

London Development Institute

June 25, 2012

By Email

City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Attn.: Mayor Joe Fontana and Members of City Council

**Re: Planning and Environment Committee, June 18, 2012, Item #13,
Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas**

Mayor Fontana and Council,

The LDI supports Recommendation a) in agenda Item #13 that the report to the Planning and Environment Committee regarding Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas "**Be Received**" by the Committee and recommended to Council.

We request that Recommendation b) of the report be changed from "The Planning and Design Standards for Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas **Be Approved**" to **Be Received** and circulated for Public comment.

This report was received by the LDI on Friday June 15th at 4:00pm in an agenda package containing 650 pages of which 405 pages were the Planning and Environment Committee agenda. There was insufficient time to review this item and many concerns are raised by the report and the related discussion at Planning Committee as follows:

- This report has not been widely circulated to the members of the general public, landowners and stakeholder groups throughout the City to comment on outside of the special interest groups in the immediate area of the Medway Valley and organized community groups related to the issue of ESA's in the City.
- The larger issue raised by this report has not been fully discussed in public regarding the expansion and completion of the City-wide Multi-use Trail System by creating improved community connections that lead to strengthening the City's neighbourhoods and also to encourage more active life style choices.
- The underlying issue of this report seems to be a bridge connection across the Medway Creek to provide a link from the growing northwest quadrant of the City to Western University and the downtown as pointed out on page 310 of the agenda which indicates some local residents are in favor of seeing completed.

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- During the presentation of this report it was pointed out that the new design standards for trails in ESAs for the City of London will be more stringent than the design standards used for trails in National and Provincial Parks that are preserving unique geographical and environment features of national and provincial significance.
- The report needs further public participation and consultation to determine the importance of completing the trail system through all of the neighbourhoods of London by establishing ecologically sensitive links and connections through ESAs.

The citizens of the City of London take great pride in the Thames Valley Parkway System and it is used as a promotional tool by the City to bring tourists and new businesses to London.

The consequences of the design standards before you tonight go beyond the issues of trails in ESAs and should be put forward for review as part of the ReTHINK London process looking at the issue of "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY) and the greater civic benefit.

Sincerely,

London Development Institute



Jim Kennedy
President, LDI

cc LDI Members
cc John Fleming, City Planner