

SIFTON BOG ESA MANAGEMENT ZONE MAP
Received at EEPAC's November 2014 meeting
Reported at its December 2014 meeting

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RECOMMENDATION 1:

The city staff include in its capital budget sufficient funds for an EA like process for the boardwalk to the Pond prior to replacement of the end of life sections.

RECOMMENDATION 2: In the interim, a special access zone for the boardwalk is advisable.

RECOMMENDATION 3: The management zones be considered interim until:

- a. EEPAC has reviewed the background material that lead to the zoning, and**
- b. the completion of the upcoming vegetation monitoring update.**

A large effort on the education component for the bog has already been implemented with the information kiosks and school trips. So, probably a good portion of London's community has been there, or at least, know about the pond/bog being there. If the boardwalk is removed, people will still go to the bog regardless and will make their own trail. Thus, the boardwalk needs to stay to be sure that damage will not be done. However, an EA like process should be carried out to determine if the present location is the best before a decision is made on the replacement of the boardwalk. In the interim, a special access zone for the boardwalk is acceptable.

The EA process should consider options for location, height off the ground and the use of railings to discourage people from going off the boardwalk. The current route does cut across a wide section.

EEPAC members also observed a number of deer exclosures including in the Nature Reserve. These appear to have created trails off the boardwalk that may be encouraging people to go off the boardwalk onto the sphagnum mat. If the work on the deer population has ended, are the exclosures still required? If not, they should be removed.

RECOMMENDATION 4: If the deer exclosures are no longer needed, they be removed.

During EEPAC's visit, there was little trash in the area of the Bog behind John Dearness P.S. We did observe older students using an area for casual conversation, but that bottles and other debris were noticeable at this site despite the garbage can near the Santa Monica access point.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The parent council at John Dearness P.S. be approached by staff to start an Adopt an ESA program at the school.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED "ZONING"

SWT (swamp thicket) communities make up less than 7% of the vegetated communities in London. MAM (Meadow March) make up less than 6%. Yet, they are only considered NA1. Without a "justification table" for the zoning, it is unclear as to why NA1 was selected over NR (both of which are possible under the Trail Standards).

It is unclear as to why part of the FOD 1 community at the south end is in the NA2 zone and part in the NA1. Again, there is no clear guidance provided for EEPAC to evaluate the choices. Having walked the area near Havenwood, it is even less clear.

These concerns continue to reinforce our discomfort with the Standards being applied to all ESAs prior to any review of how they have been used.