

Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2018 10:56 AM

To: Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>

Cc: PEC <pec@london.ca>

Subject: Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area

Dear Josh:

I am writing to you out of concern about trail and bridge development plans for the Medway Creek watershed south of Fanshawe Park Road, and their potential effects on a plant species identified by the Federal Recovery Strategy under the Species at Risk Act as “Threatened”.

In particular, the False Rue Anemone has been identified in the work done for the Conservation Master Plan that is going to the Planning and Environment Committee on April 16th. This plant and its habitat are protected under Provincial legislation. There are only nine zones where this plant has been found in Canada, and all are in the Carolinian zone in Southwestern Ontario, mostly in London. This species blooms only in Spring.

While there is a narrow walking trail through the habitat of this plant, it is my fear that the provision of new trails and new bridges sanctioned by the City will encourage more foot and bicycle traffic. This, in turn, may encourage off-trail activity and irreversible damage to the plant habitat. Soil compaction from such activity has been identified as a major threat to the survival of this species, as well as flower picking.

I realize that some form of trail development is inevitable, but I also think that this particular zone should be re-examined for alternative routing. Additionally, I would encourage the City to consider posting signage along the trails that simply and clearly inform visitors of the risk to the habitat, and strictly prohibits departure from the trails. This would also require additional money for monitoring and enforcement which should be provided in future budgets.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Regards

Gordon Wood

cc. Planning & Environment Committee for inclusion on the agenda when this matter is before the Committee