



# The Credit Valley Trail

Connection Trail, Building Connections

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ELO - April 2nd, 2026

# My Path to the Trail

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## About Me

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- Anthropology & Archaeology
- Community Engagement
- Nature Advocate, Avid Hiker



# The Credit Valley Trail Story

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CVC's 1956 Watershed Report

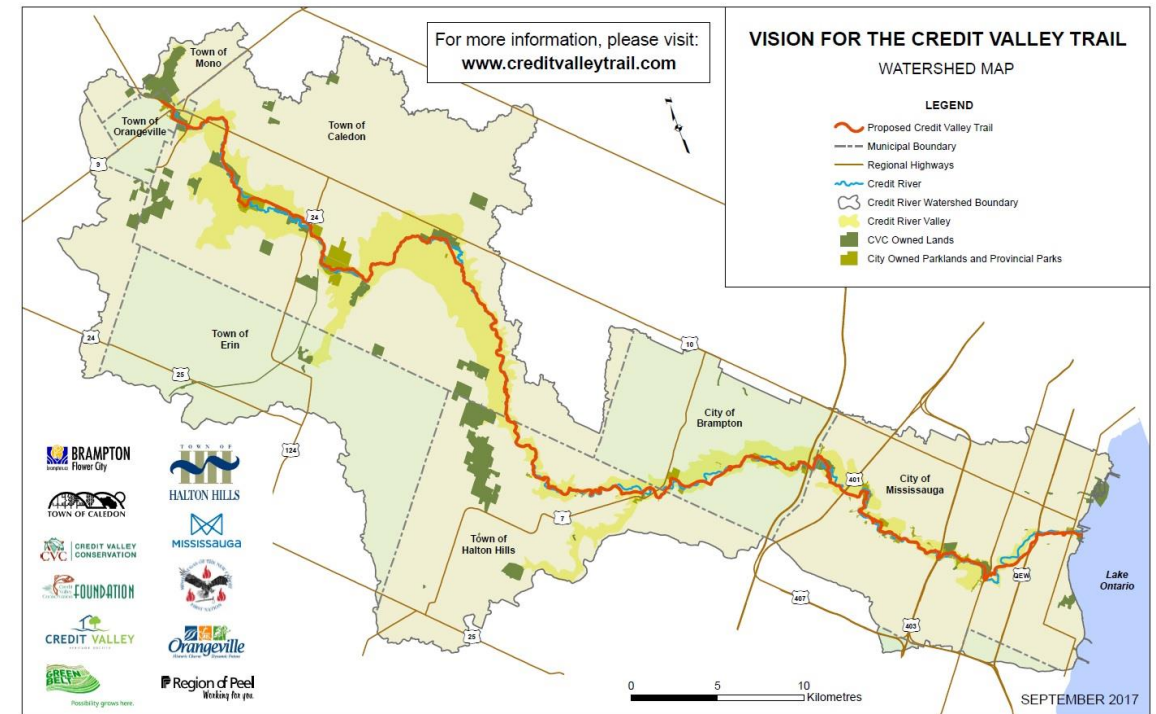
Legacy Project: Connections to Credit River and Surrounding Valley Lands

Creating Groundswell

Revisited in 2017

CVT Strategy (2018)

Five-year Strategy Refresh (2023)



