

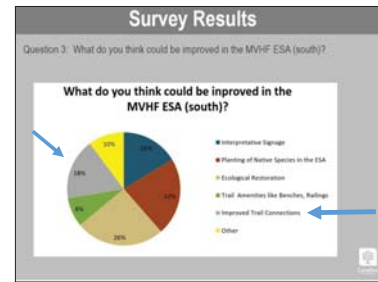
RECOMMENDATION

- Do not adopt Plan as is, it does not protect or enhance the ESA and could impair it.
- Remove the bridges (“trail linkage” A and D) from the Plan.
- Only have the Plan brought forward with the next 4 year budget cycle, because without budget, there is doubt about achievement. For example:

Oct 21, 1996 Council approved a similar plan including the following (which never happened):

“an annual reporting mechanism through the City’s budget process with respect to monitoring the implementation of the phased management program that is outlined in the plan”

NOT EVEN SURE WHY THE PUSH (public survey results presented at an LAC meeting)



ALSO

- There was no MNR involvement (not an Environmental Assessment), therefore, no First Nation consultation
- No site visit by advisory committee
- *Thank you to those on Council who did visit or met with me*

GUIDELINE, p. 36

- If a bridge is to be constructed in an ESA, construction impacts shall be considered during the CMP process to determine appropriate mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Building the bridges will affect rare species at both proposed locations (see red arrows)

The two species are Blue Leaf Willow and Slender Satin Grass. There is no mention in the CMP of the impact the bridge construction will have on these plants and their habitat as required by the Guideline (p. 36)



What SITE A looked like April 13



Trail Guidelines, page 26

Where it is determined that ecological integrity can be preserved, and specific natural features and their ecological functions can be protected, public access and trails are permitted in this zone in support of appropriate low-intensity, nature-based recreation. Structures (e.g. boardwalks, bridges, stairways) may be permitted to reduce impacts to significant ecological features and increase the sustainability of the trail system in the ESA.

The Metamora bridge noted in the staff report was built to protect not to connect

Over Medway Creek, built to connect

Over Rollingwood Creek (NOT Medway Creek) – 3.5 m across



Protection from what impacts?

Site D in summer



Site A in summer



Guideline says bridges are to blend in. 1st Bridge North of Fanshawe. Creek is about 10.8 m wide. Similar width to Sites A and D. **BLEND IN? You be the judge**

• In winter



Note damage to bank caused by construction

SITE A, in spring. Blend in?

Pic From CMP



Same pic, with bridge projected



SITE D looking south in March, Blend in? (projected image)



ANOTHER ECOLOGIST'S OPINION

- I'm glad to see that these sensitive species are being closely monitored, and in my opinion, increased accessibility and soil disturbances for the construction of additional trails and bridges are never beneficial. Increased access usually means increased chance for disturbance and potential for non-natives to establish. However, it could also be argued that maintained trails/bridges will keep pedestrian traffic on proper trails, lowering disturbance, but only in a case where there is already high traffic volume on non-maintained trails.

More users or not? The staff report is contradictory (4.3)

More use

"... consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, is that as trail use increases on well designed trails that comply with the Guidelines, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance."

Same use

"Given that the sensitive species area is over 250 meters south of this corral, we are not anticipating a great increase in use of the Level 1 dirt trails."



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design... are these problems in ESAs considered crimes?

- being off trail
- having a dog off leash
- riding a bike where you aren't suppose to

Monitoring? Maybe – 4.2 UTRCA staff for 10 ESAs and monitoring is only part of the job False Rue site. This pic is from August. The plastic sheeting was still there in October until I e-mailed staff asking about it! 3 days later it was gone.



End of staff report from 1996 Site Plan Study – recommendations not implemented....

At the last Steering Committee meeting it was agreed that a "Medway Advisory Group including many of the committee members, would assist in setting priorities for implementation. It is anticipated that implementation of the plan will begin this fall, with entrance signage and critical trail closures as the first project.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Oct 2, 1996

New sign (Apr. 2017) at trail that was to be closed 20 years ago. (still no restoration of "informal trail")



From *Recovery Strategy for False Rue-anemone in Canada* (2017), p. 10

Disturbance or Harm

Off-trail Recreation and trail use: Some False Rue-anemone sub-populations are also in close proximity to public areas and trails, and may be threatened to some degree by inadvertent trampling, and resulting soil compaction (Austen 1990; COSEWIC 2005). However, **improving signage** at walking trails in Medway Creek, London have also **helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness** of this species (pers.comm. 2015).



But... no signs in 2015, and no data collection on user behaviour to show trampling has been limited by this sign (this trail was to have been closed 20 yrs ago)



New signs (Mar 19 2018) at top and bottom of trail that was to be closed 20 years ago (sign on left was face down on Mar 19, was gone Apr. 13)



New signs at trail that was to be closed 20 yrs ago. It will take more than signs to make a difference.

March 19 2018



April 13, 2018



AODA

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005
- [ONTARIO REGULATION 191/11](#), Integrated Accessibility Standards
- Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes, General**
- **Trails**
- **80.15.5** *There is a significant risk that the requirements, or some of them, would adversely affect water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity or natural heritage values, **whether the adverse effects are direct or indirect.***

YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE LOST UNTIL IT IS GONE

- If there are impacts, it is unlikely the bridges will be removed.
- Even the consultants included a caution (*Addendum to Natural Heritage Inventory*) about existing managed trails (i.e. **WITHOUT INCREASED ACCESS**) by stating "Seasonal restrictions on trails may be required."
- NICE IDEA, but haven't been able to close trails effectively
- HISTORICALLY, MUCH HAS BEEN PROMISED, BUT LESS HAS BEEN DELIVERED

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