

UTRCA

ESA MANAGEMENT

ESA Management Overview

- Contract with City of London Parks Planning, since 2001
- 5 year agreement
- Began with 6 ESA's, now at 12 ESA's
 - 780 Ha
 - ~ 60km trail
- 5 Main mandate areas within the contract:
 - Monitoring and enhancing the natural resource
 - Enforcement and Encroachment
 - Risk Management and Tree Risk Assessment
 - Maintaining Trail Systems
 - Education Initiatives (within all activities)
- Capital/lifecycle upgrade projects
- 4.2 full time staff – Arborists, Ass. Forester, Fish and Wildlife Tech's, Forest Tech's, GIS specialists
- 1-3 seasonal (pre-COVID)

**MONITORING AND
ENHANCING THE
NATURAL RESOURCE**

Wildlife Management

Assist UTRCA SAR biologist (Scott Gillingwater) with turtle nest identification, egg collection and hatchling release



Wildlife trees and Bird nesting boxes



Beaver activity management



Other Wildlife: Raccoon, deer, coyote, rabbit

- Disposal of dead animals, usually found on or near trails/access points
- Assisting police with dispatching wounded animals
- Dozens of inquiries annually re: animal sightings, information requests, media interviews, etc.

Ecological Restoration

- Invasive species management
- Native tree and shrub planting
- Prairie/savannah establishment and maintenance
- Develop planting plans, species selection, site preparation, planting, maintenance/re-planting/seeding, invasive/weed control, survival assessments

ENCROACHMENT & ENFORCEMENT

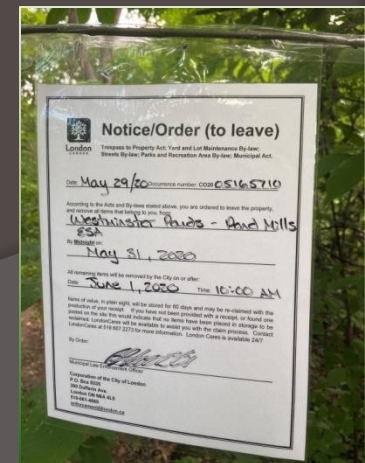
Encroachment

- Minor – canoes/composter, fence gate, grass cutting
- Moderate – yard waste dumping, trails, multiple minor issues
- Severe/Complex – sheds, stairs, pools, etc.
- Work with City Bylaw enforcement
- Meet with landowner to discuss encroachment
- Issue written notice with abatement/compliance date
- Follow-up visit, issue fine if required



Enforcement

Forts and encampments



Enforcement

ATV's

Bike trails/jumps



Vandalism



Enforcement

Grass fire, encampment, garbage at
Glen Cairn Open Space



- Dogs off-leash/dog excrement bags
- Bikes
- Fire pits/party pits
- Vandalism/graffiti
- Garbage dumped
- Stick forts
- Bike jumps/ramps
- Unmanaged/rogue trails
- Private property trespassing



**TREE RISK ASSESSMENT
&
HAZARD TREE REMOVAL**

Tree Risk Assessment

○ Annual Assessments :

- City of London Tree Risk Assessment Policy and Procedure for ESA's, since 2014
- TRA's annually on ESA structures, access points and level 2 & 3 trails
- Each ESA is assessed every 5 years
- Ave. of 50-75 trees annually

○ Boundary Tree Assessments :

- Capital project, not under operations
- City of London Tree Risk Assessment Policy and Procedure for ESA's, since 2014
- Based on adjacent property owner inquiries or staff observations
- Ave. of 40-65 trees annually

○ Reaction Trees:

- Based on staff or community observations, and post-storm inspections
- All trail types
- Ave. of 120-160 trees annually



TRA/Hazard Trees



RISK MANAGEMENT

- Trails
- Structures
- Graffiti
- Garbage
- Misc.

Trail Management

- Pruning: most trails pruned 3x throughout the growing season (some grassy sections 4x)
- Semi-annual structure inspections
- Trail markers, risk management inspections including signage
- Fall boardwalk clean-off
- Garbage and graffiti
- Closing trails, build new trails, Trails Advisory Group site visits, new structures, etc.



