

Good Morning

Please include this letter in the agenda for the forthcoming Planning and Environment Committee meeting considering the Medway Valley CMP.

The City of London has a lot of areas for recreation and very few remaining intact Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). I have reviewed the most recent draft of the Conservation Management Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Sensitive Area. I see that protection of the ESA values is supposed to have priority over trails and other recreational uses. I am dismayed to see that the CMP proposes the addition of bridges in the ESA, a measure that mocks that protection principle and will surely degrade and possibly destroy values within the ESA. The plan should be amended to remove the new bridges.

Damage to the ESA will come initially from the construction activities, but more serious will be the increased intensity of use in these sensitive areas. All this traffic by people, pets and transport will bring invasive plants and seeds, plus the usual spread of informal trails, trash and activity. Most serious will be that ESA's in London will be open for recreational development, traffic and construction.

It is nonsense to imply that building bridges in an ESA is somehow mandated by the Ontario Disabilities Act. I have it on good authority that there is no such requirement.

I urge you to send instructions to the consultants and committee to prepare proposals that respect the natural values to be protected and to remove any new bridge crossings.

Yours truly

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