



**Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community
Association
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**“Our Mission: To Preserve and Protect
the Integrity of Meadowlily Woods.”**

City Clerk’s Office
Attn: Heather Lysinski
Planning and Environment Committee
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Street
London, Ontario

13 October 2020

Chairperson and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

First of all we would like to thank once again Natural Resource Solutions for an excellent and thorough study of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area and its resources and unique features. It is a deeply valued and important part of our community and neighbourhood here. I’d also like to thank the people, organizations and agencies that have helped to protect and preserve this vital natural area: Nature London, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, its province-wide manifestation and the London Branch in particular as well as the Thames-Talbot Land Trust Meadowlily Nature Preserve and the hiking and running groups that help to protect and maintain our Environmentally Significant Area. Meadowlily Woods does represent almost all of the valued types of terrain and features listed as worth protecting and maintaining by the London Plan Natural Heritage section as well as the Environmental Guidelines for the existing Official Plan: valley lands, upland forests, significant wetlands, creeks and streams that service the Thames River and it is also identified multiple times as

being a groundwater recharge zone (see Paragraphs 1304-06, Page 350 of the existing London Plan, 2019 and Map 6 of the same plan). The protection of these sensitive and important areas of the natural heritage system is identified multiple times in both versions of the Official Plan for the City of London. As a part of the Meadowlily community we support and uphold that protection and level of preservation. We would also like to thank members of the Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee for the various studies and reviews they have given on our behalf over the years.

While we strongly support the parts of this document, OZ-9245, with regard to the expansion of the Environmentally Significant in terms of boundary changes and import inclusion of important features like the significant watercourses and wetlands on the east area of our natural area as well as the area of Highbury Woods and Meadowlily Creek from its source down to the Thames River in the west. However with regard to aspects of the file related to the Meadowlily Woods Conservation Master Plan that mention such terms as "high density" and "medium density" residential development and we object to this kind of development in an area so important to the Meadowlily Woods environment. It seems as if we are being forced (wording used in a recent email 2 Sept 2020 from one of the planners) to accept the unacceptable. Given the nature of the water and wetland recharge features of the whole Meadowlily area, everything from the top of the bank along here to the Thames River should have the lowest form of impact possible in terms of any kind of future development and the highest form of protection. It would make more sense to have the lowest impact possible on this significant and sensitive feature on the Southeast London landscape and the whole Thames Valley along here from Veteran's Parkway to the river bend in the west near St. Julian Park. So single detached dwellings and a R-1 designation is all that should be allowed here. An example would be the houses at the top of the hill near Commissioners Road and nothing more.

In conversations and correspondence with the planning office and the planners on this file, it has been used as the major justification of

imposing such intense and heavy development in our area is the 1989 Official Plan and its designations of what and what is not allowed in the Meadowlily Area. What seems to be unacceptable is that this plan now many years out of date (31 years) and supposedly to be replaced by the new London Plan should be applied here where it would have a very devastating effect similar to such decisions in other areas with natural areas like Sifton Bog, Westminster Ponds and Kilally Meadows where contiguous natural patches are allowed to be encroached upon in order to accommodate asphalt and concrete in places where they don't belong. The approach suggested in the Natural Heritage Section of the London Plan (Para 1298-1441) seems to be a much more reasonable and respectful approach to dealing with natural areas and their precious assets and resources. Surely there is a better way to make these decisions. The more reasonable approach would be to make the area low-density, single dwelling homes.

Certain aspects of this plan that mention "to permit conservation uses only" (from the public announcement) we value and support, the language of this plan that mentions high density and medium density residential development we do not support and would encourage others to reject. These designations should be changed to allow only single detached dwellings and a R-1 designation to protect and maintain the present context and environment of the Meadowlily neighbourhood and natural landscape of the area with as little impact to Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area as possible.

We would like to also reiterate our request for consideration and protection in the area of important habitat for species at risk is the large patch of milkweed in the area of what has been known and identified as the Baseline Right-of-Way just to the south of 129 Meadowlily Road South (vacant lot) and just north of 135 Meadowlily Road South. This is an important environmental feature for our area and ought to be included as a part of the expanded Environmentally Significant Area. As far as we know it is city-owned property.

We would also like to remind the Committee that back when these lands were first bequeathed to the City by the Harrison Fraser (born June 1, 1902) upon his death in 1981, that this generous gift was given in keeping with his mother's wishes, Elizabeth Matilda (aka Matthew) "Bessie" Tilley Fraser, (May 6, 1872-May 6, 1953) that these lands be maintained and protected as a natural area for the city of London. We believe it is important to uphold and respect the spirit of that gift by the former owners of Park Farm Heritage Farmstead.

We value and have great regard for the stewardship and protection of our natural and heritage resources here at Meadowlily.

Sincerely,

Gary Smith, President, Friends of Meadowlily Woods

