

Proposal for an information KIOSK at Callaghan's

Introduction

An **information kiosk** is a free-standing structure similar to a large road sign. They are typically used to inform pedestrian traffic about where they are currently located within a mall or park relative to other landmarks like trails or shops. Some kiosks function as retail shacks. At Callaghan's, a freestanding **information kiosk** will be located at the main visitor parking lot. It will inform visitors of the park's name, emergency address, a map showing the trail system, recreation and nature related topics, notices of upcoming programs in the park, promote other CVCA Conservation Areas and nearby Conservations Areas in adjoining watersheds and paid advertising from local businesses. The sheltered kiosk will also house free promotional and educational brochures, and park maps.

The CVCA owns four Conservation Areas: 1) Crowe Bridge Conservation Area (closed indefinitely), Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area (under development), The Gut Conservation Area (future development), McGeachie Conservation Area (developed).

McGeachie Conservation Area was developed several years ago and includes a good system of marked trails, a modest parking lot with accessible washrooms, bear proof garbage disposal, an information kiosk and a rental cottage. The kiosk is very well designed and constructed. It is strongly recommended to use the existing design at McGeachie as part of system wide "branding" within the CVCA watershed.



Photo #1: Kiosk at McGeachie Conservation Area. An appealing, functional and well constructed kiosk. Placement of kiosk limits use of it's flipside.

Specifications

This specification takes into account the parking lot size and layout, trail entrances, public safety, landscape architecture and aesthetics, and functionality as it pertains to the placement and orientation of the kiosk. Foremost is public safety because the parking lot can become a very busy place on summer long weekends. The parking lot entrance and trail entrances were modified in 2021 to separate parking activity and traffic from pedestrian related activities. The parking lot was also enlarged to accommodate two rows of ten passenger vehicles (including half-ton pickup trucks), an alcove to accommodate commercial vehicle¹ turnaround (two-point turns) because the parking lot is a Cul-de-Sac and safety barriers separating the south and north trail entrances.

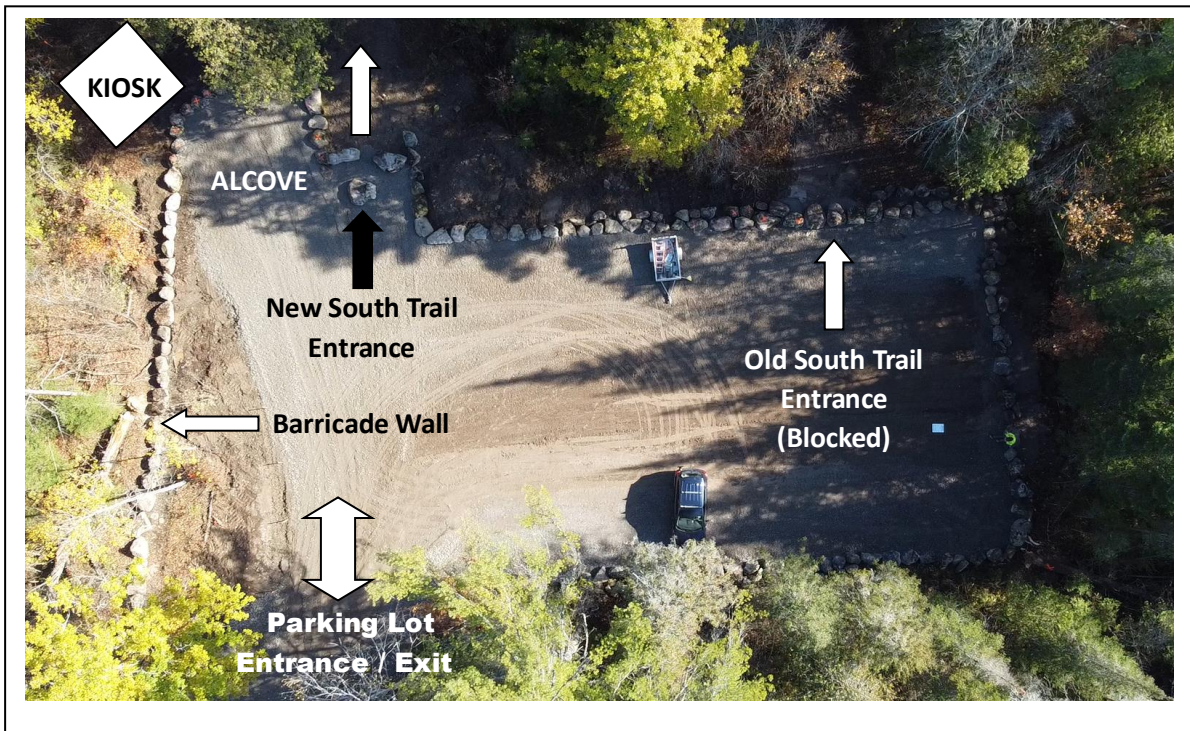


Photo #2: Aerial view of new enlarged main visitor parking lot and future location of kiosk.

