

To the Mayor and City Councillors,

I would like to ask Council to please pause on the decision to endorse the proposal for the Operations Campus. I believe that this is not the right course of action to take at this time. I am concerned with the lack of a holistic plan for the lands being proposed for the Operations Campus as well as all the land of the former Reformatory lands. We the city of Guelph have been blessed to have these beautiful, Natural and Cultural Heritage lands at our door step. It is therefore imperative to ensure that any changes, development etc is well planned and encompassing to ensure that we preserve the important elements for the future for all. The Operations Campus plan could have a negative impact on the trails, river and Heritage quarry. There are very few limestone quarries left intact left in Ontario and preserving and protecting these lands are important. They could be an advantage to Guelph's tourism, educational, recreation, air quality, greenspace etc for many years to come. The Operations Campus should be reviewed as to the need for one campus for all purposes or the satellite set-up we have now. We already have the sites and buildings currently holding these activities that can be utilized, expanded upon, renovated to meet the needs of our future. At the same time one Campus means that many city employees would have less of a chance working close to where they live (we want people to get out of their cars?). Currently many departments are in different locations within the city making it closer for some people to perhaps commute to their work by walking, cycling or transit. I see one campus as defeating that goal.

I also feel that with all that has happened with the pandemic that we might want to look at how things may be different in how we operate and what changes may occur as the result of what we will learn from the pandemic.

If council chooses to endorse the planned Operations Campus I would ask that the Heritage limestone quarry and hiking trails are protected and preserved.

I much prefer that the Operations Campus is not endorsed.

Thank-you for your time,  
Lorraine Pagnan