

I am upset that once again we are back to square one after all the planning meetings & discussions. I would like my written input to be taken into consideration for the April 9 mtg and for the City Council mtg April 16, 2013.

Medway Valley North should be open to the public for hiking and nature observation. We need a continuous green space to create an environment viable for plant & animal life along Medway Creek.

What better way to teach young children the importance of nature & the environment than to expose them to the outdoors. As a former teacher at Northridge Public School, I took my grades 2 and 3 classes monthly on 1 hour hikes in Kilally Meadows. We stayed on the trails, identified wild flowers and studied the effects of erosion and soil. At a time when school budgets do not allow for fieldtrips, children in all parts of London have walking access to London's green spaces, parks, hiking trails and ESAs. This is a time to continue expanding our walking areas in London. We need healthy, interested and educated children to continue the stewardship of London's nature reserves.

Tourism London sells the Thames Valley Trail guidebook and also has excellent tri-fold pamphlets for residents & visitors on the ESAs. I personally had Westminster Ponds added as a London attraction on the website TripAdvisor.com I am a certified Hike Ontario leader as are many of our hiking group. We are active guardians of these special ecological areas in London.

The Thames Valley Trail Association walks in the ESAs on a regular basis and values the physical fitness, social benefits and natural beauty they provide. We also appreciate the environment and have been educated to minimize our impact when using the trails. We also believe that shutdown of our existing trails will harm the ESAs over the long term.

Sincerely,

Judy Kwasnica
706-665 Windermere Road
London, Ontario N5X 2Y6