

Secretary to City Council
City Clerk's Office
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON N6A 4LP

June 14, 2015

Mayor Matt Brown and members of City Council,

We, the members of the Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association, are very appreciative of the incredible effort and work of the Planning Division office of the City of London with regard to the new London Plan and the changes made thus far in the Natural Heritage sections and in the Green sections of the plan with regard to protecting the environment features of our city. There are numerous aspects of the plan that are exciting and encouraging for our city and for those who take Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage issues seriously. We applaud the Planning Division staff at their dedication and diligence in bringing forward this new draft of the plan this coming Monday, June 22 to the Planning and Environment Committee. Members of our association have attended many community sessions about the new plan and it does seem to reflect the feedback that we gave about protecting our natural heritage resources.

We still have some concerns about four parts of the second draft of the plan:

1. Regarding 4.1.7.1 Woodlands:

342_ Woodlands have been identified and protected for their environmental significance by the City through a previous study or have a development-related environmental impact statement with recommendations for their protection, management and enhancement. Smaller woodlands may not meet the test for significance, but are retained for their aesthetics and as a recreational amenity. Woodlands often include a managed trail system that

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serves the surrounding neighbourhood and consists of woodchip trails and boardwalks with occasional pathways where appropriate for accessibility and active living connections to local facilities. Woodlands do not include the woodland areas that may be found in other park categories.

It seems confusing to us which woodlands are included in this part of the plan. Does it include significant woodlands as well as those that don't meet the test for significance? Is it one or the other or both? There is also the implied idea that parts of the natural heritage system are protected and preserved for their "recreational" value as opposed to being protected just because they are a part of the natural heritage system itself. We would like to see these woodlands protected because they are a part of London's natural heritage system, not for another reason to prevent any confusion about the rationale for protection and preservation. This also doesn't seem clear in terms of how these areas are presented on Map 4 of the Second Draft. All components of the Natural Heritage System must be subject to the Natural Heritage Policies regardless of the ownership of those lands.

2. In terms of Part 6, of the Natural Heritage section, policy 1243 regarding components of Green Space: It says this includes Significant Woodlands and Woodlands as well as Locally Significant Woodlands. Section 5.0 of this same policy at 1244, there is a list the components of the Natural Heritage System. Significant Woodlands and Woodlands are discussed in Section 5.5 (policies 1263 through 1269). There are also policies dealing with Vegetation Patches (Evaluated and Unevaluated). The details in Part 6 specify that Significant Woodlands and Woodlands are within the Natural Heritage System. It looks once again like the statement in the parks section requires clarification and/or cross-referencing to the Natural Heritage part and we would like this to be more clearly stated to protect the natural heritage system in its own right.

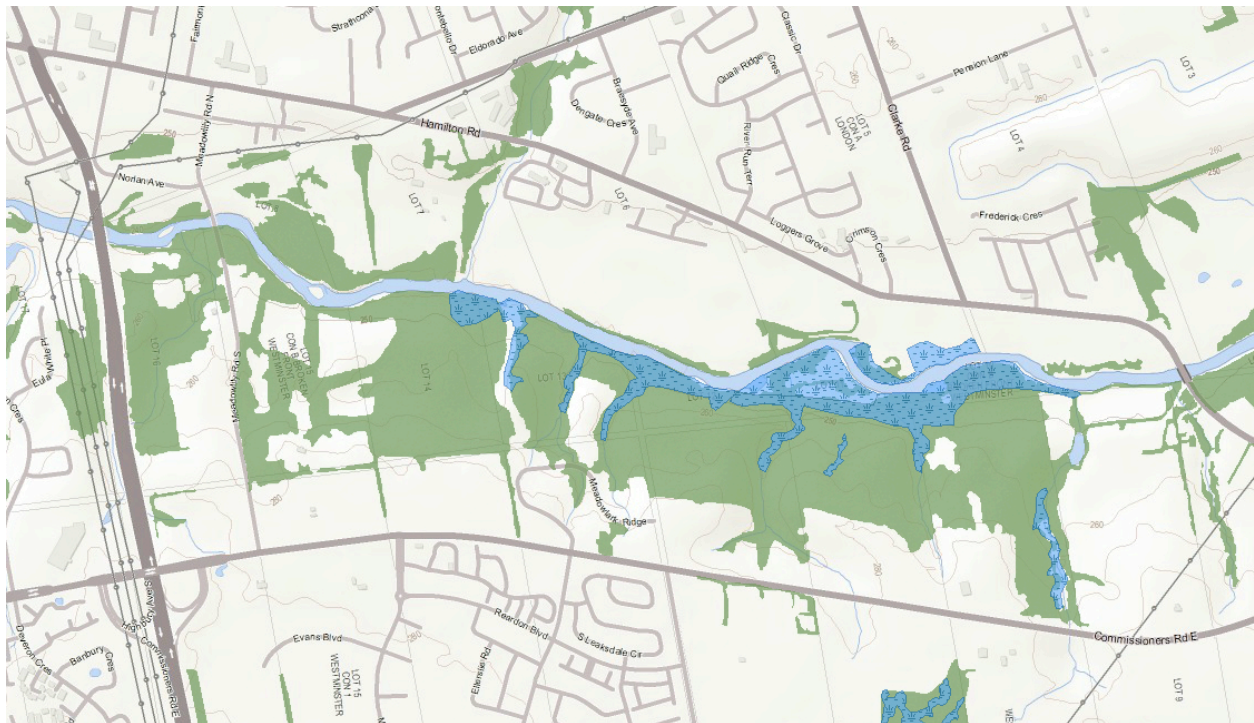
3. In section 7.3 (page 326) with regard to **ecological buffers** for significant natural heritage features like the Thames River and all of the environmentally significant woodlands and wetlands in the city, regardless of ownership, that these buffers need to be more clearly stated in the policy and that the provincial guidelines for development near the river and next to these significant parts of the Natural Heritage System ought never be less than 30 metres and some should have the 100 m buffer suggested by other policies related to protecting and preserving these important features of our

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city. There was strong support for this at a recent meeting of the Back to the City engagement group we attended at the library.

4. With regard to the Maps of the Natural Heritage System of the city, our group wants clarification about the provincially significant wetland features of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area because various maps of Schedule B of the present plan don't seem to match the maps of the area by the Ministry of Natural Resources and other city maps that don't show or reflect the fact that since 2004 the Ministry has recognized the provincial significance of these wetland features.

See Map, MNR, 2015:



Dark Blue indicates area of provincial significance

There are also wetland features of Meadowlily Woods area that are not indicated by city maps like groundwater seepages and streams and creeks to the East and West of Meadowlily Road South. In addition, the City's website makes not mention of Meadowlily Woods in its page highlighting London's wetlands and we would like to see this omission corrected.

See:

<http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Pages/Wetlands.aspx>

5. We continue to have concerns about the sections of the plan that pertain to paved multi-use paths, it doesn't seem clear the way that this section is worded about bicycle routes leading **up to the open space areas, but not going through those areas or their buffers.** We were active participants in the discussions that were put forward in the **Trail Management Guidelines** for the London area and we would like to see those guidelines to be respected in term of Meadowlily Woods and the other sensitive environmental areas of the city with regard to those paths not going through an environmentally significant area like ours or other Environmentally Significant Areas.

The role that Environmentally Significant Areas play in the issue of planning London's future, we feel a need to address these concerns with City Council as the new Official Plan moves forward.

We appreciate your attention to this request,

Gary Smith
President, Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association
141 Meadowlily Road South
London, ON N6M 1C3

“Our Mission: To Preserve and Protect the Integrity of Meadowlily Woods”