

Report to Planning and Environment Committee

To: Chair and Members
Planning & Environment Committee

From: Gregg Barrett
Director, Planning and City Planner

Subject: Conservation Master Plan for Meadowlily Woods
Environmentally Significant Area

Meeting On: July 13, 2020

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Planning and City Planner, the following actions be taken with respect to the Conservation Master Plan for the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area:

- (a) The Conservation Master Plan for the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area attached as Appendix 'A', **BE RECIEVED** for information; and,;
- (b) The members of EEPAC and the community **BE THANKED** for their work in the review and comments on the document.

IT BEING NOTED staff will initiate an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law amendment to adopt the Conservation Master Plan for the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area and to amend the updated Environmentally Significant Area boundary identified in the Conservation Master Plan.

Executive Summary

- The Conservation Master Plan (CMP) in **Appendix A** was completed by Natural Resource Solutions Inc., with input from the community and EEPAC.
- Two community meetings, mail-outs, notice on the City calendar, circulation of the Draft CMP to EEPAC, and detailed information and draft CMP posted on the London.ca/ESACMP webpage provided opportunities for community input that shaped the CMP.
- Responses to EEPAC and community comments on the draft CMP were circulated to EEPAC and are in **Appendix B**.
- The majority of the CMP recommendations are tied to ecological restoration work that is already underway or completed and being monitored.
- Management zones and restoration overlays were identified based on field studies to delineate the boundaries of vegetation communities, and the existing trails were found to be compatible with the significant natural heritage features and their ecological functions.
- The Trails Advisory Group (including representatives from EEPAC and ACCAC) will continue to be convened to reach consensus on future trail matters, following the process in the 2019 site visit and minutes in **Appendix C**.
- An Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) process and report will be initiated to update the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area (MW ESA) boundary and to adopt the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area CMP.
- The CMP supports Council's strategic plan priorities and London Plan policies.
- The community supports moving to implementation and continuing with Trails Advisory Group site visits to resolve future trail issues as noted in the March 10, 2020 CMP conversation summary in **Appendix D**.

Analysis

1.0 Previous Reports Pertinent to this Matter

June 20, 2016 - Planning and Environment Committee Report for Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas

2.0 Purpose

2.1 Council's Strategic Plan

Completion of this CMP is one of Council's strategic priorities under:
"Building a Sustainable City – Strong and Healthy Environment"

2.2 London Plan

The CMP responds to the community desire to protect and enhance the MW ESA.

Under **Policy 1421_** "City Council may request the preparation of conservation master plans for environmentally significant areas and other natural heritage areas. Conservation master plans may be adopted by Council, and will function as guideline documents for the purposes of providing direction on the management of these areas."

3.0 Conservation Master Plan Process

3.1 Following the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs

The CMP process included a detailed life science inventory to refine the ESA boundaries, identify management zones and overlays, and form recommendations for ecological restoration. The existing trails were found to be compatible with the significant natural heritage features and their ecological functions. The majority of the CMP's recommendations are already complete or underway.

CMP Process is Complete

- ✓ Community Engagement and Participation
- ✓ Life Science Inventory and Evaluation
- ✓ Boundary Delineation
- ✓ Application of Management Zones and Review of Existing Trails
- ✓ Identification of Management Issues
- ✓ Goals, Objectives and Recommendations
- ✓ Ecological Enhancement and Restoration
- ✓ Trail Planning on Public ESA Lands
- ✓ Priorities for Implementation
- ✓ Final Conservation Master Plan

3.2 The Community Engagement Process

The CMP process included two community meetings (June 23, 2013, and March 22, 2019) mail-outs to all homes within 200 meters of the ESA, notices in the Londoner, information on the City website and collection of information from the community. Comments received during the engagement process from the community and EEPAC were used to revise the draft CMP as identified in **Appendix B**.

EEPAC and the community's comments on the Draft CMP were focussed on updating the ESA boundary, and continuing invasive species management, restoration, closure of informal trails and monitoring for oak wilt. The CMP supports all of these initiatives noting most are already being implemented and monitored. A CMP conversation was held March 10, 2020 to identify how the comments were addressed with an invitation to those who provided comments on the draft CMP. Meeting summary is included in **Appendix D**.

A Trails Advisory Group (TAG) site walk was held on June 25, 2019 (including representatives from EEPAC and ACCAC) to review the relocation of Access 4 away from private property. Consensus was reached and implementation of TAG's decision by the UTRCA will wrap up in 2020 using about \$20,000 in ESA capital funds. TAG minutes and decision map are included in **Appendix C**.

