

Elli Westeinde
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April 5, 2018

Linda McDougall, MES, OALA, RPP
And all Members of The Planning and Environment Committee
RE; Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley.

Dear Linda and all members of this committee,

Having followed and read the proposed Master Plan for the Medway Valley, I am very pleased to hear of the ongoing invasive species control and restoration work. I am also in full support of EEPAC'S position which recommends that there be no "hardening of trail surfaces or planting of bridges across the Medway Creek" I consider the Medway Creek itself to be an ecological feature. I fully support EEPAC'S position for the following reasons;

- In Section # 3.0, Para. 1. " It is evident that very few of the areas of the MVHF ESA (south) have remained relatively untouched from disturbance."
- And # 3.0, Para. 2. MVHF ESA (south) a "Heavily populated urban landscape puts increasing demand on ESA for access to nature and trail use as well as contributing to stressors."
- Additional signs, barricades, hazard tree cutting, bridge and hard surface trail construction, enforcement etc. will only contribute additional stressors.
- Terrace Mountain BC. Incorporates very large stepping stones across wet terrain in lieu of bridges to maintain the natural appearance and function with warning signs that stones may be slippery and caution to use @ own risk.. The Medway Creek itself is an ECOLOGICAL FEATURE.
- More than the above, I believe improved hard surfaces and bridges will exponentially encourage more foot and especially bicycle and vehicular traffic, simply due to the increased use of bicycles combined with increased driving costs and reliance on public transportation, not to mention proximity to the UWO campus.
- As I read the implementation strategy it seems to me you are planning for existing conditions and seriously underestimating future growth and associated pressures.

In conclusion, I also support EEPAC'S position because I am concerned that your Conservation Master Plan for The Medway Valley will set the standard for the treatment of other significant wild spaces and ESA'S across the City of London into the future. I am especially concerned because the South-West area plan is moving forward without clear direction for the protection of The Dingman Creek Corridor which surrounds the South-West from Wonderland Rd. South around to Southdale Road on the North. My experience suggests that wild spaces and ESA'S need more, not less, protection from human invasion. Just walk along my street and count the pieces of plastic and bottles along the roadside and in the ditch. This alone suggests there needs to be much more respect for our natural heritage.

Sincerely,
Elli Westeinde, Chair of Lambeth community Association.