



Giving London Cyclists a chance to enjoy our natural heritage.

LONDON NEEDS BIKE TRAILS



Current By-Law

- The current by-law regarding ESAs includes bicycles in the same group as motorcycles and ATVs.
- The environmental impact of bicycles is significantly less.
- No reason or evidence to support this classification is provided in the document.
- Bicycles ARE different and should be treated as such

Why?

- Cyclists are people too.
 - We all live in London
 - We pay taxes
- Cyclists enjoy natural areas for the same reasons as others. Also, natural areas
 - Provide elevation changes
 - Contain challenging opportunities
- Cross country riding is great exercise!
 - Low impact aerobics
- Youth and adult unstructured recreation is underserved

Why? (continued)

- Boler and Fanshawe have trails...
 - Difficult access: Requires vehicle capable of carrying bicycles.
 - Expensive
 - Big time commitment
 - Not suitable for everyone
- We need places where individuals have easy access.
- London offers *no alternatives*

Why? (continued)

- Legalizing mountain biking will...
 - Encourage clubs and groups to help in maintaining the trails.
 - Connect more people with our natural heritage.
 - Provide low cost recreational facilities (for City *and* residents) .
 - Develop more support for the creation and preservation of natural areas

Why not?

- Mountain biking harms the environment
 - Not true! Research and local examples show otherwise.
 - *Mountain Biking: A Review of the Ecological Effects*
 - Research shows that there is no indication that mountain bike use is any more detrimental than other uses like hiking.
 - The trails at Boler and Fanshawe do not show significant degradation compared to other places

Why not? (continued)

- Mountain bikes are unsafe
 - The research shows this is not true
 - The trails in London generally have good visibility
 - London trails do not have long steep slopes
- Mountain bikes are disruptive
 - Actually they are pretty quiet
- Bikes will kill or startle wildlife
 - Again research shows this is not the case (when applied to the London environment)

How? What would change?

- New signage at trail heads
 - Indicate bikes are allowed
 - “Share the trail” reminders to both hikers and bikers
 - Trail etiquette reminders
- Trail design review
 - Typically good design serves both users well
 - Some minor adjustments may be helpful
- Remove barriers



Summary

- There is no research or evidence to support the discrimination against cross country mountain biking in our natural areas.
- Benefits to London residents are big and cost is small.
- Addresses an underserved demographic
- Could provide support and benefits to the conservation efforts.