



Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan – Phase 2 Review of DRAFT Content




August 24, 2017



Overview of the Phase II CMP

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Phase I Summary of Findings
3.0	Environmental Management Strategy
4.0	Trail Management
5.0	Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework
6.0	Continued Community Engagement





Utility Overlay (4 m)

MVHF ESA (south) Boundary (Refined as per Phase I)

Watercourse

Western/Huron Properties

Property Boundaries

REVIEW OF THE CMP PROCESS

CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN PROCESS

PHASE 1: Community Engagement and Participation ✓
 Life Science Inventory and Evaluation ✓
 Boundary Delineation ✓
 Application of Management Zones & Review of Existing Trails ✓
 Identifying Management Issues ✓

PHASE 2: Community Engagement and Participation
 Goals, Objectives, Recommendations
 Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration
 Trail Planning & Design Process
 Priorities for Implementation
 Final Conservation Master Plan



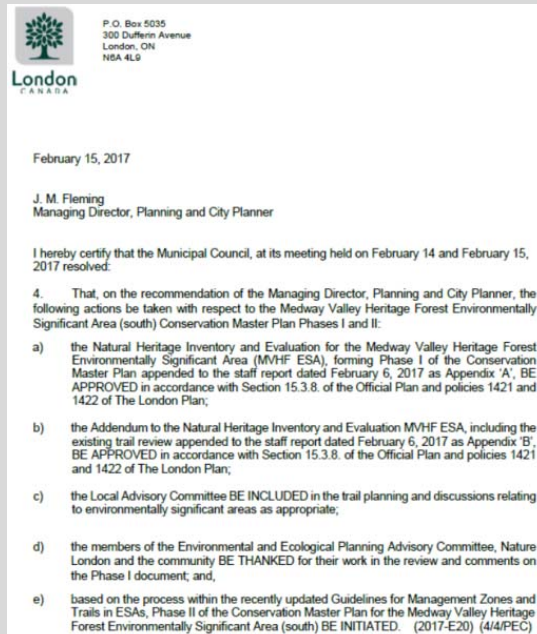
Milestones of Phase I CMP Process:

Community Information Meetings were held on:

- July 25, 2013 - Project Initiation
- January 27, 2014 – Presentation of Key Findings

Phase 1 CMP Report to Planning and Environment Committee of Council

- February 14, 2017
- [Phase 1 CMP](#) and the [Addendum](#) updated with 2016 version of Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs - both approved by Council



Milestones of Phase II CMP Process:

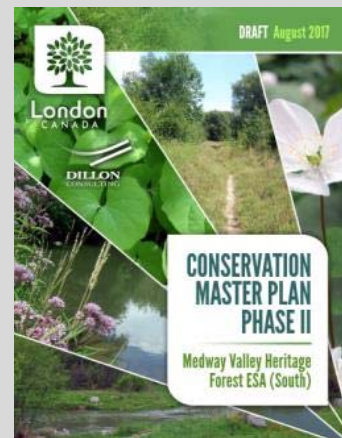
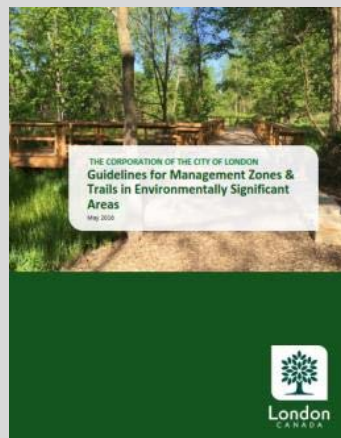
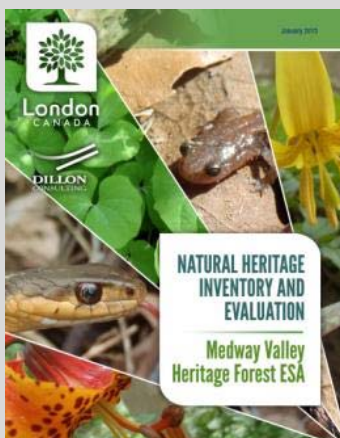
- **March 2017**
 - Formation of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and definition of roles circulated
- **LAC Meetings**
 - April 27, May 4 and July 27 (future meetings September 7 and October 5)
- **June 1**
 - Community Open House #1
- **June 1 to June 30**
 - Web mapping tool and survey open to public
- **August 22**
 - Draft distributed for discussion and comment



GOAL OF MVHF ESA (SOUTH) CMP – PHASE 2

To develop a comprehensive multi-year CMP that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an environmental management strategy.

