

1597 Gloucester Road  
London, ON N6G 2S5

March 29, 2018

**Email: pec@london.ca**

Planning & Environment Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Ave., P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Dear Sirs:

**RE: Medway Valley Heritage Forest**

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We have been privileged to live in several homes backing onto the Medway Valley Heritage Forest since 1985. The area is a natural treasure within the city limits. As expressed in our telephone conversations with Andrew Macpherson and Lisa McDougall, we are both committed to furthering access to the valley for all. We currently reside at 1597 Gloucester Road being the property immediately adjacent to the east side of Access Point A11. During the five and a half years we have lived here, the A11 trail has been lightly used, mostly by people with off-leash dogs. Traffic has declined somewhat since signs warning of coyote presence have been posted.

We wish to address two issues with regard to the proposed plan, being accessibility and trail linkage.

Accessibility

We have several safety concerns with regard to the elevation of the A11 Access from Level 1 to Level 2 which we would ask be examined and considered before any decision is made in this regard. The accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act makes reference to "enjoyable, safe and accessible trails". The downward slope into the valley at the A11 Access point is considerable. Regardless of the surface installed, ingress to and egress from the valley at this point, whether using a manual or motorized wheelchair, would be, at best, challenging, particularly if attempted without assistance. We are concerned firstly that injuries could result and that the inherent cost of upgrading and maintaining a Level 2 trail at this access point for accessibility purposes would not be reflected in actual use by persons with disabilities.

In our years of enjoying the valley, two major man made issues have negatively affected the valley environment, the first being the construction of the trunk sewer, which will no doubt require several more decades of natural forest regeneration to mitigate and the second being the use of the valley by cyclists some of whom "trail" or "trick" ride, without regard to sensitive areas or the safety of themselves and others. We cannot recall seeing a cyclist use the A11 Access in our years of adjacent ownership but are concerned that the elevation of the trail's surface to a hardened and more visible surface would be an open invitation to cyclists, regardless of the use of wood corrals and prohibiting signage. Cyclists destroy the natural habitat and put pedestrians and disabled persons in jeopardy.

The existing Elsie Perrin Williams access point has a hardened surface and parking. The A24 Access, on Gainsborough Road, does not have a significant grade and parking would not be an issue at that entrance. The A1 access point also has available parking. We believe that these entry points would be safer and more suitable for use by disabled persons.

### Trail Linkage

We understand that another consideration in planning the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Trails is to provide continuous access through the valley from the Sunningdale Trails to Windermere Road and/or Western University property. Trail linkage to the University property is available over the Level 3 trail (at Attawandaron), Level 1 trail (Pitcarrie/Whiteacres) Level 2 trail (Gainsborough) and Level 1 trail with the Metamora Bridge. Once the proposed Medway Creek linkage (D) is completed, access will be available to Windermere Road. Additionally, most of these trails are flat and appropriate for handicapped use. Under these circumstances, we question whether the impact of the future connection outside the ESA between A12 and A11 is appropriate. This proposed connection is significant in length and affects both the rear and front of residential properties. The existing connections outside the ESA are minimal in size and have no effect (Wonderland) or minimal effect (Gainsborough) on residential properties. Please note that we have no sympathy for home owners who encroach upon or block city lands. This factor has not been taken into account in forming our thoughts with respect to this trail.

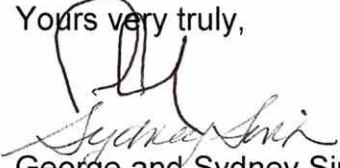
We respectfully suggest that:

1. the A12/A11 connection be eliminated from the plan and, failing that, that this connection be shown as a Level 1 trail to minimize impact on the front and rear of adjacent residential properties; and

2. the trail from the A11 access point into the valley remain at Level 1 as it is unusable by the disabled, will attract cyclists if upgraded and other linkages as above noted are presently in existence or will become available in future. Funds saved by not upgrading the A11/A12 trails would be more effectively spent on the proposed Medway Creek (D) linkage.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Yours very truly,



George and Sydney Sinker

cc Councillor Josh Morgan by email – [joshmorgan@london.ca](mailto:joshmorgan@london.ca)