

Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee of City Council
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Avenue
London Ontario

Respected Chair and Committee Members

I am writing to voice my strongest objection to the City of London's plan to build pedestrian bridges in the Medway valley, as detailed in the Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (Southern Portion).

The plan is founded on the belief that pedestrian bridges will positively impact this region and serve the needs of the community. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As a homeowner whose property overlooks a hardened footpath into the Medway Forest, I can assure Members of the Committee the area is already accessible. In the summer, I see one elderly gentleman regularly drive his motorized scooter along the trails to fish in the Creek. I also regularly see families with children in strollers, horseback riders, cyclists, campers, and revelers with bottled alcohol.

Existing trails already serve the needs of the community by providing ready access to a precious ESA.

What the area needs – and I plead with Committee Members to consider this – is protection. The Medway faces a number of ecological threats, including invasive species, open camp fires and broken glass, dumping of garden waste, and bank erosion by flash flooding. By-law violators act with impunity, as the City has eliminated by-law officers. Rather than spending huge sums of money building bridges, the city needs to invest in the integrity of the ESA!

I therefore urge Members of the committee to commit to a bridge-free plan – one that will be decidedly less expensive and respects this area for what it is: an ESA.

Sincerely,

J Bruce Morton
11 Doncaster Avenue
London