(Consistent with OP 15.3.8. i, ii, / London Plan policies 1421 and 1422)



Implementing the Recommendations

Priority for Implementation	Time Period for Implementation
Top	Start within one year, including items already underway
High	Start within two years
Moderate	Start within three years
Low	Start within four years up to ten years
Long Range	Projects without specified time frames – may occur beyond ten years



Phase I Summary of Findings

1. All significant ecological features identified in Phase 1 were found to be compatible with the existing managed trails based on Chart 2 from the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs
2. Fifteen areas were identified that require active ecological restoration or special management. **Majority of ecological restoration work is underway in 8 of 15 Restoration Overlays** (Figure 2)
3. Three areas were identified for naturalization (Figure 2)



Phase I CMP Summary of Findings

5. Nine wildlife habitat types identified & recommendations provided (in Table 12) for:

- Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat
- Seeps and Springs
- Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern:
 - Shrubby St. John's Wort
 - Striped Cream Violet
 - Slender Satin Grass
 - American Gromwell
 - Green Dragon



6. Habitat for Threatened or Endangered native species identified:

- Butternut
- Cucumber Magnolia
- Kentucky Coffee-tree
- False Rue-anemone
- Queensnake
- Spiny Softshell
- SAR bats



Summary of Feedback Received for Phase II

Source of Feedback/Comment

Comments submitted from LAC Members on behalf of:

- EEPAC
- Nature London
- Orchard Park/Sherwood Forest Ratepayers
- Huron University College
- Sherwood Forest Adopt-an-ESA

Social PinPoint – Online Mapping

- 82 Pins/comments
 - 157 sub-comments across these 82 pins

Community Open House Hard Copy Mapping

- 90% of sticky notes on map were aligned with other comments submitted
- 10% were unique comments not previously submitted

Survey

- 105 online respondents; 12 hard copy submissions

Community Open House Comments

- 29 Event Comment Forms submitted
 - 48% submitted comments; 52% only submitted feedback on open house content and information for contact list
 - 80% said they were provided enough information to understand the project; 17% responded somewhat and 1 respondent said they were not provided enough information.



What We Heard From Public Engagement

Written feedback from during the public engagement was generally similar to what has been provided by the LAC:

- **The ESA is a unique feature; protecting and restoring/maintaining ecological integrity is the first priority**
- There is a desire for **more learning/education** opportunities within the ESA
- Management of the ESA to continue to include **invasive species removal**
- Requests for **more enforcement** of by-laws (e.g. off-leash dogs, bicycles, encroachment)
- **Improvements of trails** in sections is an area of importance.
 - Some **muddy, icy and wet areas** are present along the trail system; requests for boardwalks or other solutions
 - **Monitoring** in the ESA is important



What We Heard From Public Engagement

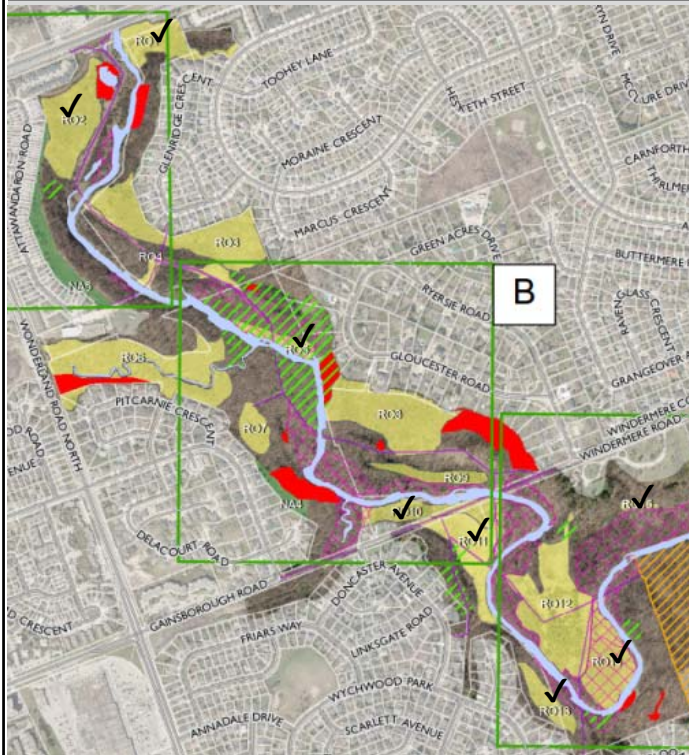
- There is a **desire for connectivity/continuity** of trails throughout the ESA (i.e. better linkages, bridges, easements through private property, etc.)
- **Opposition to the closing of other “existing” trails**, including a mix of managed and informal
- There is a desire for some **closed trails** (i.e. Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley) to be re-opened.
- There is **opposition to paving** of trails but some asked for multi-use paths



