

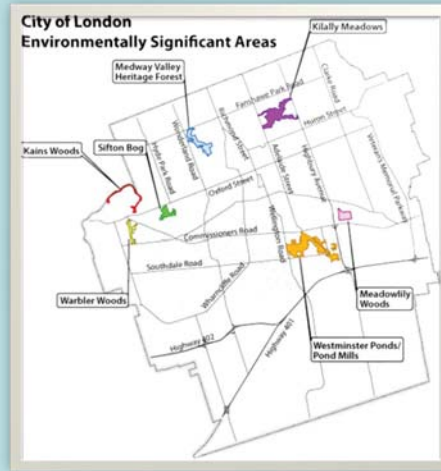
Protecting and Preserving Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

In London, Ontario, Canada
 Presentation for the Planning Committee, City of London, Ontario
 March 27, 2017



Photo: Gary Smith

Meadowlily Woods is one of the Environmentally Significant Areas in London...



...only a small portion is protected from development.

Map of Meadowlily Woods



Located:
 East of Highbury Ave.,
 between the Thames River &
 Commissioners Road East

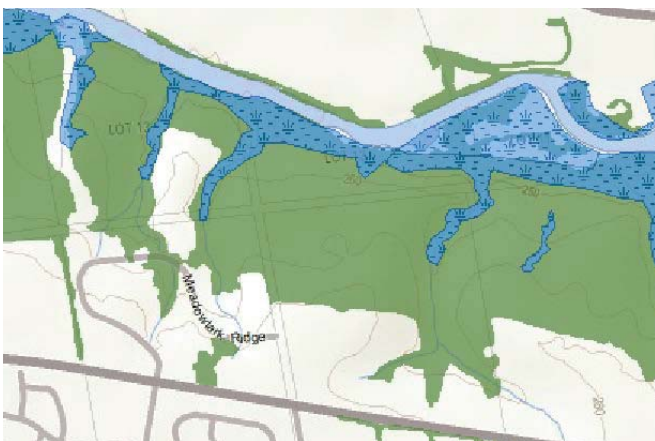
115 Acres + 11 acres + 64 acres= 190 Acres (85 hectares)

Ministry of Natural Resources



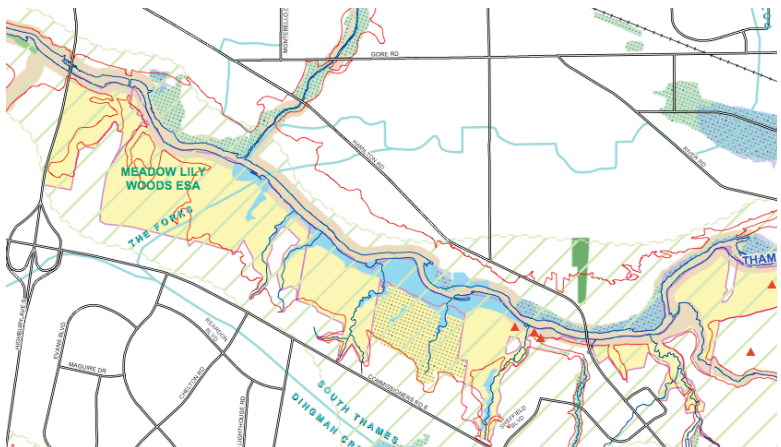
Natural Heritage Map, Meadowlily Woods

Detail of the Meadowlily Wetland Complex/ESA



Area adjacent to Meadowlily Subdivision

Detail Map5 London Plan



Meadowlily Area

Detail Map5, London Plan



Area adjacent to Meadowlily Subdivision

Detail of MNR Map, Meadowlily



Note the creeks, streams and PWS

Arial Map of Meadowlily East



Note closeness of the features

Meadowlily Subdivision Map 1

Note natural features first...



