

Dear City Councillors, I am a long-term (over 20 years) resident of the Sherwood Forest area, who daily walks in, and greatly appreciates, the scenery and biological diversity of the Medway Creek. I am one of the many self-appointed 'garbage pickers' who routinely collects the bottles, cups, wrappers, impromptu plastic tents, and miscellaneous other garbage that walkers so thoughtfully 'donate' to the valley. There is no need for me to discuss the importance of the highly diverse plant and animal populations of this Environmentally Significant Area: The fact that the Medway Valley satisfies all seven criteria necessary for recognition as ESA says it all.

I wish to voice my strong opposition to the City's proposed plan to build a bridge across the creek, currently proposed for 'site D' on the city planning document. My primary reason for opposing this plan is, of course, the very great increase in pedestrian traffic, not to mention countless off-leash dogs (I count them daily!), and very probably, mountain-bikes, that would inevitably be attracted to, and funneled through, this convenient 'short cut' that would link the Windermere area (and of course the whole population of UWO), and the Sherwood Forest - Orchard Park area (including access to Sherwood Forest Mall).

I note:

1. That London City policy gives priority to the protection of Environmentally Significant Area *over and above* Recreation. The proposed bridge is in total contradiction to this policy.
2. The ESA's on both sides of the Creek are already perfectly accessible to all Ontario residents, disabled or otherwise, without the construction of bridges.
3. A final consideration is of an aesthetic nature: A bridge large and high enough to withstand Spring Floods will be an undisguisable eyesore. It has no place in this ESA.

Yours Sincerely
Dr. A. Guy Plint
Professor of Geology
UWO