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London
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CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN PHASE II

**Medway Valley Heritage
Forest ESA (South)**

Table of Contents

	Conservation Master Plan History	v
	Acknowledgements	vi
1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Cultural Heritage of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA	5
1.1.1	Purpose of the Conservation Master Plan for the MVHF ESA (south)	5
1.1.2	CMP Planning Process for the MVHF ESA (south)	7
1.2	Vision for the MVHF ESA (south) CMP	10
1.2.1	Goal.....	10
1.2.2	Guiding Principles	10
1.2.3	Objectives	10
1.2.4	Implementation Plan	11
1.2.4.1	Priority Setting	11
1.2.4.2	Lead Agency	12
1.2.4.3	Funding Sources.....	12
1.2.4.4	Estimated Cost	12
2.0	Phase I – Summary of Findings	14
2.1	Ecological Resources Inventory.....	14
2.2	Refinement of the Boundaries.....	16
2.3	Existing Trail Compatibility Review	16
3.0	Environmental Management Strategy	17
3.1	Managing Areas with a Utility Overlay	18
3.2	Restoration.....	19
3.3	Naturalization.....	26
3.4	Trail Management.....	28
3.4.1	Management Zones.....	29
3.4.1.1	Nature Reserve	30
3.4.1.2	Natural Environment	30
3.4.2	Issues and Considerations	31
3.4.2.1	Access Points.....	31
3.4.2.2	Bank Migration	31
3.4.2.3	Existing Unmanaged Trails.....	32

	3.4.2.4	Connectivity of Managed Trail System	32
	3.4.2.5	Trail Condition.....	33
	3.4.2.6	Non-permitted Uses	33
	3.4.2.7	ESA Protection, Use and Accessibility.....	34
3.4.3		Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan	35
	3.4.3.1	Improved Trail Surface.....	36
	3.4.3.2	Improvement of Trail Accessibility	36
	3.4.3.3	Alignment of Trails to Match Utility Overlay	38
	3.4.3.4	Re-opening of Temporarily Closed Trail	38
	3.4.3.5	Improved Neighbourhood Connectivity	38
	3.4.3.6	Connectivity Over Medway Creek	39
	3.4.3.7	Closure and Restoration of All Un-managed / Informal Trails.....	45
	3.4.3.8	Access and Way-finding	46
3.4.4		Analysis of Proposed Trail Action Items	47
4.0		Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework	50
4.1		Approach to Adaptive Management.....	50
4.2		Monitoring Framework.....	51
	4.2.1	Abiotic.....	51
		4.2.1.1 Bank Migration	51
		4.2.1.2 Trail Condition.....	52
		4.2.1.3 Trail Usage	52
	4.2.2	Biotic.....	53
		4.2.2.1 Sensitive Species.....	53
		4.2.2.2 Invasive Species (Early Detection and Rapid Response).....	53
		4.2.2.3 Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat	54
	4.2.3	Cultural	54
		4.2.3.1 Encroachment.....	54
		4.2.3.2 Trails.....	54
		4.2.3.3 Non-permitted Uses	55
		4.2.3.4 Restoration	55
		4.2.3.5 Naturalization	55
4.3		Monitoring	55
5.0		Continued Community Engagement and Education	59
5.1		Stewardship and Education	59
	5.1.1	Existing Programs	59

5.1.1.1	Adopt-An-ESA Program.....	59
5.1.1.2	Friends of Medway Creek.....	60
5.1.2	Proposed New Programs.....	60
5.1.2.1	Citizen Science Projects.....	60
5.1.2.2	MVHF ESA BioBlitz.....	61
5.1.3	Educational Programming and Partnerships.....	61
5.2	Community Events.....	62
5.3	Opportunities for Scientific Research.....	62

References 63

Tables

Table 1: Criteria that Designate Medway Valley Heritage Forest as an ESA.....	1
Table 2: Outline of Steps Taken in the MVHF ESA (south) CMP Process.....	8
Table 3: Criteria Used to Assign Priorities for Management Activities.....	12
Table 4: Estimated Costs for Environmental Management Strategy Actions.....	13
Table 5: Summary of Phase I Results.....	15
Table 6: Criteria Used to Assign Priorities for Restoration Overlay Areas.....	20
Table 7: Restoration Strategy for the MVHF ESA (south).....	21
Table 8: Criteria Used to Assign Implementation Priorities for Naturalization Areas.....	26
Table 9: Naturalization Areas within MVHF ESA (south).....	27
Table 10: Analysis of Linkage Options across Medway Creek Suggested by the Public.....	40
Table 11: Analysis of Sustainable Trail Concept Actions.....	48
Table 12: Monitoring Framework for the MVHF ESA (south).....	56

Figures

- Figure 1: ESA Boundary/Overview
- Figure 2: Environmental Management Strategy
- Figure 3: Existing Trail System
- Figure 4: Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan

Appendices

- A Historic Aerial Photographs
- B Local Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Meeting Minutes
- C Frequently Asked Questions
- D EEPAC and ACCAC Review

Conservation Master Plan History

Version	Date	Author	Reviewed By	Checked By	Description of Revision(s)
1.0	August 24, 2017	Jonathan Harris, Dillon Consulting Limited	Jennifer Petruniak, Dillon Consulting Limited	Linda McDougall, City of London	First draft of Phase II CMP (for discussion)
2.0	October 23, 2017	Jonathan Harris, Dillon Consulting Limited	Jennifer Petruniak, Dillon Consulting Limited	Linda McDougall, City of London	Second draft of Phase II CMP
3.0	March 12, 2018	Jonathan Harris, Dillon Consulting Limited	Jennifer Petruniak, Dillon Consulting Limited	Linda McDougall, City of London	Final Phase II CMP for Environmental & Parks Planning review
4.0	March 15, 2018	Jonathan Harris, Dillon Consulting Limited	Jennifer Petruniak, Dillon Consulting Limited	Linda McDougall, City of London	Final Phase II CMP for Council review

Acknowledgements

This Conservation Master Plan begins by acknowledging that the lands designated the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is on aboriginal land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning. As settlers, we're grateful for the opportunity to protect the ESA and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land - for thousands of years.

Long before today, there have been aboriginal peoples who have been the stewards of this place. In particular, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral), and Wendat peoples is acknowledged.

Dedicated individuals contributed many hours to the preparation of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (south) Conservation Master Plan for the period of 2018-2028. These people build on the legacy of ecological consultant Dr. Jane Bowles, who carried out natural heritage studies in the Medway Valley in 1986, 1988 and 1989.

Local Advisory Committee

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katarina Moser/ Susan Hall	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
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1.0

Introduction

In the City of London (the “City”), Environmentally Significant Areas, referred to as “ESAs”, are considered the largest, highest quality areas within the City’s Natural Heritage System. Preserving the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of these features is the first priority. ESAs exist within both agricultural and urban settings and include complexes of wetlands, forests, meadows, river corridors, valleylands and significant wildlife habitat.

As stated under Policy 1367 of the London Plan, “Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are large areas that contain natural features and perform ecological functions that warrant their retention in a natural state.” ESAs are identified and delineated through the application of the City Council approved Guideline Documents for Environmentally Significant Areas Identification, Evaluation, and Boundary Delineation and provincial guidelines.

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA meets all seven of the ESA criteria in the London Plan (**Table 1**). The priority for this ESA is to protect its ecological integrity and maintain all seven of these criteria.

Table 1: Criteria that Designate Medway Valley Heritage Forest as an ESA

Criteria	Description (From 1371 of the London Plan)
i	<p><i>The area contains unusual landforms and/or rare to uncommon natural communities within the country, province or London sub-watershed region.</i></p> <p>The Medway Valley is a significant geological landform feature instrumental in the formation of the City’s landscape. The Arva Moraine stretches across the northwest section of the City. The moraine was deposited by two glaciers, one moving north from Lake Erie, the other south from Lake Huron that pushed against each other 10,000 to 20,000 years ago. The Medway Creek and valley was formed when glacial melt-water cut through the Arva Moraine. The area of most significant erosion and valley formation from this breach is known locally as Dead Horse Canyon. Here, the Medway Creek flows through a relatively narrow, 0.3 to 0.5 km wide valley with steep, eroded river banks or slip faces up to 25 metres in height that reveal horizontal layers of sediments. Sands and gravels washed out of the till by moving water were deposited along the spillway. Several small tributary streams feed the river through these steep-sided ravines.</p> <p>The study area is situated on a post-glacial spillway adjacent to the Arva moraine, at the site of some of the most complex Pleistocene icesheet interactions in southern Ontario. A series of glacial tills are exposed by erosion activities of the Medway Creek. These exposures are the finest in the London area and the only known outcrops in southern Ontario displaying the interfingering strata left by the Erie and Huron ice lobes and the periodic local proglacial lakes (Winder, pers. corr.). The study area is located close to Western University and natural creek and river processes are well studied.</p>
ii	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The MVHF ESA lies near the limit of the Mixed Deciduous Forest Region and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest Region of Rowe (1972) in the Carolinian Zone in Canada. The vegetation here is characterized by deciduous floodplain forests, swamps, thickets, marshes, meadows and forested ravine and valley slopes.</p>

Criteria	Description (From 1371 of the London Plan)
	<p>The steep-sided wooded ravines have microclimates cooler than normal, while the open floodplain habitats in sheltered valleys and slopes of southern exposure tend to have warmer than normal microclimate.</p> <p>Bottomland communities including second growth forest, wet meadows, Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) savannahs, mown grassland and successional scrub cover most of the study area. Wooded river bluffs, ravines and slip face slopes fringe the valley. Upland communities are poorly represented.</p> <p>The Medway Valley Heritage Forest is moderately rich in habitat diversity at least in the bottomland and floodplain communities. Some community types within the study area are significant in themselves. Walnut savannahs, of which there are several examples, are a community type strictly limited to the natural range of Black Walnut in southern Ontario. An open wet meadow in the centre of the site is unique in the Medway Valley Heritage Forest and therefore locally significant. Communities in which trees of great size or age occur are also important and so are well developed examples of representative community types.</p> <p>While the MVHF ESA does contain a high number of non-native species and some disturbance (e.g. light litter, utility corridor, lack of organic layer), communities associated with the southern and northern sections of the ESA do contain high quality natural vegetation communities, representative of pre-settlement conditions. Upland communities in the north (mature Sugar Maple-Beech Forest and Sugar Maple Forest) contain high concentrations of Twinleaf (<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>) and Harbinger-of-Spring (<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>), two species with very high Co-efficient of Conservatism values (CC). High CC values can be an indicator of high quality habitat since species with an 8 – 10 typically occur in undisturbed or pre-settlement remnants. Twinleaf has a CC value of 10 while Harbinger-of-Spring has a value of 9, indicating that these two species typically occur in almost undisturbed habitat, such as pre-settlement remnants.</p> <p>The bottomlands or floodplain habitat of the southern ESA contain high densities of Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>) trees a species with a high CC value (8). This indicates that the habitats in which Sycamore are found within the ESA are of a high quality. In total, 31 flora species with a CC value of 8 or higher are documented within the ESA.</p>
iii	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The size of the study area is approximately 119 ha. This is more than twice as large as the size criterion suggested by Hiltz and Cook (1982) for a Significant Natural Area. In addition, the upstream and downstream boundaries of the study site are quite arbitrary and the site itself represents only a portion of the entire Medway Valley system. North of Fanshawe Park Road the size of the Medway Valley is an additional >100 ha. The entire area supports species that require large blocks of suitable habitat.</p> <p>While the area of the ESA (both north and south) is still a large contiguous block, the woodland in the north has been fragmented by the recent placement of a utility corridor resulting in a reduction of interior forest habitat and the separation of woodland communities due to a gap of 20 m or greater. This has resulted in less interior forest habitat within the ESA. It is expected that this fragmentation is temporary as restoration efforts are starting to fill in the gap(s) created by the corridor. Once the forest edge is restored, the utility corridor gap(s) should be < 20 m and the woodland would again be considered continuous. The ESA continues to support forest interior breeding birds such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>) and a number of interior migrant species during the spring and fall periods.</p>

Criteria	Description (From 1371 of the London Plan)
iv	<p><i>The area, due to its hydrologic characteristics, contributes significantly to the healthy maintenance (quality or quantity) of a natural system beyond its boundaries.</i></p> <p>The Medway Creek is the largest tributary of the Thames River. The Medway Creek and associated floodplain contributes to water resources functions including conveyance of flows, water quality improvement, groundwater recharge and discharge or seepage zones</p>
v	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The MVHF has a high diversity of plant species. Sixteen community types in six distinct landform vegetation units are recognised in the study area. These range from cultural habitats (e.g. meadow, plantation, thicket) to natural communities such as deciduous forest, wetlands and treed bluffs.</p> <p>The biodiversity of the MVHF is very high with 564 flora species documented during a 2013 botanical study.</p>
vi	<p><i>The area serves an important wildlife habitat or linkage function.</i></p> <p>The preliminary lists of animal and plant species in the study area indicate good diversity of flora, birds, and fish. The number of different habitats available is high, especially considering how near the site is to an urban area. Diversity of habitat, including some wooded areas with unusually large trees, open floodplain meadows and hawthorn scrub presents a good mixture of feeding and breeding sites for a variety of species. An additional feature of the area is its function as a wildlife corridor; that is, it connects, and is connected to, other wildlife areas including those in the Thames River valley. A dense population of Red-backed Salamanders were found in the wooded areas of Fox Hollow and Dead Horse Canyon (Bowles, 1986). The subwatershed studies (MMM, 1995) includes a list of 34 fish species sampled from the management unit in the Medway Creek subwatershed downstream of the Arva dam.</p> <p>The valley provides important aquatic habitat as well as terrestrial wildlife habitat, beaver impoundments, waterfowl staging areas, travel corridors and linkages to other natural areas. The MVHF is also an important stop for migratory bird species. During bird surveys (Dillon, 2013), approximately 26 species were documented as migrating through the ESA during the spring and fall periods. This doesn't include those species that were already using the ESA as breeding habitat.</p>
vii	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The MVHF contains many historical occurrences for provincially and federally rare species including three freshwater mussels on Schedule 1 of SARA. (Wavy-rayed Lampmussel (<i>Lampsilis fasciola</i>), Kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranchnus fasciolaris</i>)).</p> <p>A number of provincially significant indigenous flora species such as Species at Risk like the <i>Endangered</i> Butternut (<i>Juglans cinerea</i>), <i>Threatened</i> False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) and <i>Special Concern</i> Green Dragon (<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>) have been documented within the ESA.</p> <p>The MVHF also contains a number of flora Species of Conservation Concern (8). Most of the occurrences are only of one or a few individuals such as Shrubby St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>), American Gromwell (<i>Lithospermum latifolium</i>), and Slender Satin Grass (<i>Muhlenbergia tenuiflora</i> var. <i>tenuiflora</i>). Species with larger populations and can be considered ubiquitous throughout the MVHF includes Striped Cream Violet (<i>Viola striata</i>).</p> <p>Three provincially rare fish, the Black Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i>), the Silver Shiner (<i>Notropis photogenis</i>) and the Greater Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>) are found in the Medway Creek.</p>

Criteria	Description (From 1371 of the London Plan)
	<p>Records for provincially significant reptiles includes two <i>Special Concern species</i>, Common Snapping Turtle (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>) and Eastern Milksnake (<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>), and a recent (2013) confirmation of endangered Queensnake (<i>Regina septemvittata</i>) in the Medway Creek above its confluence with the Thames River, below Corley Drive near the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate.</p> <p>A number of Regionally Rare flora species (status according to <i>Distribution of and Status of the Vascular Plants of Southwestern Ontario; Oldham, 1993</i>) were also documented within the MVHF. Those not listed as Species at Risk or Species of Conservation Concern include Arrow-leaved Tearthumb (<i>Polygonum sagittatum</i>), One-flowered Cancer Root (<i>Orobanche uniflora</i>), Azure Aster (<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>), Fanleaf Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus flabellata</i>), Rough Hedge-nettle (<i>Stachys hispida</i>), Stout Blue-eyed Grass (<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>), Sweet Ox-eye (<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>), Large-leaved Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>), Pasture Rose (<i>Rosa Carolina</i>), Barren Strawberry (<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>), Wild Leek (<i>Allium tricoccum</i>), Water Shield (<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>), Long-leaved Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i>), Hair Rock Cress (<i>Arabis hirsuta</i> var. <i>pyncocarpa</i>), and Downy Willow-herb (<i>Epilobium strictum</i>).</p>

While ESAs are protected by their inclusion in the Green Space Place Type under the London Plan, additional measures to provide for their protection management and utilization are considered necessary.

Following the Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Report for the MVHF ESA (Dillon 2015), Phase II of the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) was initiated by City Council in February 2017 (see **Section 1.1.2**). Once adopted by Council, the CMP is to function as the guideline document for the purposes of providing direction on the management of the ESA. The preparation of a CMP follows the process outlined in the City's *Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas*, hereafter referred to as "the Guidelines" (2016).

The CMP process is to be undertaken in two phases, with community engagement and participation being a substantial component of each phase. Phase one (I) of the CMP provides a life science inventory and evaluation along with boundary delineation/refinement, application of management zones, review of existing trails, and identification of management issues. Phase two (II) of the CMP determines goals, objectives, recommendations for the future management of the ESA. This is done by identifying opportunities for ecological protection, enhancement, and restoration in the ESA, as well as providing an overview of trail planning and design in response to consultation and according to the Guidelines. The recommendations are then organized into priorities for implementation.

The focus of Phase II for the CMP is on the MVHF ESA lands south of Fanshawe Park Road West, known as the MVHF ESA (south) (see **Figure 1**). It does not include areas of the MVHF ESA (south) that are identified as part of Huron University College or Western University (identified as University and College Properties on **Figure 1**). All subsequent references to the MVHF ESA in this CMP document therefore apply only to this southern part of the ESA, unless otherwise stated.

Trail Master Planning Studies were undertaken separately for the lands north of Fanshawe Park Road West which is referred to as the MVHF ESA (north). City Council approved the Master Trail Plan (2013) derived from those studies for the MVHF ESA (north) and implementation of the plan is expected to be complete in 2018 and monitoring will continue.

1.1 Cultural Heritage of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA

As noted under the Parks Canada administered [Canadian Register of Historic Places](#) (CRHP), the MVHF has evidence of human occupation dating back to the sixteenth century. A pre-contact Neutral Iroquoian village, known as the Lawson Site, is situated on a plateau overlooking the confluence of the Medway River and Snake Creek. The Lawson Site is located on the south portion of the property that is also the location for the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. Excavations have recovered over 300,000 artifacts and the remains of at least 19 longhouses, 30 middens, and a palisade along the northern half of the site. Evidence suggests that, at the height of occupation, the village was home to over 2,000 people. It is believed that this area may have served as a major regional centre during this period (Parks Canada, 2017).

European settlement in the 19th and 20th centuries resulted in the widespread clearing of forest and establishment of agriculture in the valley with very few pockets of original forest left standing. Based on interpretation of available aerial photographs from the early 1940s to mid-1950s (see **Appendix A**), small pockets of remaining forest appear to be generally situated in the area known as Snake Creek Valley and around the area where the Metamora staircase and bridge are currently located.

After 1945, the cultivated lands in the valley were generally retired from farming uses and allowed to re-naturalize. Portions of the valley remained cultural, with areas such as the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate Exsiting of manicured park-like settings that once included a golf course. The Elsie Perrin Williams Estate became the property of the City in 1979 and large sections have since undergone naturalization. The MVHF ESA also contains a main trunk sewer line that was installed in the late 1970s and 1980s in the south and completed in 2010 in the north part of the ESA, that crosses the Medway Creek in numerous locations as well as several other underground and aboveground utility lines (e.g. watermains, forcemains, sewers, electrical transmission) which are identified with a Utility Overlay on **Figure 1**. In addition to these utilities there are 66 stormwater outfalls that drain to Medway Creek south of Sunningdale Road West.

1.1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Master Plan for the MVHF ESA (south)

Being one of the first five ESAs to be identified as an ESA within the City, the MVHF ESA has been the subject and/or a major focus for a number of previous reports and studies. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (January 2015) prepared by Dillon Consulting Limited.
- Addendum (November 2016) to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation, prepared by Dillon Consulting Limited.
- Medway Valley Heritage Forest North ESA Trail Master Planning Study (2013) prepared by Environmental and Parks Planning and Stantec Inc.
- Medway Valley North Pathway/Trail Master Plan and Open Space Management Strategy - North South Pathway/Trail Connections (2007) prepared by Stantec Inc.
- Medway Valley Heritage Forest Site Planning Study (1996) prepared by IMC Consulting Group.

- City of London Subwatershed Studies (1995) Group One Subwatersheds: Medway, Stanton, and Mud Creeks prepared by Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited.
- Medway Valley Heritage Forest Conservation Master Plan (1989) developed by the London Public Utilities Commission and UTRCA.

Under direction from City Council in 2011, an update of the 1995 Medway Creek Subwatershed Study was undertaken. The primary focus of this update was on the MVHF ESA. The study, known as the Medway Creek Subwatershed Study Update (MCSSU), was in relation to water resources components including an evaluation of slope stability within the City's boundaries under the Climate Change conditions using the Upper Bound scenarios that would assess the impacts of these scenarios on the City's infrastructure in order to recommend mitigation strategies that will lead to the development of Climate Change Adaptation Policies.

With the MCSUU underway, City Council requested in 2013 that the MVHF Conservation Master Plan (1989) and Site Planning Study (1996) be reviewed and updated to incorporate more current natural heritage life science inventory data. This review and update began with Phase I in 2013; the results are presented in the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA*, January 2015 by Dillon and the accompanying *Addendum (November 2016) to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation*, January 2015 by Dillon. The Phase I findings are outlined in **Section 2.0**. Phase I was approved by City Council and Phase II initiated on February 14, 2017.

As outlined previously, Phase II of a CMP builds upon the findings from Phase I. This Phase II of the CMP for the MVHF ESA (south) is to outline the goal and key management strategies (objectives and recommendations) developed through consultation with the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) formed for this CMP, the City and the public. As part of the identifying key management strategies, the historical reports identified earlier were reviewed, including the MCSSU from 2013 (still under development by the City and Dillon). Where possible, the findings on slope stability in the valley and the anticipated changes in stream morphology over time can be incorporated into management recommendations presented in this CMP.

On January 1, 2016 new regulations under AODA require that all new or redeveloped recreational trails must be accessible unless it can be proven that the trail is exempt from the regulations as described in **Section 3.4**. The two main exceptions are for wilderness trails, or, if making the trail accessible would have a negative effect on water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity or natural heritage values. The City updated its Guidelines in 2016 to accommodate these new regulations while protecting the significant features and functions of ESAs.

The MVHF ESA (south) CMP is intended to cover a ten-year management time-frame (i.e. 2018-2028). However, as this is a dynamic natural heritage feature, there is potential for unforeseen events to occur (e.g. extreme weather events such as flooding) where updates to the CMP may be required following the process in the Guidelines. This document should be considered a "living" document, as adaptive management may be required in order to address threats and opportunities identified either during on-going monitoring as outlined in this CMP, or through one time events.

This CMP for the MVHF ESA (south) is organized into the following sections:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Phase I – Summary of Findings

Section 3 – Environmental Management Strategy

Section 4 – Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework

Section 5 – Continued Community Engagement

1.1.2 CMP Planning Process for the MVHF ESA (south)

As outlined in previous sections, a CMP is composed of two Phases which follow a process as outlined under Section 2.2 of the City's *Guideline for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016). A summary of the steps in the CMP planning process for the MVHF ESA (south) is provided in **Table 2**.

In addition to the natural heritage inventory undertaken as part of Phase I, the community consultation and participation process provided many opportunities for feedback and education about the ESA. The first of two Community Open Houses was held on June 1, 2017 for Phase II of the MVHF ESA (south) CMP. The open house was also the kick-off for a month long (i.e., June 1 to July 1) public engagement period where community members were encouraged to provide feedback on "Ideas, Issues, Opportunities, and Observations".

The feedback received helped to guide the following:

- Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration
- Trail Planning & Design Process
- Priorities for Implementation
- Final Conservation Master Plan

This feedback was obtained through the use of hard copy surveys, comment cards, an online survey and mapping tool (<https://maps.mysocialpinpoint.com/medway#/>), as well as feedback from LAC members, representing community groups and other stakeholders. The survey made available to the public. The questions included multiple choice questions but also allowed for additional comments to be provided. The review and compilation of comments was not done quantitatively or statistically. Rather, the comments received during the engagement process from the public, and the LAC to date, were used to identify items for consideration in the Draft CMP for review with the Guidelines and other considerations such as those identified on **Table 10** and **Table 11**.

The feedback from the public and members of the LAC were categorized into topics and grouped according to the comment. The comments received were compiled and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) summary is included in response to those comments as **Appendix C**. Detailed, written responses to the LAC's comments were circulated to the LAC as noted in **Table 2**. This includes responses to both ACCAC and EEPAC in **Appendix D**.

Table 2: Outline of Steps Taken in the MVHF ESA (south) CMP Process

Date	Conservation Master Plan Process
Phase I	
February 21, 2013	Phase 1 CMP Draft Terms of Reference circulated to EEPAC.
March 8, 2013	Conservation Master Plan (CMP) – Phase 1 launched.
March – September 2013	Ecological Data Collection.
July 25, 2013	Community Open House #1 for Phase I CMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of CMP process • Overview of studies being completed and initial findings to date • Collection of community input
October 2013 - January 2015	Report Writing – final Phase 1 report released January 2015.
January 15, 2014	First Draft Phase 1 CMP Presented and Circulated to EEPAC.
January 27, 2014	Community Open House #2 for Phase I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Phase I CMP results • Opportunity for feedback on Phase I CMP
December 11, 2014	Second Draft of Phase 1 report presented and circulated to EEPAC with responses to EEPAC and Nature London comments.
April 16, 2015	Responses to EEPAC’s Second Round of Comments and Presentation of Final Phase I CMP to EEPAC.
October 2015	Council directed staff to update the Planning and Design Standards for Trails in ESAs (2012).
May 2016	Council approved the <i>Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs</i> (2016).
November 2016	Addendum to Final Phase I CMP (January 2015) report based on the new <i>Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs</i> (May 2016) circulated to EEPAC and Trails Focus Group.
February 14, 2017	Council approval of Phase I Report and Addendum.
Phase II	
February 14, 2017	Phase II of the Conservation Master Plan initiated by City Council.
March 8, 2017	Invitations sent to Local Advisory Committee (LAC) stakeholders.
March 2017	Formation of the LAC / Roles for the Medway VHF ESA CMP Process circulated to LAC/EEPAC/ACCAC.
April to November 2017	Development of a ToR for the LAC (see Appendix B) which also outlines the five LAC meetings held throughout Phase II. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 27 - Meeting 1 – Introduction of CMP • May 4 - Meeting 2 – Consultation and Engagement • July 27 - Meeting 3 – Public Engagement Results • September 7 - Meeting 4 – Review of Draft CMP • November 2 - Meeting 5 – Endorsement of Final CMP Minutes of the five meetings of the LAC are included in Appendix B .

Date	Conservation Master Plan Process
May 12, 2017	Notice of CMP Community Open House was circulated to the public. Circulation included an advertisement in the Londoner, mail-out to all homes within 200m of the entire MVHF ESA, letters and / or emails to those who participated in Phase I and the LAC, signs at every ESA access inviting residents to attend the open house and complete the survey, and a notice on the City website.
May 25, 2017	CMP Update presented to the Orchard Park/ Sherwood Forest Ratepayers at their Annual General Meeting. Information on the CMP has been posted on the community website by the Orchard Park/Sherwood Forest Ratepayers continuously through the consultation process.
June 1, 2017	Community Open House #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Phase I results with presentation boards • Explanation of the Phase II process with presentation boards • Opportunity for feedback via hard-copy surveys and an online survey • City staff and consultants on-hand to answer questions
June 1 to June 30, 2017	Web survey and interactive mapping tool open for public input and feedback.
August 24, 2017	First draft CMP distributed to ACCAC, EEPAC, LAC, for review and comment.
August 24, 2017	Draft CMP presented to ACCAC and EEPAC for discussion and comment.
October 19, 2017	Dillon/Staff presentation to EEPAC in response to EEPAC's comments on the August 2017 Draft CMP (memo with responses to EEPAC provided in Appendix D).
October 23, 2017	Revised CMP and responses to comments distributed to ACCAC, EEPAC, LAC
November 15, 2017	Community Open House #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice for the Open House was circulated to the public. Circulation included an advertisement in the Londoner, mail-out to all homes within 200 m of the entire MVHF ESA, letters and / or emails to those who participated in Phase I and/or II and the LAC, and, a notice on the City website. • Overview of the Phase II outcomes with presentation boards • City staff and consultants on-hand to answer questions
November 16, 2017	Meeting with staff and ACCAC Chair and two committee members regarding trail plan and accessibility.
November 23, 2017	Staff ACCAC presentation and responses to ACCAC's comments on the August 2017 Draft CMP (memo with responses to ACCAC provided in Appendix D).
December 21, 2017	EEPAC endorsed their statement and recommendations on the October 2017 Draft CMP (EEPAC statement provided in Appendix D)
January 8, 2018	Letter from the Chair of AACAC outlining their stance on the October 2017 Draft CMP (ACCAC letter provided in Appendix D).
January 8, 2018	EEPAC presented their statement and recommendations on the CMP to PEC, to refer them back to PEC when the CMP and Staff report are presented at PEC. (EEPAC statement provided in Appendix D).
February 21, 2018	Information Meeting held with LAC to review updated February 2018 version of CMP. Minutes from the meeting (see Appendix B) and information presented was distributed to the LAC on March 1, 2018.
March 16, 2018	Final CMP distributed and posted on City website
April 16, 2018	Presentation of final CMP to Planning and Environment Committee

1.2 Vision for the MVHF ESA (south) CMP

1.2.1 Goal

Developed in consultation with the LAC, the goal of this CMP for the MVHF ESA (south) is as follows:

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

1.2.2 Guiding Principles

The decisions made regarding the future of the MVHF ESA (south) will centre on the following policies from Section 2.1 in the Guidelines (May 2016):

- Natural features and ecological functions for which the ESA has been identified shall be protected.
- The ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA shall have priority in any use or design-related decision.
- A properly designed and implemented trail system appropriate to specific management zones and reflecting sensitivity of the natural features will be implemented to achieve the primary objectives of protection and the secondary objective of providing suitable recreational and educational opportunities.
- The community will be engaged in natural areas protection and the trail planning process to build awareness, foster education, and encourage participation in order to increase the capacity for creating a conservation culture that promotes natural areas as a common good and conservation as a collective responsibility.
- Enjoyable, safe, accessible trails for recreation appropriate in an ESA and learning environment will be permitted in accordance with any/all recognized accessibility legislation (such as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), best practices and the above principles.

1.2.3 Objectives

The objectives for this CMP are summarized below:

1. To review the environmental management strategy recommendations in the Phase I study entitled: *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA*, January 2015 by Dillon Consulting Limited. This includes:
 - a) **Restoration:** Prepare a restoration/enhancement strategy and priorities for implementing restoration activities. This is to include an emphasis on invasive species management as invasive species are the biggest threat to the ecological integrity of the ESA.
 - b) **Naturalization:** Prepare a strategy and priorities for implementing naturalization projects within or adjacent to the ESA to protect ecological integrity.
 - c) **Wildlife Habitat:** Identify a sustainable monitoring and adaptive management program for the benefit of key wildlife habitat areas within the ESA, including Species at Risk habitat.

- d) **Education and Stewardship:** Create a strategy that encourages stewardship and awareness of the ESA through education and continued community engagement.
2. Delineate a sustainable trail system in consultation with the public and the LAC. The trail system is to provide for appropriate public use that complies with and follows the process in the City's *Guideline for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016) and complies with required accessibility legislation.
 3. Establish a sustainable adaptive management and monitoring program based on "reference conditions" (state of health) from Phase 1 to which system form and function can be compared over time and where regular reporting on monitoring results can be used to identify significant a departure from baseline conditions. The program should include conditions that would trigger follow-up management actions.
 4. Develop a continued community engagement plan to increase awareness and education of the ESA and to foster a sense of stewardship among ESA users.

1.2.4 Implementation Plan

For the four objectives listed in **Section 1.2.3**, timelines for implementation of specific actions or management recommendations over a 10 year period (2018-2028) has been provided, where applicable. The details in this section and in **Tables 7, 9, 11 and 12**, provide direction for continued implementation of Restoration, Naturalization, Sustainable Trail Concept Actions, and Monitoring work. The implementation plan for recommended management actions identifies the priority for action, sources for funding the management action as well as direction in regard to measures of success for each management action, and an approximate cost.

The UTRCA will be consulted in the development of detailed management plans and prior to implementation as some activities may require approvals pursuant to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

In addition, it should be recognized that additional site-specific studies and design work may be required to implement some of the activities that are beyond the scope of the CMP. Examples of this would be, but are not limited to archaeological studies, geotechnical studies, and preliminary/detailed engineering designs.

A Local Implementation Committee (LIC) will be formed to assist with the implementation the CMP. Members may include local Adopt an ESA members, ACCAC members, community members and members of the LAC.

1.2.4.1 Priority Setting

The priorities for management actions have been set according to perceived urgency, logical progression, and current knowledge on the availability of resources. Based on these criteria, the recommendations are grouped into the five priority time periods, as presented in **Table 3.0**.

Table 3: Criteria Used to Assign Priorities for Management Activities

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

Specific strategies for activities related to restoration, naturalization and trails may have additional criteria for determining the priority for implementation. These criteria will be outlined in the relevant sections, as applicable.

1.2.4.2 Lead Agency

Along with priorities for implementation, the agency identified to lead the implementation of a management action is also noted. These include the following:

- *City of London*. This refers to the Environmental and Parks Planning staff (the lead agency funding and managing the Phase II CMP process).
- *ESA Management Committee*. The ESA Management Committee includes City of London Environmental and Parks Planning staff and the City funded ESA Management Team.
- *ESA Management Team*. The City funded ESA Management Team is based out of the UTRCA and is responsible for day-to-day operations including ecological restoration, monitoring, education and enforcement in publicly owned ESAs.

1.2.4.3 Funding Sources

Potential sources of funding for implementation for specific actions or management recommendations may include the following:

- *City ESA Operating Budget* – The City funds the ESA Management Team annually under a contract.
- *City ESA Capital Budget* – The City funds capital projects in ESAs, over-and-above the annual City ESA Operating Budget.
- *Other sources of funding* – Examples include fundraising through grants and other means by local Adopt-An-ESA groups and Community Associations.

1.2.4.4 Estimated Cost

While the exact cost for each management action is dependent on a number of factors, including additional studies and/or permits/approvals that may be required, a broad estimate for cost has been applied to the specific actions or management recommendations. The estimated costs for each action or recommendation are assumed to encompass the 10 year management period and are based on the following criteria listed in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Estimated Costs for Environmental Management Strategy Actions

Approximate Dollar Value	Estimated Cost
>\$100,000	High
\$20,000 to \$100,000	Medium
<\$20,000	Low

2.0

Phase I – Summary of Findings

Dillon was retained by the City in 2013 to complete the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation* for the MVHF ESA. The Study Area focused primarily on public lands within the MVHF ESA (south). Some supplementary work was completed for the section of the MVHF ESA between Fanshawe Park Road West and Sunningdale Road West (MVHF ESA north) to update previous studies.

To achieve the objectives in support of the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation* for the MVHF ESA, an Ecological Resources Inventory was undertaken as a critical first step. Beginning with a thorough background review for past information related to the MVHF ESA, this historical information was updated with a large number of surveys between April and September of 2013. These surveys followed both the City's *Data Collection Standards for Ecological Inventory* and other provincially and federally accepted protocols. The results of the inventory were presented by survey type under Section 2.0 of the Phase I report - *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA* (Dillon 2015). The results of the Ecological Resources Inventory are summarized in this report under **Section 2.1**.

Using the updated inventory data, the boundary of the MVHF ESA was refined. Details of the refined boundary, including supporting rationale, are presented under Section 3.0 of the Phase I report. The results of the boundary refinements are summarized under **Section 2.2** of this report.

Data collected during Phase I was then used to develop an initial Environmental Management Strategy which included delineation of Management Zones and identification of areas for restoration and naturalization. This initial Environmental Management Strategy was outlined under Section 5.0 of the Phase I report and was updated to identify the top and high priority restoration work implemented to date and the remaining priorities under **3.2** of this report.

To review the full Phase I report, including the methodologies used and results recorded for field studies, please refer to the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA* (Dillon 2015) posted on the City's website, together with the [Addendum](#) (Dillon 2016). As part of the Addendum, a review of trail compatibility with significant features was undertaken and the results are summarized in **Section 2.3** of this report.

