

Background

As part of the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014) 31% of individuals surveyed responded that a member of their household had participated in cross country skiing in the past 12 months.

There are currently five (5) cross country ski clubs operating in Greater Sudbury:

- Capreol Cross Country Ski Club
- Walden Cross Country Fitness Club
- BioSki Cross-County Ski & Snowshoe Club
- Laurentian Nordic Ski Club
- Onaping Falls Nordics Ski Club

The above noted clubs operate on a volunteer basis, responsible for the day to day operations of the club. Volunteers are responsible for the tasks of trail maintenance and grooming. Generally, costs for grooming equipment and materials are offset through the sale of annual memberships, day passes and fund-raising efforts.

Kivi Park

More recently, cross country ski trails opened at Kivi Park in the winter of 2016-2017. The February 10, 2017 Kivi Park Development Update report to City Council (<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1122&itemid=12575&lang=en>) indicated that hydro costs and labour and materials associated with plowing, salting and sanding of the parking area were covered by the City of Greater Sudbury (City) at an estimated cost of \$4,500. There was also a commitment to bring forward a report to Community Services regarding the support that is currently offered to all cross country ski clubs by the City as part of the Kivi Park Update.

City of Greater Sudbury Support of Cross Country Ski Clubs

The City of Greater Sudbury supports each of the local cross country ski clubs in the following ways:

Capreol Cross Country Ski Club

- License agreement for use of CGS property.
- Parking lot cleared by City as part of existing contract to maintain Capreol Toboggan Hill parking lot and access road.
- More recently, club approved to use former Capreol Ski Hill Chalet for storage.
- Club eligible for event based grants and support.

Kivi Park

- Currently covering costs related to hydro and parking lot maintenance (estimated annual cost of \$4,500).
- City owns property where the support building for the trails is located.

- Trails are on private property owned by the Clifford and Lily Fielding Charitable Foundation.
- Group is eligible for event based grants and support.

Walden Cross Country Fitness Club

- License agreement for use of property, City of Greater Sudbury paying for utilities (approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year).
- Under new license agreement Club will fully pay for utilities over a five (5) year period.
- Club eligible for event based grants and support.

BioSki Cross-County Ski & Snowshoe Club

- No formal agreement with club as not on CGS property.
- No CGS budget dollars allocated to club.
- Club eligible for event based grants and support.

Laurentian Nordic Ski Club

- No formal agreement with club as not on CGS property.
- No CGS budget dollars allocated to club.
- Club eligible for event based grants and support.

Onaping Falls Nordics Ski Club

- No formal agreement with club as not on CGS property.
- No CGS budget dollars allocated to club.
- Club eligible for event based grants and support.

Cross Country Ski Club Information

Capreol Cross Country Ski Club

The Capreol Cross Country Ski Club owns a chalet on City property. There is an agreement for occupation of the property with the City and the club pays for all utilities to support the building. Municipal plowing assists with clearing the parking area as it is essentially the widening of an existing road which travels by the club. The club operates about 15 km of classic only trails and estimated membership would be 400 to 500.

Walden Cross Country Fitness Club

The Walden Cross Country Fitness Club operates 23 km of classic and skating trails at the Dennis Avenue site in Naughton. The club owns buildings on City property and has a license agreement for use of the City land on which trails extend onto. The license agreement is currently being amended to transfer cost of utilities to the club. The City has historically paid for utilities which amount to approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year. Amendments will see the club cover total costs for utilities over a 5 year period. The club regularly hosts competitive events of a recreational nature and also Provincial sanctioned events. The Naughton site has a 3 km light loop for night skiing which is the only one in Greater Sudbury. The club is a member of CCC.

The club also maintains 5 km of classic only trails at the Beaver Lake site which operates out of the Beaver Lake Community Centre. The club also maintains about 8 km of

classic only trails at the former Voyageur ski trail in Azilda. Equipment rental is available at the Naughton site only and snowshoe trails are also located at that site.

Kivi Park

Approximately 18 km of ski trails and 22 km of snowshoeing trails were available last season. Similar to cross country ski clubs, trails are being maintained by Kivi Park volunteers. However, use of the cross country ski and snowshoeing trails were free to the public, with no annual memberships or daily fees charged. The group has not made a decision yet with regards to keeping trails open for free use or to implement a membership, similar to other cross country ski clubs.

