

LAC Terms of Reference

Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) – Phase 2 CMP

- Attawandaron Residents Association
- University of Western Ontario (UWO)
- Huron University College
- Nature London
- Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
- Heritage London Foundation
- Museum of Archeology

All members will identify an alternate who will participate in meetings if the member is not available or attend as observers (*see Section 5.0 below for further information on observers at meetings*).

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- City staff will set the meeting agenda, location and provide information required for discussion.
- A facilitator will run meetings and be responsible for meeting notes. Meeting notes will be distributed within 2 weeks following each the meeting. Notes will document areas of agreement as well as areas of difference.
- LAC members will attend all meetings including reviewing any materials provided in advance.
- LAC members are to be familiar with the CMP process and [Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in ESAs 2016](#)
- LAC members commit to working in collaboration with each other and the City, to the extent practical, to complete Phase 2 of the CMP for Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA.
- The LAC representatives will liaise with their respective stakeholder groups in order to share information as required.
- The role of the LAC includes:
 - Identifying and confirming ESA management issues;
 - Possible attendance during ESA site visits to help to resolve planning issues;
 - Help to develop the restoration plan, trail plan and recommendations;
 - Prioritize implementation of recommendations; and,
 - Review the draft Phase II CMP report.

5.0 Meetings and Attendance

There will be five LAC meetings, each up to 1.5 hours in length, held on a weekday evening:

LAC Terms of Reference

Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) – Phase 2 CMP

- LAC Meeting #1 – Kick-off meeting to introduce role of the LAC and launch the Phase 2 CMP, as well as identify areas for discussion
- LAC Meeting #2 – Discuss Community Open House #1 and review community survey questions
- LAC Meeting #3 – Review input from Community Open House #1 and survey responses. Resolve any areas of difference
- LAC Meeting #4 – Review Draft CMP Phase 2 Report with LAC for review and comment.
- LAC Meeting #5 – Endorsement of CMP Phase 2 Report by the LAC; Discuss Community Open House Meeting #2

These meetings will be open to observers. Non-LAC members and/or member alternates are welcome to observe LAC meetings as space permits. During the meeting, observers are not allowed to participate in the discussion.

6.0 Effective Practices for the LAC

In the interest of committee effectiveness, LAC members agree to be bound by the following practices:

- Members will listen to, review and consider the information provided for discussion.
- Members will strive at all times to ensure that the best interests of the broader community are taken into account.
- Members will be courteous, listen to and consider the opinions of other members.
- Members should participate fully in discussion but not dominate the discussion or allow others to do so.
- Members should speak one at a time and not cut off other members while they are speaking.
- Members wishing to make comments should do so through the facilitator, and wait their turn until they have the floor.
- Members will provide constructive feedback regarding the Phase 2 CMP information presented and discussed.
- LAC members will address their concerns within the meetings and will not, on their own, or as part of another association, engage in independent action that is in conflict with the objectives of the LAC.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #1 for MVHF ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan Phase 2
Date and Time: April 27, 2017 17:30 – 19:00
Location: City Hall, City of London
Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Susan Hall*	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Prof. Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*Indicates an alternate organization representative attended in place of the primary representative

Notes

- | Item | Discussion |
|--------|---|
| 1. | Agenda Item - Introductions |
| 1.1. | Sandy Levin posed the following question: Is this CMP just for the south ESA and, if it's just for the south, why are representatives associated with the north portion of the ESA included in the LAC? |
| 1.1.1. | Reps associated with the communities near the north ESA (Chris/Renee) reiterated that trails are connected. It was also confirmed by the City that representatives from the communities near the south ESA were included in consultations for the north ESA trail planning. |

2. Agenda Item – Overview of CMP Process
 - 2.1. Sandy Levin referenced page 10 of the Trail Guidelines document, noting that members should keep in mind our role is protection of the natural features and ecological functions in the ESA.
3. Agenda Item – Terms of Reference (ToR) for the LAC
 - 3.1. ToR was distributed to members for review at the beginning of the meeting and the committee purpose and format was discussed.
4. Agenda Item – Future Meetings
 - 4.1. Jack Blocker posed a question regarding LAC input into the draft CMP: Given that the first three meetings are an overview of consultation/engagement and then a draft CMP is provided, where is the opportunity for LAC input for CMP?
 - 4.1.1. A response was provided from Dillon that the draft CMP is to be based on the responses from public and the LAC which is to be discussed during meeting #3 and then used to develop the draft CMP which will be distributed for review and comment during meeting #4.
 - 4.2. A subsequent question was posed: How much time (Jack Blocker) is the LAC going to have to provide input into the draft CMP given the timeline of the meetings of the LAC? Linda provided insight that Phase 1 provides an Environmental Management Strategy and that Phase 2 is building upon the already approved Phase 1.
 - 4.2.1. Jack brought up that trail planning is generally the most contentious issue and wanted confirmation of how much time the LAC will have to overview and provide input. Sandy was in agreement with Jack and wanted confirmation of how much insight the LAC provides to Phase 2 and how the LAC will help the public provide good input towards Phase 2. Dillon highlighted that meeting #2 is will allow for the LAC to provide insight and help develop the public consultation forums. More information on how the LAC will provide input will be provided during meeting #2.
5. Agenda Item – Goal and Objectives of CMP Phase 2
 - 5.1. Keith wanted to know whether the draft CMP will be available before the Sept. meeting.
 - 5.1.1. Dillon responded the goal is to distribute the draft CMP to the LAC by mid-August.
 - 5.2. Keith wanted to know if there are examples of completed CMPs members could review prior to receiving the draft CMP.
 - 5.2.1. The City confirmed the Coves ESA is the most recent CMP and is available on the City website. Linda to share link with the LAC.
 - 5.3. Susan questioned whether the draft CMP will cover recommendations for level 1, 2 informal trails?
 - 5.3.1. Dillon confirmed the CMP will include trail planning.

6. Agenda Item – Review of Environmental Management Strategy
 - 6.1. Linda presented an overview of the Phase 1 Environmental Management Strategy.
7. Agenda Item – Restoration Work to Date in Medway
 - 7.1. Linda presented the restoration work completed to date.
8. Agenda Item – Facilitated Discussion
 - 8.1. Members broke out into four groups (rotating participants) to discuss opportunities within the ESA for consideration during the CMP process. Blank maps with the existing trail system were provided to the groups to mark up. These were collected at the end of the session.
 - 8.1.1. Some members wanted to know where SAR and other sensitive features are located. Hard copy maps from the MVHF Phase 1 addendum with SAR and significant wildlife habitat identified (previously circulated to LAC / available on the City website) were distributed to members of the LAC for reference.
 - 8.2. Maps were collected from the groups for review of suggestions/concerns and opportunities noted by the members. The mapping and comments were reviewed to identify common themes in advance of LAC meeting #2.
 - 8.3. After maps were collected from the groups, Karla asked members to provide key points/take away points. These are summarized below (in no particular order):
 - One trail to provide continuity and avoid informal trails
 - Consider everybody's wants/wishes for ESA not just one group
 - Thankful for being part of the process
 - Hope for continued use of trails without damage to the ESA
 - We shouldn't do anything that doesn't support the integrity of the ESA
 - Accessibility should be maintained
 - Stewardship/Education
 - A good start
 - Looking for connection across the creek
 - Looking for connection of trails where they work
 - Lots of interesting stuff
 - Getting what everyone wants in the ESA may not be feasible but the feedback and input from LACs is crucial and much appreciated in the guiding the management of ESAs
 - Pleased to start learning from local knowledge
 - Thankful Species at Risk are considered
 - ESA and natural features shall be protected
 - Ecological Integrity of ESA should be maintained
 - Looking for connection of trails
9. Closing
 - 9.1. Mady Hymowitz asked whether draft questions for survey will be sent out to members for review prior to public distribution.

- 9.1.1. Dillon replied that questions would be shared during second meeting prior to the survey being finalized. Fewer than ten questions anticipated so review at meeting #2 is possible.
- 9.2. Next meeting scheduled for May 4 in the same room and same time as Meeting #1.
- 9.3. Meeting concluded at 19:00

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #2 for MVHF ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: May 4, 2017 17:30 – 19:00

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katarina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Sarah Pierce*	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski+	Sunningdale West RPA
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*Indicates an alternate organization representative attended in place of the primary representative

+indicates departure from meeting prior to adjournment.

Regrets

Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation
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Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Purpose of Meeting #2
1.1.	Mady Hymowitz requested an explanation of what the various management zones outlined in the <i>Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas</i> (the Guidelines) mean and how they apply to the MVHF ESA.

- 1.1.1. Dillon provided an explanation of what the management zones mean and which types of trails are permitted in each. This explanation can be found in the Guidelines.

2. Agenda Item – Overview of CMP Participant Roles

- 2.1. Sandy Levin mentioned that further explanation of the roles was helpful and encouraged a site visit to the ESA to facilitate input into the CMP.

3. Agenda Item – What We Heard During Meeting #1

- 3.1. Jack Blocker brought up an issue with the CMP Goal statement provided during meeting #1 (and again in meeting #2). Jack felt the statement underrepresented other components of maintaining ecological integrity such as restoration, naturalization etc.

- 3.1.1. Jen Petruniak/Linda McDougall reiterated that the Environmental Management Strategy does incorporate those other components.

- 3.1.2. Jack and Sandy Levin also noted that the Goal seems to conflict with page 4 of the Guidelines where the protection of ecological integrity is the first priority and recreational use is a secondary objective.

- 3.1.3. Jack suggested that a full stop (period placement) be put in the goal after “achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an Environmental Management Strategy”.

- 3.1.4. John Levstik requested that the Goal not exclude reference to recreational.

- 3.1.5. Sandy also touched on the installation of benches and that to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, these amenities would require concrete pads, resulting in significant changes to the ESA in south whereas benches installed in the north ESA is feasible due to the existing trail system.

- 3.1.6. Andrew Macpherson noted later in the meeting that installation of benches may not require concrete pads but could still meet the AODA as it is understood that accessibility is for everyone. The AACAC rep (Jacqueline Madden) supported Andrew’s statement.

- 3.1.7. Goal for the CMP was revised at the end of the discussion to the following:
To develop a comprehensive multi-year CMP that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an environmental management strategy.

- 3.1.8. It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials.

4. Agenda Item – Overview of Public Open House Purpose

- 4.1. Sandy asked for clarification on the type of input the team is looking for from the groups the LAC members represent.

- 4.1.1. A response was provided from Dillon that this will be addressed further into the meeting and that follow-up after the meeting is possible if questions remain.

5. Agenda Item – Information to be Presented at the Public Open House

- 5.1. Jack Blocker posed a question regarding how the survey will be distributed online.
 - 5.1.1. Survey is to be hosted on Dillon website with notifications in local papers, mail-outs to residents adjacent to the ESA and mail-outs to Phase 1 public meeting attendees (where contact information is available) with links to the online survey. Paper copies of the survey will also be made available for those without access to internet.
- 5.2. Sandy Levin was puzzled as to why anybody could fill out the survey (i.e., the survey is open to anyone who has access to the internet).
 - 5.2.1. Karla touched on that it is a consultation tool and not to be used for statistical purposes.
- 5.3. Mady wanted clarification that maps would be online for posting comments/markups.
 - 5.3.1. Karla confirmed that mapping would be available online for comments.
- 5.4. Sarah Pierce wondered if the survey could include Postal Codes to help collect information on where people are from that are providing input.
- 5.5. Sarah also noted the application ArcGIS Collector may be useful for collecting data from the public by making the mapping available on mobile devices.
- 5.6. The idea of including the definition of the CMP from the Official plan as a lead-up to the Goal statement was discussed. This is in hopes of providing more clarity on the purpose of the CMP to the public.
- 5.7. John questioned whether there was a goal for the North MVHF ESA trail master plan.
 - 5.7.1. Linda was unsure as the development of the goal for the Trail Master Plan was prior to her time working on the MVHF. Keith mentioned there were goals but not quite to the full extent of what is currently proposed for the south and the process was different during that plan and has become more refined.
- 5.8. Sandy asked whether there could be some connection to outline the planning of the MVHF as a whole and mention the ever evolving and refining of the guidelines/standards etc. as information at the Open House. This was confirmed.
- 5.9. Chris Sheculski suggested showing where the CMP process is currently at would be beneficial for the public to see. This was agreed upon.
- 5.10. Sandy noted the exclusion of the Huron/ Western lands from Phase 1 and asked if there would be an explanation for the exclusion should the public inquire. It was confirmed that the mapping would reflect “data was not available at the time of analysis”.
- 5.11. Katrina Moser brought up the benefits of providing an explanation to public at the Open House as to what are Species at Risk (SAR) and which species shown on the mapping are SAR. Panels could specify which species are provincially protected by legislation such as the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. This was confirmed as something that would be outlined at the Open House.
 - 5.11.1. Sandy also noted the panels should mention the habitat of SAR is also protected. This was confirmed to provide clarity to the public.

- 5.11.2. Renee Agathos suggested that the explanations of SAR should also include photos of the species and why they are risk. This was confirmed for representative species as not all could be highlighted given the diversity in the ESA.
- 5.11.3. Sandy suggested that photos only be included for those species that cannot be picked/picked up (i.e., trees). This will be considered.
- 5.11.4. Major takeaway from discussion on SAR is that the Open House presents an opportunity to educate the general public on SAR present in the ESA.

6. Agenda Item – Review of Survey Questions

- 6.1. Several members of the LAC noted incorrect or missing portions of organization names. This will be corrected and confirmed with the City prior to distribution of the survey.
- 6.2. One request was made that the survey include the first three digits of Postal Code.
- 6.3. Sarah expressed her concern that the first survey question listing all the organizations was overwhelming and provided a suggestion that it ask for the postal code and if whether you're part of a group (text answer).
 - 6.3.1. Keith suggested if the full list of organizations is kept, "general public" should be put first.
- 6.4. Keith suggested adding a question about whether you have ever been to the MVHF South and if yes, at what frequency?
- 6.5. Dr. Rhonda Bathurst noted that the list of activities people do in the ESA could be expanded to include things like foraging, which Linda noted is against ESA by-laws and can be reported for enforcement. Inclusion of other items like foraging may give insight as to the level of non-permitted activities.
- 6.6. Mady suggested that the option of hike be revised to be hike/walk.
- 6.7. Discussion was held regarding the question asking for thoughts on trail condition. It was determined that this question is unnecessary and wouldn't lead to useful data as people's perspective on trail condition may vary greatly.
- 6.8. Sandy noted that the questions should be written in way as to not raise the public expectations, in particular installation of trail amenities with the example being benches.
 - 6.8.1. Jacqueline Madden noted that certain amenities, like handrails, could be installed with significant impact and improve the ESA's accessibility. It was agreed to expand on the list of examples of amenities.
- 6.9. Bruce West noted that the Wonderland bridge that passes over Snake Creek has a number of people from the Aldershot and White Hills areas accessing the ESA and there should be consideration for those people as well in terms of mail-outs.
- 6.10. Mady suggested including a question asking what access or portion of the ESA you tend to use most.
- 6.11. Katrina questioned the question with the ranking of importance and that it needs some clarity for the public.
 - 6.11.1. Sandy noted again the ranking of importance again may raise expectations and that there should be panels to educate attendees on the City policy.

- 6.12. Katrina asked about the design and condition of trails and how important this information really is. Katrina suggested there may be another way to list this by including examples.
- 6.13. Renee touched on that members of the group would be good advocates for better bike routes/paths throughout the City to direct cyclists away from the ESA. This is beyond the mandate of this LAC.

7. Next Steps/Additional Comments

- 7.1. The City and Dillon confirmed the suggestions and input from LAC would be considered while the Open House survey was being finalized.
- 7.2. Keith noted for a small project in Sunningdale (park development), the access points had signs up to encourage attendance. Suggested physical signs at entrances to the ESA advertising the Open House and the survey. This was agreed to by the City.
- 7.3. Katrina noted that a number of staff from Huron/Western use the MVHF and wondered the best way to reach out to staff and notify them of the Open House. Jack and Michael as representatives of Huron and Western (respectively) will provide notice to their respective institutions.
- 7.4. Katrina suggested it may be nice to have computers/tablets at the Open House so attendees can fill out survey right away. Dillon responded there will be efforts to accommodate this.
- 7.5. Sandy noted in the surveys that there isn't a question regarding ranking of monitoring priorities and this should be considered as well.
- 7.6. The City and Dillon clarified that LAC members have from May 4 to July 1 to encourage their communities/associations to participate in the Open House and survey, as well as collect comments and input they feel will be useful as the CMP is drafted. Comments are to be provided using an MS Excel spreadsheet template file to be provided by the City within one week to facilitate compilation of comments and responses. An electronic file of the Phase 1 map will also be provided for additional comments and location references.
- 7.7. Next meeting is scheduled for July 27 in the same room and same time as Meeting #2. The LAC can expect to receive a summary of the survey responses and Open House comments received, as well as a compiled list of LAC comments and preliminary responses for review at least one week in advance of meeting #3 (i.e., July 20).
- 7.8. Meeting concluded at 19:10

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions. Please note, Item 1.1.1 was revised based on a comment received on May 11, 2017



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #3 for MVHF ESA (south)
Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: July 27, 2017 17:30 – 19:00

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katarina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
John Levstik+	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James McKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

+indicates departure from meeting prior to adjournment.

Regrets

Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Review of Public Engagement
1.1.	Sandy Levin requested an explanation of what comments received wouldn't be applicable to the CMP.

- 1.1.1. Dillon provided clarification that some members of the public used the online mapping/survey as a general forum to voice other issues to the City (e.g. road speeds). Those few comments that have nothing to do with the ESA wouldn't be applicable.
- 1.2. Greg Thorn had a question regarding the like/dislike feature on the Social Pinpoint and whether those were taken into consideration.
 - 1.2.1. Jen Petruniak provided some clarification that the like/dislike feature is considered more of a "fun feature" to encourage feedback but as there isn't a way to track whether someone clicked like/dislike multiple times on one comment, that type of feedback can't be relied on to provide accurate statistical feedback.
- 1.3. Sandy Levin requested clarification on the comment Dillon had regarding users of the Social Pinpoint putting multiple comments on the same issue and whether if 5 comments (pins) from the same person were only counted as one.
 - 1.3.1. Jen Petruniak noted that if a user commented 5 times on the same issue then that comment on that issue was only considered once as it was the same general topic. This generally occurred when a user posted a pin comment as well as survey comment with the same issue, sometimes using the same text.
 - 1.3.2. Karla provided more clarity to the LAC on the engagement/survey process and that, with multiple platforms being used, comments have to be carefully considered as the comments are not weighted. The process was not intended to be one of statistical sampling/data collection for decision-making. Comments received during the engagement process from the public and the LAC to date were used to identify items for consideration in the Draft CMP and review with the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs rather than being tabulated to make decisions.
- 1.4. Elgin Austen noted that Friends of Medway Creek undertook a survey their membership and came up with similar results.
- 2. Agenda Item – Discussion on Connected Trails and Crossings**
 - 2.1. **Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley Trail** - Sandy Levin wanted to note the south end of the Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley trail has very steep terrain which may result in the redesign of the trail being a challenge and should be taken into consideration.
 - 2.2. **Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley Trail** - Jack Blocker posed a question about the incorporation of the redesigned trail into a proposed naturalization area and if that is a contradiction.
 - 2.2.1. Jen Petruniak noted that placement of the trail and the naturalization of the existing mowed lawn area would ideally occur at the same time. This means the redesign of the trail is incorporated into naturalization efforts and helps to prevent formation of informal trails and limiting mowing encroachments by providing direction and guidance for users.
 - 2.3. Elgin Austen requested clarification on if there is a plan for the trail system being considered and what is the extent of where we're looking.
 - 2.3.1. Jen Petruniak noted that the trail plan is currently being developed based on the

feedback from the public and the LAC following the Guidelines. The extent is just the area of the ESA on public lands.

- 2.4. John Levstik wanted to note to the LAC that having been walking in the MVHF since 1986 he has noticed those restricted to the east side of the valley tend to stick to the limited number of loop walks and without a connection(s) to the west side, there may a drive to go off-trail and cause formation of informal trails as well as put further stress on the managed trails by not distributing use throughout the valley.
- 2.5. **Enforced Closure of Informal Trail** - Mady Hymowitz requested clarification on what is proposed for the closure of the informal trail and placement of a connection.
 - 2.5.1. Jen Petruniak provided clarification that the informal trail would additional effort to enforce the trail closure and that without a connection, the trail may be continued to be used.
- 2.6. Elgin Austen posed the question of whether it would better to build/formalize improvements to trails before closing the informal trails so it encourages users to use managed trails instead of informal trails.
- 2.7. Jack Blocker presented another scenario where a connection may increase use of the informal trail south of Fanshawe Park Road West.
- 2.8. Sandy Levin brought up a summarized citation from the Guidelines from Leung and Marion (2000) that was incorrect in noting bridges, fences etc. Sandy offered to provide the 2000 paper as well as newer research paper from Leung and Marion from 2016.
 - 2.8.1. Jen Petruniak thanked Sandy for his comment and welcomed his offer to provide the papers.
 - 2.8.2. Upon review of the Guidelines and 2012 Trail Standards, it was noted that the citation was carried over to the 2016 Guidelines from the 2012 Trail Standards.
- 2.9. Keith Zerebecki requested clarification whether the feedback from the public was asking for 5 crossings or if there were 5 different locations for crossings suggested and would those crossings be designed to accommodate vehicles.
 - 2.9.1. Jen Petruniak noted that the feedback identified 5 potential locations for crossings.
 - 2.9.2. Andrew Macpherson noted the City hasn't received any direction for future potential crossings to be designed for vehicles.
- 2.10. Jack Blocker wanted to know why crossings are even being considered when the comments provided by the LAC members indicate a clear opposition to crossings.
 - 2.10.1. Jen Petruniak provided clarification that while the LAC comments are under consideration there was other feedback from the public also has to be considered and reviewed with the Guidelines which included requests for connections and crossings.
- 2.11. Andrew Macpherson noted that the Bloomfield crossing was community driven and the community members worked to fund its construction to connect existing trails and minimize impacts to the ESA. Project was successful in directing users from riparian areas and area is now habitat for sensitive species around the one trail.
- 2.12. Greg Thorn wanted to point out that the Bloomfield bridge crosses over a much small

feature whereas a crossing over the Medway Creek would have to be much larger.

- 2.13. Karla Kolli initiated a round-table discussion to get LAC member's specific feedback on crossings and whether there are other considerations outside of the Guidelines.
- 2.13.1. Elgin Austen – Asked if there would be consideration for a site visit for the LAC to view crossing areas. Would volunteer to attend.
- 2.13.2. Jack Blocker – There was a point made by a member of the LAC in the comments that doesn't appear to have been considered. By installing connections and increasing access there may be a decrease in illegitimate activities but on the flipside, with increased legitimate use where is the limit to when increased legitimate use (i.e. volume of users) starts to have a negative impact on the ESA. This consideration should have even more weight in the monitoring.
- 2.13.3. Michael Lunau – perhaps there could be consideration for a different type of connection outside of the trail system, such as a trestle bridge connecting Doncaster Gate to Windermere. This would allow for a connection that could also accommodate bicycles and keep them off the ESA trail system.
- 2.13.4. Sandy Levin – can we please include comments from observers (this was permitted, though kept until after LAC members had provided feedback). One major consideration is whether a crossing creates more of a problem than it solves. Once a crossing is installed it generally isn't going anywhere. If the crossing starts to impact the ESA in the future, how would it effectively be closed? Installation of connections have to be considered as a whole with other elements of the CMP. The example of crossing A would need effective closure and education for users for the informal trail to the east, otherwise it may continue to be used, even with a connection. Also, if there isn't budget to undertake the follow-up monitoring then the crossing doesn't meet the objectives. There has to be concurrent monitoring and effective closures with the installation of a crossing for it to work.
- 2.13.5. Greg Thorn – one of the very first things that should be considered is what the rationale is for a crossing. Would it meet the definition of fitting in with the ESA? An example that comes to mind is if a bridge was installed in the University/College properties to connect the residence with Huron College. It would bring much more traffic onto the campus. If a bridge is installed, would it not bring more users including those on bicycles? The draw for other users should be considered.
- 2.13.6. Mady Hymowitz – the slides say connection but the main body is always referring to a bridge. It should be very clear what the intention of the crossings is so people don't get the wrong idea. A common understanding on what to expect would be beneficial so people don't start dreaming about moss-laden stepping stones and we end up with bridges like the north. Andrew clarified that the stones recommended in the 1996 study were confirmed not to meet regulatory requirements but could be re-explored.
- 2.13.7. Dan Jones – was the request for a site visit for the LAC to visit recommended improvements or would that be a Trails Advisory Group? Clarification was made that the request for LAC to view crossing areas.
- 2.13.8. Alex Vanderkam – a temporary bridge was installed where crossing A is shown during

installation of the sewer. Consideration for previous crossings should be made.

- 2.13.9. Jacqueline Madden – noted that while some of the LAC comments do indicate opposition to crossings there are members of the LAC in favour of crossings
- 2.13.10. Keith Zerebecki – if one concern is the bridge drawing cyclists could it not be designed to restrict access for bikes.
- 2.13.11. John Levstik – there has been some positive and negative changes in the ESA during his time living adjacent to it. Positives being naturalization of the Elsie Perrin estate while negatives are increased stresses on the trail system (i.e. widening, creation of informal trails). A connection would help to lessen the strain on the trail system by dispersing users to both sides of the valley. Has witnessed people stuck on the same loops and still using closed trails.
- 2.13.12. Katrina Moser – there seems to be a focus on the individual components (i.e. crossings) and not looking at them as a whole within the ESA. Connectivity needs to be looked at as a whole and not in sections. While feedback did indicate a need for crossings, feedback also indicated opposition to crossings. Both sides need to be considered and there should be a strong rationale if the decision is to include crossings
- 2.13.13. Rhonda Bathurst – has there been consideration for the cultural aspect for crossings. Jen Petruniak noted that crossing installations would need to undertake archeology assessments.
- 2.13.14. Public Observer – if money is put into the building of structures, would that mean less money towards upkeep and maintenance of the trails? Consideration should be given to where a trail connects to.
- 2.13.15. Public Observer – was there consideration for a constraint map? If a map showing constraints like water, contours, SAR was provided there may have been more focused comments. Linda McDougall noted that the 2016 addendum to the Phase I findings identified constraints consistent with the Guidelines.
- 2.14. Greg Thorn noted that crossing D has significant topography (i.e. flat) and may require a long run and be very costly.
- 2.15. John Levstik noted just before departing at 19:00, the trail leading to Ambleside Park is quite lovely and provides for connection to the neighbourhoods to the east.
- 2.16. Keith Zerebecki wanted clarification that if the Bloomfield bridge was considered now it wouldn't meet the guidelines and does it make sense to take into other considerations that override the guidelines if the overall benefit outweighs the direction of the guidelines. If crossing B and crossing C are not included, what are the future impacts?
- 2.17. Sandy Levin noted that crossing D is adjacent to a trail loop to the southeast that passes through habitats for species of conservation concern. Consideration should be for what the potential impacts to those species may be with increased trail use.
- 2.18. Jack Blocker has concerns that crossings A and D would bring more people to one side of the creek and increase the volume of use.
- 2.19. Elgin Austen noted that Friends of Medway Creek completed surveys which indicated a number of residents are not even aware of the valley and doesn't imagine there would

an increase in volume. If the crossing are not feasible, what about conversion of informal to managed to provide a connection.

- 2.20. Sandy Levin provided some input regarding the trail north of crossing A and that it is very wet so there is more than just a bridge to consider. With installation of a crossing, that would bring more people to the south area where False Rue-anemone are located. What would be the impacts to those species with increase use.
- 2.21. Greg Thorn wanted to connect Sandy's point to Katrina's in that there really has to be consideration for the ESA as a whole and not focused on the individual components like crossings.
- 2.22. Jacqueline Madden provided some insight from living adjacent to the north part of the ESA and that with the connections, users seem to stick to the managed trail system and don't veer off and the trail surfaces are user friendly and not wet and slippery.
- 2.23. Sandy Levin countered Jacqueline noting the north was a different situation as the trail system got placed right after the sewer installation. Sandy also wanted to note even if crossing D was installed, people may still use the informal trails, in particular the one between B and C.
- 2.24. Greg Thorn noted the mown lawn associated with Attawandron Park should also be considered as an option for a trail to help provide connectivity without the need for connection A.
- 2.25. Jacqueline Madden wanted clarification if there would be one plan for the system.
 - 2.25.1. Jen Petruniak clarified that the final version of the CMP would include one plan for the trail system.