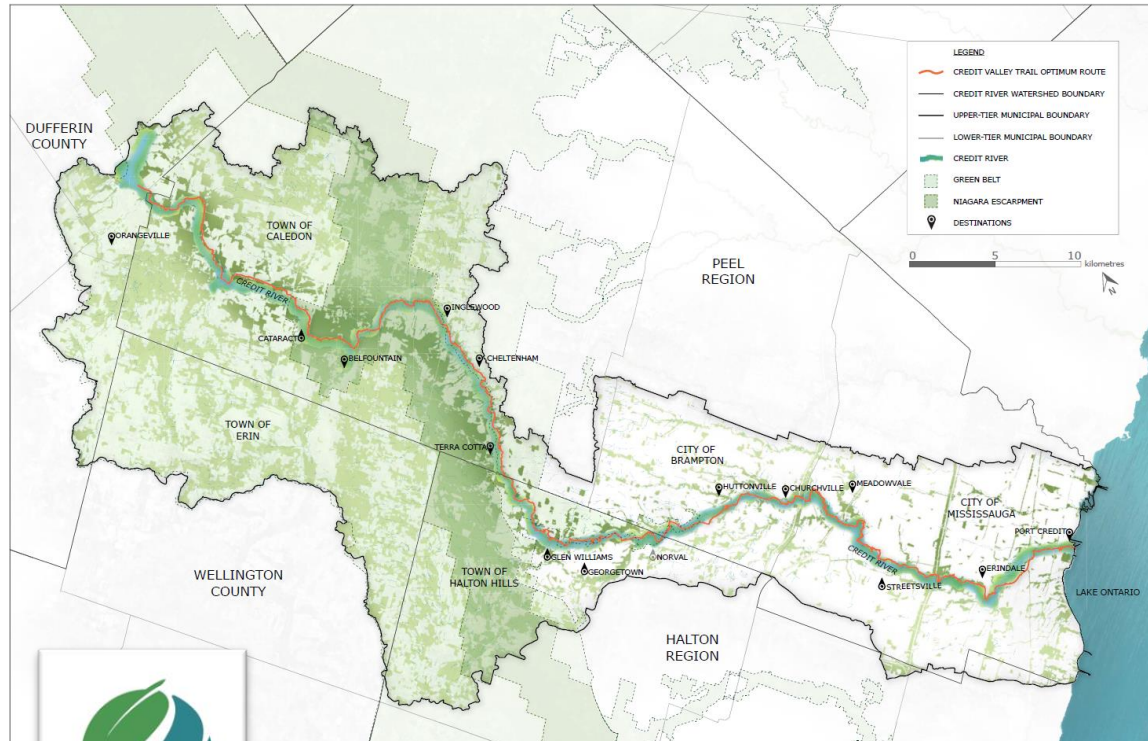
# Vision & Mission

- For the benefit of past and future generations, with the support of MANY partners, CVC, will create a 100-kilometere continuous, connected river valley trail
- A journey along the banks of the Credit River that inspires, connects and empowers infinite generations of river guardians who will value and protect the watershed



# From Townhalls to Trail Champions





## The Credit Valley Trail Experience

The CVT is more than a trail. It's an experience that will take you places, both physically and emotionally, that you have never been before.

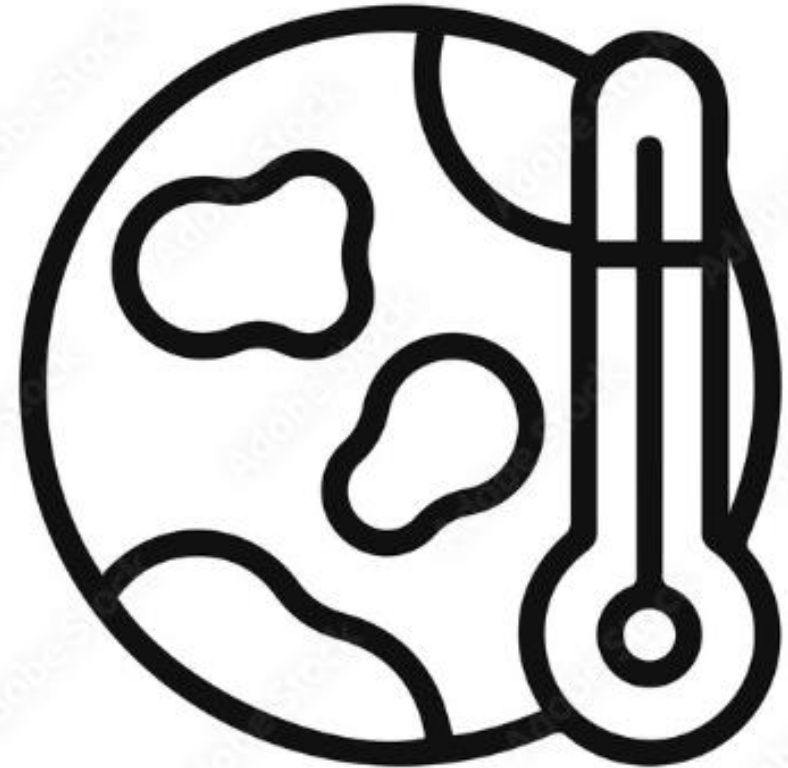
A series of six experiential themes provide abundant opportunity to bring the trail to life. They empower trail users to become a part of the history and future of the Credit River.



