

UTRCA ESA Management Contract Renewal

ECAC – July 20, 2023

Environmentally Significant Area Management

- Largest, core features of the Natural Heritage System
- 1,870 hectares of ESA lands protected on public and private property
- 778.3 hectares are publicly owned and managed by City – acquire more every year
- Managed by UTRCA through the Management Agreement.



Publicly accessible ESAs and Maps

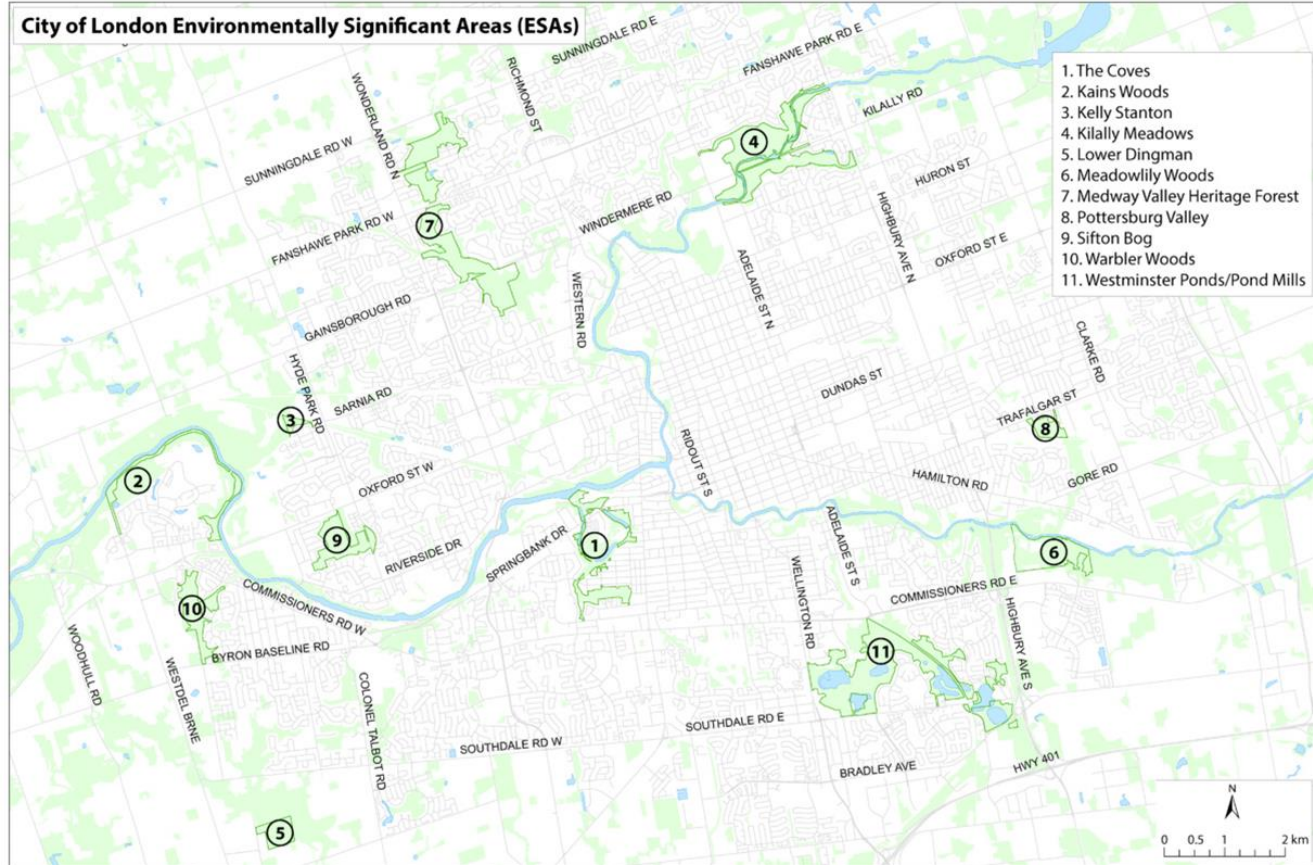
Medway Valley Heritage Forest

Environmentally Significant Area



ESA brochures & maps:
www.London.ca/esa

City of London Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)

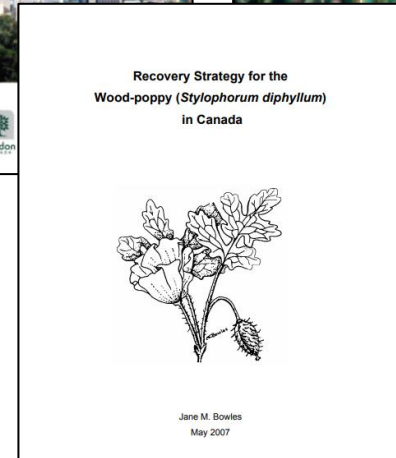
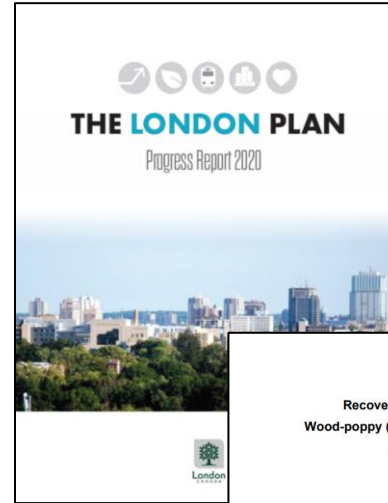




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How are ESAs Managed?