3. Next Steps/Additional Comments

- 3.1. Next meeting (meeting #4) is scheduled for September 7 in the same room and same time as Meeting #3. The LAC can expect to receive a draft CMP in the later part of August for review prior to meeting #4. Meeting #4 is to provide members of the LAC with an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft CMP after which feedback will be taken back to make revisions to the CMP, as necessary, prior to finalizing.
- 3.2. Meeting concluded at 19:30

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #4 for MVHF ESA (south)
Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: September 7, 2017 17:30 – 19:30

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Susan Hall	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Sarah Peirce*	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West+	Attawandaron Residents
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz+	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item Discussion

Prior to the start of the meeting's presentation, Karla Kolli overview the updated schedule with regards to LAC meetings and release of an updated draft and final report. The updated schedule includes:

- A Revised Draft Phase II CMP is now to be provided to the LAC members on

October 20, 2017

- Next LAC meeting (#5) is now on November 2, 2017
- The second community open house is now to be on November 15, 2017
- The final Phase II CMP report is to be released on November 24, 2017
- The final Phase II CMP report is to be presented to the Planning and Environment Committee of Council in December 2017

With this updated schedule, Sandy Levin wanted confirmation whether there was an updated timeline for providing comments on the draft CMP. It was confirmed that the date for providing comments on the draft CMP is now **September 21** for LAC members and September 28 for EEPAC and ACCAC. The spreadsheet provided is to be used to submit comments.

1. Agenda Item – Review of Draft CMP

- 1.1. As a lead-in to the review of the draft CMP, Karla asked the LAC members to indicate how many have had a chance to review the document.
 - 1.1.1. As show of hands indicated the majority of members have reviewed the document in some capacity.
- 1.2. Karla then asked the members to provide some first impressions and comments.
 - 1.2.1. Sandy Levin requested confirmation that NA5 in the document is also the area that currently has a sign indicating it is Attawandaron Park. It was confirmed the area noted in the CMP as NA5 is currently known as Attawandaron Park and that the park is located in the ESA boundaries.
 - 1.2.2. Rhonda Bathurst noted that there is an ongoing issue with ESA users parking on museum property and accessing informal trails off their property. The City was thanked for the new signage which is helping to direct users to the official trail access to the west.
 - 1.2.3. Susan Hall mentioned that the AODA signage that City is committing to is very important and noted that Pinery Provincial Park has some great signage. Susan provided an example in the MVHF ESA where the current signage isn't sufficient (south of Access Point #4 and Linkage A). Susan also noted that there is a sign in this area which is confusing as it references the Thames River. Linda McDougall noted that the sign was installed by the federal government.
 - 1.2.4. Rhonda Bathurst posed a question whether there are ways to control graffiti on signs. Linda mentioned the current signage has graffiti resistant coating that is supposed to make removal of graffiti easier.
 - 1.2.5. Chris Sheculski noted how well interpretative signage works with younger people who enjoy sharing that knowledge with others.
 - 1.2.6. Sandy Levin wanted to clarify that closure of informal/closed trails are also included in Option 2 and Option 3 for the trail management strategy. It was confirmed that yes, those two options merge the recommendations from the option before it including the closure of informal and un-managed trails following steps in Guidelines.
- 1.3. Sandy Levin also pointed out the potential challenge of installing barricades/corrals at the intersection of the Level 1 and Level 2 trails south of Access Point 10 as the area is

very open.

The three trail concept plans outlined as part of the Trail Management Strategy were review in detailed and after each option was presented, LAC members were encouraged provide feedback.

Enhanced As-Is Option

- 1.4. Sandy Levin noted that the trail proposed to be reopened which connects Doncaster Gate to Snake Creek Valley has an informal trail that comes off it to the northwest that passes through private property (leads to where Linkage D is). Sandy requested that enforcing closure of this informal trail should be addressed in the implementation plan.
- 1.5. Sandy Levin noted that upgrading trails north and south of Medway Creek to level 2 from level 1 without a connection across the creek doesn't make sense.
- 1.6. Sandy Levin noted the informal trail on the east side of the creek, from linkage A (presented in Option 3) – doesn't appear to be that active of an informal trail and that representatives from UTRCA mentioned it's not that active.
- 1.7. Sarah Peirce wanted to know whether there had been consideration for a true "Do-nothing" option without improving certain trails.
 - 1.7.1. Jen Petruniak noted that there would never be a true do-nothing option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the features in the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The Enhanced As-Is option in the CMP presents improvements to existing trails.
- 1.8. Michael Lunau noted Access Points #15 and #16 lead onto private lands (UWO/Huron) and requested that these points not be formalized and be removed from the maps as public access points due to the potential liability issue for Western. Western and the City will discuss this.
 - 1.8.1. It was noted by the City and Dillon that the access points already exist and removal of them from the ESA would also affect the trails in that portion of the MVHF ESA (south) and a discussion would be needed between the City and UWO.

Partial Connectivity

- 1.9. Rhonda Bathurst noted the proposed new trail through NA5 may contribute the on-going issue of users parking at the museum. If this trail is constructed, the museum is hoping measures will be in place to direct users away from parking at the museum and that if parking issues persist, that the City would help to mitigate.
- 1.10. Sandy Levin noted that even if a new trail is put in, there may still be issues with use of informal trails as it provides a straight line.
 - 1.10.1. Linda suggested measures such as new fencing, and native plantings to screen views into the parking lot and the informal trails could be part of the implementation plan to reduce use of the museum parking lot and informal trails.

Enhanced Connectivity (Linkage A)

- 1.11. Sandy Levin noted that the CMP should be upfront about the options for linkages and present what the options could look like to make the distinction that a bridge would not

look like the wooden bridge over Rollingwood/Bloomfield Creek in the south. The newest bridge in the MVHF ESA (north) just south of Sunningdale was shown as an example.

- 1.12. Elgin Austin wanted to know if a bridge isn't an option what are the other options?
 - 1.12.1. Jen Petruniak noted stepping stones are the other option but the particular section of the creek at Linkage A was proposed to be a bridge to connect accessible trails.
- 1.13. Jacqueline Madden noted that ACCAC would be supportive of a bridge for Linkage A.
- 1.14. Jack Blocker has issues with the proposed hardening of trails and installation of linkages. Jack specifically brought up that the review of potential linkages have only be assessed at the local site level and not with the entire ESA in mind. Jack provided an example of the 31 flora with a coefficient of conservation value of 8 or higher (indicating higher quality, less disturbed habitat) and that increased use in the ESA due to the hardening of trails and installation of linkages have the potential to impact the greater ESA. Jack noted that the CMP should address how hardening and linkages may increase use, potentially resulting in more undesired use and whether the ESA as a whole would be impacted.
- 1.15. Elgin Austin provided a counter point to Jack's in that hardening of trails and linkages will help to direct users to stay on the managed trail system.
- 1.16. Jack Blocker wanted to know why crossings are even being considered when the comments provided by the LAC members indicate a clear opposition to crossings.
 - 1.16.1. Renee Agathos agreed with Elgin that without proper linkages, people are getting to the creek and walking along banks trying to find a crossing. Renee also noted that there are wildlife native to the ESA that have just as much potential to trample (and eat) vegetation as off-leash dogs.
 - 1.16.2. James Mackay clarified that the Guidelines help direct the formation of CMPs for City ESAs for the protection of the ecological integrity of an ESA as a whole.
- 1.17. Jacqueline Madden noted that the AODA would help to guide the types of trail surface to be used.
- 1.18. Sandy Levin noted that the north trail leading to Linkage A that runs adjacent to Significant Wildlife Habitat (Amphibian Breeding Habitat) is rather wet which may be deterring use. Sandy touched on upgrading the trail surface may increase trail use and consideration should be as to how this may impact the wildlife habitat. Sandy further noted that one main concern is the potential increase in the number of people after upgrading of trails and installation of this Linkage and how increased use may impact areas of sensitive ecological features. Sandy noted that if there impacts to features caused by increased use, what is the approach to correct/mitigate said impacts? If impacts are determined to be associated with the Linkage, it is not feasible to remove the bridge once installed.
 - 1.18.1. Linda reiterated that the direction provided by the Guidelines and the existing measures in place for the ESA are protecting sensitive species. The experience in London consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is that as trail use increases, compliance with the rules also increases. The draft Recovery Strategy for False-rue anemone recommends outreach and stewardship to educate the public on the

species and its habitat, in areas with public access noting the well-defined walking trails in the Medway in London have helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness of this species.

1.19. Chris Sheculski wanted to know more about the user counter in the valley and what the data says about the number of people in the valley before and after bridge installation?

1.19.1. Linda noted that the presentation has some detailed data. Chris provided a personal observation in the MVHF ESA (north) that after the bridge installation there appears to be more people but no notable difference regarding impacts to the ESA. During garbage collections there doesn't appear to be increases in garbage and no obvious trampling/off-trail use.

Enhanced Connectivity (Linkage D)

After Dillon overviewed the approach to Linkage D and that implementation would only occur after monitoring is undertaken for Linkage A and further review of the feasibility and appropriateness of Linkage D with regards to the Guidelines, regulations, visual impact study and consultation is undertaken. Karla asked members to indicate their general comfort with the approach to implementing Linkage D.

1.20. Sandy Levin was in general opposition noting that the areas connected by Linkage D are not similar to the areas connected by Linkage A or in the area in the MVHF ESA (north) where the counter was located. Sandy noted the issue with Linkage D is that it connects an area of the valley that has been used for over 40 years that has a number of existing issues such as informal trails and off-leash dogs. Linkage D would bring more people to the north side of the creek which is less used. Sandy noted he can't see how undesired uses can be controlled if Linkage D is implemented.

1.21. Sarah Peirce wanted to know whether other trails on the north side of the creek which are currently level 1 would be upgraded to level 2 to increase accessibility?

1.21.1. Jen Petruniak noted that no, trails on the north side of the creek would remain as level 1.

1.22. Mady Hymowitz noted that she doesn't think the linkage is feasible and has concerns that the focus for monitoring is too much on users (i.e. people) and not on other features, such as sensitive species. The monitoring mentioned focuses on Linkage A and Linkage D, how is the ESA to be monitored has a whole?

1.23. Rhonda Bathurst brought up the previous point regarding Access Points #15 and #16. If these points are closed, how would this affect the implementation of Linkage D?

1.24. Renee Agathos requested clarification on why there is such a focus on the Guidelines?

1.24.1. Jen Petruniak noted that several groups involved in the LAC were also involved in the Trails Focus Group who oversaw the development of the Guidelines. A show of hands indicated several LAC members participated in the creation of the Guidelines and Dillon mentioned a number of groups represented by LAC members participated in the Guidelines development. James Mackay also noted that the Guidelines help marry the protection of an ESA with recreational use. Jacqueline Madden also noted that means recreational use for **all** people.

1.25. Jacqueline Madden wondered whether the CMP will eventually just present one plan and who is deciding what the final plan is to be?

- 1.25.1. Jen Petruniak noted that yes, the final CMP will include just one trail concept plan and that it is to incorporate comments from the LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC.
- Conclusion** – *a round table was held for final comments from members*
- 1.26. Dan Jones wanted to know what kind of work has been done around Access Point #12 as it connects to other City owned parkland.
- 1.26.1. Linda noted there has been some recent work along the linear trail to the west of the access which has included removal of hazard trees.
- 1.27. Rhonda Bathurst wanted to note there may be opportunities for other partnerships with groups on implementation activities noting the museum might be one such partnership.
- 1.28. Susan Hall noted that from reviewing the CMP she was surprised on the historic cultural use of the MVHF and provided a comparison with Algonquin Park which also has past historic disturbances which have succeeded into natural areas.
- 1.29. Jacqueline Madden provided some insight from living adjacent to the north part of the ESA and that with the connections, users seem to stick to the managed trail system and don't veer off and the trail surfaces are user friendly and not wet and slippery.
- 1.30. Sandy Levin has questions/concerns on the implementation plan and that the CMP doesn't include specific plans. Sandy also brought up that the ESA Team mentioned in the CMP is the same team responsible for 9 ESAs and that the budget for the team was cut by last Council. This leads to a concern that a lot of the monitoring and implementation won't occur due to lack of funding. There should be caution at the front end, recognizing there could be limitations in implementing recommendations due to limited budgets.
- 1.31. Jack Blocker noted our job on the LAC is not to find the middle ground but to protect the ESA. There seems to be three possible outcomes – the human use of the ESA does not increase, which means the money spent on improvements is wasted; use is increased but does not increase the impact on sensitive areas (best outcome); use increases but impacts increase – failure at protection of ecological integrity.
- 1.32. Sarah Peirce noted that inclusion of education opportunities is great as well as more signage. Use of existing partnerships and increasing partnerships would be great but also expansion of education/training, noting ChildReach's Wild Child Day program in the City.
- 1.33. Elgin Austin noted that Friends of Medway Creek membership has indicated preserving ecological integrity and education is important as well as seeing that implementation is done correctly. Connectivity of the trails appears to have helped keeping users on trail in the north. The south has issues with users off trail which may be improved through use of connections.
- 1.34. Michael Lunau wanted to reiterate that UWO is not opposed to connecting public trails to campus trails to help keep trails open and that UWO is working on campus trail plans which need work on their end.
- 1.35. Dan Jones noted that the ESA team has on-going issues with public relations.
- 2. Next Steps/Additional Comments**
- 2.1. LAC to provide comments on Draft CMP by September 21, 2017

- 2.2. Next meeting (meeting #5) is scheduled for November 2 in the same room and same time as Meeting #4. The LAC can expect to receive an updated draft CMP (draft II) on October 20 prior to Meeting #5. Meeting #5 is to gain an endorsement of CMP Phase 2 Report by the LAC prior to finalizing as well as discuss Community Open House Meeting #2 to be held on November 15.
- 2.3. Meeting concluded at 19:30

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #5 for MVHF ESA (south)
 Conservation Master Plan Phase 2
Date and Time: November 2, 2017 17:30 – 19:30
Location: City Hall, City of London
Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Brandon Williamson*	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy - Restoration)
1.1.	No comments on overview of revised CMP up until the Environmental Management

Strategy - Restoration

- 1.1.1. Sandy Levin noted he has some ideas for providing clarity on the wording and will provide for incorporation into the final CMP document.
- 2. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy - Naturalization)
 - 2.1. Sandy Levin posed the question - why there is a trail proposed through Attawandaron Park when there is a sidewalk connection?
 - 2.1.1. Jennifer Petruniak responded that there is a noticeable difference when walking on a sidewalk in an urban neighbourhood then along a trail through a natural area.
- 3. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy – Trail Management Plan)
 - 3.1. Regarding proposed bridge at Linkage A over Medway Creek and example in the MVHF ESA (north), Greg Thorn wanted to note that the banks of the creek where the Sunningdale West pedestrian bridge are much steeper than Linkage A and a bridge at Linkage A would likely require a further span.
 - 3.2. Keith Zerebecki noted he had missed that last meeting and requested clarification on the rationale for removing the linkage at Location D as an option.
 - 3.2.1. Jennifer Petruniak provided further explanation on the process. Given the types of trails a linkage at this location would connect, it was determined that the linkage would be difficult to implement in a manner that could be widely used.
 - 3.3. Sandy Levin brought up the proposed barricade/corral associated with the False Rue-anemone trail loop and that he is unsure how an effective barricade/corral can be due to the width and openness of the area over the utility overlay. Corraling at the entrance to the trail loop may prove difficult. Sandy followed this observation up with a question on whether the finer details of installing a barricade/corral would be included in the final CMP or done at as micro-siting exercise.
 - 3.3.1. It was noted by Dillon and the City that details of the barricade/corral would be reviewed the Local Implementation Committee (LIC). It was also noted that the barricade/corral in the slideshow picture is an existing structure already in place across the utility overlay with a narrower width, just south of Fanshawe Park Road West.
 - 3.4. Sandy Levin still wants a better understanding of what the trail counter information will inform the management of the ESA.
 - 3.4.1. Jennifer Petruniak replied that the placement of the trail counter would help collect data that could be used for comparison of the pre- and post- usage during monitoring and that the data collected would help with adaptive management, if required.
 - 3.5. Greg Thorn noted that there is a lot of hopeful conjecture regarding assumptions of the trail management plan.
 - 3.6. Jack Blocker stated what conclusion will be drawn with showing conclusions showing higher use versus lower use. If use increases, more compliance. If use decreases, compliance decreases?

- 3.6.1. John Levstik noted that the MVHF ESA (north) hasn't seen decreases in compliance –it has improved with increased use and that a better marked system in the south would see increased compliance.
- 3.7. Katrina Moser commented that the Kilally Meadows ESA example of no informal trails being created doesn't account for the pre-existing informal trails are still being used.
 - 3.7.1. Sandy Levin wanted to build on Katrina's comment that the trail closures are ranked in the CMP as moderate, does that mean all informal trails will be closed within 3 years? What is the timing of trail closures (Sandy not clear on the timing of closures vs. new trails/bridge)? Focusing on the informal trail that leads from the False Rue-anemone area to private property, it should be closed and enforced prior to installing any new trail upgrades/bridge.
 - 3.7.2. It was noted by Dillon and the City that the finer details on implementation of management actions are to be part of next steps. Moderate priority management actions are recommended to start within 3 years according to Table 3 in the CMP.
 - 3.7.3. Brandon Williamson wanted to note as one the ESA managers that placement of new trails/upgrades should occur first before trail closures as to provide users with the new alternative as closing trails first might lead to creation of new informal trails without an alternative. Brandon also noted that that the particular trail leading from the False Rue-anemone area has been difficult to effectively close due to most of the trail being located on private lands.
- 3.8. Jack Blocker understands that there are implementation priorities in the final CMP but wants to know if those priorities are to be set by the LIC?
 - 3.8.1. Linda McDougall reiterated that the CMP sets the priorities and LIC is to follow but that the priorities are broad and there is room to work within them.
 - 3.8.2. Jack followed up with wanting to know though whether the LIC has the authority to revise a set priority such as moving trail closure from moderate to Top?
 - 3.8.3. It was noted that the LIC will have some authority to sequence priorities for management actions as the CMP is a living document through the management period of 2018-2028. It should also be noted that closure/restoration of informal trails was set as a moderate priority to start within three years, based on the criteria in the CMP in Table 6 and as these include a number of trails which have already received initial or on-going closure/restoration efforts and are identified as Moderate instead of High or Top as work is already underway.
- 3.9. Rhonda Bathurst was curious on the structure of the LIC?
 - 3.9.1. Linda McDougall noted that anybody involved with the LAC is given invitation to join LIC.
- 3.10. Not related to Trail Management section, Sandy Levin noted that Table 3 (restoration) reads priorities for Restoration Overlays?
 - 3.10.1. Sandy was thanked and this was noted for revision in the final CMP as that table should be management actions in general and the title will be revised.
- 4. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Adaptive Management and Monitoring)
 - 4.1. Greg Thorn wanted to know where the counters are proposed and whether placement

would help determine use of managed trail and informal trails? Greg noted it would be good to place counters on both managed and unmanaged trails.

- 4.1.1. It was noted that counter locations are recommended in Table 12 in the CMP and Andrew Macpherson described the approach to placement of counters along the Thames Valley Parkway.
- 4.2. Sandy Levin noted Table 12 doesn't have a cost column like other tables and that it would be good to have estimated costs for monitoring.
 - 4.2.1. Jennifer Petruniak noted a column of costs was not included as the assumption of costs would not be accurate due to there being multiple monitoring tasks that may share the same budget and synergies in implementation could be applied.
- 4.3. Sandy Levin noted that bank migration is a monitoring element and that there has been no mention of the Medway Subwatershed Study Update (MSSU) outside of this CMP. Sandy wanted to know where the data is from the MSSU and who is managing it, as well as how is the MSSU tied with the CMP?
 - 4.3.1. Brandon Williamson noted that the migration data would be useful for determination of future crossings if data indicates overlap between trails and increasing creek meander.
 - 4.3.2. The City and Dillon noted that there hasn't been an update on the MSSU since 2013/2014 and that the project is currently on hold. Data was been collected as part of the MSSU following the placement of permanent monitoring pins to measure migration.
- 4.4. Sandy Levin noted Table 6 (page 19), it talks about Species at Risk (SAR) and doesn't really reference the habitat. Sandy noted it would make sense to add reference to SAR habitat as well to provide clarity. This was agreed to.
- 5. Next Steps
 - 5.1. Mady Hymowitz mentioned she is unclear on purpose of the second Open House?
 - 5.1.1. It was noted by Dillon and the City that the second Open House to present how information was used that was collected during the first Open House and from the LAC meetings and to present the most recent draft CMP. This will be the public's opportunity to provide any final feedback on the CMP.
 - 5.2. Jacqueline Madden noted that the second draft was presented to ACCAC and they have some additional feedback on the second draft CMP and wanted to know what the process is for providing additional feedback?
 - 5.2.1. Andrew Macpherson noted that additional information is welcome and that if feedback from the second open house comes back with any significant changes, the CMP may be revised and LAC would be advised of significant changes. Andrew also noted that it is best to submit something in writing noting which group the feedback is from.
- 6. Endorsement of CMP for Public Presentation
 - 6.1. Before leading into the discussion of endorsement, Karla Kolli requested a round table discussion to see if there any further comments on the revised CMP document.
 - 6.1.1. Keith Zerebecki noted he hasn't been able to convince the members of the MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association that this plan is a solid concept

as a lot of the members in the north are expecting to see similar a trail system (multi-use, asphalt) to the north with a connection to Thames Valley Parkway. Doesn't have backing of his group.

- 6.1.2. Jacqueline Madden noted the suggestion from ACCAC was to provide an east-west link from A11 to A 19.
- 6.1.3. John Levstik wants to see further access and availability of trails.
- 6.1.4. Bruce West likes that the CMP takes into consideration people and the preservation.
- 6.1.5. Brandon Williamson had no further comment.
- 6.1.6. Alex Vanderkam mentioned his group is happy about the bridge and compliance with AODA.
- 6.1.7. Rhonda Bathurst had no further comment.
- 6.1.8. Mady Hymowitz mentioned that she felt the comments from the public were mostly in opposition to the crossings.
- 6.1.9. Katrina Moser noted that EEPAC doesn't feel like the protection of ecological integrity is being met.
- 6.1.10. Greg Thorn noted the ratepayers group he is representing won't endorse the CMP with a bridge included in the concept plan though noting they would endorse the bulk of the document with the caveat that it should not include a bridge/crossing.
- 6.1.11. Sandy Levin mentioned the CMP contains lots of good stuff and did not want to "throw the baby out with the bath water" but is not supportive of the bridge at Linkage A.
- 6.1.12. Jack Blocker had no further comments.
- 6.1.13. Elgin Austin reiterated that the CMP shouldn't be a combination of little plans (i.e. north and south) and should be looked at as a whole for connectivity from north to south (north/south).
- 6.1.14. Michael Lunau had no further comment.
- 6.1.15. Chris Sheculski noted that there are members of the LAC with a scientific background and that we should reference the data given when coming to a decision. Use has gone up in the north part of the ESA and so has compliance with rules, and off trail use has disappeared.
- 6.2. Karla Kolli asked for a show of hands of which LAC members could endorse to move plan forward to the public and City Council noting that there would be some final revisions based on final feedback but no significant revisions expected. Karla also asked the LAC if they thought that they could ever all agree on "one plan" and the response was negative.
 - 6.2.1. The show of hands indicated that four of the members could endorse the document "As-is"
- 6.3. Jacqueline Madden wanted to note that ACCAC wouldn't support plan 100% but would support most of the plan and wanted to know whether the approach to endorsement is having a group's 100% approval?
 - 6.3.1. Andrew noted that there are two sides generally represented and that achieving

endorsement of the CMP would likely not be a simple Yes/No vote. Andrew noted that the CMP complies with the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (pausing to confirm that with the LAC) and that despite this, the document may still not meet 100% agreement for all groups in LAC. Andrew also noted that conversations are still needed with Western and ACCAC to follow-up with some of their questions/concerns that may suffice for those groups to endorse.

- 6.4. It was discussed among the group how to approach endorsement and it was decided that a round table yes/no was to be asked along with providing any caveat or “the one thing” that may preclude certain groups from endorsing the current CMP.

Member	Group Represented	Support for CMP*	Caveat(s) for Support
Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)		Good improvement going forward recognizing everything cannot be perfect/ accessible. Would like City to consider ACCACs additional recommendations that they may provide. Hoping for additional presentation at Nov.23 ACCAC meeting. Linda noted she will be presenting to ACCAC.
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)		Noted there are lots of things that are good in the CMP and that EEPAC has seen the second draft but can't really endorse without further discussion with EEPAC. Can't endorse with bridge included.
Brandon Williamson	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)	Y	Wanted to note the snake creek crossing and the connection through Attawandaron, once implemented, will result in fully connected trail from north to university, though not entirely AODA. Crossing over Snake Creek, there needs to be trail work on east side of creek as migration is cutting into trail.

Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek	Y?	Used to do a lot of hiking in the south but now with pedestrian bridge, does more hiking in north. Without well connected trails there would still be creation of informal trails. Can endorse but does want to bring back to group for their input.
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA		Can't endorse because of Bridge. The restoration points are good but unsure of implementation. Has a worry that that the priorities for recommendations not be implemented due to budget. Timing, priorities and bridge are biggest issues for endorsement. Worried that a bridge would use up the bulk of ESA budget.
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA		The ESA south, is a very different place than north of Fanshawe. Putting trails through much more significant areas, Sherwood/Orchard Park noted that while crossing D is no longer option, cannot support the bridge proposed. A more planned out trail system and system outside of ESA to connect neighbourhoods would be better than putting a bridge in.
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA		Notes that if this is the best the connectivity can be then could endorse but there is an expectation of the north residents that what is in north should be in the south. If there is going to be opposition from south residents to connectivity then north residents may stand up for achieving connectivity.

Michael Lunau	Western University	Y	In the terms of the interest of the university, not their place to endorse trail crossings, trail placements – no other hurdles other than access points leading to and from Western’s lands brought up previously.
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents		Good with CMP except for the bridge at location A
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology	Y	Recognizing that 100% agreement won’t be achieved, but can endorse
Jack Blocker	Huron University College		Huron is concerned with the protection of the ecological integrity of the ESA and cannot endorse due to the bridge and the trails leading to bridge as it will not protect the ecological integrity. The other management recommendations (restoration, naturalization) are fine.
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London		Noted that the restoration and management is good but that ESAs are established to protect and shouldn’t be about connectivity of trails. Cannot endorse with bridge.
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)	Y	Number of folks from TVTA were out at first open house and can endorse as is.
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers	Y	Can endorse plan, appreciating the connection proposed.
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)		Environmental elements are outstanding and the works being done are much appreciated. Issue is the connectivity from north to Western. Wouldn’t endorse as is due to lack of connectivity.

*where there is a lack of notation, this indicates there was a caveat preventing endorsement.

- 6.5. With the above noted support and/or opposition, the feedback provided is to be taken away for discussion and consideration before presenting CMP to public at the second open house.
- 6.6. Dave Potten, the alternate representative from TVTA, thought the CMP was done

comprehensively and that the restoration section was good. Wanted to note that moderate priority says *start within 3 years*. Dave also wanted to note that the reference to AODA used to remove option for Linkage D should be reviewed to ensure the appropriate messaging was used. Wanted to note that the entirety of the public was represented by the LAC and hopes that Council will do their the job of representing everybody. Hopes the public meeting will have opportunity for additional input.

- 6.7. The Community Open House Meeting #2 is to be held on November 15.
- 6.8. This was the final LAC meeting as part of the Phase II process and the meeting concluded at 19:30.

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: ESA CMP Planning Process and the AODA Information Meeting

Date and Time: February 21, 2018 17:30 – 19:00

Location: Stevenson Hunt Room, Central Library, City of London

Our File: 18-7086

Attendees

Michael Dawthorne*	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archaeology
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay+	City of London
John Fleming	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

The main purpose of this meeting was to further clarify the City of London's requirements to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) within the Conservation Master Planning process. The meeting also reviewed three main concerns with the October 2017 MVHF ESA (south) CMP and how they were addressed before the final version of the CMP is submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC). The meeting format included presentation of information related to both AODA and

the MVHF ESA (south) CMP. Opportunities were provided throughout the presentation for participants to ask questions and discuss the material being presented.

The meeting started with Andrew Macpherson welcoming those in attendance. Andrew relayed that the meeting was also being held to notify Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members of major revisions to the CMP that had been made to the October 2017 version of the CMP in response to comments received from committees of Council. It had been previously promised that if significant changes to the version to be submitted to PEC were made, the City would report back to the LAC first.

Andrew then introduced John Fleming from the City who is the Managing Director of Planning and the City Planner. Andrew noted that John would be the one bringing the motion to adopt the CMP to Council.

Mr. Fleming introduced himself to the LAC members in attendance and thanked them for their participation in the planning process including the 5 LAC meetings, 2 Open Houses, and a visit to the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayers AGM, and for bringing their local perspectives and expertise. Mr. Fleming provided his insight regarding where the CMP stands right now, acknowledging there are a few outstanding issues that the scientists and facilitators from Dillon Consulting will lead us through.

