

July 16, 2021

Emily Williamson
City Ecologist
City Planning, City of London

Dear Ms Williamson (Emily),

Re: File OZ-9367, Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South) Conservation Master Plan, Phase II, and Official Plan amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment.

1. General Comments

I support the proposed Conservation Master Plan Phase II, and the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South). It meets my wishes for the ESA by:

- Maintaining the natural heritage features and atmosphere of the South portion of the ESA;
- Protecting the habitats of species at risk and rare species;
- Ensuring control or eradication of invasive species in the ESA;
- Allowing people to have access from the east and west sides of Medway Creek without crossing the creek;
- Recognizing sensitive and unstable landforms that need protection; and
- Most importantly, removing the three bridges over Medway Creek that were proposed in the 2018 version of the CMP.

2. Specific Comments

- Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA is a very special place, meeting all seven criteria for designation as an ESA, with rare species, species at risk, special landforms, and special vegetation communities. Increasing recreational access and pursuits would be in conflict with the important goal of protecting the natural features and this is why three new bridges should never have been considered in the South portion of the ESA.
- I am pleased to hear that ecological restoration will be undertaken in areas where invasive species will be removed.
- In Figure 4c of the CMP, Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan, why are “Trail closed” barriers not indicated 1) where a red closed trail near the Cucumber Tree on the Elsie Perrin Williams property joins the green Level 2 Trail in two places, and 2) where there is a closed red trail joining a white Level 1 trail at three points in the SE corner east of the Cream Violet area? I assume this was an oversight when the trail map was drafted.

As a Nature London representative, I first became involved in public consultation on CMP planning for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (North) in 2012, so the process has taken many years to complete for the whole ESA from Sunningdale Road to Huron College. I think the current proposed 10-year CMP for the South will serve it well. I appreciate the work done by the Planning staff and consultants on this ESA project over nearly a decade.

Sincerely,

Anita Caveney
46 Kingspark Crescent
London, Ontario N6H 4C4

cc: Planning and Environment Committee