



Nature London

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Inc.
P.O. Box 24008, London, Ontario N6H 5C4

Actively concerned with Nature since 1864

January 2, 2012

Chair and Members
Planning and Environment Committee
City of London

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Re: File O-7958

Nature London supports the proposed Official Plan amendment to better clarify Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) as natural heritage areas and not as “parks” within the hierarchy system. Nature London has actively advocated for changes to the Official Plan to reflect the distinction between City-wide Parks and ESAs in the natural heritage hierarchy. We support former General Manager Rob Panzer’s wording in the report titled “Trails and Environmentally Significant Areas”, presented to the Built and Natural Environment Committee at its meeting on December 13, 2010, regarding recommended changes to Chapters 16 and 18 of the Official Plan. Under Section C. EXISTING POLICY AND PROPOSED CHANGES, Proposed Policy Changes in the report, we support the following proposed changes:

“Chapter 16: Classification of ESAs as City-wide Parks; Recommendation 1

- a) Add a new general objective policy under 16.1(x) for ESAs.
16.1x) The provision of recreational opportunities within Environmentally Significant Areas is subject to the policies in section 15 of the Official Plan.

- b) Move clause 16.2.5.v) from the description under City-wide Parks to a new policy number that establishes ESAs as a separate classification outside of the four-tier park hierarchy.
16.2.8 Environmentally Significant Areas
Environmentally Significant Areas identified as components of the Natural Heritage System include lands that are to be maintained in their natural state through appropriate management for the purposes for which it has[sic] been recognized. These lands will be subject to the policies of Section 15.3. Details of the management and recreational use of identified ESAs may be contained within a Conservation Master Plan as provided for in policy 15.3.8 of the Plan.

Chapter 18: Transportation Policies; Recommendation 2

Delete the reference to conservation Master Plan in 18.2.13.v)”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Caveney
Conservation Committee

Cc: President, Nature London
Conservation Committee, Nature London