Notes

Item Discussion

1. Agenda Item - Welcome to Information Meeting

- 1.1. John Blocker posed a question about the documents provided at the meeting [referring to the comment letters received from ACCAC and EEPAC, as well as a Conservation Action Alert from Nature London], wondering who they were specifically addressed to?
 - 1.1.1. Linda McDougall noted that the January 2018 letter from ACCAC was directed to the Environmental and Parks Planning (E&PP) staff at the City, the December 2017 EEPAC Statement and Recommendations were from EEPAC's agenda (and the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) agenda) and the Nature London Conservation Action Alert was distributed to subscribers and was forwarded to E&PP staff at the City.
 - 1.1.2. Jack noted he was aware of one other document (referring to an alternate report) that was submitted for inclusion on the February PEC agenda but was not included in the documents provided to the members of the LAC.
 - 1.1.3. Linda noted that any documents submitted to the clerk for the PEC meeting were not sent to or received by City staff in E&PP and therefore would not be presented as part of the LAC process but included as part of the PEC meeting when it occurs.
 - 1.1.4. Karla Kolli reiterated that one of the focuses of this meeting was regarding AODA and the specific letters provided from EEPAC and ACCAC to the City, as these are two official committees that advise Council.
 - 1.1.5. Jack noted that he was still "baffled" by the choice of documents that were circulated to the LAC for this meeting.

1.1.6. Andrew closed off this comment by noting that the documents circulated to the LAC, in particular the ACCAC and EEPAC formal responses, were those that were received by City staff at E&PP. Andrew also noted that City staff from E&PP have not seen the document Jack was referring to.

2. Agenda Item - AODA and the CMP Process

2.1. Sandy Levin requested clarification on the wording in the AODA concerning “new or redeveloping” of trails and “must”. If the City is not constructing new trails or redeveloping trails then there is no “must” and no requirement to make trails accessible?

2.1.1. Jen Petruniak reiterated Dillon and the City’s interpretation of the AODA, as presented on the slides [that once the CMP process is started, the review pertains to all trails within the defined boundary of the ESA], and asked Michael Dawthorne to provide ACCAC’s interpretation as well.

2.1.2. Michael noted that ACCAC sees the CMP as applying to the entire valley and when an ESA is under review during a CMP process accessibility of trails for the entire feature is to be reviewed as a whole. This implies that a review of all trails in the MVHF ESA (south) was required though doesn’t mean all trails would be required to be made accessible. Michael noted that ACCAC’s interpretation of the AODA with regards to trails is the same as Dillon and City’s based on direction provided in the Guidelines. Michael closed his statement by also noting that improving accessibility of trails following the Guidelines doesn’t conflict with or override protection of the valley or the environment.

2.1.3. Jen touched on accessibility and protection of the environment as working together following the Guidelines, noting the exceptions under the AODA and noting that an example of how the exception is applied by the City, according to the Guidelines, will be provided during the presentation.

2.2. Mady Hymowitz posed the question whether any other CMP’s for ESAs have used this interpretation of AODA.

2.2.1. Andrew noted that other CMP’s, the most recent being The Coves, did include the same interpretation of the AODA.

2.2.2. Jen also noted that this is the first CMP applying the 2016 Guidelines and that the previous 2012 Trail Standards had too much ambiguity with regards to the definition of management zones and applicable types of trails permitted to consistently apply the AODA.

2.3. Jack wanted to gain a better understanding of the AODA as it applies to trails. Jack questioned that if the City is reviewing all trails then under AODA, all trails have to be made accessible?

2.3.1. Jen provided a response that while all trails are reviewed as part of the CMP process in the Guidelines, not all trails would need to be made accessible if the exceptions identified under the AODA apply. Jen referred back to the exceptions under the AODA which were provided on one of the presentation slides. As part of the review of trails, the City is required under the AODA to make trails accessible where this doesn’t pose a significant risk that would adversely affect water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity and/or natural heritage values. The Guidelines are

clear that in less sensitive, culturally influenced, Natural Environment zones and over sewers for example, accessible trails are permitted and will be provided.

3. Agenda Item – References to AODA in Guidelines

- 3.1. A pause was made during the presentation for any questions regarding this portion of the presentation. No questions or comments were made.

4. Agenda Item – Revisions to MVHF ESA (south) CMP/Overview of Revisions to Final CMP - Trail Strategy (Maps)

- 4.1. Katrina Moser noted being confused that the bridge at location D is now okay and included in the CMP. Katrina referred to thinking that D had been noted in a previous version of the CMP as not being considered due to environmental concerns.

4.1.1. Jen noted that the D location was previously included in the August 2017 version of the CMP and complied with the Guidelines and was dropped in the October version as there was uncertainty regarding feasibility for implementation and challenges with providing accessibility up to Access 13 in a Nature Reserve zone. The D location was previously noted as a likely candidate for stepping stones or a bridge. Jen provided an overview of the bridge feasibility review Dillon engineers undertook as an extra step (and not part of the CMP process) to determine whether a pedestrian bridge would be feasible. Jen noted that a pedestrian bridge similar in specifications to what was most recently constructed in the MVHF ESA (north) near Sunningdale Road W. is feasible at both locations A and D.

4.1.2. Mady wanted to clarify that the bridge noted at D was the one that was included in previous draft and then taken off.

4.1.3. Jen confirmed that there was a “linkage” (i.e., stepping stones or a bridge) identified at location D that was included in the August 2017 draft of the CMP and then removed in the subsequent October 2017 version.

- 4.2. Andrew noted that ACCAC’s original request was that a connection from A13 to A18/A19 which would not be feasible without a bridge in place. It was also noted that the request of ACCAC could not be included as this would have required Level 2 trails in Natural Reserve which would not comply with the Guidelines. To fulfill the ACCAC request, the request for an accessible connection was revised by ACCAC in their January 2018 letter, to be from A11 to D and from D to A18/A19.

- 4.3. Susan Hall (attended as EEPAC’s alternate rep.) noted that AODA compliance seems paramount and wanted clarification on the process and why the AODA was not mentioned at the beginning?

4.3.1. Michael noted the AODA was in place well before Guidelines were developed, and during the development of the Guidelines the AODA was included.

4.3.2. Chris Sheculski noted that principles of AODA were brought up during first LAC meetings.

4.3.3. Karla also provided clarification that the AODA was brought into the development of the Guidelines, as approved by Council, and was outlined right at the beginning of the LAC meetings.

- 4.4. Alex Vanderkam wanted clarification that the LAC would get a copy of the final CMP.

4.4.1. Jen confirmed that LAC members would be circulated a link to the final CMP prior to submission of the document to the PEC.

5. **Agenda Item - EEPAC (and Nature London) Concerns/ Response to EEPAC Concerns**

5.1. A pause was made for any questions regarding this portion of the presentation. No questions or comments were made.

6. **Next Steps**

6.1. Mady feels like she has been put in a difficult position. Appreciates the needs and requirements of AODA as raised by ACCAC, but feels sandbagged with the appearance of a bridge at D that was previously removed in the October 2017 version of the CMP.

6.1.1. John Fleming noted the City was committed to the continued consultation with the LAC, as evidenced by presenting the revised content in the MVHF ESA (south) CMP to the LAC first, prior to submission to PEC or distribution to the general public via the City website.

6.2. Susan brought up her previous comment regarding ACCAC/AODA. Susan noted it would have been more appropriate to have received more overview on how the AODA would factor into the CMP process and trail management strategy component earlier in the process. Susan expressed how she felt like the opinions of the ACCAC were not clearly represented during the LAC meetings.

6.3. Katrina echoed Mady's comment and also has concerns that the timeline is rather short with the upcoming presentation of the CMP to the PEC being March 19. Katrina noted that this would not allow enough time to present the final CMP to EEPAC prior to the PEC meeting. Katrina requested more time to allow her to bring this back to EEPAC to review as D was not included prior to.

6.3.1. Jen wanted to know what Katrina would like to bring back.

6.3.2. Katrina wanted to see comparison of maps again and those would be the most crucial to bring back to EEPAC

6.3.3. Linda noted that the August version of the CMP did include the Linkage at location D and the City received comments back from EEPAC with regards to Linkage D. E&PP staff and Dillon provided formal Memo responses to EEPAC's comments which were circulated on EEPAC's agenda and through the LAC.

6.3.4. Jen also noted that the linkage at location D has always been presented as complying with the Guidelines.

6.4. Sandy requested that the slides be provided prior to the March 7 release of the finalized report also noting a tight timeline to get anything on the PEC agenda.

6.5. As there were concerns regarding the presented timeline of releasing the final CMP on March 7 to the LAC and the presentation to the PEC being March 19, Karla inquired with the City whether the March 19 date is set or open for discussion.

6.5.1. Andrew noted that it would be possible to move the presentation date.

6.5.2. John also noted that City can be flexible with the dates but does want to avoid delaying the process much further noting we have heard from the scientists at Dillon that the revised CMP complies with Guidelines. The City doesn't want to rush the process but

does want to move things forward as many members of the LAC are looking forward to implementation of the CMP.

- 6.5.3. Jen also noted that the information in the final document is similar to the August 2017 version with regards to the bridge at D and other revisions are minor.
- 6.6. Discussion was held between the LAC members, City and Dillon as a more appropriate date to present the CMP to the PEC given the overlapping March break and Easter/Passover with upcoming PEC meetings. It was agreed upon by the LAC members in attendance that the April 16 meeting of the PEC would allow for more time to review the final CMP and submit items for the PEC meeting agenda.
- 6.7. The City and Dillon will review the revised timeline and let the LAC know when the revised CMP would be available.
- 6.8. This information meeting concluded at 18:35.

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris (Dillon Consulting) who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.

Appendix C

2018 Frequently Asked Questions

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
1	How will the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA (south) be maintained and how will the recommendations address this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the CMP is "To develop a comprehensive multi-year Conservation Master Plan that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an environmental management strategy". In the context of the CMP, an environmental management strategy is a combination of restoration, naturalization, trail planning and monitoring. • The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed and being monitored, successfully managing invasive species which are the biggest threat to the ecological integrity in the ESA. The three high priority restoration areas as identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017. The City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017 and the CMP is consistent with the best practices in that strategy for the protection of False Rue-anemone. • The naturalization work proposed coordinates restoration with trail planning. • Finally, the Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of ESAs, and aligns with the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an award winning example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.
2	There are still a number of non-permitted uses (e.g. dogs off-leash, bicycles, encroachments) observed in the MVHF ESA (south) with little evidence of enforcement. How is the CMP addressing these infractions and the need for more enforcement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While non-permitted uses do occur in the ESA, enforcement of the City's by-law is on-going by the City funded UTRCA enforcement team who routinely traverse the ESA and issue warnings/tickets for infractions and educate residents about reasons for the by-law. Reduction of by-law infractions is addressed in the CMP through sustainable trail design, improved signage and continued stewardship and education for residents on threats to the ESA. • The experience in London, consistent with Crime Prevention and 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. A reduction in private property encroachments into the ESA has been achieved thanks to a number of measures including the enforcement work by City by-law staff and City funded UTRCA enforcement team.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
3	Has a carrying capacity of the MVHF ESA (south) been determined in order to limit the number of trail users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Trail Concept Plan in the CMP complies with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of ESAs. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an award winning example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting. • Visitor Impact Management (VIM) is a key part of what the City does to manage and protect our ESAs. Yearly work to assess trails, trail structures and signage, to repair, adjust and modify is done in response to trail user impacts. Invasive species pose the biggest threat to the ecological integrity (not trail use) and the majority of the restoration work is underway and is under a monitoring program. • As referenced in a number of trail management documents, including Marion (2016), and as summarized from the B.C. Ministry of Forests Recreational Manual "The search for a single, magic, carrying capacity number can also misdirect the manager's attention to numbers instead of trying to correct specific problems". As per the Guidelines, a properly managed trail system limits impacts by concentrating trail use on resistant trail surfaces and the monitoring framework established is based on the Limits of Acceptable Change approach which redefines the traditional carrying capacity question "How much use is too much?" to "How much change is acceptable?"
4	Does the CMP include closure of all informal trails?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, the CMP recommends closure of all informal trails as well as restoration and monitoring to measure the success of these efforts. This includes a number of formerly managed trails which the City funded ESA Management Team have already closed and will continue with measures listed in the Guidelines to discourage their use.
5	Why is "Do-nothing" not a viable option for the trail concept plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation Master Plan (CMP) process is not the same as an Environmental Assessment. For the CMP, it would not be advisable to have a "Do-nothing" option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The sustainable trail concept plan proposed in the CMP presents improvements to existing trails for the protection of the features and functions of the ESA and meets legal requirements for accessibility under AODA. • Also, a "Do-nothing" option in the CMP would imply there would be no management of the ESA, and discontinuing the successful restoration efforts, naturalization work and monitoring completed to date etc. This is counter-intuitive to protecting the ecological integrity of an urban natural feature. An Existing Trail System figure is included in the CMP for reference purposes.
6	Have impacts on fish or other aquatic life been taken into account in the recommendations for trail linkage across Medway Creek?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant UTRCA, municipal, provincial and federal requirements would need to be satisfied to gain approvals and proceed with trail works. No creek crossings are proposed as part of this CMP.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
7	Can the Level 3 trails be expanded to the south so that a multi-use path is available throughout the entire ESA and eventually connect to the Thames Valley Parkway?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many parts of the MVHF ESA (south) are designated as Nature Reserve and Level 3 trails are not permitted in those zones, as per the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of the ESA. Opportunities to improve the accessibility of existing managed trails within the MVHF ESA (south) were reviewed. Where Level 1 trails are located within Natural Environment zones and or in Utility Overlay, trails are recommended to be upgraded to Level 2 consistent with the Guidelines and legal requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). • In exceptional circumstances, Level 3 trails may be permitted within Natural Environment zones to upgrade an existing connection between neighbourhoods subject to the 'Process' outlined in Section 2.2 of the Guidelines. As an area of mown lawn area is to undergo naturalization and currently connects neighbourhoods, this provided a circumstance where a new Level 3 trail is feasible to connect Accesses 1, 2, 3 and 4. This complies with Section 2.2 of the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.
8	How was consultation completed for the CMP? Is the information collected used to make decisions based on quantity of responses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As outlined in Table 2 of the CMP, the City completes extensive consultation when preparing a Conservation Master Plan for an ESA. City's CMP process allows for a level of consultation that exceeds what the federal and provincial governments are required to undertake. The two phase, multi-year process includes formation of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC), presentations to Advisory Committees of Council, presentations to local community groups, public open houses, mail-outs, information signs in the ESA, information on the City website, and, collection of information from the public. It should be noted that the results of the current consultation process is not something that can be quantified or statistically calculated to make decisions/determinations. Part of the reason for this is that there are no limitations on how often someone can comment. • The communities' ideas are reviewed with Council's Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs and those that comply with Guidelines are considered for inclusion in the CMP. At all times, priority is placed on the protection of ecological integrity. The City must meet legal requirements under AODA. Council then reviews and approves the CMP based on input from the Local Advisory Committee, Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee, and the community.
9	What was the basis for determining the frequency of the various monitoring elements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of frequency for the various elements to be monitored throughout the management period was based on a combination of factors such as current monitoring frequency, element specific requirements for monitoring, legislation requirements, etc. • Currently, the most thorough monitoring program of any ESA in the City is in place in the ESA, including permits and requirements from the Province and recognition from the Federal Government for best practices for the protection of False Rue-anemone.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
10	What are the timelines for implementing the recommendation management actions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for management actions are provided in the Implementation Plan in the CMP with a high level timeline. Some CMPs are implemented more quickly when local stewards or communities raise funds. The Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. for example have already raised nearly \$400,000 from three levels of government and private donors to implement their 2014 Coves ESA CMP. • The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed and under a monitoring program. In the MVHF ESA (south), the three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017.
11	When will the remaining section of multi-use pathway in the MVHF ESA north of Fanshawe Park Road West be completed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has begun the exploration process to secure the land needed to complete the 5b Further Enhanced Accessibility and Community Connections trail plan approved by Council in 2013. This work is currently planned to wrap up in 2018.

Appendix D

2018 EEPAC and ACCAC Review

EEPAC Agenda December 21, 2017:

Medway Valley Heritage Forest (South) ESA Conservation Master Plan 2017 EEPACs Recommendations

As EEPAC's representative on the LAC, and one of the EEPAC reviewers of the MVHF ESA CMP, I am seeking input and support from EEPAC to present a statement from EEPAC to PEC. I am requesting consideration of the following statement and recommendations for presentation from EEPAC to PEC.

Statement

EEPAC does not support the MVHF (South) ESA CMP because the CMP is counter to the current city plan. The CMP fails to adequately protect the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of the area. See City's current Official Plan's statement concerning the use of natural heritage features: 15.1.1 (v) Maintain, restore, and improve the diversity and connectivity of natural features, and the long-term ecological function with biodiversity of natural heritage systems.

In particular, the "upgrading" or hardening of trails on either side of crossing A (figure 5) and the trail that runs parallel to Attawandaron Road in the proposed area of naturalization (NA5 in Figure 2) and the construction of the bridge crossing the Medway Creek at A (Figure 5) put at risk the ecological integrity of this ESA. We support and encourage even greater efforts to close informal trails, improve signage to better educate the public about the ESA and trail closures, restore natural habitat to protect species at risk, and naturalize some areas. We also support the stepping stone crossing at Snake Creek (C) because it should reduce erosion at this site.

Recommendations

1. We recommend, based on a serious risk to the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the MVHF ESA, that the council reject any CMP that includes hardening of trails or bridge crossings of the Medway Creek.
2. We recommend council encourage staff to focus the CMP more on protecting the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA and less on recreational use in a revised CMP. There should be better development of more detailed plans for monitoring, trail closures and education in a revised CMP in order that EEPAC and others can accurately assess those plans.
3. We recommend that the council encourage staff to rethink the MVHF ESA CMP. This is a small, but unique and incredibly diverse environment that has been, to date, preserved within an urban center. Instead of focusing on increasing recreational use of the area, we encourage the council and staff to see a secondary goal as an opportunity for this ESA to become a renowned demonstration site of best practises for the protection of ecological integrity, diversity and species at risk within an urban area.



Memo

To: EEPAC

From: Environmental & Parks Planning (E&PP) and Dillon Consulting Inc.

Date: October 17, 2017

RE: Draft MVHF ESA (south) Phase 2, Conservation Master Plan (CMP) - Responses to EEPAC's Comments of September 2017

E&PP and Dillon thank EEPAC for their detailed review of the August 2017 [Draft Conservation Master Plan Phase II Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area \(ESA\) \(South\)](#) by Dillon Consulting Ltd. E&PP would also like to thank the EEPAC representative and alternate for participating on the Local Advisory Committee. The 5th LAC meeting is set for November 2, 2017 where the consultants and staff will present the revised CMP. EEPAC will continue to be involved through participation on the LAC. EEPAC's comments are included below in italics and Staff / Dillon's responses are provided below each of EEPAC's comments.

On a high level E&PP would note that pages 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identify, "The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the [Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone \(*Enemion biternatum*\) in Canada, 2016 \(Draft\)](#)."

This is a good news story for London and we are proud of what we have accomplished to date and will accomplish going forward as we continue to protect the MVHF ESA through this CMP process. The Trail Plans in the Draft CMP all comply with the Council approved [Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs \(2016\)](#) written with input from EEPAC for protection of ESA ecosystems. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.

**Compiled Comments by EEPAC Working Group
Conservation Master Plan Phase II Draft for the southern portion of the Medway
Valley Heritage Forest ESA - M. Dusenge, C. Dyck, S. Hall, S. Levin, K. Mosher, S.
Pierce, N. St. Amour, R. Trudeau**

I. Summary and Key Recommendations

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South)(MVHF) Conservation Master Plan (CMP) shows that this ESA is unique in London, housing some of the city's oldest forests and highest concentrations of SARs. Therefore, EEPAC's position is that the CMP must focus on efforts to protect this unique urban ecosystem, and that increasing recreation and access is in conflict with this goal.

Staff / Dillon Response: All the Trail Plans in the Draft CMP comply with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) written with input from EEPAC for protection of ESA ecosystems. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.

E&PP and the Draft CMP does focus on protecting and enhancing the ecological integrity of the ESA – the majority of restoration work identified in Phase I to protect the ecological integrity of the ESA is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and are monitored with results circulated to EEPAC and listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting 2 Minutes in the Draft CMP Appendix identify: "It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials." Improving accessibility in areas of lower sensitivity, in the Cultural ELC's / Natural Environment Zones over the existing Utility Overlays where ongoing access for sewer maintenance is required, will protect the ESA ecosystem, complies with the Guidelines and meets Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) requirements. And therefore we strongly believe improving accessibility is not in conflict with protection of the ESA.

In order to protect this valuable asset EEPAC makes the following key recommendations:

*1) The CMP should continue with **restoration** efforts, and increase efforts to accurately assess the success of these efforts.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

Page 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identifies that "The City is an identified leader among Ontario municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management and control of invasive species in protected natural areas including the MVHF ESA since 2007. The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA

were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) in Canada, 2016 (Draft).”

*2) **Naturalization** efforts are likely to lead to increased ecological integrity. The CMP should ensure that trail plans will promote the success of naturalization efforts.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree

*3) Increased resources are essential to ensure an accurate and quantitative **monitoring** program, which is essential for successful management of the cities ESAs.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree

*4) **Trail management** plans are at odds with the rest of the CMP in that they favor trail connectivity over ecosystem protection.*

The three options proposed are: 1) “Enhanced As-Is”, which includes altering trails that are presently level 1 and almost non-existent to level 2 (hardened surface). These trails are located on both the north and south side of Medway Creek and lead to the spot of the bridge proposed in option 2; 2) “Partial Connectivity”, which is the same as 1) except with the bridge (at A) built, and 3) “Establishing enhanced connectivity”, which includes a second bridge (at D) crossing. Although option 1 does not include a bridge, paving trails to a potential bridge connection implies a bridge at some point.

Staff / Dillon Response: The trail management plans are not at odds with the CMP as they all comply with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for protection of the ecosystem. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting. EEPAC’s summary overlooks several points included in the CMP:

- Utility overlays mean that access for infrastructure maintenance and repair are already required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended to enhance accessibility, and avoid muddy/wet trails as per AODA. Section 3.1 in the draft CMP described this.
- LAC 4 minutes note that there would never be a true do-nothing option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the features in the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The Enhanced As-Is option in the CMP presents desired improvements to existing trails.
- Ecosystem protection provided by the 3 options is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and through their compliance with the Guidelines.

EEPAC is strongly opposed to the additions of bridges, which will increase traffic to the north and south side of Medway Creek and increase risks to this ecosystem. Bridges favor connectivity and recreation over ecosystem protection and are at odds with the city’s Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: All recommendations in the CMP comply with Council's Guidelines for the protection of ecosystems.

While the trail enhancement and bridge may increase trail use (will be monitored) the design of the trail will also control the users and protect the sensitive riparian zone.

A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17. The direction provided by the Guidelines and the existing measures in place for the ESA are protecting sensitive species.

*5) EEPAC supports increasing **community engagement** and education, however these plans should be further developed in the CMP.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting suggestions from EEPAC on these ideas are welcomed.

*6) If the city values **public participation**, then requests for public input should be motivated by a genuine interest and need for public opinion and with transparency. Accurately collecting public opinion data and using clear language to describe options at future meetings is recommended. EEPAC recommends more transparency in future public meetings by using option names that more clearly reflect what each trail option plans entail. One option should be "As Is", which would be status quo and provides a baseline for comparison to other options.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree noting one Conceptual Trail Plan will be presented at the next Community Open House based on feedback from LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC. Will also include an "As Is" existing conditions plan in CMP as a baseline as suggested by EEPAC.

7) EEPAC recommends that the Conservation Master Plan not be adopted until the implementation plan is submitted as part of the next 4 year budget cycle. EEPAC requests to be included as part of the Local Implementation Committee.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree to raise EEPAC's idea at the LAC 5 meeting for their input. All ESA Conservation Master Plans (CMP) are implemented subject to funding. Some CMPs are implemented more quickly when local stewards or communities raise funds. The Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. have already raised nearly 400k from three levels of government and private donors to implement their 2014 CMP. All members of the LAC including EEPAC will be invited to sit on the Local Implementation Committee (LIC).

8) Further editing and additions to the CMP are required. As point of note regarding the Master Plan's structure, a cyclical problem occurs in section 4.4. Sections 4.3.1; 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 all make reference to further discussion in section 4.4 but upon reading section 4.4, it just refers back to the sections just mentioned. Therefore, section 4.4 should be scrapped or else greater clarification regarding "Analysis of Proposed Trail Recommendations" is required.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree will revise report to remove Section 4.4. as it is not needed.

II. Introduction:

At the group meeting on September 6, it was decided that we would formulate our comments based on some of the subject headings in the report, specifically naturalization, restoration, monitoring, trail management, and community engagement. To provide a general summary of our findings, we are pleased with the City's efforts at restoration and have good expectations for increased community engagement associated with the ESA. However, we find that there are some oversights in regards to naturalization of certain areas and the City's plans for monitoring the impacts of current and future policies and plans. Our greatest concerns centre on the proposed changes to trails and trail management.

III. Restoration

The ESA Master Plan identifies fifteen areas for restoration, with a strong focus on tackling invasive species and planting native species. Some of the areas have already been addressed. We believe the City is doing a good job at restoration and find this is in keeping with the desires of local citizens. Our one concern, however, regards measuring the success of restoration efforts. What are the metrics used to determine success? Are these metrics quantifiable, or do they rely more heavily on subjective observation? These issues will be looked at more in depth in the monitoring section below.

Staff / Dillon Response: Levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNR and are listed in the References of the Draft CMP.

IV. Naturalization

Four sites adjacent to the MVHF ESA have been designated as areas for naturalization. In general, the Working Group is in favour of naturalization efforts, but we believe that in order for this work to be successful, it must be done concurrently with trail closures. It was noted that one of the areas slated for naturalization – NA5 – the plan involves the establishment of a level two trail. So while expanding plantings of native plants is a positive development, paving a section could be counterproductive to the naturalization process as it will naturally create a boundary and habitat fragmentation.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Draft CMP identifies that the “Placement of a Level 2 trail would serve as the defining limit for the proposed naturalization east of the trail and would have the added benefit of improving accessibility in the ESA.” In other words the trail would go on the western edge of the naturalization area – not through it. The EIS Performance Monitoring Study by Beacon showed that this approach works in London, people do not encroach on the opposite side of a trail.

In the area surrounding the Museum of Archaeology, it was noted that efforts at naturalization and the creation of a level 2 trail, must still address the informal trails around the Museum. A very serious problem of informal trails around the museum currently exists

as visitors to the museum walk enter the woods from the east side of the parking lot to access managed trails.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and the City has implemented new directional trail signage in this area and are working with Museum staff to address this. Additional measures were identified at LAC 4 meeting such as new fencing, and native plantings to screen views into the parking lot and the informal trails to reduce use of the museum parking lot and informal trails.

This problem could be exacerbated should a bridge be installed at Location A. It was noted that the sumac in the area is heavily trampled due to the existing informal trails around the Museum. The current version of the Master Plan contains no recommendations to close the informal trails in that area.

Staff / Dillon Response: Disagree noting Figure 3, Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, in the Draft CMP identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures (includes ones near the Museum) are effective, following process in the Guidelines. Agree to add EEPAC's suggestions for trail closure to the Recommendations in Table 11.

In NA4, the Master Plan calls for a trail, which is currently closed, to be reopened in conjunction with naturalization. The trail is along a very steep area of the ESA. When it was closed, informal trails popped up, leading to the area becoming badly trampled and compacted. The City plans on working with the landowners on the naturalization process. It is our recommendation that if the closed trail is to be reopened, the informal trails at the foot of the hill must be closed at the same time, and it must be more than a simple sign. Something must be put in place to make the informal trails less attractive or else efforts at naturalization will fail.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting Figure 3 shows the existing unmanaged trails that were present in the area in before the trail closure. Will add EEPAC's suggestions to the Recommendations in Table 11 noting Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, identifies the process for ensuring trail closures are effective following process in the Guidelines.

Indeed, EEPAC would like to make the long standing recommendation that firstly, it be included in decisions regarding trail closures and secondly, that the City do a better job of closing trails through both signage that includes more information on the reason for trail closures to secure the support of visitors (as well as timelines on the projects at hand) and through plantings or other means to make informal trails less appealing.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, noting typically EEPAC is part of the process through representation on the Trails Advisory Group (TAG). Will add EEPAC's suggestions regarding signage to the Recommendations in Table 11 noting Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, identifies the process for ensuring trail closures are effective following the process in the Guidelines.

V. Monitoring

The Working Group finds the call for ongoing monitoring and adaptive management laudable however, we find some areas for concern. Firstly, as was mentioned in section

II, we would like to know by which metrics the City will determine whether restoration and/or naturalization efforts are successful, and by which means/metrics the City will determine that trail closures, trail openings and/or the installment of connectors (such as bridges) have had a positive or negative impact on the ESA, its species and its ecological functions. Table 13 provides a monitoring framework; but to date, nothing has been put into place for the trails that do exist. As part of monitoring we would ask for an annual report on bank migration, trail condition and usage, and how changes in condition are managed.

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 13 outlines the Monitoring. Levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are currently circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References of the Draft CMP.

