



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: September 3, 2026

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Hybrid, In-Person / Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING:

**GANARASKA FOREST
RECREATIONAL USERS
COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS:

Bob Gallagher, Matthew Robbins,
Jim Pearson, Matt Mair, Rick
Trumper, Lisa Thompson, Shawn
Marshall, Peter Innes, Alex Schmidt,
Carolyn Richards, Peter Wood,
Steve Brownell, Maureen McDonald,
Paul Kravis, Lance Nachoff

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

Land Acknowledgement

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contribution to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – June 4, 2026 – **attached**

4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Delegations:
None
6. Presentation:
None
7. Business Arising from Minutes:
None
8. Correspondence:
None
9. New Business:
 - a) Single Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Update - **Staff report attached**
 - b) Central Forest Orange and Green Trail Infrastructure Improvements - **Staff report attached**
 - c) Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Public Communications - **Staff report attached**
10. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE GANARASKA FOREST

RECREATIONAL USERS COMMITTEE

June 4, 2026

RUC 2/26

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

The Chair welcomed all present and introduced Peter Innes and Paul Kravis as new members of the Recreational Users Committee. The Chair called the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee (RUC) meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

MEMBER PRESENT: Bob Gallagher, Chair
Matthew Robbins, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jim Pearson, Ontario Trail Riders Association
Matt Mair, Ontario Nature
Lisa Thompson, Ontario Federation of Trail Riders
Shawn Marshall, Cross Country Ontario
Peter Innes, Orienteering Ontario
Alex Schmidt, Ontario Cycling
Carolyn Richards, Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs
Peter Wood, Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists
Paul Kravis, Municipality of Clarington
Steve Brownell, Municipality of Port Hope
Maureen McDonald, Township of Cavan Monaghan
Lance Nachoff, GRCA Board of Directors

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Van Osch, GRCA Forest Recreation Technician
Pam Lancaster, GRCA Conservation Lands Coordinator

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Rick Trumper, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club

ALSO ABSENT: Hike Ontario (position unfilled)
City of Kawartha Lakes (position unfilled)

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RUC 1/26

MOVED BY: Alex Schmitt

SECONDED BY: Jim Pearson

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025 meeting and receive the minutes of the April 2, 2026 meeting for information.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of Agenda

RUC 2/26

MOVED BY:

Alex Schmidt

SECONDED BY:

Jim Pearson

THAT the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED.

5. Delegations

None

6. Presentations

None

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

8. Correspondence

An email letter was submitted to GRCA in gratitude for authorizing and facilitating a Special Event held in October 2025 known as The Ganny Enduro.

An email letter was submitted to the GRCA expressing concerns trail maintenance in the Central Ganaraska Forest and the Horse Trailer Parking Lot.

Paul Kravis inquired if Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) responds to received correspondence. Pam Lancaster that the GRCA acknowledges receipt of a correspondence and forwards it the GRCA Board of Directors where further actions can occur.

The Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee noted and filed the correspondence items 01/26 and 02/16.

9. New Business

a) Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference Updates

Ed Van Osch explained the purpose of reviewing the Terms of Reference (TOR) annually. Pam Lancaster, stated that several updates were made to the TOR, including clerical and organization name corrections; content about RUC members communicating with the public

via the website contact forms and the requirement that RUC members have a Ganaraska Forest Membership. Additionally, Pam Lancaster stated that RUC feedback will be presented to the GRCA Board of Directors in June.

Peter Wood questioned the requirement and objective of requiring RUC members to hold a valid Ganaraska Forest Membership to fill a seat on the RUC. Steve Brownell agreed with Peter Wood and stated that some RUC groups are not local and are provincial bodies. Bob Gallagher questioned the committee, asking if it would make sense to suggest alternative wording for the TOR. Matt Robbins agreed with Peter Wood and recommended language suggesting that RUC members holding valid Ganaraska Forest Membership is not mandatory. Peter Wood suggested that requirement of valid membership wording be removed from the TOR. Lisa Thompson agreed with Peter Woods suggestion to remove the wording in question and stated that Ontario Federation of Trail Riders represents the provincial sector. Jim Pearson stated that RUC members should actively use the Ganaraska Forest and encourages RUC members to hold a valid membership. Shawn Marshall supported the statement that valid membership is required. Steve Brownell stated that GRCA wants organizations that represent the population of Ontario and a valid Ganaraska Forest membership should not be required.

