

As a business operating tours on the OR/GCC lands and an advocate for the Urban Park Guelph Initiative, we would like to express our concerns about the updated “OR HCD Conservation Plan”.

We want to ensure that the Heritage Conservation Plan protections are commensurate to the Heritage Value to the Guelph community.

A strong Heritage Conservation Plan should be working towards actual heritage conservation of the historical buildings and the grounds including landscaping and waterways so that they are available to all the public to enjoy. We have been providing historical tours at this location to thousands of visitors over the past 3 years and want to relay to the city how much interest there is and how much of a role the OR/GCC lands have had in the lives of Guelphite’s and their families. Furthermore, we believe in the importance of advancing healing, understanding and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and educating the public on the indigenous history while ensuring future public access to as much green space as possible.

The City’s proposed Adaptive Re-Use plan to develop the lands for intensified residential use and expand the GID on these grounds is the complete and polar opposite of any “heritage” or “conservation plan”.

This would erase history and destroy any opportunities for heritage conservation of landscapes, buildings, ponds and waterways, community enjoyment of natural spaces, opportunities for learning and destroy natural heritage systems, possibility for rewilding, species protection.

We would like to express our vehement opposition to this new proposed use for residential and commercial development as described in the updated “OR HCD Conservation Plan”.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn

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Guelph Urbex Walking Tours