# **More Than a Trail: Climate, Community, and Reconciliation**

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- **Promotes low-carbon transportation** – supports walking, cycling, and reduces car dependence
- **Preserves natural carbon sinks** – forests, wetlands, and soil absorb CO<sub>2</sub>
- **Supports ecosystem restoration** – reforestation and habitat protection enhance climate resilience
- **Reduces urban heat effects** – green corridors cool communities and lower energy demand
- **Strengthens climate-adaptive infrastructure** – trails help manage flood risks and erosion



- **Community Well-being**
  - Access to nature for all ages
  - Supports mental health and stress relief
  - Encourages physical activity and healthy lifestyles
  - Builds stronger, connected communities
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- **Pathways to Reconciliation**
  - Strengthens the connection to the land
  - Supports Indigenous-led placekeeping
  - Honours cultural knowledge and traditions
  - Promotes education and awareness about local Indigenous histories



# What We've Achieved

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76 kilometres of trail route secured



43 kilometres of trail completed



1 Indigenous key site launched



69 hectares of land secured



17 parks connected through the trail



110 partners and stakeholders engaged



\$4,512,270 raised to support the project



36 information sessions about the trail delivered



8 programs delivered on the trail

# Turning Vision into Reality

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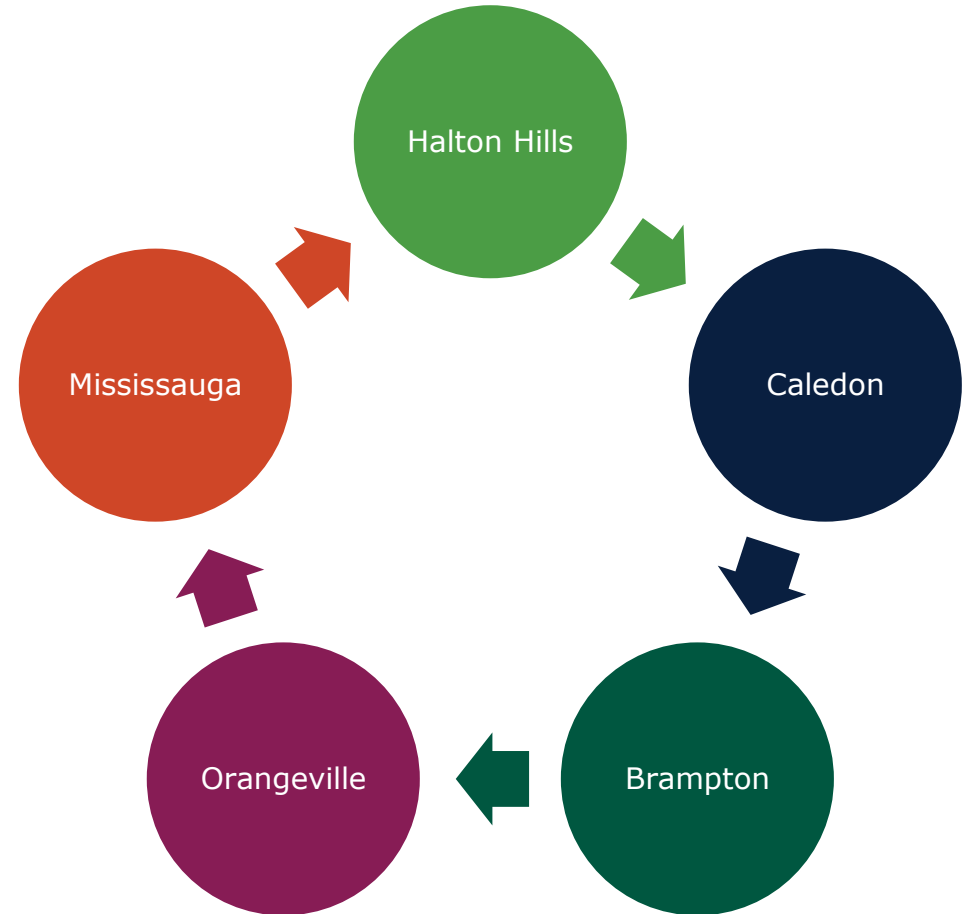