RUC 3/26

MOTION: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Shawn Marshal

THAT the wording in Terms of Reference, under section 2.0 Committee Structure be altered to read that “the appointee is encouraged to have a Ganaraska Forest Membership.”

CARRIED

RUC 4/26

MOVED BY: Jim Pearson
SECONDED BY: Matt Robbins

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee comments be passed on to the GRCA Board of Directors.

CARRIED.

b) Winter Season Recreational Use Update

Maureen McDonald that when she went out this winter that conditions were glorious. She also stated that the users she encountered on the ski trail system provided many great comments regarding the ski trail grooming efforts and significant snow conditions.

Paul Kravis questioned GRCA’s decision not to provide ski grooming over the Christmas holiday season and expressed that there is public interest in having the trails groomed during Christmas holidays. Ed Van Osch informed the RUC that GRCA shuts down during the Christmas holiday and both the GRCA office and Ganaraska Forest Centre are closed, and staff are not scheduled during this period. To ensure logistic challenges, safety concerns

and liabilities are mitigated, multiple GRCA lands staff must be scheduled and onsite during grooming operations.

RUC 5/26

MOVED BY: Peter Wood
SECONDED BY: Alex Schmidt

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee share the following messaging with their respective user groups: that cross-country ski trails are exclusive to skiing during the winter season, the Central Forest is off limits to all forms of motorized use, adhere to all posted signage and please remain on trails indicated as open on the [Ganaraska Forest Trails Map](#).

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Winter Season Recreational Use Update staff report for information.

CARRIED.

c) 2026 Trail Maintenance, Infrastructure and Program Improvements

Ed Van Osch provided an update on the construction of the new Forest Road Trail linking the existing Ganaraska West Forest trail system with Parking Lot P6.

Ed Van Osch provided a brief explanation of the duties and requirements of the Assistant Trail Developer Volunteer position.

Paul Kravis enquired if GRCA has a media package outlining the volunteer program. Pam Lancaster stated that GRCA uses several social media and local media platforms to advertise volunteer program opportunities.

Lisa Thompson enquired if single-track trail development is being considered for the West Forest. Ed Van Osch expressed that GRCA is open to receiving feedback and comments regarding West, Central and East Forest trail concerns and/or potential for trail upgrades. Steve Brownell enquired why GRCA does not partner with Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) and Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs (OFATV) to pursue grants? Ed Van Osch explained that both OFTR and OFATV offer their own independent trail pass system and their funding efforts focus on their own programs and infrastructure. Carolyn Richards identified that GRCA is unique in the Conservation Authority (CA) system, in that it permits Off-Road vehicle use on CA owned lands. Pam Lancaster stated that partnership between GRCA and RUC organizations are always considered. Steve Brownell stated that GRCA should be partnering with user groups and not relying on municipal funding. Alex Schmidt stated that GRCA use to pursue local volunteer efforts and funding to build more trails.

Alex Schmidt expressed disapproval of the use of the wording “to ensure Ganaraska Forest remains a world class recreation destination” in the staff report. Alex Schmidt stated the Ganaraska Forest is not World Class and supported the disapproval by stated that people

are getting lost in the Gananaska Forest, stated that trails are not open and people from Peterborough do not know that the Gananaska Forest exists.

RUC 6/26**MOVED BY:** Alex Schmidt**SECONDED BY:** Jim Pearson

THAT the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups to regularly review and adhere to all posted Gananaska Forest signage while visiting Gananaska Forest.

FURTHER that the Gananaska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Trail Infrastructure Maintenance and Program Improvements staff report for information.

CARRIED.

10. Adjourn**RUC 7/26****MOVED BY:****SECONDED BY:**

THAT the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Gananaska Forest Recreational User Committee is Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Chair



Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 3, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Single Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Update

Throughout the spring and summer of 2026, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) promoted a volunteer opportunity seeking qualified volunteers with trail design and development experience. Volunteer duties included working directly with GRCA staff to plan the route of a future single-track trail that will loop from the Ganaraska Forest Centre within the Central Forest.