Secondly, we have concerns that the ESA management team has been assigned too much responsibility for monitoring the health of not only this ESA, but all the others in the City. With a staff of only three, it is nearly impossible for the team to undertake robust monitoring to determine the effects of changes taken under the Master Plan, and to ensure that restoration, naturalization and the identification and removal of invasive of species are done adequately.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting the Lead Agency for coordinating the Monitoring in Table 13 will be corrected to read ESA Management Committee, not just the ESA Management Team, noting these groups are described on page 12 of the Draft CMP. The City Ecologist and the rest of the ESA Management Committee is already successfully coordinating much of this work as noted on page 16 of the Draft CMP, “The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017.”

The ESA Team is not responsible for all the monitoring in the ESA, the City Ecologist coordinated the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC which are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

The Master Plan seems to propose a solution to the understaffing of the ESA management team, and that is to rely on volunteers who will alert the City of any encroachment by invasive species, which will then be removed through community projects.

Staff / Dillon Response: This assumption is incorrect, Page 49 of the Draft CMP identifies that “In addition to community volunteers the ESA Management Team will continue to manage and monitor using the EDRR approach.” The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) approach is consistent with what we do now and is recommended by Ontario Invasive Plant Council. While volunteers can enhance its effectiveness, the EDRR approach does not leave the ID, reporting, monitoring or management of invasive species rely on volunteers or community projects. As noted on page 48 of the Draft CMP, “EDRR is a proactive approach to managing invasive species that can help to prevent establishment. Early detection of newly arrived invasive species, followed by a well-

coordinated rapid response, will increase the likelihood of eradication or containment of new invasions.”

Page 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identifies that “The City is an identified leader among Ontario municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management and control of invasive species in protected natural areas including the MVHF ESA since 2007. The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) in Canada, 2016 (Draft).”

However, we find a significant flaw with this plan. If the ESA management team is unable to adequately monitor all areas of the vast expansive of the City’s ESAs, and that includes areas slated for naturalization and areas closed to visitors due to their highly sensitive nature (i.e. presence of endangered or threatened species), how can they note the appearance of invasive species in a timely fashion? The City hopes that visitors will alert the City to the presence of invasives, but that pre-supposes that visitors are walking through closed areas. Given the significance of the ESAs, the City should not rely on volunteers for a key part of their monitoring, and instead needs to provide the necessary resources and trained personnel to monitor the implications of this Master Plan. Only trained professionals should have permission to enter highly sensitive areas to engage in early detection efforts against invasives. The same is true for section 5.2.2.1, additional trained professionals, not simply the understaffed ESA management team, should be involved in the monitoring of “the condition and vigour of individual species”.

Staff / Dillon Response: The monitoring program does not rely on volunteers, Page 49 of the Draft CMP identifies that “In addition to community volunteers the ESA Management Team will continue to manage and monitor using the EDRR approach.” While the ESA team does some monitoring, levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports funded by the City, completed by Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

Finally, who will be in charge of coordinating all the efforts under section 5.1? This work requires someone with the resources and knowledge to manage all the incoming information, to compile that information and then to disseminate that information to all the people doing work within the ESA. This is an extremely large undertaking, which would require a dedicated position to accomplish it satisfactorily.

Staff / Dillon Response: The City Ecologist and the rest of the ESA Management Committee is successfully coordinating much of this work as noted on page 16 of the Draft CMP, “The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017.” Given it took only 4 years to address the majority of the restoration work identified in Phase 1 of the CMP including all the top/high priority work, it is realistic to expect that the remaining, lower priority work could be addressed over the ten year CMP timeframe.

While the ESA team does some monitoring, levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports funded by the City, completed by Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

City funded ESA team (0.5 million dollar annual contract and capital funds of about 75k per year), Forestry Staff, Environmental and Parks Planning Staff including the City Ecologists complete much of this work and also retain consultants and restoration specialists to implement CMPs and protect the ESAs.

VI. Trail Management

To begin our comments on the proposed plans for trails in the MVHF ESA, we would like to draw attention to some general issues.

*1. Under section 1.2.2 and elsewhere through the Master Plan, it is stated that the primary objection is to guarantee the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA. It likewise states that the trail system shall be implemented “to achieve the primary objective of protection and the secondary objective of providing suitable recreational and educational opportunities.” Moreover, the **Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas** also places as top priority the preservation of the ecological features and functions which make an area an ESA. We would like to know if and how the three policy options as stated will achieve this main goal. We cannot support the current plans as it is our belief that they violate the central goal stated in this report and the **Guidelines**.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 detail the 3 Trail Concept Plans and their compliance with the Guidelines. LAC 2 Minutes in Draft CMP Appendix identify: “It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials.”

Improving accessibility in areas of lower sensitivity, in the Cultural ELC’s / Natural Environment Zones over the existing Utility Overlays where ongoing access for sewer maintenance is required, will protect the ESA, complies with the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.

2. The CMP does not provide a clear delineation between the three options: “Enhancing the trail system ‘As-is””, “Establishing partial connectivity” and “Establishing enhanced connectivity of the MVHF ESA”. More accurate names for each option, and greater clarification of the differences between the three options is required.

We take issue with the names, which can be confusing both to the readers of the plan and to the general public when the City is requesting in-put on the Master Plan. You will note the similarity in the names and the shortened versions “Enhanced ‘As-Is”, “Partial Connectivity” and “Enhanced Connectivity”. It is our belief that the three policy titles should be significantly different for ease of understanding, i.e. “As-Is” (enhanced is purposely omitted, and that issue will be discussed below), “Trail improvement or upgrading” and finally “Enhanced Connectivity”.

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 detail the 3 Trail Concept Plans and their compliance with the Guidelines. One Conceptual Trail Plan will be presented at the next Community Open House based on feedback from LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC.

3. Both the presentation we were shown as well as the Master Plan document are biased in favour of “Enhanced Connectivity”. If this is the plan that the City plans to adopt, this needs to be clear, both to EEPAC and in public consultations, rather than feigning that all three policy options are being given equal weight.

Staff / Dillon Response: All the Trail Plans in the CMP comply with the Council approved Guidelines for the protection of the ESA. Council will review and approve a final CMP based on input from LAC, EEPAC, ACCAC and the community.

4. EEPAC would like to know if an assessment has yet been undertaken on informal trails in the ESA, particularly those in sensitive areas or those on steep slopes. If such an assessment has not occurred, what is the timeline for the assessment to be undertaken? Although the Addendum to the Natural Heritage Inventory speaks to this, EEPAC is skeptical as there is no good baseline data to compare to in order to come to the conclusions in the Addendum.

Staff / Dillon Response: Trails are monitored annually by the ESA Management Team. Council approved the Addendum previously circulated to EEPAC.

5. Additionally, does the City plan on closing all the informal trails, and if so, what is the timeline for those closures? Members of EEPAC note that there are informal trails not shown on the maps – why? For instance, there is a well-used trail connecting NA5 to the habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon).

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and yes, Figure 3 in the Draft CMP identifies that all un-managed trails will be closed. Will review the un-managed trail EEPAC has noted. Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, of the Draft CMP identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures are effective, following process in the Guidelines and these closures will be prioritized in the revised CMP.

Also critical to any trail management is improvement of signage. Current signage is inadequate and hard to read. In addition to the AODA standards we recommend a trail name, map drawn over an air photo, a description of the trail and interesting points. This becomes an opportunity to educate rather than just tell users what they cannot do in an ESA. Signage must be correct and factual.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, will add EEPAC’s suggestions to the Recommendations for enhanced educational signage to those already included in the Draft CMP and in the Guidelines.

6. Regarding the document itself and the figures it contains, we recommend that it be made clear on Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5 whether or not it includes the closing of trails. While it is mentioned in a footnote that is so small as to be nearly illegible, it also should be clear the text. We also believe that the informal trails be demarcated on ALL three figures (Figure 3, 4 and 5) to make it clear to everyone involved all the changes that

will be made. It is not user friendly to have to refer back to Figure 3 to understand the changes in Figure 5.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, will ensure this is clearer on the final Trail Concept Plan and in the CMP, noting Figure 3, Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13 of the Draft CMP, identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures are effective, following process in the Guidelines.

7. Access 13 is not included in the figures regarding trail enhancements. This area involves a steep slope and while there is discussion regarding including stairs, this change is not highlighted on any of the maps as a trail change. It appears that the sewer line has become the most used way into the ESA.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree however enhancement is not needed as the managed trail at Access 13 on Figures 3, 4 and 5 identifies that the managed trail is actually a switchback and does not follow the linear Utility Overlay for the sewer. The trail under the hydro corridor and over the sewer is not the managed trail. Efforts are underway to direct hikers onto to the safer, switchback managed trail which has nicer views and is less steep. As with all Utility Overlay areas ongoing access for workers to maintain these utilities is needed so this “trail” cannot be closed.

8. Finally, we have noted a strong reliance on an older article by Leung and Marion (2000) rather than referencing the more recent article by Marion (2016) that contains findings and theories based on new research. For instance, The Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) states on page 12, "Research on natural area trail impacts has demonstrated that a properly managed trail system will limit the areal extent and severity of recreation impacts by concentrating traffic on resistant trail surfaces and through the use of appropriate structures such as bridges, fences, and boardwalks (Leung & Marion 2000)." This point is being used to justify the Level 2 trail from Access Point 10. It should be noted that methods other than trail hardening can be employed to manage user impacts (Marion 2016). More importantly, though, at this time no serious user impacts exist on the Level 1 trail south to the proposed A crossing, nor from Access point 10 to the creek. As Marion (2016) points out, "limiting use within the low-use zone, where impacts occur rapidly, can lead to substantial reductions in vegetation and soil impact" (p.343). Should the City add a Level 2 trail in those spots and encourage increased visitor use (around 20,000 users as mentioned at the last LAC as the number of visitors using the paved path north of Fanshawe), user impacts are bound to increase. In other words, if that area were left it alone (a true "as-is" scenario) the City would not need to change how it manages user impacts. It is only because the City is seeing to increase use that a Level 2 trail will be needed.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Draft CMP does not cite or include any reference to the Marion and Leung, 2000 article, it is cited in the Guidelines.

Utility Overlays are present at Access 10 to the Creek and run north to Fanshawe PRW and mean that access for infrastructure maintenance and repair are required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended (including access point 10) to enhance accessibility as per AODA. Section 3.1 describes this.

We did look at the study cited by EEPAC above, *A Review and Synthesis of Recreation Ecology Research Supporting Carrying Capacity and Visitor Use Management Decisionmaking*, Marion (2016) and found that page 343 of the study EEPAC raises describes what “low-use zones” are noting, “However, this zone occurs at relatively low levels of traffic, generally between 3 and 15 nights of camping per year or 50 to 250 passes per year along a trail (Cole 1995a, 1995b, 1995c).” E&PP would advise that there are currently more than 250 passes per year (therefore it is not a “low-use zone” according to Marion (2016)) along the existing Level 1 trails over the existing sewer alignment, in the lower sensitivity zones (NE), where accessible Level 2 trails are proposed.

For comparison our trail use counter set-up on the trail north of Fanshawe Park Road West identified that an average of 123 people per day use the trails in the north MVHF ESA.

The Marion (2016) study cited by EEPAC above supports implementing formal trails, “Studies reveal that unmanaged visitation frequently results in considerably greater recreational impact. For example, informal (visitor-created) trails have design attributes that make them less sustainable than professionally designed formal trails (Wimpey and Marion 2011).” (p.343)

The Marion (2016) study cited by EEPAC supports the use of improved trails to limit ecological impacts, “Visitors can also travel or camp on durable nonvegetated substrates such as gravel, rock, and snow or artificial substrates such as wood and rockwork on trails that support substantial traffic with very limited impact.” (p.343)

Specific Comments on Individual Trail Options:

Below we will give our critiques of each individual policy plan and our recommendations for improvement.

Enhancing the Trail System “As-Is”: This is not a true “business as usual” option as would be standard in any policy memo. Once recommendations are made to “enhance” the system, it is no longer “as-is”. One could assume that each of the three options are then “enhancing the trail system as-is” because that is exactly what is happening. Therefore, the first option should simply be analyzing the potential outcomes of not making any changes to the trails as they currently stand. This provides a baseline for comparison of the other options.

That point aside, however, and simply analyzing the plan put before us, we would like to know how the trail systems will be improved. How will the Level 1 trails be enhanced? Will there be boardwalks for instance? Clarification is necessary to accurately review the document.

Staff / Dillon Response: The CMP Draft Trail Plan will identify trail locations and trail levels and it will generally be up to the LIC to decide how best to implement those using the Guidelines. This is consistent with the process for the Council approved Coves ESA CMP in 2014.

From Access point 10, Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 5a and Figure 5b all show a Level 2 trail. Site visits by the Working Group, however, have shown that not only is there not a Level 2 trail already in existence, but there is currently hardly any trail to speak of.

Therefore, should not on all those figures, but especially Figure 3, the trail demarcated as Level 2 from A10 to point A be shown as “Improved Trail Surface”? In addition, paving a trail does not fall under an “as-is” scenario. Due to the fact that there is hardly a trail there, we do not see that the “improved trail surface” to Level 2 is solving any problems due to visitor misuse or trampling, and believe that this move is purely for recreational purposes. It cannot be justified for ecological reasons and therefore is contrary to the primary stated goal of the Master Plan and the Guidelines for Trail Management. Furthermore, these Level 2 trails will increase habitat fragmentation, not only with the path itself at 1.5-2 metres wide, also in the immediate vicinity of the path, increasing the potential for harm to sensitive species and the introduction of invasive species.

Staff / Dillon Response: The ecosystem protection provided by the 3 trail concept plan options is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and their compliance with the Guidelines. 4m wide Utility Overlays are present at Access 10 all the way to point A and then out to Fanshawe Park Road W. Access for sewer maintenance and repair are already required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended (including access point 10) to enhance accessibility as per AODA and the Guidelines. Section 3.1 describes this. Guidelines identify that Level 2 trails could be granular.

We suspect, also, that with the access from A5 to Point A and from A10 to Point A being paved, it is inevitable that a bridge will be constructed at Point A. For that reason, again, the suggestion of paving both the east and west of Point A under “as-is” is disingenuous; the ESA will not stay in its same form. We do not recommend a Level 2 trail on the east side of the river from A10.

In regards to wording of the text, there is a serious error on p. 33 where the sentence reads, “As overviewed in the Addendum, significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south) were determined to be compatible with existing managed trails.” Those two phrases should be reversed to read that the trails were determined to be compatible with the significant ecological features, as the primary goal is to ensure the ecological integrity of the ESA.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree will revise order of phrases.

We are in favour of the stepping stones to be placed at Snake Creek, as long as they are concurrent with efforts towards naturalization and stopping off trail activity.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and appreciate EEPAC’s support for stepping stones, naturalization and stopping off trail activity.

Establishing Partial Connectivity. We have little comments on this policy option beyond what was already said for the “as-is” option because there is only one difference between the two scenarios. It is our belief that this option could be combined with the “as-is” option as it stands and then, as previously mentioned, have the policy option of no changes at all. At the moment there seems little reason to have three separate policy options as they are currently written.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and goal is to choose one Draft Trail Concept Plan for inclusion in the CMP, the options are just a tool to help everyone to think about some options and arrive at the goal.

*Establishing enhanced connectivity of the MVHF ESA. To begin, we support the decisions not to install river crossings at points B, C and E. **However, we do not support crossings at points A and D.***

To support the plans for bridge crossings, the report uses degradation of air quality as a reason to install the structures: “users may drive from one side to [sic] other, while not presenting a significant impact to the ESA, may add to carbon emissions levels and degradation of air quality”. We believe this reason in support of the connectors should be stricken from the report as the chances that users are driving from one side of the river to the other, rather than exploring the area nearest to them, are negligible. Moreover, the actual addition to carbon emission levels should some users drive to access a different area of the ESA are also negligible. The point is equally irrelevant because local citizens may also drive to other ESAs, parks or green spaces in the city regardless of the crossings simply because people like to explore new areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree to strike the sentence that notes “...may add to carbon emission levels and degradation of air quality.” The sentence is not needed as the support for linkage A and D is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and their compliance with the Guidelines.

Under Enhanced Connectivity, much reference was made to the problems of erosion, however the report contains no maps showing areas of high erosion. Incidence of erosion should be a deciding factor in determining which trails will be closed. In some cases, areas that are experiencing high erosion may require improved trail surfaces to try to stop the erosion, but these should be highlighted on a map. On Figure 5, erosion is significant on the north side of the river between A18 and A17 (the bottom of the “boot”) but no reference is made as to future plans to deal with that erosion and how that will affect the level 2 trail found there.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Enhanced Connectivity option is detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts it mitigates, and its compliance with the Guidelines. Page 6 of the Draft CMP describes the scope of Medway Creek Subwatershed Study Update (MCSSU) and how that study which is still in progress helps to inform the CMP. Section 4.2.7 in the Draft CMP covers Bank Migration which is a natural process. The Level 1 trail (no Level 2 trail there?) between A18 and A17 will be monitored.

As mentioned above, we do not support crossings at points A or D. We would like to know what the ecological problem is that is the City is trying to solve at these points and whether the crossings could actually solve the identified problem. According to our site visits, the informal trail to the north of the Creek at A is essentially non-existent and there is no evidence that visitors are crossing the river at either A or D. If large structures are placed in these areas and/or the trails are paved, it will simply serve to threaten the ecological integrity of the north. The most southerly part of the ESA (south of Gainsborough Road towards the University), is already heavily trafficked and the results of that use are apparent when compared with the areas north of D and the area between Access #4 and the False Rue.

Staff / Dillon Response: A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the

community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17.

The Enhanced Connectivity option including A and D is detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts it mitigates, and its compliance with the Guidelines. Level 2 trails are not typically paved most are granular and that would be up to the LIC implementing the CMP following the Guidelines.

If a crossing is established at either point, the trails would have to be greater than a Level 1, (as the bridge itself would have to be both wide and high due to potential for flooding) which would cause habitat fragmentation and increase the risk of introduction of invasive species. It would also increase visitor numbers, which while a benefit for recreation, would not be compatible with protecting the biodiversity in the area. There would be greater chances of inappropriate use, walking of trails, dogs off leash, illegally harvesting species and potentially disrupting species at risk and/or their habitat.

Staff / Dillon Response: A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17.

The experience in London consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is that as trail use increases, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance. The proposed Recovery Strategy for False-rue anemone in Canada recommends outreach and stewardship to educate the public on the species and its habitat, in areas with public access noting the well-defined walking trails in the Medway in London have helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness of this species.

At the same time, we do not support the installation of stepping stones at either A or D, as such a crossing would not be safe due to high water levels, the distance to each side of the creek and the potential for the stones to become slippery. Stepping stones would also affect aquatic life in the creek and would change the flow rate. No surveys of aquatic species are included in the CMP.

Staff / Dillon Response: Thank you for your comment.

VII. Community Engagement

We are in favour of increased community engagement and education uses of the ESA, including information signs and other activities. We have noted that Child Reach, through their Wild Child program, take children into the woods and leave them to explore the area. While we are in agreement with bringing children into nature, teaching them about wildlife, plants etc, we wonder if the staff are trained in regards to how one should act in an ESA – the do's and don'ts – and whether they are aware of invasive species and species at risk. We wanted to recommend that those that use the ESA for educational outings work with the City for training to avoid damage to sensitive areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and we have reached out to Child Reach staff.

VIII. Participation

The Working Group does not believe that the participation rates for the surveys and the meetings were not sufficiently high to be used to determine the need for Option C “Enhanced Connectivity”. Between 100-110 participants is a low response rate and given the number of comments that were likely disregarded, it is difficult to say how many people ‘actively’ participated in a meaningful way. We wonder why the survey was not more prominent, either on the City website, Twitter, etc.?

Staff / Dillon Response: The LAC 2 minutes in Appendix B of the draft CMP identify LAC’s input on how the Community Open House and Survey would be publicized and note that, “Sandy Levin was puzzled as to why anybody could fill out the survey (i.e., the survey is open to anyone who has access to the internet).”

Notification about the MVHF ESA (south) CMP process and survey included a notice in the Londoner, mail out to all homes within 200m of the entire MVHF ESA (1860 letters), letters and/or emails to those who participated in Phase 1, signs at every ESA access (20) inviting residents to attend the open house/fill in survey, notice on website, the formation of a 17 member (and alternates) Local Advisory Committee and other engagement methods including presentations by staff and consultants at the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayer’s (OPSFR) AGM,. OPSFR members were invited via their email newsletter to attend EEPAC to hear the presentation of the draft CMP (1 attended).

The survey was not well advertised and even some citizens living right by the ESA were not aware of the information sessions on offer. Therefore, we believe there was a statistically insignificant number of people involved in the survey. In addition, the Master Plan states that the information collected by citizens was just to be used as guidance for the plan, which suggests that the policy options were already in place prior to the information collecting. We believe that the exact information from the surveys should be included in the report for the purposes of transparency.

Staff / Dillon Response: The consultants noted on page 8 and 9 of the CMP that the review and compilation of comments was not done quantitatively or statistically. The LAC 2 minutes in Appendix B of the Draft CMP identify LAC’s input regarding the details of the Community Open House and Survey. Notification about the MVHF ESA (south) CMP process and survey included a notice in the Londoner, mail out to all homes within 200m of the entire MVHF ESA (1860 letters), letters and/or emails to those who participated in Phase 1, signs at every ESA access (20) inviting residents to attend the open house/fill in survey, notice on website, the formation of a 17 member (and alternates) Local Advisory Committee and other engagement methods including presentations by staff and consultants at the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayer’s (OPSFR) AGM,. OPSFR members were invited via their email newsletter to attend EEPAC to hear the presentation of the draft CMP (1 attended).

Moreover, the Draft appears to ignore participant input if it went against the favoured policy, namely enhanced connectivity. A good example of this bias occurs in the statement on p. 30, which reads, “Feedback indicates a desire for connectivity of the managed trails on the east and west sides of Medway Creek, though there is also clear opposition.” Given this was not a quantitative survey, a more balanced and accurate way of stating this would

be, “Although there is a desire for connectivity from the public, there is also opposition to the addition of crossings and a desire to protect the ecological integrity of the site.” Or you could point out that 18 percentage of survey respondents indicated an interest in improved connectivity (as per the pie chart presented at LAC meeting #3).

Staff / Dillon Response: The consultants noted that the review and compilation of comments was not done quantitatively or statistically. Comments received during the engagement process from the public and the LAC to date were used to identify items for consideration and community members were encouraged to provide feedback on “Ideas, Issues, Opportunities, and Observations” as noted on page 8 and 9 in the Draft CMP and in the LAC minutes. The communities’ ideas were then reviewed with Council’s Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs and those that complied with Guidelines were considered for inclusion in the CMP for the protection of ecological integrity.

IX. A final word (EEPAC)

The City of London provides a variety of recreational opportunities in many diverse venues for the City’s residents. There are a few ESAs and the reason they exist in policy and practice is to protect identified species at risk, unique landforms, large forested areas, etc. They aren’t recreational areas like many of the fine areas we have in the City. The Medway Valley has been used (and abused) in a variety of ways since London was settled. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if it could now be treated as an open air laboratory to study the impact of regeneration, naturalization and the nurturing of species at risk? Then it will be there for future generations.

January 9, 2018

Stance of The Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee does not support the proposed “Conservation Master Plan Phase II; Medway Forest ESA (South)”. The proposed upgrades to accessibility are superficial; inconsistent with assurances made to ACCAC in the past; inconsistent with legislation (and the spirit of the legislation); and fall significantly short in providing equitable, quality access to the valley for all Londoners, regardless of ability. As noted below, ACCAC is supportive of some proposed changes, and could support the plan with two additional amendments.

Background

When the original Trails Standards document [subsequently revised and replaced with the Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (2016)], the Accessibility Advisory Committee was provided reassurances that, “whenever possible” trail systems would be made/upgraded to be accessible. Since the adoption of the original standards, this promise has been largely unmet. There are currently unfinished ‘accessible’ trails, non-compliant boardwalks and other structures, inadequate signage, incomplete accessible loops (meaning the user must return along the same path they already walked), among other concerns. Although ACCAC acknowledges the City’s efforts and intentions to continue to work on these areas of concern, the Medway Valley South CMP is an opportunity to ensure accessibility is considered and implemented fully at the onset, not in retrospect.

Proposal

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recognizes some enhancements to accessibility were included in the proposal. ACCAC is in support of the following proposed changes:

- Bridge at crossing A and Level 2 trail from A5 to A10– as these enhancements will provide an accessible path thorough the northern most portion of the valley, connecting the Ambleside community to the Medway Valley North Accessible path system. ACCAC does however note this trail provides little regarding access to the actual valley. At virtually all points along this path development is clearly visible to the North, East and West, thus no ‘nature experience’ for Londoners requiring accessibility.
- Level 3 trail from A1 to A4 – as this enhancement will create an accessible connection of Medway Valley North, as well as those areas served by the proposed A5 to A10 route
- Trail surface improvements (such as those near A11 and A12) being completed to AODA standards

- 2 closed level 2 trail loops beginning at A19 and A14 - as these provide a limited degree of trail/nature experience, however noting this provides no route options, and limit path of travel to one route with a single entrance/egress point.

During discussions with City staff the Accessibility Advisory Committee was informed the existing proposal contained an error which directly impacts accessibility. The proposal identifies access point A18 as a Level 1 Trail. This is inconsistent with its existing usage and maintenance (contains an existing boardwalk). ACCAC was advised the portion of trail from A18 to the proposed Level 2 trail loop from A19 should be a level 2 Trail. On a walk through, ACCAC noted significant erosion and trail widening outside the segment of trail containing the boardwalk.

Accessibility Advisory Committee Proposed Enhancements

The Accessibility Advisory Committee proposes 3 additional enhancements which would significantly improve accessibility within Medway Valley South while posing no risk to the environment.

- Upgrade the trail from A11 to the Medway creek at point D, noting this trail runs primarily along a utility overlay
- Install a Bridge at crossing D
- Extension of the boardwalk at A18 noting significant erosion exists, resulting in muddy surfacing and trail-widening (by those attempting to avoid the mud).

Rationale

The combination of the upgrade to trail at A11 to Medway creek, and the bridge at crossing D will provide a connection between the proposed level 2 trail at A19 and the Ambleside community. Individuals can then follow existing roadways and park path to connect to the proposed accessible route (A5-A10). This pair of enhancement would mean the valley would now have 10 of the identified 24 access points connected through a single accessible path (plus one additional accessible point at A14). This also serves to connect to the accessible trail system in Medway Valley North. This pair of enhancements would make the trail system through Medway Valley the longest accessible nature trail available throughout the City of London.

Although these enhancements still require the user to exist from the valley and re-enter at a later access point (A10 to A11), this is consistent with all users as the existing informal trail from A12 to A11 is being closed.

These enhancements would mean Londoners requiring accessible trails could have an experience through the valley comparable to that of all Londoners.

The formalized bridge crossing at D also eliminates the need for 'impromptu' bridges or crossings being 'built' by persons in the valley. Thus, the accessibility enhancements also serve to reduce environmental impact in other sensitive areas, and reduce risk to the city and all Londoners (e.g. injuries to those using the impromptu crossings).

ACCAC would also like to reiterate the principal of trail development and maintenance... a well developed and maintained trail is best for the environment around it.

Legislation, Laws, Guidelines and Standards

The proposal, as outlined in this submission by the Accessibility Advisory Committee is in adherence with all accessibility, human rights, and environmental legislation, acts, laws, studies, recommendations, Standards and/or Guidelines, at the municipal, provincial, federal, and international levels; including:

- Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (2016)
- The Official Plan (The London Plan)
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- City of London's Facility Accessibility Design standards (FADS)
- United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*;
- Pull any referenced environmental legislation to this list
- Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation; Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (Dillon Consulting, January 2015)
- Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone in Canada, 2016
- Upper Thames River Source Protection Area Amended Proposed Assessment Report (August 2011)
- Medway Creek Community-based Enhancement Strategy (Friends of Medway Creek and UTRCA, 2009)
- Guideline Document for the Evaluation of Ecologically Significant Woodlands (City of London, 2006)
- Middlesex Natural Heritage Study (UTRCA, 2003)
- The City of London Sub-Watershed Studies Implementation Plan (City of London, 1995)
- 2012 Upper Thames River Watershed Report Cards (Upper Thames River Watershed Report Card)
- Species at Risk Act (2002)
- City of London Environmental Management Guidelines (2007)
- Medway Creek Community-Based Enhancement Strategy (2009); and
- Any, and all further legislation, acts, laws, studies, recommendations, Standards and/or Guidelines referenced throughout the Medway Valley South Phase II Conservation Master Plan development process.

Summary

Important to note, the proposal put forth by ACCAC is consistent with all legislation and guidelines used by the City of London and honours commitments made to the accessibility community. The additional enhancements included in this proposal do not require any paving or asphalt surfacing. The enhancements requested simply ensure firm, stable ground (which *could* include asphalt *if* the city and the trails advisory committee felt it were the most feasible option. The ACCAC proposal calls for limited additional development, i) extension of the board walk at A18, and ii) a bridge at connection point D; noting this point of connection is the only place along the river that can be accessed from both sides without risking environmental damage.

The proposed additional enhancements provides Londoners requiring accessible paths with the largest, most comprehensive, comparable and equitable trail experience anywhere in London. These enhancements further connect accessible pathways (outside the valley), Medway Valley North; and the communities of Sunningdale and Ambleside, through one continuous accessible trail/pathway system.