# A Network of (Trail) Champions

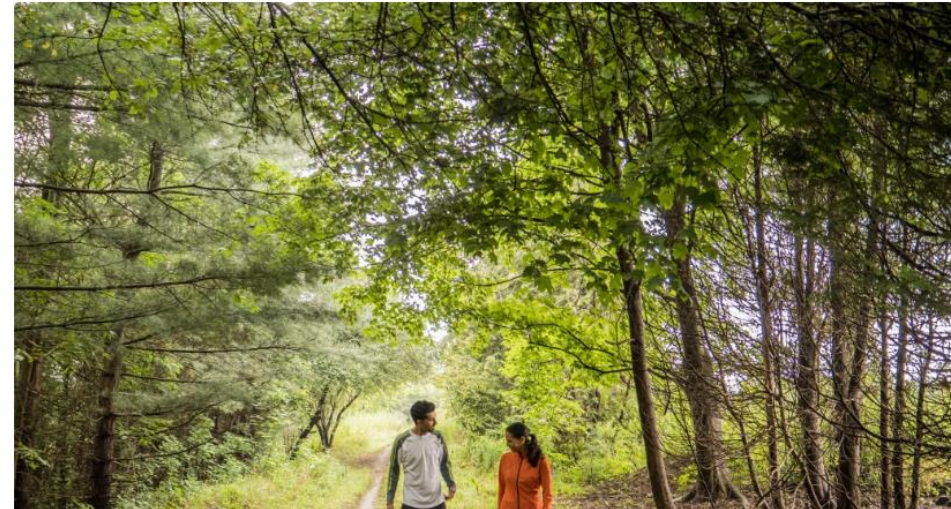
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For an outstanding trail experience, maps for the Credit Valley Trail are available through the interactive ONDAGO mobile application.

STEP 1: Download the ONDAGO app:





