Action 2	Facilitate a wide variety of inclusive groups	June 2023 - June 2024	Gimli Rec Centre (L) R.M of Gimli (S)

Goal 4: Ensure environmental stewardship			
Actions		Time Frame	Lead (L) Support (S)
Objective 1: Completion of appropriate environmental assessments will be done by the RM prior to new development/major changes to existing trails.			
Action 1	Identify the guidelines for different areas urban vs rural level of government or appropriate authority to oversee appropriate environmental assessments.	December 2022 – June 2023	R.M. of Gimli (L)
Action 2	Ensure environmental assessments are undertaken.	Indefinitely	R.M. of Gimli (L) Appropriate authority (S)
Objective 2: Ensure that trail maintenance is in adherence to environmental best practices.			
Action 1	Develop best practises for maintenance and usage of trails. (e.g., recycling/refuse bins, ensuring bins are emptied, trimming/clearing trails, etc.)	December 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Ensure these best practises are considered in Goal 1 objectives / actions.	December 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 3	Ensure best practices are employed.	Indefinitely	R.M. of Gimli (L) Trail Committee (S)
Objective 3: Prioritize environmental enhancements to provide and maintain ecological goods and services.			
Action 1	Identify locations along current trail system to be enhanced and develop a plan and budget.	June 2024 – June 2026	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S) East Interlake Watershed District (S)
Action 2	Create a document outlining specific considerations related to impact of natural environments against trail development (consult with Trails MB)	June 2024 – June 2026	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 3	Ensure that new trails/trail connections implement appropriate environmental enhancements when possible.	June 2024 – June 2026	R.M. of Gimli (L) Trail Committee (S)
Objective 4: Educate community and user groups in the sustainable usage of the trails			
Action 1	Ensure environmental trail etiquette is clearly outlined in all promotions and signs/trail heads.	June 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Compile a list of various points of interests and potential interpretive signs to profile plants, birds, animals, history, etc.	June 2024 – June 2026	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S) Trail User Groups (S) Historical Society (S) New Iceland Heritage Museum (S)
Action 3	Develop a plan and budget to create interpretive trails.	June 2024 – June 2026	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)

Goal 5: Develop and maintain relationships with stakeholders			
Actions		Time Frame	Lead (L) Support (S)
Objective 1: Identify and develop connections with stakeholders			
Action 1	Develop a comprehensive stakeholder list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify type of stakeholder (landowner, business, inclusivity obj., etc.) Identify how stakeholders are related to accomplishing other goals 	June 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Contact stakeholders to foster relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional campaign (Goal 2) Funding/sponsorship/partnership opportunities (Goal 5, Obj. 2) 	June 2023 – June 2026	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Objective 2: Identify funding sources and develop plans			
Action 1	Identify potential funding sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants, Sponsorships, Legacy Program, Partnerships, etc. 	December 2022 – June 2023	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 2	Develop annual and long-term budget to support trail development, enhancement, and maintenance.	December (annually)	R.M. of Gimli (L)
Action 3	Develop a budgeting plan and a master budget that includes budgets from the other Goals/Objectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Budgets should be reviewed in September, to be proposed to the RM in December. 	December (annually)	R.M. of Gimli (L) Trail Committee (S)
Action 4	Develop sponsorship program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create tiers with names and dollar values Draft sponsorship letter 	June 2023 - June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 5	Develop fundraising plan	June 2023 - June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 6	Explore grants	June 2023 - June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)
Action 7	Explore partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify partnerships needed to accomplish Objectives in other goals (e.g., signs – Goal 2) 	June 2023 - June 2024	Trail Committee (L) R.M. of Gimli (S)

CONCLUSION

The Active Trails Advisory Committee is committed to working with trail user groups, the Rural Municipality of Gimli, and stakeholders to implement this Action Plan for enhancing the R.M. of Gimli trail network.

