

CVC?getting funding support for trail along Credit River

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is receiving support from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to develop a plan for a 110-kilometre hiking trail along the Credit River.

With a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation, CVC, partnering with the Credit Valley Heritage Society, will bring to life a 60-year old vision of a connected pedestrian corridor. Stretching from the river's headwaters in the Greenbelt outside of Orangeville, through the urban river valleys of Peel, the trail will end at the mouth of the river in Lake Ontario, not far from Port Credit.

In collaboration with municipal partners, the Trail Master Plan will identify the preferred route for the Credit Valley Trail, highlight noteworthy natural and cultural tourism destinations along the valley, and assess land securement priorities. Once finalized in summer 2017, CVC and its partners will be ready to take the next steps in completing the trail, including the creation of a tourism and marketing strategy and bringing lands along the Credit River Valley into public ownership.

?The Credit Valley Trail will serve as a living legacy of what we can accomplish together with a shared vision and collaborative resources,? said Mississauga Councillor and CVC?Chair Nando Iannicca. ?When complete, the trail will protect natural spaces along the Credit River, serving as a gateway to the Greenbelt's inland lakes in the northern watershed, weaving cultural, historical and natural tourism spaces to Lake Ontario in the south.?

?We have heard from many people about the importance of protecting and enhancing the region's urban river valleys, to keep our drinking water clean and fresh,? said Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation CEO Burkhard Mausberg. ?Once completed, the Credit Valley Trail will be one of the prominent features and jewels of our urban river valleys in southern Ontario. This endeavour has been in the imaginations of this region's residents for nearly three times longer than the Blue Jays' current playoff drought.?

Funding of more than \$380,000 was also awarded to EcoSpark, Environmental Defence, Ontario Farmland Trust, Sierra Club, and the Toronto Environmental Alliance for initiatives that help continue to protect the province's Greenbelt as the solution for fresh air, clean water, healthy local food, and a thriving economy with good jobs.

To review further information on these grants, visit www.greenbelt.ca/grants_made