

Guelph Trail Master Plan – 2021-147

General Correspondence

To the members of Guelph Trail Master Plan Committee,

I thank you for the extensive and excellent work involved to date detailed in the Guelph Master Plan.

My husband and I have been Guelph residents for 23 years and have raised our two children in this fantastic City. We also enjoy the many existing trails and are excited for new ones to be built for all residents of all abilities to enjoy.

I am deeply concerned however about 2 proposed trails that cross the Torrence Creek Swamp (wetlands) and will traverse Robin Rd. Planners, you are aware that these are PSW - provincially significant wetlands and as stated in provincial policy statement 2020- Part 5: Policies 2.0 Wise use and management of resources section, 2.1 Natural Heritage, 2.1.4 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in a) significant wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E. (Unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological function).

These wetlands are home to many species of birds, amphibians and mammals. It will be a significant disruption to this ecosystem to build a path high enough to withstand seasonal flooding. It also results in human intrusion (noise, trash) in what is a continuous region for this ecosystem.

I speak for those who can not speak for themselves..like the pileated woodpecker, the deer, the skunks, the raccoons, the snakes, the frogs and many more. They all live so peacefully in that swamp.please do not disturb the ecosystem of Torrence Creek Wetlands and swamps with trails for human use. Let's not compromise some of the best remaining wetland in our city.

Images of Torrence Creek from the MNR attached.

Sincerely,

Christine Hykamp MScEng P.Eng.

■ Robin Rd.