TAG site walks will continue to be convened to empower the community to reach consensus on future trail matters as they arise. The existing trails were found to be compatible with the significant natural heritage features and their ecological functions following the process in the Guidelines. Currently, about half of the current MW ESA on Map 5 of the London Plan is privately owned. Once more of the private ESA lands have been acquired, a broader trail planning engagement process could be coordinated.

4.0 Key Recommendations in the CMP

4.1 CMP Recommendations and Implementation

- Restoration Overlays were mapped and identify opportunities to continue the successful restoration and monitoring work to date to protect the ESA.
- Updated MW ESA boundary is identified for use in updating Map 5 of the London Plan through a City-led Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment process.

4.2 Existing Trails

- All existing trails were found to be compatible with the significant natural heritage features and their ecological functions following the process in the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (the Guidelines).
- The proposed, updated MW ESA boundary includes some public lands north of the Thames River which currently supports an existing, one kilometer section of the Thames Valley Parkway multi-use pathway system and the Meadowlily Footbridge.
- As sections of boardwalk are replaced for lifecycle renewal or implemented through a Trails Advisory Group process (in all ESAs) they are designed to meet AODA standards regardless of the connecting trail type or topography.
- Greater efforts will be made to close and restore unmanaged trails following the process in the Guidelines (on City lands and those leading to private ESA lands) to enhance ESA habitats and stop trespassing on private lands. Success will be monitored following the process in the Guidelines.

5.0 Current State of MW ESA

- **Protection of ESA**

The City funds a \$530,000 annual contract with the UTRCA ESA Team to manage the City's 11 publically owned ESAs (749 hectares) including most of the contiguous, publically owned portions (60 hectares) of the MW ESA and this work includes:

1. Monitoring and enhancing the ESA (ecological restoration)
2. Enforcing ESA rules and municipal By-laws (supported by City By-law staff)
3. Implementing risk management programs
4. Maintaining trail systems
5. Educational programs, events and community projects

- **Restoration**

The City's strong focus on enhancing ecological integrity in the ESA is evident as the majority of the restoration work, invasive species management, oak wilt monitoring, and informal trail closure work is already underway or complete and under a monitoring program. By implementing the CMP, the ecological integrity of the MW ESA is expected to continue to improve.

- **Stewardship Opportunities**

The Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association adopted the MW ESA through the City's Adopt an ESA program. The community will continue to be empowered in implementing the CMP recommendations. Opportunities to expand and enhance engagement in implementation will be coordinated.

- **Public and Private Ownership of Meadowlily Woods ESA Lands**

Currently, about half of Meadowlily Woods ESA is publically owned and includes a managed trail system. The City does not manage or maintain privately owned ESA lands or trails. Acquisition of additional ESA lands is recommended in the CMP and will occur as opportunities arise through a variety of mechanisms including the parkland dedication process.

