



A Public Service Announcement
from the
Cataraqui Region
Conservation Authority

Sept. 14, 2016

Improvements Coming to Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Kingston – Regular visitors to the Lemoine Point Conservation Area will notice a few changes taking place in the coming weeks as the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) endeavours to make the property safer and more inviting to area residents.

Thanks to a grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the CRCA will be upgrading signage at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. As part of this project the CRCA is creating a more modern, user-friendly look, replacing way finder signs, adding new point of interest signs and upgrading the kiosks to include information about user safety and permitted uses on the property. As part of the new look the CRCA has colour coded the trails for easier identification and some have been re-numbered: make sure to check out the kiosk and brochures for these changes. Installation of the new signs will begin in late September.

As well, the trail system at Lemoine Point has been assessed for user safety and impact on the natural habitat. As a result, a section of Trail 1 will be re-routed and sections of Trail 2 and Trail 4 will be merged into one trail.

With these changes to the trail system the CRCA has been able to balance the priorities of protecting the natural habitat of Lemoine Point as well as user safety, while still allowing the public to enjoy the lovely natural spaces of the Conservation Area.

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See backgrounder info and map on page 2

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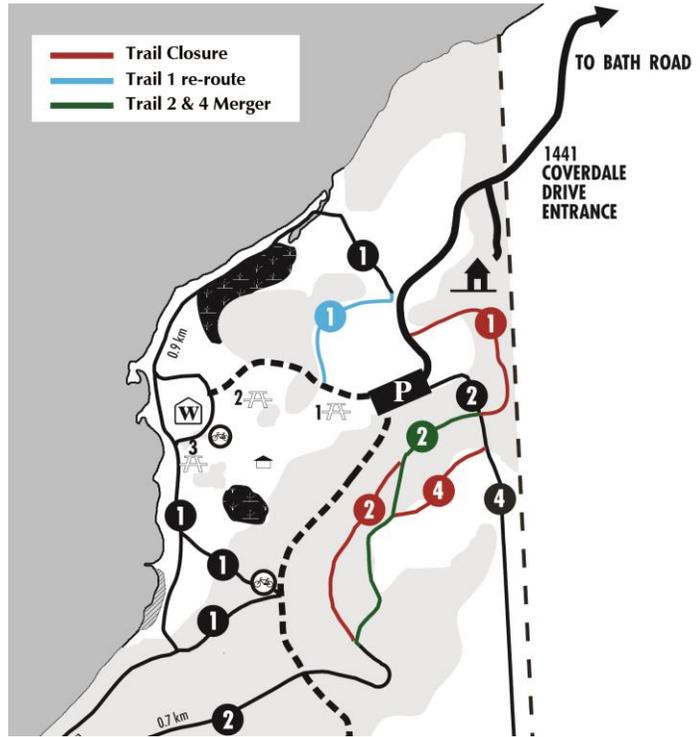


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The reason for the re-route of the northeast section of Trail 1 was its proximity to the main entrance road. Under the current configuration, users have to cross the road to continue along the east section of the trail. Due to the high rate of speed at which cars access the entrance road and that the trail crossing is on a corner, it was determined that re-routing it away from the road was in the best interest for user safety. The new section of Trail 1 will now take visitors along the edge of field at the north parking lot and out near Picnic Area 1.

A lengthy study took place at Lemoine Point to identify ash trees that posed a risk to user safety if infected by the emerald ash borer. Results from this study determined that there is a large concentration of ash trees along the northeast section of trail 2, 4 and the service road. As the trails stand now, hazardous ash trees will have to be removed so they do not pose a threat to users on these sections of trail – that would mean cutting down a lot of trees which will have a negative impact on the natural habitat which we are trying to preserve at Lemoine Point.

To lessen the risk to users and the impact on habitat, CRCA staff will be closing the top part of Trail 1 (at the entrance road), and merging sections of Trail 2 and Trail 4 to create a single trail that offers opportunities to enjoy both the meadow and woodland environments. The service road, Trail 2 and 4 are very close to each other and this has created problems of people making their own short-cut paths which are hazardous to the natural habitat and also pose risks to users as they are not maintained by CRCA staff. In addition the trail rationalization aims to decrease the fragmentation of habitats which will encourage greater biodiversity and wildlife viewing opportunities consistent with the Lemoine Point Conservation Plan for the property.



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