

Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA - Trail Review for CMP [Trail 25, Figure 16 & Rec. 68 and 69](#)

Following the [Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs 2016](#) process for new trails Chart 1 is applied. The “natural” areas are identified as Nature Reserve Zones and the “cultural” areas are identified as Natural Environment Zones based on the [Ecological Inventory and Management Zone Report by NSE, 2015](#).

The [CMP Recommendations 68 and 69](#) and Map 16 identify and recommend Trail 25 as an accessible trail to connect Dearness Home and the Tourism Building and W.E. Saunders Cabin site noting this trail and ecological restoration project is funded in part with Canada 150 infrastructure funds.

Chart 2: Review of Significant Ecological Features and Trail Recommendation for Existing Trails

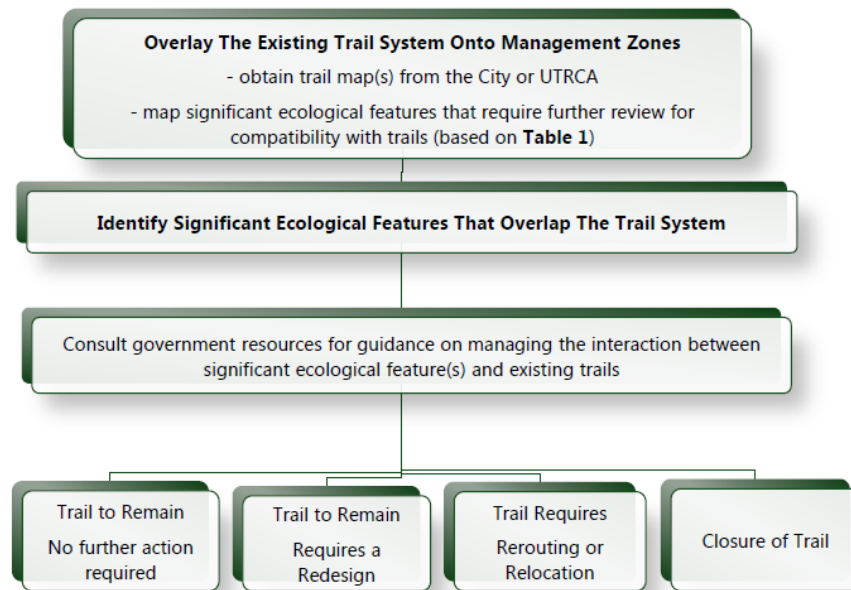
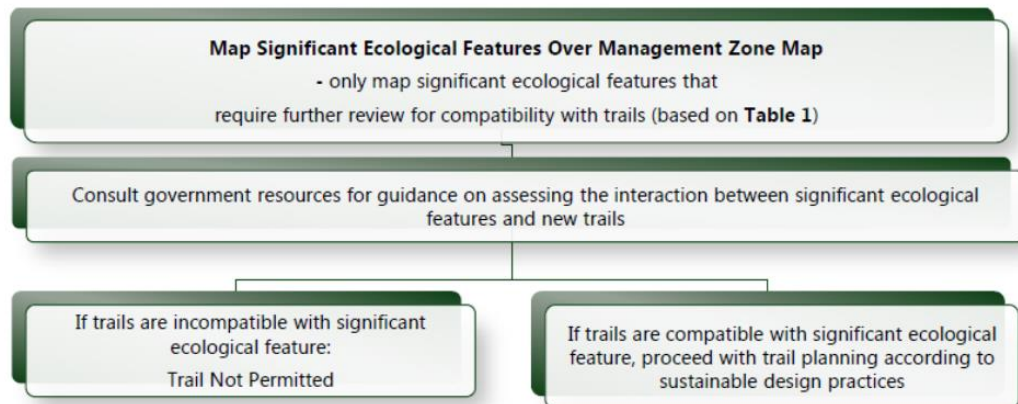


Chart 3: Review of Significant Ecological Features and Trail Recommendations for New Trails



Charts 2 and 3 in the Guidelines are applied through a review of the [Ecological Inventory and Management Zone Report by NSE, 2015](#) for significant ecological features (based on Table 1 in the Guidelines) that require further review for compatibility with trails as an existing trail and a connecting new trail (identified in the CMP as Trail 25) are being reviewed by TAG.

Management Zone Map with significant ecological features for review (Based on Table 1 in Guidelines)



Not to Scale



Legend

- Nature Reserve Zone
- Natural Environment Zone
- EWPE - Eastern Wood-Pewee (Special Concern) North South Environmental 2015
- Existing Managed Trails
- TAG Route*
- Accessible Connections on Dearness Home Grounds
- Ecological Restoration Area (approximate)
- W.E. Saunders Cabin Site
- P Parking

* Identified in Conservation Master Plan on Map 16 as "Trail 25" and in Recommendation 68 and 69.

Review of significant ecological features according to Table 1 on page 20 in Guidelines for “Trail 25” TAG Route based on the [Ecological Inventory Report by NSE April 2015](#)

| Significant Ecological Feature | Does this feature require review for compatibility with trails (yes /no from Guidelines Table 1) | Review |
|---|--|--|
| Species of Conservation Concern / Other Species of Conservation Concern | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee (Special Concern) EWPE | Yes | <p>Eastern Wood-pewee is found throughout the ESA in six different ELCs, and were observed about 40m north of the existing trail near Saunders Pond and are not particularly sensitive to the presence of people; for example they are found in natural areas in some of the most urbanized areas of southern Ontario such as Toronto and Mississauga and are noted in a very wide variety of forest types and patch sizes (NSE, 2015). According to COSEWIC, 2012 “the Eastern Wood-pewee is mostly associated with the mid-canopy layer of forest clearings and edges of deciduous and mixed forests. It is most abundant in forest stands of intermediate age and in mature stands with little understory vegetation.” This species has been listed as Special Concern in Ontario and by COSEWIC.</p> <p>As part of the trail project ecological restoration of the area will improve the forest quality and habitat for the species (by removing the dense, invasive understorey of Buckthorn and other invasives) and implementation of “trail 25” in conjunction with the restoration will have an overall net benefit for the species.</p> <p>COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Eastern Wood-pewee <i>Contopus virens</i> in Canada</p> <p><i>“Threats and Limiting Factors Threats and limiting factors affecting Eastern Wood-pewees have not been clearly identified and are poorly known, largely because of a lack of research. Possible threats and limiting factors have been suggested as including: 1) loss and degradation of habitat quality on the breeding grounds due to urban development and/or</i></p> |

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|--|--|--|
| | | <i>changes in forest management; 2) loss and/or degradation of habitat on the wintering grounds; 3) large-scale changes in the availability of flying-insect prey due to unknown causes; 4) high rates of mortality during migration and/or on the wintering grounds); 5) high rates of nest predation from increasing numbers of avian predators; and 6) changes in forest structure due to White-tailed Deer over-browsing.”</i> |
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