

April 7, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express my continued alarm at the proposed bridges in Medway Heritage Forest.

According to the city of London website, the purpose of an ESA is to “protect and regenerate the natural environment within a community.”

I'd like to focus on a provincially and federally designated species at risk, the False-Rue Anemone. It is widely known that Medway Forest & more specifically the proposed bridge sites are one of the only 6 places in Ontario where the False-Rue anemone is found.

Medway actually has the largest & most well established population of this flower of all those places.

One of 6 places in our whole vast province. That's remarkable. What a treasure. We have a duty to protect it. Actually, I believe we have an obligation.

The city has spent considerable resources protecting this plant from things like goutweed and is about to throw all that money down the drain by building these bridges.

Your own policy is to make recreation secondary to environmental protection in natural areas.

I understand that people want to be able to safely walk along the trails in our beautiful city and that sometimes the going can be tough – like in the spring when things flood, but if the reason that ESA's are designated in the first place is to protect natural areas and if the reason that certain plants are designated as threatened or at risk is so we can protect them, I am having a very hard time wrapping my head around why this letter is even necessary.

I have friends who have properties that back onto Medway and they've been telling me for decades that they have had to fight tooth and nail to protect this area that by its very nature is supposed to be designated as protected in the first place.

Please consider, especially in this day and age, taking a role that would show that the City of London understands that we must work WITH nature and stop acting like we can control it with no consequence. We are seeing proof of these consequences every day around the world.

Please remove the bridge construction proposals from the plan.

According to the Ontario.ca website

What threatens it

The main threat to False Rue-anemone is habitat destruction due to recreational activities such as cycling, ATV-use and hiking, that can result in inadvertent trampling of this plant.

Forest clearing, soil erosion, and agricultural run-off are also concerns. Road salt is known to have harmed at least one population in Ontario.

Invasive plants that compete with False Rue-anemone for water, light, and space, such as Goutweed and Garlic Mustard, also threaten this species.

Action we are taking

Threatened Species and their general habitat are automatically protected

habitat is defined as

b) with respect to any other species of animal, plant or other organism, an area on which the species depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes, including life processes such as reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration or feeding.

From the Government of Canada Species at Risk Public Registry;

Activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat

Any residential, agricultural, or industrial development such as construction of houses, structures, roads, gardens, quarries, utility lines, renewable energy installations, including removal of soils	Construction within critical habitat destroys habitat and results in the direct loss of critical habitat upon which the species relies for basic survival, successful seed germination, and seedling establishment. Direct removal of soil/substrate would render the habitat unsuitable for False Rue-anemone by removing the biophysical attributes required by the species.	When this activity occurs within critical habitat, at any time of year, the effects will be direct, and is certain to result in the permanent destruction of critical habitat.. Activities restricted to the surface of existing, authorized roadways/access roads and recreational trails would not result in the destruction of critical habitat.
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Table 2. Threat Assessment Table

Threat	Threat Description	Level of Concern ^d	Extent	Occurrence	Frequency	Severity ^e	Causal Certainty ^f
Invasive Species	Invasive plants	Medium	Localized	Historic, Current, Anticipated	Continuous	Unknown	Medium
Disturbance or Harm	Off-trail Recreation and trail use	Medium	Localized	Current	Recurrent	Moderate	Medium
Habitat Loss or Degradation	Land development	Medium	Widespread	Anticipated	Unknown	Moderate	High
Habitat Loss or Degradation	Forest harvesting	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Sincerely,

Lisa Carriere

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