Current Map 5 London Plan ESA boundary area - **128.5 hectares**

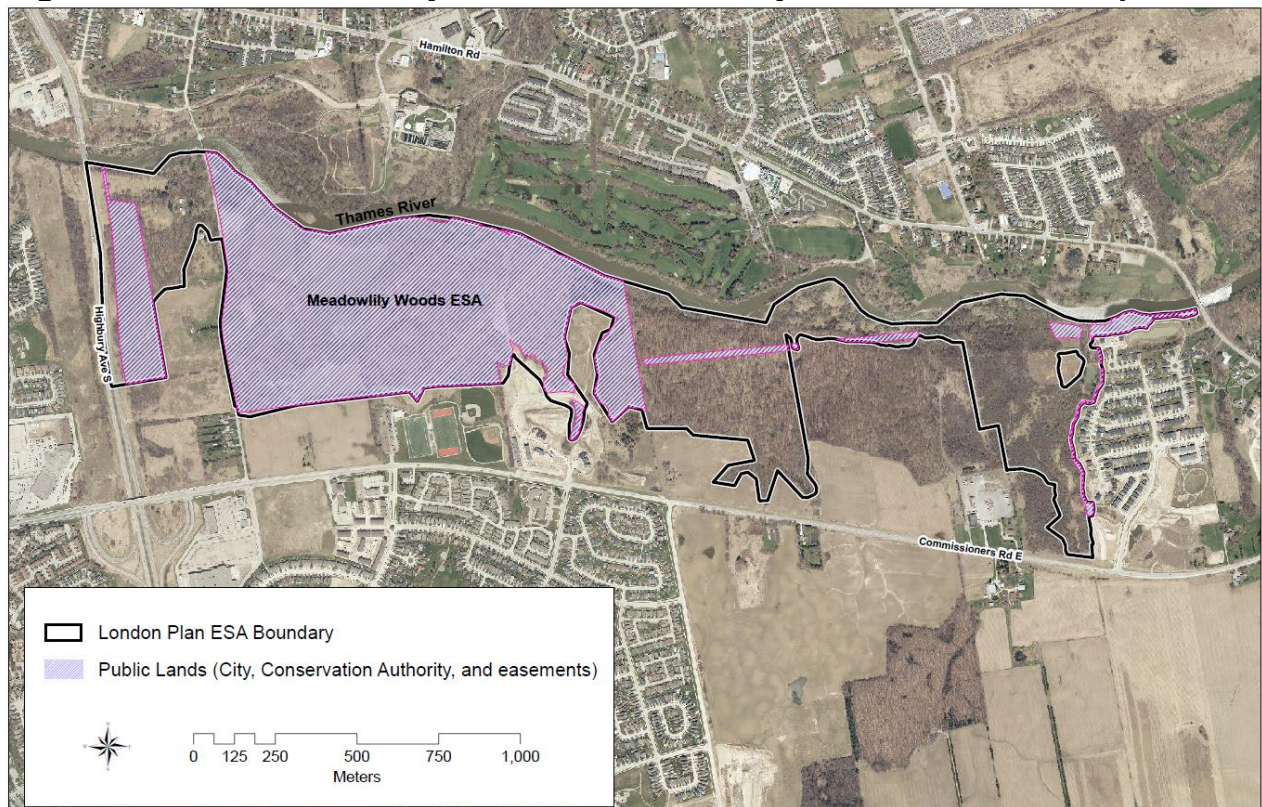
Current Map 5 Potential ESA boundary area - **20.0 hectares** (private lands)

- public ESA lands - **69.7 hectares** (areas in purple hatch in **Figure 1**)
- private ESA lands - **58.8 hectares**

CMP Report Proposed Map 5 London Plan ESA boundary area - **178.4 hectares**

- public ESA lands - **87.9 hectares**
- private ESA lands = **90.5 hectares**

Figure 1. Current Meadowlily Woods ESA Boundary and Public Ownership



6.0 Conclusion

The CMP provides direction for ecological protection to achieve long-term ecological integrity of the ESA consistent with the London Plan. The CMP provides an update of the ecological features and functions of the ESA, and establishes management zones based on ecological sensitivity to guide the recreational use and management strategies to ensure the long term health and integrity for the ESA.

The next step is to initiate an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment to amend the boundary of the Environmentally Significant Area and to zone the lands as recommended by the CMP update. An Official Plan Amendment to adopt the CMP as a Guideline Document will also be initiated.

Prepared by:	Linda McDougall, MES, OALA, RPP Ecologist, Sustainability and Resiliency
Submitted by:	Michael Fabro, MEB, P. Eng. Manager, Sustainability and Resiliency
Recommended by:	Gregg Barrett, AICP Director, City Planning and City Planner

July 2, 2020
LM/lm

Appendix A

[Conservation Master Plan for the Meadowlily Woods ESA, Natural Resource Solutions Inc. consulting](#) – hyperlink to electronic document **do not print in PEC Report**

Appendix B – Responses to EEPAC and Community Comments

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area (MW ESA) Conservation Master Plan, November 2019 - NRSI and City Responses to Comments From: Carol Dyck, Susan Hall, and Sandy Levin, Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC), City of London, Feb. 21, 2019.

1. “The subject site includes the currently mapped Meadowlily Woods ESA, as well as the Thames Talbot Land Trust west of Meadowlily Road South, public lands north of the Thames River and private lands east of the MW ESA where access was provided” (i). EEPAC supports the extension of the ESA north of the river, particularly from the viewpoint of potential development north of the river in the Norlan/Highbury Ave. area. The subject site and the revised, ESA boundary delineation doesn’t include lands east of Hamilton Road. Map 5, “Natural Heritage”, in The London Plan depicts the ESA extending east beyond the subject area to the edge of the urban growth boundary. Though MW ESA is identified as one of the largest natural areas within the City of London (i), it still does not include all potential sensitive areas and significant valley lands. A study of the whole area has the potential of providing a more holistic/landscape view of the area. This holistic approach and assessment of biodiversity, migration and movement of species might be used to determine best management practices for the area as a whole even though some lands might not be part of the ESA.

Recommendation: Include the area to the east of the MW ESA boundary to the urban growth boundary, as identified on Map 5 of the London Plan, in the natural heritage inventory of Meadowlily Woods ESA.

