

LONDON PLAN

"If we always do what we've always done, we will get what we've always got." - Adam Urbanski

BUT FIRST



I AM CONFUSED. IF I AM CONFUSED....



How to Use the London Plan (p.12)

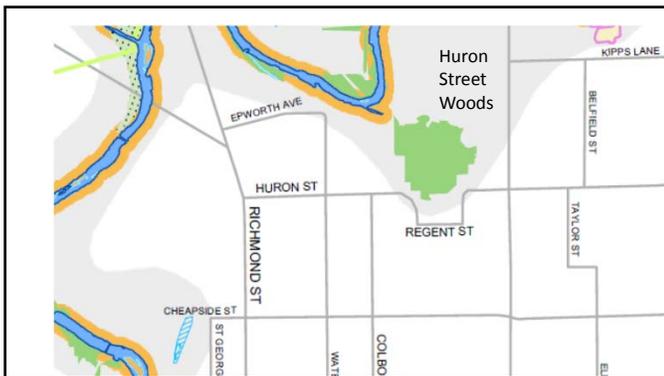
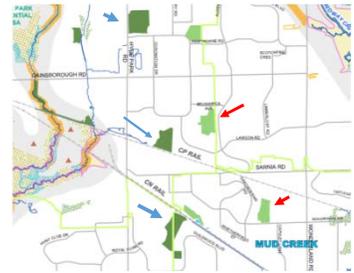
- ³⁶... **Plan to be read in its entirety and the relevant policies are to be applied to each situation.**
- So shouldn't the policies be consistent and clear?**

Natural Heritage Policies p. 349

- 1226 The **natural heritage features and areas** found in London include environmentally significant areas, provincially significant wetlands and wetlands, fish habitat, **significant woodlands and woodlands**, significant valleylands, the habitat of endangered and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, and significant areas of natural and scientific interest, which are all important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of the City of London and the surrounding area.

Significant Woodlands and Woodlands – Map 4

Examples of CITY OWNED in NW



Parks Classification Policy 334 (p. 109)

1. Neighbourhood Parks
2. District Parks
3. Sports Parks
4. Urban Parks
5. City-wide Parks
6. Civic Spaces
7. **Natural Features**
 - a. **Woodlands**
 - b. **Open Spaces**

4.1.7.1 Woodlands

- 342. Woodlands have been identified and protected for their environmental significance by the City through a previous study or have a development-related environmental impact statement with recommendations for their protection, management, and enhancement. Smaller woodlands may not meet the test for significance, but are retained for their aesthetics and as a recreational amenity. Woodlands often include a managed trail system that serves the surrounding neighbourhood and consists of woodchip trails and boardwalks with occasional pathways where appropriate for accessibility and active living connections to local facilities. Woodlands do not include the woodland areas that may be found in other park categories.

- On Map 4, there are Significant Woodlands and Woodlands. Which are included in 342? Will they be treated differently?
- Both a component of the Natural Heritage System according to Policy 1226. So what is 342 trying to say – that they are parks?
- Most are not currently city owned.
- Importantly, some or all Woodlands would be considered Significant Woodlands today under the evaluation criteria approved by the OMB and defended by the City all the way to the Supreme Court.

Why it matters - Map 4 and Map 1 – Reservoir Hill



Parks and Recreation, page 105

- 326. Our parks include our trails and pathways, city-wide gathering places like Victoria Park and Springbank Park, sports fields, neighbourhood parks, natural areas, larger district parks and smaller civic spaces. Our recreational facilities include community centres, arenas, indoor and outdoor pools, and seniors' centres. Combined, these are the places where we come together as Londoners, for city festivals, sports activities, all forms of leisure and recreation, and to meet our neighbours.
- What is a natural area? Natural Heritage Area – see 1226?

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4.1.7 Natural Features

- 341_ There are natural features that are in **City or public ownership** that are part of the City's park system. These are further described below as **Woodlands and Open Spaces**. These areas are managed to **protect, preserve and maintain their ecological function**. These **types of parks** have been established in recognition of both their ecological and community value, and are not intended for **active recreation** use, but may contain trails and pathways. While these areas are included in the City's parkland inventory, they are often subject to specific management plans to guide their protection, management, and enhancement. These management plans determine the appropriate level of use for the specific park. **These parks are within the Green Space Place Type on Map 4 – Place Types.** (Map 17)

TYPES OF PARKS - Woodlands are Parks?

- Minimally Policy 341, should say that the Natural Heritage Policies of this Plan (see 344) apply. Or is the intent to distinguish between those parts of the Natural Heritage System that are and are not subject to the Natural Heritage Policies?

City or Public Ownership

- Why does ownership make a difference?
- Why does it make it a park?

SUGGESTED ADDITION TO PLAN

- Components of the Natural Heritage System that are city owned or managed are governed by the policies of the Natural Heritage section of this Plan.