2.1 Ecological Resources Inventory

As part of the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation* (Dillon 2015) of the MVHF ESA, extensive flora and fauna surveys were conducted using accepted field inventory protocols. **Table 5** provides a summary of the results of the surveys and what significant ecological features were documented.

Table 5: Summary of Phase I Results

Survey Completed in Phase I	Summary of Results
Ecological Land Classification (Validation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 16 vegetation communities were documented.
Wildlife Habitat Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten different types of wildlife habitat (not including Species at Risk) were identified of which, eight were identified as being significant (listed below): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank and Cliff) Seeps and Springs Amphibian Breeding Habitat Species of Conservation Concern: Striped Cream Violet Species of Conservation Concern: American Gromwell Species of Conservation Concern: Slender Satin Grass Species of Conservation Concern: Green Dragon Species of Conservation Concern: Shrubby St. John’s Wort
Amphibian Breeding Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four frog/toad species were observed; all of which are common to London.
Salamander Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red-backed Salamander confirmed.
Breeding Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the breeding season, 55 species were observed and an additional 25 during the migration periods. Ten species (9 migrants, 1 breeding) had not been previously identified in the MVHF ESA.
Flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 564 flora species were identified during the inventory with 151 (27%) of those not previously recorded in the MVHF ESA.
Butterflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 species of butterfly. 52% (25) were not previously documented.
Dragonflies & Damselflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41 species of dragonflies/damselflies. 32% (13) were not previously documented.
Mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 species were observed during the inventory and by the general public.
Species at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened, Endangered under the Ontario <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> that were observed/documentated in the MVHF ESA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> False Rue-anemone (THR) Queensnake (END) Kentucky Coffee-tree (END) Cucumber Magnolia (END) Butternut (END) Spiny Softshell (END) (uplisted from THR to END since Phase I) Three SAR bats were observed along the edge of the MVHF ESA (south) by a member of the public using audio equipment to record bat echolocation calls included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Brown Myotis (END) Northern Long-eared Myotis (END) Tri-colored Bat (END) (listed as END since Phase I)

Note: END indicates a species is protected as an *Endangered* species under the Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. THR indicates a species is protected as a *Threatened* species. Note: due to the sensitive nature of these species, specific locations may not be presented on mapping.

2.2 Refinement of the Boundaries

The entire MVHF ESA, as presented on Map 5 – Natural Heritage of the London Plan encompasses 175.4 hectares of public and private lands. Based on the results of the natural heritage surveys undertaken as part of Phase I, the entire ESA boundary was refined based on interpretation of the City's *Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Boundaries of Vegetation Patches* (2007) and comments from EEPAC to be more representative of the ecological boundary. The refined boundary for the entire MVHF ESA encompasses 181.2 hectares, and generally excludes residential building sites, cultural landscapes and storm-water management facilities from the ESA that were previously included. It further includes those areas of naturalized vegetation that had been previously excluded. This refined ESA boundary has been carried forward into Phase II for the MVHF ESA (south) which alone, encompasses 119.51 ha (see **Figure 1**).

2.3 Existing Trail Compatibility Review

As part of the November 2016 addendum to the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation* (January 2015), the Management Zones were updated with the current Guidelines and existing managed trails were reviewed for compatibility with significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south) based on Table 1 of the City's *Guideline for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016). Through this review it was determined that the existing managed trails are compatible with the significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south). Further review of the compatibility of existing managed trails with significant ecological features is therefore not required during Phase II.

3.0

Environmental Management Strategy

As evident in the aerial photographs dating back to the early 1940's, very few areas of the MVHF ESA (south) have remained relatively untouched from disturbance and the majority of the ESA's current natural state is the result of former cultural lands undergoing secondary succession back to forest, meadow and wetland communities. With the transfer of large swathes of rural property to the City occurring in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the lands within the current MVHF ESA (south) were generally left vacant. Cultural open land uses such as cropland, hayland, pasture and manicured lawn would transform into meadow habitats as pioneer grasses, annual and perennial herbaceous species established. Over the decades, intermediate shrub and tree species from adjacent remnant woodland patches would have established in the meadows to form thickets and eventually the mid-age upland and lowland forests observed today.

Ecological succession is a natural process and can result in mature, diverse vegetation communities that serve to provide a function in the greater landscape. While succession of the MVHF ESA (south) was generally a natural and unmanaged process, it also occurred during a period when the surrounding tablelands underwent rapid urban development. This has resulted in the MVHF ESA (south) being surrounded by a heavily populated urban landscape which puts increasing demand on the ESA for access to nature and trail use as well as contributing to other stressors. As the urban landscape developed around the MVHF ESA (south), the valleylands became a destination. Eventually an informal network of trails was established, centred around the Medway Trail which was created in the 1960s and ran from Fanshawe Park Road West to Western University. Prior to the late 1980s, the MVHF and the trail system did not benefit from the level of management seen today and, as a result, impacts to the MVHF ESA (south) were identified in the 1989 CMP.

Since 2002 the City funded contract with the UTRCA has enhanced the protection of the ESA and includes:

1. Monitoring and enhancing the natural resource (including invasive species control and restoration)
2. Enforcing applicable provincial statutes, regulations, and municipal bylaws
3. Implementing risk management and encroachment reduction programs
4. Maintaining the trail network
5. Coordinating educational programs, special events and community projects

The City is an identified leader among Ontario municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management and control of invasive species in protected natural areas including the MVHF ESA since 2007. The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013 and have been ongoing through 2017. The City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) in Canada, 2017.

Despite these efforts, some impacts to the MVHF ESA (south) continued to be observed in 2017. These impacts are to be addressed through the development of an updated Environmental Management Strategy to protect the MVHF ESA (south) by providing recommendations to continue to correct those impacts through restoration and naturalization, as invasive species pose the biggest threat to the ecosystem health of the ESA. The Environmental Management Strategy also provides recommendations for managing visitor related impacts following the Guidelines, for sustainable trails, AODA compliant signs, barricades, enforcement and other measures to protect the natural features and functions that characterize the MVHF ESA (south).

Information related to the delineation of a sustainable trail system following the Guidelines forms part of the overall Environmental Management Strategy. The trail strategy is included as **Section 3.4** of this report.

By implementing the strategies outlined in the following Sections that make up the Environmental Management Strategy, the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA (south) is expected to continue to improve over the next 10 years. This will be reviewed and will continue to be tracked over the ten year period of this CMP as per the extensive monitoring recommendations provided in **Section 4.0**.

3.1 Managing Areas with a Utility Overlay

Due to ongoing access requirements associated with the approximately 5.5 km of underground and aboveground utility infrastructure (e.g. hydro corridor, sewers & forcemain) located within the MVHF ESA (south), a Utility Overlay consisting of a 4 m wide corridor was established following the Guidelines over the various utility rights-of-way. Where restoration to the original ecological condition is possible, a Utility Overlay is not used; instead, the management zone is applied based on the targeted vegetation community (i.e. ELC) and overlaid with a Restoration Overlay. Utility Overlays are not generally considered to be part of the surrounding Management Zone due to their unique requirements. While “overlay” zones can be applied to the underlying management zones, if applicable, the ongoing access requirements for maintenance of the infrastructure in the MVHF ESA (south) means the Utility Overlay designation is different from and not part of the surrounding Management Zones. As outlined in the Guidelines:

*“The primary goal for a Utility Overlay is to protect the overall integrity of the ESA, and minimize impact of the utility site, corridor, infrastructure or facility while maintaining the ability for the City to access the utility for operational maintenance, as required by other approvals. The secondary goal depends on the circumstances of the specific ESA. **Where maintenance access is required, trails should be located along the same route to minimize impacts to the surrounding ESA while achieving a social benefit by designing the trails to accommodate persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with AODA requirements, wherever possible.**”*

3.2 Restoration

As outlined in the City’s Guidelines, Restoration Overlays (RO) “are applied to identify areas where active management intervention is required to restore ecological integrity. Restoration may take the form of habitat creation, enhancement or restoration, control of nuisance wildlife, control of invasive species, prescribed burns and/or the creation or enhancement of habitat structures (nest boxes or platforms, amphibian breeding habitat, snake hibernacula, etc.). This objective is supported by the City’s Official Plan.”

London’s Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy provides direction for wildlife and identifies that:

“The City is committed to upholding high standards of animal welfare, including the humane treatment of wildlife. The City will strive to not interfere with wildlife and their natural processes where possible; and will strive to implement proactive and preventative measures in order to promote coexistence, and to prevent potential conflicts where possible.”

The fifteen RO presented during Phase I are areas identified within the MVHF ESA (south) that require active ecological restoration and/or special management. The majority of these RO areas require management of invasive species and three had the potential to threaten populations of Species at Risk and/or provincially rare species and have now been addressed.

The City has taken a pro-active approach to dealing with invasive species and the protection of Species at Risk and provincially rare species and implemented on-going control efforts of invasive vegetation within the majority of the RO areas since identification of the priority issues in 2013. All the top and high priority RO identified to date have been addressed and/or are now under a monitoring program.

Each RO area from Phase I has been reviewed and a restoration/enhancement strategy was developed as part of Phase II to include management actions and priorities for implementation. An additional RO (RO16) was added as part of Phase II to address the informal trails/closed trails that are to receive additional efforts to enforce closure and restoration consistent with the steps listed in the Guidelines and are prioritized in this CMP.

Determination of the priority for implementation of the management actions for each RO was based on the criteria presented in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Criteria Used to Assign Priorities for Restoration Overlay Areas

Priority for Implementation	Criteria
Top	<p>If restoration of this area isn't undertaken there is potential for a Species at Risk and/or Species of Conservation Concern¹ (including habitat) to be immediately impacted and may result in the reduction in the species' population or extirpation from the MVHF ESA. This also includes active and on-going restoration efforts that are underway to protect Species at Risk and/or rare species.</p> <p>Note: All Top and High Priority Restoration Overlays identified in the Phase 1 CMP have been addressed and are now under a monitoring program. Based on this, these areas have been assigned a rating of Moderate¹.</p>
High	<p>If restoration of this area isn't undertaken there is potential for a Species at Risk and/or Species of Conservation Concern¹ (including habitat) to be impacted and may result in the reduction in the species' population or extirpation from the MVHF ESA over time.</p> <p>Note: All Top and High Priority Restoration Overlays identified in the Phase 1 CMP have been addressed and are now under a monitoring program. Based on this, these areas have been assigned a rating of Moderate¹.</p>
Moderate	<p>These may be areas at the beginning stages of degradation where restoration efforts would help to reverse those effects and return the area to a higher quality. These areas also include formerly top or high priority restoration areas which have already received initial or on-going control and/or monitoring is taking place and are identified as Moderate¹.</p>
Low	<p>Area is already highly impacted and no Species at Risk (including habitat) or Significant Wildlife Habitat is under threat. Restoration can reasonably occur when other moderate and high priority areas are under control. Generally these areas contain dense patches of invasive vegetation but also may include open areas that could be filled-in with trees and shrubs to help form more a contiguous forest canopy.</p>

¹ Species of Conservation Concern is as defined by the MNRF in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (2000) and includes species provincially ranked as S1, S2 or S3, those species identified as *Special Concern* under the Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, or those species listed as *Threatened or Endangered* under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Strategies for the sixteen Restoration Overlays are summarized below in **Table 7** and shown on **Figure 2**. Restoration Overlays that are highlighted green in **Table 7** are already in progress or complete and under a monitoring program. Specific wildlife habitats and habitats for Species at Risk/Species of Conservation Concern are presented in finer detail with relation to the Restoration Overlays on **Figures 2a, 2b and 2c**.

Table 7: Restoration Strategy for the MVHF ESA (south)

Restoration Overlay Identifier	Status	Approximate Area (ha)	Rationale and Goal(s) for Restoration	Management Actions for Restoration	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
RO1	In progress	1.62	Large patches of European Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i> spp. <i>australis</i>) and Common Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>), two highly invasive species that tend to out-compete native flora and develop monoculture communities. The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementation of current invasive species management plan following Provincial BMPs. • On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). (ONGOING) • Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent deciduous forest and treed bluff vegetation communities. 	Moderate	European Common Reed and Common Buckthorn are either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO2	In progress	2.49	Large patches of European Common Reed and Common Buckthorn, two highly invasive species that tend to out-compete native flora and develop monoculture communities. The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementation of current invasive species management plan following Provincial BMP. Control of European Common Reed and Buckthorn has been a priority in ESAs and control of the species has been occurring since 2013. • On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). (ONGOING) • Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent deciduous forest and treed bluff vegetation communities. 	Moderate	European Common Reed and Common Buckthorn are either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Amphibian Breeding Habitat maintains criteria required for significance. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO3	Proposed	3.52	Large patches of Common Buckthorn, a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of invasive species management plan following Provincial BMP. • On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). • Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent deciduous forest and treed bluff vegetation communities. Where restoration areas overlap utility overlay, plantings should be limited to grass/forb. 	Low	Common Buckthorn is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO4	Proposed	0.99	The sewer right-of-way is wider in some areas than the 4 m size requirement. This presents an opportunity to fill in these spots with deciduous trees and shrubs to help the surrounding area succeed into lowland deciduous forest. The corridor has received some ecological restoration in the form of tree planting along the edges and this would be additional efforts to fill-in the gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. • On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). 	Low	The Utility Overlay consists of a 4 m wide open area with lowland forest right up to the edges, similar to Utility Overlay areas with older infrastructure.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Operating Budget	Low

Restoration Overlay Identifier	Status	Approximate Area (ha)	Rationale and Goal(s) for Restoration	Management Actions for Restoration	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
RO5	In progress	0.62	<p>The ground layer in this area was dominated by Goutweed (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>), a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. The Goutweed was located around sub-populations of False Rue-anemone, a Species at Risk, and habitat for American Gromwell, a rare species, and threatened to overtake the species habitat (see Figure 2b for location of those habitats).</p> <p>This restoration was flagged as High Priority in Phase I as control of this invasive species was critical in maintaining the adjacent population of False Rue-anemone. The City initiated an invasive species management plan in May 2014 for this area and implemented control efforts for the Goutweed. Control and monitoring is on-going and the goal has been met in managing the Goutweed and protecting the False Rue-anemone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an invasive species management plan (COMPLETE – Dillon, 2014) Registration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry under Section 23.17 (Species Protection or Recovery Activities) of <i>Ontario Regulation 242/08</i> of the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> prior to control efforts (COMPLETE – Dillon, 2014). Once invasive species are under control, the area can then undergo active ecological restoration (ONGOING) Shade tolerant wildflower seed mixes and wildflower plugs were planted/seeded in mid- to late fall of 2015. (COMPLETE) On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2 and References for monitoring reports). (ONGOING) 	Moderate ¹ ¹ (Formerly Top Priority; see Table 6)	<p>Goutweed is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check.</p> <p>False Rue-anemone is observed to be maintaining the sub-populations and/or expanding.</p> <p>*2016/2017 monitoring of control efforts indicate the Goutweed is under control and some sub-populations of False Rue-anemone are expanding. The results of monitoring have been documented in an annual monitoring record as required through the registration with the MNRF (Dillon - 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017[In Process at time of CMP])</p>	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO6	Proposed	5.06	<p>The ground layer for this area (Snake Creek Valley) is dominated by Woodland Sedge (<i>Carex sylvatica</i>), a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. A dense ground layer can also reduce the success of natural tree regeneration by out-competing seedlings. This could further degrade the area as once larger mature trees die-back, there may be an absence of native trees and shrubs to replace those species giving opportunity for additional invasive species to establish (i.e. Common Buckthorn).</p> <p>The Snake Creek Valley is one of the few remaining older pockets of forest relatively untouched by clear-cutting in the past 70 years (based on aerial interpretation). The intent of this restoration would be to restore the ground layer to a state where seedlings of the larger deciduous trees can establish without competition from non-native ground flora.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an invasive species management plan noting that care would be needed as to control the non-native sedge and avoid native sedges also present in the valley. The plan should include recommendations for control efforts (e.g. hand pulling, spot-application herbicide) to be carried out by individuals skilled in identification of sedge species. Once invasive species are under control, the area can then undergo active ecological restoration. Review of soil conditions may be required following eradication of invasive species and prior to ground layer restoration efforts. Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent Snake Creek Valley. On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). 	Low	<p>Woodland Sedge is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check.</p> <p>Continued persistence of Red-backed Salamander population.</p> <p>Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.</p>	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO7	Proposed	0.72	<p>The ground layer of this area is dominated by a large patch of non-native ephemeral Snowdrop (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>) that has overtaken a large area. While this species isn't generally considered an invasive species the patch observed was quite dense and may be resulting in competition for native spring ephemeral species.</p> <p>The intent for restoration efforts is to remove or control the Snowdrop to a state where it is not the dominant ground species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an invasive species management plan. Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species observed in the Snake Creek Valley may help to reduce non-native ground layer species. On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). 	Low	<p>Snowdrop is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the non-native flora in-check.</p> <p>Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.</p>	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low

Restoration Overlay Identifier	Status	Approximate Area (ha)	Rationale and Goal(s) for Restoration	Management Actions for Restoration	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
RO8	Proposed	3.47	Overlay has large patches of Common Buckthorn, a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of invasive species management plan following Provincial BMP. Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). 	Low	Common Buckthorn is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO9	Proposed	0.77	Overlay consists of a linear stand of native Eastern White Cedar (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>) which has formed a monoculture. It is likely either a former plantation or hedgerow and due to the high density of cedar, hasn't reverted to a naturalized community. The intent of restoration for this area would be to reduce the monoculture of cedar and restore to a more mixed, hardwood forest for better integration with the surrounding vegetation communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinning of the stand through select removal of cedars focusing on smaller, weaker specimens. Removals can also occur around areas where there may be existing gaps in the tree canopy that would facilitate establishment of hardwood seedlings. Creation of clearing and canopy gaps through removal of select pockets of cedars to mimic natural disturbances that would create gaps in the canopy. Gaps should be approximately 6-10 metres in diameter. Depending on whether there are hardwood seedlings already present, restoration efforts may also include supplementing natural regeneration with planting and/or seeding of hardwood tree species. 	Low	Biodiversity of the area is increased with 5 or more appropriate native tree species.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital and Operating Budget	Low
RO10	In progress	1.40	Overlay has large patches of Common Buckthorn, a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. A population of Striped Cream Violet, a Provincially rare species, is located in the west end of this Restoration Overlay. The buckthorn isn't expected to greatly impact the population of violet but removal of this invasive species may improve the habitat (see Figure 2b and 2c for the location of the habitat). The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest. Note: this restoration overlay is partially located on private property; permission would be required from the landowner prior to any activities on their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of current invasive species management plan following Provincial BMP on City property. Planting or native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. (ONGOING) On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). (ONGOING) 	Moderate ¹ ¹ (Formerly High Priority; see Table 6)	Common Buckthorn is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low
RO11	In progress	2.07	This Overlay area contains a cultural meadow that is currently succeeding back into a forest community. Previous restoration efforts (i.e. plantings) have helped to accelerate the succession process. The intent of restoration efforts for this area would be to fill in the gaps of 20 m or greater between forest communities north, south and east of the cultural meadow would increase the amount of interior woodland within the MVHF ESA (south).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). (ONGOING) This Overlay includes several portions of Utility Overlay that should be taken into consideration when determining locations for restoration planting. 	Low	The cultural meadow is filled in and succeeds into forest to form a contiguous woodland community. The population of Slender Satin Grass is observed to be maintaining and/or expanding.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low

Restoration Overlay Identifier	Status	Approximate Area (ha)	Rationale and Goal(s) for Restoration	Management Actions for Restoration	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
RO12	Proposed	4.18	This Overlay area which is located on a cultural meadow that is currently succeeding back into a forest community. Previous restoration efforts (i.e. plantings) have helped to accelerate the succession process. The intent of restoration efforts for this area would be to fill in the gaps of 20 m or greater between forest communities north, south and east of the cultural meadow to increase the amount of interior woodland within the MVHF ESA (south).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. Care to not impact the planted Cucumber Magnolia identified is required. On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). This Overlay includes several portions of Utility Overlay that should be taken into consideration when determining locations for restoration planting. The 4 m wide right-of-way would not impact woodland community. 	Low	The cultural meadow is filled in and succeeds into forest to form a contiguous woodland community. Persistence of the planted Cucumber Magnolia species.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low
RO13	In progress	0.85	Overlay has large patches of Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) and English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>), two non-native invasive species that tend to out-compete native flora and can develop monoculture communities. The intent for restoration in this area is to control and/or eradicate the invasive vegetation and restore the area to deciduous forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of current invasive species management plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As this includes control of tree species, there may need to be a multi-year stepped approach to the removal of Norway Maple as to not impact the forest canopy. This could include initial thinning of younger saplings and a few larger maples supplemented with planting of native species and girdling of larger trees to create wildlife habitat trees. Removal of remaining maples would occur over several years and could while native species establish and fill-in the gaps created from the initial removals. (ONGOING) Continued planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. (ONGOING). On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2). (ONGOING) 	Low	Norway Maple and English Ivy are either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. Increased abundance of native flora, in particular trees/shrubs from baseline levels.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low

Restoration Overlay Identifier	Status	Approximate Area (ha)	Rationale and Goal(s) for Restoration	Management Actions for Restoration	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
RO14	In progress	1.99	<p>The ground layer in this area was dominated by Goutweed (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>), a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. The Goutweed was located around a population of Striped Cream Violet and Green Dragon, two rare species, and threatened to overtake the species (see Figure 2c for the location of the habitats).</p> <p>This restoration was flagged as High Priority in Phase I as control of this invasive species was critical in maintaining the adjacent population of Striped Cream Violet. The City initiated an invasive species management plan in May 2014 for this area and implemented control efforts for the Goutweed. Control and monitoring is on-going but generally the goal has been met in reducing the Goutweed and protecting the Striped Cream Violet and Green Dragon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an invasive species management plan (COMPLETE) Once invasive species are under control, the area can then undergo active ecological restoration (ONGOING) This could involve planting of native flora and restoring the ground layer of the lowland deciduous forest (ONGOING) On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2 and References section for monitoring reports). 	Moderate ¹ ¹ (Formerly Top Priority; see Table 6)	Goutweed is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. The populations of Striped Cream Violet, Green Dragon and other native flora are observed to be maintaining and/or expanding.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low
RO15	In progress	0.20	<p>The ground layer in this area was dominated by Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>), a highly invasive species that tends to out-compete native flora and develops monoculture communities. The Knotweed was located to the north of a population of Green Dragon, a rare species, and threatened to overtake the species (see Figure 2c for the location of the habitat).</p> <p>This restoration was flagged as High Priority in Phase I as control of this invasive species was critical in maintaining the adjacent population of Green Dragon. The City initiated an invasive species management plan in May 2014 for this area and implemented control efforts for the Knotweed which included RO15 and the parent colony of Knotweed observed at the top of the valley. Goal has been met in managing the Knotweed (monitored and no treatment required in 2017) and protecting the Green Dragon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an invasive species management plan (COMPLETE – Dillon, 2014) Once invasive species are under control, the area can then undergo active ecological restoration (ONGOING) This could involve planting of native flora and restoring the ground layer of the lowland deciduous forest found in the underlying management zone (ONGOING) On-going monitoring/control of the restoration area for invasive vegetation using an Early Detection and Rapid Response system (see Section 4.2.2.2 and References section for monitoring reports). 	Moderate ¹ ¹ (Formerly Top Priority; see Table 6)	Knotweed is either eradicated from this area or reduced to a state where on-going monitoring and control can keep the invasive flora in-check. The populations of Green Dragon and other native flora are observed to be maintaining and/or expanding.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low
RO16	In progress	0.11 on public lands	Throughout the MVHF ESA (south), 5.4 km of unmanaged (informal) trails and closed formerly managed trails were documented in Phase I, 3.8 km of which are located on public lands. In an effort to deter continued use of these trails and enforce closure of former managed trails, restoration efforts are to continue to occur in combination with trail closure methods as provided in Section 7.2.6 of the Guidelines and in Section 3.4.3.7 of this report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management actions provided in Section 7.2.6 of the Guidelines will be implemented to restore and discourage use of informal/closed trails. (ONGOING) Establish connection outside of the ESA boundaries to connect Access #11 and Access #12 to direct trail users away from informal trails through private property and habitats identified on Figure 2b. Requires further design and notice to neighbours. 	Moderate for trails in Nature Reserve Zones Low for trails in Natural Environment Zones	Discontinued use of unmanaged and closed trails as observed by monitoring data. Trail eventually becomes undistinguishable from surrounding area.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Medium

3.3 Naturalization

As part of Phase I, areas within or adjacent to the MVHF ESA (south) were reviewed to determine optimal locations for naturalization projects.

Of the four areas identified for naturalization projects during Phase I, three are also identified as Restoration Overlay areas. To avoid duplication of recommendations for the three areas, the Restoration Overlay identifier is provided moving forward in this report in place of the Naturalization identifier presented in Phase I.

One area (NA4) identified during Phase I continues to be recommended for naturalization, in addition to another area not previously identified during Phase I (NA5). These two areas are shown on **Figure 2**.

Determination of the priority for implementation of the management actions for the two Naturalization Areas was based on the criteria in **Table 8**. The areas of Naturalization are summarized in **Table 9**.

Table 8: Criteria Used to Assign Implementation Priorities for Naturalization Areas

Priority for Implementation	Criteria
Top	The area is cultural and located within or adjacent to the ESA. The area is resulting in impacts to the ESA and without naturalization, impacts are expected to continue and potentially degrade the ESA.
High	The area is generally cultural and is subject to actions that are impacting succession of the area. This may include areas subject to mowing or other encroachment effects. Naturalization of these areas would greatly benefit the ESA. The naturalization project can be combined with other recommendations in this CMP.
Moderate	The area is beginning to naturalize but still exhibits indications of a cultural influence. Managed succession is required for the area to provide benefit to the greater ESA.
Low	Area is generally already beginning to naturally regenerate. Monitoring should occur first for a minimum of three years to determine if management is necessary to achieve measures of success identified.

Table 9: Naturalization Areas within MVHF ESA (south)

Naturalization Area Identifier	Approximate Area (ha)	Goal(s) for Naturalization	Management Actions for Naturalization	Priority for Implementation	Measure(s) of Success	Lead Agency	Potential Funding	Estimated Cost
NA 1			See RO9 in Table 7 / Figure 2					
NA 2			See RO11 in Table 7 / Figure 2					
NA 3			See RO12 in Table 7					
NA 4	0.43	This area includes areas of mown lawn located on City lands within the ESA boundary that border an open bluff and are an encroachment into the ESA by private land owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By-law staff have initiated an enforcement process to reverse the encroachments Relocation of a portion of the Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley trail (previously closed) to this tableland area to avoid the edge of the top of slope and seepage area combined with naturalization of lawn. Implement managed succession activities: Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. 	High	Managed succession of lawn areas succeeding into cultural meadows and eventually forest to become part of the contiguous woodland.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Low
NA 5	1.32	Not identified during Phase I but through review of the naturalization areas, this area was added for Phase II. Attawandaron Park, located within the ESA boundary, is comprised of mown lawn that borders the valley. Naturalization of the eastern edge of this mown area would help to enhance the ESA and Medway Creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A staged approach to naturalization could involve naturalizing the eastern edge by establishing areas of no-mowing adjacent to the valley slope. Education and stewardship to inform the neighbourhood about the naturalization efforts and reason for it. Opportunity to establish a managed trail connecting a managed trail to the north and the managed trail running through Snake Creek Valley to the south creating a defined limit for naturalization on the east side of trail. Planting of native deciduous tree and shrub species similar to the adjacent lowland deciduous forest. 	High	Eastern edge of Park succeeds into cultural meadows and eventually forest becoming part of the contiguous woodland.	ESA Mg Cte ESA Mg Team	Capital / Operating Budget	Medium

3.4 Trail Management

In Ontario, all recreational trails are required to be accessible unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- wilderness trails, backcountry trails and portage routes
- trails only meant for cross-country skiing, mountain biking or the use of motorized recreational vehicles, such as snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles
- areas of trails where modifications for accessibility would negatively impact the ecology or heritage
- cases where making the trail or beach access route accessible would be impossible or inappropriate – for example, where rocks bordering the route make it impossible to meet minimum width requirements
- cases where making the trail or beach access route accessible would have a negative effect on properties protected under:
 - the Ontario Heritage Act,
 - Canada National Parks Act
 - the Historic Sites and Monuments Act (Canada)
 - the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) World Heritage List
- cases where making the trail or beach access route accessible would have a negative effect on water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity or natural heritage values

The Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) are followed to ensure a properly designed trail system protects the ESA while providing for appropriate trail use, and accessibility required under AODA. The Guidelines objectively delineate management zones based on Ecological Land Classification for “the protection of the more sensitive ecological features by directing access and use to the areas that have been identified as having lower sensitivity to trails and are able to support more accessible trails.” The Guidelines document is aligned with the City of London Official Plan and guidelines developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR 1992; MNR 2009; MNR 2014) and Parks Canada (Parks Canada 2008; Parks Canada 2012) to manage protected natural areas. It is consistent with and generally exceeds the requirements for protected natural areas managed by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada (Dillon 2016).

With the assistance of EEPAC and ACCAC, the City's Guidelines were updated to clearly define where in ESAs those exceptions would generally apply (i.e., in Nature Reserve management zones), and where accessibility of trails can be upgraded to meet AODA regulations (i.e., in Natural Environment management zones).

As outlined under **Section 2.3**, as part of the November 2016 addendum to the *Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation* (January 2015), the existing managed trails were reviewed for compatibility with significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south) using Chart 2 from the City's *Guideline for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016). Through this review it was determined that the existing managed trails (**see Figure 3**) are compatible with the significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south).

To delineate a sustainable trail system, this CMP aims to review current issues within the MVHF ESA (south) based on the findings from Phase I, consultation with the LAC, and feedback from members of the general public. Following the guiding principles established for this CMP, the trail system that is proposed for the MVHF ESA (south) has to maintain the priority of conserving the ESA's ecological integrity. Trail planning and design must address physical sustainability (trails that will retain their form over years of use and natural forces acting on them); ecological sustainability (managing the impacts of trail location and use to ensure no loss of ecological features and functions) and stewardship (fostering of individual and collective responsibility for protection of natural areas). The trail system proposed is to comply with and follow the processes outlined in the City's *Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016) and AODA legislation described in **Section 1.1.1**.

An important component of the CMP is how public access and use of the MVHF ESA (south) will be managed through sustainable trail design. As identified in the Guidelines, trail planning and design addresses:

- Ecological sustainability to avoid impacts to ecological features and functions
- Physical sustainability of the trails and/or structures so they retain their form and function over time and can withstand the natural forces acting on them
- Stewardship by the greater community to foster a sense of individual and collective responsibility for the protection of the ESA
- How the proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Guidelines

3.4.1 Management Zones

The trail system must follow the policies and process outlined within Management Zones as outlined in Section 4 of the *Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas* (2016).

As part of Phase I of the CMP, Management Zones were delineated for the MVHF ESA (south) according to the process outlined in the *Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas* (2016) and included areas of both Nature Reserve and Natural Environment (see **Figure 3**). **Section 3.4.1.1** and **Section 3.4.1.2** below are taken from Table 2 and **Section 4.1** in the Guidelines for context.

3.4.1.1

Nature Reserve

These areas require a higher level of protection to preserve the ecological integrity of the ESA and represent natural vegetation communities. This zone is delineated using Ecological Land Classification (Lee *et al.*, 1998) to identify vegetation communities that are the result of natural processes.

Where it is determined that ecological integrity can be preserved, and specific natural features and their ecological functions can be protected, public access using Level 1 trails (e.g. natural earth surface, wood chips, boardwalk, corduroy logs, stepping stones) are permitted in the Nature Reserve zone to support appropriate low-intensity, nature-based recreation. Structures (e.g. boardwalks, bridges, stairways) may be permitted to reduce impacts to significant ecological features and increase the sustainability of the trail system in the ESA.



Level 1 trail in a Natural Environment Zone over a Utility Overlay south of Glenridge Crescent

3.4.1.2

Natural Environment

These are areas of cultural vegetation communities that result from, or are maintained by existing or previous cultural or anthropocentric-based disturbances. These areas often contain a large proportion of non-native species. These communities include plantations, cultural meadows, cultural thickets, cultural woodlands, and cultural savannahs, as well as manicured areas such as mowed lawn or hedgerows.

Level 1 and Level 2 trails may be located in Natural Environment Zones where it can be demonstrated that the trail will not result in negative impact to the adjacent ecological features and functions of the ESA.

In exceptional situations, a Level 3 trail may be permitted within a Natural Environment Zone to upgrade an existing connection between neighbourhoods subject to the 'Process' outlined in



Level 2 trail in a Natural Environment Zone between Gainsborough Road and Doncaster Gate

Section 2.2 of the Guidelines. These trails provide

visitor access and are to be designed and implemented to protect environmental features and to accommodate areas of increased visitor use. Currently, there is one Level 3 trail in the northwest corner of the MVHF ESA (south) that connects Attawandaron Road to Fanshawe Park Road West and the trail system within the MVHF ESA (north). The intent of Level 2 and 3 trails is they meet the design specifications required under the AODA and outlined in the Guidelines.

3.4.2 Issues and Considerations

Feedback provided from members of the LAC and community included hundreds of comments, of which nearly a quarter were related to the trail system. Many of the comments from the public and LAC regarding the trail system were similar to the issues brought forward during the 1989 CMP and 1996 Site Planning Study. Other considerations are derived from the Phase I findings and the results of the MCSSU (2013) that is still in process. An overview of the items identified by the public for consideration is provided below.

3.4.2.1 Access Points

Of the sixteen access points (identified on **Figure 3**) that provide entry to the MVHF ESA (south), a few were identified as not being easily accessible or visible from adjacent roadways. Access Points are numbered according to mapping in the MVHF [ESA brochure](#) currently available from the City and the UTRCA, which includes six access points (A6-A9, A22/A23) that are located in MVHF ESA (north) and not shown on **Figure 3**. Through the consultation efforts, it has been identified there may be a need for additional amenities at access points. Suggestions include, but are not limited to waste receptacles, benches, and improved signage to help with way-finding and provide education on the MVHF ESA (south). Recommendations for improvements to access points are provided in **Section 3.4.3.8**.

Parking and Transit

Most of the access points are situated on neighbourhood roads that permit on-street parking. There is also parking available at the Windermere Road (west) access and at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. Public transit is another option for those visiting the ESA as there are several London Transit Commission bus routes and bus stops surrounding the ESA.

3.4.2.2 Bank Migration

Migration of the banks of Medway Creek and Snake Creek is considered during the review of the trail system as some trails are located immediately adjacent to Medway Creek and Snake Creek.

The MCSSU provided an historical analysis of the rate of bank migration for the Medway Creek and Snake Creek within the MVHF ESA (south) for some representative bends using historical (1955) aerial photographs and available erosion monitoring data. The bends assessed represent some of the most actively eroding sites. Meanders for Medway Creek were noted as having migrated a distance of 22 to 34 m since 1955, or at an average annual rate of 0.4 m/year to 0.6 m/year. The creek banks associated with Snake Creek were noted as having an erosion rate of near 0 to approximately 0.06 m/year.

It is important to note that bank migration is a natural phenomenon that is influenced by a variety of conditions such as adjacent vegetation, upstream influences and precipitation events. Work on the MCSSU was ongoing at the time of this CMP. Any specific sites of excessive and or unnatural bank erosion should be addressed with “natural” channel design solutions that enhance the ecology and accommodate the trail plan.

3.4.2.3

Existing Unmanaged Trails

Throughout the MVHF ESA (south), unmanaged (informal) trails are currently in use. Some of these existing unmanaged trails may be situated in undesired locations from a management perspectives, such as areas with steeper inclines or through private lands. Recommendations for addressing closure of existing unmanaged trails are provided in Section 7.2.6 of the Guidelines and in **Section 3.4.3.7** of this report. Further, restoration of these unmanaged trails is to occur concurrently with efforts to close these segments (see RO16 under **Table 7**). Please note that the unmanaged trails included in this CMP were documented in 2013 during the Phase I data collection and continue to be presented as shown in the Phase I report (Dillon 2015).

Closed Managed Trails

Three former managed trails have been closed in the MVHF ESA (south) in recent years. One of these trails was temporarily closed and rerouting the trail away from an eroding slope, close to the top of the slope over an area of mown lawn proposed for naturalization (i.e., NA4), is recommended as part of this CMP.

Despite initial efforts to close-off these managed trails, anecdotal evidence provided during public feedback indicates some of the closed trails are still being used by people and sometimes by wildlife, and require additional efforts to mask their presence and reinforce the closure following the Guidelines (see **Section 3.4.3.7**).

