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.