Meadowlily Subdivision Plan

Lot map, note lots to the north of Meadowlark Ridge



Provincial Policy Statement, 2014

Effective Date

PPS 2014 policies take effect **April 30, 2014**

Planning Act amendments effective January 1, 2007 provide that land use planning decisions "shall be consistent" with policy statements **in effect at the time those decisions are made**

For planning matters commenced on or after January 1, 2007, this legislative change means that:

- land use decisions **must reflect the policies in place when the decision is made**
- the timing of when a planning application is made is **no longer relevant** and does not determine the Policy Statement under which it is evaluated

Implementation Update, Page 8

Friends of Meadowlily Woods

Basic Concerns and Issues:

1. All lots be fenced near the ESA areas, no gates facing ESA/PSW lands
2. 10 metre buffers for natural features be increased to 30 metres (creeks, streams that service ESA/PSW lands)
3. Clearer plans as to how storm water and runoff are to be managed
4. That the arc of the road be changed away from slopes and valleys of the creeks and streams that service the ESA
5. The three lots north of Meadowlark Ridge be removed



From our letter to Planning Committee:

Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association “value Meadowlily Woods as a habitat for wildlife, birds, reptiles and fish (these ravines are two active creeks by the time they enter the South Thames River).” **Since this rezoning is a new application present planning policies do apply!**

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area



Next Report is Expected Spring, 2017

Conservation Master Plan:
Natural Heritage Inventory
& Evaluation, Update Spring 2017.

Luke Macys Salamander 2015



Just west of the west ravine, July 5, 2015

The Meadowlily Landscape: Geology of the ESA

The Thames Valley Spillway (river) was carved by melt water from the receding glaciers that existed here 10,000 to 14,000 years ago. The water cut through the Ingersoll Moraine, which had been deposited by glaciers. Over time, three distinct terraces were craved into the moraine's north-facing slope by the



erosive forces of the Thames River. From the river's flood plain, the ground climbs steeply for 10 metres to a broad terrace covered with rich loam soils. A more gradual slope rises to the upland, which is covered with clay soils. The terraces have created a unique and varied topography, with streams and creeks across the slopes.

Meadowlily Plant Communities:



Because of the combination of the three terraces at different heights, the slopes and valleys created by the creeks and streams, this natural area has a wide variety of habitats for an even wider variety of plants from highland forest to the wetlands of the river and marshes: butternut, blue ash, hickory, hackberry, dogwood and willow— to name a few.

In addition, **Meadowlily Woods** has over 350 species of vascular plants that were recorded in 80 families.

Meadowlily Woods is part of the Forks of the Thames watershed and according to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority is home to **34 Species at Risk**.

Meadowlily Woods is very special because it has everything: mature upland forests, forested ravines that are dissected by intermittent streams, bottomland forests, floodplain forests, shrub thickets, marshes, meadows and provides a natural corridor for wildlife to the river and other sources of food.

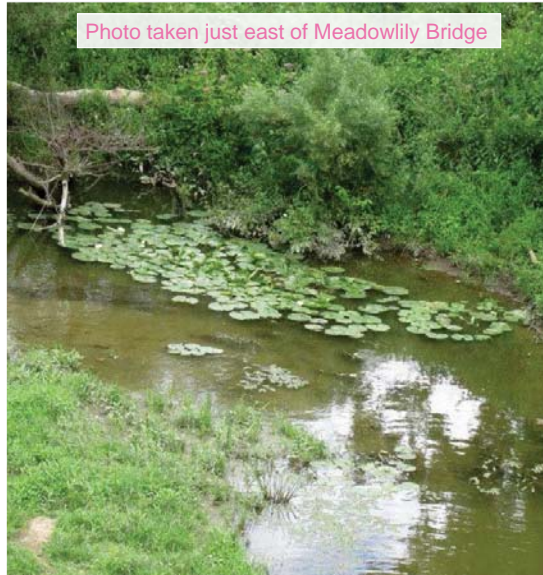


Photo taken just east of Meadowlily Bridge

Meadowlily Woods is designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a **Provincially Significant Wetland** with a score 600+ and provides Habitat for several **Species at Risk**.