Placing the kiosk inside the parking area (as is the case for McGeachie) would negate the functionality of the safety barriers at the trail entrances. Furthermore, it is desirable to use both sides of the display surfaces at Callaghan's, effectively doubling the pedestrian footprint of the kiosk and would encumber a smooth and safe transition from parking lot to trails and reduce parking capacity. Therefore, the plan is to place the kiosk behind the turnaround alcove, and oriented (facing) towards the parking lot. Indirect access to the kiosk will be through the new south trail entrance and a short adjoining accessible² path to the rear of the kiosk.

¹ Commercial vehicles include, but not limited to, school buses, garbage trucks, recycling trucks, snowploughs.

² By accessible we mean accessible in accordance to and compliant with the Disabilities Act of Ontario

Security

It is an ill-fated fact that in the early nineties, and shortly after the construction of new privy facilities at this Conservation Area, two privies were torched by vandals. There exists a culture of vandalism in every community throughout the world and Marmora and Lake is no exception. Therefore, some precautions other than fire insurance is necessary. Placement of the kiosk provides excellent visibility to the parking lot and is in full view of witnesses, unlike the privies that were in remote locations. In addition, three surveillance cameras (trail CAMS) with daytime and nighttime Infrared functionality, and WIFI connectivity shall be strategically deployed throughout the parking area. They have been tested and have already proven useful in deterring ATV trespass at this location.

The kiosk's wooden posts shall be clad with metal to deter the use of a chain saw or setting fire to them. Regular patrols and work details by volunteers³, frequent visits by tourists or dog walkers and spot checks by the OPP take away opportunities for would be vandals. The transition to a first-rate recreation and nature education park has already begun. Trail cam video footage during the 2023 season has provided ample evidence that ATV visits to the parking area has been greatly reduced and is rapidly approaching zero. Note that most ATV visits to the parking lot in 2023 were for the purpose of illegally entering the Conservation Area: operators were videoed circling the periphery of the parking lot looking for weaknesses in the barricades.

Kiosk Design

The kiosk was designed by Haven Craft Design out of Bancroft. Explicit permission is required from the owner to copy and construct this design, including minor modifications. The contact is Pat Marcotte at 613-332-5872. Material and design details are attached (Certified Engineering Drawings).

Kiosk Cost

Current estimates put the total cost between \$5,300 and \$6,500 dollars depending on several options that are available. See Cost Estimates below for details. Options include the cost of signage.

1. **Option A** (\$6,500) is the optimal solution. It includes a gravel path, gravel base with concrete pad, pressure treated timber and metal roofing purchased from building supply centres.
2. **Option B** (\$5,300) Option A less the concrete pad. This is an acceptable but not optimal solution.

Kiosk Construction

The entire site prep, path and pad construction, concrete footings, and erection of the kiosk shall be performed for free by volunteer labour. Cost saving estimates put free labour at \$3,000. Because volunteer labour is not available on demand, construction could take between one and two months.

³ Work details include minor but frequent tasks like picking up garbage from the parking lot, checking for pot holes, woodlot management from time to time.

Recommendations & Discussion

Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area is undergoing a major transformation from an ATV waterpark to a safe and quiet park. There remains much work to complete with respect to barricades and trail rehabilitation even though we have achieved a significant, actually tremendous reduction in unauthorized vehicle trespass. The very small team of volunteers is needed for these activities and unless many more skilled volunteers and donations come forward, the kiosk will have to wait at least two more years. The climate is currently ripe for retaliation from disgruntled ATV operators and the kiosk could be a target for vandalism. Definitely a must do, the kiosk will provide visitors with important trail information and establish a welcoming and professional image for the Conservation Area and the CVCA.

Cost Estimates

QTY	Description	Unit Cost	Subtotal	HST	Option A	Option B	Option C
KIOSK							
30	Oak Dowel (ft)	2.25	67.50	8.78	76.28	76.28	
2	8"x 8" x 12' Posts	160.00	320.00	20.80	340.80	340.80	
2	8"x 8" x 12' Girts	160.00	320.00	20.80	340.80	340.80	
4	8"x 8" x 6' Rafters	80.00	320.00	10.40	330.40	330.40	
8	2" x 12" x 8' Knee Brace	53.00	424.00	55.12	479.12	479.12	
8	4"x 4" x 12' Purlins	25.00	200.00	26.00	226.00	226.00	
48	36" Red Steel Roofing (ft)	7.00	336.00	43.68	379.68	379.68	379.68
12	Ridge Cap (ft)	32.00	384.00	49.92	433.92	433.92	433.92
FOOTINGS							
12	Bags concrete for footings	7.00	84.00	10.92	94.92	94.92	94.92
1	SONO tubing	29.99	29.99	3.90	33.89	33.89	33.89
FLOOR							
132	sq. ft. concrete floor	7.00	924.00	120.12	1044.12		
2	Gravel (Loads) for path & base	500.00	1000.00	130.00	1130.00	1130.00	1130.00
4	2"x 8" x 12' concrete forming	22.00	88.00	11.44	99.44		
2	4' x 8' Steel mesh	15.00	30.00	3.90	33.90		
SIGNAGE							
2	4'x 8' - 3/16" Lexan	120.00	240.00	31.20	271.20	271.20	271.20
2	4'x 8' Colour Artwork	500.00	1000.00	130.00	1130.00	1130.00	1130.00
TOTAL=					6444.46	5267.01	3473.61