Staff and NRSI Response: Lands to the east of Hamilton Road are not contiguous with Meadowlily Woods proper, for this reason they were not considered for inclusion within the Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). The lands to the east of Hamilton Road will instead be treated as an ESA separate from Meadowlily Woods. A brief discussion of this has been provided in Section 6.0 (pg. 77).

1a. If the recommendation for comment 1 is not possible, Map 5 of the London Plan must be revised to show this area as a separate ESA as suggested in the NRSI report as well as revised to show the recommended revised boundaries of the Meadowlily Woods ESA.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, a recommendation to revise Map 5 of the London Plan with the updated ESA boundaries has been made in Section 6.0.

2. The Park Farm Landscape Plan Report (Biologic 1998) “involved an examination of historical artifacts and methods to restore both the cultural and natural environment surrounding Park Farm, located with the MW ESA” (p.8). The Friends of Meadowlily have also located an old mill that was not mentioned in report. Recommendation: Identify the location of the old mill and examine any historical artifacts and methods to restore both the cultural and natural environment around the old mill.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, Sections 4.3 and 8.0 now identify the presence of Meadowlily Mill within the Meadowlily Woods ESA. Additional consideration of the cultural and environmental value for the area around the Old Mill has been provided in Sections 4.0 and 8.0.

3. “Field work consisting of a detailed, multi-season inventory and evaluation was carried out in 2013. Also, background info was gathered from a range of groups and studies. The MW ESA has been the site of numerous biological studies extending from the late 1970’s to the present day including EIS’s, EA’s, Master Plans, Natural Heritage Studies, research programs and other inventories (p.6)”. These have been reviewed and relevant information included in the CMP, Phase 1. As part of the fieldwork areas needing ecological restoration were identified. P.81 describes the restoration practices that are needed. “They include: waste removal; invasive species management (Common Buckthorn, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard and Japanese Knotweed); and vegetation plantings in areas where there has been an abundance of pedestrian traffic, unauthorized dumping of refuse and where invasive species have been removed” (p.81).

Recommendation: Provide a listing of ecological restoration work that has been done since 2013 to remove refuse, to manage invasive species, to plant any vegetation, and to reroute or close trails in heavily used areas.

Staff and NRSI Response: Restoration works completed in the Meadowlily Woods ESA are discussed in Section 9.0 of the Meadowlily Woods ESA CMP – Phase 1. Additionally, a figure identifying the location of this work is provided in Appendix XIV.

4. Recommendation: If not already part of the restoration work, remove buckthorn that is growing in or near rare vegetation communities such as the Hickory Forest ELCs east of the Sport's Park.

Staff and NRSI Response: Removal of buckthorn from the majority of Meadowlily Woods ESA has been completed by the City funded ESA Team and efforts to remove this species and monitoring are ongoing. Appendix XIV provides a figure which shows the extent of the City's buckthorn removal. Section 9.1.2 (pg. 83) discusses the removal of invasive species, revised wording on the importance of removing of buckthorn from significant vegetation communities has been provided. Currently, City funded management of invasive species is completed on publically owned lands. The future acquisition of private lands will support the goal of removing additional invasive plant species from the ESA.

4a. Recommendation: EEPAC would appreciate knowing what is in the 2019 budget for the work identified in Recommendation 4.

Staff and NRSI Response: The ESA team is funded by the City through an operating contract since 2002. Ecological restoration, invasive species management and monitoring is a key part of that contract. In addition, the City also funds the UTRCA to complete capital invasive species restoration projects and monitoring in ESAs. In 2019, the City is again funding a capital project for Phragmites management and on-going monitoring by the ESA Team in all the ESAs including Meadowlily Woods.

5. Recommendation: Monitor the Red Oak Forest vegetation communities for oak wilt.

Staff and NRSI Response: Agreed. A recommendation that monitoring for the presence of Oak Wilt should be conducted within the Red Oak Forest community has been provided in Section 9.1.5. This monitoring and oak wilt training is well underway by the ESA Team in conjunction with their ongoing monitoring work.

6. The MW ESA was "identified as having a fairly healthy vegetation community. In total there are 435 species of which 316 species (73%) are native (p.21). It includes 3 SARs (Butternut, Kentucky Coffee Tree and wood poppy) as well as 2 rare vegetation communities (p.27). Other significant species observed are Barn swallow, Chimney swift, Eastern Wood Pee-Wee, Eastern Meadowlark, Snapping Turtle and Monarch"(p.85). Given the richness of diversity and landscape, much of the ESA has been designated "Nature Reserve". Also, given the pressures from nearby development and the already observed off- trail use in the area, it will be important to protect this ecological jewel. Recommendation: Map all informal trails and include a topographical map with both managed and unmanaged trails marked.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, key maps (Maps 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) have been updated to show the locations of managed trails and most of the informal/closed trails within the Meadowlily Woods ESA. The ESA Team continues to monitor and close un-managed trails on public property, following the process in the Guidelines.

