

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors.

Re the Designation of the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan 2026-43

The Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan is of great concern to me. I have been following the plans for repurposing of this public property for over twenty years now along with a huge number of Guelph citizens, institutions and groups.

Current zoning for the site does not include residential land use. Many citizens have over the years been involved with the Guelph Innovation District Secondary and Official Plan. Yet the document under consideration about this site on page 47 states “ recommended land use within AR-B includes institutional, educational, commercial, office and residential” The word “ residential” must be removed from this plan.

Regarding York Road expansion plans: I am very concerned with road work that would negatively impact the cold water Clythe Creek. It is prime habitat in the area for many species including the otters I saw playing there in recent years. A healthy ecosystem must be protected. It would make more sense to have the sidewalk for pedestrians and cyclists on the north side only from Victoria Road to the plaza opposite the bus stop at 785 York Rd, with a crossover light and then a continuing sidewalk on the wider part of the south side of

York Rd for the remaining distance to the Watson Pkwy intersection.

A constellation plan for the green corridor protection of this waterway has been developed by the National Urban Park of Guelph. It includes 'green' connectivity for Clythe Creek, Eramosa River and the Speed River up to the Guelph Lake that would protect this site for future generations of all species. Keeping the integrity of the connectivity is of most importance for habitat and community resilience in the face of future traffic, disruptions of road work or severe weather events.

This is a unique and prime site for a future National Urban Park under the Parks Canada umbrella and is a property that should be cherished and protected by this council for such a use by the future citizens of our city.

Regarding the McQuillan bridge: it is an important connection for foot traffic to safely cross the Stone Road in this area. It needs to be protected as such.

Sincerely yours,

Norah Chaloner

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors,

Forgive the added information to my previous thoughts on the items before you.

I strongly urge the council to understand the trust that we, the citizens, place in you to protect our public lands from privatization. We have little public space left.

Many decisions have been made in the last few years to build more within our city parameters, but not enough attention is given to protect the green natural spaces that we need for future generations to thrive. Ecosystems must not be fragmented and hard-surfaced and removed from our communal resources in an age when we know them to be critical to our future survival.

I expect you, our public servants, to protect us from the incursion of privatizing our public resources, such as our green spaces.

You, our elected officials, have the gravest of responsibilities. One need only look south of our national border to see how public protections of our common goods (that enhance our quality of life) can be easily shredded by politicians choosing private gains. So I thank you sincerely for your due diligence to these decisions before you.

Respectfully yours

Norah Chaloner