ACCAC further calls on the City to ensure adequate funding is budgeted to complete the proposed upgrades.

Finally, in recognition of concerns this proposed plan *could* result in increased pedestrian traffic through the valley, ACCAC supports any call for additional enforcement of municipal bylaws, monitoring of environmental impacts, and any calls for funding necessary to achieve these objectives.



Memo

To: ACCAC

From: Environmental & Parks Planning (E&PP) and Dillon Consulting Inc.

Date: November 14, 2017

RE: Draft MVHF ESA (south) Phase 2, Conservation Master Plan (CMP) - Responses to ACCAC's Comments of September 2017

E&PP and Dillon thank ACCAC for their detailed review of the August 2017 [Draft Conservation Master Plan Phase II Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area \(ESA\) \(South\)](#) by Dillon Consulting Ltd. E&PP would also like to thank the ACCAC representative and alternate for participating on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). These responses were circulated to the LAC including ACCAC's representatives on October 23, 2017. ACCAC's comments are included below in italics and Staff / Dillon's responses are provided below each of ACCAC's comments. The revised October 2017 version of the CMP incorporating many of ACCAC's comments is available on the City [website](#) and Figure 4 is the Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.

The proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Council approved [Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs \(2016\)](#) (Guidelines) written with input from ACCAC for providing enhanced accessibility and protection of ESA ecosystems consistent with AODA requirements.

45% of the trails on the Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan in the October 2017 CMP are fully accessible Level 2 or Level 3 trails. Due to ecological sensitivity and/or topographical constraints the rest of the existing trails must remain natural surface Level 1 trails consistent with the Guidelines, and exceptions for the protection of natural heritage values and ecological integrity provided under the AODA.

Based on comments from ACCAC the CMP recommends new AODA compliant signage at all access points including a map that identifies:

- The length of trail
- The type of surface of which the trail is constructed
- The average and minimum trail width
- The average and maximum running and cross slope
- The location of amenities, where provided

ACCAC Comments with City/Dillon Responses:

1. *That ACCAC requests that the Level 2 trail linkage between A4 (to the north) and A1 (to the south), be increased in surface quality to a Level 3 status. Re: behind the houses on Attawandaron Rd to the Museum of Archaeology. Rationale is that both ends of this trail linkage are already Level 3, and as this section is not restricted by environmental significance this would provide a connection of the Level 3 trail surfaces already provided.*

City/Dillon Response: Agree. ACCAC's request for upgrading to multi-use Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. Behind the homes on Attawandaron an area of mown lawn is recommended to undergo naturalization and the lawn and existing trails currently connects neighbourhoods, this provided a circumstance where a new Level 3 trail is feasible to connect Accesses 1, 2, 3 and 4 and complies with Section 2.2 of the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.

2. *That ACCAC supports a Level 2 (or 3) trail linkage from Fanshawe Park Rd (A5), across the creek at point A and through to access point A10 on Glendridge Cres. Rationale is that this trail connection provides a user - friendly access linkage from a significant residential community (north of the creek) to the existing trail systems south and west of Medway Creek.*

City/Dillon Response: Agree and Level 2 Trail and an AODA compliant linkage is identified in the CMP in these locations.

3. *That ACCAC supports a Level 2 (or 3) trail linkage from access point A24, following the utility overlay, over crossing point D, and through to access point A 13. Rationale is that this trail connection provides a user - friendly access linkage for residents on both sides of Medway Creek, without negatively affecting environmentally sensitive areas (re: follows Utility overlays).*

City/Dillon Response: Upgrading to Level 2/Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. However, the section of the ESA adjacent to A13 is Nature Reserve which does not permit Level 2 or Level 3 trails, as per the Guidelines, and, due to very steep grades the existing Level 1 trail just west of A13 is a switchback that does not follow the linear Utility Overlay.

4. *That ACCAC has reviewed, and is in support of, the email - letter of opinion presented to TAG by David R. Schmidt, Corlon Properties (dated Sept. 15th , and attached). In that it ' s intent and purpose strongly meets with the goals and ideals of our Accessibility Advisory Committee. In this regard, ACCAC would like to recognize and thank Mr. Schmidt for a well - researched and well written discussion of this pathway system and its future benefit to our community.*

City/Dillon Response: We have also received and reviewed the email-letter from Mr. Schmidt and have addressed his comments below as well.

5. *Email from Mr. Schmidt: I have had an opportunity to review the above referenced draft plan prepared by Dillon Consulting, dated August 2017. Regrettably, I can't*

help but feel that there is a real opportunity being missed here. The City of London has built millions of dollars worth of recreation trail infrastructure in natural hazard / heritage areas to benefit all users, including those with accessibility challenges. This infrastructure includes thousands of metres of multi - use trail (paved) and bridges across the City including the Medway Valley (between Fanshawe Park Road and Sunningdale Road). In addition, it is our understanding that the Richmond Street Pedestrian Pathway Connection Environment Impact Study has been completed and as a result the City will proceed to construct a \$1.9M pedestrian overpass, consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) which recommended implementing a major east - west recreational pathway corridor along the northern boundary of the City with a crossing of Richmond Street. This pedestrian overpass will link into the Medway Valley Trail System south of Sunningdale Road. City - wide, it has been proven that multi - use trail infrastructure, can be implemented and exist within natural heritage / hazard areas in a manner that respects the natural features within which they reside and minimizes impacts to the benefit of all Londoners. The City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2009) provide direction on programs, services, recreation facilities, park infrastructure and community investment into the future. The following service level recommendations are relevant to this study:

- Determine gaps and needed improvements in services and facilities;*
- Ensure programs, facilities and parks are designed with accessibility in mind including adherence to the requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act;*
- Continue to expand and improve access to the City's pathway system because it provides low - cost, accessible, multi - generational recreation for all neighborhoods; and*
- Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety and security within its entire parks and pathway system.*

I understand and appreciate that there are many various opinions and perspectives on trails in natural heritage areas. As such, I would never support the City in taking a "pave all, everywhere, everytime" approach to trail development. There are thousands of hectares of Open Space (Natural Hazard / Heritage) lands within the City where there no trails (let alone paved ones) and where trails should likely be never contemplated. In this line of thinking, there should also be some acceptance that paved multi-use trails are desired and necessary in some locations as there cannot be a "pave nothing anywhere anytime" attitude towards this matter. The Medway Valley is different. It is a long linear system which already has significant infrastructure (sewers, pathways, bridges, SWM ponds) located within in it. This has all been implemented in a sensitive way that balances the interested of all and has enabled the natural heritage / hazard features to not only function but flourish. The linear nature of the Medway Valley and its connection to UWO and the Thames River Valley make it the ideal location to connect these areas to the north. Respectfully, I can't help but feel that if London does not have the fortitude to make these multi-use connections at this time, they will regret this missed opportunity and will simply look for a way open these discussions again in the years to come. I would appreciate it if you could forward these comments onto your consulting team.

City/Dillon Response: Upgrading to multi-use Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. However, many parts of the ESA in the south are Nature Reserve zone which does not permit Level 3 trails, as per the Guidelines.

Appendix E

2018 Council Resolution



P.O. Box 5035
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

April 25, 2018

J. Fleming
Managing Director, Planning and City Planner

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on April 24, 2018 resolved:

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (South):

- a) the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (South) (ESA), appended to the staff report dated April 16, 2018, **BE REFERRED** back to the Civic Administration to report back at a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee, after undertaking the following actions:
- i) deleting proposed bridge A from the CMP;
 - ii) deleting the proposed bridge D from the CMP;
 - iii) undertaking further public consultation with respect to those portions of the CMP that effect changes to the eastern boundary of the ESA, including the use of public streets;
 - iv) undertaking further consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC), the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC), the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and neighbouring First Nations Governments and Organizations with respect to improved trail access and conditions;
 - v) actions be taken to discourage crossings of the creek at sites A, B, C, D and E, as identified in the CMP;
 - vi) hardscaped surfaces on the level 2 trails be limited to the greatest extent possible;
- b) staff **BE DIRECTED** to work with our community partners in the implementation of the CMP with regard to external funding opportunities;
- c) the members of ACCAC, EEPAC and the Local Advisory Committee and the community **BE THANKED** for their work in the review and comments on the document;
- d) the Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back on the following matters with respect to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (south) Conservation Master Plan:

- i) ways to improve the public consultation process for any Environmentally Significant Areas and Conservation Master Plans; and,
- ii) amending the Trails Systems Guidelines to incorporate consultation with neighbouring First Nations, Governments and Organizations at the beginning of the process;

it being noted that the Planning and Environment Committee reviewed and received the following communications with respect to this matter:

- a Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 16, 2018;
- the Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee's revised statement and recommendations;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from S. Dagnone, 675 Eagletrace Drive;
- a communication from S. and S. Pacifico, 1607 Gloucester Road;
- a communication from S. Levin, 59 Longbow Road;
- a communication dated April 9, 2018 from A. Cojocar, 2345 Humberside Common;
- a communication from L. Kari, 56 Doncaster Place;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from L. Robinson, 2120 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from C. Robinson, 2120 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 8, 2018 from D. Wake, 597 Kildare Road;
- a communication dated April 6, 2018 from D. Lucas, Vice Principal, Finance and Administration, Huron University College;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from M. Trotter, 2408 Meadowlands Way;
- a communication dated April 8, 2018 from K. and L. Zerebecki, 205-240 Village Walk Boulevard;
- a communication from R. Croft, by e-mail;
- a communication from R. Agathos, by e-mail;
- a communication from P. Agathos, 2112 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication from C. Parvulescu, 397 Castlegrove Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from C. Sheculksi, Vice-President, Sunningdale West Residents Association;
- a communication from B. Morgan, 50 Doncaster Place;
- a communication from L. Symmes, 797 Haighton Road;

- a communication dated April 8, 2018 from R. and A. Menon, 2131 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from T. Thrasher, 2048 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from J. Peters, 2048 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication dated April 5, 2018 from E. Westeinde, 3645 Boswick Road North;
- a communication dated April 8, 2018 from D.R. Donnelly, Donnelly Law;
- a communication dated April 3, 2018 from G. Miller, Miller Environmental Services Inc.;
- a communication from W. and F. Fretz, 1984 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication from B. Adair, 675 Eagletrace Drive;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from L. Carriere, 73-825 Dundalk Drive;
- a communication dated April 7, 2018 from J. Robinson, 2156 Valleyrun Boulevard;
- a communication from S. Russell, by e-mail;
- a communication from Dr. A. Guy Plint, Professor of Geology, Western University;
- a communication dated March, 2018 from C. Dyck, by e-mail;
- a communication from M. Does, 161 Bruce Street;
- a communication dated April 5, 2018 from Susan Hall, by e-mail;
- a communication from G. Neish, 1706 Ironwood Road;
- a communication dated April 4, 2018 from R. Duench, 121, Wychwood Park;
- a communication from W. Van Hemessen, Terrestrial Ecologist, Parsons Inc.;
- a communication dated April 5, 2018 from A. Caveney, 46 Kingspark Crescent;
- a communication from J. Bruce Morton, 11 Doncaster Avenue;
- a communication dated March 4, 2018 from G. Wood, by e-mail;
- a communication dated February 5, 2018 from C. Blake, 18 Braemar Crescent;
- a communication dated March 28, 2018 from J. Davies, 60 Longbow Road;
- a communication dated April 4, 2018 from G. McGinn-McTeer, Stoneybrook Heights-Uplands Residents Association;
- a communication dated March 29, 2018 from P. Pendl and A. Vanstone, 74 Green Acres Drive;
- a communication dated February 12, 2018 from J. Nesbitt, by e-mail;

- a communication from C. Boles, 455 Piccadilly Street;
- a communication dated January 30, 2018 from D. Bickford, 64 Doncaster Place;
- a communication dated January 24, 2018 from S. Levin, President, Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayers;
- a communication from J. Farquar, 383 St. George Street;
- a communication dated March 29, 2018 from G. and S. Sinker, 1597 Gloucester Road;
- a communication dated April 8, 2018 from P. Hayman, 77 Doncaster Avenue;
- a communication dated February 7, 2018 from D. Potten, 110 West Rivertrace Walk;
- a communication dated April 9, 2018 from D. Schmidt, Development Manager, Corlon Properties;
- a communication from I. Connidis, 38 Doncaster Avenue;
- a communication dated April 9, 2018 from S. Handler, 54 Doncaster Place; and,
- a communication dated April 4, 2018 from Professor J. Blocker, et. al;

it being pointed out that at the public participation meeting associated with these matters, the individuals indicated on the attached public participation meeting record made oral submissions regarding these matters. (AS AMENDED) (3.2/7/PEC)



C. Saunders
City Clerk
/lm

- cc. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning
L. McDougall, Ecologist Planner
D. Burns, Executive Assistant
Chair and Members, Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
Chair and Members, Accessibility Advisory Committee
PEC Deferred
External cc list in the City Clerk's Office

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (South) – Conservation Master Plan

- Jennifer Petruniak, Dillon Consulting – see attached presentation.
- *(Councillor T. Park indicating that there is a lot of talk about AODA and she did not hear anything about the general exceptions that are available under the AODA; under Section 80.1.5(5), it says that the exceptions to the requirements that apply to recreational trails and beach access routes are permitted where obligated organizations can demonstrate one or more of the following and in subsection 5, it says if 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 value, whether the adverse effects are direct or indirect; the report itself, from her perspective, felt fairly silent on that; wondering if staff could address that; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that through the Conservation Master Plan process, Phase 1 really dealt with identifying what needed that most amount of protection, what was the most ecologically sensitive within the Valley and that is where they defined the Nature Reserve zones; everything else that already had some indication of cultural disturbance, and this is through the Provincially recognized ecological land classification that these delineations are made to identify vegetation communities; these are areas that are already disturbed; where AODA compliant features, trails are proposed, that is only within the natural environment zone where it has already been determined that these features in here are not ecologically sensitive and are not prone to disturbance.*
- *Councillor A. Hopkins asking for clarification on the presentation; asking how many bridges are currently on there; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that there are currently two proposed on the southern part of the Medway Valley Environmentally Significant Area; Councillor Hopkins asking to have the latest trails identified on the map; asking if trails have been installed recently; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that the majority of trails in the plan are existing trails; there are some trails that have been identified for upgrade and these might be wet and muddy and as people use them, they go around so that causes the trail to widen; advising that those are existing trails that they have recommended improvements, a boardwalk may be more suitable; the only new trail is where they are proposing a Level 2 trail to direct users further away from the false rue anemone that loops in the northern part and to keep that Level 2 trail fully in the natural environment zone as well as the trail in the Attawandaron Park to delineate the naturalization zones in there as well as there is one trail that is currently temporarily closed that is proposed to be reopened on the top of the slope in the area that is currently mown grass as part of naturalization to help delineate where the naturalization begins; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning, adding that on the slide shown at the meeting you can see the natural area that is mown grass and that is the only new trail that is being proposed, which is through the lawn area of parkland; the other ones that you can see on the map from A5, an existing trail, but the proposal is to upgrade that from a Level 1 to a Level 2, A11 down the hill towards proposed Bridge D is an existing trail and to upgrade that from a Level 1 to a Level 2; Councillor Hopkins confirming that it is just those two trails being upgraded; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning responding yes, just those two trails.*
- *Councillor M. Salih enquiring about the \$2,100,000, in a ten year span, with maintenance and everything, does the \$2,100,000 include that long-term cost or what is the life expectancy costs of trail maintenance; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning, responding that the City has an ongoing Capital Budget that is carried out each year and that funding is only \$200,000 divided amongst the seven Environmentally Significant Areas but for 2018 and 2019 there is money identified for the Medway Valley; they will have to come back through the next budget process seeking additional funding for that capital program to implement this Master Plan; the ongoing maintenance, fortunately, is covered through the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's contract so they will look after trail maintenance, tree hazards, by-law enforcement,*

restoration of small boardwalks and structures through the Operating Budget as they do yearly; *Councillor M. Salih asking if they know, roughly, how much staff will be asking for when they come back asking for those additional funds*; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning, responding that they will put it through a Business Case for a four year budget but it would be in the nature of approximately \$1,900,000 to implement this Master Plan over time and that will be stretched out beyond the four year budget ask because it is a ten year Master Plan.

- *Mayor M. Brown enquiring about the multi-use pathway that is being recommended; confirming that that is just outside of the Environmentally Significant Area to the west*; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that it is right on the edge of the Environmentally Significant Area, currently it is mown grass; the idea is that they would be working with a local Trail Advisory Group to sight exactly where that trail is but to put that trail in and then to basically naturalize the area to continue to improve the ecological integrity in that area; *Mayor M. Brown asking about the reference to the independent ecologist and the credentials that person carries, asking why that was important to be part of this presentation and expand a bit on the credentials*; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, asking for confirmation that the Mayor is referring to Appendix "D" of the staff report; responding that the reason that they felt that it was important to include that in there is that Dillon Consulting has been working on this file since 2013 and the City of London has been working on it since it started and this is someone who came to them and asked them what they are doing in the Medway, they know there are historic populations of false rue anemone there and what are they seeing as they have the most current data; indicating that they worked with Holly and they worked with the Federal government and their mapping experts to really explain what past information the City of London had, what current information Dillon had collected and what, under the *Endangered Species Act*, Provincially, what they were doing to recover the species and what they had seen over the course of 2014, 2015 and 2016 and through that you will see references to the conversations that she had with them and to the documents the City provided, as well as Dillon Consulting, that helped inform the recovery strategy that was reviewed by Environment Canada scientists, has gone through their public consultation process as well; felt that her opinion would help the Planning and Environment Committee understand that what is being proposed here, they are already doing some great work to help recover the species and some of the things that are actually shown on this slide are completely aligned with the recovery strategy and what they are suggesting to help further recover and help protect the species and they have recognized that the population in Medway is healthy, it is thriving, they are seeing that the population, with any population of species it is going to fluctuate year over year and they are going to see those things, as the weather, it does crazy things and this is a floodplain plant that you can actually only see it for very few weeks of the year, it is something we call an ephemeral plant; working through all those things, it can be a very abstract concept to this so they thought it was important to somebody who is recognized who identifies species in decline, who works with the Ministry of Natural Resources, an independent body as part of COSSARO, to identify what kinds of things a species needs for recovery and what causes its decline and threats as well as working with the Federal government and she was the lead author on the recovery strategy; *Mayor M. Brown asking for an expansion on COSSARO*; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that under the Provincial *Endangered Species Act*, they recognize an independent committee, much like the Advisory Committees that we have formed in the City of London, that acts as a scientific arm and what COSSARO's job is, is it is made up of twelve members and twice a year they assess species; they are given a list of species and they decide, is this species threatened, is this species endangered, is it of special concern, does the government need to sit up and pay attention as to what is going on with the species and create a plan for its recovery so that they do not lose it; COSSARO is different than the Federal government, COSEWICK might be something else that you have heard; COSEWICK is an Advisory Committee to the Minister for Environment Canada and for Fisheries and Oceans and they provide their recommendations; COSSARO, on the other hand, is independent and what

they say goes, the government must adopt their recommendations when it comes to species protection.

- *Councillor H.L. Usher wondering how much of this work is going to be new asphalt paving; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, confirming that the Councillor is asking what percentage of the trails are going to be AODA compliant; there have not been any determinations yet as to what the actual covering of the trail is going to be, Level 1 is dirt, Level 2 is firm and stable AODA compliant but that can take many forms, it can be limestone screenings or wood chips in some cases; this is a Valley, it is prone to flooding so those kinds of surfaces may not be appropriate so a more granular asphalt surface could be implemented but it is the specific details that are site specific that will happen once they get past the consultation planning; Councillor Usher indicating that he is glad that Mrs. Petruniak switched his question because what he wanted to know was pavement but AODA compliant is good enough for him; enquiring that all the asphalt is within the Environmentally Significant Area; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that yes, any of the Level 2 AODA compliant trails are within the Environmentally Significant Area; Councillor Usher asking about the increased use of trails and any possible negative impacts on the species in the area; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that that is one of the concerns that they have heard from the community, saying that if you build accessible, easy to use trails, that more people are going to use them; that part, you cannot predict the future; they are proposing no new parking, there is no parking for this Environmentally Significant Area, it is mostly used by the people in the community; will use go up, we hope so, it is a great Valley, there is going to be a lot of educational opportunities for people to go and explore and really learn about what they are looking at, will that increase use affect ecological integrity, it is her professional opinion that it will not; well-designed trails are known to keep and direct and manage the use of natural areas by people and is probably the best way for people in an urban environment, such as the City of London, to manage the use of a natural area within the urban limits; Councillor Usher asking about the \$500,000 for the annual contract with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), wondering if that will be increased or will it stay the same; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning responding that this is an annual contract that they currently have and it is due for renewal as of January 1, 2019 so it is already built into the Operating budget for the City and they will be back to Council later this year with a report about renewing the contract with the UTRCA and it is already in the approved budget as a pre-approved expenditure, it is a five year contract; Councillor Usher asking if it is likely to increase as a result of this; Mr. A. Macpherson, Manager, Environmental and Parks Planning, responding that the budget only goes up if they add additional land area but what you find, however, and take it or leave it, hardened trails are actually easier to look after than wood chip trails, sometimes dirt trails, once they go in they are stable and firm for a long time, sometimes you would even look at the bridge that they showed you there that has a longer life span than any boardwalk that they are building, it is actually less maintenance than a lot of the lower key boardwalk infrastructure; there is not any proposed increase as a result of this Master Plan.*
- *Councillor M. van Holst wondering what would happen if either one of the proposed bridges were not included, to the trail system, what would you expect would happen to the patterns of use; Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that if they were to leave the system as it is, the current 5.4 kilometers of informal trails going through public property and habitats and features such as seepage areas would probably continue and would possibly even increase as the population increases or more people start to use this, if they were specifically not to put bridges in here, you would limit the amount of accessible trails that are in the Valley there would be a small loop that is accessible, currently there is an existing trail; there is evidence of people traversing the Creek, as well as D, not so much the A, so you end up with people in the Creek because people want to get from one side to the other; Councillor van Holst indicating that right now he notices that there are three loops almost being tied in the middle but they do not touch; wondering if, in the informal trails, do they expect that people are going to want to move across those or are we expecting people to take the larger loop; it looks like you can work your way around the whole trail system if you go through the subdivisions as well;*

Mrs. J. Petruniak, Dillon Consulting, responding that they felt that it was important to show this kind of neighbourhood connection; currently there is an informal trail that is going through these private properties and with the private property going right to the Creek, it is not possible to create a connection within the Environmentally Significant Area here plus they have the bigger colony of false rue anemone as well as some seepage areas and some slopes that are not safe for people to travel on; it is going to take a lot of work, that is part of the Plan, is to do an even better job of working to close these trails, not just to close them through landscape features but also to close them through signage, telling people why it is important that they not continue past this point to access here.

- Jacqueline Madden, Chair and M. Dawthorne, Member, Accessibility Advisory Committee – expressing support for the staff recommendation; believing the bridges are probably the biggest point of contention; pointing out that the two bridges connect the valley with the north, the trails to the west, the University, and adds a great deal of connectivity of an accessible pathway; an AODA compliant trail does not mean asphalt, it does not mean that plants and trees are being leveled or paved; the Accessibility Advisory Committee has never asked for this; believing this Plan works for everyone; accessibility and the environment are not in competition.
- Dr. Katrina Moser, on behalf of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee – see attached presentation.
- Tom Tillman, 1663 Gloucester Road, representing Gloucester Road, Green Acres and Ryersie Road – advising that this is a neighbourhood of approximately 89 properties; expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; indicating that this was only brought to their attention three weeks ago as they are outside of the 200 metre circulation; stating that they have had no meaningful consultation; and requesting the removal of Access 11 and 12 from their neighbourhoods.
- Christian Therrien, Member, Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee – expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; speaking to the aquatic environment at Medway Creek and species at risk; advising that the bridges A and D have been flagged for species at risk; indicating that he has observed species at risk at both locations; expressing concern that the footings would be in the flood plain and would flood in the Spring and possibly the Fall and would cause siltation which is a danger to species at risk; advising that the Conservation Master Plan does not have any aquatic habitat information.
- Roslyn Moorhead, 7 Hastings Gate – discussing the need to protect species at risk as well as other species that have the Medway Valley as their home; London is fortunate to have a niche for species that are rare.
- George Sinker, 1597 Gloucester Road – advising that trail A11 abuts their property to the west; indicating that the trail that is there now is a Level 1 trail; indicating that between 2017 and 2018 the Plan was completely changed; believing that trail A11 should remain a Level 1 trail; believing that the environment should be the first priority; this should not be ecology versus accessibility; stating that we only have on Carolinian forest in London; requesting deferral of decision until Councillors have a chance to walk the A11 trail.
- Kinan Tien, 1125 Western Road, Perth Hall, on behalf of Western's Wildlife Conservation Society – wondering how many of the over seven hundred comments that staff received were in support and how many were against this proposal; stating that the largest threat to false rue anemone is habitat destruction due to recreational activities; expressing concern if the pathways are to be asphalt; reading from the City of London Official Plan, indicating that it states that it should be retained in its natural state; indicating that this is one of the last remaining locations for false rue anemone.
- Professor Lila Kari – reading her letter included in the Planning and Environment Committee Agenda.
- Sal Pacifico, 1607 Gloucester Road – expressing opposition to the staff recommendation; advising that they do not have sidewalks or curbs on their street and the proposal would dump all the traffic coming out of the Environmentally Significant Area onto their street; advising that there is no accountability; stating that they asked for signs twenty years ago and they still do not have signs posted;

not sure how By-law Enforcement can enforce dogs off leash and the dumping of trash; we will not be able to bring the Valley back once the pathways are built.

- Lynn Schmidt, 420 Lawson Road – indicating that it comes down to valuing what we have; feeling the presence of the Natives that were here before us; stating that it is a beautiful, peaceful spot; advising of the presentations held by City staff and Carolinian Canada at the Home and Garden Show on how beneficial it is to get out in nature; advising that at all the meetings they attended they were told that there would not be any bridges, now there are two; stating that this is an Environmentally Significant Area not a park; and, indicating that nature cannot survive us if we do not treasure it.
- Holden Rhodes, 1633 Gloucester Road – expressing opposition to the staff recommendation; understanding that the two access points, A11 and A12 were inserted there and kept as municipally owned allowances to access the Valley because there was no other access from the neighbourhood to the Valley; stating that the neighbourhood does not need access as there is better access through the Elsie Perrin Estate property; indicating that Gloucester Road is twenty-three feet wide, with no sidewalks, curbs or gutters; opening a trail between A11 and A12 will allow parking on a narrow street; advising that one person received notice in their neighbourhood; indicating that no one was asked to sit on the Local Advisory Committee; asking Council to defer this due to lack of notice.
- Alison Vanstone, 74 Green Acres Drive – advising that her property is situated directly beside where the pathway is proposed to go through their backyard and connect to A12; advising that she contacted staff approximately three years ago to ask about any proposed development; noting that she found out about this plan two weeks ago, she was very upset; thinking it is important for community consultation; advising that this feels too late and not enough.
- Dale Belucci, 1586 Gloucester Road – expressing concern with the potential increased crime in their neighbourhood and surrounding neighbourhoods; advising that there is little crime in their neighbourhood because they have limited access; advising that crime is committed when there is accessibility, connectivity and attractiveness; indicating that they do not have sidewalks and lighting; indicating that they were not consulted on these issues; indicating that she is willing to share her research; requesting deferral of the process.
- Mike Landers, 141 Ridgewood Place – advising that this Committee is in a unique position and can make the right decision and save two million dollars.
- Chris Sheculski, 2025 Wallingford Avenue – agreeing that the Valley is amazingly unique; advising that the environment and trails do not have to be at odds; people stay on the trail, help when asked to bust goutweed; understanding the fear of the unknown; advising that he would like to see it extended.
- Jim Davies, 60 Longbow Road – expressing disappointment that the bridges have come up again; relating to Bridge D, there is an interesting area at the bend in the River, the area called the beach, which is a magnet for people in the summer but there is an area behind it with endangered plants; stating that if you remove Bridge D, the area is accessible.
- Dr. Bill Maddeford – believing a lot of this goes back to the guideline for an Environmentally Significant Area, that is to protect it; seeing nothing in the Plan that protects this; believing access should be given to people in the neighbourhood; advising that this Valley is narrow and deep and has a very special value to the City; expressing concern with dogs off leash; advising that he has not seen anything about monitoring; indicating that there is a significant increase in birds in the south area; thinking if this is passed, this will be done in other Environmentally Significant Areas.
- Maddie Hymowitz, 59 Longbow Road – expressing opposition to the staff recommendation; commenting on the Local Advisory Committee process as it has been adversarial and unproductive; indicating that there was not site visit scheduled for the Local Advisory Committee members; public information sessions did not include information on species at risk; expressing that she feels managed and does not like it; requesting the Plan be referred back to staff.
- Aashish Goela, 1587 Ryersie Road – indicating that the key things here are process, what process gaps may have been there; wondering why, after the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee made comments an independent consultant was hired; changing trails A11 and A12 from Level 1 to

Level 2 may seem reasonable but the neighbourhood nearby was not engaged; wondering why the neighbourhood was not consulted; wondering how the process works as a lot of people have found out about this in the last month.

