Create your SHADE experience



OUR VISION

Ontarians benefiting from inspiring trail experiences within healthy landscapes.

OUR VISION PRINCIPLES

GREEN and ADAPTIVE



OUR CONTACT

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SHADE PRINCIPLES

Sustainable landscapes
Healthy activities
Access to trails
Diverse trail uses
Educational trails



OUR SERVICES

Problem solving through:

- Projecting and enhancing ecosystems.
- Strategies to adapt local climate change.
- Policy advocacy through knowledge sharing.



OUR SUCCESS

Our success stories are written in the following achievements:

- Fifteen years contribution toward a successful establishment of the Ontario section of the National Trail branding, Trans Canada Trail Ontario.
- Present, promote, and help maintain the National Trail brand throughout the province for the following five years.
- Commitment to serve Ontario in the best possible way by:
- Evaluating the organizational mission against the pressing issues:,
- Adapt a new Vision, Mission, and a new strategic plan for the new organizational direction with a new name Green Trails Ontario (GTO).

OUR FOCUS

- Human Health
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Protect and improve the Environment and Ecosystems



GREENTRAILSONTARIO

Partner with GTO SHADE Programs & Projects



About us

Following COVID-19 pandemic, the Trans Canada Trail Ontario reviewed its 2020-2030 Strategic Plan to continue serving Ontario trail communities most effectively. This review led to a transformative vision for province-wide trail landscape enhancement that replaces the organization's past focus on making Trans Canada Trail connections. This review has also provided a framework for strategic directions and the organization has adopted the new operating brand name of "Green Trails Ontario (GTO)".

Our VISION for a resilient future is, environmentally sustainable trail landscapes that offer diverse uses including recreational, educational, provide health benefits, and reduce the local effects of climate change.

We envision Ontario trails that reflect GTO's fundamental principles of "Green and adaptive." They contribute to climate mitigation, enhance landscape functions, and encourage communities across the province to participate in environmental activities.

We, the GTO team is a group of knowledgeable and experienced professionals who have been engaged in the projects that contribute to the province's environment, climate, and Ontarians' health. We have the expertise to bring community resources, knowledge, and support together to enhance the environments and landscapes beyond the trail corridors.



Our Strength

- Pragmatic Vision
- Professional Experience
- Proven Knowledge



Our Strategies

- **Establish and Expand Partnerships and Networks** to be able to work through partnerships and network building as the key to achieving the expanded and resilient GTO vision.
- **Develop and Implement Collaborative SHADE programs and projects** for the enhancement of local ecosystems, creation of educational landscapes, and the reduction of local climate change effects on citizens' health.
- **Develop and implement a communication plan** to help achieve the GTO vision by reaching out to trail communities, individuals, governments, and non-government agencies who will support GTO's SHADE principles.
- **Promote SHADE programs and projects** Demonstrate the pioneering role of GTO as an environmental trail organization focusing on the Health, Environment and Climate factors. Partner with local groups and organizations through SHADE programs to aid local climate action programs.
- **Secure a sustainable funding base** for GTO to continue its activities across Ontario to maintain, restore and enhance the local trail environments.



GREEN TRAILS ONTARIO

GTO Resiliency & SHADE principles

- **Sustainable Trails**
  Promotes and improves the environmental sustainability by enhancing the ecological state of trail corridors through SHADE programs and projects, such as creating regenerative habitats of native plant species, invasive species management and removal, ecological planning, design of the trail corridors and adjacent landscapes where applicable.
- **Healthy trail activities**
  Promotes and creates opportunities for trail activities that benefit both physical and mental health.
- **Access to Trails**
  Works with partners to ensure the trails can be used, explored, and enjoyed by people and communities regardless of economic, social and cultural backgrounds.
- **Diverse trail uses**
  Promotes and works to create opportunities for diverse activities along the trail corridors and adjacent landscapes. In addition, GTO works to create educational, health, and ecologically benefitting landscapes in the province.
- **Educational trails**
  Promotes interpretive and interactive landscapes, trail corridors and surrounding landscapes to be used for environmental learning, research, awareness, and climate mitigation. GTO creates learning opportunities by connecting the ecological, cultural, and climate values of our past, present, and future.

