

Ontario Trails of Distinction (OTD) Program Self-Assessment

- The Ontario Trails of Distinction (OTD) Program was designed to showcase and celebrate the most distinctive trails, including trail networks, in the province.
- The purpose of the program is to:
 - Identify and promote trails of the highest degree of distinction that would:
 - Raise awareness of Ontario trails;
 - Encourage today’s generation and future generations to use trails; and
 - Further the development and promotion of trails in Ontario.
- The OTD Program targets trails that demonstrate the best of what Ontario has to offer, helping to establish Ontario trails as a world-class system of diversified trails, planned and used in an environmentally responsible manner that enhances the health and prosperity for all Ontarians and attracts visitors.
- Proposed trails of distinction would undergo an application and evaluation process to determine their suitability with the OTD Program.
- Applicants of proposed trails of distinction would need to build a strong case for why the trail should be considered among the best trails in Ontario.

After reviewing the OTD Program Overview, please complete this self-assessment to determine if you should take the next step to apply.

About the proposed Ontario Trail of Distinction:

#	Item	Yes	No
1.1	Does the proposed trail deserve to be recognized among the province’s most distinctive trails?		
1.2	Is the proposed trail distinctive for one or more of the following reasons: Connectivity, Recreational Experience, Heritage, Environmental and/or Indigenous?		
1.3	Would the proposed trail be of interest to visitors from outside the province and/or country for its distinctive reason(s)?		
1.4	Would the proposed trail be able to handle an increase in the number of trail users?		
1.5	Is the proposed trail in Ontario and open for public use (this does not necessarily mean free access)?		
1.6	Is the proposed trail actively managed as appropriate for the trail type/use(s), in a manner that reflects sustainable management principles?		
1.7	Does the proposed trail have appropriate way-finding and trail signage for the trail type/use(s)?		
1.8	Your proposed trail has no contentious issues that could draw negative attention to the OTD Program if the proposed trail was recognized?		

As the trail manager/operator:

#	Item	Yes	No
2.1	Do you actively market and/or promote to attract visitors/trail users from within Ontario at a minimum?		
2.2	Do you have a website and/or app with clear information on the proposed trail of distinction?		
2.3	Do you have the capacity to manage an increase in trail use (e.g. maintenance, inspections)?		
2.4	Do you carry appropriate liability insurance and all required operating permits?		

If selected into the OTD Program:

#	Item	Yes	No
3.1	Will you provide annual feedback and/or data about the trail of distinction?		
3.2	Will you advise the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) of any changes/upgrades to your trail of distinction?		
3.3	Will you be willing to present and showcase the trail of distinction?		
3.4	Will you consider sharing trail data with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Land Information Ontario (LIO) trail mapping initiative?		
3.5	Will you fulfil other requirements as negotiated with MTCS?		

If you answered yes to the questions above, then you may be ready to apply to the program.

Please contact us to discuss any questions about the program or self-assessment:

Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division, MTCS
trailsofdistinction@ontario.ca