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London's Environmentally Significant Areas

ECAC – January 19, 2023

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What is an Environmentally Significant Area?

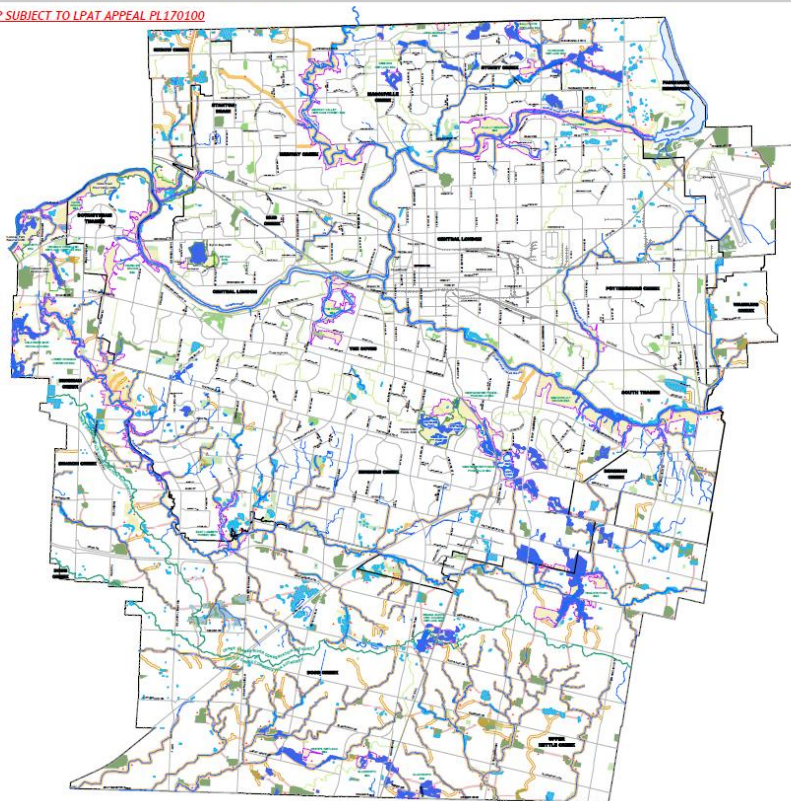
- Largest, core features of the Natural Heritage System
- Identified on London Plan Map 5 Natural Heritage based on ecological features and boundaries
- 1,870 hectares of ESA lands protected on public and private property
- 815 hectares are publicly owned and managed by City – acquire more every year










ESAs on London Plan Map 5

MAP 5 - NATURAL HERITAGE





MAP SUBJECT TO LPAT APPEAL PL170100













NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

-  Provincially Significant Wetlands
-  Wetlands
-  Unevaluated Wetlands
-  Significant Woodlands
-  Woodlands
-  Significant Valleylands
-  Valleylands

BASE MAP FEATURES

-  Streets (See Map 3)
-  Railways
-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Water Courses/Ponds

-  Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest
-  Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA)
-  Potential ESAs
-  Upland Corridors
-  Potential Naturalization Areas
-  Unevaluated Vegetation Patches

-  Water Bodies
-  Conservation Authority Boundary
-  Subwatershed Boundary
-  Subwatershed Name