Gainsborough to Snake Creek Trail – temporarily closed – relocate Trail onto lawn area then ecologically restore lawn



Environmental Management Strategy: Restoration



- **Previous Work** - Majority of restoration work underway in 8 of 15 Restoration Overlays (RO) on Figure 2
- High Priority RO 5, 14 & 15 to protect SAR implemented in 2013-2017
- City / Dillon & UTRCA recognized for innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the [Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone \(*Enemion biternatum*\) in Canada](#)
- Phragmites high priority in all ESAs incl. Medway. Control since 2013 (RO 1 & 2)
- **Current Work** to manage Periwinkle, Goutweed, Buckthorn, Norway Maple, Phragmites, Loosestrife, and, native tree / shrub plantings and 74 ash tree EAB injections continues (RO 10, 11 & 13)
- Garlic Mustard pulled by SF Adopt an ESA
- **Future Work** – implement RO3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12 to manage Buckthorn, Snowdrops, Woodland Sedge, plant trees & continue monitoring

Environmental Management Strategy: Naturalization



- **NA1, NA2 and NA3**
 - Part of RO9, RO11, RO12
- **NA4:** Identified during Phase I
- **NA5:** Identified during Phase II
- High quality ecological restoration of mown lawn areas into native meadows and succession to woodland
- Restoration work in association with trail implementation over lawn areas could define limit of restoration and limit future encroachment

Draft Trail Management Plan

Considerations Raised by LAC / Public Consultation

- Access
- Existing Unmanaged Trails
- Connectivity of Managed Trail System
- Trail Condition
- Non-permitted Uses
- Population Growth
- Bank Migration



Photo: Example of muddy/wet Level 1 trail over sewer alignment / Utility Overlay south of Glenridge Drive, east side of ESA, near Access 10

Trail Management - Access and Wayfinding

Signage in ESAs as described in Guidelines are:

- Informational / Regulatory / Warning
- Interpretive
- Designation / Directional
- Access Point Signs: ESA name, pictographs for rules, QR codes - Brochure / Observation Reports, and, use at own risk. Complete rules / by-law sign on the back.

New AODA compliant signage at all access points to include a map and identify:

- The length of trail
- The type of surface of which the trail is constructed
- The average and minimum trail width
- The average and maximum running and cross slope
- The location of amenities, where provided



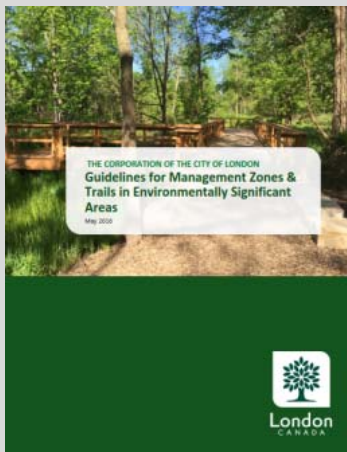
Current ESA Access Point Signage

DILLON
ENVIRONMENTAL

London
CANADA

Trail Management Suggestions from Public

- All significant ecological features identified in Phase 1 were found to be compatible with the existing managed trails based on Chart 2 from the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs.
- -Documented in the Addendum to Phase I and approved by Council (February 14, 2017)