# Indigenous Placekeeping along the Credit Valley Trail

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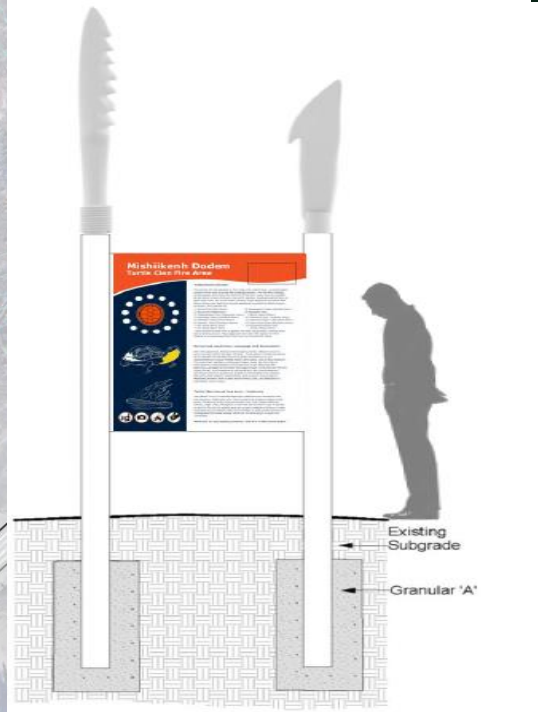
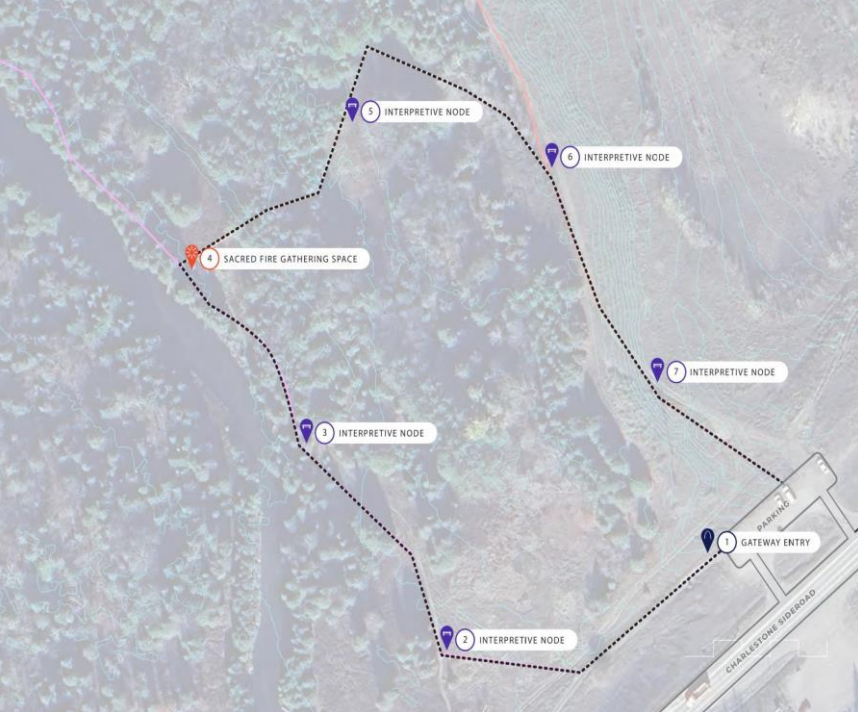


# The Crane Gathering Space





# Giigoonh Doodem



## Mishiikenh Doodem Turtle Clan - Sacred Fire Area

**Traditional Calendar**

This sacred fire site is shaped in the image of a turtle's back—an Anishinaabe symbol of the lunar cycle and the changing seasons. For the Michi Saagig Anishinaabeg, time follows the rhythms of the land, water, and sky, guided by the Moon. Around the outer ring are 28 sections, representing the days of each lunar cycle, and in the centre, thirteen larger segments symbolize the Moons of the year. Each Moon carries teachings connected to local ecology, ceremony, and seasonal life.

1. Manido Gizi (Spirit Moon)	9. Waabaagapaa Gizi (Leaves Changing Colour Moon)
2. Makwa Gizi (Bear Moon)	10. Binakwi Gizi (Falling Leaves Moon)
3. Zhobakickak Gizi (Sugarbush Moon)	11. Baashlaakodin Gizi (Freezing Moon)
4. Namabare Gizi (Suckerfish Moon)	12. Gizi Bissou Gizi (Big Winter Moon)
5. Waabogoni Gizi (Flower Moon)	13. Gaa-Ebboonkaan Gizi (Winter Maker Moon)
6. Cooamini Gizi (Strawberry Moon)	
7. Min Gizi (Berry Moon)	
8. Manosirake Gizi (Racing Moon)	

These names embody when to gather, harvest, and prepare, holding deep ties to family and land. Please approach this site with respect for Michi Saagig Anishinaabeg teachings that continue to guide us today.