- London Plan policies
- Conservation Master Plans / Ecological Restoration Plans
- London Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs
- City funds contract with UTRCA for hands on ESA management





History of Agreement



First Signed in
2002



New lands added
every year



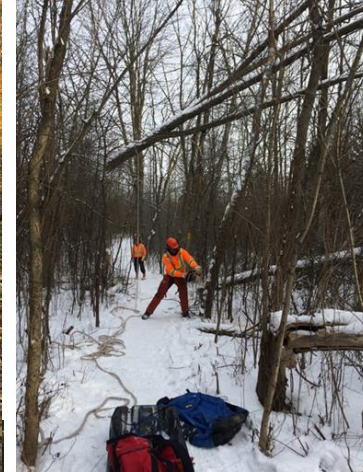
Management
Activities



Management Activities

Management Activities:

1. Monitoring and enhancing the natural resource
2. Enforcing applicable provincial statutes, regulations, and municipal bylaws
3. Overseeing and implementing risk management and hazard tree policies
4. Maintaining trail systems
5. Coordinating education programs, events and community projects
6. Other management activities



What Makes this Program Unique?

Management Activities:

1. Monitoring and enhancing the natural resource
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Pathway to Canada Target 1
En route vers l'objectif 1 du Canada





Agreement Renewal Year Timeline

Previous Term 2019 - 2024

Update Process:

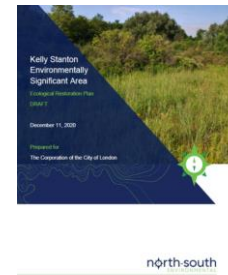
1. Internal Discussions with UTRCA/City
2. Aligned on next steps
3. PEC Requesting Direction
4. Finalize in advance of December



Management Challenges

- EEPAC noted concern for use changes in 2020.
- Population Increase
- Recreational Use Changes
- Encampments
- Increased CMP Implementation

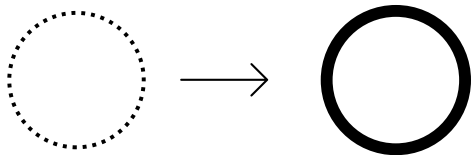
As a result of these pressures, agreement hours were diverted from the ESA specific tasks to core operational activities.



Management Scenarios

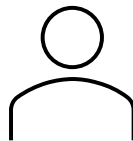
Scenario 1

Status Quo at True
Cost



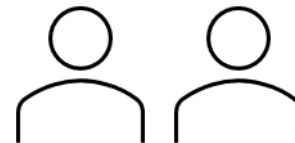
Scenario 2

+1 Full Time Technician



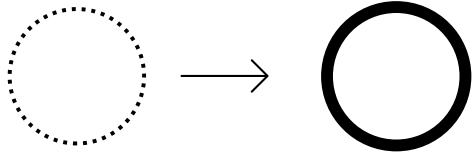
Scenario 3

+1 Full Time Technician
+1 Full Time Assistant
(2026)



Management Scenario 1

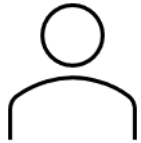
Scenario 1
Status Quo at True
Cost



- Declining level of service.
- Scenario 1 provides current management hours.
- The gap between the core management activities and ESA specific activities will continue to widen.
- Updated Agreement term to align with Multi Year Budget.

Management Scenario 2

Scenario 2
+1 Full Time
Technician



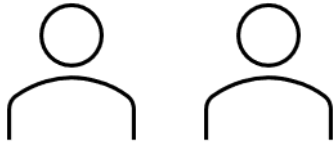
- Existing level of service.
- Scenario 2 provides an additional 1800 management hours to address the widening gap between core management activities and ESA specific activities.
- Updated Agreement term to align with Multi Year Budget.
- Allows for staff revision outside of the per hectare rate.

Management Scenario 3

Scenario 3

+1 Full Time
Technician

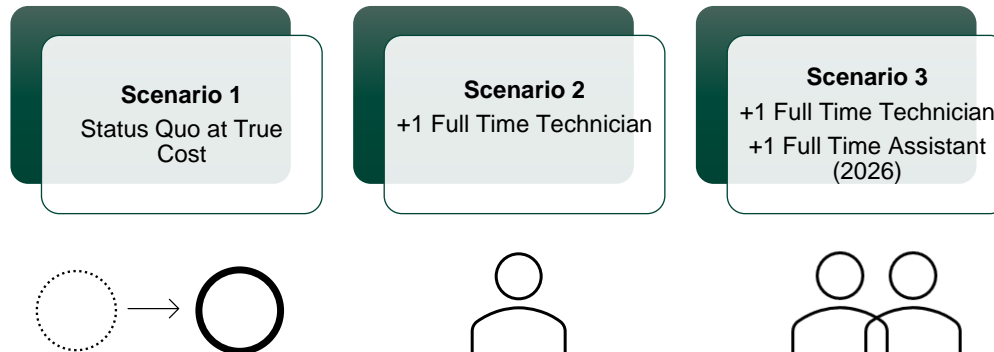
+1 Full Time Assistant
(2026)



- Improved level of service.
- Scenario 3 provides 1800 hours in 2024 and additional 3620 management hours by 2026 to address the widening gap between core management activities and ESA specific activities.
- Addition of Technician to implement Phase 1 CMPs.
- Updated Agreement term to align with Multi Year Budget.
- Allows for staff additions outside of the per hectare rate.
- Increase provides UTRCA capacity to attract and retain increasingly qualified team members.

Next Steps

- Staff are seeking ECAC input on the three scenarios including a recommendation letter in advance of PEC.
- UTRCA is here to speak to the Agreement and answer any specific questions you may have.





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Thank you

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