3.4.2.4

Connectivity of Managed Trail System

Feedback indicates a desire from some groups and the public for connectivity of the managed trails and enhanced accessibility on the east and west sides of the Medway Creek. However, opposition to this has also been received. Through the public consultation process there were requests for crossings of the Creek in five different locations to improve continuity and connections. Due to a lack of connectivity of managed trails, in order to traverse some areas of the MVHF ESA (south) trail users depend on the network of informal trails, informal creek crossings and/or require passing through private lands.

For accessing one side of the valley from the other, official linkage options are limited to the bridges associated with arterial roads such as Fanshawe Park Road West and Western Road. This would result in trail users of the MVHF ESA (south) being restricted to smaller areas of the ESA or informal linkages being created through the creek during periods of low water or ice, which can present hazards to the trail user and potentially impact the creek.

There were also groups and members of the public who did not support or see the need for any new crossings. Concerns were raised regarding ecological protection and potential impacts from having more trail users in parts of the valley. As part of the process, the five suggested crossing locations were reviewed against the Guidelines and three were eliminated (B, C, and E) as they would not comply.

Three options (each one building upon the previous) for the trail system in the MVHF ESA (south) were presented and reviewed with the LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC as part of the consultation for this CMP. All options were confirmed to be in compliance with the Guidelines. The elements included in the options were proposed to further protect significant ecological features and to improve connectivity and enhance accessibility where possible, consistent with the Guidelines and requirements under AODA.

Based on the consultation completed, the options presented were refined into one preferred sustainable trail concept plan, including two Creek crossings at location A and D (Refer to **Section 3.4.3.** for the discussion of how final comments have been addressed.)

It should be noted that the inclusion of two linkages across Medway Creek differs from what was presented at the final public open house. The request for an accessible connection at Linkage D was received by the City from ACCAC on January 8, 2018 (see letter in **Appendix D**). The inclusion of location D as a creek crossing was part of a request for a connected accessible trail spanning from Access Point 11 across the creek to Access Points 18 and 19. This request from ACCAC was reviewed and was found to comply with the Guidelines and meet the requirements under AODA.

3.4.2.5

Trail Condition

As trails are used over time, the condition of trails may deteriorate (e.g. deepening of tread, exposure of tree roots) or the footprint of the trail widens. It was noted by the public that some trails have widened over time in response to areas that may be subject to ponding water and/or prone to being muddy. This often results in trail users bypassing these section, causing the trail to widen and/or informal trails to develop. Recommendations for improvements to address trail condition are provided in **Section 3.4.3** as part of the sustainable trail concept plan.

To address the issues of trail condition and improve accessibility, considerations to improve the accessibility of trails (i.e. conversion of some level 1 to level 2 trails) will be made where these improvements will protect features and are in compliance with the Guidelines. Recommendations for improving trail surface type, if applicable, and accessibility are provided in **Section 3.4.3.**

3.4.2.6

Non-permitted Uses

Public feedback identified a number of non-permitted uses with the MVHF ESA (south), generally associated with a by-law infractions such as building fires, dumping of yard waste, dogs off-leash, etc. While non-permitted uses do occur in the ESA, enforcement of the City's by-law is on-going by the City funded UTRCA enforcement team who routinely traverse the ESA and issue warnings and tickets for infractions and educate residents about reasons for the by-law.

A reduction in by-law infractions is addressed in the CMP through sustainable trail design, improved signage, enforcement and continued stewardship and education for residents on threats to the ESA. The experience in London, consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, is that as trail use increases on well-designed trails that comply with the Guidelines, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance. A reduction in private property encroachments into the ESA has been achieved and will continue due to a number of measures being implemented by the City, including the ongoing enforcement work by City by-law staff and City funded UTRCA enforcement team.

Recommendations are provided in **Section 4.0** with regard to additional signage, as well as **Section 5.0** including on-going education of the adjacent landowners and community, improved signage and continued enforcement of the rules within City ESAs.

Users of ESAs can also refer to the brochure prepared by EEPAC titled: [Living with Natural Areas, A Guide to Living Next to ESAs](#) which was mailed to all homes adjacent to London’s publically owned ESAs, including the MVHF ESA, in 2016 and is publically available as a [PDF download](#) from the City of London’s website.

3.4.2.7

ESA Protection, Use and Accessibility

ESAs provide an opportunity to connect Londoner’s to our natural heritage and foster experiences for a variety of trail users through a safe and ecologically well-managed trail network. As noted in the Guidelines (2016):

“Urban natural areas are often relatively small islands surrounded by diverse and heavily populated urban and suburban development. These areas are subject to the increasing demands and preferences for recreation use, and the impacts of heavy and often incompatible uses, including encroachment, trail widening and erosion, ad hoc trail creation, dogs off leash, biking, vandalism and campfire party activities after dark. The very nature of urban natural areas assures often vigorous public involvement with an often crowded and conflicting roster of neighbours, recreationists, and environmentalists.

The key responsibility of urban conservation land managers is to find the best way to protect and restore, as much as possible, a healthy functioning ecological community in the face of fundamentally altered ecology of the urban environment and public pressure for access (Davis 2010). The development of CMPs must outline realistic strategies, achievable objectives, and actionable items to manage the multitude of disturbances that threaten a natural area, and to identify key indicators that can be monitored to detect change over time, in order to maintain and protect irreplaceable natural habitat values, including earth and life science interests, and sensitive cultural and archaeological resources.”

Continued urban growth around the MVHF ESA (south) reinforces the need to implement the process outlined in the Guidelines and provide a managed trail system that can sustain the potential for increased use of the ESA as the surrounding population including Londoners of all ages and abilities seek simple and inexpensive ways to meet their daily needs for physical fitness, social interaction and realization of health benefits associated with spending time in nature. Following the Guidelines in order to meet AODA requirements provides direction for sustainable trail design that protects the ESA and makes ESAs more accessible for all Londoners.

In addition to the Guidelines, there are a number of Council policies that recommend provision of accessible trails and inclusive access to nature. These include:

- **Age Friendly London Action Plan** – Recommends increasing the age friendliness of trails.
- **London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy** – Recommends empowered, sustainable, safe, active communities, while encouraging diversity and inclusiveness.

Across the country and in Ontario a number of initiatives are promoting inclusive access to nature:

- **Mood Walks** is a province-wide initiative that promotes physical activity in nature, or “green exercise,” as a way to improve both physical and mental health. Led by the **Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario**, in partnership with **Hike Ontario** and **Conservation Ontario**, Mood Walks provides training and support for community mental health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to launch educational hiking programs, connect with local resources, find volunteers, and explore nearby trails and green spaces.
- **Naturally Accessible – Discovering Ontario’s Land Trusts** is an initiative of the **Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA)** in partnership with the **Accessibility Directorate of Ontario**. It aims to educate and train Ontario’s land trusts and other conservation partners on their obligations under the AODA and to work with them to promote and grow accessible recreational, outdoors and educational opportunities offered to the public through their conservation properties and programs.
- **Canadian Parks Council - Healthy by Nature**, Encouraging Canadians to spend more time in parks will support improved physical and mental/emotional health, and provide opportunities to inform and educate people about the important connection between healthy ecosystems and healthy human populations.

3.4.3 Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan

Based on a review of the considerations outlined under **Sections 3.4.2.1 to 3.4.2.7**, and taking into consideration comments and feedback from both the public consultation and consultation with the LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC, the Draft Sustainable Concept Trail Plan was refined into one proposed sustainable trail concept plan that complies with the Guidelines, meets AODA requirements and is presented in this CMP in **Figure 4**. The comments received from the public through the process were compiled and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) summary is included in response to those comments as **Appendix C**. Detailed, written responses to the LAC’s comments were circulated to the LAC as noted in **Table 2**. The detailed, written responses to ACCAC’s and EEPAC’s technical comments are included in **Appendix D**.

EEPAC’s recommendation in **Appendix D** that “Council reject any CMP that includes hardening of trails or bridge crossings of the Medway Creek” is in direct conflict with the Council approved Guidelines and AODA legislation.

In response to EEPAC’s comments, changes to the CMP were made including:

- The access from A10 was modified to more directly link the Level 2 trail to crossing A. This makes a clear connection to the accessible trails and directs Level 2 trail users further away from significant features including the False Rue-anemone, from 250 meters to 330 meters. This is consistent with the best practices in the Recovery Strategy for False Rue-anemone.
- The most thorough monitoring program of any ESA in the City is already in place in the ESA, including permits and requirements from the Province and recognition from the Federal Government for best practices for protection of False Rue-anemone. Additionally, extensive monitoring is proposed in **Section 4.0** and **Table 12** of the CMP

In response to ACCAC’s comments the following changes to the CMP were made including:

- Connecting the existing Level 2 trail from Access #18 to and including crossing D, and, the existing Level 1 trail will be enhanced to an accessible Level 2 trail from Access #11 to crossing D in compliance with the Guidelines and AODA requirements.

The proposed sustainable trail concept plan for the MVHF ESA (south) is presented in the sections below and on **Figure 4**. Detailed design is not completed as part of the CMP. This generally occurs in consultation with a Local Implementation Committee (LIC) and other identified stakeholders (as necessary) following Council approval of this Phase II CMP.

3.4.3.1 Improved Trail Surface

Improvements to trail surfaces along stretches known to flood or become muddy including those identified for an “Improved Trail Surface” on **Figure 4** are planned as part of the CMP. If trails are not appropriately surfaced, trail users typically walk around wet areas, creating wider trails. Table 2 and Section 7.1.1 of the Guidelines provide direction for sustainable trail surface options to prevent this from happening. As overviewed in the Addendum (Dillon 2016), existing managed trails were determined to be compatible with significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south); no existing managed trails would be recommended for closure or relocation. Therefore, as per Chart 2 of the Guidelines, improvements to trail surfaces would follow the option to “*Keep the existing trail and include design features to preserve ecological integrity*”. This includes:

- Redesigning the section of trail that currently crosses Snake Creek. By installing stepping stones where the trail currently is routed across the creek, this will preserve the ecological integrity of Snake Creek by directing trail users to a pre-defined route. Use of stepping stones as a trail surface is permitted in both Nature Reserve and Natural Environment zones as per Table 2 of the Guidelines.

3.4.3.2 Improvement of Trail Accessibility

As part of the CMP process, all trails within the MVHF ESA (south) are reviewed and a sustainable trail concept plan proposed. The area included for review is the area within the ESA boundary, as defined during Phase I of the CMP process. In Ontario, when new public recreational trails are proposed or existing trails reviewed and/or changed, this requires a review of the accessibility of the trail system. Under AODA legislation, all recreational trails are required to be accessible unless they meet an exception as described in **Section 3.4**.

Conversion of some existing Level 1 trails to Level 2 trails to improve accessibility, where the Guidelines permit and as required to meet AODA legislation, and inclusion of a Level 3 trail over an area of mowed lawn in the area of the ESA known as Attawandaron Park was recommended based on feedback from ACCAC and the public.

As per the process for determining trail locations overviewed in the Guidelines (see Section 2.2), trails should be carefully sited to allow opportunities for enhanced trail user experience, education and accessibility, where appropriate. To improve accessibility of trails in the ESA, some trails located in Natural Environment zones and/or over Utility Overlays are proposed to be redesigned and maintained as Level 2 trails.

Compliance with the Guidelines was determined as these are existing managed trails previously determined to be compatible with the surrounding significant ecological features (as per the Addendum, Dillon 2016). This process would comply with the option of “*Trail to remain, requires a redesign*” presented in Chart 2 of the Guidelines. In the ESA, the following is proposed:

- Conversion of existing, managed Level 1 trails to Level 2 trails over the existing sewer alignment, south of Fanshawe Park Road West (south of Access #5) to the west bank of Medway Creek and from the Glenridge Crescent Access (Access #10) to the east bank of Medway Creek. Given the presence of a Utility Overlay for the sewer alignment, which is generally not considered part of the surrounding Management Zone, and as per Section 7.1.2 of the Guidelines, a Level 2 trail is permitted and is required under AODA as there are no applicable exceptions.
- As the Utility Overlay is 4 m wide, conversion of the existing Level 1 trail to Level 2 between Access #5 and Access #10, along with installation of AODA compliant signage (see **Section 3.4.3.8**), can occur within this area. These improvements provide accessibility as required under AODA. Consistent with Section 7.2.4 of the Guidelines, a wood rail entrance corral would be installed at the transition points to the Level 1 trail south of Access #10 to clearly demarcate the change in trail type and level of accessibility. Interpretive signage posted at the corral would also inform trail users about the significant features in the ESA and how to protect them. To further protect significant features located further southeast, a small segment of Level 2 trail is also proposed to be constructed entirely within the Natural Environment zone to clearly direct trail users away from the more sensitive area and Level 1 trails.
- Conversion of existing, managed Level 1 trails between Access #11 and proposed linkage D over Medway Creek to the southeast. The existing Level 1 trail is located within Natural Environment zone and outside of significant features. Therefore, conversion to Level 2 is consistent with the Guidelines. As outlined in Section 7.2.4 of the Guidelines, wood rail entrance corrals would be installed at the transition points to Level 1 trails leading off the Level 2 trail to the west and to the east (towards Access #13) to clearly demarcate the change in trail type and level of accessibility. Interpretive signage posted at corrals would also inform trail users about the significant features in the ESA and how to protect them. A small segment of new Level 2 trail is proposed to provide a more direct connection from the converted trail to the proposed linkage over Medway Creek.
- Installation of a Level 3 trail to connect the existing Level 3 trail in the MVHF ESA (north) from Access #4 over area of mown lawn (Natural Environment zone) in area known as Attawandaron Park with the existing public access around the Museum of Ontario Archaeology connecting to Access #1. This will improve accessible trail options on the west side of the valley and maintains an existing connection between neighborhoods consistent with the Guidelines.

3.4.3.3 Alignment of Trails to Match Utility Overlay

Better alignment of trails with the Utility Overlay is to occur to avoid future impacts related to maintenance of the Utilities. Where trail redesign is recommended for either improvements to trail surface or accessibility, consideration should be given to align trails with the existing Utility Overlay as per Section 5.5.2 of the Guidelines. This would serve to preserve the long-term ecological integrity of the ESA by minimizing future impacts and could aid in providing accessibility in the ESA as required under AODA.

3.4.3.4 Re-opening of Temporarily Closed Trail

Re-opening of the managed trail that connects Gainsborough Ravine (Access #24) and Snake Creek Valley (Access #1 and #20) that has been temporarily closed was reviewed as part of this CMP. The existing route for the trail passes through a seepage area on the side of a slope (see **Figure 4b**).

Reopening the trail would require rerouting a portion of the existing trail away from the edge of the slope to the more stable area of mowed lawn, close to the top of the slope in response to public comment. This area has been proposed for naturalization (see NA4 in **Table 7**). In addition, to the rerouting of the trail, closure and restoration of the section of the currently closed trail route (including informal trails near the old trail route) is proposed (see **Figure 2** and **Table 6** for the restoration overlay [RO16]).

This process follows Chart 2 of the Guidelines by realigning the trail to avoid a seepage area (i.e. a significant ecological feature). As shown on **Figure 4**, the rerouted/relocated trail (white-dash line) would be east of the top of the slope into an area that is currently an area of mown lawn (see NA4 on **Figure 2**). It is recommended the rerouted trail is implemented at the same time as naturalization activities as the trail could define the limit of naturalization proposed east of the trail to prevent future encroachments.

3.4.3.5 Improved Neighbourhood Connectivity

Extending the existing Level 3 trail from Access #4 and Access #5, and providing connectivity to the trails in the MVHF ESA (north), a new Level 3 trail is proposed in the Natural Environment Zone running parallel to Attawandaron Road, generally from Access Point #4 to the northeast of Access Point #1. Following Chart 3 in the Guidelines, no significant ecological features have been mapped in the area of the proposed Level 3 trail (see **Figure 4**) and improves an existing connection between neighbourhoods. In addition, the existing mown lawn in this area is recommended for restoration and naturalization activities (see **Figure 2**, RO2 in **Table 7** and NA5 in **Table 9**). Placement of a Level 3 trail would serve as the defining limit for the proposed naturalization east of the trail and would have the added benefit of improving accessibility in the ESA consistent with AODA requirements.

3.4.3.6

Connectivity Over Medway Creek

To address public comments related to connecting managed trails separated by Medway Creek in the ESA, an analysis of potential locations for trail linkages over Medway Creek was undertaken based on locations suggested through the consultation process. Five linkage options across Medway Creek were suggested by the public and were the focus of this review to see which, if any, would be in compliance with the Guidelines. The Five locations where linkages have been proposed by the public are shown on **Figure 4**.

A linkage across Medway Creek, would be considered a “new segment of trail” as per the Guidelines. Please note, in the context of the CMP, linkage refers to a “connection area” over water. The mechanism recommended to provide the connection is a pedestrian bridge over Medway Creek that is compliant with AODA standards. Details of the bridge are subject to discussion with the UTRCA and further engineering review and visual impact assessments. Therefore, the review of the five proposed linkages included an overview of Chart 3 from the Guidelines and considered the following questions:

- Is the location subject to current impacts due to absence of a linkage?
 - Would a linkage minimize/eliminate those impacts?
 - Can the linkage be built in a manner that will protect the ecological features and functions of the ESA and be designed to blend in with the environment? Will it act as a compelling landscape anchor to draw people away from shortcutting through significant or sensitive areas?
- Is there a significant ecological feature in the area of the linkage?
 - Species of Conservation Concern and Species at Risk species should not be disturbed
- Does the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail sections also be required?
- Is the linkage located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts while achieving a social benefit by designing the trails to accommodate persons with disabilities wherever possible?

The results of the review are provided in **Table 10**.

Table 10: Analysis of Linkage Options across Medway Creek Suggested by the Public

Linkage Location Identifier on Figure 4	Reference Photos	Is the location subject to current/future impacts due to absence of a linkage?	Would a linkage minimize/ eliminate those impacts?	Is there a significant ecological feature(s) present?	Would the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail sections also be required?	Is the location located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts & enhance accessibility?	Supported by/ Compliance with Guidelines? Recommended for implementation?
A	 <p>Looking south from north bank (August 2017)</p> <p>Looking north from south bank (May 2017)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Currently, managed trails are present up to the wetted edge of Medway Creek, indicating trail users may be crossing the creek at this location during periods of low-water or when the creek is frozen over.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A linkage would reduce impacts to the creek banks by formally connecting two segments of managed trails for trail users to access in a controlled manner.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no significant ecological features mapped where the potential linkage segment would be located.</p>	<p>A linkage would directly connect a linear managed trail on the west side of the creek to existing managed linear and loop system trail on the east side of the creek</p> <p>Existing Level 1 Trails proposed to be upgraded to Level 2 are generally within Utility Overlay for the sewer, between A5 and A10.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A linkage would overlap the already established 4 m wide Utility Overlay which is comprised primarily of cultural meadow/ forest habitat. Placement within the Utility Overlay would generally not be considered fragmentation of forest habitat as the overlay is to be maintained at 4 m whereas provincial guidelines consider fragmentation to be gaps of 20 meters wide or greater (ORMCP Technical Paper 7, Natural Heritage Reference Manual). An accessible option is possible as the linkage would connect two Level 2 trails (based on the trail concept plan presented in this CMP).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This linkage would be in compliance with Chart 3 of the Guidelines and recommended to be included in Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.</p> <p>To improve accessibility in the ESA, a pedestrian bridge over Medway Creek is recommended to be installed that is compliant with AODA standards.</p> <p>This linkage is further discussed in Table 11</p>

Linkage Location Identifier on Figure 4	Reference Photos	Is the location subject to current/future impacts due to absence of a linkage?	Would a linkage minimize/ eliminate those impacts?	Is there a significant ecological feature(s) present?	Would the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail sections also be required?	Is the location located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts & enhance accessibility?	Supported by/ Compliance with Guidelines? Recommended for implementation?
B		<p>Yes</p> <p>The north side of Medway Creek has evidence of access across the Creek via unmanaged trails extending from a managed trail loop.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>To access a linkage in this location, the unmanaged trails extending from a managed trail loop on the north side would need to be formalized and an unmanaged trail loop formalized on the south side of the creek.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
		<p>Further, trails (both unmanaged and managed) are present up to the wetted edge of Medway Creek, indicating trail users may be crossing the creek at this location during periods of low-water or when the creek is frozen over.</p>	<p>Well-defined trails prevent trampling; provide an opportunity to promote public awareness of False Rue-anemone, while also providing a physical barrier that prevents the spread of Goutweed.</p>	<p>Sensitive floodplain Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern habitat is mapped on both sides of the creek. These species include False Rue-anemone, American Gromwell and Striped Cream Violet.</p>	<p>To access a linkage in this location, the unmanaged trails extending from a managed trail loop on the north side would need to be formalized and an unmanaged trail loop formalized on the south side of the creek.</p>	<p>A linkage would overlap the already established 4 m wide Utility Overlay which is comprised primarily of cultural meadow/ forest habitat. Placement within the Utility Overlay would generally not be considered fragmentation of forest habitat as the overlay is to be maintained at 4 m whereas provincial guidelines consider fragmentation to be gaps of 20 metres wide or greater (ORMCP Technical Paper 7, Natural Heritage Reference Manual).</p> <p>This linkage would be limited with respect to accessibility as it would connect two Level 1 trails (based on the trail concept plan presented in this CMP).</p>	<p>This linkage would not be in compliance with Chart 3 of the Guidelines due to the presence of significant ecological features that would require relocation</p> <p>Not recommended to be included in Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.</p>

Linkage Location Identifier on Figure 4	Reference Photos	Is the location subject to current/future impacts due to absence of a linkage?	Would a linkage minimize/ eliminate those impacts?	Is there a significant ecological feature(s) present?	Would the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail sections also be required?	Is the location located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts & enhance accessibility?	Supported by/ Compliance with Guidelines? Recommended for implementation?
C		<p>No</p> <p>There are few indications that this area is subject to trail user access across the creek. There is some evidence that trail users accessing the managed trail along the eastern bank of the creek may move to the water's edge.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Sensitive floodplain Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern habitat is mapped on both sides of the creek. These species include False Rue-anemone and American Gromwell.</p>	<p>A linkage would connect a managed trail to the east and require new trails on the west side and/or formalizing unmanaged trails.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A linkage would overlap the already established 4 m wide Utility Overlay which is comprised primarily of cultural meadow/ forest habitat. Placement within the Utility Overlay would generally not be considered fragmentation of forest habitat as the overlay is to be maintained at 4 m whereas provincial guidelines consider fragmentation to be gaps of 20 metres wide or greater (ORMCP Technical Paper 7, Natural Heritage Reference Manual). This linkage would be limited with respect to accessibility as it would connect two Level 1 trails (based on the trail concept plan presented in this CMP).</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This linkage would not be in compliance with Chart 3 of the Guidelines due to presence of significant ecological features that would require relocation.</p> <p>Not recommended to be included in Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.</p>
							

Linkage Location Identifier on Figure 4	Reference Photos	Is the location subject to current/future impacts due to absence of a linkage?	Would a linkage minimize/ eliminate those impacts?	Is there a significant ecological feature(s) present?	Would the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail section also be required?	Is the location located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts & enhance accessibility?	Supported by/ Compliance with Guidelines? Recommended for implementation?
D		<p>Yes</p> <p>There is evidence that trail users are congregating at the creek banks and possibly crossing during periods of low-water or iced over conditions.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Installation of a linkage would help direct people to the managed trails instead of using nearby unmanaged trails. A linkage would reduce impacts to the creek banks by formally connecting two segments of managed trails for trail users to access in a controlled manner</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no significant features mapped where the linkage would be located.</p>	<p>A linkage would connect two existing, managed trails, one is currently Level 2..</p> <p>A good portion of the existing Level 1 Trail proposed to be upgraded to Level 2 is within the Utility Overlay for the sewer.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A linkage would overlap the already established 4 m wide Utility Overlay which is comprised primarily of cultural meadow/ forest habitat. Placement within the Utility Overlay would generally not be considered fragmentation of forest habitat as the overlay is to be maintained at 4 m whereas provincial guidelines consider fragmentation to be gaps of 20 metres wide or greater (ORMCP Technical Paper 7, Natural Heritage Reference Manual). This linkage would improve accessibility and connect two Level 2 trails (based on the sustainable trail concept plan presented in this CMP)..</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>This linkage would be in compliance with Chart 3 of the Guidelines and recommended to be included in Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.</p> <p>To improve accessibility in the ESA, a pedestrian bridge over Medway Creek is recommended to be installed that is compliant with AODA standards.</p> <p>This linkage is further discussed in Table 11</p>
							

Linkage Location Identifier on Figure 4	Reference Photos	Is the location subject to current/future impacts due to absence of a linkage?	Would a linkage minimize/ eliminate those impacts?	Is there a significant ecological feature(s) present?	Would the linkage connect existing managed trails or would new trail sections also be required?	Is the location located along a utility route (utility overlay) to minimize impacts & enhance accessibility?	Supported by/ Compliance with Guidelines? Recommended for implementation?
E	 <p>Looking east from south bank (August 2017)</p> <p>Looking west from north bank (August 2017)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Evidence of crossing Medway Creek in this location was not observed. Due to the formation of an unmanaged trail along the eastern bank of the creek, it is assumed that the depth of the water may deter informal crossings.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Sensitive floodplain Species of Conservation Concern habitat is mapped on the east side of the creek. This includes American Gromwell.</p>	<p>A linkage would connect two managed trail loops.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A linkage would overlap the already established 4 m wide Utility Overlay which is comprised primarily of cultural meadow/ forest habitat. Placement within the Utility Overlay would generally not be considered fragmentation of forest habitat as the overlay is to be maintained at 4 m whereas provincial guidelines consider fragmentation to be gaps of 20 metres wide or greater (ORMCP Technical Paper 7, Natural Heritage Reference Manual). An accessible option is possible as the linkage would connect two Level 2 trails (based on the trail concept plan presented in this CMP).</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This linkage would not be in compliance with Chart 3 of the Guidelines due to presence of significant ecological features that would require relocation.</p> <p>Not recommended to be included in Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.</p>

As presented in the above **Table 10**, two out of the five linkage options (A and D) suggested by the public comply with the Guidelines. However, compliance with the Guidelines alone does not dictate whether an option is to be included in the proposed sustainable trail concept plan as other considerations have to be made, such as whether a linkage would be able to meet AODA standards/requirements. Of the two linkages that do comply with the Guidelines, the following further considerations were made:

- **Linkage A** – The linkage would connect proposed Level 2 trails (currently Level 1 Trails in a Utility Overlay for the existing sewer) on each side of Medway Creek, thereby providing a continuous trail to help keep trail users from seeking off-trail connections over Medway Creek. The linkage could meet AODA standards and requirements as it would connect two Level 2 trails. This linkage **is proposed** to be carried forward in the sustainable trail concept plan as it complies with the Guidelines and provides accessibility in the ESA. For clarity, a pedestrian bridge over Medway Creek is recommended to be installed that is compliant with AODA standards.
- **Linkage D** – The linkage would connect a Level 2 trail on the west side and a proposed Level 2 Trail on the east side (currently Level 1 Trail in a Utility Overlay for the sewer) thereby providing a continuous accessible trail. The linkage could meet AODA standards and requirements as it would connect two Level 2 trails. This linkage **is proposed** to be carried forward in the sustainable trail concept plan as it complies with the Guidelines and provides accessibility in the ESA. For clarity, a pedestrian bridge over Medway Creek is recommended to be installed that is compliant with AODA standards.

3.4.3.7

Closure and Restoration of All Un-managed / Informal Trails

As indicated earlier, unmanaged and former managed trails currently documented in the MVHF ESA (south) that have been closed are to undergo further efforts to enforce closure while undertaking restoration activities. Trails have been identified as Restoration Overlay 16 (RO16) and are outlined in **Table 7** which includes 3.8 km of trails located on public lands.

Over the span of the 10-year management period, monitoring of trail condition may result in recommendations for closure and/or relocation of managed trails or for newly formed informal trails. Where trails or segments of a trail are recommended to be closed or relocated, the following steps are to be undertaken, following Section 7.2.6 in the Guidelines:

1. Construct new trail, reserving any plant material, topsoil, leaf litter, etc. that may be useful for restoration of closed trail.
2. Post “trail closed” sign at entrance to closed section of trail, in a location where it is easily seen by users.
3. Install temporary barrier fence, to protect work area on closed trail.
4. Break up or scarify soil on the closed section of trail to facilitate restoration planting, encourage natural regeneration, and make closed trail uninviting to users.
5. Restore closed trail with plant material, including plants moved from new trail as well as those from reliable native-plant nurseries. Choose plant species that are appropriate for the area in the ESA. In selecting plants, try to include some faster-growing species. Select tallest and fastest-growing shrubs for planting on the closed trail near the junction(s) with the new trail. This will help to hide the location of the former trail, and discourage ongoing use. In addition to plants and/or cuttings, sow native seeds as appropriate.

6. Rake leaves onto former trail.
7. When new plants are well established, remove temporary barrier fence.
8. As required, construct a barrier to reinforce the message that this trail is closed.
9. Install signage that redirects trail users.

In addition, trail closure signage should indicate the reason for the closure to improve compliance of trail users.

Establishment of a connection outside of the ESA boundaries utilizing City right-of-way's, existing City trails outside the ESA, and Green Acres Drive/Gloucester Road to connect Access #11 and Access #12 (see **Figure 4**) improves connectivity between neighborhoods. This additional connection

between the two access points will also help to direct trail users away from informal trails currently running along the east bank of Medway Creek through private property. This connection outside the ESA requires further design and notifications to the neighbours.



Example of Trail Closure Signage

3.4.3.8

Access and Way-finding

In addition to the recommendations provided to improve the sustainability of the trail system, further awareness of options for trail connectivity and compliance with ESA rules can be achieved with enhanced signage strategically placed at access points and at transitions between Level 1 and Level 2 trails, as an example.

Currently, signage within the MVHF ESA (south) is generally limited to those outlined in the Section 7.3 of the Guidelines. These include:

- Informational/Regulatory/Warning – standard ESA green post signs generally at access points with name of the ESA, outlining the rules for the ESA with simple pictographs, QR codes for brochures and Observation Reports and detailed by-law sign on the back
- Interpretive – occasional signage with educational information (i.e. wildlife trees)
- Designation/directional – blazes of yellow coloured paint to indicate trail type and direction.

It is recognized that signage and other measures in the Guidelines will be required to inform trail users of changes in trail types, way-finding and accessibility of trails in order to manage use of the trail system.

This will be enhanced through installation of AODA compliant signage at all access points with a map and information that identifies:

1. The length of trail
2. The type of surface of which the trail is constructed
3. The average and minimum trail width
4. The average and maximum running and cross slope

The location of amenities, where provided.

The current signage located along the trails is limited as it primarily functions only to notify trail users they are still on managed trails. To improve way-finding for trail users and help trail users move through the ESA using managed trails in compliance with the ESA rules, additional way-finding signage is recommended.

Additional signage to aid in way-finding could include information such as:

- Directional arrows to access point names, and/or,
- Directional arrows to other trail segments with length of segment, approximate time it takes to walk and/or difficulty

In addition to following signage, way-finding and navigating using smart phones and websites such as All Trails and Google Maps is an in-expensive and un-intrusive way to navigate the MVHF ESA (south) and stay on the managed trails in the ESAs. The City and UTRCA could assist in providing the most recent managed trail layers and ESA rules to popular navigational websites and then monitor the feedback.

3.4.4 Analysis of Proposed Trail Action Items

Table 11 overviews the sustainable trail concept action presented above.

Table 11: Analysis of Sustainable Trail Concept Actions

Figure 4 Reference and Approximate Location	Current Trail Status / Management Zone(s)	Proposed Action	Applicable Guideline Reference	From Table 1 of Guidelines: Significant Ecological Features that Require Review for Compatibility with Trails	Compatibility Review	Potential for Accessible Trail?¹	Recommendations⁴	Priority for Implementation²	Cost
Trail Linkage A and the managed trail between Fanshawe Park Road West and Glenridge Crescent Access (#10) See Figures 4a	Managed and Proposed / Utility Overlay and Natural Environment (Natural Environment & Nature Reserve adjacent)	Proposed Linkage and redesign of approximately 615 m of trail to Level 2 from Fanshawe Park Road West to Access Point #10	Section 5.2, Chart 3 Section 7.2.1	None identified overlapping proposed linkage or existing trails	Compatible with Guidelines as per Chart 3	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of a trail linkage between segments of managed trails (see Table 10). While the exact type of linkage is subject to further review and engineering considerations an initial engineering feasibility review was completed by Dillon engineers and indicated a pedestrian bridge structure could be installed and would comply with the Guidelines. The structure would be accessible, compliant with AODA standards, and connect the proposed Level 2 trails on each side of the creek. The implementation of the linkage is to occur in tandem with restoration/closure of the unmanaged (informal) trail currently located on the east side of Medway Creek off of Fanshawe Park Road West. At the time of the CMP, the UTRCA reported little to no use of this unmanaged trail. This includes conversion of Level 1 trail (from the Level 3 trail at Access #5) in the Utility Overlay to Linkage A and from Linkage A to Access #10. The Level 2 trail is to diverge from the Level 1 trail east of Linkage A at the point where the Utility Overlay enters the Nature Reserve Zone. The Level 2 trail will occur wholly in the Utility Overlay and/or Natural Environment zone. AODA trail signage to be installed at Accesses 5 and 10 as per Section 3.4.3.8 	Moderate	High (Assumes AODA compliant pedestrian bridge)
Parallel to Attawandaron Road, trail connects Access Points 2,3 4 with Access #1 See Figure 4a	Proposed/ Natural Environment (area of mowed lawn in Attawandaron Park)	Proposed approximately 700 m Level 3 trail	Section 5.2 and 7.1.3, Chart 3	None identified overlapping proposed trail	Compatible with Guidelines as per Chart 3	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of a Level 3 trail to connect the Level 3 trail in the MVHF ESA (north) to the south via the existing public access around the Museum of Ontario Archaeology connecting to Access #1. This will also help with accessible trail options on the west side of the valley. The new trail should be implemented during naturalization activities for the area of mown lawn (see NA5 in Table 9) as the trail could define the limit of naturalization east of the trail. Will maintain an existing connection between neighborhoods through Attawandaron Park and enhance success of proposed naturalization. The exact routing of the new trail is subject to consultation with the Local Implementation Committee. The implementation of the Level 3 trail is to occur in tandem with restoration/closure of the unmanaged (informal) trails on the Museum of Ontario Archaeology lands. At the time of the CMP, the City has initiated efforts to direct trail users to the managed trail system through improved signage. AODA trail signage to be installed at Accesses 1, 2, 3, and 4 as per Section 3.4.3.8 	Moderate	Medium
Section of managed trail that passes over Snake Creek See Figure 4b	Managed/ Nature Reserve	Proposed linkage/trail surface redesign consisting of stepping stones	Section 5.2, Chart 2	None identified overlapping proposed linkage	Compatible with Guidelines as per Chart 2	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stepping stones crossing within Snake Creek to enhance protection of creek. As this Level 1 trail also loops through one of the oldest woodland patches in the ESA, this is a good opportunity for an interpretive trail or signage to highlight Carolinian forest ecology or invasive species (i.e. Woodland Sedge). Monitoring of the bank migration to track rate of erosion (see Table 13). As the bank draws closer to the trail through natural processes, there may be need to reassess whether the trail has to be closed or if that section can be rerouted. Improved way finding signage to direct trail users over the stepping stones 	Moderate	Low

Figure 4 Reference and Approximate Location	Current Trail Status / Management Zone(s)	Proposed Action	Applicable Guideline Reference	From Table 1 of Guidelines: Significant Ecological Features that Require Review for Compatibility with Trails	Compatibility Review	Potential for Accessible Trail? ¹	Recommendation ⁴	Priority for Implementation ²	Cost
Trail located between Snake Creek Valley and Gainsborough Ravine See Figure 4c	Closed/ Proposed to Reopen/ Nature Reserve	Proposed Relocation of a portion of a temporarily closed Level 1 trail	Section 5.2, Chart 2	Seeps and Springs habitat overlaps the existing closed trail	Rerouted/relocated trail is to be located over mowed lawn and former encroachment area at the top of the slope instead of through the seepage area. The rerouted portion of the trail avoids significant ecological features and is therefore compliant with the Guidelines.	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing Level 1 managed trail was temporarily closed pending a review of its routing in the ESA. It is recommended a portion of the Level 1 trail be rerouted/ relocated to avoid a seepage area. The rerouted Level 1 trail would be located over the lawn area at the top of slope and implemented in conjunction with other management actions which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturalization of NA4 (see NA4 in Table 9) as the trail could define the limit of naturalization east of the trail and prevent future encroachment. The exact routing of the relocated trail is subject to consultation with the Local Implementation Committee. Restoration/closure efforts of the old trail route and informal trails that intersect with it (see RO16 in Table 7). This would include signage indicating closures and the reason for the closure. It is noted that the trail design will incorporate features to aid trail users in safely traversing the steep terrain at the southern end. AODA trail signage to be installed at Access 20 as per Section 3.4.3.8 	Moderate	Low
Trail Linkage D See Figure 4c	Proposed/ Utility Overlay (Natural Environment adjacent)	Proposed Linkage	Section 5.2, Chart 3 Section 7.2.1	None identified overlapping proposed linkage	Compatible with Guidelines as per Chart 3	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of an accessible trail linkage between segments of managed trails (see Table 10). While the exact type of linkage is subject to further review and engineering considerations, an initial engineering feasibility review was completed by Dillon engineers and indicated a pedestrian bridge structure could be installed. The structure would be accessible, compliant with AODA standards, and connect the existing Level 2 trail on the west side and the proposed Level 2 trail on the east side of the creek. The implementation of the linkage is to occur in tandem with restoration /closure of the unmanaged (informal) trail currently located on the south side of Medway Creek and heading west along the shoreline. 	Moderate	High (assumes AODA compliant pedestrian bridge)
Conversion of Level 1 trail to Level 2 from Access #11 to Linkage D	Managed / Utility Overlay and Natural Environment	Redesign of approximately 500 m of Level 1 trail to Level 2 from Access #11 to Linkage D	Section 5.2, Chart 2	None identified overlapping trails proposed to convert	Compatible with Guidelines as per Chart 3	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of Level 1 trails to permitted Level 2 trail to meet AODA Installation of corral structures where converted Level 2 trail intersects with Level 1 trail The implementation of the linkage is to occur in tandem with restoration / closure of the unmanaged (informal) trail currently located on the east side of Medway Creek that runs through private property between Access #12 and Access #11 as well as establishment of the connection between those access points outside of the ESA. AODA trail signage to be installed at Accesses 11, 19, 23, and 24 as per Section 3.4.3.8 	Moderate	Low

1 – Accessible is referring to whether the area of the ESA can accommodate a firm and stable surface where the environmental, historical or cultural value would not be adversely affected as outlined in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
 2 – Priorities for Implementation are as follows: High = without implementation of recommendations, issues are expected to degrade the ESA; Moderate = issues identified relating to the trail condition or restoration/naturalization efforts and recommendations are to be implemented to improve condition; Low = no issues identified and recommendations are limited to additional signage to improve way-finding
 3 – In exceptional situations, a Level 3 trail may be permitted within a Natural Environment Zone to upgrade an existing connection between neighbourhoods subject to the ‘Process’ outlined in Section 2.2 of the Guidelines.
 4. - AODA compliant trail signage to be installed at all Access Points as per Section 3.4.3.8

4.0

Adaptive Management and Monitoring Framework

As mentioned under **Section 1.1.1**, this CMP can be considered a “living document” as adaptive management is to be utilized for the duration of management period (2018-2028). This approach to management allows for the modification of the components that make up the Environmental Management Strategy for the MVHF ESA (south), as outlined under **Section 3.0**, in response to on-going monitoring and analysis of the data collected for the implemented management recommendations. If a recommendation management action is implemented and, through monitoring, the observations indicate the current action is not having the desired results, the management is adjusted and monitoring continues. The image to the right was adaptive from MacDonald *et al.* (1999) and shows adaptive management as a systematic, practical approach to improving resource management.