7. Recommendation: Identify areas of proposed and actual subdivision development near the recommended boundaries of the ESA. Increased population might result in increased pressure on the natural environment and harm to endangered species. Identify the location of managed trails before informal trails become the norm.

Staff and NRSI Response: The future roads and subdivisions outside the ESA are generally depicted on the maps and visible in the aerials. Managed trails are identified on the maps.

8. Recommendation: Three different Thames Valley Parkway projects are proposed for this area according to the Development Charges Background Study. Provide more information on where the trails are located, type of trail surface, use of bridges over the ravines and relationship in terms of timing with the next phases of the Conservation Master Plan process.

Staff and NRSI Response: These projects are outside the ESA. The City of London Cycling Master Plan, Final Report, September 2016 identifies the locations and phasing to extend the Thames Valley Parkway.

Responses to Comments from Dave Wake, March 22, 2019 Draft CMP Community Meeting.

9. I support the recommendations for refinement of the ESA boundary. The new boundaries must be implemented quickly, to ensure protection of these additional significant areas.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged.

10. I support the recommendations for restoration and invasive species management. I acknowledge that some work on removal of invasives has been done previously. It is important to continue addressing the invasive species before they spread even farther

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged.

11. In terms of restoration, I suspect that areas such as RES 005 will be difficult to restore. Soils have been compacted over many years, as visitors have wandered off trails, camped, built fires, etc. I found Appendix XV to be very thin on detail about how restoration will be accomplished. Perhaps specifics are being deferred to Phase 2?

Staff and NRSI Response: Generally, habitat within the Meadowlily Woods ESA is of a very high quality. Restoration efforts have been recommended for those areas where disturbances have become more noticeable. Initial restoration efforts in RES 005 will be put into practice and areas of restoration works will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Any ongoing issues such as erosion from foot traffic are to be addressed on a continuing basis by the ESA management team with advice from UTRCA restoration specialists with expertise in bioengineering techniques.

12. I question whether bioengineering on its own will be successful in stabilizing the banks in the lower reaches of Ravine A (and other streams). It is essential to take action to attenuate the flows further upstream in this system.

Staff and NRSI Response: The report identifies the initial restoration works to be completed within the Meadowlily Woods ESA. Following the completion of bioengineering along the banks of the lower reaches of Ravine A, the area will be reassessed to determine if additional restoration techniques are required.

13. Map 12 – The Restoration Areas identified in Map 13 also appear on Map 12, but the Restoration Area symbol is missing from the legend for Map 12.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, the restoration area hatching has been added to the legend for Map 12.

14. Informal Trails should be identified on study maps, and targeted for closure, so that they are not overlooked in the next phase. Closing informal trails is an important step in the protection of these woodlands. Much of the understorey has a great diversity of spring wildflowers, and it is important to protect these areas.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged. All trails managed by the UTRCA ESA Team and majority of the informal trails are now mapped on appropriate figures within the CMP. The ESA Team continues to close un-managed trails, following the process in the Guidelines.

15. In terms of the bird list, I question the value of including the Christmas Bird Count information. The study area occupies a very small portion of the Christmas Bird Count circle, and many of the species reported for the CBC would not necessarily be observed at Meadowlily on that date. I suggest that it would be much more informative to include information from eBird. Meadowlily is identified as a “hotspot” in eBird, so it is a relatively straightforward exercise to download records for the site. Observations are tied to the name of the observer and the date, so there is some ability to verify the validity of records.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged. Although the Christmas Bird Count circle is quite large and Meadowlily Woods makes up a relatively small portion of this area, all supplemental background data available has value in an undertaking such as a Conservation Master Plan. The eBird data has now been added to the appendix.

16. For the Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) I was responsible for square 17MH85. I have located my field notes from that period and I will be able to provide a list from my own visits to Meadowlily.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, data from the OBBA (2001-2005) has been incorporated into the bird species list. Field notes which provide further detail than that listed in the OBBA is appreciated.

17. In the Executive Summary, the reference to Thames Talbot Land Trust is confusing. The sentence would be improved by adding the word “property” following the word Trust. The same adjustment is needed on pages 21, 25, and 26.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, wording has been adjusted in the executive summary etc. to read the Thames Talbot Land Trust property.

