

Dear City Council,

I am a resident of Guelph's Three Rivers/Ward area and I'm writing to share some concerns about the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan, particularly regarding the lack of strong protections for both heritage and natural features.

I would also like to share that I am in support of Urban Park Guelph's request to include mention of a National Urban Park on Council's agenda. As a Guelphite, I travel out of town to Rockwood Conservation Area when Guelph has the land to accommodate a nature attraction like an urban park.

The following are a couple of areas the HDC Plan could improve:

1. Ecological Impact

The plan permits changes to the landscape, and doesn't offer enough protection for key ecological features. This could negatively impact the native species in the area, and conservation should be a top priority.

2. Tree and Landscape Protection

I'm also concerned that significant trees and other heritage landscapes aren't guaranteed enough protection. Stronger safeguards are needed to ensure the long-term health of this area. For example, it is explained that trees will be maintained "where possible"; what criteria determines whether a mature tree can be removed? I think less subjective terminology could help here.

I hope City Council will consider these points (as well as those shared by Urban Park Guelph) and revise the plan to provide clearer protections for both the heritage and natural features of the site.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Ross Morello
Guelph Three Rivers/Ward resident