The most thorough monitoring program of any ESA in the City is already in place in the ESA, including permits and requirements from the Province and recognition from the Federal Government for best practices for protection of False Rue-anemone. Active monitoring and management currently being carried out in the MVHF ESA (south) follows an adaptive management approach and has successfully addressed all the Top and High priority areas needing restoration. Annual monitoring reports outlining the results of active management are routinely circulated to EEPAC (see References section for list of reports).

4.1 Approach to Adaptive Management

Implementation of an adaptive management approach can only be effective if there are baseline conditions to refer to during monitoring. The data collected during Phase I for this CMP provides the benchmark against which the management objectives for the MVHF ESA (south) can be measured against. Further baseline data is collected by the UTRCA through regular monitoring as well as by the City through compilation of public observations.

For adaptive management to be effective, a sustainable monitoring program and evaluation of the results is required to be implemented in order to maintain objective of preserving the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA (south) consistent with the objectives in **Section 1.2.3**.

4.2 Monitoring Framework

Managing changes over time in natural ecosystems can involve evaluating the use of trails through a decision framework. The framework for monitoring developed for the MVHF ESA (south) is to be used to guide decisions about the success of management actions.

The strategies for restoration and trails system improvements, as outlined in previous sections, are to be monitored to track management success or determine whether adjustments to the management actions are required. The objective of monitoring is to provide a quantifiable assessment of the monitoring variable to compare with the baseline conditions.

A well-designed monitoring program provides the necessary feedback for gauging the effectiveness of management interventions in keeping conditions within acceptable limits and within the targeted outcome. A documented failure of an intervention can be used to justify the use of a more obtrusive [intrusive] or expensive intervention (Marion 2008, 2016), trail closure, or more innovative management. This CMP establishes the details and protocols for the monitoring framework and implementation approach to be undertaken as part of required management activities within the MVHF ESA (south).

Monitoring within the MVHF ESA (south) is based on objectives and quantifiable measurements of abiotic, biotic and cultural elements as described below with details on focus, methods, frequency, and management responses provided in **Table 12**.

4.2.1 Abiotic

Monitoring of abiotic elements is to include documenting the non-living parts of the MVHF ESA (south) and surrounding landscape. The variables for monitoring include bank migration and trail conditions.

4.2.1.1 Bank Migration

The Medway Creek Subwatershed Update noted that erosion monitoring programs recommended in the 1995 subwatershed study had not been implemented. As part of the MCSSU, monitoring stations were re-established, new stations added and baseline conditions geo-referenced. Annual erosion monitoring was recommended to be implemented using the erosion stations established as part of the study. A prioritized slope stability monitoring program was also recommended with one site requiring priority monitoring and four requiring baseline monitoring. In the absence of results from the previously recommended erosion monitoring program, the MCSSU assessed the rate of bank migration using historical aerial imagery from 1955. The results indicated an average annual rate of 0.4 m/year to 0.6 m/year for Medway Creek and 0.06 m/year for Snake Creek. As there are managed trails situated within a few metres of Medway Creek and Snake Creek, it is recommended that the annual erosion monitoring program be included as part of the monitoring for the MVHF ESA (south). Ten bank migration monitoring stations were established within the MVHF ESA (south) as part of the MCSSU and are recommended for monitoring.

It is important to note that bank migration is a natural phenomenon that is influenced by a variety of conditions such as adjacent vegetation, upstream influences and precipitation events. Work on the MCSSU was ongoing at the time of this CMP.

Any specific sites of excessive and or unnatural bank erosion should be addressed with “natural” channel design solutions that enhance the ecology and accommodate the trail plan.

4.2.1.2 Trail Condition

The managed trails in the MVHF ESA (south) are well established and some are upwards of 30+ years old. The UTRCA is monitoring trails in the MVHF ESA (south), and the City also receives observations reports submitted by trail users.

Continued monitoring of indicators for trail condition that may be documented includes:

- Condition of trail surface (e.g. cracking of wood, exposed tree roots)
- Trail width
- Creation of side trails and/or off-trail areas (i.e. for viewing or passing)
- Areas of water saturation/ponding along the trail

4.2.1.3 Trail Usage

During consultation for this Phase II CMP, concerns were raised by some regarding the potential for impacts due to increased use in the ESA following implementation of the proposed sustainable trail concept plan, specifically with respect to linkage of trails across Medway Creek (see **Section 3.4.2.4**). As such, it is recommended that monitoring of the trail use occur prior to and after the implementation of Linkage A. Potential impacts are very limited as the proposed, inclusive, accessible-trails are located in areas of less sensitivity (Natural Environment Zone) in a Utility Overlay over a sewer. This data can be used to inform other trail monitoring data collected in the ESA through the ten year time-frame of this CMP as well as will be helpful in informing future CMPs. From monitoring that has occurred in the MVHF ESA (north) where the trail strategy has been (or is in the process of being) implemented, it has been noted that the trails have been used as intended and formation of new unmanaged trails extending from the managed trails has not occurred. Monitoring through the installation of trail counter(s) in the area of Linkage A is therefore recommended to investigate if usage volume changes over time in the ESA.

Increased use of managed trails provides a wide variety of social benefits to all Londoners as noted in **Section 3.4.2.7**. Trail use will continued to be monitored for management and habitat protection. The experience in London, consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, is that as trail use increases on well-designed trails that comply with the Guidelines, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance.

From 2015-2017 the City reviewed and monitored trails through site visits within MVHF ESA (north) and Kilally Meadows ESA and found through comparison and review of historical aerial photos that all informal trails present along the Level 3 Trails existed before the Level 3 Trails were installed (in 2006-2014, generally over existing sewers), and, no new informal-trails had formed. These findings were presented to the LAC as part of the CMP process. A well-designed trail system, following the Guidelines can help to minimize or eliminate formation of new, informal trails.

As referenced in a number of trail management documents, including Marion (2016), and as well summarized from the B.C. Ministry of Forests Recreational Manual (1991) "*The search for a single, magic, carrying capacity number can also misdirect the manager's attention to numbers instead of trying to correct specific problems*". As per the Guidelines, a properly managed trail system limits impacts by concentrating trail use on resistant trail surfaces and the monitoring framework established is based on the Limits of Acceptable Change approach which redefines the traditional carry capacity question "How much use is too much?" to "How much change is acceptable?". In keeping with Section 4.1 the ESA management committee continually monitors and addresses trail use impacts in all ESAs.

4.2.2 Biotic

Monitoring of biotic elements within the MVHF ESA (south) is to include documentation of the vegetation and wildlife (including wildlife habitats) within the surrounding landscape but also documenting trends in species populations and continuing with the Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) monitoring and management program that has successfully addressed all the Top and High priority areas needing restoration for example.

4.2.2.1 Sensitive Species

The MVHF ESA (south) is known in the City of London for its high biodiversity of flora and fauna. This biodiversity includes several provincially listed Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) as noted in **Table 5** under **Section 2.0**.

Monitoring of sensitive species is to continue to include documenting the condition and vigour of individual species, and monitoring for invasive species nearby that may be threatening them. This may include documenting new sensitive species that may have not been previously observed or recorded.

4.2.2.2 Invasive Species (Early Detection and Rapid Response)

Assessing vegetation changes, including changes in vegetation cover and composition is a growing concern, particularly as they relate to the introduction and spread of invasive plants (Marion, *et al.* 2006). As noted in **Section 3.0**, the majority of restoration work for the control of invasive species identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013 and have been ongoing through 2017. The monitoring reports by Dillon for this restoration work are listed in the References section. Monitoring of invasive flora and other pests/pathogens within the MVHF ESA (south), in particular adjacent to known populations of sensitive species and areas undergoing restoration or naturalization, will continue as noted in **Table 7** and expand as the remaining Restoration Overlays are addressed.

Efforts will continue to be made by the ESA Management Committee to determine if occurrences of invasive species observed are new to the MVHF ESA (south) based a list of known established invasive species from the Phase I results. Invasive species/pests/pathogens known to occur elsewhere in London, the province or outside of the province, but have potential to establish, are also a focus in order to enact rapid response efforts to control new invasive species. Potential species are those included in the province's Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) which is routinely updated and available via the internet ([EDDMapS Species List](#)) and also as a smartphone application with a catalogue of images to assist users with identification.

Adopt-an-ESA groups and members of the community can continue to help trigger management responses by the ESA Management Committee through reporting of new or priority invasive species through emailed observation reports or Online Service London reports.

Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is a proactive approach to managing invasive species that can help to prevent establishment. Early detection of *newly arrived* invasive species, followed by a well-coordinated rapid response, will increase the likelihood of eradication or containment of new invasions.

As outlined in Table 7 and Figure 4, all the Top and High priority Restoration Overlays to control invasive species and enhance ecological integrity have been addressed or are in progress as part of restoration efforts in the MVHF ESA (south) and as such on-going monitoring will continue to determine if controlled species re-establish.

4.2.2.3

Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat

Monitoring of wildlife and wildlife habitats could be based on the survey methods for species groups assessed during Phase I. Generally, the results from these surveys will be considered in comparison to the species data collected as part of Phase I as a means of documenting species presence/non-detect.

4.2.3

Cultural

Monitoring of cultural elements is to include documenting anthropogenic influences to the MVHF ESA (south) that may be associated with trail users, adjacent landowners and management activities such as restoration and naturalization.

4.2.3.1

Encroachment

The boundary for the MVHF ESA (south) is considered the baseline for comparison when reviewing whether there has been encroachment into the MVHF ESA (south) over the management period (2018-2028). This review is to include comparisons of the most recent aerial imagery with the mapped boundary and on-site reviews of the boundary on public lands to determine other types of encroachment such as yard waste dumping, gates in rear yard fences, encroachment of gardens, vegetation clearing and mowing of meadow areas. ESA encroachments are subject to enforcement for compliance with City by-laws and ecological restoration.

4.2.3.2

Trails

The policies and process outlined in the Guidelines provide guidance for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and potential closure of trails and trail structures in ESAs. The City funded UTRCA ESA team monitors, maps and keeps an inventory of the managed trails, closed trails and trail structures within the ESA. Trail structures are monitored for lifecycle renewal to ensure public safety and assist in planning for capital projects. Members of the public submit Observation Reports or Online Service London reports when issues arise with trails to further assist in the monitoring of trails.

4.2.3.3 Non-permitted Uses

In addition to encroachment within the MVHF ESA (south), other non-permitted uses are documented by the ESA Management Team through ongoing enforcement activities and through incidental observations during other monitoring as well a review of ESA Observations Forms and Online Service London reports submitted to the City. Other non-permitted uses subject to enforcement for compliance with City by-laws include bicycles, off-leash dogs, littering, and campfires.

4.2.3.4 Restoration

As restoration areas generally involve control of invasive species and planting of trees/shrubs, monitoring would be a combination of the EDRR program and monitoring of the health and vigour of plantings.

4.2.3.5 Naturalization

Monitoring of these areas is to include a combination of other monitoring such as noting non-permitted uses (i.e. mowing), EDRR and noting the health/vigour of plantings. Monitoring can include stem counts to document the density of native shrubs and trees and how quickly succession is occurring. This will help to determine whether additional planting is needed to quicken succession of an area.

4.3 Monitoring

The variables outlined in the above sections, along with the methods for monitoring, recommended frequency for monitoring, triggers for a management response and management responses for the MVHF ESA (south), are outlined in **Table 12**.

Table 12: Monitoring Framework for the MVHF ESA (south)

Element	Monitoring Variable	Focus of Monitoring	Methods and Location(s) for Monitoring	Frequency	Lead Agency & Funding Source	Requirements for Management Response	Management Response
Abiotic	Bank Migration	Bank erosion and distance to trail segments	Tracking rate of bank migration from the eight erosion monitoring stations found along Medway Creek, one station for Snake Creek and one station for Gainsborough Ravine.	Annual	Storm Water Management Unit ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	When natural bank erosion of watercourses presents a hazard to trail segments that are adjacent to Snake Creek and Medway Creek. Hazard distance to be set by recommendations in the MCSSU. Other areas of bank erosion may require rehabilitation but priority for a response would be for areas adjacent to managed trails.	Following process in Guidelines review of the trail segment and whether the segment can be moved back from the bank or whether the trail needs to be closed.
	Trail Condition	General trail condition including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of trail surface (e.g. cracking of wood) Trail width Creation of side trails and/ or off-trail areas (i.e. for viewing or passing) Areas of water saturation/ponding along the trail Mobilization of soils Exposure of tripping hazards (e.g. tree roots, rocks) 	On trails, mapping and documenting locations of trail widening, saturation (i.e. wet areas).	Every two years, beginning in the spring of 2018	ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review every two years. If data indicates on-going trail issues the management response is triggered.	Following process in Guidelines review of the trail segment and whether the issue can be addressed through re-design of the trail or whether the trail should be closed.
Biotic	Sensitive Species	Presence and abundances of Species at Risk and rare species within or adjacent to management activities (restoration/ naturalization) or trail work.	Use the methods as outlined under Section 2.1 of the Phase I report for identifying Sensitive Species. May be combined with other monitoring such as vegetation, birds etc.	Survey for one to three years following activity or project.	ESA Mg Cte – Capital Budget ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review before and after data to determine if there are impacts to species. If declines in species are identified implement management response. If declines not documented, survey frequency can be decreased.	More detailed review of data for specific species in decline. ESA Management Committee to determine next steps if decline not attributed to external factors (i.e. province-wide species decline).
	Invasive Species	Undesirable species in restoration/ naturalization areas.	On-going monitoring of ESA and restoration areas and use of EDRR (see Section 4.2.2.2 and Table 7) by trained professionals as well as continued encouragement of public observations.	On-going observations from ESA Management Committee (and public) through EDRR. Annual targeted surveys of restoration areas with known Species at Risk/ rare species. Targeted surveys every two years of restoration areas without Species at Risk/rare species	ESA Mg Cte – Capital Budget	If species reported through Early Detection or other monitoring events is determined to be a risk to the ESA, implement management response.	Implement rapid response management depending on the species. Follow best management practices for control or if species lack practices, development of species specific management plan.
	Wildlife & Wildlife Habitats	Survey of wildlife/wildlife habitat within or adjacent to management activities (restoration/ naturalization) or trail work Key areas for monitoring include species abundance/ presence that define the habitat significance for the following key habitats: Colonial-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank & Cliff) (CNB1) Amphibian Breeding Habitat (ABH1-ABH4) Seeps and Springs	Surveying species populations and wildlife habitats	Targeted survey, for one to three years following activity or project.	ESA Mg Cte – Capital Budget	Review data to document trends in populations. If habitats decline implement management response.	ESA Management Committee to determine next steps if decline not attributed to external factors (i.e. province-wide species decline).

Element	Monitoring Variable	Focus of Monitoring	Methods and Location(s) for Monitoring	Frequency	Lead Agency & Funding Source	Requirements for Management Response	Management Response
Cultural	Encroachment	Mowing, yard waste, fences, gates, or other incursions on City owned ESA lands.	In addition to on-going monitoring by ESA Management Committee, continue to encourage ESA Observation Reports and Service London online community reporting of encroachment into City owned ESA lands for follow up.	On-going observations from ESA Management Committee (and public) will continue enforcement process to reduce encroachments and increase compliance as By-law staff time permits	City By-law staff and ESA Mg Cte – Operating Budget	Encroachment into the City owned ESA boundary is confirmed.	By-law staff/ ESA Team initiate encroachment enforcement process to achieve compliance for encroachments into City ESA lands. Continue to educate residents who back onto ESAs about encroachment issues through education and measures including mail outs of EEPAC's Living with Natural Areas brochure etc.
	Trail Usage (Linkage A)	Usage of trail(s) before and after implementation of Linkage A	Installation of trail counter(s) between A10-A12 in 2018 south of Linkage A to collect baseline and ongoing trail usage data.	Annual	ESA Mg Cte. – Capital Budget	Review of data on an annual basis. If abiotic or biotic impacts are recorded in the area of the ESA near Linkage A, a review of those impacts in relation to trail usage data is to be undertaken.	If trail usage data is correlated to abiotic or biotic impacts in the ESA in the area of Linkage A, a review of the trail system between Access #5, Access #10 and Access#12 will be completed to review sustainability of trails based on trail usage data. Follow process in Guidelines to review trail surface/design/location/barriers/education/enforcement and other mitigation measures.
	Informal trails	Continued use of terrestrial informal trails or creation of new informal trails.	On trails, mapping and documenting persistence of informal trails by review of wear on the trail tread and success of restoration/closure efforts.	Annual	ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review every two years. If data collected indicates on-going use of informal trail(s), a management response is triggered.	Review of informal trail. Follow Trail Closure steps in Guidelines in Section 7.2.6 if still present. Apply current best management practices for trail closures, as applicable.
	Informal creek crossing	Continued use of informal creek crossings or creation of new crossings	Review of creek banks for evidence of disturbance to bank vegetation and/or creek bed, as well as informal placement of stones/logs that trail users may place to aid in crossings.	Annual	ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review every two years. If data collected indicates on-going use of informal creek crossings where continued wear of banks, disturbance of creek bed/substrates or placement of stones/logs is observed, a management response is triggered.	Review of crossing locations. Follow Trail Closure steps in Guidelines in Section 7.2.6 if still present. If crossing is still in use after implementation of closure steps, review whether a formal linkage (e.g. bridge, stepping stones) would help to protect the creek.
	Non-permitted Uses	By-law infractions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dogs off-leash • bicycles • littering 	Review of ESA Observation Forms and Service London online reports submitted to the City. Input from ESA Management Committee and City by-law enforcement officers.	Every two years, beginning in 2018	City By-law staff and ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review every two years for trends. If data indicates on-going or increasing infractions, implement management response.	Further review of the infraction type and ESA management committee to discuss innovative approaches to address corrective action. May include additional signage, education and enforcement.

Element	Monitoring Variable	Focus of Monitoring	Methods and Location(s) for Monitoring	Frequency	Lead Agency & Funding Source	Requirements for Management Response	Management Response
	Restoration	Restoration Overlay areas	On site review of the restoration areas listed in Table 9 (including RO16 for restoration of un-managed and closed trails) to document health and condition of plantings. Review of succession progress (where applicable). May be combined with other monitoring such as Invasive Species, Vegetation etc.	Every two years, beginning the year after restoration has taken place	ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review the data collected every two years from monitoring to determine whether restoration efforts have been effective or if additional effort required. If additional effort is determined, implement management response.	Development of a detailed restoration plan if additional effort is required. ESA Management Committee to review plan prior to implementation.
	Naturalization	Naturalization Areas	On site review of the naturalization areas listed in Table 12 to document health and condition of plantings. Review of succession progress (where applicable). May be combined with other monitoring such as Invasive Species, Vegetation etc.	Every two years, beginning the year after initial naturalization efforts have taken place	ESA Mg Team – Operating Budget	Review the data collected every two years from monitoring to determine whether naturalization efforts have been effective or if additional effort required. If additional effort is determined, implement management response.	Development of a detailed naturalization plan if additional effort is required. ESA Management Committee to review plan prior to implementation.

5.0

Continued Community Engagement and Education

The primary role of community engagement in the protection of natural areas is to build awareness, foster education and encourage participation in order to create or increase a culture of conservation. This culture of conservation promotes natural areas as a common good and that conservation is a collective responsibility for all that visit and enjoy the natural area. Within the MVHF ESA (south), community engagement has also included existing stewardship programs with opportunities to implement and promote new programs for stewardship as well as education, research and outreach.

The extensive CMP engagement process for the MVHF ESA (south) occurred from 2013 through to 2018 (see Table 2 in Section 1.1.2) and included four Community Open Houses and the formation of a 17 member Local Advisory Committee. The process provided ongoing opportunities for residents to learn more about the ESA and how to protect it.

5.1 Stewardship and Education

A stewardship ethic refers to the thoughtful care of ecological systems to preserve or enhance their natural qualities and recognizes that the values and goals of all users of natural areas are more similar than they are different.

5.1.1 Existing Programs

A number of programs promote stewardship of the MVHF ESA (south) through education and community engagement. Currently, these include the City's Adopt-an-ESA program, the Trails Advisory Group program, the CMP process, and activities and hikes coordinated by volunteer based community groups such as TVTA and Nature London. Hike leaders and others routinely contact the City for copies of the MVHF ESA brochure (available on the City website), which is update bi-annually with interesting information about the ESA, trail maps and rules. Annual updates highlighting the City's leadership in [Habitat Protection, Restoration and Stewardship](#) of the ESA are posted on the City website and distributed at local environmental events throughout the year.

5.1.1.1 Adopt-An-ESA Program

The City encourages civic clubs, local businesses, neighbourhood associations, faith groups and school groups to get involved in the preservation and enhancement of publically owned ESAs. By participating in the Adopt-An-ESA Program, volunteers donate time and resources to give special care to an ESA by helping to maintain, enhance and protect the ESA's natural features and functions. A group signed up to the program commits to helping maintain the adopted area of the ESA for a minimum of two years. Within those two years, the group will lead a minimum of two clean-ups per adopted year.

Three groups participate in the Adopt-An-ESA Program for the MVHF ESA and include the following:

- Friends of Medway Creek
- Orchard Park/Sherwood Forest Ratepayers Association
- Sunningdale West Ratepayers Association

5.1.1.2

Friends of Medway Creek

In 2008, the Friends of Medway Creek was established to help implement restoration activities and environmental initiatives that improve the health of the Medway Creek watershed. The mission statement is “*Community members promoting the protection and improvement of the Medway Creek Watershed*”.

5.1.2

Proposed New Programs

While existing programs may provide much needed support in carrying out stewardship projects for the MVHF ESA (south), there is opportunity to implement additional programs to continue stewardship but also coordinate the collection of data and potentially combine with the monitoring recommended in **Section 4.0**.

5.1.2.1

Citizen Science Projects

Local stewardship and knowledge of the ESA could be enhanced by providing community members with a chance to participate in ecological monitoring, environmental training and education. This could include encouraging community members to participate in the regular monitoring, as recommended under **Section 4.0**.

The [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority’s \(TRCA\) Terrestrial Volunteer Monitoring Program](#) trains local citizens to monitor habitat in the TRCA watershed. By engaging volunteers in this type of monitoring, the TRCA provides an opportunity for citizens to contribute to environmental protection in a meaningful way, and to learn more about local native species and their habitat needs.

Other types of Citizen Science projects that could be implemented for the MVHF ESA (south) to not only engage the public but also contribute to the collection of provincial species data could include the following:

- **Christmas Bird Count** – annual event held between December 14 and January 5 each year and is organized by Bird Studies Canada. The count coordinator for London could be contacted to see if data specific to the MVHF ESA (south) can be kept separate.
- **Great Lakes Worm Watch** – Establish study plots in the older patches of forest within the MVHF ESA (south) to collect baseline data on the density and spread of invasive earthworms using the Great Lakes Worm Watch study protocol. Data collected by volunteers could help to guide future restoration and plantings as forests with high densities of earthworms may have trouble regenerating and may require supplemental plantings.
- **Bumble Bee Watch** – a collaborative effort to track and conserve North America’s bumble bees.

5.1.2.2

MVHF ESA BioBlitz

A BioBlitz brings together taxonomic experts, citizen scientists and the general public to inventory all species (plants, animals, fungi and more) in a particular area over a 24 hour period. Participants record all the organisms they find, and then experts verify their identity. As the Blitz proceeds and after it is done, the species records are compiled into a single data set: the species list, which provides a snapshot of the biodiversity in that location on that date. With potential changes in species biodiversity occurring due to changes in climate, establishing a BioBlitz for the MVHF ESA (south) could help with tracking changes in species diversities from the findings documented during Phase I.

For the provincial based Ontario BioBlitz program, there are three main components: the intensive scientific survey, the Guided BioBlitz, and public programs. Each activity differs in the amount of prior knowledge and experience required, and in time commitment. Generally, the province based program

has focused on larger watersheds (e.g. Credit River, Rouge River, Don River, Humber River) as opposed to specific natural areas. Smaller community-led BioBlitzes are becoming more frequent and several Provincial Parks have held park specific Blitzes.

The diagram to the right from OntarioBioBlitz.ca below offers more detail, and could be used to help develop a Blitz for the MVHF ESA (south). Should this be considered, consideration should be provided for providing participants direction regarding trail use and sensitive areas.



5.1.3

Educational Programming and Partnerships

In addition to the education opportunities provided to the community by Adopt-an-ESA and other stewardship programs, a number of schools, post-secondary institutions and the Museum of Ontario Archaeology are located in the vicinity of the MVHF ESA (south) and represent another opportunity to extend ecological knowledge and stewardship. Options for engaging staff/students in education about the MVHF ESA (south) and active monitoring/management could continue to include:

- In-Class Presentations
- Guided Hikes, Mood Walks
- Childreach's Wild Child Day Camp Program

- Citizen Science projects
- Restoration Activities (e.g. tree planting)
- Co-op Opportunities with the UTRCA/City

Options for engaging students should be designed to strengthen stewardship of the MVHF ESA (south) amongst young people. Creative presentations and hands on activities in the ESA that allow an opportunity to provide input to ongoing management can provide students with a better understanding the need for the management of sensitive habitats, and potentially spark interest in becoming more involved in community efforts to enhance and protect the MVHF ESA.

5.2 Community Events

Community based events raise the profile of environmental stewardship and unite neighbourhoods in a common initiative. The City of London's Clean & Green Community Clean Up Day and Adopt an ESA "clean-up days" encourage community members to pick up litter. Events centered on tree planting or removal of non-native plants (e.g. Garlic Mustard pulling) will continue to be facilitated by the Adopt and ESA groups and others, with cooperation of the City and UTRCA, through guidance, provision of services such as removal of debris once it is collected to a central location, providing garbage bags and basic tools (shovels, etc.), and periodically recognizing participants' contributions. Such events also result in the public investing time and energy in stewardship, thus increasing their value, raising support for allocating funds for CMP implementation and increasing the likelihood of compliance with ESA rules by leading by example.

5.3 Opportunities for Scientific Research

Scientific research by qualified individuals which contributes to the knowledge of the natural history, cultural history and environmental management within the publically owned portions of MVHF ESA (south) is to be supported.

Research must meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. Permission is generally granted after review of a work plan that demonstrates no negative impacts and sign off from the Managing Director of Parks and Recreation as required under City By-law.

The following general fields of research are particularly appropriate for the MVHF ESA (south) and will be supported following review by the City:

- Landforms, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and archaeology of the ESA
- The status and life history requirements of species at risk and other rare species and communities
- Density and spread of invasive species such as European earthworms, vegetation, forest pests/pathogens
- The density of deer populations
- Environmental restoration and management

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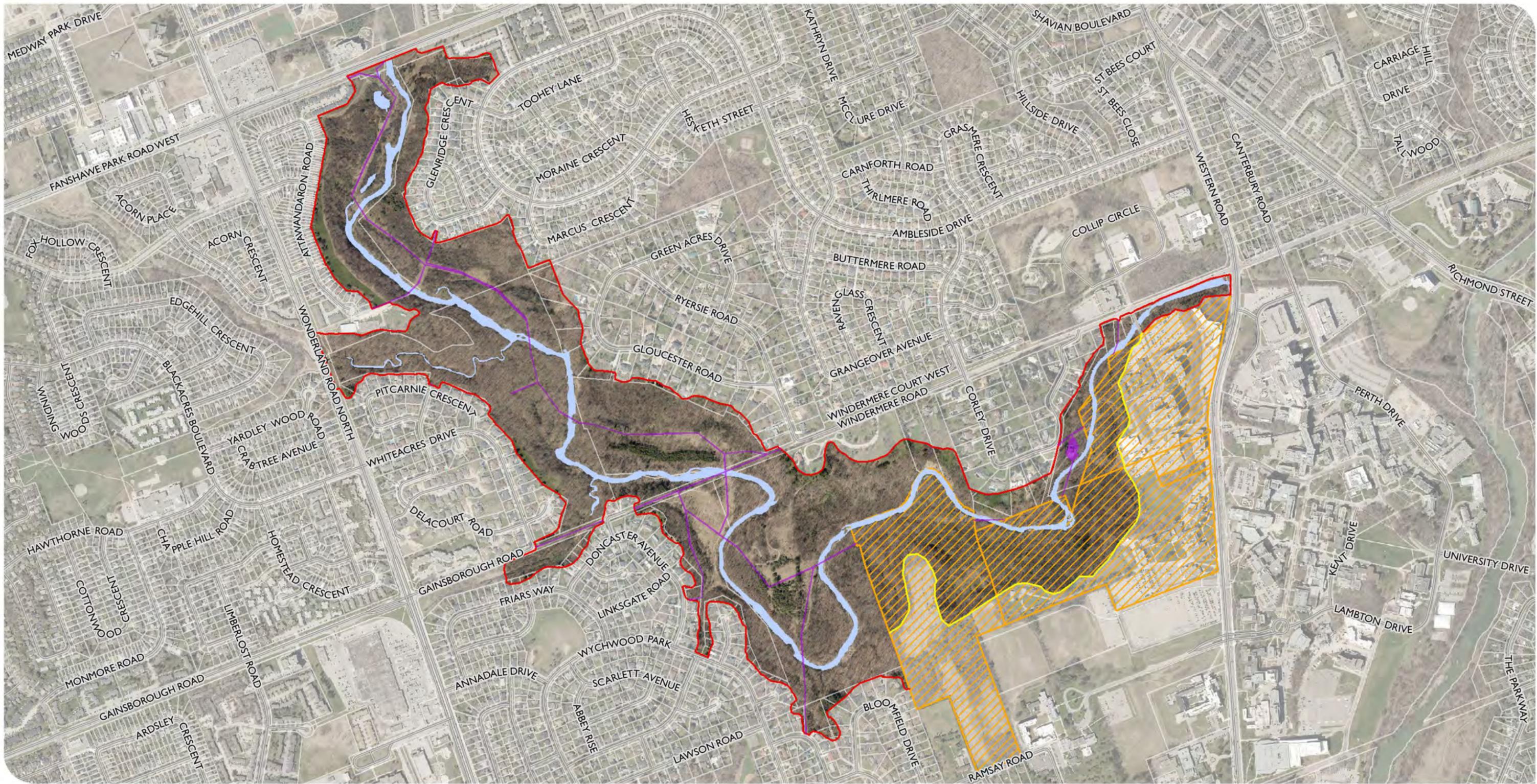
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Figures



CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

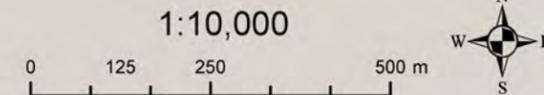
- Utility Overlay (4 m)
- MVHF ESA (south) Boundary (Refined as per Phase I)
- MVHF ESA (south) Boundary (not refined in Phase I)
- Watercourse
- Western/Huron Properties
- Property Boundaries

FIGURE 1
 MVHF ESA (SOUTH) OVERVIEW



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N





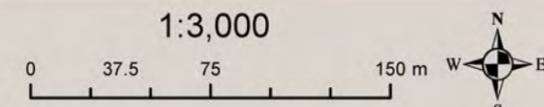
CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| Butternut | Amphibian Breeding Habitat | Habitat for Rare Species (Shrubby St. John's Wort) | Western/Huron Properties | Naturalization Area |
| False Rue Anemone | Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell) | Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon) | Property Boundaries | Restoration Overlay ¹ |
| Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet) | Seeps and Springs Area | Utility Overlay (4 m) | Watercourse | Restoration Overlay (RO16) ² |

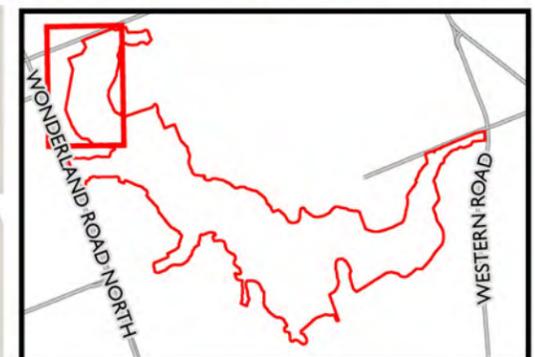
FIGURE 2a
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
 (RESTORATION & NATURALIZATION)

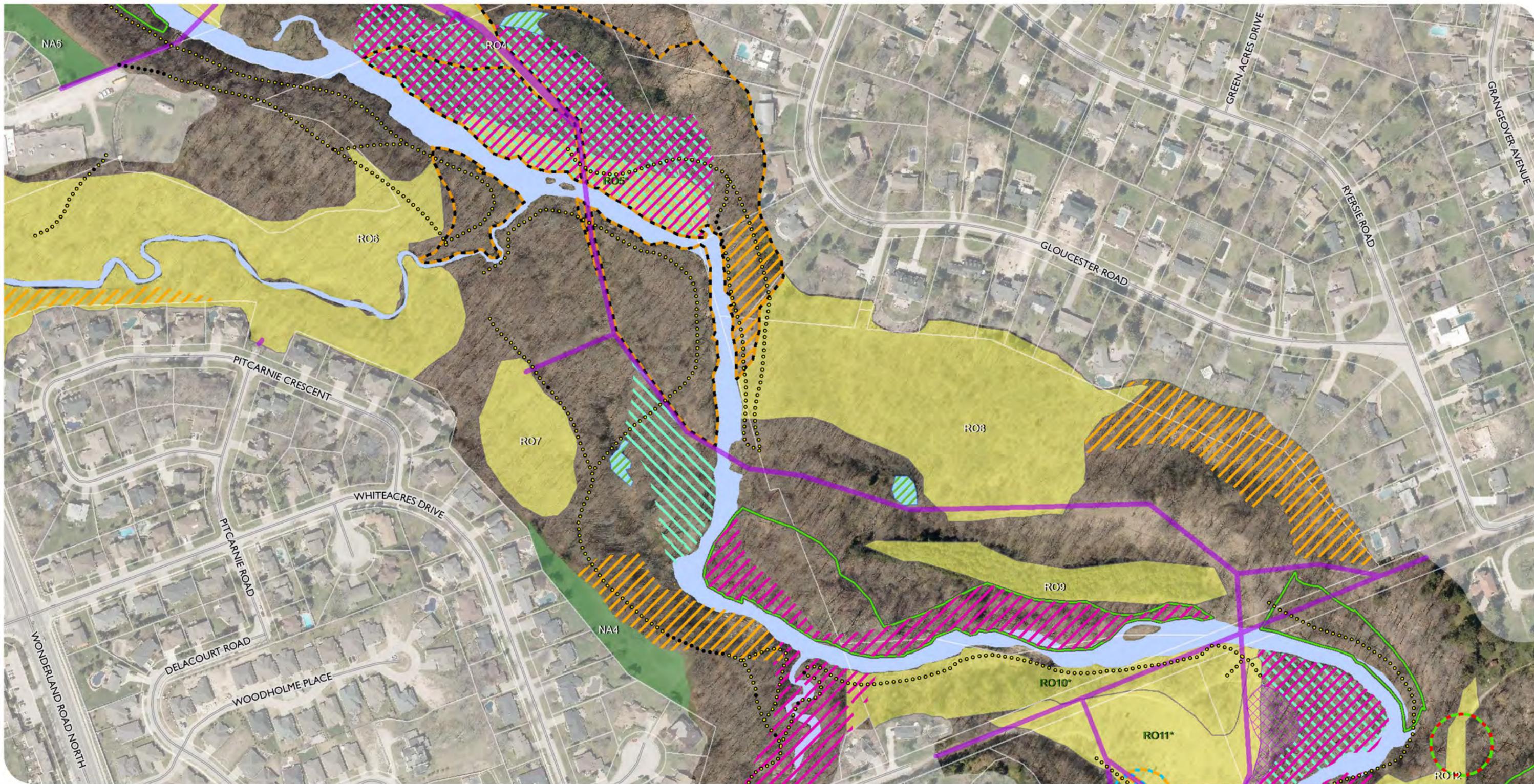
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNR (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)
 MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

¹Restoration Overlay labels for RO 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 are highlighted in green and have a * to indicate restoration works are either already complete and/or currently in progress and under a monitoring program.
²RO16 identifies informal and closed existing trails documented during Phase I that are to be closed (or closure enforced) and restored



PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 10/23/2017





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 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| Cucumber Magnolia | Amphibian Breeding Habitat | Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass) | Western/Huron Properties | Naturalization Area |
| False Rue Anemone | Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell) | Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon) | Property Boundaries | Restoration Overlay ¹ |
| Kentucky Coffee-tree | Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet) | Seeps and Springs Area | Watercourse | Restoration Overlay (RO16) ² |
| | | | Utility Overlay (4 m) | |

FIGURE 2b
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
 (RESTORATION & NATURALIZATION)

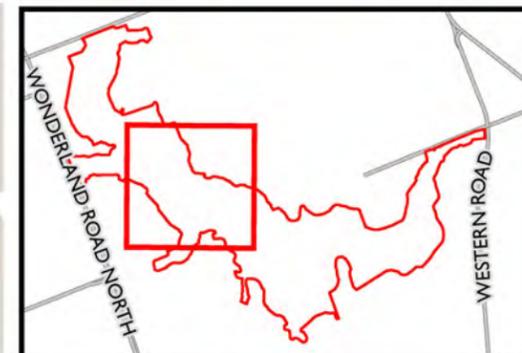
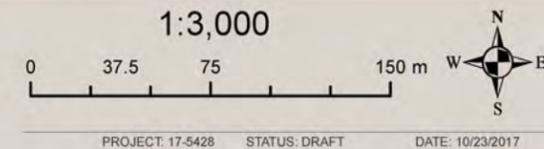
DILLON CONSULTING

MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

¹Restoration Overlay labels for RO 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 are highlighted in green and have a * to indicate restoration works are either already complete and/or currently in progress and under a monitoring program.

