## TIRA: Mandate, Values, Priorities

**MANDATE:** To inspire healthy communities by accelerating the development of trail improvements and river access projects along the Grand River watershed.

### VALUES | PRIORITIES
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1. **Connectivity:** Projects will inspire physical, personal and spiritual connections to nature, places of interest and activities. | - Create additional river access points  
- Improve the trail system (i.e. link and continue trails)  
- Increase the connection to economic development by engaging businesses and promoting partnerships

2. **Quality of life:** Projects will improve health outcomes and local economy | - Increase awareness of health and economic benefits of river and trails  
- Advocate for trails to be a high priority with Councils (this includes transportation, health, tourism, and economic development as well as parks and recreation departments)  
- Promote 4-season use

3. **Sustainability:** Projects will protect the natural resources and ensure the environment is not negatively impacted | - Ensure conservation standards and practices are followed.  
- Improve shoreline vegetation and wildlife habitats.  
- Promote the natural environment (e.g. eagle and turtle habitats)  
- Install amenities such as washroom facilities, recycling and waste baskets  
- Ensure TIRA funded projects are maintained into the future

4. **Knowledge:** Projects will increase awareness of conservation, nature, culture, history, and river & trail etiquette. | - Develop education programs (both formal and informal) that include conservation, health & fitness, and emphasize river & trail use etiquette  
- Promote social, geographical and industrial history and significance through signage and marketing & promotions activities  
- Include interpretive signage that highlights history, the natural environment and cultural aspects as well as locations to shops, restaurants, other amenities.  
- Include indigenous heritage components in new trail signage  
- Create signage using pictorial and digital modes of communication  
- Market and promote the projects

5. **Inclusivity:** Projects will consider the needs of all demographics. | - Facilitate Access for paved access (sidewalks) to trails; crossing road stop signs; walk signs  
- Encourage passive rest areas and observation areas  
- *Research and assess gaps*  
  - Discover who are the trail users (cyclists, hikers, walkers, runners)  
  - Learn what groups use the water (fisherman, power boats, canoes)

6. **Synergy:** Projects will have community support and align with local, regional, provincial, and national plans. | - Identify stakeholders and strengthen communications between them  
- Encourage information sharing  
- Promote integration between communities and to create momentum for larger projects (e.g. set a requirement that states the Grand River strategy needs to be utilized by all TIRA partners in RTO3. Refer to the Grand River Style Guide and Access Points Standards Manual and Pilot Design Plans)

7. **Accountability:** Projects will adhere to responsible financial management and reporting practices | - Evaluate projects using measurable outcomes (using such tools as trail counters). Grantee requirements include reporting on outcomes related to the values  
- Grantees will be accountable to Brant Waterways through the granting process, including grant contracts and reporting