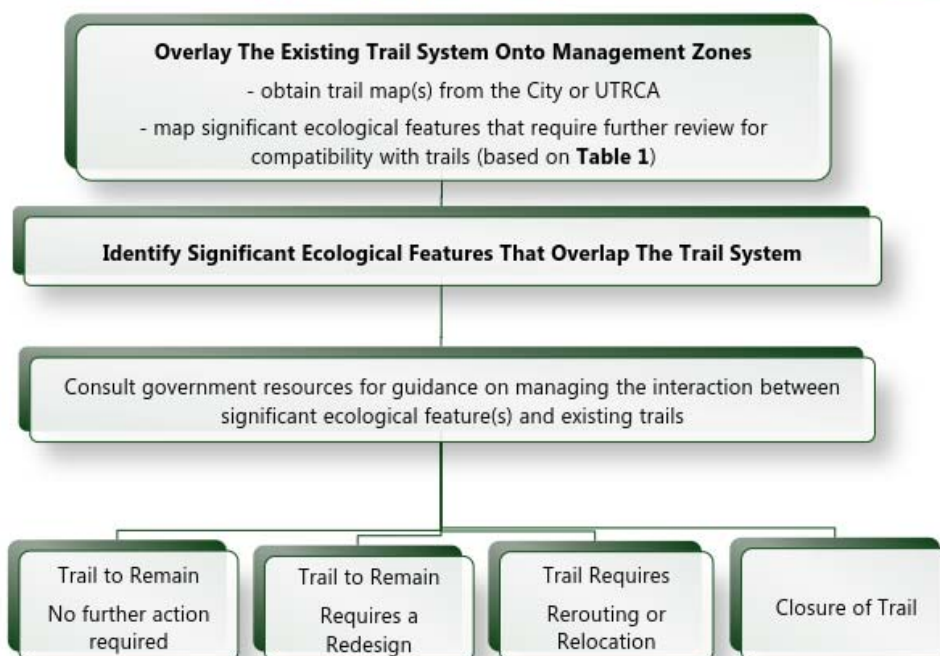
Next Step - Use the Guidelines to:

- Review trail management **suggestions from the Public**
- Provide **3 Draft Trail Concept Plans** that comply with Guidelines, enhance protection of features & improve accessibility - for review and comment:
 1. DRAFT **“Enhanced As Is”** Trail Concept Plan
 2. DRAFT **“Partial Improved Connectivity”** Trail Concept Plan
 3. DRAFT **“Enhanced Connectivity”** Trail Concept Plan



Draft Trail Management Plan Enhanced “As-Is” System

Chart 2: Review of Significant Ecological Features and Trail Recommendation for Existing Trails



Draft Trail Management Plan Enhanced "As-Is" System

**Trail to Remain
Requires a
Redesign**

"Keep the existing trail and include design features to preserve ecological integrity"

This includes:

- Improvements to trails in muddy / wet areas etc. to reduce impact and improve accessibility
- Better alignment of trails with Utility Overlay to minimize impacts while accommodating persons with disabilities wherever possible.

