

Environmentally Significant Areas on Map 5 London Plan – Public and Private Ownership



21 November 2019
EEPAC



What is an Environmentally Significant Area?

1347_ Environmentally significant areas (ESAs) are **large areas** that contain natural features and perform ecological functions that warrant their retention in a natural state. Environmentally significant areas are large features of the Natural Heritage System, often represented by a complex of wetlands, woodlands, significant wildlife habitat or valleylands.



What is an Environmentally Significant Area?

1. The area contains **unusual landforms and/or rare to uncommon natural communities** within the country, province or London Subwatershed region.
2. The area contains **high-quality natural landform-vegetation communities** that are representative of **typical pre-settlement conditions** of the dominant physiographic units within the London sub-watershed region, and/or that have been classified as distinctive in the Province of Ontario.
3. The area, due to its **large size, generally more than 40 hectares, provides habitat** for species intolerant of disturbance or for species that require extensive blocks of suitable habitat.
4. The area, due to its **hydrologic characteristics**, contributes significantly to the healthy maintenance (quality or quantity) of a natural system beyond its boundaries.
5. The area has a **high biodiversity** of biological communities and/or associated plant and animal species within the context of the London sub-watershed region.
6. The area serves an **important wildlife habitat or linkage** function.
7. The area provides **significant habitat for rare, threatened or endangered indigenous species** of plants or animals that are rare within the country, province or county.



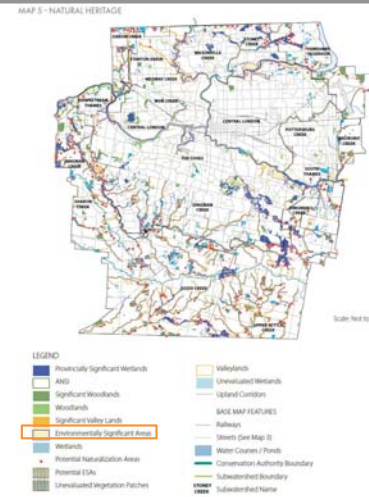
ESAs on London Plan Map 5 Natural Heritage



THE LONDON PLAN

EXCITING. EXCEPTIONAL. CONNECTED.

- Council Adopted and Minister Approved in 2016
- Subject to LPAT Appeal PL170100 - May 23, 2019
- Consolidated May 23, 2019
- **1,870 hectares of ESA lands on Map 5 Natural Heritage**



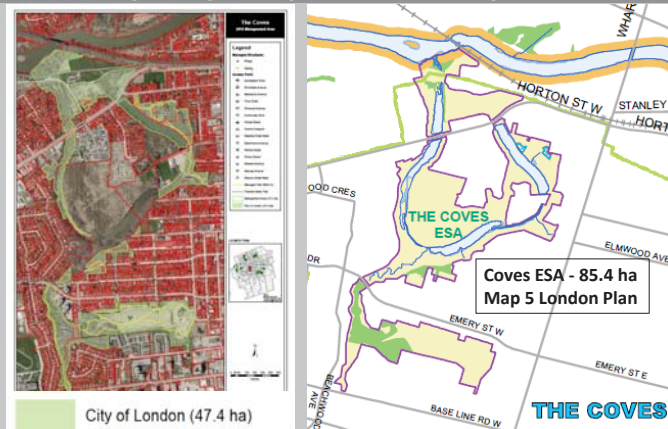
City of London Publicly Owned ESAs

Publicly Owned ESAs in London:

- Westminster Ponds
- Sifton Bog
- Warbler Woods
- Kains Woods
- Kilally Meadows
- Meadowlily Woods
- Medway VHF
- Coves
- Lower Dingman
- Pottersburg Valley
- Kelly Stanton



Example of public/private ownership of an ESA



Coves ESA ecological boundary includes 85.4 hectares of public and private land on Map 5 London Plan. 47.4 hectares are publicly owned and 38 hectares are private.



ESAs in London Plan

1367_ Environmentally significant areas (ESAs) are large areas that contain natural features and perform ecological functions that warrant their retention in a natural state... While environmentally significant areas are protected by their inclusion in the Green Space Place Type, additional measures to provide for their protection, management and utilization are considered necessary, and may include the preparation of conservation master plans...

1409_ Some lands within environmentally significant areas are privately-owned, and this categorization of the lands is not to be interpreted as permitting access or use by the general public. Permission for public access to privately-owned lands in environmentally significant areas shall be at the discretion of the property owner.



Stewardship of Privately Owned ESAs

STEWARDSHIP 1408_

Where natural heritage areas are privately-owned, the City will encourage individual property owners to provide for their protection and conservation. In this regard, the City may use all of the following techniques:



Stewardship of Privately Owned ESAs

1. Stewardship agreements.
2. Conservation easements.
3. Programs to inform property owners of stewardship options available to protect or rehabilitate natural features and ecological functions.
4. Encourage the establishment of land trusts and the utilization of existing land trusts, as well as other mechanisms to purchase land and to rehabilitate, create or conserve natural heritage areas.
5. Encourage property owners to make use of programs and services provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the conservation authorities for the management of forests and woodlots.
6. Modification of property tax assessment and/or facilitation of the Provincial Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program or the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program .
7. Where privately-owned lands abut public lands, the City will provide signage or property demarcation to indicate the limits of publicly-owned lands.
8. Any other suitable techniques.



ESAs in London Questions?