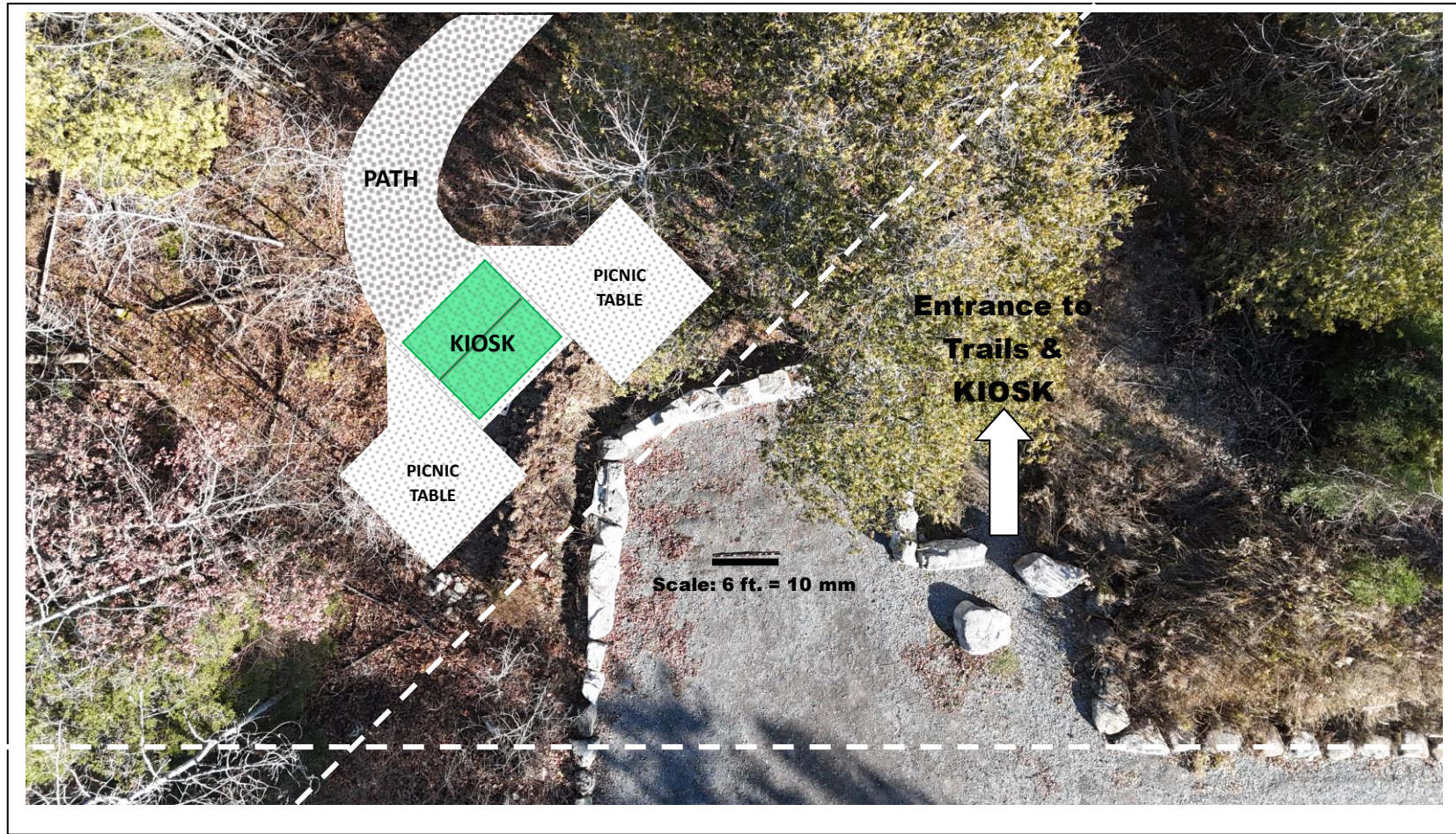


Photo #3: Placement of kiosk behind the northeast corner of the alcove. Note the large boulder that guards the entrance to the trail: a safety feature that prevents ATV access, yet permits accessibility. Kiosk is oriented or faces the parking lot at 45 degrees for maximum visibility. Picnic table pads can be added in the future. Access to kiosk is via a rear connecting path.