**Honouring Leadership, Language and Resurgence**

After the great flood, Nikaanak (the Snapping Turtle) offered its back to carry new life, forming Nikaanak Henring - Turtle Island. The gawing stones at this sacred fire site reflect the turtle shell, grounding us in our responsibilities to Shikaakansiwew (Mother Earth), the waters, and All Our Relations. The Turtle Clan, Mishiikenh or Nikaanak Doodem, leads the Fish Clan as teachers, mediators, and knowledge keepers of Star teachings. Language carries these teachings through words like Gichi Manido (Great Spirit), mino-kim-aadisiwin (the good life), and Chibnoodoyewin (the long journey of resurgence). Guided by the Seventh Fire prophecy, this site invites reflection, responsibility, and renewal, honouring the Mishiikenh Doodem's vision to lead with humility, truth, and dedication to Niwaaabeg ways of being.

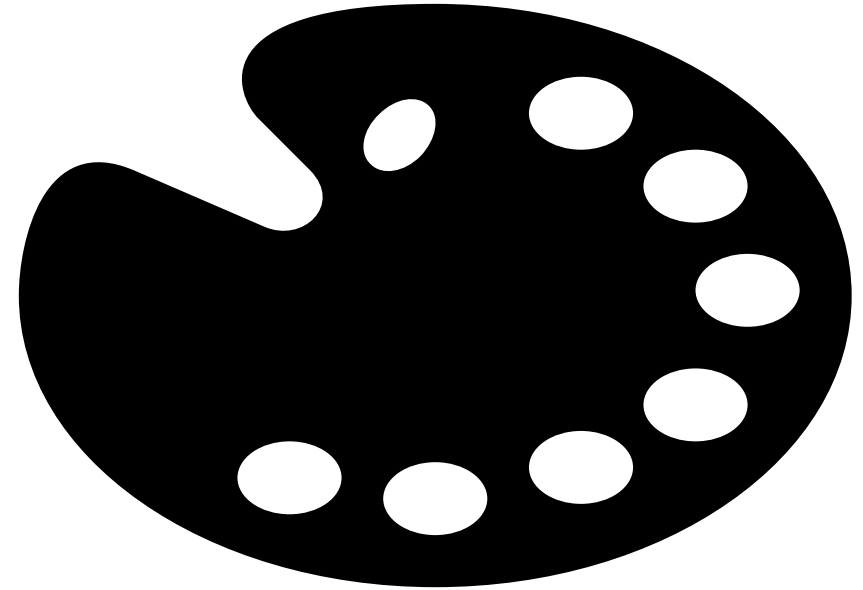
**Turtle Clan Sacred Fire Area - Protocols**

The Sacred Fire is a ceremonial space for reflection and connection with Spirit. Please enter only when invited and maintain respect at all times. The area is strictly drug and alcohol free. Only sacred offerings - tobacco, sage, cedar, sweetgrass, or food for the Ancestors may be placed in the fire. Do not burn plastics and non-organic materials. Photos or video recordings are not allowed unless a Fire Keeper or Elder grants permission. A designated Fire Keeper always tends the fire ensuring it is never left unattended.

**Thank you for your respect, presence, and care in this sacred space.**

- Key Plan**
- 1) **Stories, Narratives, Land Relations, Seasonality**
  - 2) **Doodem Teachings**
  - 3) **Option Other**

- CVC and MCFN are organizing an 'Art Collaboration' for Lloyd S. King Students
- Field trip, land-based learning
- Multi-media, flexible format
- Seven Signs for Artwork
- Connections to Treaty Lands, Fish Doodem & other Traditional Knowledge



- Remaining **\$3.5M to be fundraised**
- **Connect the remaining 57km**
- Build Key Site #2, design and build the remaining
- Build more partnerships, create more CVT stewards and supporters
- Trails = **infrastructure, paths towards reconciliation**



# Want to Get Involved?



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# Questions?

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