



**Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community
Association**
141 Meadowlily Road South
London, ON N6M 1C3
Email: hopemailsmith@yahoo.ca

City Clerk's Office
Attn: Heather Lysynski
Planning Committee
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Street
London, Ontario

Sunday, September 23, 2012

**RE: Implementation of New Trail Standards in Environmentally
Significant Areas**

Chairperson and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

We, the Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association would like to applaud the efforts of the Planning Division, the City Ecologist as well as the members of the various community groups that have participated in the development of the New Trails Standards for environmentally significant areas. From where we started these discussions in 2009, the city and the various stakeholders have made great strides to protect and preserve our natural areas and to make suggestions as how to responsibly use these ecological treasures of the London landscape.

The purpose of this letter is simply to provide feedback regarding the document before the committee, "Implementation of New Trails Standards in Environmentally Significant Areas." For the most part this draft of a plan to implement the Trails Standards is thorough and thoughtful in terms of providing a draft of a means to organize and implement these standards.

However in terms of Page 5 where Terms of Reference are being drawn up for the membership of the advisory committee, we would like to make the following suggestions and amendments:

1) That in terms of the community and neighbourhood groups that participated in the development of these standards, that within the membership of the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) **two or three of these groups have representation on this committee.** These 2-3 at large members could rotate every few years amongst the stakeholder-community groups, but such representation would be valuable if not essential due to the unique nature of the seven environmentally significant areas across the city.

2) That the current listing of the membership of the Trails Advisory Committee is not in keeping with the recommendations of City Council at its meeting on June 26, 2012: From the Planning Committee Report:

b) an ESA Trails Advisory Group **BE ESTABLISHED** representing all user groups with diverse membership,

Additionally in a letter that Friends of Meadowlily sent to this committee about Trails Standards, June 18, 2012, we suggested that the Advisory Group also include someone from the Environmentally Significant Areas Management Group so that discussions regarding maintenance could be included. We suggested that we need an Environmentally Significant Areas Advisory Committee (e.g. London Advisory Committee on Heritage and other advisory committees) to see that this attitude of discussion, consultation, and participation continues.

It is our hope that the openness and transparency with which the Trails Standards document was created will continue as this policy is implemented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Smith

President, Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association