

August 25, 2016

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Cities are characterized by a sense of place and beauty in its natural areas. We have this with Ojibway Prairie. It is rare and important for our quality of life. Here's a list of Ojibway's designations;

- Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) (scoring 749/800 points)
- Area of Natural Life Science (Life Science) (ANSI)
- Environmentally Significant Area (ESA)
- Carolinian Site
- Represents 50 % of the Windsor's remaining natural areas
- Provincial Nature Reserve
- International Refuge for the Detroit River
- Hosts 18 endangered and threatened species and their related habitats (critical)
- Contains Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH)

I am very concerned for Ojibway Prairie's protection, Windsor having the lowest natural coverages and wetlands (5.55 % and 0.37 % remaining respectively) and highest smog rates in the province. Ojibway hosts half of our remaining areas and the only buffer for the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve is an expanded 3 lane road carrying 16 000 vehicles/day. Roads are not buffers. Please close Matchette Road (Titcombe to Sprucewood).

At the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), four experts, having combined experience of over 100 years of experience with Ojibway, provided hundreds of pages of evidence, noting the cumulative negative impacts: 1) road mortality, 2) habitat fragmentation, 3) reduction in prescribed burns, 4) increase pollution (salting, oil, grease, NO_x, lighting, litter), 5) changes in hydrogeology, 6) increase in invasives species, and 7) heightened threats to 21 of its endangered and threatened species.

The OMB's decision relies on the ESA Permit's that considerations of roads effects on Ojibway and its species but it did not. An MNRF email to the developer stated that **"this permit process has not considered any impacts to SAR by proposed activities on City owned lands, as they are external to the lands for which a permit has been applied."** The developer successfully quashed this evidence prior to the OMB Hearing. Ojibway Prairie is deserving of utmost protection. Please protect Ojibway by closing Matchette Rd.

Sincerely,



An indicator of biodiversity loss include the numbers of species that are identified as 'at risk' (i.e., extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern) and the pace at which species are added to the at-risk categories. (Natural Heritage Reference Manual, p. 16). Since the City has approved the development in 2007, 10 species have been added or uplisted to either endangered or threatened.