

Bragg Creek Trails Climate Resiliency Policy

May 28, 2024

Definition of Climate Resiliency: The capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant threats from climate change.

1. Background:

Bragg Creek Trails (BCT) through its planning, decision-making processes, actions and leadership ensures, promotes and supports climate resilient trails systems and operations including clean air and water; and natural and built environments that sustain long-term health.

2. Purpose:

BCT commits to act to adapt, prepare for and respond to a changing climate and developed this climate resiliency policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear and consistent governance and accountabilities for achieving a climate resilient trail system and operations, and to demonstrate to our members, trail users, community and partners BCT's commitment to climate solution leadership in all aspects of our organization.

3. Guiding Principles:

To achieve its commitments towards climate adaptation and resilience, BCT's decisions and actions will be:

- Collaborative: Achieving climate resilient trail systems and operations will require connecting, collaborating and cooperation with governments, trail users, communities, and partners.
- Adaptive and Transformative: Climate resilience requires adaptive and transformative action, including integrating and accepting uncertainty in decision making processes.
- Accountable: A climate resilient lens, including consideration of mitigation and adaptation co-benefits and trade-offs, will inform decision-making.
- Science and Evidence Based: To the extent possible, decision making will be based on best available science, research, practices, Indigenous knowledge and available evidence, with the goal of continuous learning and improvement.

4. Climate Resilience Commitments:

- a. Prepare and implement a BCT Climate Resiliency Work Plan,
- b. Maintain, improve and construct trails using designs that minimize erosion and build/maintain trail tread or add features (such as boardwalks) to withstand changes in soil moisture and flooding. This is also intended to minimize environmental impact/disturbance of sensitive areas such as creeks, wetlands, and riparian areas as per Table 2, p 28 of the WBC Trail Master Plan. This will keep our trails more resilient.
- c. Ensure that asset development and maintenance is done with a consideration to future potential climate scenarios, the selection of a scenario (e.g., RCP 8.5*) upon which evaluations will be done and the development of a risk framework and process to identify assets at risk.
- d. Utilize equipment that minimizes air pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- e. Work in cooperation with Alberta Forestry and Parks on enhancing the climate resiliency of BCT assets and operations.
- f. Complete climate resilience assessments of BCT assets and trails at regular intervals,
- g. Work in cooperation with Alberta Forestry and Parks and climate scientists/professionals on this issue.

5. Policy Term:

This policy is effective as of May 2024 and will be reviewed every 3-5 years with supporting assessment (where possible) to identify areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

* <https://climatenexus.org/climate-change-news/rcp-8-5-business-as-usual-or-a-worst-case-scenario/>