**Trail Requires
Rerouting or
Relocation**

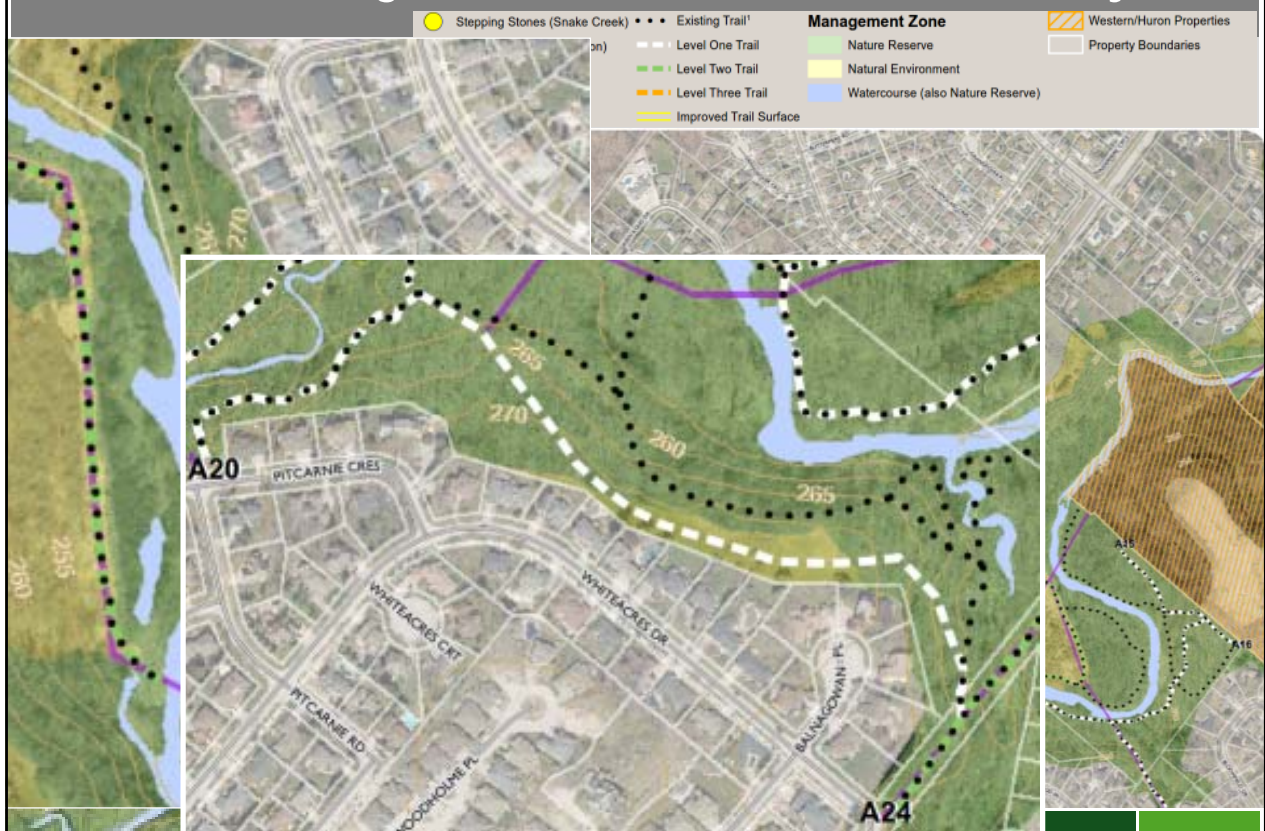
"Realign the trail to avoid the significant ecological feature"

This includes:

- Realignment and reopening of temporarily closed managed trail

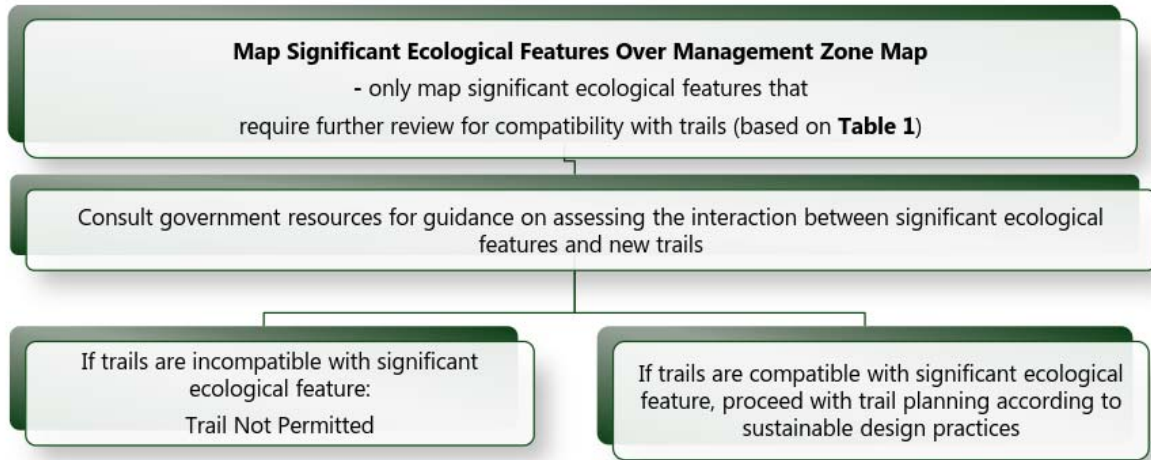


Draft Trail Management Plan: Enhanced "As-Is" System



Draft Trail Management Plan Establishing "Partial Connectivity"

Chart 3: Review of Significant Ecological Features and Trail Recommendations for New Trails



Trail Management: Establishing Partial Connectivity

- In addition to the "As-Is" system:



Draft Trail Management Plan “Enhanced Connectivity”

Connectivity across Medway Creek:

- Linkage would be considered a “new segment of trail”
 - Linkage refers to a “connection area over water”
 - Mechanism to provide connection not yet defined

Chart 3: Review of Significant Ecological Features and Trail Recommendations for New Trails