Picture taken by Alison Wrighton, 2014

Meadowlily Area: Species @ Risk



Photo Credit: Joe O'Neil, 2011

False Rue-Anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) produces delicate, white flowers in early spring before the forest canopy closes in. This little-known plant is easily overlooked on the floor of Maple woods where it grows in the rich soils of old floodplains. It has a patchy distribution and grows in clumps, which suggests that most reproduction is clonal (vegetative). **Status:** Threatened Provincially and Nationally, Ontario Species at Risk, MNR

False Hop Sedge, (*Carex lupuliformis*)



Photo: Jacques Labrecque

Photos by: Allen Woodliffe, Jacques Labrecque, John Kunsman

Meadowlily Species @ Risk



Green Dragon: From **Page 42** of the Natural Heritage consultant's report to the Meadowlily Area Study: "The provincially vulnerable green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) was observed in summer 2010 along the Thames River."

Rare & Endangered: Meadowlily Woods



Wood Poppy: In spring, the deep yellow flowers of the Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) appear as a brilliant display on the forest floor. It comes as no surprise that the other common names of this plant are "Yellow Poppy" and "Celandine Poppy". Members of the Poppy Family are characterized by their production of sap or juice, which in the case of the Wood Poppy is yellow. This plant of moist deciduous woods blooms for only a brief period in spring under the gently filtered light of the emerging forest canopy. **Status:** Endangered Provincially and Nationally. MNR, SARO List (**Forest protection necessary!**)

Significant Tree Species:



Black Cherry, White Oak, Blue Ash

Additional Tree Species @ Risk in Meadowlily Woods



Butternut Trees and Eastern Red Bud

Species at Risk: Cerulean Warbler



Photo, Mike Brown

Meadowlily Woods and Area, 2012

Meadowlily Species at Risk:



Red-Headed Woodpecker

Species of Concern in the Middlesex Area:

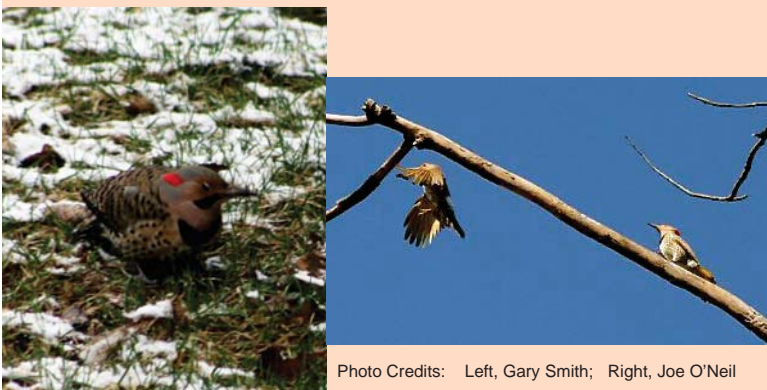
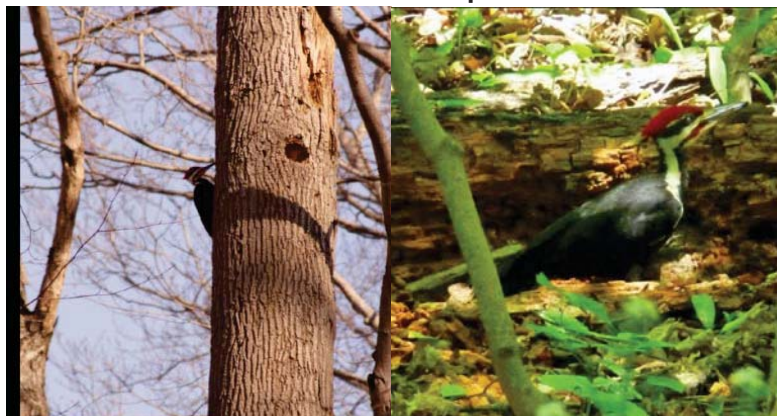


Photo Credits: Left, Gary Smith; Right, Joe O'Neil

Yellow-Shafted and Northern Flickers

Bird Species of Special Concern: Pileated Woodpecker



Photos taken by Ben Fisher and Shelly White, 2011-12, Meadowlily Woods

Birds: Great Crested Flycatcher



This flycatcher is a cavity-dweller like woodpeckers; not usually considered rare but habitat loss has made this species vulnerable in Southwestern Ontario.