Structure/Sign Maintenance and Repairs

Saunders Pond viewing platform



Metamora bridge railing repair



New railing in Kains



New info sign/kiosk in Medway north

Trail Management



Close
trails

Graffiti



Garbage Collection

- Weekly garbage collection at 21 access points
- Ongoing garbage along trails and other areas
- **Constant** Sifton Bog and South Pond parking lot cleanups
 - Car garbage, cat litter, condoms, clothing, medical waste, needles, construction materials, large items, etc.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Invasive Species Management

Dog Strangling Vine



Buckthorn



Japanese Knotweed



Gypsy moth



Giant Hogweed



Invasive species both operations and capital, depending on size and complexity of project

Invasive Species Management

Phragmites

- Buckthorn
- DSV
- Japanese Knotweed
- Phrag
- Giant Hogweed
- Honeysuckle
- Bittersweet
- Goutweed
- Periwinkle
- Norway Maple
- Yellow Iris
- Scots Pine
- Autumn Olive
- Ivy
- Aquatic vegetation
- Etc..... (~28 species)
- Forest Pests: EAB, Gypsy Moth, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Butternut canker, etc.

Species at risk protection/monitoring
False Rue Anemone (threatened)



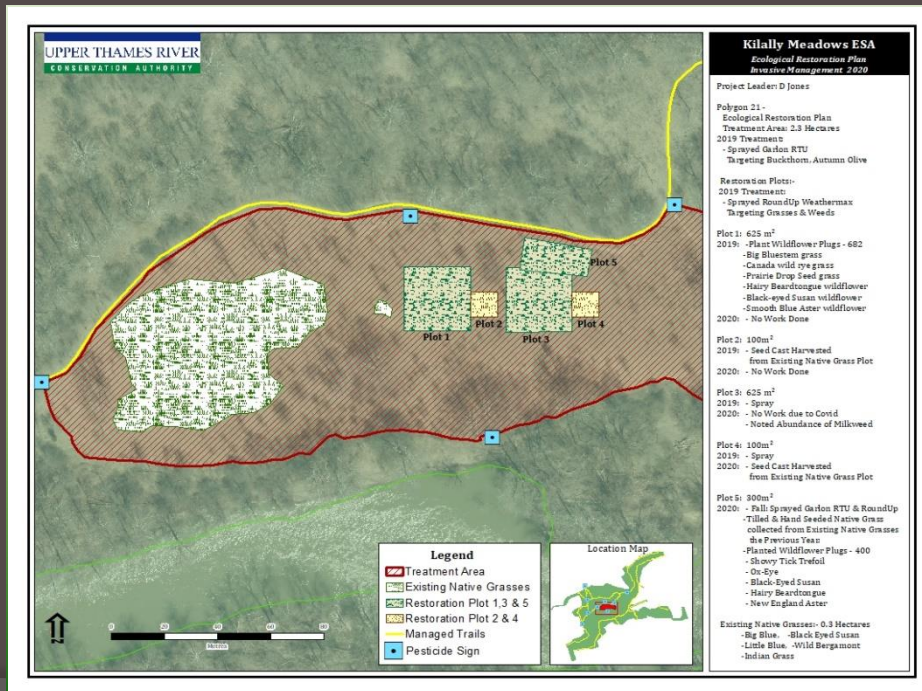
Butternut
Blue Ash
Am. Chestnut



Ecological Restoration – Kilally Meadows

Prairie Restoration

- ~3/4 acre established 2019 to augment existing prairie
- Planted 1100 wildflower/grass plugs
- Hand broadcast seed collected from adjacent prairie plants



Pottersburg Oak Savannah Restoration

Site prep



Direct seeding



- Year 2 of multi-year project
- 4.6 ac.
- Wildflower/grass seeding
- Haz tree removal
- Invasive species management

Structures – Capital

Meadowlily Bridge – 10 m



Wychwood BW – 85 m



- Bridges
- Boardwalks
- Railings
- Barricades
- New trails
- Signs
- Stairs
- Erosion control

THANK YOU