



Mayor's Office and City Council      Reference, Medway Conservation Master Plan  
City of London  
206 Dundas Street  
London, ON N6A 1G7

April 20, 2018

Mayor Matt Brown and Members of City Council of London,

We, the members of the Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association, are excited about the progress that is being made on the **Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan**. It is encouraging to see these plans moving ahead. However we are also concerned that when these plans involve large scale infrastructure changes such as the two bridges and changes to the trail planning that this seems inconsistent with the guidelines suggested in the Official Plan for the City of London regarding Natural Heritage areas in general and Environmentally Significant Areas in particular. We are referring to Chapter 15 of the Official plan where it states:

Chapter 15.1.V: Maintain, restore, and improve the diversity and connectivity of natural features, and the long-term ecological function with biodiversity of natural heritage systems.

It seems to us when large scale projects like bridges and the addition of wider or harder surfaces for natural trails are under consideration, that this is inconsistent with this part of the Official Plan quoted here.

As presented at the recent meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee on Monday evening, April 16, the positioning of Bridge A is in the immediate vicinity of areas of sensitivity related to the rare and protected False Rue Anemone protection zones and Bridge D is likely to cause a large disturbance of the creek and streams causing damage to aquatic life and amphibians that are

supposed to be protected there as well. There are rare mussels and other water creatures that are likely to be affected by the increased silting of the material on the banks where the abutments are likely to be placed for these bridges. Trail improvements are not to be considered either if they would affect the natural features and the long-term integrity of the ecological functions of the areas under consideration.

We would like to see these bridges removed from the Conservation Master Plan as well as the changes to the trail in sensitive areas.

There is also the matter that these changes have taken place without due consideration of **First Nations'** feedback regarding the impact of these changes. Given that the City of London is a partner in the Truth and Reconciliation agreement, this seems inconsistent with this partnership.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns about these matters because while they will affect the quality of the experience of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest and its master plan, we can also see that such infrastructure if allowed in environmentally significant areas would affect the whole Natural Heritage System of London and that would be a real tragedy affecting the ecological integrity of London as a whole.

Respectfully,

Gary Smith  
President, Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association

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**Our Mission: “to Preserve and Protect the Integrity of Meadowlily Woods.”**