Conservation Priority for Middlesex County : Ovenbird



The Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) is a small songbird of the warbler family (Parulidae). This **migratory** bird breeds in eastern North America and winters in Florida, Central, South America, & the Caribbean Islands.

Photo by Robert Thompson

Birds of Meadowlily



Acadian Flycatcher



Chimney Swift



Loggerhead Shrike



Red-Tailed Hawk

The Rare and Unique Birds of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

More Birds of Meadowlily Woods



Yellow Flicker, left;

Savannah Sparrow, right



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, left;

Northern Oriole, Right



More of the unique and remarkable Birds of Meadowlily

Red-Eyed Vireo: A Success Story



Photo: **Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario**, Gregory K. Peck

Sparrow-sized plain green & white bird with an eye-stripe, grey cap and red eye. Up close, the beak is thick and has a small hook at the end. This bird is an avid singer and has seen a recovery from years ago where forest canopies have reestablished themselves, like Meadowlily Woods.

Recent sightings in the Meadowlily Woods Area



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) is a member of the family *Bombycillidae* or waxwing family of passerine birds. It is a medium sized, mostly brown, gray, and yellow bird named for its wax-like wing tips.

Photo: Steve Donnelly, 2014

Conservation Priority for Middlesex County : Scarlet Tanager



The Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is a medium-sized American songbird. They are now classified as belonging to the cardinal family.

Photo by Rick McDonald, May 2014

Species at Risk, Special Concern : Wood Thrush



The Wood Thrush: (*Hylocichla ustulata*) is a North American passerine bird. It is closely related to other thrushes such as robins and is widely distributed across North America, wintering in Central America and southern Mexico. The wood thrush is a medium-sized thrush. The song of the male is often cited as being the most beautiful in North America.

Photo credit: Scott Clark

Recent Sightings: Eastern Bluebird



Photo: Shay Redmond

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

Recent Sightings: Yellow Warbler



Photo: Steve Donnelly, 2014

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

Species @ Risk, Meadowlily 2012



Giant Swallow Tail Butterfly

Photo: Shelly White, 2012

Species @ Risk, Meadowlily



Photo Credit: Shelly White, 2012

Monarch Butterflies, Meadowlily Woods, Spring, 2012: "...observed in all open areas throughout the study area on several visits; this species is ranked as Special Concern by COSSARO (Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario)." Natural Heritage Study, Meadowlily Area Plan, 2011

Meadowlily Species @ Risk:



Rainbow Mussel: identified in the recent Meadowlily Natural Heritage Study, 2010, as being an important part of the biodiversity of the small streams and wetlands of the Meadowlily Area.

Species at Risk, Meadowlily



Pigtoe Mussel: The round pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*) is a freshwater mussel that lives in sandy substrates in deeper water of large rivers, and the near-shore areas of some of the Great Lakes. Adults have deep-mahogany coloured shells with darker banding, and they can grow to 10 cm long or more. Status: Endangered Provincially and Nationally; MNR, SARO List

Reptilian Species @ Risk



Queen Snake: The Queensnake (*Regina septemvittata*) is aquatic, living in clear, smaller rivers where there is good rock cover. Queen Snake has been observed in the area of the unnamed creek to the west of Meadowlily Road South near the Thames River. Photo: Ministry of Natural Resources

Reptilian Species of Special Concern, Meadowlily Area:



Wood Frogs, Green, Leopard Frogs: These amphibians are becoming a matter of increasing concern as their habitats are increasing disturbed and reduced such as marshes and wetlands. Meadowlily Area is a provincially designated as a significant wetland.