18. On page 32, the name of the former city ecologist is spelled incorrectly – it should be Bergsma, not Bergsman.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, the spelling of Bergsma has been corrected.

Response to Comments from: Anita Caveney, Nature London, March 22, 2019, Draft CMP Community Meeting.

19. The NRSI consultants’ presentation was informative and helpful.

Staff and NRSI Response: Thank you, acknowledged.

20. I strongly support the proposed revised boundary delineation of the Meadowlily Woods ESA that extends the ESA north of the River and private lands east of the MW ESA. I commend the City for incorporating this area into the MW ESA to provide habitat for, and more biodiversity of, species, including species at risk (SAR) and species of special concern (SCC). As one of London’s largest ESAs, Meadowlily Woods ESA protects a biodiverse variety of aquatic, floodplain, and terrestrial species, and the more area that can be incorporated under its “ESA” designation along this branch of the Thames River, the better.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged.

21. I don’t recall hearing at the March 22, 2019 meeting when Phase 2 of the MW ESA CMP will begin, and would appreciate receiving this information.

Staff and NRSI Response: The PIC on March 22, 2019 was focused on providing information from Phase 1 of the CMP.

22. It would be great if all potential sensitive areas and significant valley lands to the east of the proposed boundary, i.e., east of Hamilton Road, could be incorporated into either an extension of MW ESA, or designated as a new ESA, extending to the edge of the urban growth boundary as shown in Map 5 (Natural Heritage) of The London Plan. This would contribute to a larger wildlife corridor along the river and extend the natural heritage features of the MW ESA. It would also provide more protection for the river.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, the natural area to the east of Hamilton Road is already protected and identified as ESA and Significant Valleyland on London Plan Map 5 and is to be designated as a separate ESA.

23. It is good to see that the forested patches of the right-of-way which runs parallel to Highbury Avenue will be included within the ESA boundary to contribute to the overall biodiversity of the patch of vegetation there.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged.

24. How much ecological restoration has been carried out since 2013, and how much is still needed? If the UTRCA has been conducting ongoing eradication of invasive species, removal of refuse/garbage, re-routing or closing trails since 2013, it would be interesting to know what the problems are that still remain. Is there a budget for removal of the most invasive of the exotic species in 2019?

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged, ecological restoration work carried out since 2013 is shown in Section 9 and Appendix XIV. The ESA team is funded by the City through an operating contract since 2002. Ecological restoration, invasive species management, garbage collection and monitoring is a key part of that contract. In addition, the City also funds the ESA team to complete capital invasive species restoration projects and monitoring in ESAs. In 2019, the City is again funding a capital project for Phragmites management and on-going monitoring by the ESA Team in all the ESAs including Meadowlily Woods.

25. Will appropriate terrestrial buffers outside the ESA boundary be created and kept free from development?

Staff and NRSI Response: Appropriate buffers from natural features are determined by the proponent of a development through the completion of an Environmental Impact Study. The proponent is required to follow all provincial, and City of London policy and guidelines. The recognition of significant and sensitive species and habitats within natural features bordering proposed development are taken into account during this process.

26. If the UTRCA ESA Management Team is now managing 11 ESAs, surely there needs to be an increase in the number of UTRCA staff on the Team, and the budget required for management of all the ESAs.

Staff and NRSI Response: Acknowledged.

Response to Comments from: Gary Smith, Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association, March 22, 2019, Draft CMP Community Meeting.

27. Katharina, Thanks for a great meeting on Friday! You and your group have done a good job on the work you did for our natural area, Meadowlily Woods. Appreciatively, Gary Smith Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association

Staff and NRSI Response: Thank you.

