

"Please include this submission within the Planning Committee Agenda package".

The Trails in ESAs Standard is on the agenda for adoption of the standard at the June 18 meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

What better way to teach young children the importance of nature & the environment than to expose them to the outdoors. As a former teacher at Northridge Public School, I took my grades 2 and 3 classes monthly on 1 hour hikes in Kilally Meadows. We stayed on the trails, identified wild flowers and studied the effects of erosion and soil. At a time when school budgets do not allow for fieldtrips, children in all parts of London have walking access to London's green spaces, parks, hiking trails and ESA's. This is a time to continue expanding our walking areas in London. We need healthy, interested and educated children to continue the stewardship of London's nature reserves.

Tourism London sells our guidebook and also has excellent tri-fold pamphlets for residents & visitors on the ESA's. I personally had Westminster Ponds added as a London attraction on the the website TripAdvisor.com I am a certified Hike Ontario leader as are many of our hiking group. We are active guardians of these special ecological areas in London. The Thames Valley Trail Association walks in the ESAs on a regular basis and value the physical fitness, social benefits and natural beauty they provide. We also value the environment and have been educated to minimize our impact when using the trails. We also believe that shutdown of our existing trails will harm the ESA's over the long term. We request your support and action to modify these standards to provide greater protection for our existing trail network.

Sincerely,

Judy Kwasnica
706-665 Windermere Road
London, Ontario N5X 2Y6