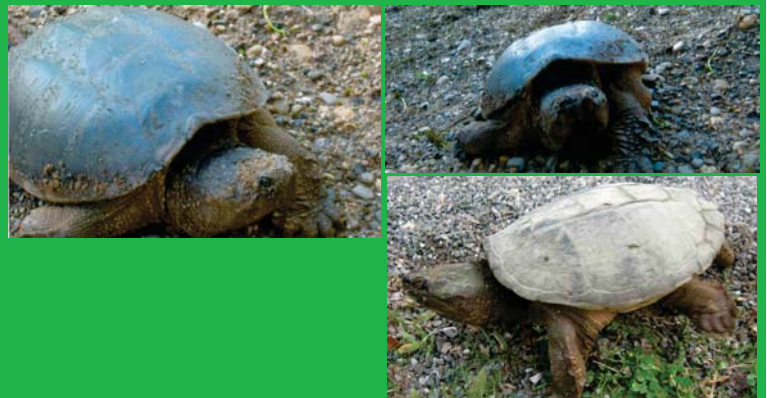
Eastern Spiny Soft-shell Turtle



Status: Threatened (COSEWIC & SARO lists), Olive-coloured upper shell is noticeably flat & leathery. Distinctive snorkel-like snout.

Photo Credit: Melissa Parrot

Snapping Turtles, Meadowlily, 2013



Photos by Friends of Meadowlily Woods Member, Clyde Cleveland near Meadowlily Bridge, Spring 2013

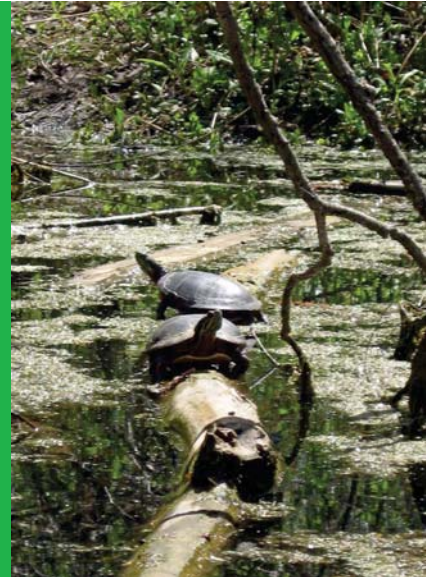
Other Turtles, Meadowlily, 2013



Photos by Friends of Meadowlily Woods Member, Clyde Cleveland near Meadowlily Bridge, Summer 2013

More Turtles in Meadowlily...

Photo by Alison Wrighton



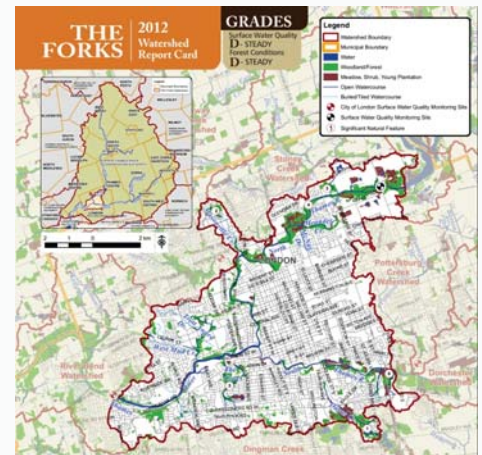
"Our Four-legged Friends..."



Deer near Meadowlily Road South & Commissioners Road E.

Meadowlily Woods is part of the Forks of the Thames Watershed

Located in the Central to East part of the City of London



What makes Meadowlily Woods Special ?



Photo: Jeff Cuthbert

Friends of Meadowlily Woods Mission Statement



The Friends of Meadowlily Woods is a not-for-profit neighborhood association that is dedicated to protecting and preserving a natural corridor in our own backyards in Meadowlily Woods, Environmentally Significant Area. As well we are also committed to solving the natural and historic issues of our community from inappropriate development that would endanger this natural area. We are also interested in protecting and preserving the historic and cultural features of the area like the heritage-designated farm house known as Park Farm, Meadowlily Village, built in 1910 and Meadowlily Hill which was originally built around 1800. This group has been formed to assist the members of this association and our community in communicating with and other and to help the leaders of the group to keep the natural heritage of our area and wildlife relevant to our area.

Picture, G. Smith, May, 2012