- Lisa Bildy, 1370 Corley Drive – believing this is similar to the tragedy of the Commons; stating that when people have a sense of entitlement to an area it becomes something that people can take as much as they want to from and this could become a running or cycling event as it is no longer a significant area; requesting that bridges not be built in this area; requesting that this area be kept natural as there are several parks in the city that can be used for bicycling and walking; indicating that pretty soon there will be nothing left to protect.
- Dave Potten, 110 West Rivertrace Walk – expressing support for the staff recommendation; advising that he supports recreation in the city and improving the habitat; indicating that the community has taken ownership of the northern portion of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest; providing the history of the Valley; indicating that when you close trails, people make their own; Hiking for Happiness is held for people who are disabled, not necessarily wheelchair bound, who enjoy hiking.
- Vicki Van Linden, 431 Ridgewood Crescent – expressing opposition to the staff recommendation; urging the Planning and Environment Committee to accept the concerns expressed by the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee; believing that Environmentally Significant Areas should not be treated as parks or recreational areas; indicating that all species of wildlife are declining; asking that the wildlife be considered; asking for increased by-law enforcement in all Environmentally Significant Areas.
- Bruce Morton, Doncaster Avenue – advising that his property abuts an existing Level 2 trail that goes into the Environmentally Significant Area; observing people using the trail all times of the year; expressing concern about the protection of the Environmentally Significant Area; indicating that people dump gardening debris into the Environmentally Significant Area; contacting By-law Enforcement and they do not have the resources to deal with matters of dumping in Environmentally Significant Area; asking Council to invest in mechanisms of oversight in the interest of protecting the Environmentally Significant Area.
- Gil Warren, 16-624 William Street – expressing support for the staff recommendation; using the Kilally Environmentally Significant Area on a regular basis; pointing out that the proposed bridges are not in environmentally sensitive area; believing that the position put forward by the Planning Services area is a compromise; believing that it is time to make a decision on this matter; indicating that there has been consultation on this issue and there will never be consensus; advising that trails are temporary and there are other places that would be happy to have the bridges.
- Sandy Levin, 59 Longbow Road – see [attached](#) presentation.
- David Donnelly, Environmental Lawyer, Toronto, representing the Lower Medway Valley Rate Payers Group (LMVRG) - expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; expressing concern with the traffic and species at risk; indicating that the bridges should not be built; requesting a deferral of the Planning and Environment Committee's decision so a more accommodating discussion can be had; pointing out a lack of First Nations consultation is a serious legal liability; outlining that the issue is not more access but better access; bring people to nature, do not build more bridges; building bridges is not a legal obligation of the City under the AODA.
- John Bestard, 1526 Ryersie Road – expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; expressing concern about crime where currently they are backed against a river but once bridges are built they will be into Whitehills and further; expressing concern about the First Nations not being mentioned; expressing concern about adding more people to the BRT zone; advising that citizens have not had any proper knowledge or consultation.
- Jack Blocker, 367 Grosvenor Street – indicating that there are a variety of species are at risk; advising that the Medway is under severe threat from the Conservation Master Plan (CMP); pointing out that the AODA does not require the City to build a bridge where none exists; expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; connecting neighbourhoods is not the job of an ESA; advising that increased through traffic will threaten sensitive species; identifying that access can be provided in nature friendly ways; stating that the bridges will invite more

foot and bicycle traffic; ESA's are not parks, if adopted they will become really nice parks; and delete the bridge building proposal.

- Charlie Shore, 6th Grade Student – advising that he loves the outdoors and the wildlife; indicating that this plan may not help the preservation of wildlife; believing that if a new path is constructed, lots of animals will leave or die during construction or because of increase of human traffic; everything needs to be considered when we disturb an area.
- Gary Brown, 35A - 59 Ridout Street South – indicating that he requires more information about the path that is being installed; putting in a bridge will protect nature from people stepping on the protected species; believing that the case for building a bridge has not been made but a case for not building a bridge has been made; pointing out that there has been no indigenous consultation; advising that they fought for no pavement in The Coves and it was done and was also made accessible; stating that, if a pathway is constructed, although not permitted, bikes will use this.
- Rene Agathos – advising that she has lived in the Sunningdale area for 18 years and has been asking questions since 2011 about the trails in the area; indicating that she was advised in 2011 that when the sewer trunk was put through or around the Medway Valley so would a multi-use pathway system; pointing out that there are lots of trails in the City but nothing is connected; indicating that people are staying on the trails and causing less damage in the trails in her area; outlining that wildlife and plant life has adapted and flourished; believing they need to come to some sort of a compromise; pointing out that damage has already been done; and the City has done their due diligence in the consulting process.
- Gary Smith, 141 Meadowlily Road South – indicating that these decisions do establish a precedent; advising that green space needs to be protected and appreciated; pointing out that he is not sure how hard paths improve the green quality; asking that Council give consideration to “less is more”; leaving our natural areas alone is a wise philosophy.
- Mike Blewett, 73 Green Acres Drive – advising that he was not notified about the public participation meeting and does not read The Londoner; expressing opposition to the proposed staff recommendation; indicating that the City is trying to put a square peg into a round hole; indicating that if the area is developed then the wildlife will disappear.
- Sarah Jones – advising that, first we must address the issue of safety; expressing concern with increased traffic; pointing out that these are fast flowing waters; expressing concern about people jumping from the bridge into fast flowing water and children drowning; expressing concern about the increased amount of unsupervised young people; expressing concern about drugs and alcohol being used in the area; asking people to consider the risk Council is taking by allowing increased traffic.
- Janet Peters, 2048 Valleyrun Boulevard – advising that she is a hiker, nature lover, adventurer and gardener; indicating that she currently uses the local trails such as Fanshawe, Elgin, and Thames Valley; looking for the continuity for a natural route through the valley floor; stating that the valley's and creeks are not private lands; indicating that she does not want to walk along the property line which is close to people's homes; believing that the City should be enhancing London's trail system.
- John Levstik, 206 St. Bees Close – advising that he served on the Local Advisory Committee that helped put this together; indicating that there are ways to protect the environment and have greater access; believing that enhanced trails and bridges may help lessen the impact on the deterioration of the park.
- Bernie VanDenBelt, 9987 Longwoods Road, President of Nature London – advising that the proposals to create more pathways and bridges has more to do with recreational than conservation; indicating that it is hard to see how more bridges and greater trails will help conservation and the plants of Medway; stating that if you want to preserve habitat you need to delete the bridges from the Master Plan; believing the needs of native and flora fauna should be coming first; pointing out that species are at risk of being trampled on; indicating that Nature London requests that the plan be sent back to staff for revision including the deletion of proposed bridges.

- Judy Ponti-Scargi, Valleyrun Boulevard – advising that she would like to photograph the Medway Valley pre-implementation and post-implementation and offering her services to photograph the Medway Valley.
- K. Zarebecki 205 - 240 Villagewalk Boulevard Unit, representing the Sunningdale Ratepayers Association – advising that he served on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC); advising that the experience at the LAC was much what you have felt and seen tonight; looking at a map of the north section, you would see a continuous path from the north to the south with a couple connection points; pointing out that the utility overlay that the pathway runs over is maybe four or five percent at the most of the whole valley and the pathway system is maybe about three percent of the whole valley system so we have not turned this into a park; advising that Council has made major decisions around pathways up in the north and connection to the Thames Valley Pathway system, he thinks you can do that at here and you'll complete that section of the pathway.
- Mohamed Moussa, 155 Thornton Avenue - requesting that the Plan not be approved in this fashion; expressing agreement with former Councillor Levin and Mr. Donnelly's submissions; adding that crafters of AODA have included exceptions; advising that his property adjoins pathway and in his experience, signage does nothing to keep people on the trail and dogs on-leash without expensive proper enforcement; further stating that bridges and connectivity are not needed.
- Tammy Hogan, 1540 Gloucester - advising that she walks the pathway every day and cannot figure out how a bridge could be built without severe impact to environment and animals.
- Maria Howshell, 1526 Ryersie Road - raising a question about A13 path beside Elsie Perrin; wondering why work has already begun, clear cutting large trees that canopied the path.

Appendix F

2019 - 2021 ACCAC, EEPAC and UTRCA Meeting Minutes

Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: Restart Meeting
10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Wednesday, August 21th, 2019
Capitol Boardroom 206 Dundas Street

Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

The City	Gregg Barrett, John Fleming, Emily Williamson
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure
ACCAC	Michael Dawthorne, Jacqueline Madden
EEPAC	Susan Hall, Sandy Levin

1) Welcome and Introductions

2) Project Background and Intention of the Meeting

a. Overview / Background

- Phase 2 was attached to the meeting invite. Other reports and documents are available on the City's Website
<https://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Pages/Conservation-Plans.aspx>

b. Restart Intent

- By bringing together ACCAC, EEPAC, UTRCA and the City together in one room we hope to establish a working group that combines the Ecological, Accessibility, Regulatory and Natural Hazard expertise needed to navigate the intricacies of the project and develop a successful plan to move this section of the MVHF ESA Phase 2 CMP forward.

3) Shared Principles

a. Scientific Basis

- Citizen science (public observations) will be included as part of the scientific basis while acknowledging that not all citizen science is created equal. The timing and quality of these observations is extremely important to avoid project delays. The group agrees that observations of this nature should be included in the background review as possibilities to be considered and assessed for during the subsequent 'Detailed Design' phases prior to construction.

b. Environmental Protection

- From the London Plan :
1301_ **The diversity and connectivity of natural features and areas, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of Natural Heritage Systems, will be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas,** surface water features and groundwater features. It is important to note that ecosystem processes are happening everywhere, not just in a defined Natural Heritage System, and that recognition of ecosystem based planning needs to account for all these processes across the City of London. Not all natural heritage features and areas are physically connected to each other. This is because there is a scattered pattern of remnant natural heritage features and areas across the landscape that has been modified over time by human activities.
- The group notes that Environmental Protection establishes if access is appropriate for all members of the public. If access is determined to be appropriate, then ensure

that as many people as possible can access the area. This is achieved through consultation with ACCAC. If not, how are we limiting, prohibiting and excluding access to these areas. See the attached graphic outlining the process.

c. Increased Accessibility

- Discussions of trail type specifics including, trail material type, and the type of disability accommodation that the CMP aims to address will be considered at later stages of the process.
- Level 2 Trails do not necessarily require paving or asphalt – firm, hard, stable surface.

O.Reg. 191/11: Integrated Accessibility

80.9 (1) Obligated organizations shall ensure that any recreational trails that they construct or redevelop, and that they intend to maintain, meet the following technical requirements:

1. A recreational trail must have a minimum clear width of 1,000 mm.
2. A recreational trail must have a clear height that provides a minimum head room clearance of 2,100 mm above the trail.
3. The surface of a recreational trail must be **firm and stable**.
4. Where a recreational trail has openings in its surface,
 - i. the openings must not allow passage of an object that has a diameter of more than 20 mm, and,
 - ii. any elongated openings must be orientated approximately perpendicular to the direction of travel.

d. Other?

- Natural Hazards, should be considered as a shared principle throughout this update. UTRCA notes that floodplain mapping is not yet available.

4) Resources that will be used

a. CMP Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation 2013

- The group agrees that this Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation are the necessary starting point and were conducted with sound scientific principles. Any outstanding areas or necessary assessments can be completed as a compliment to this on an as-needed basis, recognizing that species presence/ absence and associated population dynamics can fluctuate seasonally and annually. These assessments also expire and are best completed within a close proximity to construction.

b. Citizen Science / Sightings

c. AODA Standards: A Guide to the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation – April 2014.

d. Adopted City Standards – was raised during the meeting, clarification required.

e. Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas

5) Review of Base Mapping

a. Identify Areas of Agreement

i. Where are they?

ii. If they are not a concern can we agree on these sections?

- The group established that all areas that were not identified areas of common concern were areas of agreement. This section was skipped to focus on the areas of common concern.

b. Identify Areas of Concern / Issues

i. Where are they?

1. EEPAC - Restricting Access surrounding the False Rue-anemone.

2. Bridge A
 3. Bridge D
 4. Level 2 Trails within the ESA: If public access is granted inside the ESA then Level 1 and 2 Trail Types both need to be included in the plan.
 5. Cyclist Connectivity:
- ii. *What is the concern/ issue?*
1. False Rue-anemone Access:
 - Additional access from Bridge A and D will bring more people to the area.
 - Trail Closures have not been successful in the past.
 2. Candidate Hibernacula at Bridge A
 - Until a snake coverboard survey is completed, the rockpile should be considered a potential hibernacula.
 3. Slender Satin Grass and Cream Violet at Bridge D
 - Concerned that mitigation measures will not be enough to ensure that the species is protected.
 4. Accessibility is needed in the area in the form of Level 2 Trail Types
 - If access to the area has been granted to the public, additional areas of connectivity (e.g., potential for loops) are necessary to ensure that the accessibility requirements are met.
 5. Accommodation from Fanshawe/Wonderland to Western is needed to include cyclists.
 - How can we facilitate a connection, better signage to improve connectivity between these areas?
- iii. *Are there other options that accomplish the same goals?*
1. False Rue-anemone:
 - Other opportunities to direct/divert people away from sensitive species ?
 - Would require a site visit to Elsie Perrin Williams.
 2. Bridge A Candidate Hibernacula:
 - Other crossings away from sensitive species that accomplish connectivity goals?
 - Would require a site visit to determine if the area is a candidate snake hibernacula, and flag the area for a snake coverboard survey during detailed design.
 3. Bridge D Slender Satin Grass and Cream Violet:
 - Other crossings away from sensitive species that accomplish connectivity goals?
 - Would require a site visit to determine population clusters and if opportunities for the alignment to avoid them exist or not.
 4. If Access is permitted, Accessibility is required for the updated plan: What Level 2 trails could be created in the ESA that avoid sensitive species and also provide access?
 - A13 – A11 loop
 - Southside A18 – A19
 - A crossing is key to getting beyond the periphery of the ESA.
 5. Cyclist Accommodation:

- New signage to include 'How to get to Western University'. Directional signs were discussed as a solution as both topography and ecological features and functions mean a direct link to the University (Trail Type – Level 3) risks damage to ecological features and functions.
- None of the trail types proposed in 2015 or currently in place are Trail Type - Level 3(Cycling) except for the proposed trail behind Attawandaron. There are concerns that Type II trail use is not limited to 'kids on bikes'. How can we limit unsanctioned access of these areas?

iv. What hasn't been considered previously?

1. How can we improve trail closing techniques?
 - Hockett, Marion and Leng (2017) paper on trail mitigation strategies.
2. Other crossings that avoid sensitive species. Coordination with UTRCA to establish areas with the least natural hazard concerns and include floodplain mapping considerations.

6) On-Site Meetings

- a. *Do we need to consider anything before these meetings are booked?*
 - i. Meetings suggested for Elsie Perrin and Longbow / Doncaster – date to be determined. Please provide indication of availability.

7) Other Comments

Mark-ups to the mapping, identifying the areas of common concern have been included as an attachment.

8) Next Meeting – September?

Please provide indication of availability.

Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: On-site Meeting
9 am to 11 am, Thursday, November 14rd, 2019
Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

Minutes: Sean Hudson

Attendance

The City	Gregg Barrett, Mike Fabro, Sean Hudson
ACCAC	Jacqueline Madden
EEPAC	Susan Hall, Sandy Levin

Regrets

ACCAC	Michael Dawthorne
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure

- We identified two trail sections that have accessibility issues, including: the 'mud hole' and the steep slope near the EPW entrance (see Map).
- We also identified that encroachment is occurring immediately along the river bank. Specifically, near the river lookout with the large rocks (see Map).
- CITY and EEPAC rep. identified that an additional two large rocks could be placed at this lookout to deter encroachment onto the river bank.
- CITY rep. identified the 'mud hole' as an accessibility issue. How to make this surface 'firm and stable' has not yet been determined. Regardless of the substrate used, some sort of drainage will be needed at this section.
- EEPAC rep. identified that the addition of a trail section between two flatter parts of the entrance-exit trails would allow us to bypass the steep slope. The trail section on the steep slope would be closed and restored.
 - The yellow trail sign would need to be removed.
 - A spring inventory, restoration measures, and measures to reduce encroachment would need to be conducted in the proposed area. Several trees and / or Red Osier Dogwood could be planted on the slope to block the view of the trail section below, and limit encroachment.

Species sighted:

- *Odocoileus virginianus*
- *Colaptes auratus*
- *Poecile atricapillus*
- *Liriodendron tulipifera*




Next steps:

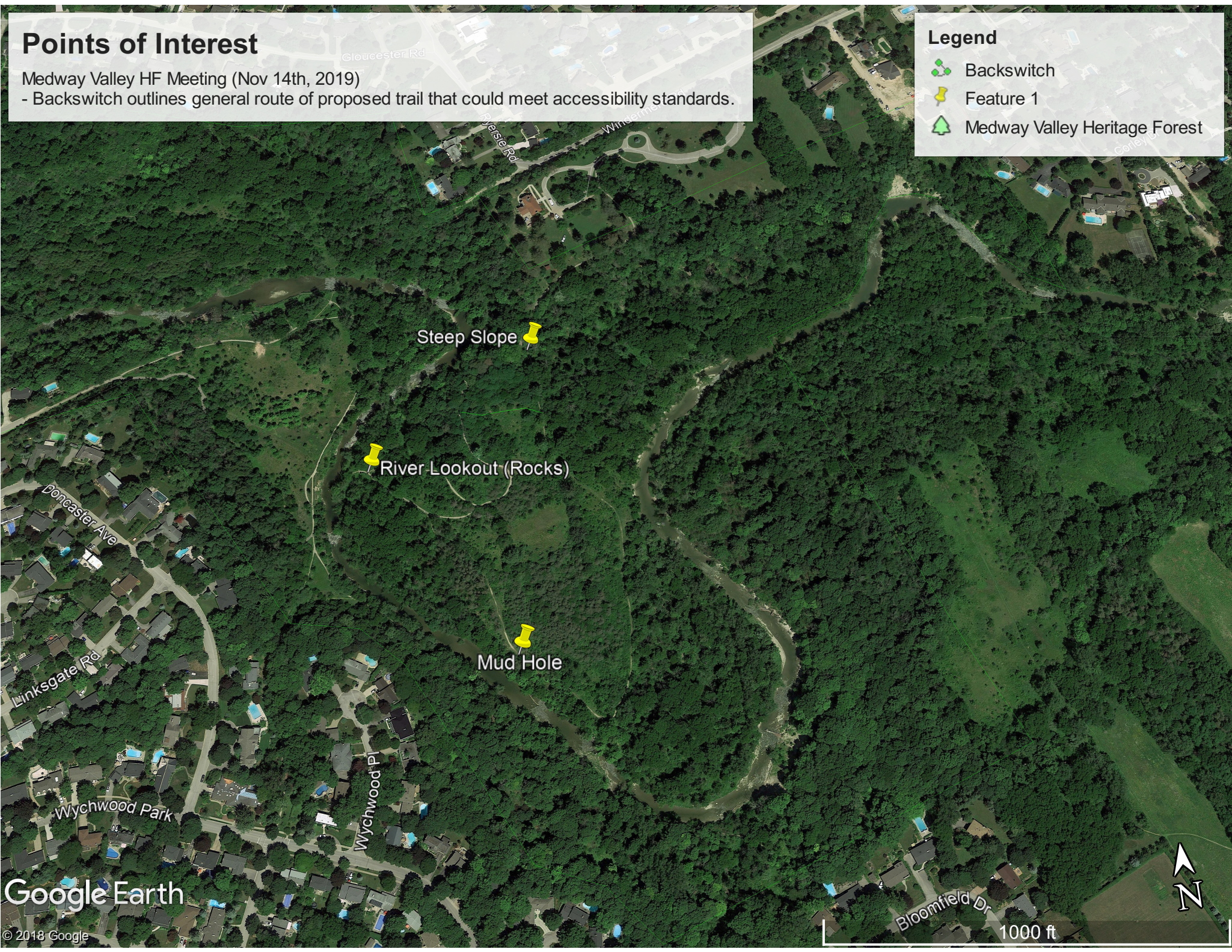
- What is an acceptable 'firm and stable' plan for these areas? How will it be implemented? We should meet once more prior to Spring to discuss next steps.
- Discuss options for river crossings, including costs and benefits of crossings.
- Once accessibility is confirmed, we can bring the CMP back to the public.

Points of Interest

Medway Valley HF Meeting (Nov 14th, 2019)
- Backswitch outlines general route of proposed trail that could meet accessibility standards.

Legend

-  Backswitch
-  Feature 1
-  Medway Valley Heritage Forest



Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: Snake Creek / Attawandaron
Outline for Requested Comments
Comments to be received prior to November 2, 2020 and November 16, 2020.

Affiliations

City Planning	Gregg Barrett, Mike Fabro, Emily Williamson
City Accessibility	Melanie Stone (as needed)
ACCAC	Michael Dawthorne, Jacqueline Madden
EEPAC	Susan Hall, Sandy Levin
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure

General:

Sandy Levin – has added photos to maps should you find them useful. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ir4e8z4ayr2y7my/TAG%20walk%20Snake%20Creek%20and%20Attawandaron.pdf?dl=0>

Attawandaron Access A5 – A1 (See Attawandaron Mapping):

Comment	Additional Comments Noting Points of Agreement – City Response
<p>Slope, Trail Suitability – Siting Considerations: Susan Hall 1) This proposed trail can be entered from the parking lot for the Museum of Ontario Archeology at Attawandaron Park. It continues in the park on a grassy and occasionally wet, level surface past A2 where at A3, the level green space ends. The trail narrows and is sloped down towards the valley. It ends at a steep asphalt path that links A4 and A5.</p> <p>Sandy Levin 2) flat (Attawandaron Park) Although it is unclear how it gets from the north section without dealing with a narrow area that is not flat (see Photo 1).</p>	
<p>Slope, Trail Suitability – Hazard Considerations Sandy Levin 3) none apparent for 1 to 5 however the area from A5 directly south is often wet (even as late as May has standing water) and sometimes flooded (see recent Photo 2). There is also a wetland just south of the bike gate. It would take significant work to provide drainage for a Level 2 trail to the Creek which would change the hydrology, and it would still flood at times. Also no green ESA sign to this section.</p> <p>Brent Verscheure 4) Proposed Level 3 trail connection between A1-A4 (including A2, A3) would be considered new development within hazard lands (riverine erosion hazard associated to Medway Creek). Please note that any new development (including Level 1-3 trails) shall avoid riverine erosion hazard lands. Any proposed development of these lands will be subject to a favourable geotechnical assessment that will identify the development limit, ie: stable top of slope plus 6m erosion access allowance as outlined within the MNR Technical Guidelines. It should be noted that the specific area between A3-A4 appears to be highly constrained following a review of topographical mapping.</p> <p>5) Existing managed trail/ Proposed Level 2 trail – located within the riverine flooding hazard lands of Medway Creek, the formalization of this managed trail into a Level 2 managed trail shall have regard for Medway Creek and the associated floodplain lands. Proposed and formalized trails should locate and avoid riverine flooding hazard lands where possible, and shall not have any negative impacts on the conveyance of flows during a 2yr thru 250yr return period, as well as erosion of the top of bank of the Medway Creek.</p>	<p>3) Proper trail planning will entail addressing the water as it is unclear if this is a wetland feature, however the hydrology noted may be the result of overland flow. Can be assessed at later stages as appropriate.</p> <p>4) Noted. 5) Noted. 6) Noted. 7) Noted.</p>

<p>6) Overview mapping is conceptual and does not show topography and proposed grading associated to formalizing managed trails. Additional detail will be required when preferred trail network is being further reviewed and considered.</p> <p>7) Medway Creek linkage comments to be incorporated at later date as per request on comments.</p>	
<p>Opportunities to provide accessible trails: Could accessible trails be sited in this section? If so, where? What is an acceptable 'firm and stable' plan for these areas? How could it be implemented? Susan Hall</p> <p>8) For much of its' length this trail falls within a "natural environment" designation with a small part of it to the north of A3 as "nature reserve". Level 2 trails are suggested for a "natural environment. A Level 2 trail as described in Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (p.34) would be sufficient to meet AODA standards. The proposed Level 3 trail would allow adult cyclists and also increase linkages. I support a level 3 trail.</p> <p>9) Of concern is the availability of accessible parking. Around A4, A3 and up to A2, off-street parking is limited by semi-detached housing with double driveways running to the street and rounded curbs. To improve accessibility it might be useful to designate handicapped parking south of A2. There is no accessible parking at A5.</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p> <p>10) In the section adjacent to the houses, yes, as it would also deal with long standing encroachment issues by abutting property owners. There are already sidewalks on both sides of Attawandaron that lead to a sidewalk, not the parking lot.</p> <p>11) Not sure what this means so I leave it to Michael and Jackie.</p> <p>Jackie Morton</p> <p>12) Access points 1-5 are the easy parts of this trail plan from an accessibility point of view. It is easy to make these accessible and would be a benefit to the entire community to finish this part of the trail system.</p>	<p>8) Providing areas along the periphery for cyclists diversifies the uses and increases recreation opportunities.</p> <p>9) Noted.</p> <p>10) Formalizing the trail may include native plantings along the property line to provide privacy to landowners and reduce encroachment.</p> <p>11) Noted.</p> <p>12) Including level 3 or level 2 trails through this section have less potential for impact given their location in natural environment management zone.</p>
<p>Linkages: What implications are associated with creating these community linkages with Medway VHF North?</p> <p>Michael Dawthorne</p> <p>13) In the last round of discussions on Medway I believe most agreed the crossing to the North (near A3) offered very little benefit other than to connect the northern segment (North of Fanshawe) to the East and closer to the University. It was likely to funnel more people and bikes into the valley.</p> <p>14) It's added accessibility value is offset by the risk, and the fact that portion of the trail offers very little 'natural exposure' in that there are clear signs of housing or major roads in three of four directions (N,E, and W). The previous plan also called for a paved pathway connecting A1 and A4 that would run behind the houses and serve as a degree of separation between the residential properties and the valley itself, while simultaneously allowing people (including those with disabilities) to not have to leave the pathway system, enter residential areas, then return in a few blocks later.</p> <p>Susan Hall</p> <p>15) Linkages to Level 3 trails north of Fanshawe Rd. W and on - road bicycle paths on Wonderland and Sarnia Roads to Western University at A1.</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p>	<p>13) A finalized CMP and associated trail upgrades will assist in providing visitors with a clear and preferred trail option, reducing associated informal trails and allowing for more successful trail closures.</p> <p>14) Can you elaborate on the 'risk' mentioned here? A formalized pathway would provide a separation between the natural area and residential area.</p> <p>15) Noted.</p> <p>16) Something to consider and weigh against the value of providing access to those with disabilities. The third informal trail that you mention identifies the public's desire to access the area. Do you wish to have it included as an informal trail on the mapping?</p>

<p>16) Brings more bikes to an area with two informal trails on Museum property already. BTW, there is a third informal trail behind the Museum not shown on the map (see Photo 3). It is thru the area where the Museum waste bin is and where the sign points to the west for trail continuity.</p>	
<p>Sensitive Species habitat Where does it exist? How can we best protect it?</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p> <p>17) In the area now called Attawandaron Park, it is mowed lawn –it is assigned the Natural Env zone. Inventory by Dillon shows a Butternut tree near the north end of the site although I am not aware if its health was assessed or not.</p> <p>18) In the area that Leads to Medway Creek, there is a Blue-leaved Willow (CC 10) on the north side of the Creek as noted in the inventory by Dillon.</p> <p>19) Dillon also identified Green Dragon near the informal trail to the northeast of the Museum</p> <p>20) Butternut in Attawandaron Park – give it the required 25 m buffer. Blue Leaf Willow, don't build a bridge as the bridge would destroy it and the hibernacula on the south side of the Creek. For the Green Dragon, close the informal trail.</p>	<p>17) Agree - no butternut assessment completed to assess for hybrid status of butternut tree which could influence routing. Recommend analysis to appropriately inform process.</p> <p>18) Blue-leaved willow is not listed on the existing mapping, or in the report. Please review Table 10 in the CMP. New inventory is not being accepted as part of this process.</p> <p>19) This was not included in the mapping</p> <p>20) Potential hibernacula falls below the highwater line and therefore is not a viable site. 'are protected from flooding (e.g. above high water mark)'. Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2016. Recovery Strategy for the Queensnake (Regina septemvittata) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa. 3 parts, 28 pp. + vi + 34 pp. + 5 pp.</p>
<p>Other</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p> <p>21) There is an opportunity to deal with the buckthorn infestation at the north end of Attawandaron Park.</p> <p>22) Reminder only 18% of respondents to a survey during the development of the CMP said improved trail linkages was a priority.</p> <p>23) The informal trail shown on the east side of the Creek from Fanshawe Park Road south no longer exists. This has been confirmed by the ESA team.</p> <p>24) As development increases to the north including the bridge over Richmond Street, there will be increases in utilization both appropriate and inappropriate.</p> <p>25) Any change should be concurrent with scarifying informal trails and enforcement activities with the closures.</p> <p>26) The CMP map does not show that there are two informal trails up to the Museum property. (See drawing on map)</p>	<p>21) Agree. Invasive removal is out of the scope of this discussion, as we assume the group has no disagreement that invasive species should be removed as part of ESA management works. Unpacking the invasive management strategy was not part of the Council directed review of this CMP.</p> <p>22) As anyone could fill out the survey multiple times, the data was not intended to be quantitative.</p> <p>LAC 3 Minutes in CMP: 1.3.2. Karla provided more clarity to the LAC on the engagement/survey process and that, with multiple platforms being used, comments have to be carefully considered as the comments are not weighted. The process was not intended to be one of statistical sampling/data collection for decision-making. Comments received during the engagement process from the public and the LAC to date were used to identify items for consideration in the Draft CMP and review with the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs rather than being tabulated to make decisions."</p> <p>LAC 5 Minutes in CMP: 5.2. Sandy Levin was puzzled as to why anybody could fill out the survey (i.e., the survey is open to anyone who has access to the internet). 5.2.1. Karla touched on that it is a consultation tool and not to be used for statistical purposes.</p> <p>23) Noted.</p> <p>24) Agreed. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the likelihood that uses will be appropriate.</p> <p>25) Agreed. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the likelihood that uses will be appropriate.</p> <p>26) Agreed. Informal trail closures</p>

