

4.4 Trails and Corridors

4.4.1 Hiking and Walking

Numerous recreation trails exist along the Ottawa River, including converted railways, cycling paths and trails in parks along the river. Several communities have developed local trail systems, such as the Emerald Necklace Trail System in Petawawa, the Greenbelt in the National Capital Region and the Cycloparc PPJ cycling trail in Pontiac County. Both the Gatineau Park and Algonquin Park offer extensive hiking trail networks. A 40-kilometres trail following the rail bed of the original K&P links Renfrew to Calabogie, and also extends further south. Along the Upper Ottawa River, hiking is popular at Mount Bell, in the Aiguebelle Park and in the Réserve de la Vérendrye, for a total of 27 kilometres of trails. The tributaries of the Ottawa River, including the Bonnechere and Madawaska rivers, offer further trails.

The Trans-Canada Trail crosses the Ottawa River east of Ottawa, linking Ontario's Rideau Trail to the south with the Sentier National in Quebec's Outaouais region. The goal of the partially-built Trans-Canada Trail is to create a scenic foot trail and corridor connecting Canada's two coasts (Trans Canada Trail Foundation, Fédération québécoise de la marche).

4.4.2 Cycling

The Route Verte

The Route Verte, conceived and developed by Vélo Québec and the Quebec Ministry of Transport, is an ambitious project to create a nearly 5000 kilometre-long cycling network throughout Quebec. Once completed, the Route Verte will be the most important cycling network in North America.

Cyclists following the Route Verte will have the opportunity to accompany the Ottawa River for several hundred kilometres, in both the Outaouais and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions. In the Outaouais region, the network begins in Aylmer, and continues all the way to Montreal. In Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the route links the communities of Angliers and Ville-Marie near Lake Temiskaming (Vélo Québec). The Route Verte includes the Parc linéaire du Témiscamingue along converted train tracks as well as the Parc linéaire Rouyn-Noranda-Taschereau (Hydro Québec: Bassin supérieur 5-1).

Figure 4.12 Biking on the Route Verte



Source: Benoit Chailfour

Mountain biking is popular around Grenville. The converted railway tracks in Pontiac (PPJ Cycloparc) have opened up 90 kilometres of biking trail along the Ottawa River (Hydro Québec: Bassin inférieur 5-1).