



Nature London

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Inc.
P.O. Box 24008, London, Ontario N6H 5C4

January 5, 2012

Mayor Fontana and Members
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
The City of London
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON N6A 4L9

Dear Chair and Members:

Re: Thames Valley Corridor Plan (TVCP)

General comments

It is gratifying to see that the natural environment within and adjacent to the currently demarcated Thames Valley Corridor boundary is given thoughtful consideration, and that the TVCP proposes to protect, preserve, and enhance existing natural areas, deal with invasive species, protect species-at-risk, add additional vegetation buffers and naturalization, and encourage education and stewardship programs.

We appreciate that the Plan distinguishes between uses for Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) vs parkland. We encourage the Committee and Council to work to protect ESAs from actions that diminish their features and functions. As one of the Key Strategies of the Study states:

All ESAs are primary or core components of the City's Natural Heritage System and are therefore subject to the Environmental Policies in the City's Official Plan. The protection, maintenance and ecological enhancement of these areas are paramount for their long term viability and integrity. ESAs are significant natural areas.

We also encourage Committee and Council to take quick action on the recommendation in the report that identifies:

Acquisition efforts should be made to purchase natural area land within or adjacent to the corridor as an opportunity to preserve/enhance /create natural heritage areas.

Nature London thanks staff for inviting us and other interested parties to be part of the Advisory Committee. It was helpful for everyone involved. We believe the two well attended public meetings were also very helpful in preparing this report.

We look forward to continuing to working with Council and Staff on implementing the recommendations that protect London's natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Sandy Levin
Chair, Conservation Committee