Snake Creek Access A1 – A20 (See Snake Creek Mapping):

Topic	Comment	City Response
Slope, trail suitability	<p>Siting Considerations: Susan Hall</p> <p>27) A1 starts as a level 3 paved path. The trail entrance off this path is steep and eroded . The trail levels out as it continues towards the “stepping stones”. It is located at the base of a steep hillside and for part of its’ length hugs the creek. In places the trail has widened with exposed tree roots. At one point where erosion has worn away the bank and a tree is growing beside the trail the actual trail narrows to a width of not more than 2 feet if that. To proceed it is necessary to go around by climbing over the roots of the tree or dropping down the river bank and up again.</p> <p>28) The Trail starting at A1 lies for the most part within the flooding hazard and erosion hazard lines identified for Snake Creek (UTRCA, 2019).</p> <p>29) At A20 the trail starts with a narrow, steep, slippery incline before turning right and gently sloping down to Snake Creek at the stepping stones. It lies for the most part within the flooding hazard and erosion hazard lines identified for Snake Creek (UTRCA, 2019).</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p> <p>30) significant slope down from sidewalk on Wonderland Road. A hump shortly after starting the trail from Wonderland Road. An area that is usual wet and then a very narrow path around beech tree next to Creek which is up against a steep slope (see following Photos 4-7).</p> <p>31) Significant slopes from A20. See Photo 8 from bottom of Pitcarnie entrance looking up.</p> <p>Hazard Considerations: Brent Versheure</p> <p>32) Existing trails shall be evaluated to ensure that the trails are not exacerbating erosion and erosion process at the top of bank of the watercourses. Informal trails within riverine erosion hazard and riverine flooding hazard shall be reviewed and strategically closed/eliminated, where feasible. Site specific locations of unmanaged /informal trails should be evaluated to ensure these locations will not exacerbate erosion and erosion processes.</p> <p>33) Proposed area of Snake Creek linkage should be evaluated to consider the natural meander of Snake Creek where it is visible that active erosion is ongoing.</p> <p>34) Overview mapping is conceptual and does not show topography and proposed grading associated to formalizing managed trails. Additional detail will be required when preferred trail network is being further reviewed and considered.</p> <p>35) Snake Creek flows into the Medway near the trail and the trail floods every spring making it impassable.</p>	<p>27) Agree. Steep slopes at the A1 access could be improved. Due to erosion at the beech tree there is a unique opportunity to improve the trail system by realigning the trail onto more stable ground, formalizing a creek crossing earlier with steeping stones. There is cribwall potential here depending on concerns regarding sensitivity. As the trail continues to erode, eventually this section will need to be closed in the absence of remediation.</p> <p>28) Agreed. UTRCA to comment on appropriate trail structures and shoreline alteration permits would be required for works.</p> <p>29) Agreed. Potential to improve the access at Pitcarnie exists.</p> <p>30) Agreed. Steep slopes at the A1 access could be improved. Due to erosion at the beech tree there is a unique opportunity to improve the trail system by realigning the trail onto more stable ground, formalizing a creek crossing earlier with steeping stones. There is cribwall potential here depending on concerns regarding sensitivity. As the trail continues to erode, eventually this section will need to be closed in the absence of remediation.</p> <p>31) Agreed. Potential to improve the access at Pitcarnie exists.</p> <p>32) Agreed. UTRCA to comment on appropriate trail structures and shoreline alteration permits would be required for works.</p> <p>33) Agreed.</p> <p>34) What specific detail would be necessary? I assume details would be needed on a section by section basis and not as part of this process.</p> <p>35) Noted.</p>
Opportunities to provide accessible trails	<p>Could accessible trails be sited in this section? If so, where? What is an acceptable ‘firm and stable’ plan for these areas? How could it be implemented?</p> <p>Sandy Levin</p> <p>36) The management zone is Nature Reserve</p> <p>37) Not sure how one could be implemented given the topography. Plus it would require a Creek crossing into an area where there currently is no trail. And then would lead to either the unmanaged trail or if the section to Gainsborough (near A19) was reopened, to a steep slope which is in Nature Reserve. (see topo map with 1 m contours (Photo 9).</p>	<p>36) Agree. The management Zone is Nature Reserve.</p> <p>37) Realignment could allow for level two ‘firm and stable’ however the area floods annually so less potential than other sections.</p>
Linkages	<p>What implications are there with improving these community linkages?</p>	<p>38) Noted.</p>

	<p>Susan Hall 38) Proposed link to trail from A 20 by the use of “stepping stones” At A1 this trail is also linked to an asphalt path that connects up the hill to Attarwandaron Road.</p> <p>Sandy Levin 39) Not sure what communities you are linking. You mean trail linkages? By realigning the trail behind the houses on Whiteacres, you will resolve an encroachment issue which would require input from residents. However, you would also increase the usage of informal trails that would need to be scarified and closed (with enforcement right after closure). Sadly these trails were recommended for closure back in 1996 but are still in use today as there is no clear directional signage or trail closure signs. (Even the closure barricades at Gainsborough (between the end of Gainsborough Road and A19) are confusing as you have one with a closed trail sign and another without, resulting in people going down the unsigned one (see Photo 10).</p> <p>40) With the increase in population, you increase the usage both appropriate and inappropriate. Likely end up with more gatherings at the top of the bluff behind Balnagowan.</p>	<p>39) Agree. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the success of trail closures.</p> <p>40) Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the success of trail closures, understanding that there will always be visitors who choose inappropriate usages. The UTRCA team does a great job of enforcement throughout the ESAs through the management contract.</p>
<p>Sensitive Species habitat</p>	<p>Where does it exist? How can we best protect it?</p> <p>Susan Hall 41) False Rue Anemone patch to the left of and at the stepping stone crossing</p> <p>Sandy Levin 42) American Growell and False Rue are noted by Dillon by the unmanaged trail along Medway Creek below the closed trail to and from Gainsborough 43) Close informal trails. Keep the closed trail closed.</p>	<p>41) Noted. Appropriate siting of trails considering these populations is needed. Potential for further mapping to identify specific locations as the areas are quite large.</p> <p>42) Agree. Location is adjacent to the river. Appropriate siting of trails considering these populations is needed. Potential for further mapping to identify specific locations as the areas are quite large.</p> <p>43) Agree. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the success of trail closures.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Sandy Levin 44) Should be indication at the entrance to the Snake Creek section that it is a circular path, informal trails should be scarified and the closure enforced once implemented.</p> <p>45) invasive species (Woodland Sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>) – As noted by Dillon, this sedge species carpets the Snake Creek Valley and is starting to spread into the Medway Creek Valley. This species overtakes native flora, creating a monoculture in the ground layer of forest communities. I don’t believe anything has been done since the inventory was completed. However, it appears it is now too extensive to control.</p> <p>46) From the 1996 Plan – trails to be closed around hill from Snake Creek Valley” (still in use and was not marked as closed as late as this summer – see Photo 11).</p> <p>47) No green ESA sign at A20</p> <p>48) It leads up the slope along a “goat path” thru Museum property to a place at the edge where the fence does not bar people from accessing. It exits/enters into their parking lot (see photo). In addition, there are many trails in the Snake Creek Valley which must be closed.</p>	<p>44) Agree. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the success of trail closures.</p> <p>45) Please identify source. Invasive removal is out of the scope of this discussion, we are looking at trail siting and how to best arrive at an agreeable plan.</p> <p>46) Agree. Formalizing the CMP and establishing appropriate access for visitors will provide a better option to improve the success of trail closures.</p> <p>47) Agree. Signage is out of the scope of this discussion, we are looking at trail siting and how to best arrive at an agreeable plan.</p> <p>48) Agree. Shows that access into the valley is desired. Let’s provide a better option so that folks can access without using informal trails.</p>

**Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: Snake Creek / Attawandaron
Virtual Meeting January 28, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Affiliations

City Planning	Mike Fabro, Emily Williamson
ACCAC (former)	Michael Dawthorne, Jacqueline Madden
EEPAC	Sandy Levin
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure

General:

- EEPAC suggested that an additional public participation round be provided given the interest in the previous interest in the CMP. The City reminded that the function of this update is to address and resolve the Council Resolution (2018). Given the extensive previous public participation process an additional round would be unlikely to result in new input from residents.
- EEPAC understands that the SWH Criteria for snake hibernacula does not mention flood plains. The City reminded that of the scope of the meeting did not include this crossing. The Environment Canada source that identifies that hibernacula in floodplains are unlikely given the flooding risk to the snakes. EEPAC disagrees with this source as it is included in the Queensnake recovery strategy.
- Post Meeting Follow-up: EEPAC reached out to two ecologists who noted that, in general, they wouldn't exclude a site from SWH hibernacula consideration below the flood plain. EEPAC provided a research paper on specific instances of garter snakes hibernating in burrows that flood. The City notes that this falls outside the scope of this update as detailed design works in this area would require additional study, but that the information will be noted as background for a necessary subsequent study.
- Resolving the CMP is necessary to improve accessibility and environmental protection as closing trails won't be effective in the absence of appropriate alternatives. 'People want to know where to go'.

Attawandaron Access A5 – A1:

- Discussed that more direction is required to limit off trail access and filter people toward Wonderland. Potential opportunities to include road painting but these details would be determined once the CMP is finalized.

EEPAC and ACACC agree that increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a level 3 or level 2 trail.

UTRCA noted that they are not able to agree or sign off on any trails within the floodplain or hazard lands, even at this conceptual level, until the construction and geotechnical specifics have been outlined. The City will follow-up with UTRCA separately.

Snake Creek Access A1 – A20:

- Potential to realign the trail in this section.
- Erosion feature along the northern edge could be resolved with living crib wall application, was suggested.
- Trail re-alignment could help direct people away from the informal trails.
- Realignment of the closed trail up the slope to the south (distinguished from the informal trail up the slope to the Museum).
- EEPAC notes that the 'Lawson Park' section of the ESA is not City owned.
- ACACC reminded that slope reduction increases accessibility as the trail will be more easily navigated and that 'accessibility' is not limited to level 2 trails but through well thought-out trail works. They reminded the group that many of the trail specifics that improve the accessibility of the area (naturalized seating, surfaces etc.) are determined at the detailed stage and that many of their comments at this stage are the same throughout the valley.

EEPAC and ACACC agree that increased accessibility through trail realignment and formalizing the existing level 1 trail in this section makes sense.

UTRCA noted that they are not able to 'agree' or sign off on any trails within the floodplain or hazard lands, even at this conceptual level, until the construction and geotechnical specifics have been outlined.

Next Steps:

Review the Aldersbrook, Gloucester and Elsie Perrin sections north of Medway Creek for February 9th meeting.

**Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: North of Medway Creek
(Glenridge, Gloucester, Elsie Perrin)
Virtual Meeting February 2, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Affiliations

City Planning	Mike Fabro, Emily Williamson
ACCAC (former)	Jacqueline Madden
EEPAC	Sandy Levin, Susan Hall
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure

General:

Review of the previous meeting trail plan agreement between EEAPC and ACACC:

- Attawandaron: Increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a Level 3 or Level 2 trail.
- Snake Creek: Increased accessibility through trail realignment and formalizing the existing Level 1 trail in this section.

Update from UTRCA/ City meeting:

In general, UTRCA Environmental Regulations staff support and agree with the principles that provide the framework for the (conceptual) CMP which includes the future formalization of existing trails, closure of informal trails, and overall strategic improvement to accessibility and connectivity, restoration and management, while ultimately having regard for hazard lands. It is acknowledged and understood that during future detailed design and implementation phases of the various components of the Medway Valley CMP, further consultation will be required with the UTRCA that will confirm the site/location specific technical assessments (i.e. geotechnical investigations, SWM and drainage considerations, grading, ESC plans etc.) required to support the proposed trail design, specific siting/location, and development.

Elsie Perrin Revisited A13 and A14:

- The November 2019 site visit identified opportunity to formalize the informal trail by the Tulip Tree.
- Closing the Level 1 trail leading off the Level 2 toward E could be explored.
- UTRCA notes the Level 2 area is located within the floodplain.

EEPAC and ACACC agree that increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a Level 1 or Level 2 trail as delineated during the November 2019 site visit.

Gloucester Access A11 and A13:

- Realign the trail to consist of Level 2 loop through the plantation. The specific alignment will need to be established with a site visit, but generally, the trail should remain within the Natural Environment management zone and the plantation.
- Closing the Level 1 trail would reduce the desire to head north along the informal trail toward Glenridge and associated SAR community.

- Pending the success of the closure, re-opening this section could be explored once the northbound traffic has been reduced and the area has re-naturalized. This would be considered as part of the adaptive management plan for the False Rue community.
- Revising the trail headed to A13 as a Level 2 doesn't make sense given how steep this section is.
- There are some concerns regarding the A11 access as this right of way is directly adjacent to a residence and driveway. Access improvements would be needed to clearly define the area and make it more welcoming to users.

EEPAC and ACACC agree that increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a Level 2 and Level 1 trails in conjunction with a trail closure to limit traffic moving from the Gloucester area north to the Glenridge area.

Glenridge Access A10 and A12:

- Providing users with a sustainable trail will limit traffic in the proximity of the False Rue Anemone during the sensitive phenological stages.
- Topography, maintaining access along the utility overlay, and the lack of better trail options currently divert users from A10 toward crossing B.
- The group agrees that including a Level 2 trail to access A12, despite that the access is classified as Nature Reserve, is the preferred alternative as it will guide users away from crossing B and the SAR habitat.
- Formalizing creekside resting area lookouts (naturalized) at crossing A and looking over to the museum will provide destinations for users to go, diverting traffic away from sensitive habitat.
- It is acknowledged that during detailed design, any proposed works in the proximity of crossing A will require appropriate snake and hibernacula surveys to assess the presence or absence of Significant Wildlife Habitat at the candidate hibernacula site.
- Gating off the Level 1 trail loop around the SAR community will provide an adaptive management solution that can be adjusted. The trail will be closed when the species is at its most sensitive stage and open outside of that timeframe, aligning with provincial guidance. Once flowering and leaf senescence is complete, the species is less prone to damage. The gate restricting access to the Level 1 loop would remain closed from April-June, but specific management recommendations including timing window specifics will be explored with False Rue Anemone experts. This approach will also limit trail damage, as spring flows in this low-lying area result in users moving off trail to avoid muddy conditions.
- Educational signage will provide context to the closures and compel compliance.
- Although crossings are not being included based on the 2018 Council Resolution, pending the success of the Level 2 trail from A10 to A12, crossing A may need to be discussed as part of the adaptive management plan for False Rue-Anemone. Limiting the influx of additional users is as important as directing existing users away from sensitive habitat when establishing a sustainable trail plan.

EEPAC and ACACC agree that increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of Level 2 and Level 1 trails. Additional management efforts in the form of seasonal gating, enhanced creekside resting locations and educational signage shall be incorporated to limit traffic around the False Rue community during key phenological stages. These measures also aim to limit traffic moving from the Glenridge area south, through the SAR habitat to the Gloucester area.

Next Steps:

Review the remaining Sherwood Forest Orchard Park section of the study area for the February 25th meeting.

**Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan
Phase 2: South of Medway Creek
(Metamora, Longbow, Doncaster Gate, Glenridge)
Virtual Meeting February 25, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Affiliations

City Planning	Mike Fabro, Emily Williamson
ACCAC (former)	Jacqueline Madden, Michael Dawthorne
EEPAC	Sandy Levin, Susan Hall
UTRCA	Brent Verscheure

General:

Review of the previous trail plan agreements between EEAPC and ACACC:

- Attawandaron: Increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a Level 3 or Level 2 trail.
- Snake Creek: Increased accessibility through trail realignment and formalizing the existing Level 1 trail in this section.
- Elsie Perrin: increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of a Level 2 trail as delineated during the November 2019 site visit.
- Gloucester: Increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of Level 2 and Level 1 trails in conjunction with a trail closure to limit traffic moving from the Gloucester area north to the Glenridge area.
- Glenridge: Increased accessibility through this section makes sense in the form of Level 2 and Level 1 trails. Additional management efforts in the form of seasonal gating, enhanced creekside resting locations (natural in appearance) and educational signage shall be incorporated to limit traffic around the False Rue-Anemone community during key phenological stages. These measures also aim to limit traffic moving from the Glenridge area south, to the Gloucester area. Further discussion and review of this section below.

Update from UTRCA/ City meeting:

In general, UTRCA Environmental Regulations staff support and agree with the principles that provide the framework for the (conceptual) CMP which includes the future formalization of existing trails, closure of informal trails, and overall strategic improvement to accessibility and connectivity, restoration and management, while ultimately having regard for hazard lands. It is acknowledged and understood that during future detailed design and implementation phases of the various components of the Medway Valley CMP, further consultation will be required with the UTRCA that will confirm the site/location specific technical assessments (i.e. geotechnical investigations, SWM and drainage considerations, grading, ESC plans etc.) required to support the proposed trail design, specific siting/location, and development.

Metamora A17 East:

- The future accesses leading onto Precious Blood Monastery and Brescia College lands will be maintained. The City notes that they have reached out to Western Huron and

Brescia and the institutions are generally supportive of these accesses leading onto their property in the current informal state.

EEPAC and ACACC agree to the existing trail plan through this section, including maintaining the Metamora bridge.

Longbow A18 to A17:

- Potential to change the Level 2 trail at the fork beyond the Wychwood boardwalk to a Level 1 (~ 50 m). This makes sense from a trail perspective but should take the small concrete infrastructure fixture into account, which may require access. City Planning will follow-up with Engineering services to determine if access needs to be maintained and revise to a Level 1 if possible.

EEPAC and ACACC agree to the existing trail plan through this section, including maintaining the Metamora bridge, adjusting the forking section to a Level 1 if possible.

Doncaster Gate A19 to A18 A23 and A24:

- Potential trail realignment needed along the creek and from A19 moving northeast. Specific alignment adjustments can be established through the detailed design of the plan once finalized.
- Pipe and manhole structure (WM502) remains unnaturalized and provides an access for users to create informal trails. City to follow-up to determine the lifecycle of this structure and any potential opportunities to limit traffic.
- Revising signage in this area to address bike use and clearly define the trail form A23/A24 north needs to be considered. A TAG walk to ensure that the access is appropriately sited to reduce informal trail creation and use will be included in this area as part of the detailed design stage.

EEPAC and ACACC agree to the existing trail plan through this section with minor adjustments to the existing alignment were appropriate.

Review of Glenridge:

- Review of the proposed Level two trails to crossing A. The trail from A5 to crossing A on the northwest side should be maintained as a Level 1 trail, rather than be closed.
- Discussion included the importance of providing an option for Glenridge users to leave the area as well as limit the influx of users from other areas. Several options were discussed as points to consider for future works, as appropriate; 1) Easement from Glenridge north to Fanshawe (UTRCA notes hazard lands), 2) Trail connection along the former informal trail along from crossing A along east bank north to Fanshawe (UTRCA notes hazard lands), 3) Review the feasibility of crossing A as part of future adaptive management efforts. EEPAC is concerned that if adaptive management strategies are going to be assessed at a later stage, that the metrics around this be outlined through this plan. The specifics falls outside of this CMP update, but would be requested through Council if and as appropriate.
- False Rue-Anemone are a floodplain plant and are very resilient to changing conditions, and that through the management efforts of the City and UTRCA the most recent monitoring shows that the community has increased. Follow-up, the Medway Valley False Rue-Anemone population (Glenridge) has increased between 347- 369% from 2014 to 2020 (Dillon, 2020).

EEPAC and ACACC agree to the trail plan through this section, including Increased accessibility in the form of Level 2 and Level 1 trails. Additional management efforts in the form of seasonal gating, enhanced creekside resting locations (natural in appearance) and educational signage shall be incorporated to limit traffic around the False Rue-Anemone community during key phenological stages.

Next Steps:

- City to provide updated Draft Mapping from these meetings to the group for review once revised by Dillon.

Appendix G

2019 - 2021 First Nations Community Meeting Minutes

First Nations Consultation and Engagement

In April 2018 Municipal Council resolved that the CMP for Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (South) be referred back to the staff to report back after undertaking further consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC), the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC), the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and neighbouring First Nations Governments and Organizations with respect to improved trail access and conditions. Additionally, staff were directed to amend the Trail Management Guidelines to incorporate consultation with neighbouring First Nations, Governments and Organizations at the beginning of the process.

From 2013 to 2018 ACCAC, EEPAC and UTRCA were involved with the CMP process through the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). As First Nations Communities had not been engaged in CMP studies previously this was an opportunity to reach out and introduce the Communities to Environmentally Significant Areas and the Conservation Master Plan Process. It is important to note that engagement with First Nations should be meaningful and staff should be mindful of a community's resources and timelines when requesting participation.

A Power Point presentation was created to introduce ESAs and CMPs and shared the City's hope to find additional opportunities to incorporate First Nation community involvement. The 2018 CMP and Sustainable Trail Mapping were presented at a high level, discussing trail management and current status, and ended with an opportunity for questions and comments from community members.

Meetings

A table outlining the First Nations Engagement process, including the meetings held with Chippewas of the Thames First Nations, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Munsee Delaware Nation, is outlined in **Table 1** below. Notes from the meetings were taken identifying potential points of inclusion and the groups were encouraged to contact City staff for continued discussion if they had any additional questions or comments on the CMP process or the Medway Valley CMP. The meetings were valuable in identifying areas where First Nation involvement would further the experience and understanding of those using the ESAs. The suggestions provided from the communities are included in the table below.

Table 1. First Nation Community Meetings

Group	Meeting Date	Attendees	Questions / Comments/ Suggestions
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	March 02, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallon Burch • Rochelle Smith • Emma Young • Edward Gao 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural significance of plants and places beyond provincial and municipal legislative policy protections would be beneficial to include. • Interpretive signage to recognize Treaty lands and to note medicinal plant communities and their cultural significance. • Interested in being included at early stages in subsequent CMPs.
Munsee Delaware Nation	March 02, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacey Phillips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to identify cultural significance of Eagles and other raptors through these studies. • Interested in being included at early stages in subsequent CMPs. .

Group	Meeting Date	Attendees	Questions / Comments/ Suggestions
Oneida Environment Committee	February 18, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Doxtator • Alizabeth George-Antone • Angela Antone • J. Todd Cornelius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for the communities to take their youth to these areas on medicine walks with Elders. Noting that many species have ceremonial significance. • Signage opportunities to share the cultural significance (but not the use) of medicinal plant species with the public. Black ash was noted as an example. • Concerns about women’s safety in these areas at night. Suggestion that should the hours of operation extend beyond 6 am to 10 pm lighting could be considered.

Summary

Consultation with local First Nations Communities identified opportunities for land-based learning opportunities, potential medicinal plant walks and land acknowledgment opportunities. Discussion also included suggestions for how best to include the cultural history of these communities and their voices for the next CMP earlier in the process.

Key Opportunities:

- Inclusion and circulation of First Nations communities in future CMP Local Advisory Committee groups.
- Education opportunities for First Nations youth to go on hikes in the ESAs.
- Interpretive signage outlining historic territory and sharing key cultural/medicinal plants (black ash) with the public, developed in partnership with the communities.
- Opportunities to share medicinal plant locations and cultural significance (just species information would be included, not the use).

Appendix H

***EEPAC Sustainable Trail Plan Support March
18, 2021***

Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

Report

The 2nd Meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
March 18, 2021
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), L. Banks, A. Bilson Darko, A. Boyer, S. Esan, P. Ferguson, L. Grieves, S. Hall, S. Heuchan, B. Krichker, K. Moser, B. Samuels, S. Sivakumar, R. Trudeau, M. Wallace and I. Whiteside and H. Lysynski (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: E. Arellano, I. Arturo, A. Cleaver, J. Khan and I. Mohamed.

ALSO PRESENT: G. Barrett, C. Creighton, M. Fabro, J. MacKay, L.McDougall, M. McKillop, K. Oudekerk, B. Page, C. Saunders and E. Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that M. Wallace disclosed a pecuniary interest in clauses 4.2 and 5.1, having to do with the properties located at 1934 Commissioners Road East and 3095 and 3105 Bostwick Road, by indicating that the proponents of the above-noted applications are members of the London Development Institute, his employer.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Wastewater Treatment Operations Master Plan; Biosolids Management Master Plan; Greenway WWTP Flood Protection; Adelaide WWTP Flood Protection

That, the following actions be taken with respect to the Wastewater Treatment Operations Master Plan; Biosolids Management Master Plan; Greenway WWTP Flood Protection; Adelaide WWTP Flood Protection:

- a) the presentation appended to the agenda by Marcy McKillop, Environmental Services Engineer, BE RECEIVED for information;
- b) the Notice of Study Commencement and Public Information Centre for the Wastewater Treatment Operations Master Plan, BE RECEIVED for information; and,
- c) the Notice of Study Commencement for the Biosolids Management Master Plan, BE RECEIVED for information.

3. Consent

3.1 1st Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 18, 2020, was received.

3.2 Notice of Public Meeting - 3080 Bostwick Road

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application, dated March 11, 2021, from L. Mottram, Senior Planner, with respect to a Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment related to the property located at 3080 Bostwick Road, was received

3.3 Notice of Revised Application and Public Meeting - 1153-1155 Dundas Street

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application, dated March 11, 2021, from L. Davies Snyder, Urban Regeneration Planner II, with respect to an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment related to the properties located at 1153-1155 Dundas Street, was received

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 14 Gideon Drive and 2012 Oxford Street West

That the 14 Gideon Drive and 2012 Oxford Street West Working Group comments, appended to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

4.2 Victoria on the River, Phase 6 - 1934 Commissioners Road East

That the Victoria on the River, Phase 6 (1934 Commissioners Road East) Working Group comments, appended to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

4.3 435-451 Ridout Street

That the 435-451 Ridout Street Working Group comments, appended to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

4.4 A Wetland Conservation Strategy for London: A Discussion Paper on Best Practices

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee held a general discussion on the Wetland Conservation Strategy Discussion Paper and Lessons Learned.

4.5 Kelly Stanton ESA Ecological Restoration Plan

That, the following actions be taken with respect to the Kelly Stanton Environmentally Significant Area Ecological Restoration Plan Working Group comments:

a) the Civic Administration BE ADVISED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) commends both the City of London and the report authors for their liaising with and involvement of local naturalists in the initial field work and community groups as part of follow-up plans; and,

b) the Working Group comments, appended to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee Agenda, BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Notice of Application - 3095 and 3105 Bostwick Road

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of R. Trudeau (lead), L. Banks and S. Levin, with respect to the properties located at 3095 and 3105 Bostwick Road; it being noted that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee reviewed and received a Notice of Draft Plan of Subdivision Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment dated March 10, 2021 from M. Corby, Senior Planner and the associated Environmental Impact Study.

5.2 2021 Work Plan

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan, as of March 18, 2021, was received.