Publicly accessible ESAs and Maps

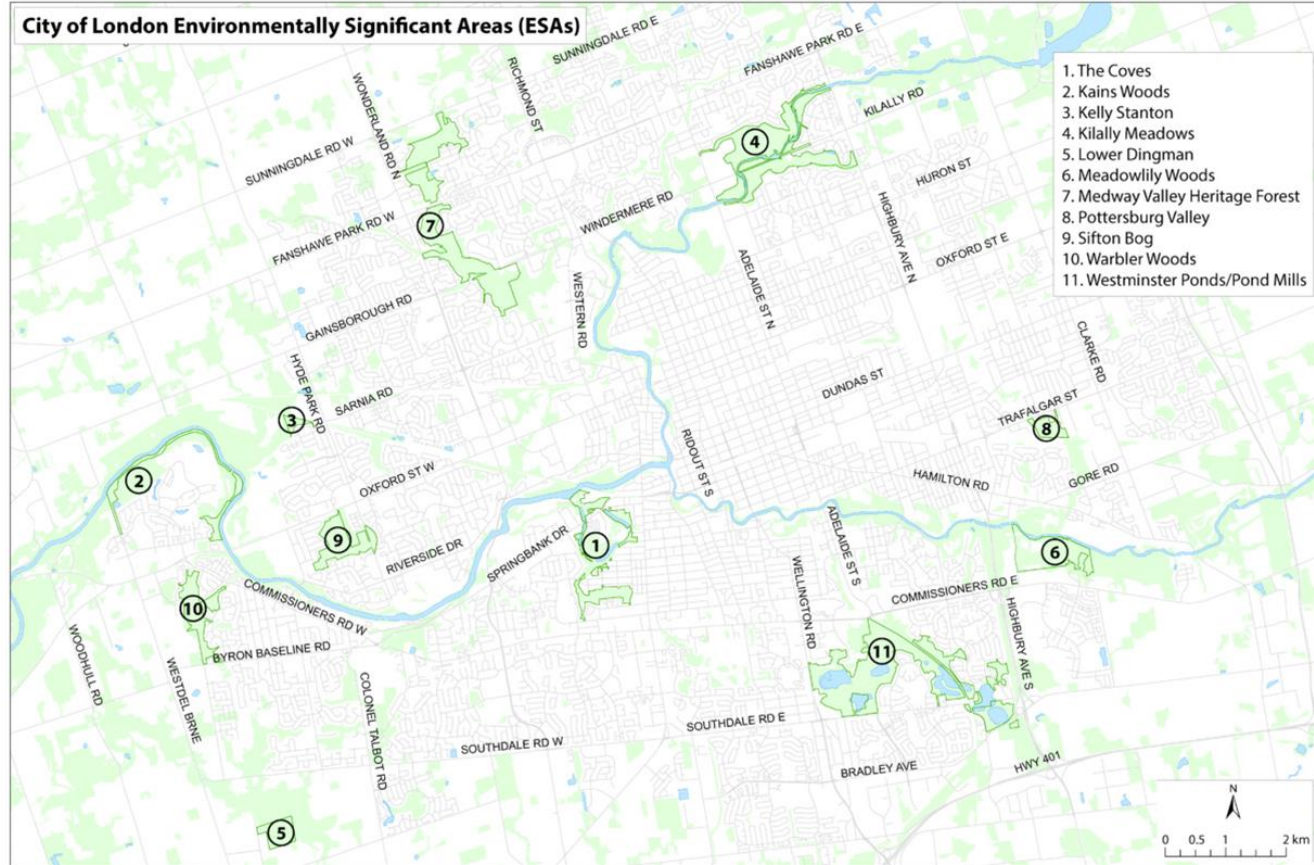
Medway Valley Heritage Forest

Environmentally Significant Area



ESA brochures & maps:
www.London.ca/esa

City of London Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)





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How are ESAs Managed?

- London Plan policies
- Conservation Master Plans / Ecological Restoration Plans
- London Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs
- City funds contract with UTRCA for hands on ESA management