²RO16 identifies informal and closed existing trails documented during Phase I that are to be closed (or closure enforced) and restored





CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 2c
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
 (RESTORATION & NATURALIZATION)

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------------------|---|
| Butternut | Amphibian Breeding Habitat | Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass) | Western/Huron Properties | Naturalization Area |
| Cucumber Magnolia | Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank and Cliff) | Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon) | Property Boundaries | Restoration Overlay ¹ |
| False Rue Anemone | Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell) | Seeps and Springs Area | Watercourse | Restoration Overlay (RO16) ² |
| Kentucky Coffee-tree | Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet) | | Utility Overlay (4 m) | |
| Queensnake | | | | |

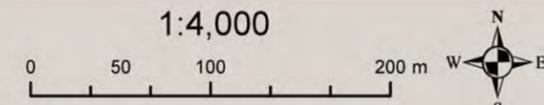
DILLON CONSULTING

MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
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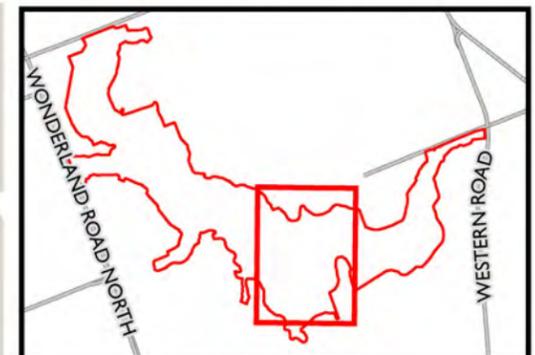
MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

¹Restoration Overlay labels for RO 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 are highlighted in green and have a * to indicate restoration works are either already complete and/or currently in progress and under a monitoring program.

²RO16 identifies informal and closed existing trails documented during Phase I that are to be closed (or closure enforced) and restored



PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 10/23/2017





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 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

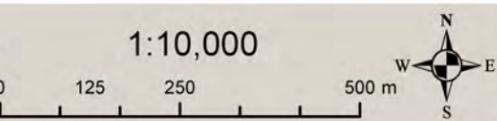
FIGURE 3
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM



- | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (M) Existing Trail Linkage (Metamora Bridge) | Managed Trails Documented During Phase I | — Contour (5 metre Elevation) | Management Zone |
| ••• City Trail Outside of ESA | — Level One Trail | ▭ Property Boundaries | ▭ Nature Reserve |
| — Closed Trail ¹ | — Level Two Trail | ▭ Utility Overlay (4 m) | ▭ Natural Environment |
| ••• Temporarily Closed Trail ² | — Level Three Trail | ▭ Western/Huron Properties | |
| ••• Informal Trail ¹ | | ▭ Watercourse (also Nature Reserve) | |
| ▲ Potential Future Access (PFA) | | | |
| A# Access Point | | | |

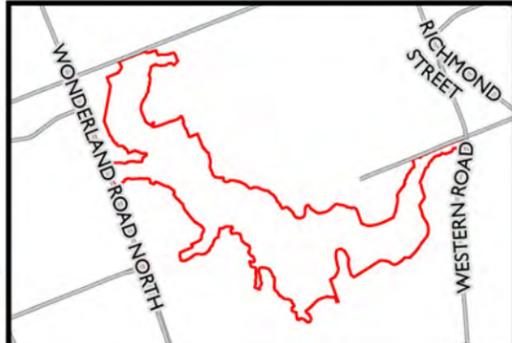
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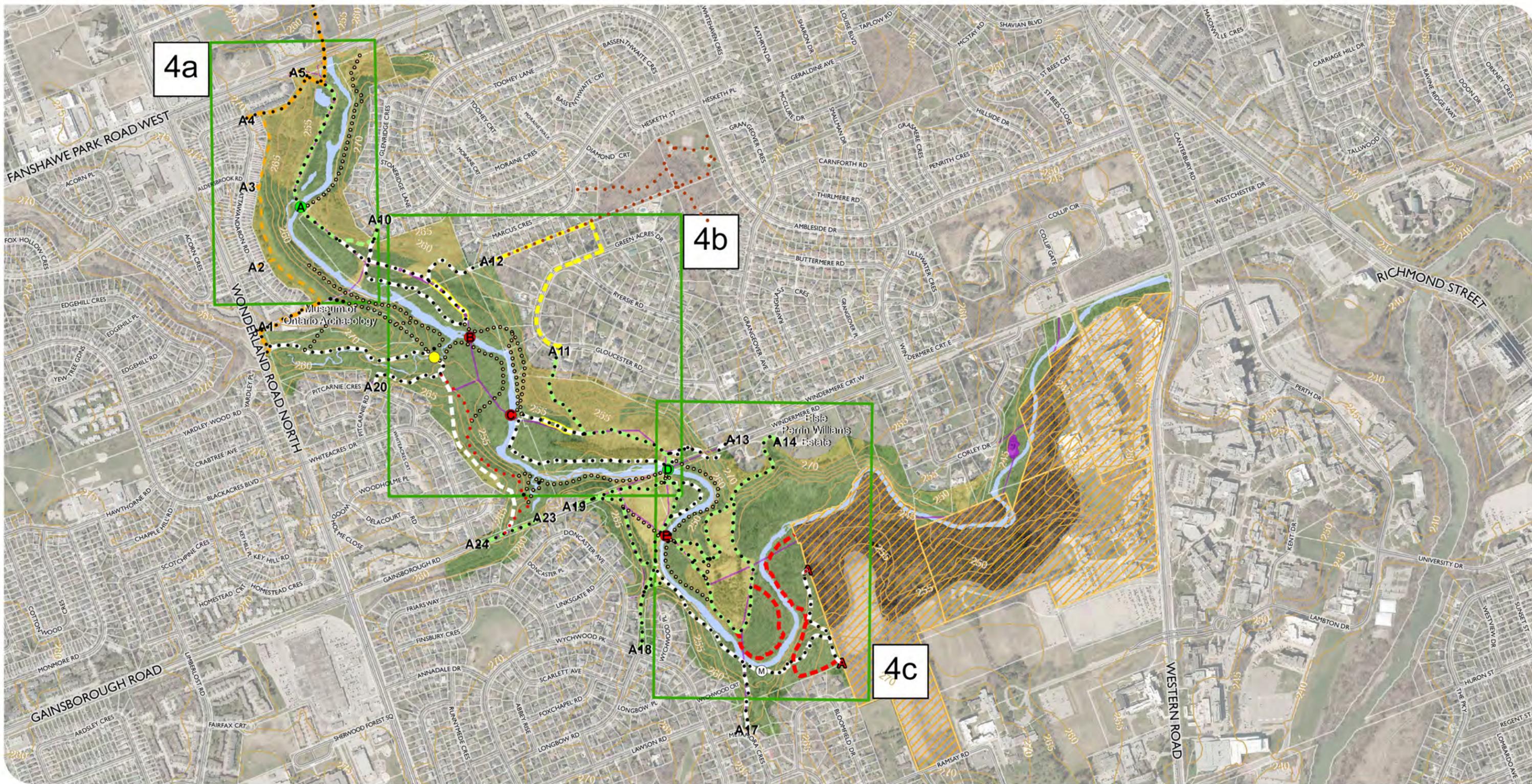
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNR (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)



¹INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE R016 ON FIGURE 2).
²TEMPORARILY CLOSED TRAIL TO BE REOPENED/REALIGNED. SECTIONS NOT REALIGNED WILL BE CLOSED AND RESTORED

PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 3/5/2018





CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 4
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE TRAIL
 CONCEPT PLAN



- Proposed Trail Linkage (not recommended for implementation)
- Proposed Trail Linkage (Medway Creek)
- Proposed Trail Linkage (Snake Creek)
- Ⓜ Existing Trail Linkage (Metamora Bridge)
- ▲ Potential Future Access (PFA)
- A# Access Point

Existing Trails

- City Trail Outside of ESA
- Closed Trail¹
- Informal Trail¹
- Managed Trail
- Temporarily Closed Trail²

Managed Trails

- Future Connection Outside the ESA
- Level One Trail
- Level Two Trail
- Level Three Trail
- Improved Trail Surface

Contour (5 metre Elevation)

- Property Boundaries
- Utility Overlay (4 m)
- Western/Huron Properties
- Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)

Management Zone

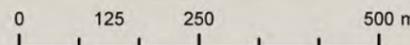
- Nature Reserve
- Natural Environment

THE PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN COMPLIES WITH THE
 COUNCIL APPROVED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT
 ZONES AND TRAILS IN ESAS (2016) AND AODA LEGISLATION

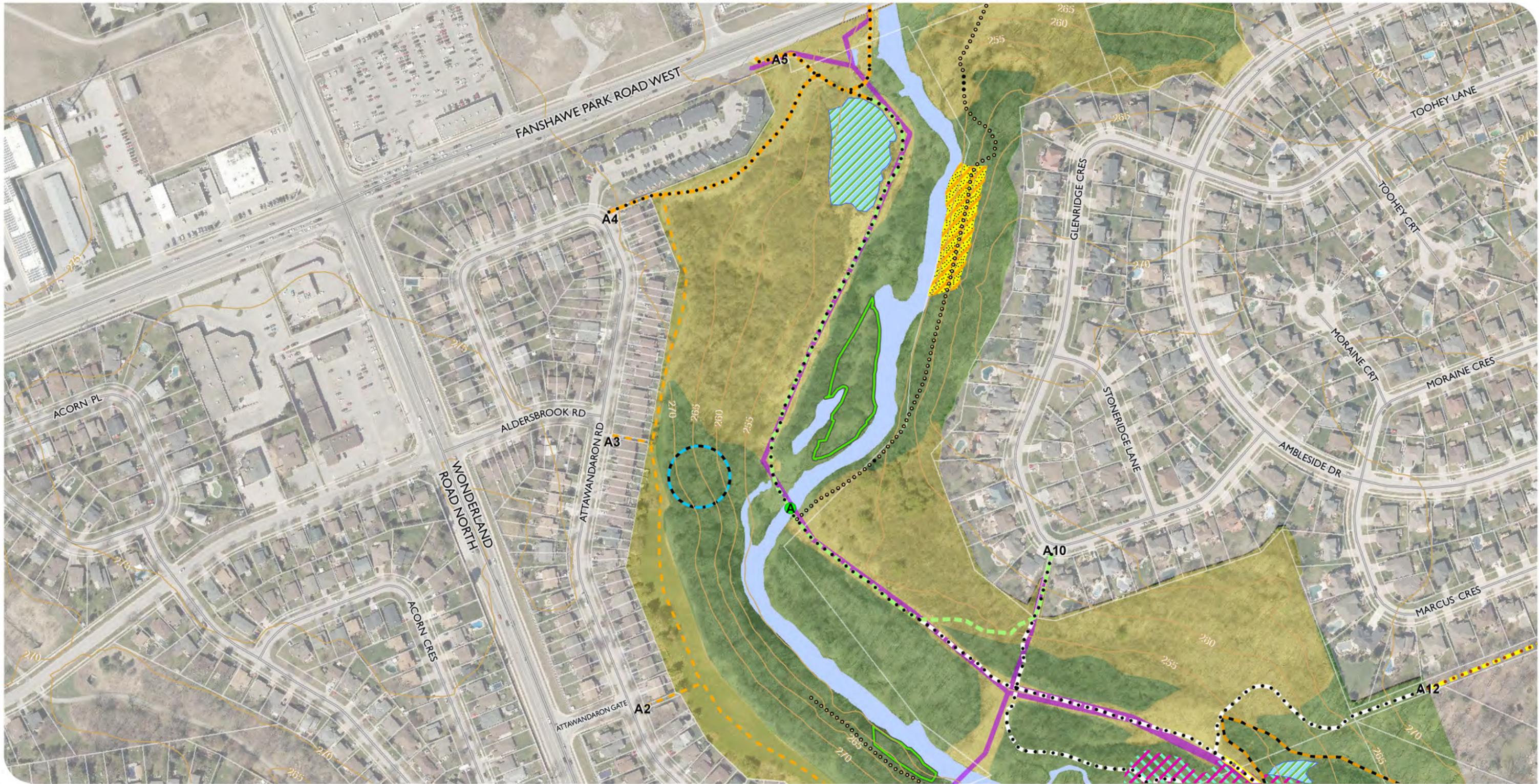
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

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¹ INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE RO16 ON FIGURE 2).
² TEMPORARILY CLOSED TRAIL TO BE REOPENED/ REALIGNED. SECTIONS NOT REALIGNED WILL BE CLOSED AND RESTORED



CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

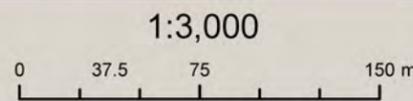
FIGURE 4a
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposed Trail Linkage (Medway Creek) — Contour (5 metre Elevation) A# Access Point 	<p>Existing Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Trail Outside of ESA ○ Informal Trail¹ ● Managed Trail 	<p>Managed Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Future Connection Outside the ESA — Level One Trail — Level Two Trail — Level Three Trail — Improved Trail Surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Butternut ■ False Rue Anemone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amphibian Breeding Habitat ■ Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell) ■ Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet) ■ Habitat for Rare Species (Shrubby St. John's Wort) ■ Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon) ■ Seeps and Springs Area 	<p>Management Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature Reserve ■ Natural Environment ■ Utility Overlay (4 m) ■ Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)
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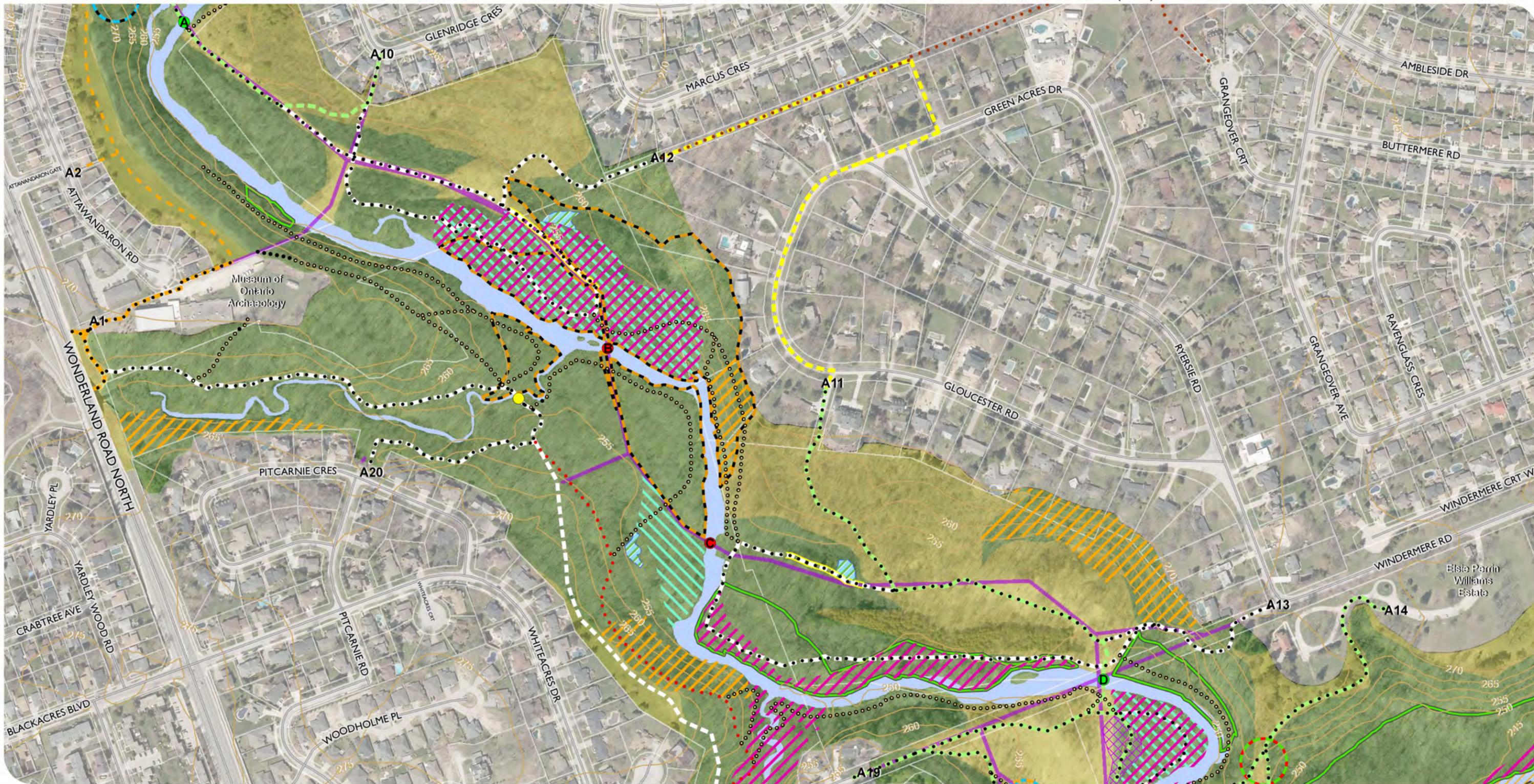
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



¹INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE RO16 ON FIGURE 2).
²TEMPORARILY CLOSED TRAIL TO BE REOPENED/ REALIGNED. SECTIONS NOT REALIGNED WILL BE CLOSED AND RESTORED





CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

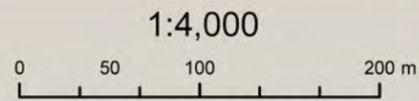
FIGURE 4b
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposed Trail Linkage (not recommended for implementation) ● Proposed Trail Linkage (Medway Creek) ● Proposed Trail Linkage (Snake Creek) Western/Huron Properties Contour (5 metre Elevation) A# Access Point | <p>Existing Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Trail Outside of ESA Informal Trail¹ Managed Trail Temporarily Closed Trail² | <p>Managed Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Connection Outside the ESA Level One Trail Level Two Trail Level Three Trail Improved Trail Surface | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butternut Cucumber Magnolia False Rue Anemone Kentucky Coffee-tree Amphibian Breeding Habitat Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell) Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet) Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass) Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon) Seeps and Springs Area | <p>Management Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Reserve Natural Environment Utility Overlay (4 m) Watercourse (also Nature Reserve) |
|---|--|---|--|--|



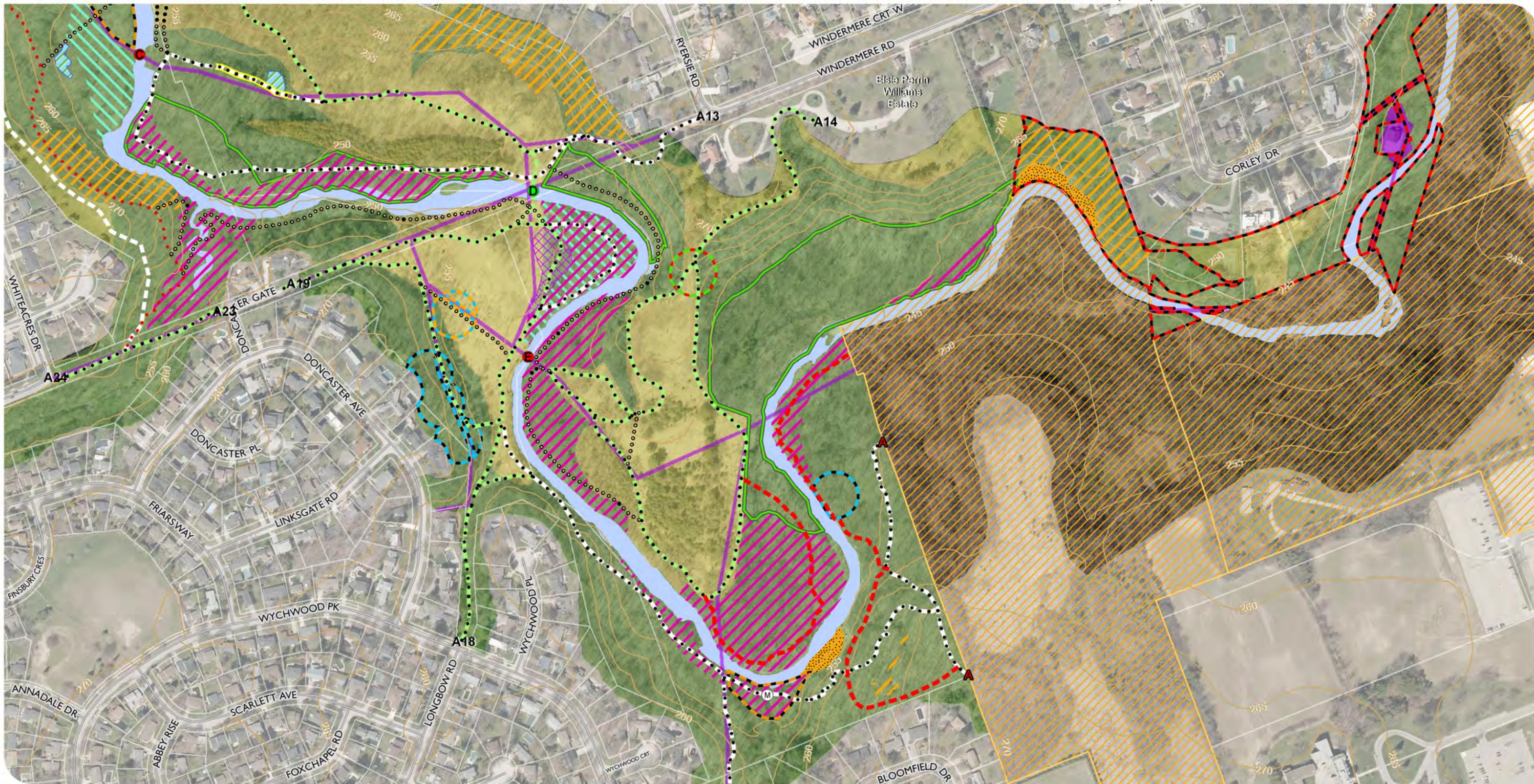
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



¹INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE RO16 ON FIGURE 2).
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CITY OF LONDON
 CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN
 MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA (SOUTH)

FIGURE 4c
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
 PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE
 TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

- A** Potential Future Access (PFA)
- Proposed Trail Linkage (not recommended for implementation)
- Proposed Trail Linkage (Medway Creek)
- M** Existing Trail Linkage (Metamora Bridge)
- ▨** Western/Huron Properties
- A#** Contour (5 metre Elevation)
 Access Point

- Existing Trails**
- Closed Trail¹
 - Informal Trail¹
 - Managed Trail
 - Temporarily Closed Trail²

- Managed Trails**
- Level One Trail
 - Level Two Trail
 - Improved Trail Surface

- ▨** Butternut
- ▨** Cucumber Magnolia
- ▨** False Rue Anemone
- ▨** Kentucky Coffee-tree
- ▨** Queensnake

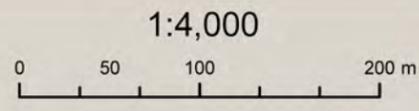
- ▨** Amphibian Breeding Habitat
- ▨** Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank and Cliff)
- ▨** Habitat for Rare Species (American Gromwell)
- ▨** Habitat for Rare Species (Cream Violet)
- ▨** Habitat for Rare Species (Slender Satin Grass)
- ▨** Habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon)
- ▨** Seeps and Springs Area

- Management Zone**
- ▨** Nature Reserve
 - ▨** Natural Environment
 - ▨** Utility Overlay (4 m)
 - ▨** Watercourse (also Nature Reserve)



MAP DRAWING INFORMATION:
 DATA PROVIDED BY MNRF (2017) &
 CITY OF LONDON (2016)

MAP CREATED BY: JWH
 MAP CHECKED BY: JLP
 MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



¹INFORMAL AND CLOSED EXISTING TRAILS DOCUMENTED DURING PHASE I ARE TO BE CLOSED AND RESTORED (SEE RO16 ON FIGURE 2).
²TEMPORARILY CLOSED TRAIL TO BE REOPENED/ REALIGNED. SECTIONS NOT REALIGNED WILL BE CLOSED AND RESTORED

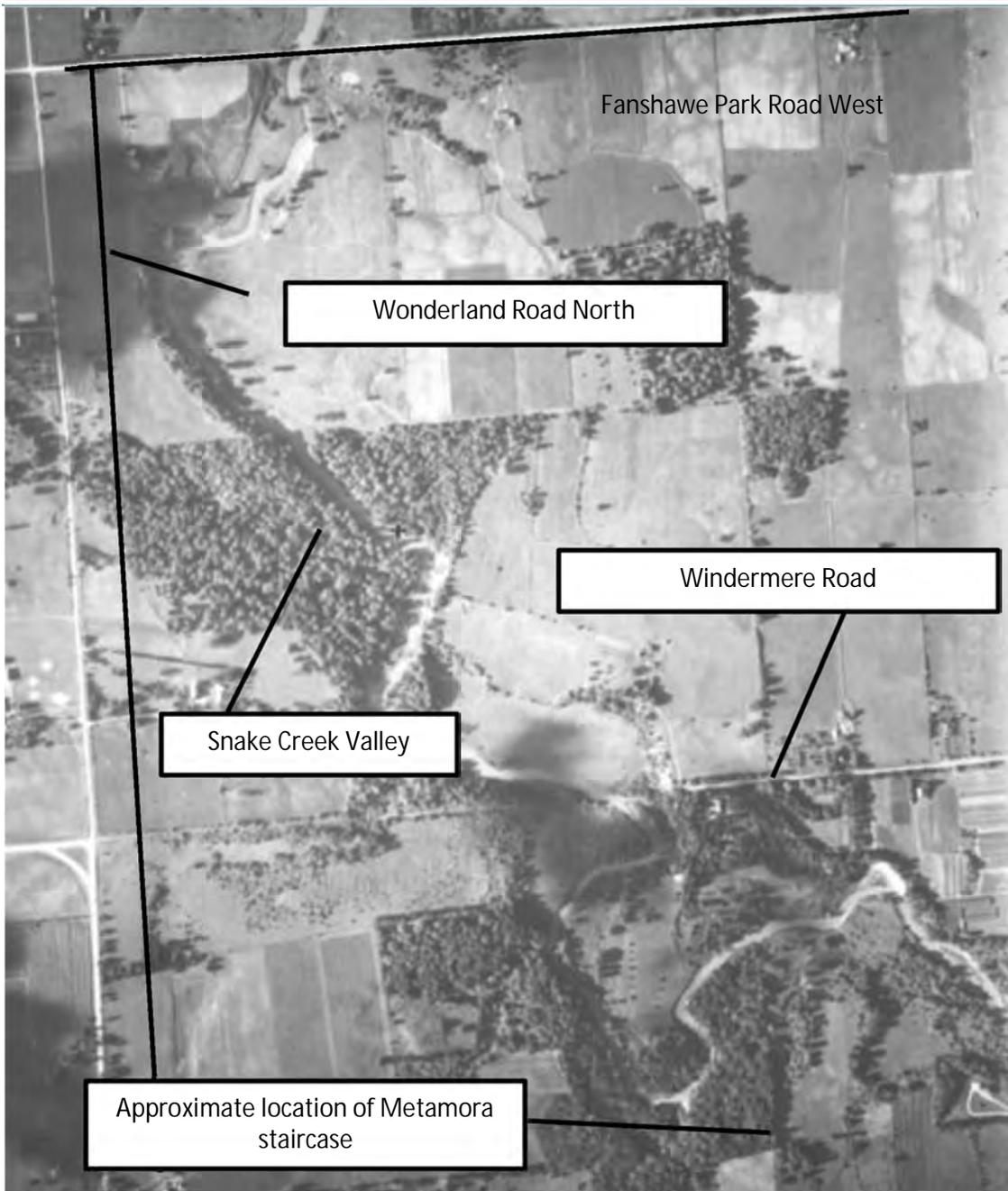
PROJECT: 17-5428 STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 3/8/2018



Appendix A

Historic Aerial Photographs

Aerial Photographs of the MVHF ESA (south)¹



1942

Aerial Photographs of the MVHF ESA (south)¹



1950

Aerial Photographs of the MVHF ESA (south)¹



1955

¹ Under Copyright Law of Canada - where the negative is owned by a corporation, and the photograph was created after 1948 and before November 7, 2012, the photograph becomes public domain after a period of 50 years from which the photograph was made.

Appendix B

Local Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and Meeting Minutes

Local Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference (2017)



Phase 2 Conservation Master Plan

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest (south) Environmentally Significant Area

1.0 Introduction and Background

The City of London is embarking on Phase 2 of the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest (south) Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Phase 1 of the CMP was approved by Council in 2017 and the reports and findings are available on the City's website. The Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs document and process will be followed.

2.0 Purpose and Objectives of the LAC

The purpose of the LAC is to provide an opportunity for small group discussion with those who are identified stakeholders related to the Medway Valley Heritage Forest (south) ESA. The LAC is an advisory committee and is not an approval authority. The group will discuss and provide feedback on the Phase 2 work to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Review information provided and provide input and insight related to Phase 2 of the CMP;
- Provide input and insight related to the consultation with the broader community;
- Represent diverse perspectives and interests; and,
- Work collaboratively to try to resolve issues.

3.0 Membership

There are 17 members of the LAC, plus City staff. Membership is comprised of one representative from each of the following:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
- Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
- MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA
 - Sunningdale West RA Adopt an ESA
 - Friends of Medway Creek Adopt an ESA
 - Sherwood Forest / Orch Park RPA Adopt an ESA
- Ratepayer Associations / Community Associations
 - Sherwood Forest / Orch Park RPA
 - Sunningdale West RA
 - Old Masonville Ratepayers
 - Sunningdale North Residents Association

LAC Terms of Reference

Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) – Phase 2 CMP

- Attawandaron Residents Association
- University of Western Ontario (UWO)
- Huron University College
- Nature London
- Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
- Heritage London Foundation
- Museum of Archeology

All members will identify an alternate who will participate in meetings if the member is not available or attend as observers (*see Section 5.0 below for further information on observers at meetings*).

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- City staff will set the meeting agenda, location and provide information required for discussion.
- A facilitator will run meetings and be responsible for meeting notes. Meeting notes will be distributed within 2 weeks following each the meeting. Notes will document areas of agreement as well as areas of difference.
- LAC members will attend all meetings including reviewing any materials provided in advance.
- LAC members are to be familiar with the CMP process and [Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in ESAs 2016](#)
- LAC members commit to working in collaboration with each other and the City, to the extent practical, to complete Phase 2 of the CMP for Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA.
- The LAC representatives will liaise with their respective stakeholder groups in order to share information as required.
- The role of the LAC includes:
 - Identifying and confirming ESA management issues;
 - Possible attendance during ESA site visits to help to resolve planning issues;
 - Help to develop the restoration plan, trail plan and recommendations;
 - Prioritize implementation of recommendations; and,
 - Review the draft Phase II CMP report.

5.0 Meetings and Attendance

There will be five LAC meetings, each up to 1.5 hours in length, held on a weekday evening:

LAC Terms of Reference

Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) – Phase 2 CMP

- LAC Meeting #1 – Kick-off meeting to introduce role of the LAC and launch the Phase 2 CMP, as well as identify areas for discussion
- LAC Meeting #2 – Discuss Community Open House #1 and review community survey questions
- LAC Meeting #3 – Review input from Community Open House #1 and survey responses. Resolve any areas of difference
- LAC Meeting #4 – Review Draft CMP Phase 2 Report with LAC for review and comment.
- LAC Meeting #5 – Endorsement of CMP Phase 2 Report by the LAC; Discuss Community Open House Meeting #2

These meetings will be open to observers. Non-LAC members and/or member alternates are welcome to observe LAC meetings as space permits. During the meeting, observers are not allowed to participate in the discussion.

