

**Review of draft *Kelly Stanton ESA Ecological Restoration Plan*
December 11, 2020 for the Corporation of the City of London. Presented
at EEPAC on Feb. 16 2021.**

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Kelly Stanton E.S.A. is located in the Hyde Park area of northwest London and is divided into two blocks: the north block is located in a triangle bounded by the Canadian Pacific (C.P.) to the north, the Canadian National (C.N.) railway to the south and the London Hyde Park Rotary Trail to the east; the south block is located south of the C.N. railway and north of Staffordshire Road. The publicly owned portions of Kelly Stanton E.S.A. currently include 18.5 hectares (ha) inside the Urban Growth Boundary. The southern portion of Kelly Stanton E.S.A. is part of a larger, regionally significant life science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (A.N.S.I.) called The Kains Road River Valley (P.2).

Kelly Stanton's tall grass prairie communities are the signature feature of the E.S.A. Mead's Sedge which is growing in at least one tall grass prairie community in Kelly Stanton is an indicator species listed in Appendix N of the S.W.H. Technical Guide (MNR, 2000), which makes this community provincially significant. A total of 256 plant species have been identified in Kelly Stanton E.S.A. This includes two provincially rare species and 15 regionally rare plant species (P.16).

84 bird species were observed during the breeding season. At least four bird S.A.R. and four bird species of conservation concern use Kelly Stanton E.S.A. as habitat for breeding and other life processes. In addition, 43 bird species documented in the E.S.A. are considered to be of Conservation Priority in Middlesex County by Bird Studies Canada (Couturier, 1999) (P.23).

Some portions of the E.S.A., particularly in the south block, exhibit depressed ecosystem function as a result of a legacy of human disturbance and land use change dating back to at least the mid-nineteenth century. In the north block, cessation of hay farming since approximately 2001 has allowed tallgrass prairie vegetation to spread into former hay fields. Furthermore, natural succession has resulted in shrubby vegetation encroaching into tall grass prairie communities, which threatens the survival of rare plant and wildlife species which require open country habitat. Some vegetation

communities in both the north and south blocks are dominated by invasive plant species (P.4).

Key management objectives have been identified as follows: tall grass prairie maintenance, tall grass prairie restoration and invasive species management (P.7).

EEPAC supports these objectives.

EEPAC is in agreement with the restoration targets and monitoring objectives including use of the Early Detection and Rapid Response (E.D.R.R.) for Invasive Species protocol, Vegetation Monitoring to determine management effectiveness, particularly in the tall grass prairie communities and indicator species monitoring.

Though trail development wasn't part of the report, there are informal trails in the area.

EEPAC recommends: Development of a managed trail system using the *Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Area* (City of London, May 2016)

EEPAC commends both the City of London and the report authors for their liaising with and involvement of local naturalists in the initial field work and community groups as part of follow-up plans.

Questions

1. Will there be a fish community study at some time in the near future?
(Most recent 1995)
2. Will there be restoration work on the creeks?
 - a. Removal of the degraded culverts in the north block of Stanton creek.
 - b. Culverts under the railways checked for severe obstructions.