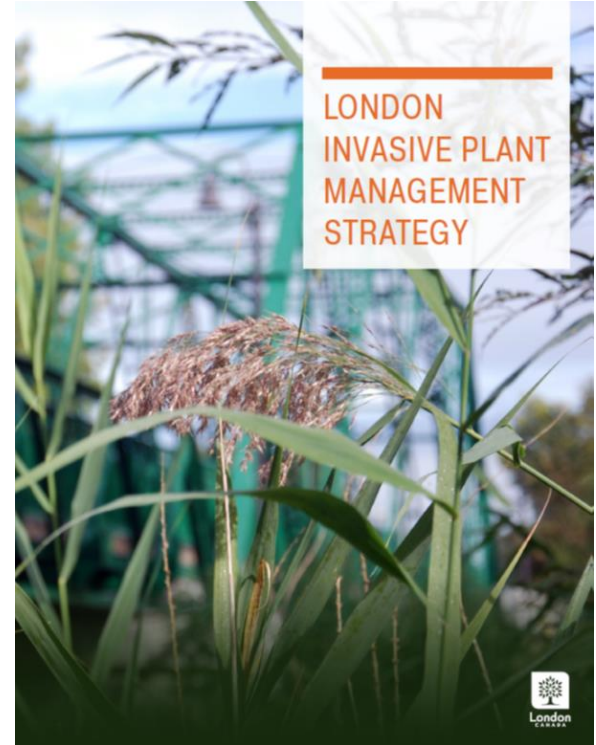
How are ESAs Managed?

The national [Invasive Species Centre](#) commended the City for excellent work completed under the London Invasive Plant Management Strategy (LIPMS):

“London is the first municipality in Ontario to create, approve and implement an invasive species strategy.”

“Beyond the tremendous ecological benefits of this strategy, London is enabling community-led engagement around invasive species control.”

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How are ESAs Managed?

[London Plan Progress Report 2020:](#)

- 3 of the 5 priority invasive species in the LIPMS including Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed have in large part been addressed in all ESAs.
- In some ESAs, most of the Buckthorn has also been removed, but in other ESAs Buckthorn control is still underway to protect and enhance our natural areas.

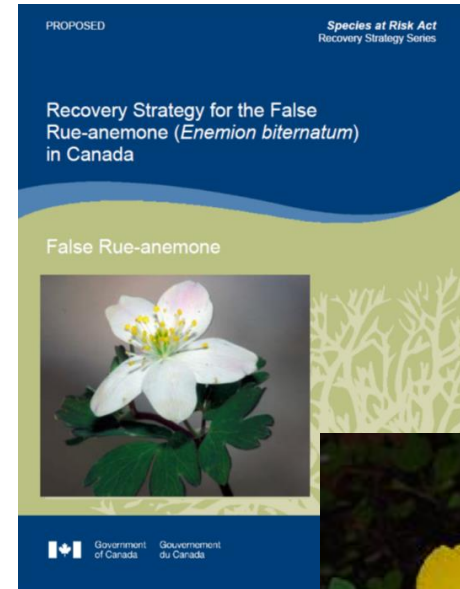


THE LONDON PLAN Progress Report 2020



Protecting & Enhancing Biodiversity in ESAs

- Very successful multi-year management and monitoring project to protect Species at Risk in the **Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA**.
- Population has **increased by over 350% in six years**.
- **2022** initiated endangered Wood Poppy restoration with University of Lethbridge McCune Lab. Planted wood poppies grown at Western Field Lab station in London ESA.
- Success of transplants will be reviewed in 2023 year as part of a PhD project.





2022 ESA Works

Projects completed through the capital/operations budget:

- Phragmites management, risk trees, reptiles
- Sifton: Boardwalk
- Medway: Access Barricade, Snake Creek trail realignment, Boardwalk
- Coves: trail works and tree/shrub plantings
- Warbler: Parking Lot, Kiosk Sign, 2 Boardwalk Segments
- Westminster Ponds: 3 Boardwalk Segments
- Kains: Railing extension





2023 ESA Coming Attractions

- Invasive Work: Dingman, Medway, Coves, Kains, WMP, Kilally
- Structures: Boardwalks in Kains, Meadowlily, Westminster Ponds. Barricades in Warbler, WMP, Sifton and Medway, Kelly Stanton culvert
- Trail Work: Pitcarnie / Snake Creek to Gainsborough trail realignment, other sections of the Medway CMP.

Works subject to budgetary / staffing limitations.



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Thank you

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