BioSki Cross-County Ski & Snowshoe Club

The BioSki Cross-Country and Snowshoe Club maintains trails in the Lake Laurentian conservation area for classical skiing and snowshoeing. The club maintains approximately 20 km of ski trails and about 5 km of snowshoe trails. The club is affiliated with Conservation Sudbury and uses a chalet owned by conservation paying for the utilities for the building over the winter months when they occupy the building. The club has an estimated membership of 200 members and is affiliated with Cross Country Canada (CCC) for registration and insurance purposes. The BioSki Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Club is part of the South Shore Rim Trail System and shares membership and trail use with the Laurentian Nordic Ski Club. Rental equipment is available at this site.

Laurentian Nordic Ski Club

The Laurentian Nordic Ski Club is a not-for-profit, incorporated community club composed of more than 300 members. The club has an operating agreement with Laurentian University to maintain the trails on university property for the use of the community and also for the Varsity Ski team and academic programs. As part of the agreement with the university, free access is provided to the Laurentian Track stadium building for five months during the winter. The club makes use of parking at Laurentian University in accordance with university parking/security requirements and in consideration of other events being hosted by the university. There are approximately 12 km of trails for both skating and classic skiing maintained at the site. Jackrabbit programs, para-nordic programs, junior development competitive skiing programs and high school skiing programs are also hosted at the site. Snowshoeing opportunities are also available at this site. Rental of ski equipment and snow shoes are both available. Laurentian Nordic Ski Club is part of South Shore Rim trail system.

Onaping Falls Nordics Ski Club

The Onaping Falls Nordics Ski Club maintains a trail system of 15 km of classic and skating trails. The club rents chalet space from the Windy Lake Provincial Park (MNR) for a minimal amount for five (5) months of the year. Approximately 1 km of the trails are on provincial park property which the club pays a nominal fee to the province for use of the crown land. The balance of trails (approximately 14 km) are on property owned by the club which was gifted by Falconbridge (now Glencore). The property would revert back to Glencore should the club cease to function and operate the trails. The club is an incorporated body and registered with Cross Country Canada. Onaping Falls Nordics has an annual membership of approximately 100. There is no ongoing City support of the club, outside of occasional event based support for competitive events.

Cross Country Ski Club Summary

| Club | Trail Network | # of Members | Annual Pass Fee (Adult) |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Capreol Cross Country Ski Club | 15 km ski | 400-500 | \$55 |
| Walden Cross Country Fitness Club | 23 km ski | 200 | \$130 |
| BioSki Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Club | 20 km ski 5 km snowshoe | 200 | \$85 |
| Laurentian Nordic Ski Club | 12 km ski | 300 | \$85 |
| Onaping Falls Nordics Ski Club | 15 km ski | 100 | \$93 |

Kivi Park Information

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|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Kivi Park | 18 km ski 22 km snowshoe | N/A | N/A |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|

Summary

For the most part, Greater Sudbury cross country ski clubs are self sufficient. The City does have a formal relationship with the Capreol Cross Country Ski Club and the Walden Cross Country Fitness Club through land use agreements with the respective clubs. Clubs have maximized membership and pass fees received, along with significant contributions from volunteers to maintain a network of ski and snowshoe trails.

Next Steps

In an effort to better assist cross country ski clubs, the Leisure Services Division will extend an invitation to meet as a group to discuss areas where the municipality can better support the organizations within existing budgets. Items for discussion may include potential for promotion through City resources, opportunities for universal passes which may be sold through the City, assistance with grant applications, etc. The meeting will also be an opportunity to discuss the future development of the Kivi Park cross country and snowshoe trails, and plans for memberships and impacts on other cross country ski clubs.

References

Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014)

([https://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Leisure%20Master%20Plan%20Review%202014\(1\).pdf](https://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Leisure%20Master%20Plan%20Review%202014(1).pdf))

BioSki Cross-County Ski & Snowshoe Club website (<http://www.bioski.ca/>)

Capreol Cross Country Ski Club Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Capreol-Cross-Country-Ski-Club-826233580756053/>)

Kivi Park website (<http://kivipark.com/>)

Laurentian Nordic Ski Club website (<http://laurentiannordic.com/>)

Onaping Falls Nordics website (<http://www.onapingfallsnordics.com/>)

Walden Cross Country Fitness Club website (<http://waldenxc.ca/>)