6.0 Effective Practices for the LAC

In the interest of committee effectiveness, LAC members agree to be bound by the following practices:

- Members will listen to, review and consider the information provided for discussion.
- Members will strive at all times to ensure that the best interests of the broader community are taken into account.
- Members will be courteous, listen to and consider the opinions of other members.
- Members should participate fully in discussion but not dominate the discussion or allow others to do so.
- Members should speak one at a time and not cut off other members while they are speaking.
- Members wishing to make comments should do so through the facilitator, and wait their turn until they have the floor.
- Members will provide constructive feedback regarding the Phase 2 CMP information presented and discussed.
- LAC members will address their concerns within the meetings and will not, on their own, or as part of another association, engage in independent action that is in conflict with the objectives of the LAC.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #1 for MVHF ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan Phase 2
Date and Time: April 27, 2017 17:30 – 19:00
Location: City Hall, City of London
Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Susan Hall*	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Prof. Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*Indicates an alternate organization representative attended in place of the primary representative

Notes

- | Item | Discussion |
|--------|---|
| 1. | Agenda Item - Introductions |
| 1.1. | Sandy Levin posed the following question: Is this CMP just for the south ESA and, if it's just for the south, why are representatives associated with the north portion of the ESA included in the LAC? |
| 1.1.1. | Reps associated with the communities near the north ESA (Chris/Renee) reiterated that trails are connected. It was also confirmed by the City that representatives from the communities near the south ESA were included in consultations for the north ESA trail planning. |

2. Agenda Item – Overview of CMP Process
 - 2.1. Sandy Levin referenced page 10 of the Trail Guidelines document, noting that members should keep in mind our role is protection of the natural features and ecological functions in the ESA.
3. Agenda Item – Terms of Reference (ToR) for the LAC
 - 3.1. ToR was distributed to members for review at the beginning of the meeting and the committee purpose and format was discussed.
4. Agenda Item – Future Meetings
 - 4.1. Jack Blocker posed a question regarding LAC input into the draft CMP: Given that the first three meetings are an overview of consultation/engagement and then a draft CMP is provided, where is the opportunity for LAC input for CMP?
 - 4.1.1. A response was provided from Dillon that the draft CMP is to be based on the responses from public and the LAC which is to be discussed during meeting #3 and then used to develop the draft CMP which will be distributed for review and comment during meeting #4.
 - 4.2. A subsequent question was posed: How much time (Jack Blocker) is the LAC going to have to provide input into the draft CMP given the timeline of the meetings of the LAC? Linda provided insight that Phase 1 provides an Environmental Management Strategy and that Phase 2 is building upon the already approved Phase 1.
 - 4.2.1. Jack brought up that trail planning is generally the most contentious issue and wanted confirmation of how much time the LAC will have to overview and provide input. Sandy was in agreement with Jack and wanted confirmation of how much insight the LAC provides to Phase 2 and how the LAC will help the public provide good input towards Phase 2. Dillon highlighted that meeting #2 is will allow for the LAC to provide insight and help develop the public consultation forums. More information on how the LAC will provide input will be provided during meeting #2.
5. Agenda Item – Goal and Objectives of CMP Phase 2
 - 5.1. Keith wanted to know whether the draft CMP will be available before the Sept. meeting.
 - 5.1.1. Dillon responded the goal is to distribute the draft CMP to the LAC by mid-August.
 - 5.2. Keith wanted to know if there are examples of completed CMPs members could review prior to receiving the draft CMP.
 - 5.2.1. The City confirmed the Coves ESA is the most recent CMP and is available on the City website. Linda to share link with the LAC.
 - 5.3. Susan questioned whether the draft CMP will cover recommendations for level 1, 2 informal trails?
 - 5.3.1. Dillon confirmed the CMP will include trail planning.

6. Agenda Item – Review of Environmental Management Strategy
 - 6.1. Linda presented an overview of the Phase 1 Environmental Management Strategy.
7. Agenda Item – Restoration Work to Date in Medway
 - 7.1. Linda presented the restoration work completed to date.
8. Agenda Item – Facilitated Discussion
 - 8.1. Members broke out into four groups (rotating participants) to discuss opportunities within the ESA for consideration during the CMP process. Blank maps with the existing trail system were provided to the groups to mark up. These were collected at the end of the session.
 - 8.1.1. Some members wanted to know where SAR and other sensitive features are located. Hard copy maps from the MVHF Phase 1 addendum with SAR and significant wildlife habitat identified (previously circulated to LAC / available on the City website) were distributed to members of the LAC for reference.
 - 8.2. Maps were collected from the groups for review of suggestions/concerns and opportunities noted by the members. The mapping and comments were reviewed to identify common themes in advance of LAC meeting #2.
 - 8.3. After maps were collected from the groups, Karla asked members to provide key points/take away points. These are summarized below (in no particular order):
 - One trail to provide continuity and avoid informal trails
 - Consider everybody's wants/wishes for ESA not just one group
 - Thankful for being part of the process
 - Hope for continued use of trails without damage to the ESA
 - We shouldn't do anything that doesn't support the integrity of the ESA
 - Accessibility should be maintained
 - Stewardship/Education
 - A good start
 - Looking for connection across the creek
 - Looking for connection of trails where they work
 - Lots of interesting stuff
 - Getting what everyone wants in the ESA may not be feasible but the feedback and input from LACs is crucial and much appreciated in the guiding the management of ESAs
 - Pleased to start learning from local knowledge
 - Thankful Species at Risk are considered
 - ESA and natural features shall be protected
 - Ecological Integrity of ESA should be maintained
 - Looking for connection of trails
9. Closing
 - 9.1. Mady Hymowitz asked whether draft questions for survey will be sent out to members for review prior to public distribution.

- 9.1.1. Dillon replied that questions would be shared during second meeting prior to the survey being finalized. Fewer than ten questions anticipated so review at meeting #2 is possible.
- 9.2. Next meeting scheduled for May 4 in the same room and same time as Meeting #1.
- 9.3. Meeting concluded at 19:00

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #2 for MVHF ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: May 4, 2017 17:30 – 19:00

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katarina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Sarah Pierce*	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski+	Sunningdale West RPA
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*Indicates an alternate organization representative attended in place of the primary representative

+indicates departure from meeting prior to adjournment.

Regrets

Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation
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Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Purpose of Meeting #2
1.1.	Mady Hymowitz requested an explanation of what the various management zones outlined in the <i>Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas</i> (the Guidelines) mean and how they apply to the MVHF ESA.

- 1.1.1. Dillon provided an explanation of what the management zones mean and which types of trails are permitted in each. This explanation can be found in the Guidelines.

2. Agenda Item – Overview of CMP Participant Roles

- 2.1. Sandy Levin mentioned that further explanation of the roles was helpful and encouraged a site visit to the ESA to facilitate input into the CMP.

3. Agenda Item – What We Heard During Meeting #1

- 3.1. Jack Blocker brought up an issue with the CMP Goal statement provided during meeting #1 (and again in meeting #2). Jack felt the statement underrepresented other components of maintaining ecological integrity such as restoration, naturalization etc.

- 3.1.1. Jen Petruniak/Linda McDougall reiterated that the Environmental Management Strategy does incorporate those other components.

- 3.1.2. Jack and Sandy Levin also noted that the Goal seems to conflict with page 4 of the Guidelines where the protection of ecological integrity is the first priority and recreational use is a secondary objective.

- 3.1.3. Jack suggested that a full stop (period placement) be put in the goal after “achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an Environmental Management Strategy”.

- 3.1.4. John Levstik requested that the Goal not exclude reference to recreational.

- 3.1.5. Sandy also touched on the installation of benches and that to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, these amenities would require concrete pads, resulting in significant changes to the ESA in south whereas benches installed in the north ESA is feasible due to the existing trail system.

- 3.1.6. Andrew Macpherson noted later in the meeting that installation of benches may not require concrete pads but could still meet the AODA as it is understood that accessibility is for everyone. The AACAC rep (Jacqueline Madden) supported Andrew’s statement.

- 3.1.7. Goal for the CMP was revised at the end of the discussion to the following:
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.

- 3.1.8. It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials.

4. Agenda Item – Overview of Public Open House Purpose

- 4.1. Sandy asked for clarification on the type of input the team is looking for from the groups the LAC members represent.

- 4.1.1. A response was provided from Dillon that this will be addressed further into the meeting and that follow-up after the meeting is possible if questions remain.

5. Agenda Item – Information to be Presented at the Public Open House

- 5.1. Jack Blocker posed a question regarding how the survey will be distributed online.
 - 5.1.1. Survey is to be hosted on Dillon website with notifications in local papers, mail-outs to residents adjacent to the ESA and mail-outs to Phase 1 public meeting attendees (where contact information is available) with links to the online survey. Paper copies of the survey will also be made available for those without access to internet.
- 5.2. Sandy Levin was puzzled as to why anybody could fill out the survey (i.e., the survey is open to anyone who has access to the internet).
 - 5.2.1. Karla touched on that it is a consultation tool and not to be used for statistical purposes.
- 5.3. Mady wanted clarification that maps would be online for posting comments/markups.
 - 5.3.1. Karla confirmed that mapping would be available online for comments.
- 5.4. Sarah Pierce wondered if the survey could include Postal Codes to help collect information on where people are from that are providing input.
- 5.5. Sarah also noted the application ArcGIS Collector may be useful for collecting data from the public by making the mapping available on mobile devices.
- 5.6. The idea of including the definition of the CMP from the Official plan as a lead-up to the Goal statement was discussed. This is in hopes of providing more clarity on the purpose of the CMP to the public.
- 5.7. John questioned whether there was a goal for the North MVHF ESA trail master plan.
 - 5.7.1. Linda was unsure as the development of the goal for the Trail Master Plan was prior to her time working on the MVHF. Keith mentioned there were goals but not quite to the full extent of what is currently proposed for the south and the process was different during that plan and has become more refined.
- 5.8. Sandy asked whether there could be some connection to outline the planning of the MVHF as a whole and mention the ever evolving and refining of the guidelines/standards etc. as information at the Open House. This was confirmed.
- 5.9. Chris Sheculski suggested showing where the CMP process is currently at would be beneficial for the public to see. This was agreed upon.
- 5.10. Sandy noted the exclusion of the Huron/ Western lands from Phase 1 and asked if there would be an explanation for the exclusion should the public inquire. It was confirmed that the mapping would reflect “data was not available at the time of analysis”.
- 5.11. Katrina Moser brought up the benefits of providing an explanation to public at the Open House as to what are Species at Risk (SAR) and which species shown on the mapping are SAR. Panels could specify which species are provincially protected by legislation such as the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. This was confirmed as something that would be outlined at the Open House.
 - 5.11.1. Sandy also noted the panels should mention the habitat of SAR is also protected. This was confirmed to provide clarity to the public.

- 5.11.2. Renee Agathos suggested that the explanations of SAR should also include photos of the species and why they are risk. This was confirmed for representative species as not all could be highlighted given the diversity in the ESA.
- 5.11.3. Sandy suggested that photos only be included for those species that cannot be picked/picked up (i.e., trees). This will be considered.
- 5.11.4. Major takeaway from discussion on SAR is that the Open House presents an opportunity to educate the general public on SAR present in the ESA.

6. Agenda Item – Review of Survey Questions

- 6.1. Several members of the LAC noted incorrect or missing portions of organization names. This will be corrected and confirmed with the City prior to distribution of the survey.
- 6.2. One request was made that the survey include the first three digits of Postal Code.
- 6.3. Sarah expressed her concern that the first survey question listing all the organizations was overwhelming and provided a suggestion that it ask for the postal code and if whether you're part of a group (text answer).
 - 6.3.1. Keith suggested if the full list of organizations is kept, "general public" should be put first.
- 6.4. Keith suggested adding a question about whether you have ever been to the MVHF South and if yes, at what frequency?
- 6.5. Dr. Rhonda Bathurst noted that the list of activities people do in the ESA could be expanded to include things like foraging, which Linda noted is against ESA by-laws and can be reported for enforcement. Inclusion of other items like foraging may give insight as to the level of non-permitted activities.
- 6.6. Mady suggested that the option of hike be revised to be hike/walk.
- 6.7. Discussion was held regarding the question asking for thoughts on trail condition. It was determined that this question is unnecessary and wouldn't lead to useful data as people's perspective on trail condition may vary greatly.
- 6.8. Sandy noted that the questions should be written in way as to not raise the public expectations, in particular installation of trail amenities with the example being benches.
 - 6.8.1. Jacqueline Madden noted that certain amenities, like handrails, could be installed with significant impact and improve the ESA's accessibility. It was agreed to expand on the list of examples of amenities.
- 6.9. Bruce West noted that the Wonderland bridge that passes over Snake Creek has a number of people from the Aldershot and White Hills areas accessing the ESA and there should be consideration for those people as well in terms of mail-outs.
- 6.10. Mady suggested including a question asking what access or portion of the ESA you tend to use most.
- 6.11. Katrina questioned the question with the ranking of importance and that it needs some clarity for the public.
 - 6.11.1. Sandy noted again the ranking of importance again may raise expectations and that there should be panels to educate attendees on the City policy.

- 6.12. Katrina asked about the design and condition of trails and how important this information really is. Katrina suggested there may be another way to list this by including examples.
- 6.13. Renee touched on that members of the group would be good advocates for better bike routes/paths throughout the City to direct cyclists away from the ESA. This is beyond the mandate of this LAC.

7. Next Steps/Additional Comments

- 7.1. The City and Dillon confirmed the suggestions and input from LAC would be considered while the Open House survey was being finalized.
- 7.2. Keith noted for a small project in Sunningdale (park development), the access points had signs up to encourage attendance. Suggested physical signs at entrances to the ESA advertising the Open House and the survey. This was agreed to by the City.
- 7.3. Katrina noted that a number of staff from Huron/Western use the MVHF and wondered the best way to reach out to staff and notify them of the Open House. Jack and Michael as representatives of Huron and Western (respectively) will provide notice to their respective institutions.
- 7.4. Katrina suggested it may be nice to have computers/tablets at the Open House so attendees can fill out survey right away. Dillon responded there will be efforts to accommodate this.
- 7.5. Sandy noted in the surveys that there isn't a question regarding ranking of monitoring priorities and this should be considered as well.
- 7.6. The City and Dillon clarified that LAC members have from May 4 to July 1 to encourage their communities/associations to participate in the Open House and survey, as well as collect comments and input they feel will be useful as the CMP is drafted. Comments are to be provided using an MS Excel spreadsheet template file to be provided by the City within one week to facilitate compilation of comments and responses. An electronic file of the Phase 1 map will also be provided for additional comments and location references.
- 7.7. Next meeting is scheduled for July 27 in the same room and same time as Meeting #2. The LAC can expect to receive a summary of the survey responses and Open House comments received, as well as a compiled list of LAC comments and preliminary responses for review at least one week in advance of meeting #3 (i.e., July 20).
- 7.8. Meeting concluded at 19:10

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions. Please note, Item 1.1.1 was revised based on a comment received on May 11, 2017



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #3 for MVHF ESA (south)
Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: July 27, 2017 17:30 – 19:00

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katarina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
John Levstik+	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Michael Lunau	Western University
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James McKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

+indicates departure from meeting prior to adjournment.

Regrets

Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Review of Public Engagement
1.1.	Sandy Levin requested an explanation of what comments received wouldn't be applicable to the CMP.

- 1.1.1. Dillon provided clarification that some members of the public used the online mapping/survey as a general forum to voice other issues to the City (e.g. road speeds). Those few comments that have nothing to do with the ESA wouldn't be applicable.
- 1.2. Greg Thorn had a question regarding the like/dislike feature on the Social Pinpoint and whether those were taken into consideration.
 - 1.2.1. Jen Petruniak provided some clarification that the like/dislike feature is considered more of a "fun feature" to encourage feedback but as there isn't a way to track whether someone clicked like/dislike multiple times on one comment, that type of feedback can't be relied on to provide accurate statistical feedback.
- 1.3. Sandy Levin requested clarification on the comment Dillon had regarding users of the Social Pinpoint putting multiple comments on the same issue and whether if 5 comments (pins) from the same person were only counted as one.
 - 1.3.1. Jen Petruniak noted that if a user commented 5 times on the same issue then that comment on that issue was only considered once as it was the same general topic. This generally occurred when a user posted a pin comment as well as survey comment with the same issue, sometimes using the same text.
 - 1.3.2. Karla provided more clarity to the LAC on the engagement/survey process and that, with multiple platforms being used, comments have to be carefully considered as the comments are not weighted. The process was not intended to be one of statistical sampling/data collection for decision-making. Comments received during the engagement process from the public and the LAC to date were used to identify items for consideration in the Draft CMP and review with the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs rather than being tabulated to make decisions.
- 1.4. Elgin Austen noted that Friends of Medway Creek undertook a survey their membership and came up with similar results.
- 2. Agenda Item – Discussion on Connected Trails and Crossings**
 - 2.1. **Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley Trail** - Sandy Levin wanted to note the south end of the Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley trail has very steep terrain which may result in the redesign of the trail being a challenge and should be taken into consideration.
 - 2.2. **Gainsborough Ravine to Snake Creek Valley Trail** - Jack Blocker posed a question about the incorporation of the redesigned trail into a proposed naturalization area and if that is a contradiction.
 - 2.2.1. Jen Petruniak noted that placement of the trail and the naturalization of the existing mowed lawn area would ideally occur at the same time. This means the redesign of the trail is incorporated into naturalization efforts and helps to prevent formation of informal trails and limiting mowing encroachments by providing direction and guidance for users.
 - 2.3. Elgin Austen requested clarification on if there is a plan for the trail system being considered and what is the extent of where we're looking.
 - 2.3.1. Jen Petruniak noted that the trail plan is currently being developed based on the

feedback from the public and the LAC following the Guidelines. The extent is just the area of the ESA on public lands.

- 2.4. John Levstik wanted to note to the LAC that having been walking in the MVHF since 1986 he has noticed those restricted to the east side of the valley tend to stick to the limited number of loop walks and without a connection(s) to the west side, there may a drive to go off-trail and cause formation of informal trails as well as put further stress on the managed trails by not distributing use throughout the valley.
- 2.5. **Enforced Closure of Informal Trail** - Mady Hymowitz requested clarification on what is proposed for the closure of the informal trail and placement of a connection.
- 2.5.1. Jen Petruniak provided clarification that the informal trail would additional effort to enforce the trail closure and that without a connection, the trail may be continued to be used.
- 2.6. Elgin Austen posed the question of whether it would better to build/formalize improvements to trails before closing the informal trails so it encourages users to use managed trails instead of informal trails.
- 2.7. Jack Blocker presented another scenario where a connection may increase use of the informal trail south of Fanshawe Park Road West.
- 2.8. Sandy Levin brought up a summarized citation from the Guidelines from Leung and Marion (2000) that was incorrect in noting bridges, fences etc. Sandy offered to provide the 2000 paper as well as newer research paper from Leung and Marion from 2016.
- 2.8.1. Jen Petruniak thanked Sandy for his comment and welcomed his offer to provide the papers.
- 2.8.2. Upon review of the Guidelines and 2012 Trail Standards, it was noted that the citation was carried over to the 2016 Guidelines from the 2012 Trail Standards.
- 2.9. Keith Zerebecki requested clarification whether the feedback from the public was asking for 5 crossings or if there were 5 different locations for crossings suggested and would those crossings be designed to accommodate vehicles.
- 2.9.1. Jen Petruniak noted that the feedback identified 5 potential locations for crossings.
- 2.9.2. Andrew Macpherson noted the City hasn't received any direction for future potential crossings to be designed for vehicles.
- 2.10. Jack Blocker wanted to know why crossings are even being considered when the comments provided by the LAC members indicate a clear opposition to crossings.
- 2.10.1. Jen Petruniak provided clarification that while the LAC comments are under consideration there was other feedback from the public also has to be considered and reviewed with the Guidelines which included requests for connections and crossings.
- 2.11. Andrew Macpherson noted that the Bloomfield crossing was community driven and the community members worked to fund its construction to connect existing trails and minimize impacts to the ESA. Project was successful in directing users from riparian areas and area is now habitat for sensitive species around the one trail.
- 2.12. Greg Thorn wanted to point out that the Bloomfield bridge crosses over a much small

feature whereas a crossing over the Medway Creek would have to be much larger.

- 2.13. Karla Kolli initiated a round-table discussion to get LAC member's specific feedback on crossings and whether there are other considerations outside of the Guidelines.
- 2.13.1. Elgin Austen – Asked if there would be consideration for a site visit for the LAC to view crossing areas. Would volunteer to attend.
- 2.13.2. Jack Blocker – There was a point made by a member of the LAC in the comments that doesn't appear to have been considered. By installing connections and increasing access there may be a decrease in illegitimate activities but on the flipside, with increased legitimate use where is the limit to when increased legitimate use (i.e. volume of users) starts to have a negative impact on the ESA. This consideration should have even more weight in the monitoring.
- 2.13.3. Michael Lunau – perhaps there could be consideration for a different type of connection outside of the trail system, such as a trestle bridge connecting Doncaster Gate to Windermere. This would allow for a connection that could also accommodate bicycles and keep them off the ESA trail system.
- 2.13.4. Sandy Levin – can we please include comments from observers (this was permitted, though kept until after LAC members had provided feedback). One major consideration is whether a crossing creates more of a problem than it solves. Once a crossing is installed it generally isn't going anywhere. If the crossing starts to impact the ESA in the future, how would it effectively be closed? Installation of connections have to be considered as a whole with other elements of the CMP. The example of crossing A would need effective closure and education for users for the informal trail to the east, otherwise it may continue to be used, even with a connection. Also, if there isn't budget to undertake the follow-up monitoring then the crossing doesn't meet the objectives. There has to be concurrent monitoring and effective closures with the installation of a crossing for it to work.
- 2.13.5. Greg Thorn – one of the very first things that should be considered is what the rationale is for a crossing. Would it meet the definition of fitting in with the ESA? An example that comes to mind is if a bridge was installed in the University/College properties to connect the residence with Huron College. It would bring much more traffic onto the campus. If a bridge is installed, would it not bring more users including those on bicycles? The draw for other users should be considered.
- 2.13.6. Mady Hymowitz – the slides say connection but the main body is always referring to a bridge. It should be very clear what the intention of the crossings is so people don't get the wrong idea. A common understanding on what to expect would be beneficial so people don't start dreaming about moss-laden stepping stones and we end up with bridges like the north. Andrew clarified that the stones recommended in the 1996 study were confirmed not to meet regulatory requirements but could be re-explored.
- 2.13.7. Dan Jones – was the request for a site visit for the LAC to visit recommended improvements or would that be a Trails Advisory Group? Clarification was made that the request for LAC to view crossing areas.
- 2.13.8. Alex Vanderkam – a temporary bridge was installed where crossing A is shown during

installation of the sewer. Consideration for previous crossings should be made.

- 2.13.9. Jacqueline Madden – noted that while some of the LAC comments do indicate opposition to crossings there are members of the LAC in favour of crossings
- 2.13.10. Keith Zerebecki – if one concern is the bridge drawing cyclists could it not be designed to restrict access for bikes.
- 2.13.11. John Levstik – there has been some positive and negative changes in the ESA during his time living adjacent to it. Positives being naturalization of the Elsie Perrin estate while negatives are increased stresses on the trail system (i.e. widening, creation of informal trails). A connection would help to lessen the strain on the trail system by dispersing users to both sides of the valley. Has witnessed people stuck on the same loops and still using closed trails.
- 2.13.12. Katrina Moser – there seems to be a focus on the individual components (i.e. crossings) and not looking at them as a whole within the ESA. Connectivity needs to be looked at as a whole and not in sections. While feedback did indicate a need for crossings, feedback also indicated opposition to crossings. Both sides need to be considered and there should be a strong rationale if the decision is to include crossings
- 2.13.13. Rhonda Bathurst – has there been consideration for the cultural aspect for crossings. Jen Petruniak noted that crossing installations would need to undertake archeology assessments.
- 2.13.14. Public Observer – if money is put into the building of structures, would that mean less money towards upkeep and maintenance of the trails? Consideration should be given to where a trail connects to.
- 2.13.15. Public Observer – was there consideration for a constraint map? If a map showing constraints like water, contours, SAR was provided there may have been more focused comments. Linda McDougall noted that the 2016 addendum to the Phase I findings identified constraints consistent with the Guidelines.
- 2.14. Greg Thorn noted that crossing D has significant topography (i.e. flat) and may require a long run and be very costly.
- 2.15. John Levstik noted just before departing at 19:00, the trail leading to Ambleside Park is quite lovely and provides for connection to the neighbourhoods to the east.
- 2.16. Keith Zerebecki wanted clarification that if the Bloomfield bridge was considered now it wouldn't meet the guidelines and does it make sense to take into other considerations that override the guidelines if the overall benefit outweighs the direction of the guidelines. If crossing B and crossing C are not included, what are the future impacts?
- 2.17. Sandy Levin noted that crossing D is adjacent to a trail loop to the southeast that passes through habitats for species of conservation concern. Consideration should be for what the potential impacts to those species may be with increased trail use.
- 2.18. Jack Blocker has concerns that crossings A and D would bring more people to one side of the creek and increase the volume of use.
- 2.19. Elgin Austen noted that Friends of Medway Creek completed surveys which indicated a number of residents are not even aware of the valley and doesn't imagine there would

an increase in volume. If the crossing are not feasible, what about conversion of informal to managed to provide a connection.

- 2.20. Sandy Levin provided some input regarding the trail north of crossing A and that it is very wet so there is more than just a bridge to consider. With installation of a crossing, that would bring more people to the south area where False Rue-anemone are located. What would be the impacts to those species with increase use.
- 2.21. Greg Thorn wanted to connect Sandy's point to Katrina's in that there really has to be consideration for the ESA as a whole and not focused on the individual components like crossings.
- 2.22. Jacqueline Madden provided some insight from living adjacent to the north part of the ESA and that with the connections, users seem to stick to the managed trail system and don't veer off and the trail surfaces are user friendly and not wet and slippery.
- 2.23. Sandy Levin countered Jacqueline noting the north was a different situation as the trail system got placed right after the sewer installation. Sandy also wanted to note even if crossing D was installed, people may still use the informal trails, in particular the one between B and C.
- 2.24. Greg Thorn noted the mown lawn associated with Attawandron Park should also be considered as an option for a trail to help provide connectivity without the need for connection A.
- 2.25. Jacqueline Madden wanted clarification if there would be one plan for the system.
 - 2.25.1. Jen Petruniak clarified that the final version of the CMP would include one plan for the trail system.

3. Next Steps/Additional Comments

- 3.1. Next meeting (meeting #4) is scheduled for September 7 in the same room and same time as Meeting #3. The LAC can expect to receive a draft CMP in the later part of August for review prior to meeting #4. Meeting #4 is to provide members of the LAC with an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft CMP after which feedback will be taken back to make revisions to the CMP, as necessary, prior to finalizing.
- 3.2. Meeting concluded at 19:30

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #4 for MVHF ESA (south)
Conservation Master Plan Phase 2

Date and Time: September 7, 2017 17:30 – 19:30

Location: City Hall, City of London

Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Susan Hall	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Sarah Peirce*	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West+	Attawandaron Residents
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz+	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item Discussion

Prior to the start of the meeting's presentation, Karla Kolli overview the updated schedule with regards to LAC meetings and release of an updated draft and final report. The updated schedule includes:

- A Revised Draft Phase II CMP is now to be provided to the LAC members on

October 20, 2017

- Next LAC meeting (#5) is now on November 2, 2017
- The second community open house is now to be on November 15, 2017
- The final Phase II CMP report is to be released on November 24, 2017
- The final Phase II CMP report is to be presented to the Planning and Environment Committee of Council in December 2017

With this updated schedule, Sandy Levin wanted confirmation whether there was an updated timeline for providing comments on the draft CMP. It was confirmed that the date for providing comments on the draft CMP is now **September 21** for LAC members and September 28 for EEPAC and ACCAC. The spreadsheet provided is to be used to submit comments.

1. Agenda Item – Review of Draft CMP

- 1.1. As a lead-in to the review of the draft CMP, Karla asked the LAC members to indicate how many have had a chance to review the document.
 - 1.1.1. As show of hands indicated the majority of members have reviewed the document in some capacity.
- 1.2. Karla then asked the members to provide some first impressions and comments.
 - 1.2.1. Sandy Levin requested confirmation that NA5 in the document is also the area that currently has a sign indicating it is Attawandaron Park. It was confirmed the area noted in the CMP as NA5 is currently known as Attawandaron Park and that the park is located in the ESA boundaries.
 - 1.2.2. Rhonda Bathurst noted that there is an ongoing issue with ESA users parking on museum property and accessing informal trails off their property. The City was thanked for the new signage which is helping to direct users to the official trail access to the west.
 - 1.2.3. Susan Hall mentioned that the AODA signage that City is committing to is very important and noted that Pinery Provincial Park has some great signage. Susan provided an example in the MVHF ESA where the current signage isn't sufficient (south of Access Point #4 and Linkage A). Susan also noted that there is a sign in this area which is confusing as it references the Thames River. Linda McDougall noted that the sign was installed by the federal government.
 - 1.2.4. Rhonda Bathurst posed a question whether there are ways to control graffiti on signs. Linda mentioned the current signage has graffiti resistant coating that is supposed to make removal of graffiti easier.
 - 1.2.5. Chris Sheculski noted how well interpretative signage works with younger people who enjoy sharing that knowledge with others.
 - 1.2.6. Sandy Levin wanted to clarify that closure of informal/closed trails are also included in Option 2 and Option 3 for the trail management strategy. It was confirmed that yes, those two options merge the recommendations from the option before it including the closure of informal and un-managed trails following steps in Guidelines.
- 1.3. Sandy Levin also pointed out the potential challenge of installing barricades/corrals at the intersection of the Level 1 and Level 2 trails south of Access Point 10 as the area is

very open.

The three trail concept plans outlined as part of the Trail Management Strategy were review in detailed and after each option was presented, LAC members were encouraged provide feedback.

Enhanced As-Is Option

- 1.4. Sandy Levin noted that the trail proposed to be reopened which connects Doncaster Gate to Snake Creek Valley has an informal trail that comes off it to the northwest that passes through private property (leads to where Linkage D is). Sandy requested that enforcing closure of this informal trail should be addressed in the implementation plan.
- 1.5. Sandy Levin noted that upgrading trails north and south of Medway Creek to level 2 from level 1 without a connection across the creek doesn't make sense.
- 1.6. Sandy Levin noted the informal trail on the east side of the creek, from linkage A (presented in Option 3) – doesn't appear to be that active of an informal trail and that representatives from UTRCA mentioned it's not that active.
- 1.7. Sarah Peirce wanted to know whether there had been consideration for a true "Do-nothing" option without improving certain trails.
 - 1.7.1. Jen Petruniak noted that there would never be a true do-nothing option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the features in the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The Enhanced As-Is option in the CMP presents improvements to existing trails.
- 1.8. Michael Lunau noted Access Points #15 and #16 lead onto private lands (UWO/Huron) and requested that these points not be formalized and be removed from the maps as public access points due to the potential liability issue for Western. Western and the City will discuss this.
 - 1.8.1. It was noted by the City and Dillon that the access points already exist and removal of them from the ESA would also affect the trails in that portion of the MVHF ESA (south) and a discussion would be needed between the City and UWO.

Partial Connectivity

- 1.9. Rhonda Bathurst noted the proposed new trail through NA5 may contribute the on-going issue of users parking at the museum. If this trail is constructed, the museum is hoping measures will be in place to direct users away from parking at the museum and that if parking issues persist, that the City would help to mitigate.
- 1.10. Sandy Levin noted that even if a new trail is put in, there may still be issues with use of informal trails as it provides a straight line.
 - 1.10.1. Linda suggested measures such as new fencing, and native plantings to screen views into the parking lot and the informal trails could be part of the implementation plan to reduce use of the museum parking lot and informal trails.

Enhanced Connectivity (Linkage A)

- 1.11. Sandy Levin noted that the CMP should be upfront about the options for linkages and present what the options could look like to make the distinction that a bridge would not

look like the wooden bridge over Rollingwood/Bloomfield Creek in the south. The newest bridge in the MVHF ESA (north) just south of Sunningdale was shown as an example.

- 1.12. Elgin Austin wanted to know if a bridge isn't an option what are the other options?
 - 1.12.1. Jen Petruniak noted stepping stones are the other option but the particular section of the creek at Linkage A was proposed to be a bridge to connect accessible trails.
- 1.13. Jacqueline Madden noted that ACCAC would be supportive of a bridge for Linkage A.
- 1.14. Jack Blocker has issues with the proposed hardening of trails and installation of linkages. Jack specifically brought up that the review of potential linkages have only be assessed at the local site level and not with the entire ESA in mind. Jack provided an example of the 31 flora with a coefficient of conservation value of 8 or higher (indicating higher quality, less disturbed habitat) and that increased use in the ESA due to the hardening of trails and installation of linkages have the potential to impact the greater ESA. Jack noted that the CMP should address how hardening and linkages may increase use, potentially resulting in more undesired use and whether the ESA as a whole would be impacted.
- 1.15. Elgin Austin provided a counter point to Jack's in that hardening of trails and linkages will help to direct users to stay on the managed trail system.
- 1.16. Jack Blocker wanted to know why crossings are even being considered when the comments provided by the LAC members indicate a clear opposition to crossings.
 - 1.16.1. Renee Agathos agreed with Elgin that without proper linkages, people are getting to the creek and walking along banks trying to find a crossing. Renee also noted that there are wildlife native to the ESA that have just as much potential to trample (and eat) vegetation as off-leash dogs.
 - 1.16.2. James Mackay clarified that the Guidelines help direct the formation of CMPs for City ESAs for the protection of the ecological integrity of an ESA as a whole.
- 1.17. Jacqueline Madden noted that the AODA would help to guide the types of trail surface to be used.
- 1.18. Sandy Levin noted that the north trail leading to Linkage A that runs adjacent to Significant Wildlife Habitat (Amphibian Breeding Habitat) is rather wet which may be deterring use. Sandy touched on upgrading the trail surface may increase trail use and consideration should be as to how this may impact the wildlife habitat. Sandy further noted that one main concern is the potential increase in the number of people after upgrading of trails and installation of this Linkage and how increased use may impact areas of sensitive ecological features. Sandy noted that if there impacts to features caused by increased use, what is the approach to correct/mitigate said impacts? If impacts are determined to be associated with the Linkage, it is not feasible to remove the bridge once installed.
 - 1.18.1. Linda reiterated that the direction provided by the Guidelines and the existing measures in place for the ESA are protecting sensitive species. The experience in London consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is that as trail use increases, compliance with the rules also increases. The draft Recovery Strategy for False-rue anemone recommends outreach and stewardship to educate the public on the

species and its habitat, in areas with public access noting the well-defined walking trails in the Medway in London have helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness of this species.

1.19. Chris Sheculski wanted to know more about the user counter in the valley and what the data says about the number of people in the valley before and after bridge installation?

1.19.1. Linda noted that the presentation has some detailed data. Chris provided a personal observation in the MVHF ESA (north) that after the bridge installation there appears to be more people but no notable difference regarding impacts to the ESA. During garbage collections there doesn't appear to be increases in garbage and no obvious trampling/off-trail use.

Enhanced Connectivity (Linkage D)

After Dillon overviewed the approach to Linkage D and that implementation would only occur after monitoring is undertaken for Linkage A and further review of the feasibility and appropriateness of Linkage D with regards to the Guidelines, regulations, visual impact study and consultation is undertaken. Karla asked members to indicate their general comfort with the approach to implementing Linkage D.

1.20. Sandy Levin was in general opposition noting that the areas connected by Linkage D are not similar to the areas connected by Linkage A or in the area in the MVHF ESA (north) where the counter was located. Sandy noted the issue with Linkage D is that it connects an area of the valley that has been used for over 40 years that has a number of existing issues such as informal trails and off-leash dogs. Linkage D would bring more people to the north side of the creek which is less used. Sandy noted he can't see how undesired uses can be controlled if Linkage D is implemented.

1.21. Sarah Peirce wanted to know whether other trails on the north side of the creek which are currently level 1 would be upgraded to level 2 to increase accessibility?

1.21.1. Jen Petruniak noted that no, trails on the north side of the creek would remain as level 1.

1.22. Mady Hymowitz noted that she doesn't think the linkage is feasible and has concerns that the focus for monitoring is too much on users (i.e. people) and not on other features, such as sensitive species. The monitoring mentioned focuses on Linkage A and Linkage D, how is the ESA to be monitored has a whole?

1.23. Rhonda Bathurst brought up the previous point regarding Access Points #15 and #16. If these points are closed, how would this affect the implementation of Linkage D?

1.24. Renee Agathos requested clarification on why there is such a focus on the Guidelines?

1.24.1. Jen Petruniak noted that several groups involved in the LAC were also involved in the Trails Focus Group who oversaw the development of the Guidelines. A show of hands indicated several LAC members participated in the creation of the Guidelines and Dillon mentioned a number of groups represented by LAC members participated in the Guidelines development. James Mackay also noted that the Guidelines help marry the protection of an ESA with recreational use. Jacqueline Madden also noted that means recreational use for **all** people.

1.25. Jacqueline Madden wondered whether the CMP will eventually just present one plan and who is deciding what the final plan is to be?