PASSIVE VS ACTIVE RECREATION

- Neither defined in the Plan (passive recreation is used 7x)
- Used differently in differently cities
- Define it and indicate if it includes bikes or not.
- Ideally, there will be no more multi use pathways in the Natural Heritage System

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What are Open Spaces? Not sure

- 343_ Open Spaces **may** include natural features and are often linear in nature following tributaries of the Thames River, upland corridors, or utility easements. Open Spaces typically include multi-use pathways systems that link neighbourhoods to surrounding parks and community amenities such as schools, business areas, shopping areas and transit corridors and villages, greatly improving active transportation and active living opportunities. Through development approval processes, all or portions of Open Spaces that are acquired for their mobility role are dedicated above the normal parkland requirements as per the *Planning Act*.

Meaning not clear to me. How about the public?

Not sure what this Policy adds to the Plan. Is Open Space the same as an open space area? Neither is shown on any Map so what is included or excluded?

•SO WHAT?

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS – SW London

• www.London.ca/residents/Parks/Explore-Parks/Pages/Neighbourhood-Parks---South-West-London.aspx

•There are four areas in this section of the City's web page (SW, NW, SE, NE)

Butler	713 Butler Ave.	Open green space, woodlot.
Button Bush North	1270 Cranbrook Rd.	Environmentally Sensitive Area
Button Bush South	1271 Cranbrook Rd.	Environmentally Sensitive Area
Byron Hills	955 Byronmanor Rd.	Paved path, 1 swing set, accessible.
Byron River Valley	211 Halls Mill Rd.	Open green space, woodlot.
Byron View	2225 Colonel Talbot Rd.	Walking trail, open green space.
Carfrae East	2 Carfrae Cres.	Woodlot
Carfrae West	50 Carfrae St.	Open green space, woodlot.
Cheswick	88 Lacey Cres.	1 mini soccer field, 1 play structure, 1 swing set, paved path, accessible.
Cleardale	817 Nixon Ave.	1 full soccer field.
Colville	360 Colville Blvd.	Paved path, 1 swing set, accessible.
Coves	50 Springbank Dr.	Open green space
Coves East	24 Brookdale Ave.	Woodlot
Coves Elmwood	201 Wharcliffe Rd. S.	Open green space
Coves Openspace	18 Elmwood Ave. W.	Open green space
Coves West Pond	230 Greenwood Ave.	Open green space
Coves Lookout	264 Greenwood Ave.	Paved path, accessible.
Cresthaven	104 Parks Edge Cres.	1 full soccer field, 1 half basketball court, 1 play structure, 1 swing set, paved path, accessible.
Cresthaven Woods	745 Longworth Rd.	Open green space
Crestwood Woods	635 Boler Rd.	Paved path, accessible.
Dingman Conservation	3370 Homewood Lane	Parking

In the Urban Forest portion of the Plan

324_2 Woodland management plans will be prepared for various municipal woodlands to establish goals for each woodland and determine how they will be maintained for their sustainability and long-term health. Activities such as harvesting, burning, site preparation, pest management, juvenile spacing, brushing and/ or planting may be required to ensure long-term sustainability or restoration of the woodlands.

PAUSE FOR BUDGET RANT!!



You need to get serious about

- **Enforcement & Appreciation**
- **Dealing with invasives**
- \$\$\$\$ - less than \$750K per year currently**



BACK TO NATURAL FEATURES

- **In the Parks and Recreation Policies, the Plan turns to the Green Space Place Type to list:**
- **Publicly owned golf courses (345) and ESAs (344)!!!**

But ESAs are NOT Parks

- 344_ Environmentally significant areas (ESAs) identified as components of the Natural Heritage System include lands that are to be maintained in their natural state through appropriate management for the purposes for which they have been recognized. These lands will be subject to the Natural Heritage policies of this Plan. Details of the management and use of ESAs may be contained within a conservation master plan as provided for in the Natural Heritage policies of this Plan. City-owned and/or managed ESAs are included in the City's green space inventory, however they are not programmed or managed as parkland. ESAs are within the Green Space Place Type on Map 1.

Here is the crux of our view

- **All components of the Natural Heritage System must be subject to the Natural Heritage Policies regardless of ownership.**

OR: Separate Place Type

- **The Green Space Place Type on Map 1 is the same for everything from an Environmentally Significant Area to a golf course.**
- **Is Map 4 good enough to show a difference?**

SUGGESTED ADDITION TO THE PLAN

Protecting the Natural Heritage System against damaging or excessive visitor use requires that the types of recreational activities permitted be generally restricted to nature-based uses and that visitor impacts are managed through appropriate placement of trails, signs and facilities to maintain the natural features and ecological functions that characterize the System.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- ⁶⁴ A London Plan Monitoring Program will be created to establish key performance measures and to report on our progress relating to our directions a minimum of once every two years.
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- **Monitoring, whether in policy or in Tools, is not well established for the NHS. There is monitoring for Urban Forest (320). Add to Natural Heritage Policies:**

SUMMARY

- **Request Staff to meet again with the "ESA Group" to review policies related to the Natural Heritage System.**
- **WANTED: A clear statement that the priority is to protect and enhance the features and ecological functions of the Natural Heritage System**
- **WANTED: Natural Heritage Policies apply to the entire Natural Heritage System even when city owned.**
- **WANTED: Edits to provide clarity and to "clean up"**