Unfortunately, GRCA was unsuccessful in filling the volunteer positions required to help drive this project forward. As a result, GRCA re-examined the single track trail development process and concluded that to proceed further, project specific funding, specialized equipment, experienced contractors, and additional staff are required. Consequently, the Central Forest single track trail development plan has been paused for 2026. GRCA will revisit the single track development plan in 2027 to decipher the feasibility of the plan as Ganaraska Forest proceeds into the future as part of the amalgamated Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (ELORCA).

GRCA continues to provide valuable volunteer opportunities found at [Ganaraska Conservation - Volunteering](#).

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups about volunteer opportunities found on [Ganaraska Conservation - Volunteering](#).

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Single Track Trail Development, Phase 3 Update staff report for information.



Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 3, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Central Forest Orange and Green Trail Infrastructure Improvements

To optimize trail maintenance efforts and operational budgets, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) prioritizes trail work based upon the greatest needs, potential for positive impact and to minimize liabilities. Annual trail inspections, public reports and staff observations allowed GRCA to identify that major trail improvements were required on specific portions of Central Forest trails. To address these concerns, GRCA implemented trail infrastructure improvements along both the Orange and Green trails, extending outwards approximately 1.5km from the Ganaraska Forest Centre. Between August 13 and August 18, 2026, trail modifications and /or complete trail bypasses were implemented to improve trail safety and increase the enjoyment of year-round users. These trail upgrades allow for the optimization of maintenance operations. In addition to this major construction, GRCA continues to address several areas of encroaching vegetation, stumps, rocks and erosion within the Ganaraska Forest trail system.

Users are encouraged to follow www.grca.on.ca and the [Ganaraska Forest Trails Map](#) for updates and notification of temporary trail closures due to trail maintenance or construction.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups to regularly review and adhere to all posted Ganaraska Forest signage and remain on trails that are posted as Open on [Ganaraska Forest Trails Map](#) while visiting Ganaraska Forest.

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Central Forest Orange and Green Trail Infrastructure Improvements staff report for information.

Prepared by:



Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician

STAFF REPORT – September 3, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Recreational Users Committee

RE: Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Public Communications

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) communicates with landowners, visitors and recreational users, as well as current and potential customers through various communication programs.

Social Media

The GRCA maintains a presence on many popular social media platforms to convey simple, straight forward messaging to Ganaraska Forest users and the general public. Users seeking further information are directed to the GRCA website for specific details. Often, social media reach is limited to people connected to specific platforms, so supporters are encouraged to share GRCA posts to broaden the post's reach. The GRCA actively uses the following Social Media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and X / Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.

GRCA Website

The GRCA posts specific details regarding Ganaraska Forest notifications on www.grca.on.ca. This website is updated less frequently than social media platforms but is home to all official information from the GRCA, as well as options for direct inquiries.

Media Release and E-news

Occasionally, the GRCA provides media releases to local, provincial and federal news. Events requiring media releases are typically broader topics and regulatory in nature, requiring directly sharing with Forest users. Media releases and newsletters are distributed through e-newsletters sent to those who have signed up to receive information from the GRCA, which is an option made available to all Forest users during registration, as well as at the bottom of the GRCA website.

Print Media

The GRCA publishes an annual report that is made available to the public in both traditional print form and posted at www.grca.on.ca. This report provides the public with a synopsis of the previous year's operations in the Ganaraska Forest and overall GRCA activities in all program areas.

General Inquiry and “Report an Issue” Website Form

Ganaraska Forest Users are encouraged to participate by submitting Ganaraska Forest questions to info@grca.on.ca or by reporting trail maintenance issues via “Report an Issue” at [Ganaraska Conservation - Contact the GRCA](#). Reports and questions are sent

directly to staff for review. The “Report and Issue” website form is one method for people to volunteer by submitting issues directly to staff to review.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee inform their respective user groups and encourage them to follow all GRCA public communications and social media platforms.

FURTHER that the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee receives the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Public Communications staff report for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Van Osch', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Prepared by:

Ed Van Osch, Forest Recreation Technician