- 1.25.1. Jen Petruniak noted that yes, the final CMP will include just one trail concept plan and that it is to incorporate comments from the LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC.
- Conclusion** – *a round table was held for final comments from members*
- 1.26. Dan Jones wanted to know what kind of work has been done around Access Point #12 as it connects to other City owned parkland.
- 1.26.1. Linda noted there has been some recent work along the linear trail to the west of the access which has included removal of hazard trees.
- 1.27. Rhonda Bathurst wanted to note there may be opportunities for other partnerships with groups on implementation activities noting the museum might be one such partnership.
- 1.28. Susan Hall noted that from reviewing the CMP she was surprised on the historic cultural use of the MVHF and provided a comparison with Algonquin Park which also has past historic disturbances which have succeeded into natural areas.
- 1.29. Jacqueline Madden provided some insight from living adjacent to the north part of the ESA and that with the connections, users seem to stick to the managed trail system and don't veer off and the trail surfaces are user friendly and not wet and slippery.
- 1.30. Sandy Levin has questions/concerns on the implementation plan and that the CMP doesn't include specific plans. Sandy also brought up that the ESA Team mentioned in the CMP is the same team responsible for 9 ESAs and that the budget for the team was cut by last Council. This leads to a concern that a lot of the monitoring and implementation won't occur due to lack of funding. There should be caution at the front end, recognizing there could be limitations in implementing recommendations due to limited budgets.
- 1.31. Jack Blocker noted our job on the LAC is not to find the middle ground but to protect the ESA. There seems to be three possible outcomes – the human use of the ESA does not increase, which means the money spent on improvements is wasted; use is increased but does not increase the impact on sensitive areas (best outcome); use increases but impacts increase – failure at protection of ecological integrity.
- 1.32. Sarah Peirce noted that inclusion of education opportunities is great as well as more signage. Use of existing partnerships and increasing partnerships would be great but also expansion of education/training, noting ChildReach's Wild Child Day program in the City.
- 1.33. Elgin Austin noted that Friends of Medway Creek membership has indicated preserving ecological integrity and education is important as well as seeing that implementation is done correctly. Connectivity of the trails appears to have helped keeping users on trail in the north. The south has issues with users off trail which may be improved through use of connections.
- 1.34. Michael Lunau wanted to reiterate that UWO is not opposed to connecting public trails to campus trails to help keep trails open and that UWO is working on campus trail plans which need work on their end.
- 1.35. Dan Jones noted that the ESA team has on-going issues with public relations.
- 2. Next Steps/Additional Comments**
- 2.1. LAC to provide comments on Draft CMP by September 21, 2017

- 2.2. Next meeting (meeting #5) is scheduled for November 2 in the same room and same time as Meeting #4. The LAC can expect to receive an updated draft CMP (draft II) on October 20 prior to Meeting #5. Meeting #5 is to gain an endorsement of CMP Phase 2 Report by the LAC prior to finalizing as well as discuss Community Open House Meeting #2 to be held on November 15.
- 2.3. Meeting concluded at 19:30

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Local Advisory Committee (LAC) #5 for MVHF ESA (south)
 Conservation Master Plan Phase 2
Date and Time: November 2, 2017 17:30 – 19:30
Location: City Hall, City of London
Our File: 17-5428

Attendees

Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Brandon Williamson*	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy - Restoration)
1.1.	No comments on overview of revised CMP up until the Environmental Management

Strategy - Restoration

- 1.1.1. Sandy Levin noted he has some ideas for providing clarity on the wording and will provide for incorporation into the final CMP document.
- 2. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy - Naturalization)
 - 2.1. Sandy Levin posed the question - why there is a trail proposed through Attawandaron Park when there is a sidewalk connection?
 - 2.1.1. Jennifer Petruniak responded that there is a noticeable difference when walking on a sidewalk in an urban neighbourhood then along a trail through a natural area.
- 3. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Environmental Management Strategy – Trail Management Plan)
 - 3.1. Regarding proposed bridge at Linkage A over Medway Creek and example in the MVHF ESA (north), Greg Thorn wanted to note that the banks of the creek where the Sunningdale West pedestrian bridge are much steeper than Linkage A and a bridge at Linkage A would likely require a further span.
 - 3.2. Keith Zerebecki noted he had missed that last meeting and requested clarification on the rationale for removing the linkage at Location D as an option.
 - 3.2.1. Jennifer Petruniak provided further explanation on the process. Given the types of trails a linkage at this location would connect, it was determined that the linkage would be difficult to implement in a manner that could be widely used.
 - 3.3. Sandy Levin brought up the proposed barricade/corral associated with the False Rue-anemone trail loop and that he is unsure how an effective barricade/corral can be due to the width and openness of the area over the utility overlay. Corraling at the entrance to the trail loop may prove difficult. Sandy followed this observation up with a question on whether the finer details of installing a barricade/corral would be included in the final CMP or done at as micro-siting exercise.
 - 3.3.1. It was noted by Dillon and the City that details of the barricade/corral would be reviewed the Local Implementation Committee (LIC). It was also noted that the barricade/corral in the slideshow picture is an existing structure already in place across the utility overlay with a narrower width, just south of Fanshawe Park Road West.
 - 3.4. Sandy Levin still wants a better understanding of what the trail counter information will inform the management of the ESA.
 - 3.4.1. Jennifer Petruniak replied that the placement of the trail counter would help collect data that could be used for comparison of the pre- and post- usage during monitoring and that the data collected would help with adaptive management, if required.
 - 3.5. Greg Thorn noted that there is a lot of hopeful conjecture regarding assumptions of the trail management plan.
 - 3.6. Jack Blocker stated what conclusion will be drawn with showing conclusions showing higher use versus lower use. If use increases, more compliance. If use decreases, compliance decreases?

- 3.6.1. John Levstik noted that the MVHF ESA (north) hasn't seen decreases in compliance –it has improved with increased use and that a better marked system in the south would see increased compliance.
- 3.7. Katrina Moser commented that the Kilally Meadows ESA example of no informal trails being created doesn't account for the pre-existing informal trails are still being used.
 - 3.7.1. Sandy Levin wanted to build on Katrina's comment that the trail closures are ranked in the CMP as moderate, does that mean all informal trails will be closed within 3 years? What is the timing of trail closures (Sandy not clear on the timing of closures vs. new trails/bridge)? Focusing on the informal trail that leads from the False Rue-anemone area to private property, it should be closed and enforced prior to installing any new trail upgrades/bridge.
 - 3.7.2. It was noted by Dillon and the City that the finer details on implementation of management actions are to be part of next steps. Moderate priority management actions are recommended to start within 3 years according to Table 3 in the CMP.
 - 3.7.3. Brandon Williamson wanted to note as one the ESA managers that placement of new trails/upgrades should occur first before trail closures as to provide users with the new alternative as closing trails first might lead to creation of new informal trails without an alternative. Brandon also noted that that the particular trail leading from the False Rue-anemone area has been difficult to effectively close due to most of the trail being located on private lands.
- 3.8. Jack Blocker understands that there are implementation priorities in the final CMP but wants to know if those priorities are to be set by the LIC?
 - 3.8.1. Linda McDougall reiterated that the CMP sets the priorities and LIC is to follow but that the priorities are broad and there is room to work within them.
 - 3.8.2. Jack followed up with wanting to know though whether the LIC has the authority to revise a set priority such as moving trail closure from moderate to Top?
 - 3.8.3. It was noted that the LIC will have some authority to sequence priorities for management actions as the CMP is a living document through the management period of 2018-2028. It should also be noted that closure/restoration of informal trails was set as a moderate priority to start within three years, based on the criteria in the CMP in Table 6 and as these include a number of trails which have already received initial or on-going closure/restoration efforts and are identified as Moderate instead of High or Top as work is already underway.
- 3.9. Rhonda Bathurst was curious on the structure of the LIC?
 - 3.9.1. Linda McDougall noted that anybody involved with the LAC is given invitation to join LIC.
- 3.10. Not related to Trail Management section, Sandy Levin noted that Table 3 (restoration) reads priorities for Restoration Overlays?
 - 3.10.1. Sandy was thanked and this was noted for revision in the final CMP as that table should be management actions in general and the title will be revised.
- 4. Agenda Item – Review of Revised Draft CMP (Adaptive Management and Monitoring)
 - 4.1. Greg Thorn wanted to know where the counters are proposed and whether placement

would help determine use of managed trail and informal trails? Greg noted it would be good to place counters on both managed and unmanaged trails.

- 4.1.1. It was noted that counter locations are recommended in Table 12 in the CMP and Andrew Macpherson described the approach to placement of counters along the Thames Valley Parkway.
- 4.2. Sandy Levin noted Table 12 doesn't have a cost column like other tables and that it would be good to have estimated costs for monitoring.
 - 4.2.1. Jennifer Petruniak noted a column of costs was not included as the assumption of costs would not be accurate due to there being multiple monitoring tasks that may share the same budget and synergies in implementation could be applied.
- 4.3. Sandy Levin noted that bank migration is a monitoring element and that there has been no mention of the Medway Subwatershed Study Update (MSSU) outside of this CMP. Sandy wanted to know where the data is from the MSSU and who is managing it, as well as how is the MSSU tied with the CMP?
 - 4.3.1. Brandon Williamson noted that the migration data would be useful for determination of future crossings if data indicates overlap between trails and increasing creek meander.
 - 4.3.2. The City and Dillon noted that there hasn't been an update on the MSSU since 2013/2014 and that the project is currently on hold. Data was been collected as part of the MSSU following the placement of permanent monitoring pins to measure migration.
- 4.4. Sandy Levin noted Table 6 (page 19), it talks about Species at Risk (SAR) and doesn't really reference the habitat. Sandy noted it would make sense to add reference to SAR habitat as well to provide clarity. This was agreed to.
- 5. Next Steps
 - 5.1. Mady Hymowitz mentioned she is unclear on purpose of the second Open House?
 - 5.1.1. It was noted by Dillon and the City that the second Open House to present how information was used that was collected during the first Open House and from the LAC meetings and to present the most recent draft CMP. This will be the public's opportunity to provide any final feedback on the CMP.
 - 5.2. Jacqueline Madden noted that the second draft was presented to ACCAC and they have some additional feedback on the second draft CMP and wanted to know what the process is for providing additional feedback?
 - 5.2.1. Andrew Macpherson noted that additional information is welcome and that if feedback from the second open house comes back with any significant changes, the CMP may be revised and LAC would be advised of significant changes. Andrew also noted that it is best to submit something in writing noting which group the feedback is from.
- 6. Endorsement of CMP for Public Presentation
 - 6.1. Before leading into the discussion of endorsement, Karla Kolli requested a round table discussion to see if there any further comments on the revised CMP document.
 - 6.1.1. Keith Zerebecki noted he hasn't been able to convince the members of the MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association that this plan is a solid concept

as a lot of the members in the north are expecting to see similar a trail system (multi-use, asphalt) to the north with a connection to Thames Valley Parkway. Doesn't have backing of his group.

- 6.1.2. Jacqueline Madden noted the suggestion from ACCAC was to provide an east-west link from A11 to A 19.
- 6.1.3. John Levstik wants to see further access and availability of trails.
- 6.1.4. Bruce West likes that the CMP takes into consideration people and the preservation.
- 6.1.5. Brandon Williamson had no further comment.
- 6.1.6. Alex Vanderkam mentioned his group is happy about the bridge and compliance with AODA.
- 6.1.7. Rhonda Bathurst had no further comment.
- 6.1.8. Mady Hymowitz mentioned that she felt the comments from the public were mostly in opposition to the crossings.
- 6.1.9. Katrina Moser noted that EEPAC doesn't feel like the protection of ecological integrity is being met.
- 6.1.10. Greg Thorn noted the ratepayers group he is representing won't endorse the CMP with a bridge included in the concept plan though noting they would endorse the bulk of the document with the caveat that it should not include a bridge/crossing.
- 6.1.11. Sandy Levin mentioned the CMP contains lots of good stuff and did not want to "throw the baby out with the bath water" but is not supportive of the bridge at Linkage A.
- 6.1.12. Jack Blocker had no further comments.
- 6.1.13. Elgin Austin reiterated that the CMP shouldn't be a combination of little plans (i.e. north and south) and should be looked at as a whole for connectivity from north to south (north/south).
- 6.1.14. Michael Lunau had no further comment.
- 6.1.15. Chris Sheculski noted that there are members of the LAC with a scientific background and that we should reference the data given when coming to a decision. Use has gone up in the north part of the ESA and so has compliance with rules, and off trail use has disappeared.
- 6.2. Karla Kolli asked for a show of hands of which LAC members could endorse to move plan forward to the public and City Council noting that there would be some final revisions based on final feedback but no significant revisions expected. Karla also asked the LAC if they thought that they could ever all agree on "one plan" and the response was negative.
 - 6.2.1. The show of hands indicated that four of the members could endorse the document "As-is"
- 6.3. Jacqueline Madden wanted to note that ACCAC wouldn't support plan 100% but would support most of the plan and wanted to know whether the approach to endorsement is having a group's 100% approval?
 - 6.3.1. Andrew noted that there are two sides generally represented and that achieving

endorsement of the CMP would likely not be a simple Yes/No vote. Andrew noted that the CMP complies with the Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (pausing to confirm that with the LAC) and that despite this, the document may still not meet 100% agreement for all groups in LAC. Andrew also noted that conversations are still needed with Western and ACCAC to follow-up with some of their questions/concerns that may suffice for those groups to endorse.

- 6.4. It was discussed among the group how to approach endorsement and it was decided that a round table yes/no was to be asked along with providing any caveat or “the one thing” that may preclude certain groups from endorsing the current CMP.

Member	Group Represented	Support for CMP*	Caveat(s) for Support
Jacqueline Madden	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)		Good improvement going forward recognizing everything cannot be perfect/ accessible. Would like City to consider ACCACs additional recommendations that they may provide. Hoping for additional presentation at Nov.23 ACCAC meeting. Linda noted she will be presenting to ACCAC.
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)		Noted there are lots of things that are good in the CMP and that EEPAC has seen the second draft but can't really endorse without further discussion with EEPAC. Can't endorse with bridge included.
Brandon Williamson	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)	Y	Wanted to note the snake creek crossing and the connection through Attawandaron, once implemented, will result in fully connected trail from north to university, though not entirely AODA. Crossing over Snake Creek, there needs to be trail work on east side of creek as migration is cutting into trail.

Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek	Y?	Used to do a lot of hiking in the south but now with pedestrian bridge, does more hiking in north. Without well connected trails there would still be creation of informal trails. Can endorse but does want to bring back to group for their input.
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA		Can't endorse because of Bridge. The restoration points are good but unsure of implementation. Has a worry that that the priorities for recommendations not be implemented due to budget. Timing, priorities and bridge are biggest issues for endorsement. Worried that a bridge would use up the bulk of ESA budget.
Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA		The ESA south, is a very different place than north of Fanshawe. Putting trails through much more significant areas, Sherwood/Orchard Park noted that while crossing D is no longer option, cannot support the bridge proposed. A more planned out trail system and system outside of ESA to connect neighbourhoods would be better than putting a bridge in.
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA		Notes that if this is the best the connectivity can be then could endorse but there is an expectation of the north residents that what is in north should be in the south. If there is going to be opposition from south residents to connectivity then north residents may stand up for achieving connectivity.

Michael Lunau	Western University	Y	In the terms of the interest of the university, not their place to endorse trail crossings, trail placements – no other hurdles other than access points leading to and from Western’s lands brought up previously.
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents		Good with CMP except for the bridge at location A
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archeology	Y	Recognizing that 100% agreement won’t be achieved, but can endorse
Jack Blocker	Huron University College		Huron is concerned with the protection of the ecological integrity of the ESA and cannot endorse due to the bridge and the trails leading to bridge as it will not protect the ecological integrity. The other management recommendations (restoration, naturalization) are fine.
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London		Noted that the restoration and management is good but that ESAs are established to protect and shouldn’t be about connectivity of trails. Cannot endorse with bridge.
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)	Y	Number of folks from TVTA were out at first open house and can endorse as is.
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers	Y	Can endorse plan, appreciating the connection proposed.
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)		Environmental elements are outstanding and the works being done are much appreciated. Issue is the connectivity from north to Western. Wouldn’t endorse as is due to lack of connectivity.

* where there is a lack of notation, this indicates there was a caveat preventing endorsement.

- 6.5. With the above noted support and/or opposition, the feedback provided is to be taken away for discussion and consideration before presenting CMP to public at the second open house.
- 6.6. Dave Potten, the alternate representative from TVTA, thought the CMP was done

comprehensively and that the restoration section was good. Wanted to note that moderate priority says *start within 3 years*. Dave also wanted to note that the reference to AODA used to remove option for Linkage D should be reviewed to ensure the appropriate messaging was used. Wanted to note that the entirety of the public was represented by the LAC and hopes that Council will do their the job of representing everybody. Hopes the public meeting will have opportunity for additional input.

- 6.7. The Community Open House Meeting #2 is to be held on November 15.
- 6.8. This was the final LAC meeting as part of the Phase II process and the meeting concluded at 19:30.

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.



MEETING MINUTES

Subject: ESA CMP Planning Process and the AODA Information Meeting

Date and Time: February 21, 2018 17:30 – 19:00

Location: Stevenson Hunt Room, Central Library, City of London

Our File: 18-7086

Attendees

Michael Dawthorne*	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC)
Katrina Moser	Environmental & Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
Dan Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
Sandy Levin	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Chris Sheculski	Sunningdale West RPA
Dr. Rhonda Bathurst	Museum of Ontario Archaeology
Jack Blocker	Huron University College
Mady Hymowitz	Nature London
Alex Vanderkam	Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA)
Renee Agathos	Sunningdale North Residents Association
Linda McDougall	City of London
Andrew Macpherson	City of London
James MacKay+	City of London
John Fleming	City of London
Karla Kolli	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jennifer Petruniak	Dillon Consulting Limited
Jonathan Harris	Dillon Consulting Limited

*indicates an alternative representative

+had to depart earlier than the meeting end

Regrets

Greg Thorn	Sherwood Forest / Orchard Park RPA
Elgin Austen	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Friends of Medway Creek
Michael Lunau	Western University
Bruce West	Attawandaron Residents
John Levstik	Old Masonville Ratepayers
Keith Zerebecki	MVHF ESA Adopt an ESA: Sunningdale West Rate Payer Association (RPA)
Brenda McQuaid	Heritage London Foundation

The main purpose of this meeting was to further clarify the City of London's requirements to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) within the Conservation Master Planning process. The meeting also reviewed three main concerns with the October 2017 MVHF ESA (south) CMP and how they were addressed before the final version of the CMP is submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC). The meeting format included presentation of information related to both AODA and

the MVHF ESA (south) CMP. Opportunities were provided throughout the presentation for participants to ask questions and discuss the material being presented.

The meeting started with Andrew Macpherson welcoming those in attendance. Andrew relayed that the meeting was also being held to notify Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members of major revisions to the CMP that had been made to the October 2017 version of the CMP in response to comments received from committees of Council. It had been previously promised that if significant changes to the version to be submitted to PEC were made, the City would report back to the LAC first.

Andrew then introduced John Fleming from the City who is the Managing Director of Planning and the City Planner. Andrew noted that John would be the one bringing the motion to adopt the CMP to Council.

Mr. Fleming introduced himself to the LAC members in attendance and thanked them for their participation in the planning process including the 5 LAC meetings, 2 Open Houses, and a visit to the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayers AGM, and for bringing their local perspectives and expertise. Mr. Fleming provided his insight regarding where the CMP stands right now, acknowledging there are a few outstanding issues that the scientists and facilitators from Dillon Consulting will lead us through.

Notes

Item	Discussion
1.	Agenda Item - Welcome to Information Meeting
1.1.	John Blocker posed a question about the documents provided at the meeting [referring to the comment letters received from ACCAC and EEPAC, as well as a Conservation Action Alert from Nature London], wondering who they were specifically addressed to?
1.1.1.	Linda McDougall noted that the January 2018 letter from ACCAC was directed to the Environmental and Parks Planning (E&PP) staff at the City, the December 2017 EEPAC Statement and Recommendations were from EEPAC's agenda (and the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) agenda) and the Nature London Conservation Action Alert was distributed to subscribers and was forwarded to E&PP staff at the City.
1.1.2.	Jack noted he was aware of one other document (referring to an alternate report) that was submitted for inclusion on the February PEC agenda but was not included in the documents provided to the members of the LAC.
1.1.3.	Linda noted that any documents submitted to the clerk for the PEC meeting were not sent to or received by City staff in E&PP and therefore would not be presented as part of the LAC process but included as part of the PEC meeting when it occurs.
1.1.4.	Karla Kolli reiterated that one of the focuses of this meeting was regarding AODA and the specific letters provided from EEPAC and ACCAC to the City, as these are two official committees that advise Council.
1.1.5.	Jack noted that he was still "baffled" by the choice of documents that were circulated to the LAC for this meeting.

1.1.6. Andrew closed off this comment by noting that the documents circulated to the LAC, in particular the ACCAC and EEPAC formal responses, were those that were received by City staff at E&PP. Andrew also noted that City staff from E&PP have not seen the document Jack was referring to.

2. Agenda Item - AODA and the CMP Process

2.1. Sandy Levin requested clarification on the wording in the AODA concerning “new or redeveloping” of trails and “must”. If the City is not constructing new trails or redeveloping trails then there is no “must” and no requirement to make trails accessible?

2.1.1. Jen Petruniak reiterated Dillon and the City’s interpretation of the AODA, as presented on the slides [that once the CMP process is started, the review pertains to all trails within the defined boundary of the ESA], and asked Michael Dawthorne to provide ACCAC’s interpretation as well.

2.1.2. Michael noted that ACCAC sees the CMP as applying to the entire valley and when an ESA is under review during a CMP process accessibility of trails for the entire feature is to be reviewed as a whole. This implies that a review of all trails in the MVHF ESA (south) was required though doesn’t mean all trails would be required to be made accessible. Michael noted that ACCAC’s interpretation of the AODA with regards to trails is the same as Dillon and City’s based on direction provided in the Guidelines. Michael closed his statement by also noting that improving accessibility of trails following the Guidelines doesn’t conflict with or override protection of the valley or the environment.

2.1.3. Jen touched on accessibility and protection of the environment as working together following the Guidelines, noting the exceptions under the AODA and noting that an example of how the exception is applied by the City, according to the Guidelines, will be provided during the presentation.

2.2. Mady Hymowitz posed the question whether any other CMP’s for ESAs have used this interpretation of AODA.

2.2.1. Andrew noted that other CMP’s, the most recent being The Coves, did include the same interpretation of the AODA.

2.2.2. Jen also noted that this is the first CMP applying the 2016 Guidelines and that the previous 2012 Trail Standards had too much ambiguity with regards to the definition of management zones and applicable types of trails permitted to consistently apply the AODA.

2.3. Jack wanted to gain a better understanding of the AODA as it applies to trails. Jack questioned that if the City is reviewing all trails then under AODA, all trails have to be made accessible?

2.3.1. Jen provided a response that while all trails are reviewed as part of the CMP process in the Guidelines, not all trails would need to be made accessible if the exceptions identified under the AODA apply. Jen referred back to the exceptions under the AODA which were provided on one of the presentation slides. As part of the review of trails, the City is required under the AODA to make trails accessible where this doesn’t pose a significant risk that would adversely affect water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity and/or natural heritage values. The Guidelines are

clear that in less sensitive, culturally influenced, Natural Environment zones and over sewers for example, accessible trails are permitted and will be provided.

3. Agenda Item – References to AODA in Guidelines

- 3.1. A pause was made during the presentation for any questions regarding this portion of the presentation. No questions or comments were made.

4. Agenda Item – Revisions to MVHF ESA (south) CMP/Overview of Revisions to Final CMP - Trail Strategy (Maps)

- 4.1. Katrina Moser noted being confused that the bridge at location D is now okay and included in the CMP. Katrina referred to thinking that D had been noted in a previous version of the CMP as not being considered due to environmental concerns.

- 4.1.1. Jen noted that the D location was previously included in the August 2017 version of the CMP and complied with the Guidelines and was dropped in the October version as there was uncertainty regarding feasibility for implementation and challenges with providing accessibility up to Access 13 in a Nature Reserve zone. The D location was previously noted as a likely candidate for stepping stones or a bridge. Jen provided an overview of the bridge feasibility review Dillon engineers undertook as an extra step (and not part of the CMP process) to determine whether a pedestrian bridge would be feasible. Jen noted that a pedestrian bridge similar in specifications to what was most recently constructed in the MVHF ESA (north) near Sunningdale Road W. is feasible at both locations A and D.

- 4.1.2. Mady wanted to clarify that the bridge noted at D was the one that was included in previous draft and then taken off.

- 4.1.3. Jen confirmed that there was a “linkage” (i.e., stepping stones or a bridge) identified at location D that was included in the August 2017 draft of the CMP and then removed in the subsequent October 2017 version.

- 4.2. Andrew noted that ACCAC’s original request was that a connection from A13 to A18/A19 which would not be feasible without a bridge in place. It was also noted that the request of ACCAC could not be included as this would have required Level 2 trails in Natural Reserve which would not comply with the Guidelines. To fulfill the ACCAC request, the request for an accessible connection was revised by ACCAC in their January 2018 letter, to be from A11 to D and from D to A18/A19.

- 4.3. Susan Hall (attended as EEPAC’s alternate rep.) noted that AODA compliance seems paramount and wanted clarification on the process and why the AODA was not mentioned at the beginning?

- 4.3.1. Michael noted the AODA was in place well before Guidelines were developed, and during the development of the Guidelines the AODA was included.

- 4.3.2. Chris Sheculski noted that principles of AODA were brought up during first LAC meetings.

- 4.3.3. Karla also provided clarification that the AODA was brought into the development of the Guidelines, as approved by Council, and was outlined right at the beginning of the LAC meetings.

- 4.4. Alex Vanderkam wanted clarification that the LAC would get a copy of the final CMP.

4.4.1. Jen confirmed that LAC members would be circulated a link to the final CMP prior to submission of the document to the PEC.

5. **Agenda Item - EEPAC (and Nature London) Concerns/ Response to EEPAC Concerns**

5.1. A pause was made for any questions regarding this portion of the presentation. No questions or comments were made.

6. **Next Steps**

6.1. Mady feels like she has been put in a difficult position. Appreciates the needs and requirements of AODA as raised by ACCAC, but feels sandbagged with the appearance of a bridge at D that was previously removed in the October 2017 version of the CMP.

6.1.1. John Fleming noted the City was committed to the continued consultation with the LAC, as evidenced by presenting the revised content in the MVHF ESA (south) CMP to the LAC first, prior to submission to PEC or distribution to the general public via the City website.

6.2. Susan brought up her previous comment regarding ACCAC/AODA. Susan noted it would have been more appropriate to have received more overview on how the AODA would factor into the CMP process and trail management strategy component earlier in the process. Susan expressed how she felt like the opinions of the ACCAC were not clearly represented during the LAC meetings.

6.3. Katrina echoed Mady's comment and also has concerns that the timeline is rather short with the upcoming presentation of the CMP to the PEC being March 19. Katrina noted that this would not allow enough time to present the final CMP to EEPAC prior to the PEC meeting. Katrina requested more time to allow her to bring this back to EEPAC to review as D was not included prior to.

6.3.1. Jen wanted to know what Katrina would like to bring back.

6.3.2. Katrina wanted to see comparison of maps again and those would be the most crucial to bring back to EEPAC

6.3.3. Linda noted that the August version of the CMP did include the Linkage at location D and the City received comments back from EEPAC with regards to Linkage D. E&PP staff and Dillon provided formal Memo responses to EEPAC's comments which were circulated on EEPAC's agenda and through the LAC.

6.3.4. Jen also noted that the linkage at location D has always been presented as complying with the Guidelines.

6.4. Sandy requested that the slides be provided prior to the March 7 release of the finalized report also noting a tight timeline to get anything on the PEC agenda.

6.5. As there were concerns regarding the presented timeline of releasing the final CMP on March 7 to the LAC and the presentation to the PEC being March 19, Karla inquired with the City whether the March 19 date is set or open for discussion.

6.5.1. Andrew noted that it would be possible to move the presentation date.

6.5.2. John also noted that City can be flexible with the dates but does want to avoid delaying the process much further noting we have heard from the scientists at Dillon that the revised CMP complies with Guidelines. The City doesn't want to rush the process but

does want to move things forward as many members of the LAC are looking forward to implementation of the CMP.

- 6.5.3. Jen also noted that the information in the final document is similar to the August 2017 version with regards to the bridge at D and other revisions are minor.
- 6.6. Discussion was held between the LAC members, City and Dillon as a more appropriate date to present the CMP to the PEC given the overlapping March break and Easter/Passover with upcoming PEC meetings. It was agreed upon by the LAC members in attendance that the April 16 meeting of the PEC would allow for more time to review the final CMP and submit items for the PEC meeting agenda.
- 6.7. The City and Dillon will review the revised timeline and let the LAC know when the revised CMP would be available.
- 6.8. This information meeting concluded at 18:35.

Errors and/or Omissions

These minutes were prepared by Jonathan Harris (Dillon Consulting) who should be notified of any errors and/or omissions.

Appendix C

Frequently Asked Questions

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
1	How will the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA (south) be maintained and how will the recommendations address this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the CMP is "To develop a comprehensive multi-year Conservation Master Plan that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an environmental management strategy". In the context of the CMP, an environmental management strategy is a combination of restoration, naturalization, trail planning and monitoring. • The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed and being monitored, successfully managing invasive species which are the biggest threat to the ecological integrity in the ESA. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017. The City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017 and the CMP is consistent with the best practices in that strategy for the protection of False Rue-anemone. • The naturalization work proposed coordinates restoration with trail planning. • Finally, the Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of ESAs, and aligns with the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an award winning example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.
2	There are still a number of non-permitted uses (e.g. dogs off-leash, bicycles, encroachments) observed in the MVHF ESA (south) with little evidence of enforcement. How is the CMP addressing these infractions and the need for more enforcement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While non-permitted uses do occur in the ESA, enforcement of the City's by-law is on-going by the City funded UTRCA enforcement team who routinely traverse the ESA and issue warnings/tickets for infractions and educate residents about reasons for the by-law. Reduction of by-law infractions is addressed in the CMP through sustainable trail design, improved signage and continued stewardship and education for residents on threats to the ESA. • The experience in London, consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, is that as trail use increases on well-designed trails that comply with the Guidelines, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance. A reduction in private property encroachments into the ESA has been achieved thanks to a number of measures including the enforcement work by City by-law staff and City funded UTRCA enforcement team.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
3	Has a carrying capacity of the MVHF ESA (south) been determined in order to limit the number of trail users?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Trail Concept Plan in the CMP complies with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of ESAs. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an award winning example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting. • Visitor Impact Management (VIM) is a key part of what the City does to manage and protect our ESAs. Yearly work to assess trails, trail structures and signage, to repair, adjust and modify is done in response to trail user impacts. Invasive species pose the biggest threat to the ecological integrity (not trail use) and the majority of the restoration work is underway and is under a monitoring program. • As referenced in a number of trail management documents, including Marion (2016), and as summarized from the B.C. Ministry of Forests Recreational Manual "The search for a single, magic, carrying capacity number can also misdirect the manager's attention to numbers instead of trying to correct specific problems". As per the Guidelines, a properly managed trail system limits impacts by concentrating trail use on resistant trail surfaces and the monitoring framework established is based on the Limits of Acceptable Change approach which redefines the traditional carrying capacity question "How much use is too much?" to "How much change is acceptable?"
4	Does the CMP include closure of all informal trails?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, the CMP recommends closure of all informal trails as well as restoration and monitoring to measure the success of these efforts. This includes a number of formerly managed trails which the City funded ESA Management Team have already closed and will continue with measures listed in the Guidelines to discourage their use.
5	Why is "Do-nothing" not a viable option for the trail concept plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation Master Plan (CMP) process is not the same as an Environmental Assessment. For the CMP, it would not be advisable to have a "Do-nothing" option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The sustainable trail concept plan proposed in the CMP presents improvements to existing trails for the protection of the features and functions of the ESA and meets legal requirements for accessibility under AODA. • Also, a "Do-nothing" option in the CMP would imply there would be no management of the ESA, and discontinuing the successful restoration efforts, naturalization work and monitoring completed to date etc. This is counter-intuitive to protecting the ecological integrity of an urban natural feature. An existing Trail System figure is included in the CMP for reference purposes.
6	Have impacts on fish or other aquatic life been taken into account in the recommendations for trail linkage across Medway Creek?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to the installation of the most recent pedestrian bridge in the MVHF ESA (north) considerations would be made during the design of a free-span structure, avoiding in-water works and components to ensure no impact to fish or other aquatic life. All relevant UTRCA, municipal, provincial and federal requirements would need to be satisfied to gain approvals and proceed with trail linkages.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
7	Can the Level 3 trails be expanded to the south so that a multi-use path is available throughout the entire ESA and eventually connect to the Thames Valley Parkway?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many parts of the MVHF ESA (south) are designated as Nature Reserve and Level 3 trails are not permitted in those zones, as per the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for the protection of the ESA. Opportunities to improve the accessibility of existing managed trails within the MVHF ESA (south) were reviewed. Where Level 1 trails are located within Natural Environment zones and or in Utility Overlay, trails are recommended to be upgraded to Level 2 consistent with the Guidelines and legal requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). • In exceptional circumstances, Level 3 trails may be permitted within Natural Environment zones to upgrade an existing connection between neighbourhoods subject to the 'Process' outlined in Section 2.2 of the Guidelines. As an area of mown lawn area is to undergo naturalization and currently connects neighbourhoods, this provided a circumstance where a new Level 3 trail is feasible to connect Accesses 1, 2, 3 and 4. This complies with Section 2.2 of the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.
8	How was consultation completed for the CMP? Is the information collected used to make decisions based on quantity of responses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As outlined in Table 2 of the CMP, the City completes extensive consultation when preparing a Conservation Master Plan for an ESA. City's CMP process allows for a level of consultation that exceeds what the federal and provincial governments are required to undertake. The two phase, multi-year process includes formation of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC), presentations to Advisory Committees of Council, presentations to local community groups, public open houses, mail-outs, information signs in the ESA, information on the City website, and, collection of information from the public. It should be noted that the results of the current consultation process is not something that can be quantified or statistically calculated to make decisions/determinations. Part of the reason for this is that there are no limitations on how often someone can comment. • The communities' ideas are reviewed with Council's Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs and those that comply with Guidelines are considered for inclusion in the CMP. At all times, priority is placed on the protection of ecological integrity. The City must meet legal requirements under AODA. Council then reviews and approves the CMP based on input from the Local Advisory Committee, Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee, and the community.
9	What was the basis for determining the frequency of the various monitoring elements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of frequency for the various elements to be monitored throughout the management period was based on a combination of factors such as current monitoring frequency, element specific requirements for monitoring, legislation requirements, etc. • Currently, the most thorough monitoring program of any ESA in the City is in place in the ESA, including permits and requirements from the Province and recognition from the Federal Government for best practices for the protection of False Rue-anemone.

No.	Frequently Asked Questions	Response
10	What are the timelines for implementing the recommended management actions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for management actions are provided in the Implementation Plan in the CMP with a high level timeline. Some CMPs are implemented more quickly when local stewards or communities raise funds. The Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. for example have already raised nearly \$400,000 from three levels of government and private donors to implement their 2014 Coves ESA CMP. • The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed and under a monitoring program. In the MVHF ESA (south), the three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (<i>Enemion biternatum</i>) in Canada, 2017.
11	When will the remaining section of multi-use pathway in the MVHF ESA north of Fanshawe Park Road West be completed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has begun the expropriation process to secure the land needed to complete the 5b Further Enhanced Accessibility and Community Connections trail plan approved by Council in 2013. This work is currently planned to wrap up in 2018.

Appendix D

EEPAC and ACCAC Review

January 9, 2018

Stance of The Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee does not support the proposed “Conservation Master Plan Phase II; Medway Forest ESA (South)”. The proposed upgrades to accessibility are superficial; inconsistent with assurances made to ACCAC in the past; inconsistent with legislation (and the spirit of the legislation); and fall significantly short in providing equitable, quality access to the valley for all Londoners, regardless of ability. As noted below, ACCAC is supportive of some proposed changes, and could support the plan with two additional amendments.

Background

When the original Trails Standards document [subsequently revised and replaced with the Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (2016)], the Accessibility Advisory Committee was provided reassurances that, “whenever possible” trail systems would be made/upgraded to be accessible. Since the adoption of the original standards, this promise has been largely unmet. There are currently unfinished ‘accessible’ trails, non-compliant boardwalks and other structures, inadequate signage, incomplete accessible loops (meaning the user must return along the same path they already walked), among other concerns. Although ACCAC acknowledges the City’s efforts and intentions to continue to work on these areas of concern, the Medway Valley South CMP is an opportunity to ensure accessibility is considered and implemented fully at the onset, not in retrospect.