Appendix C – Trails Advisory Group Site Visit Minutes and Decision Map

Trails Advisory Group (TAG) – Minutes

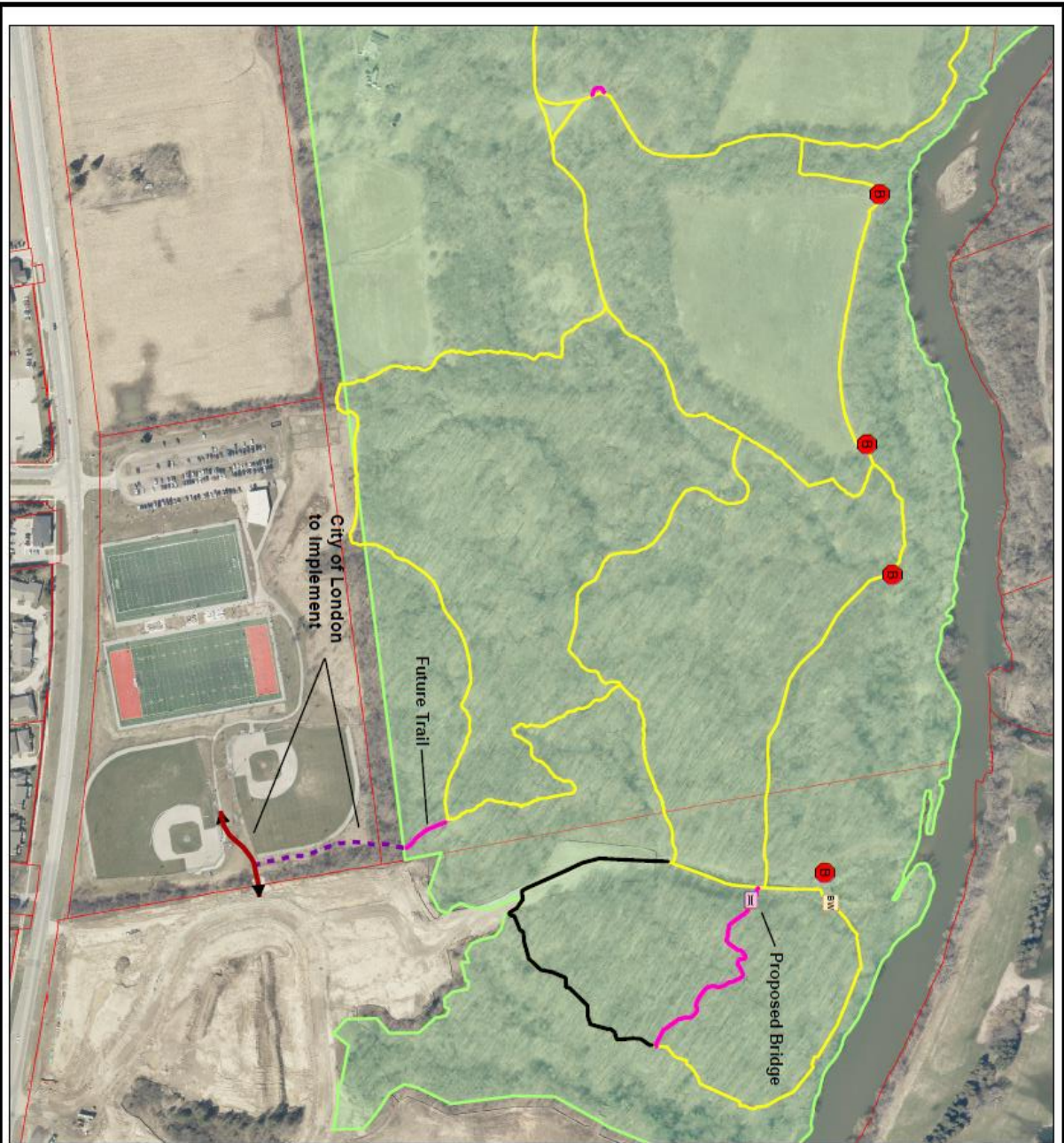
Onsite Meeting: Access #4 relocation & trail relocations – Meadowlily Woods ESA (MW ESA)

Date: June 25, 2019 9:30 am

Attendees: Jaqueline Madden - ACCAC, Alex Vanderkam - TVTA, Randy Trudeau – EEPAC, Dave Wake - Nature London, Susan Smith – Friends of Meadowlily Woods Adopt an ESA, Doug Stanlake - Rembrandt Homes, Brandon Williamson - UTRCA, Linda McDougall – City Ecologist.