5.3 Medway Valley CMP Phase 2 Mapping

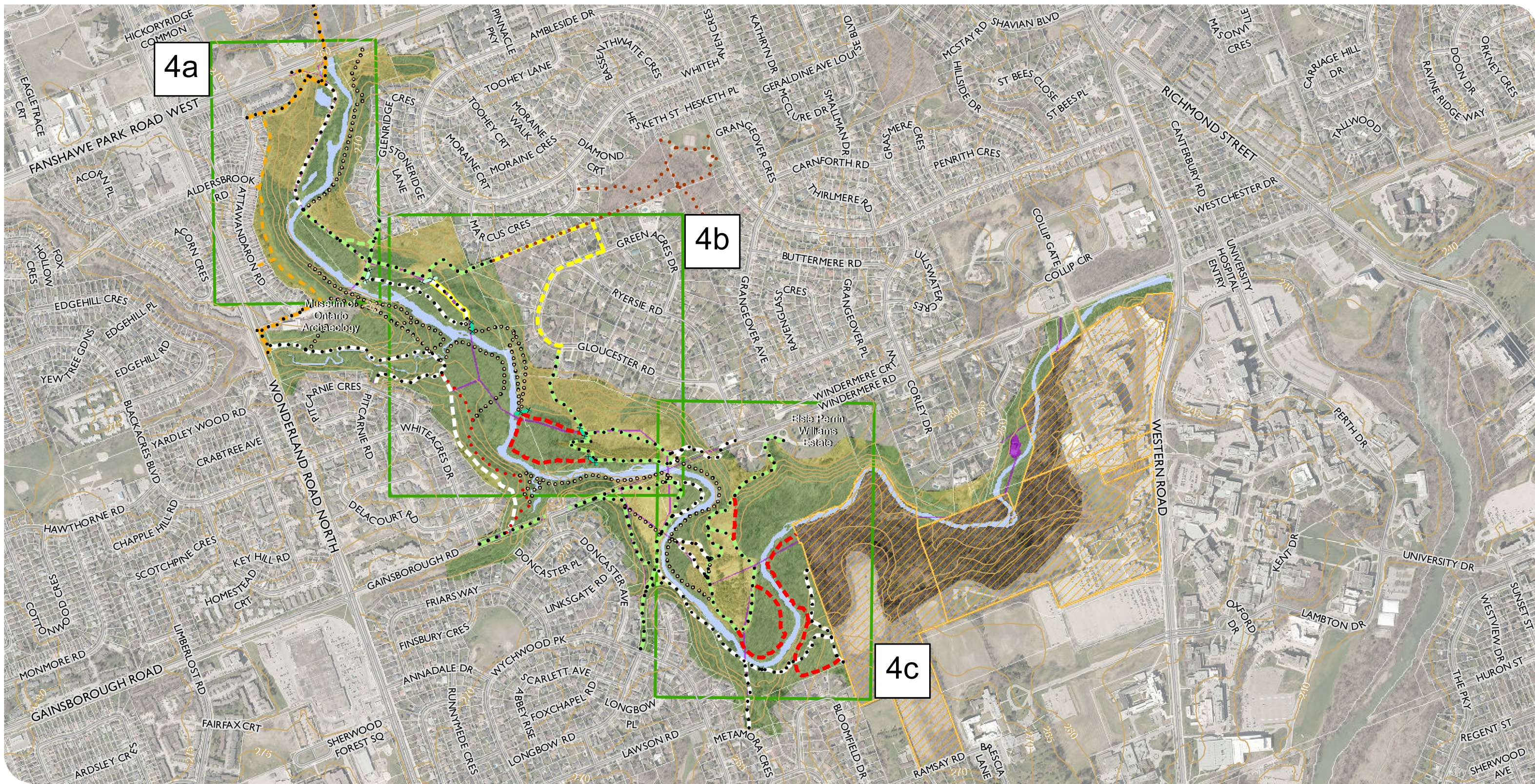
That the Civic Administration BE ADVISED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee is supportive of the attached, revised, Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan Phase 2 mapping.

5.4 Nature is Reeling Article

That it BE NOTED that a TVOntario article entitled "Nature is Reeling" was received for information.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.



CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

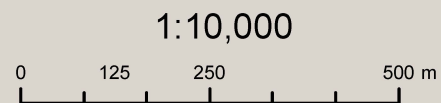
FIGURE 4
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE TRAIL
 CONCEPT PLAN



THE PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN COMPLIES WITH THE
 COUNCIL APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT
 ZONES AND TRAILS IN ESAS (2016) AND AODA LEGISLATION

MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: GM/JLK
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



¹INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING
 PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE RO16 ON FIGURE 2).
²TEMPORARILY CLOSED TRAIL TO BE REOPENED/ REALIGNED.
 SECTIONS NOT REALIGNED WILL BE CLOSED AND RESTORED



CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 4a
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

Seasonal Barrier / Access Gate
 Contour (5 metre Elevation)

Existing Trails
 City Trail Outside of ESA
 Informal Trail¹
 Managed Trail

Managed Trails
 Future Connection Outside the ESA
 Level One Trail
 Level Two Trail
 Level Three Trail
 Improved Trail Surface

Butternut
 False Rue Anemone

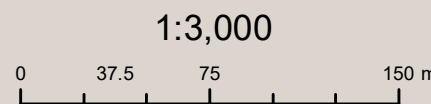
Amphibian Breeding Habitat
 Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell)
 Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet)
 Habitat for Rare Species (Shrubby St. John's Wort)
 Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon)
 Seeps and Springs Area

Management Zone
 Nature Reserve
 Natural Environment
 Utility Overlay (4 m)
 Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

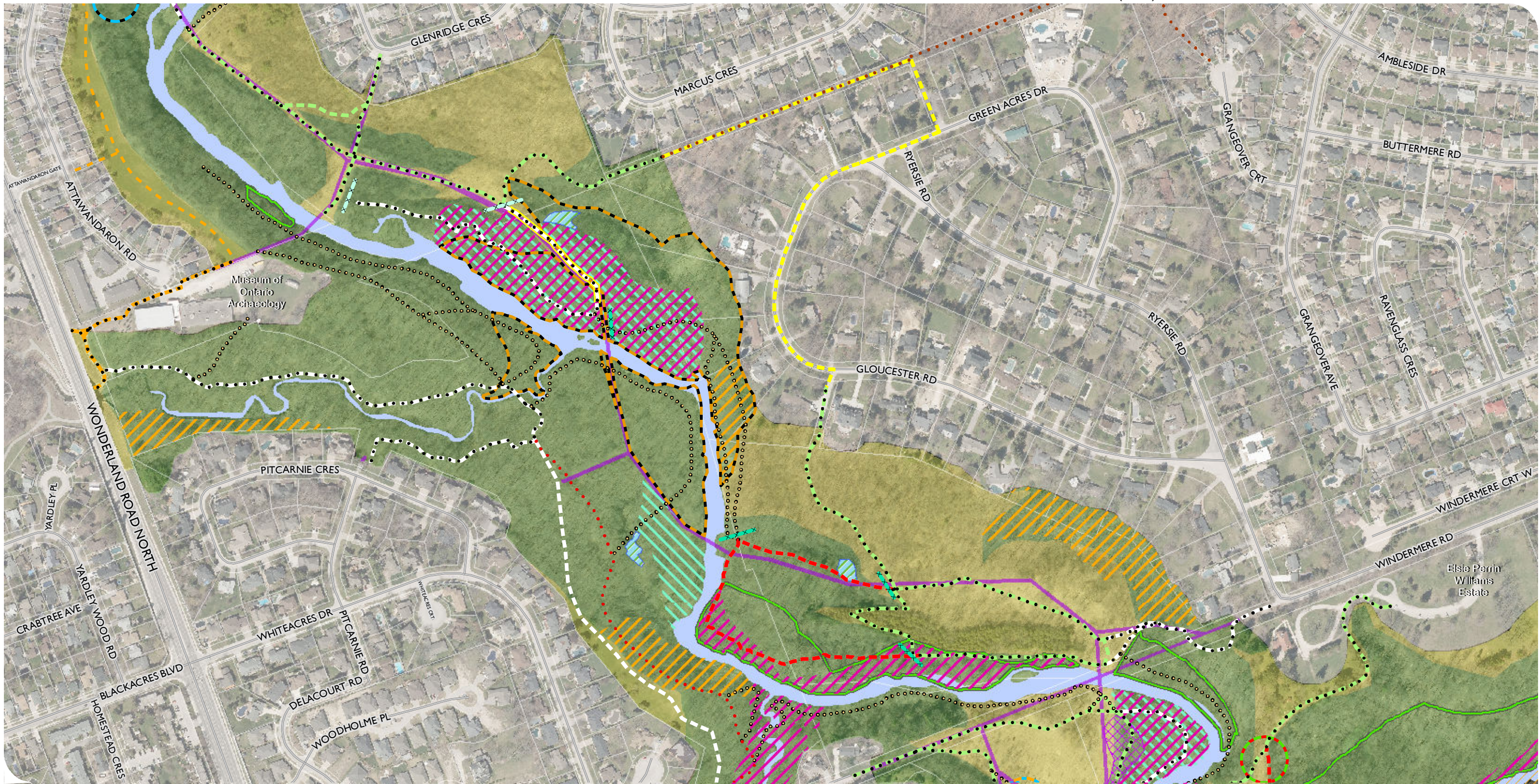
MAP CREATED BY: GMLK
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



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PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2021-03-19





CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 4b
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

- Western/Huron Properties
- Trail Closed Barricade
- Seasonal Barrier / Access Gate
- Contour (5 metre Elevation)

- Existing Trails**
- City Trail Outside of ESA
 - Closed Trail¹
 - Informal Trail¹
 - Managed Trail
 - Temporarily Closed Trail²

- Managed Trails**
- Future Connection Outside the ESA
 - Level One Trail
 - Level Two Trail
 - Level Three Trail
 - Improved Trail Surface

- Butternut
- Cucumber Magnolia
- False Rue Anemone
- Kentucky Coffee-tree

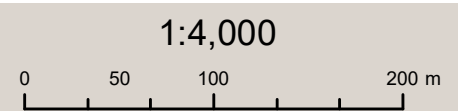
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat
- Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell)
- Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet)
- Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass)
- Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon)
- Seeps and Springs Area

- Management Zone**
- Nature Reserve
 - Natural Environment
 - Utility Overlay (4 m)
 - Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

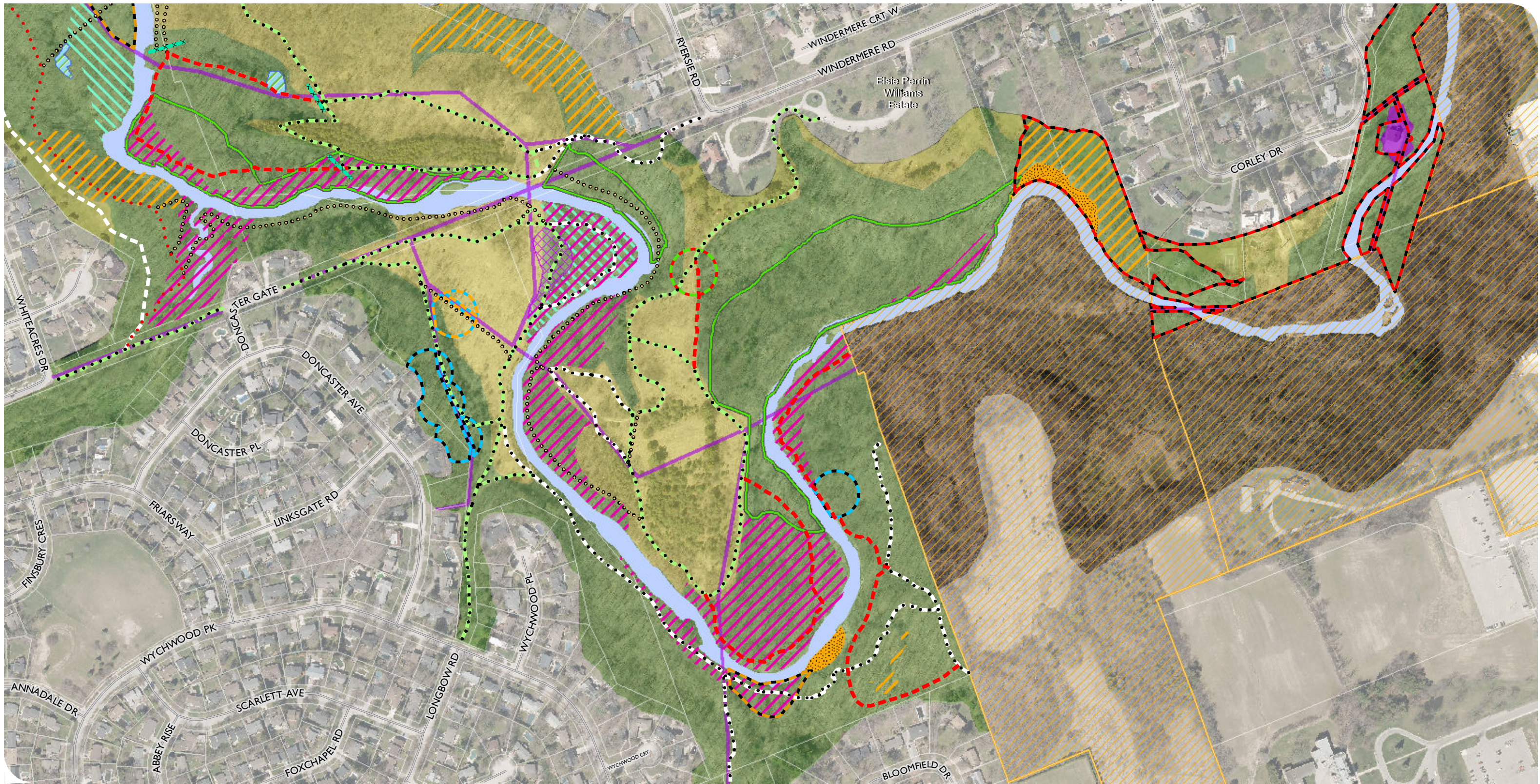
MAP CREATED BY: GMLK
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



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PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2021-03-19





CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 4c
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

- Western/Huron Properties
- Trail Closed Barricade
- Closed Trail¹
- Contour (5 metre Elevation)
- Informal Trail¹
- Managed Trail
- Temporarily Closed Trail²

- Existing Trails**
- Closed Trail¹
 - Informal Trail¹
 - Managed Trail
 - Temporarily Closed Trail²

- Managed Trails**
- Level One Trail
 - Level Two Trail
 - Butternut
 - Cucumber Magnolia
 - False Rue Anemone
 - Kentucky Coffee-tree
 - Queensnake

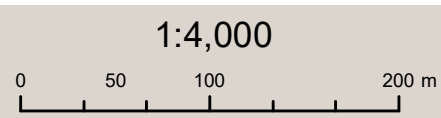
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat
- Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank and Cliff)
- Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell)
- Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet)
- Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass)
- Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon)
- Seeps and Springs Area

- Management Zone**
- Nature Reserve
 - Natural Environment
 - Utility Overlay (4 m)
 - Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)



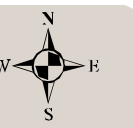
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
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MAP CREATED BY: GMLK
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PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2021-03-19



Appendix I

***ACCAC Sustainable Trail Plan Support
March 25, 2021***

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Report

3rd Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

March 25, 2021

Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: J. Menard (Chair), T. Eadinger, N. Judges, A. McGaw, P. Moore, P. Quesnel and D. Ruston and J. Bunn (Committee Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: L. Livingstone; D. Baxter, J. Dann, K. Grabowski, J. Hodgins, A. Husain, K. Killen, V. Kinsley, A. Macpherson, D. MacRae, J. Michaud, A. Spahiu, M. Stone, B. Westlake-Power and E. Williamson

ABSENT: M. Bush and K. Steinmann

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 2021 Core Construction Mitigation

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, dated March 25, 2021, from D. MacRae, Director, Roads and Transportation, with respect to the 2021 Core Construction Mitigation, was received.

2.2 Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan Mapping

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan Mapping documents, as appended to the agenda:

a) the above-noted Medway Valley Conservation Master Plan, as presented at the meeting, BE ENDORSED by the Accessibility Advisory Committee; and,

b) the above-noted documents, as appended to the agenda, and the revised attached documents, BE RECEIVED.

2.3 Major Projects 2021 Rapid Transit Update

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, dated March 23, 2021, from J. Dann, Director, Major Projects, A. Spahiu, Environmental Service Engineer and J. Hodgins, Environmental Services Engineer, Construction Admin (Major Projects), with respect to the Major Projects 2021 Rapid Transit Update, was received.

2.4 Downtown Sidewalk and Enhanced Crosswalk Treatments

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, dated March 25, 2021, from K. Killen, Senior Planner, with respect to Downtown Sidewalk and Enhanced Crosswalk Treatments, was received; it being noted that a communication,

from A. Malcho, Vision Loss Rehabilitation Ontario, as appended to the agenda, with respect to this matter, was received.

2.5 Community Gardens Program Update

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, as appended to the agenda, from V. Kinsley, Supervisor, Neighbourhood Development and Support, with respect to an update on the Community Gardens Program, was received.

2.6 Playground Update

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, as appended to the agenda, from J. Michaud, Landscape Architect, with respect to an update on playgrounds, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 25, 2021, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on February 23, 2021, with respect to the 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, was received.

3.3 Notice of Revised Application and Notice of Public Meeting - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 1153-1155 Dundas Street

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Revised Application and Notice of Public Meeting, dated March 11, 2021, from L. Davies Snyder, Planner II, with respect to Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments related to the properties located at 1153-1155 Dundas Street, was received.

3.4 Notice of Planning Application - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments - 180-186 Commissioners Road West

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application, dated March 12, 2021, from B. Debbert, Senior Planner, with respect to Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments related to the properties located at 180-186 Commissioners Road West, was received.

3.5 Pre-Construction Notice - Downtown Loop and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements Phase 1 - King Street

That it BE NOTED that the Pre-Construction Notice, dated March 3, 2021, from J. Dann, Director, Major Projects, with respect to the Downtown Loop and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements Phase 1 for King Street, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 ACCAC Sub-Committee Structure

That the discussion of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) Sub-Committee Structure BE DEFERRED to the April 2021 meeting of the ACCAC.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 (ADDED) New Sidewalks in 2021 Infrastructure Reconstruction Projects - Discussion

That it BE NOTED that the Accessibility Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the New Sidewalks in 2021 Infrastructure Reconstruction Projects.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Appendix J

2021 Eastern Boundary Consultation: Zoom Meeting FAQ April 8, 2021

Question & Answer from the April 8 Community Meeting

Table 1: Questions Moving Forward to be Addressed in the Staff Report

Topic	Question / Comment	Staff Response
Council Resolution Clarity		
Direction	Why is City bringing this up AGAIN. We objected to this 2 years ago. I find it "curious" that you try to shove this through again, during a pandemic.	The recommendations brought to Council in 2018 did not include focused public consultation. This specific item was added by Council and referred back to staff. Please see the Council Resolution.
	Why are we revisiting an issue that has been brought forward for many years and contested each time.	
River Crossing	Why was bridges deleted and crossing Medway creek required to be discouraged?	Council's decision on April 24, 2018 was to discourage crossing of the river. Rationale for the decision was discussed at the Council meeting available here .
	Rationale for discouraging people from crossing the Medway? Is that even possible. I crossed it twice this Sunday while hiking through the Medway.	
Previous Project Stages	Why was Elsie Perrin pedestrian bridge also defunded and money used for the Dillon CMP report?	Decisions made regarding the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Site Plan (IMC Consulting Group, October 3, 1996) are superseded by the 2018 Council resolution and currently out of scope for this consultation. Revisiting this item is at the discretion of Council.
	Why was the 1996 IMC Consulting Group CMP recommendations on stepping stones also ignored by Council ?	
Feasibility	How can anyone recommend a paved, handicapped access to the valley on the east side. The drop is over 75-80 feet. To accomplish this, with safe switch back, would eliminate so many trees, leading to massive erosion.	Thank you for your comment. We will include discussion on accessibility, switch backs, trees and erosion in the Staff Report being presenting to the Planning & Environment Committee at a future meeting.
Eastern Access Concerns		
Neighbourhood	Could I get a summary of the neighborhood's concerns about this revision? Is there a known set of concerns already? and the basic reason for the revision is to do what? to protect environmentally vulnerable areas?	Here are the concerns we have heard to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased crime. Increased vehicular parking/traffic on public roads. Protecting the environment. Appropriate uses within the Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and enforcement. Signage size, scale, placement and objective.
	Sorry, I now see the VERY clear three reasons for this revision on the screen. So, just wondering about what the main concerns are from the 'public'...why wouldn't they want to do these things?	
Parking	Where will users park to access each entrance	Public access to all of the City's ESAs is permitted and welcomed. The Gloucester Road access and proposed Green Acres Drive access are City-owned and the public is permitted to use active ESA accesses at any time from 6 am to 10 pm. Gloucester Road, Green Acres Drive Glenridge Crescent and Marcus Crescent are public streets which permit on-street parking. Currently, parking for the Windermere ESA access is where Windermere Road turns into Ryersie Road. Discussion of vehicular parking will be included in the Staff Report.
	There has been an increase in use over Covid of the Windermere access...which is great, however this has lead to an increase in parked vehicles on the road. Increasing the number of access points with no vehicle parking, will lead to more vehicles that are parking on the street which ultimately will lead to safety issues. what is the plan for this?	There is no proposal to increase the number of access points to the ESA. The proposed Green Acres Drive access connection would link the existing ESA Access (#11) outside the ESA to publicly-owned roads. Marcus Crescent, Green Acres Drive and Gloucester Road are public streets and on-street parking is permitted.
	There are no sidewalks on Gloucester	That's correct. Staff note that sidewalk installation is not proposed as part of these works.
Sidewalks	What precedent can you cite for using the street as the trail outside of the ESA? If there was one, presumably it would have been presented.	There is no proposal for a trail outside of the ESA. What Council asked is how to best connect the north and south ESA trails without damaging the rare plant species, while managing hazard and erosion concerns and enabling people to walk without trespassing on private property. One option being considered is using signage to provide clear direction to pedestrians to use existing City-owned accesses via public roadways.
Bikes	If bikes are not allowed why does the signage say that it is? People always go into the medway valley on bikes at the end of Windermere road	Thank you for your question and comment. Bike use and enforcement in the Environmentally Significant Area will be addressed in the Staff Report.
	Will you erect signage specifically prohibiting cycling in this ESA? How will you enforce this?	

Topic	Question / Comment	Staff Response
	<i>"What is the definition of an "appropriate recreational opportunity?" — I was looking for a bit of clarification or examples because at past meetings, people had talked about using bikes, rollerblades, and even motorized vehicles /wheelchairs in the ESA due to wider, more accessible paths. Thank you</i>	An 'appropriate recreational opportunity' is defined in the City's Guidelines for Trail Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (2016). Appropriate uses and enforcement in the ESAs will be addressed in the Staff report.
Trail closure	<i>The current paths that are being closed ie red designations are used by hundreds of people every day. How would the City propose to keep the public from using these paths in the future?</i>	Trail closures follow a specific prescription program. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) ESA team installs permanent barriers, scarifies, and naturalizes the trails to restore and allow the area to regenerate.
	<i>At present people walk on the informal trail and then cross onto private property to walk between the houses in an effort to get out to the street. How do we prevent this without erecting fences?</i>	Informal trail use and trespassing is an ongoing ESA issue. By providing and directing users to formal trails, our goal is to divert foot traffic away from private property, sensitive species habitat and hazard concerns. Informal trail use and trespassing will be addressed in the Staff Report.
Accessibility Implementation	<i>How will these 2 access trails be improved to meet AODA requirements?</i>	If approved, the first step is to assess existing accesses to determine if they meet the firm and stable requirements based on the Trail Management Guidelines. Necessary AODA measures will be implemented as required.
	<i>This trail plan contemplates going up a dirt cliff making it inaccessible to anyone in a wheelchair or limited in their ability to walk themselves and then to walk down the same cliff at the end of the street access. This does not make sense from an accessibility standpoint. Why can the City not come up with a bypass of the small environmentally sensitive area like the way the Sifton Bog built a series of wooden paths to bypass the sensitive areas and remain in the ESA boundaries.</i>	Staff cannot consider a bypass similar to the one in the Sifton Bog due to the nature of the terrain, sensitive species habitat, private property and hazard concerns.
	<i>What is the width of the City-owned right of away? The length of a single run of a ramp cannot exceed 30' before you have a 5' level landing. The number of swithbacks required would be numerous rendering the accessible ramp useless. Can we not move off this issue today for further detail and exploration knowing this would be folly?</i>	The City-owned parcels are approximately 20 m and 10 m wide at Green Acres Drive and Gloucester Road respectively. Ramps are not currently proposed as part of this work. The first step in implementation is to assess existing accesses to determine if they meet the firm and stable requirements based on the Trail Management Guidelines.
Connectivity	<i>Will you be able to walk from Fanshawe Park Road to Elsie Perrin on the east side of the creek?</i>	You will be able to walk from Glenridge Crescent to Elsie Perrin if the Sustainable Trail Concept Plan is approved.
	<i>Does this connect north London through the Medway trail system to the TVP in an environmentally responsible way? Or this is about removing access to sensitive areas along the creek only?</i>	Yes, the Medway Valley trail system connects to the Thames Valley Parkway at its north boundary in an environmentally-responsible way, based on the Trail Management Guidelines.
Environmental Protection	<i>Is there a plan to expand the boundaries of the ESA, especially around sensitive areas so that species have a chance to expand. Without expansion these species will die out.</i>	At present, there are no plans to expand the boundaries of the ESA.
	<i>What was the endangered species? can you show a picture?</i>	The key Species at Risk on the eastern boundary is the False Rue Anemone (Threatened). London is home to one of 5 remaining populations in Canada. More information .
	<i>When I hike through the Medway the two most invasive trees that I see are European Buckthorn and Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven). They are gradually taking over from the native trees. Dose naturalization simply mean that we will let this process continue? There is a substantial change from the aerial photos the City took in 1971 planning the route for the northwest trunk line.</i>	Invasive species management will be addressed through the restoration overlays included in the 2018 Conservation Master Plan. The City has an annual management contract with UTRCA to address invasive species concerns within the ESA. Staff will address invasive species management in the Staff Report.
General ESA Management / Implementation		
Enforcement	<i>Dogs on the trail adjoining Marcus cr. are always not on a leash. This will cause issues for sensitive areas. What are the plans for enforcing leash laws.</i>	Thank you for your question and comment. Enforcement will be addressed in the Staff report.
	<i>Trail users currently vandalize city signs and use paths of their choice, damaging sensitive vegetation. What will be different about the way these areas are blocked off from trail users?</i>	The goal of the Trail Plan is to clearly identify where people can walk through use of signage, establishing formal trails and closing informal trails.
Appropriate Use	<i>Have you considered the increase in hiking within the Medway caused by the pandemic. I back onto the Medway and have never seen so many people out hiking What a joy? It would be nice to see the City encourage this usage. Most use informal trails.</i>	Through formal trail plans, the City hopes to encourage and support hiking in all Environmentally Significant Areas.

Table 2: Questions and Comments for Other City Departments, Other Projects and General Process Questions

Topic	Questions / Comment from Zoom Q&A	Staff Response
Other City Departments and Other Projects		
	<i>Has anyone looked into the implications on crime in this neighbourhood with this change?</i>	Staff were not directed to do an analysis on crime as part of the eastern boundary consultation.
	<i>Are there any updates related to replacement/repairs of the existing Metamora Creek bridge? The current approach of closing the (still fully functional bridge) seems heavy-handed.</i>	The current closure of Metamora Creek Bridge is due to structural deficiencies identified in an inspection report. Updates on that project will be circulated to the community when they become available.
	<i>Are beavers a problem in this segment of the ESA? Where I am located north of this segment, still in the Medway Valley area, a beaver family is quite active and the City has told me that they cannot relocate this animal and are reduced to just protecting the existing trees. However, these beavers I would consider an 'invasive species' as the damage they have done is significant.</i>	Beavers have not been identified as an issue currently. Residents with concerns regarding beavers are invited to reach out to City Planning Staff at planning@london.ca .
Process Questions		
	<i>Will you be presenting the questions and concerns previously sent to Emily by way of email prior to the meeting? Thanks, Tom Tillmann(you can use my name), 1663 Gloucester Rd.</i>	All applicable correspondence received since Council referred the project back to Staff in 2018, including questions and concerns, will be included in the Staff report.
	<i>Where will you publicly post all the "letters of objection" that were sent to the City from the residents of Medway Heights (East Side, that I know were sent?</i>	Staff have been directed to complete additional public consultation on the eastern boundary of the ESA. We will not be re-posting the previously consultation results, but you are invited to resubmit your comments with the revised plan in mind. Previous consultation letters, calls and emails that were included with the April 16, 2018 Planning and Environment Committee Meeting minutes and the April 26, 2018 Council Agenda .
	<i>I understand that this conversation is about access to green space but this is not easy for residents to separate this issues from the impact of this increase access to the neighbourhood. I know you say this is outside of your preview but for those that live here this is part of the decision process. There is an impact to those that live here these impacts need to be addressed during this stage. How are you going to ensure that the implications are recognized and addressed for the residents?</i>	Staff are working through the Council Direction and will provide a recommendation to Council that balances the various considerations and constraints. Staff are obligated to consider provincial guidelines (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks) consulting with other organizations and agencies, etc. when developing a Staff Report. Council will make the final decision.
	<i>Process question: Are you honestly seeking input, or have you already decided to proceed, and going through the motions, to have a public record & paper trail, stating :“we sought approval”. 2 years ago, both the Medway side & Sherwood forest side both said NO.</i>	

Table 3: General Questions

Topic	Questions / Comment from Zoom Q&A	Staff Response
	<i>Just curious, how many are attending tonight?</i>	Of the 91 registration emails, 78 attendees have used their ID to access the meeting. Each of those may have included multiple participants.