Minutes: L. McDougall

- Introductions were made noting Doug Stanlake from Rembrandt kindly attended as a “non-voting” TAG guest to assist with questions about the subdivision and condominium.
- Brandon presented UTRCA’s proposed solution to relocate Access #4, shifting it westward onto City lands (public property) at north east corner of the City Wide Sports Park to remove it from Rembrandt’s private property (as circulated to TAG on June 13, 2019).
- Access #4 relocation is required to move it away from private property. A plan of subdivision has been approved adjacent to the ESA and plans for a gated community / condominium are underway. The public will no longer be permitted to access the ESA through private property for liability reasons.
- Doug advised that the portions of the condominium adjacent to the open space lands/ESA will be fenced with no gates to protect the ESA and reduce encroachments etc. The existing, sewer access road will remain for sewer maintenance access only, with locked gates that will not allow public access through the privately owned, gated, condominium lands.
- Dave suggested that a map with all of the property lines be circulated with the minutes.
- Dave requested, and City Ecologist agreed that opportunities for native tree planting on City property on the sides of the sewer access road be found and implemented.
- TAG discussed the potential to enhance accessibility during the TAG walk. Due to steep grade changes and distance that these of sections of trails are from the access points TAG agreed the re-located trails would remain Level 1. The TAG invitation noted the trails are in a Nature Reserve management zone.
- As boardwalks are replaced for lifecycle renewal they are upgraded to AODA best practices in all ESAs including Meadowlily Woods ESA.
- Jaqueline asked about the width of the existing un-managed trail and Brandon noted that when the team converts the un-managed trail into the managed trail as per TAG’s recommendations it would be widened to about a meter in width, and that vegetation on the sides and over trails in ESAs are trimmed back periodically for safety.
- TAG reached unanimous consensus that the proposal by UTRCA walked the suggested Level 1 trail relocation options as attached and circulated to TAG in advance of the site visit be implemented with one adjustment to shift the Level 1 trail to better align with the existing east-west Level 1 trails (utilizing only existing un-managed trails) with the addition of a small boardwalk/bridge structure over the existing swale.
- TAG then visited a section of trail near the Park Farm Access #2 and reached unanimous consensus to implement UTRCA’s suggestion to relocate a small section of the Level 1 trail to avoid an area of erosion. Trail barricades, signage etc. will be implemented by UTRCA ESA Team to encourage use of the relocated trail.
- Brad Glasman a restoration specialist with UTRCA will inspect the area and implement recommendations such as planting of willow and/or dogwood fascines, or other ecologically appropriate, bio-engineering measures to limit and/or reverse the erosion.

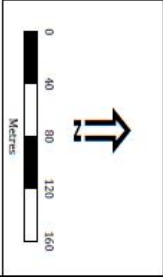


Meadowlily ESA
Planned & Proposed Trail Options

UPPER THAMES RIVER
 CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

-  Proposed Bridge
-  Proposed Trail
-  Planned Connection Trail
-  Planned TYP Trail
-  Barricade (Closed)
-  Boardwalk
-  Removed Trail
-  Managed Trail
-  ESA Management Area

Location Map



Appendix D – Summary of Meadowlily Woods ESA CMP Conversation – March 10, 2020

Summary of Meadowlily Woods ESA Conservation Master Plan Conversation – March 10, 2020. 206 Dundas Street, City Planning.

Attendees:

Councillor Steven Hillier, Councillor Elizabeth Pelozza, Gary Smith ((Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association) (FMWCA)), Susan High (FMWCA), Heather L. (FMWCA), Keith R. (FMWCA), Raymond Day (FMWCA), Bruce Richardson (FMWCA), Joanne Crockett (FMWCA), Sandy Levin (EEPAC), Dave Wake (Nature London), Linda McDougall (City of London), Mike Fabro (City of London), Brandon Williamson (UTRCA ESA Team).

Meeting provided an informal opportunity primarily for those who provided written comments on the Draft CMP, to have a conversation about the CMP and how the comments were addressed. Staff shared a slide show summarizing the themes of the comments on the Draft Meadowlily Woods ESA Conservation Master Plan (Feb. 2019) and Staff and NRSI's responses to the comments were discussed with the group. Hard copies of written responses to the CMP comments were circulated at the meeting. There was general agreement among those in attendance with Staff and NRSI's responses to the comments and on the next steps identified below.

Next Steps / Action Items:

- City to circulate comment responses to EEPAC.
- City to post Revised/Final MW ESA Conservation Master Plan (Dec. 2019) to City Planning website.
- City / UTRCA ESA Team Implement restoration recommendations RES001-008 in 2020 – 2021
- Community and Adopt an ESA group to continue to assist with litter clean up.
- City / UTRCA ESA Team to continue to coordinate Trails Advisory Group visits to review trail issues/suggestions as they arise.
- UTRCA ESA Team to review effectiveness of trail closures and related sign placement in 2020.
- City to acquire private ESA lands as opportunities arise and contact landowners.
- City Planning to reach out to Realty etc. to investigate former well and ensure safety of former Stevenson Camp on City lands near Highbury and Commissioners.
- City Planning to review records for name of unnamed watercourse between Meadowlily Rd. and Highbury Rd.
- City to reach out to private land owners re potential for invasive species management on their lands and advise FMWCA. FMWCA is potentially interested in assisting landowners with and/or funding this work.
- City Planning to initiate an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) process to update the MW ESA boundary (as identified in the CMP) on Map 5 London Plan.
- Community led bat hikes, events and bat boxes were discussed and these ideas were generally supported by the group.