Proposal

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recognizes some enhancements to accessibility were included in the proposal. ACCAC is in support of the following proposed changes:

- Bridge at crossing A and Level 2 trail from A5 to A10– as these enhancements will provide an accessible path thorough the northern most portion of the valley, connecting the Ambleside community to the Medway Valley North Accessible path system. ACCAC does however note this trail provides little regarding access to the actual valley. At virtually all points along this path development is clearly visible to the North, East and West, thus no ‘nature experience’ for Londoners requiring accessibility.
- Level 3 trail from A1 to A4 – as this enhancement will create an accessible connection of Medway Valley North, as well as those areas served by the proposed A5 to A10 route
- Trail surface improvements (such as those near A11 and A12) being completed to AODA standards

- 2 closed level 2 trail loops beginning at A19 and A14 - as these provide a limited degree of trail/nature experience, however noting this provides no route options, and limit path of travel to one route with a single entrance/egress point.

During discussions with City staff the Accessibility Advisory Committee was informed the existing proposal contained an error which directly impacts accessibility. The proposal identifies access point A18 as a Level 1 Trail. This is inconsistent with its existing usage and maintenance (contains an existing boardwalk). ACCAC was advised the portion of trail from A18 to the proposed Level 2 trail loop from A19 should be a level 2 Trail. On a walk through, ACCAC noted significant erosion and trail widening outside the segment of trail containing the boardwalk.

Accessibility Advisory Committee Proposed Enhancements

The Accessibility Advisory Committee proposes 3 additional enhancements which would significantly improve accessibility within Medway Valley South while posing no risk to the environment.

- Upgrade the trail from A11 to the Medway creek at point D, noting this trail runs primarily along a utility overlay
- Install a Bridge at crossing D
- Extension of the boardwalk at A18 noting significant erosion exists, resulting in muddy surfacing and trail-widening (by those attempting to avoid the mud).

Rationale

The combination of the upgrade to trail at A11 to Medway creek, and the bridge at crossing D will provide a connection between the proposed level 2 trail at A19 and the Ambleside community. Individuals can then follow existing roadways and park path to connect to the proposed accessible route (A5-A10). This pair of enhancement would mean the valley would now have 10 of the identified 24 access points connected through a single accessible path (plus one additional accessible point at A14). This also serves to connect to the accessible trail system in Medway Valley North. This pair of enhancements would make the trail system through Medway Valley the longest accessible nature trail available throughout the City of London.

Although these enhancements still require the user to exist from the valley and re-enter at a later access point (A10 to A11), this is consistent with all users as the existing informal trail from A12 to A11 is being closed.

These enhancements would mean Londoners requiring accessible trails could have an experience through the valley comparable to that of all Londoners.

The formalized bridge crossing at D also eliminates the need for ‘impromptu’ bridges or crossings being ‘built’ by persons in the valley. Thus, the accessibility enhancements also serve to reduce environmental impact in other sensitive areas, and reduce risk to the city and all Londoners (e.g. injuries to those using the impromptu crossings).

ACCAC would also like to reiterate the principal of trail development and maintenance... a well developed and maintained trail is best for the environment around it.

Legislation, Laws, Guidelines and Standards

The proposal, as outlined in this submission by the Accessibility Advisory Committee is in adherence with all accessibility, human rights, and environmental legislation, acts, laws, studies, recommendations, Standards and/or Guidelines, at the municipal, provincial, federal, and international levels; including:

- Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones & Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas (2016)
- The Official Plan (The London Plan)
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- City of London’s Facility Accessibility Design standards (FADS)
- United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*;
- Pull any referenced environmental legislation to this list
- Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation; Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (Dillon Consulting, January 2015)
- Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone in Canada, 2016
- Upper Thames River Source Protection Area Amended Proposed Assessment Report (August 2011)
- Medway Creek Community-based Enhancement Strategy (Friends of Medway Creek and UTRCA, 2009)
- Guideline Document for the Evaluation of Ecologically Significant Woodlands (City of London, 2006)
- Middlesex Natural Heritage Study (UTRCA, 2003)
- The City of London Sub-Watershed Studies Implementation Plan (City of London, 1995)
- 2012 Upper Thames River Watershed Report Cards (Upper Thames River Watershed Report Card)
- Species at Risk Act (2002)
- City of London Environmental Management Guidelines (2007)
- Medway Creek Community-Based Enhancement Strategy (2009); and
- Any, and all further legislation, acts, laws, studies, recommendations, Standards and/or Guidelines referenced throughout the Medway Valley South Phase II Conservation Master Plan development process.

Summary

Important to note, the proposal put forth by ACCAC is consistent with all legislation and guidelines used by the City of London and honours commitments made to the accessibility community. The additional enhancements included in this proposal do not require any paving or asphalt surfacing. The enhancements requested simply ensure firm, stable ground (which *could* include asphalt *if* the city and the trails advisory committee felt it were the most feasible option. The ACCAC proposal calls for limited additional development, i) extension of the board walk at A18, and ii) a bridge at connection point D; noting this point of connection is the only place along the river that can be accessed from both sides without risking environmental damage.

The proposed additional enhancements provides Londoners requiring accessible paths with the largest, most comprehensive, comparable and equitable trail experience anywhere in London. These enhancements further connect accessible pathways (outside the valley), Medway Valley North; and the communities of Sunningdale and Ambleside, through one continuous accessible trail/pathway system.

ACCAC further calls on the City to ensure adequate funding is budgeted to complete the proposed upgrades.

Finally, in recognition of concerns this proposed plan *could* result in increased pedestrian traffic through the valley, ACCAC supports any call for additional enforcement of municipal bylaws, monitoring of environmental impacts, and any calls for funding necessary to achieve these objectives.



Memo

To: ACCAC

From: Environmental & Parks Planning (E&PP) and Dillon Consulting Inc.

Date: November 14, 2017

RE: Draft MVHF ESA (south) Phase 2, Conservation Master Plan (CMP) - Responses to ACCAC's Comments of September 2017

E&PP and Dillon thank ACCAC for their detailed review of the August 2017 [Draft Conservation Master Plan Phase II Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area \(ESA\) \(South\)](#) by Dillon Consulting Ltd. E&PP would also like to thank the ACCAC representative and alternate for participating on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). These responses were circulated to the LAC including ACCAC's representatives on October 23, 2017. ACCAC's comments are included below in italics and Staff / Dillon's responses are provided below each of ACCAC's comments. The revised October 2017 version of the CMP incorporating many of ACCAC's comments is available on the City [website](#) and Figure 4 is the Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan.

The proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Council approved [Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs \(2016\)](#) (Guidelines) written with input from ACCAC for providing enhanced accessibility and protection of ESA ecosystems consistent with AODA requirements.

45% of the trails on the Proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan in the October 2017 CMP are fully accessible Level 2 or Level 3 trails. Due to ecological sensitivity and/or topographical constraints the rest of the existing trails must remain natural surface Level 1 trails consistent with the Guidelines, and exceptions for the protection of natural heritage values and ecological integrity provided under the AODA.

Based on comments from ACCAC the CMP recommends new AODA compliant signage at all access points including a map that identifies:

- 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

EEPAC Agenda December 21, 2017:

Medway Valley Heritage Forest (South) ESA Conservation Master Plan 2017 EEPACs Recommendations

As EEPAC's representative on the LAC, and one of the EEPAC reviewers of the MVHF ESA CMP, I am seeking input and support from EEPAC to present a statement from EEPAC to PEC. I am requesting consideration of the following statement and recommendations for presentation from EEPAC to PEC.

Statement

EEPAC does not support the MVHF (South) ESA CMP because the CMP is counter to the current city plan. The CMP fails to adequately protect the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of the area. See City's current Official Plan's statement concerning the use of natural heritage features: 15.1.1 (v) Maintain, restore, and improve the diversity and connectivity of natural features, and the long-term ecological function with biodiversity of natural heritage systems.

In particular, the "upgrading" or hardening of trails on either side of crossing A (figure 5) and the trail that runs parallel to Attawandaron Road in the proposed area of naturalization (NA5 in Figure 2) and the construction of the bridge crossing the Medway Creek at A (Figure 5) put at risk the ecological integrity of this ESA. We support and encourage even greater efforts to close informal trails, improve signage to better educate the public about the ESA and trail closures, restore natural habitat to protect species at risk, and naturalize some areas. We also support the stepping stone crossing at Snake Creek (C) because it should reduce erosion at this site.

Recommendations

1. We recommend, based on a serious risk to the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the MVHF ESA, that the council reject any CMP that includes hardening of trails or bridge crossings of the Medway Creek.
2. We recommend council encourage staff to focus the CMP more on protecting the ecological integrity of the MVHF ESA and less on recreational use in a revised CMP. There should be better development of more detailed plans for monitoring, trail closures and education in a revised CMP in order that EEPAC and others can accurately assess those plans.
3. We recommend that the council encourage staff to rethink the MVHF ESA CMP. This is a small, but unique and incredibly diverse environment that has been, to date, preserved within an urban center. Instead of focusing on increasing recreational use of the area, we encourage the council and staff to see a secondary goal as an opportunity for this ESA to become a renowned demonstration site of best practises for the protection of ecological integrity, diversity and species at risk within an urban area.

ACCAC Comments with City/Dillon Responses:

1. *That ACCAC requests that the Level 2 trail linkage between A4 (to the north) and A1 (to the south), be increased in surface quality to a Level 3 status. Re: behind the houses on Attawandaron Rd to the Museum of Archaeology. Rationale is that both ends of this trail linkage are already Level 3, and as this section is not restricted by environmental significance this would provide a connection of the Level 3 trail surfaces already provided.*

City/Dillon Response: Agree. ACCAC's request for upgrading to multi-use Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. Behind the homes on Attawandaron an area of mown lawn is recommended to undergo naturalization and the lawn and existing trails currently connects neighbourhoods, this provided a circumstance where a new Level 3 trail is feasible to connect Accesses 1, 2, 3 and 4 and complies with Section 2.2 of the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.

2. *That ACCAC supports a Level 2 (or 3) trail linkage from Fanshawe Park Rd (A5), across the creek at point A and through to access point A10 on Glendridge Cres. Rationale is that this trail connection provides a user - friendly access linkage from a significant residential community (north of the creek) to the existing trail systems south and west of Medway Creek.*

City/Dillon Response: Agree and Level 2 Trail and an AODA compliant linkage is identified in the CMP in these locations.

3. *That ACCAC supports a Level 2 (or 3) trail linkage from access point A24, following the utility overlay, over crossing point D, and through to access point A 13. Rationale is that this trail connection provides a user - friendly access linkage for residents on both sides of Medway Creek, without negatively affecting environmentally sensitive areas (re: follows Utility overlays).*

City/Dillon Response: Upgrading to Level 2/Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. However, the section of the ESA adjacent to A13 is Nature Reserve which does not permit Level 2 or Level 3 trails, as per the Guidelines, and, due to very steep grades the existing Level 1 trail just west of A13 is a switchback that does not follow the linear Utility Overlay.

4. *That ACCAC has reviewed, and is in support of, the email - letter of opinion presented to TAG by David R. Schmidt, Corlon Properties (dated Sept. 15th , and attached). In that it ' s intent and purpose strongly meets with the goals and ideals of our Accessibility Advisory Committee. In this regard, ACCAC would like to recognize and thank Mr. Schmidt for a well - researched and well written discussion of this pathway system and its future benefit to our community.*

City/Dillon Response: We have also received and reviewed the email-letter from Mr. Schmidt and have addressed his comments below as well.

5. *Email from Mr. Schmidt: I have had an opportunity to review the above referenced draft plan prepared by Dillon Consulting, dated August 2017. Regrettably, I can't*

help but feel that there is a real opportunity being missed here. The City of London has built millions of dollars worth of recreation trail infrastructure in natural hazard / heritage areas to benefit all users, including those with accessibility challenges. This infrastructure includes thousands of metres of multi - use trail (paved) and bridges across the City including the Medway Valley (between Fanshawe Park Road and Sunningdale Road). In addition, it is our understanding that the Richmond Street Pedestrian Pathway Connection Environment Impact Study has been completed and as a result the City will proceed to construct a \$1.9M pedestrian overpass, consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) which recommended implementing a major east - west recreational pathway corridor along the northern boundary of the City with a crossing of Richmond Street. This pedestrian overpass will link into the Medway Valley Trail System south of Sunningdale Road. City - wide, it has been proven that multi - use trail infrastructure, can be implemented and exist within natural heritage / hazard areas in a manner that respects the natural features within which they reside and minimizes impacts to the benefit of all Londoners. The City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2009) provide direction on programs, services, recreation facilities, park infrastructure and community investment into the future. The following service level recommendations are relevant to this study:

- Determine gaps and needed improvements in services and facilities;*
- Ensure programs, facilities and parks are designed with accessibility in mind including adherence to the requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act;*
- Continue to expand and improve access to the City ' s pathway system because it provides low - cost, accessible, multi - generational recreation for all neighborhoods; and*
- Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety and security within its entire parks and pathway system.*

I understand and appreciate that there are many various opinions and perspectives on trails in natural heritage areas. As such, I would never support the City in taking a "pave all, everywhere, everytime" approach to trail development. There are thousands of hectares of Open Space (Natural Hazard / Heritage) lands within the City where there no trails (let alone paved ones) and where trails should likely be never contemplated. In this line of thinking, there should also be some acceptance that paved multi-use trails are desired and necessary in some locations as there cannot be a "pave nothing anywhere anytime" attitude towards this matter. The Medway Valley is different. It is a long linear system which already has significant infrastructure (sewers, pathways, bridges, SWM ponds) located within in it. This has all been implemented in a sensitive way that balances the interested of all and has enabled the natural heritage / hazard features to not only function but flourish. The linear nature of the Medway Valley and its connection to UWO and the Thames River Valley make it the ideal location to connect these areas to the north. Respectfully, I can't help but feel that if London does not have the fortitude to make these multi-use connections at this time, they will regret this missed opportunity and will simply look for a way open these discussions again in the years to come. I would appreciate it if you could forward these comments onto your consulting team.

City/Dillon Response: Upgrading to multi-use Level 3 trails was considered, where appropriate. However, many parts of the ESA in the south are Nature Reserve zone which does not permit Level 3 trails, as per the Guidelines.



Memo

To: EEPAC

From: Environmental & Parks Planning (E&PP) and Dillon Consulting Inc.

Date: October 17, 2017

RE: Draft MVHF ESA (south) Phase 2, Conservation Master Plan (CMP) Responses to EEPAC's Comments of September 2017

E&PP and Dillon thank EEPAC for their detailed review of the August 2017 [Draft Conservation Master Plan Phase II Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area \(ESA\) \(South\)](#) by Dillon Consulting Ltd. E&PP would also like to thank the EEPAC representative and alternate for participating on the Local Advisory Committee. The 5th LAC meeting is set for November 2, 2017 where the consultants and staff will present the revised CMP. EEPAC will continue to be involved through participation on the LAC. EEPAC's comments are included below in italics and Staff / Dillon's responses are provided below each of EEPAC's comments.

On a high level E&PP would note that pages 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identify, "The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the [Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone \(*Enemion biternatum*\) in Canada, 2016 \(Draft\)](#)."

This is a good news story for London and we are proud of what we have accomplished to date and will accomplish going forward as we continue to protect the MVHF ESA through this CMP process. The Trail Plans in the Draft CMP all comply with the Council approved [Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs \(2016\)](#) written with input from EEPAC for protection of ESA ecosystems. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.

**Compiled Comments by EEPAC Working Group
Conservation Master Plan Phase II Draft for the southern portion of the Medway
Valley Heritage Forest ESA - M. Dusenge, C. Dyck, S. Hall, S. Levin, K. Mosher, S.
Pierce, N. St. Amour, R. Trudeau**

I. Summary and Key Recommendations

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South)(MVHF) Conservation Master Plan (CMP) shows that this ESA is unique in London, housing some of the city's oldest forests and highest concentrations of SARs. Therefore, EEPAC's position is that the CMP must focus on efforts to protect this unique urban ecosystem, and that increasing recreation and access is in conflict with this goal.

Staff / Dillon Response: All the Trail Plans in the Draft CMP comply with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) written with input from EEPAC for protection of ESA ecosystems. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting.

E&PP and the Draft CMP does focus on protecting and enhancing the ecological integrity of the ESA – the majority of restoration work identified in Phase I to protect the ecological integrity of the ESA is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and are monitored with results circulated to EEPAC and listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting 2 Minutes in the Draft CMP Appendix identify: "It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials." Improving accessibility in areas of lower sensitivity, in the Cultural ELC's / Natural Environment Zones over the existing Utility Overlays where ongoing access for sewer maintenance is required, will protect the ESA ecosystem, complies with the Guidelines and meets Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) requirements. And therefore we strongly believe improving accessibility is not in conflict with protection of the ESA.

In order to protect this valuable asset EEPAC makes the following key recommendations:

*1) The CMP should continue with **restoration** efforts, and increase efforts to accurately assess the success of these efforts.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

Page 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identifies that "The City is an identified leader among Ontario municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management and control of invasive species in protected natural areas including the MVHF ESA since 2007. The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA

were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) in Canada, 2016 (Draft).”

*2) **Naturalization** efforts are likely to lead to increased ecological integrity. The CMP should ensure that trail plans will promote the success of naturalization efforts.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree

*3) Increased resources are essential to ensure an accurate and quantitative **monitoring** program, which is essential for successful management of the cities ESAs.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree

*4) **Trail management** plans are at odds with the rest of the CMP in that they favor trail connectivity over ecosystem protection.*

The three options proposed are: 1) “Enhanced As-Is”, which includes altering trails that are presently level 1 and almost non-existent to level 2 (hardened surface). These trails are located on both the north and south side of Medway Creek and lead to the spot of the bridge proposed in option 2; 2) “Partial Connectivity”, which is the same as 1) except with the bridge (at A) built, and 3) “Establishing enhanced connectivity”, which includes a second bridge (at D) crossing. Although option 1 does not include a bridge, paving trails to a potential bridge connection implies a bridge at some point.

Staff / Dillon Response: The trail management plans are not at odds with the CMP as they all comply with the Council approved Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) for protection of the ecosystem. The Guideline document is based on the latest science and is an excellent example of how to plan and manage natural areas to protect ecological features and functions in an urban setting. EEPAC’s summary overlooks several points included in the CMP:

- Utility overlays mean that access for infrastructure maintenance and repair are already required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended to enhance accessibility, and avoid muddy/wet trails as per AODA. Section 3.1 in the draft CMP described this.
- LAC 4 minutes note that there would never be a true do-nothing option as the trails are being monitored and need to undergo improvements to trail conditions (wet, muddy trails etc.) to protect the features in the ESA consistent with the Guidelines. The Enhanced As-Is option in the CMP presents desired improvements to existing trails.
- Ecosystem protection provided by the 3 options is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and through their compliance with the Guidelines.

EEPAC is strongly opposed to the additions of bridges, which will increase traffic to the north and south side of Medway Creek and increase risks to this ecosystem. Bridges favor connectivity and recreation over ecosystem protection and are at odds with the city’s Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: All recommendations in the CMP comply with Council's Guidelines for the protection of ecosystems.

While the trail enhancement and bridge may increase trail use (will be monitored) the design of the trail will also control the users and protect the sensitive riparian zone.

A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17. The direction provided by the Guidelines and the existing measures in place for the ESA are protecting sensitive species.

*5) EEPAC supports increasing **community engagement** and education, however these plans should be further developed in the CMP.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting suggestions from EEPAC on these ideas are welcomed.

*6) If the city values **public participation**, then requests for public input should be motivated by a genuine interest and need for public opinion and with transparency. Accurately collecting public opinion data and using clear language to describe options at future meetings is recommended. EEPAC recommends more transparency in future public meetings by using option names that more clearly reflect what each trail option plans entail. One option should be "As Is", which would be status quo and provides a baseline for comparison to other options.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree noting one Conceptual Trail Plan will be presented at the next Community Open House based on feedback from LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC. Will also include an "As Is" existing conditions plan in CMP as a baseline as suggested by EEPAC.

7) EEPAC recommends that the Conservation Master Plan not be adopted until the implementation plan is submitted as part of the next 4 year budget cycle. EEPAC requests to be included as part of the Local Implementation Committee.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree to raise EEPAC's idea at the LAC 5 meeting for their input. All ESA Conservation Master Plans (CMP) are implemented subject to funding. Some CMPs are implemented more quickly when local stewards or communities raise funds. The Friends of the Coves Subwatershed Inc. have already raised nearly 400k from three levels of government and private donors to implement their 2014 CMP. All members of the LAC including EEPAC will be invited to sit on the Local Implementation Committee (LIC).

8) Further editing and additions to the CMP are required. As point of note regarding the Master Plan's structure, a cyclical problem occurs in section 4.4. Sections 4.3.1; 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 all make reference to further discussion in section 4.4 but upon reading section 4.4, it just refers back to the sections just mentioned. Therefore, section 4.4 should be scrapped or else greater clarification regarding "Analysis of Proposed Trail Recommendations" is required.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree will revise report to remove Section 4.4. as it is not needed.

II. Introduction:

At the group meeting on September 6, it was decided that we would formulate our comments based on the some of the subject headings in the report, specifically naturalization, restoration, monitoring, trail management, and community engagement. To provide a general summary of our findings, we are pleased with the City's efforts at restoration and have good expectations for increased community engagement associated with the ESA. However, we find that there are some oversights in regards to naturalization of certain areas and the City's plans for monitoring the impacts of current and future policies and plans. Our greatest concerns centre on the proposed changes to trails and trail management.

III. Restoration

The ESA Master Plan identifies fifteen areas for restoration, with a strong focus on tackling invasive species and planting native species. Some of the areas have already been addressed. We believe the City is doing a good job at restoration and find this is in keeping with the desires of local citizens. Our one concern, however, regards measuring the success of restoration efforts. What are the metrics used to determine success? Are these metrics quantifiable, or do they rely more heavily on subjective observation? These issues will be looked at more in depth in the monitoring section below.

Staff / Dillon Response: Levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNR and are listed in the References of the Draft CMP.

IV. Naturalization

Four sites adjacent to the MVHF ESA have been designated as areas for naturalization. In general, the Working Group is in favour of naturalization efforts, but we believe that in order for this work to be successful, it must be done concurrently with trail closures. It was noted that one of the areas slated for naturalization – NA5 – the plan involves the establishment of a level two trail. So while expanding plantings of native plants is a positive development, paving a section could be counterproductive to the naturalization process as it will naturally create a boundary and habitat fragmentation.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Draft CMP identifies that the “Placement of a Level 2 trail would serve as the defining limit for the proposed naturalization east of the trail and would have the added benefit of improving accessibility in the ESA.” In other words the trail would go on the western edge of the naturalization area – not through it. The EIS Performance Monitoring Study by Beacon showed that this approach works in London, people do not encroach on the opposite side of a trail.

In the area surrounding the Museum of Archaeology, it was noted that efforts at naturalization and the creation of a level 2 trail, must still address the informal trails around the Museum. A very serious problem of informal trails around the museum currently exists

as visitors to the museum walk enter the woods from the east side of the parking lot to access managed trails.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and the City has implemented new directional trail signage in this area and are working with Museum staff to address this. Additional measures were identified at LAC 4 meeting such as new fencing, and native plantings to screen views into the parking lot and the informal trails to reduce use of the museum parking lot and informal trails.

This problem could be exacerbated should a bridge be installed at Location A. It was noted that the sumac in the area is heavily trampled due to the existing informal trails around the Museum. The current version of the Master Plan contains no recommendations to close the informal trails in that area.

Staff / Dillon Response: Disagree noting Figure 3, Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, in the Draft CMP identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures (includes ones near the Museum) are effective, following process in the Guidelines. Agree to add EEPAC's suggestions for trail closure to the Recommendations in Table 11.

In NA4, the Master Plan calls for a trail, which is currently closed, to be reopened in conjunction with naturalization. The trail is along a very steep area of the ESA. When it was closed, informal trails popped up, leading to the area becoming badly trampled and compacted. The City plans on working with the landowners on the naturalization process. It is our recommendation that if the closed trail is to be reopened, the informal trails at the foot of the hill must be closed at the same time, and it must be more than a simple sign. Something must be put in place to make the informal trails less attractive or else efforts at naturalization will fail.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting Figure 3 shows the existing unmanaged trails that were present in the area in before the trail closure. Will add EEPAC's suggestions to the Recommendations in Table 11 noting Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, identifies the process for ensuring trail closures are effective following process in the Guidelines.

Indeed, EEPAC would like to make the long standing recommendation that firstly, it be included in decisions regarding trail closures and secondly, that the City do a better job of closing trails through both signage that includes more information on the reason for trail closures to secure the support of visitors (as well as timelines on the projects at hand) and through plantings or other means to make informal trails less appealing.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, noting typically EEPAC is part of the process through representation on the Trails Advisory Group (TAG). Will add EEPAC's suggestions regarding signage to the Recommendations in Table 11 noting Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, identifies the process for ensuring trail closures are effective following the process in the Guidelines.

V. Monitoring

The Working Group finds the call for ongoing monitoring and adaptive management laudable however, we find some areas for concern. Firstly, as was mentioned in section

II, we would like to know by which metrics the City will determine whether restoration and/or naturalization efforts are successful, and by which means/metrics the City will determine that trail closures, trail openings and/or the installment of connectors (such as bridges) have had a positive or negative impact on the ESA, its species and its ecological functions. Table 13 provides a monitoring framework; but to date, nothing has been put into place for the trails that do exist. As part of monitoring we would ask for an annual report on bank migration, trail condition and usage, and how changes in condition are managed.

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 13 outlines the Monitoring. Levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are currently circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References of the Draft CMP.

Secondly, we have concerns that the ESA management team has been assigned too much responsibility for monitoring the health of not only this ESA, but all the others in the City. With a staff of only three, it is nearly impossible for the team to undertake robust monitoring to determine the effects of changes taken under the Master Plan, and to ensure that restoration, naturalization and the identification and removal of invasive of species are done adequately.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree in part noting the Lead Agency for coordinating the Monitoring in Table 13 will be corrected to read ESA Management Committee, not just the ESA Management Team, noting these groups are described on page 12 of the Draft CMP. The City Ecologist and the rest of the ESA Management Committee is already successfully coordinating much of this work as noted on page 16 of the Draft CMP, “The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017.”

The ESA Team is not responsible for all the monitoring in the ESA, the City Ecologist coordinated the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports from Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC which are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

The Master Plan seems to propose a solution to the understaffing of the ESA management team, and that is to rely on volunteers who will alert the City of any encroachment by invasive species, which will then be removed through community projects.

Staff / Dillon Response: This assumption is incorrect, Page 49 of the Draft CMP identifies that “In addition to community volunteers the ESA Management Team will continue to manage and monitor using the EDRR approach.” The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) approach is consistent with what we do now and is recommended by Ontario Invasive Plant Council. While volunteers can enhance its effectiveness, the EDRR approach does not leave the ID, reporting, monitoring or management of invasive species rely on volunteers or community projects. As noted on page 48 of the Draft CMP, “EDRR is a proactive approach to managing invasive species that can help to prevent establishment. Early detection of newly arrived invasive species, followed by a well-

coordinated rapid response, will increase the likelihood of eradication or containment of new invasions.”

Page 16 and 17 of the Draft CMP identifies that “The City is an identified leader among Ontario municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management and control of invasive species in protected natural areas including the MVHF ESA since 2007. The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017 and the City, Dillon and UTRCA were all recognized for their innovative work, SAR habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) in Canada, 2016 (Draft).”

However, we find a significant flaw with this plan. If the ESA management team is unable to adequately monitor all areas of the vast expansive of the City’s ESAs, and that includes areas slated for naturalization and areas closed to visitors due to their highly sensitive nature (i.e. presence of endangered or threatened species), how can they note the appearance of invasive species in a timely fashion? The City hopes that visitors will alert the City to the presence of invasives, but that pre-supposes that visitors are walking through closed areas. Given the significance of the ESAs, the City should not rely on volunteers for a key part of their monitoring, and instead needs to provide the necessary resources and trained personnel to monitor the implications of this Master Plan. Only trained professionals should have permission to enter highly sensitive areas to engage in early detection efforts against invasives. The same is true for section 5.2.2.1, additional trained professionals, not simply the understaffed ESA management team, should be involved in the monitoring of “the condition and vigour of individual species”.

Staff / Dillon Response: The monitoring program does not rely on volunteers, Page 49 of the Draft CMP identifies that “In addition to community volunteers the ESA Management Team will continue to manage and monitor using the EDRR approach.” While the ESA team does some monitoring, levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports funded by the City, completed by Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

Finally, who will be in charge of coordinating all the efforts under section 5.1? This work requires someone with the resources and knowledge to manage all the incoming information, to compile that information and then to disseminate that information to all the people doing work within the ESA. This is an extremely large undertaking, which would require a dedicated position to accomplish it satisfactorily.

Staff / Dillon Response: The City Ecologist and the rest of the ESA Management Committee is successfully coordinating much of this work as noted on page 16 of the Draft CMP, “The majority of restoration work identified in Phase I is already underway or completed. The three high priority restoration areas identified to protect Species at Risk were implemented in 2013-2017.” Given it took only 4 years to address the majority of the restoration work identified in Phase 1 of the CMP including all the top/high priority work, it is realistic to expect that the remaining, lower priority work could be addressed over the ten year CMP timeframe.

While the ESA team does some monitoring, levels of monitoring and metrics vary depending on budget, scope and status of the species involved noting the Invasive Species Control Program Results / Monitoring Reports funded by the City, completed by Dillon Consulting Inc. 2014-2017 for the MVHF ESA project to protect SAR/CC are circulated annually to EEPAC, MNRF and are listed in the References section of the Draft CMP.

City funded ESA team (0.5 million dollar annual contract and capital funds of about 75k per year), Forestry Staff, Environmental and Parks Planning Staff including the City Ecologists complete much of this work and also retain consultants and restoration specialists to implement CMPs and protect the ESAs.

VI. Trail Management

To begin our comments on the proposed plans for trails in the MVHF ESA, we would like to draw attention to some general issues.

*1. Under section 1.2.2 and elsewhere through the Master Plan, it is stated that the primary objection is to guarantee the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA. It likewise states that the trail system shall be implemented “to achieve the primary objective of protection and the secondary objective of providing suitable recreational and educational opportunities.” Moreover, the **Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas** also places as top priority the preservation of the ecological features and functions which make an area an ESA. We would like to know if and how the three policy options as stated will achieve this main goal. We cannot support the current plans as it is our belief that they violate the central goal stated in this report and the **Guidelines**.*

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 detail the 3 Trail Concept Plans and their compliance with the Guidelines. LAC 2 Minutes in Draft CMP Appendix identify: “It was confirmed that the term environmental management strategy includes trails and thus the goal still incorporates recreation. This will be made clear in Open House materials.”

Improving accessibility in areas of lower sensitivity, in the Cultural ELC’s / Natural Environment Zones over the existing Utility Overlays where ongoing access for sewer maintenance is required, will protect the ESA, complies with the Guidelines and meets AODA requirements.

2. The CMP does not provide a clear delineation between the three options: “Enhancing the trail system ‘As-is””, “Establishing partial connectivity” and “Establishing enhanced connectivity of the MVHF ESA”. More accurate names for each option, and greater clarification of the differences between the three options is required.

We take issue with the names, which can be confusing both to the readers of the plan and to the general public when the City is requesting in-put on the Master Plan. You will note the similarity in the names and the shortened versions “Enhanced ‘As-Is”, “Partial Connectivity” and “Enhanced Connectivity”. It is our belief that the three policy titles should be significantly different for ease of understanding, i.e. “As-Is” (enhanced is purposely omitted, and that issue will be discussed below), “Trail improvement or upgrading” and finally “Enhanced Connectivity”.

Staff / Dillon Response: Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 detail the 3 Trail Concept Plans and their compliance with the Guidelines. One Conceptual Trail Plan will be presented at the next Community Open House based on feedback from LAC, EEPAC and ACCAC.

3. Both the presentation we were shown as well as the Master Plan document are biased in favour of “Enhanced Connectivity”. If this is the plan that the City plans to adopt, this needs to be clear, both to EEPAC and in public consultations, rather than feigning that all three policy options are being given equal weight.

Staff / Dillon Response: All the Trail Plans in the CMP comply with the Council approved Guidelines for the protection of the ESA. Council will review and approve a final CMP based on input from LAC, EEPAC, ACCAC and the community.

4. EEPAC would like to know if an assessment has yet been undertaken on informal trails in the ESA, particularly those in sensitive areas or those on steep slopes. If such an assessment has not occurred, what is the timeline for the assessment to be undertaken? Although the Addendum to the Natural Heritage Inventory speaks to this, EEPAC is skeptical as there is no good baseline data to compare to in order to come to the conclusions in the Addendum.

Staff / Dillon Response: Trails are monitored annually by the ESA Management Team. Council approved the Addendum previously circulated to EEPAC.

5. Additionally, does the City plan on closing all the informal trails, and if so, what is the timeline for those closures? Members of EEPAC note that there are informal trails not shown on the maps – why? For instance, there is a well-used trail connecting NA5 to the habitat for Special Concern Species (Green Dragon).

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and yes, Figure 3 in the Draft CMP identifies that all un-managed trails will be closed. Will review the un-managed trail EEPAC has noted. Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13, of the Draft CMP identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures are effective, following process in the Guidelines and these closures will be prioritized in the revised CMP.

Also critical to any trail management is improvement of signage. Current signage is inadequate and hard to read. In addition to the AODA standards we recommend a trail name, map drawn over an air photo, a description of the trail and interesting points. This becomes an opportunity to educate rather than just tell users what they cannot do in an ESA. Signage must be correct and factual.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, will add EEPAC’s suggestions to the Recommendations for enhanced educational signage to those already included in the Draft CMP and in the Guidelines.

6. Regarding the document itself and the figures it contains, we recommend that it be made clear on Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5 whether or not it includes the closing of trails. While it is mentioned in a footnote that is so small as to be nearly illegible, it also should be clear the text. We also believe that the informal trails be demarcated on ALL three figures (Figure 3, 4 and 5) to make it clear to everyone involved all the changes that

will be made. It is not user friendly to have to refer back to Figure 3 to understand the changes in Figure 5.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree, will ensure this is clearer on the final Trail Concept Plan and in the CMP, noting Figure 3, Section 4.2.2, and the Monitoring Framework on Table 13 of the Draft CMP, identifies the process for ensuring all existing informal trails / formerly managed trail closures are effective, following process in the Guidelines.

7. Access 13 is not included in the figures regarding trail enhancements. This area involves a steep slope and while there is discussion regarding including stairs, this change is not highlighted on any of the maps as a trail change. It appears that the sewer line has become the most used way into the ESA.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree however enhancement is not needed as the managed trail at Access 13 on Figures 3, 4 and 5 identifies that the managed trail is actually a switchback and does not follow the linear Utility Overlay for the sewer. The trail under the hydro corridor and over the sewer is not the managed trail. Efforts are underway to direct hikers onto to the safer, switchback managed trail which has nicer views and is less steep. As with all Utility Overlay areas ongoing access for workers to maintain these utilities is needed so this “trail” cannot be closed.

8. Finally, we have noted a strong reliance on an older article by Leung and Marion (2000) rather than referencing the more recent article by Marion (2016) that contains findings and theories based on new research. For instance, The Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) states on page 12, "Research on natural area trail impacts has demonstrated that a properly managed trail system will limit the areal extent and severity of recreation impacts by concentrating traffic on resistant trail surfaces and through the use of appropriate structures such as bridges, fences, and boardwalks (Leung & Marion 2000)." This point is being used to justify the Level 2 trail from Access Point 10. It should be noted that methods other than trail hardening can be employed to manage user impacts (Marion 2016). More importantly, though, at this time no serious user impacts exist on the Level 1 trail south to the proposed A crossing, nor from Access point 10 to the creek. As Marion (2016) points out, "limiting use within the low-use zone, where impacts occur rapidly, can lead to substantial reductions in vegetation and soil impact" (p.343). Should the City add a Level 2 trail in those spots and encourage increased visitor use (around 20,000 users as mentioned at the last LAC as the number of visitors using the paved path north of Fanshawe), user impacts are bound to increase. In other words, if that area were left it alone (a true "as-is" scenario) the City would not need to change how it manages user impacts. It is only because the City is seeing to increase use that a Level 2 trail will be needed.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Draft CMP does not cite or include any reference to the Marion and Leung, 2000 article, it is cited in the Guidelines.

Utility Overlays are present at Access 10 to the Creek and run north to Fanshawe PRW and mean that access for infrastructure maintenance and repair are required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended (including access point 10) to enhance accessibility as per AODA. Section 3.1 describes this.

We did look at the study cited by EEPAC above, *A Review and Synthesis of Recreation Ecology Research Supporting Carrying Capacity and Visitor Use Management Decisionmaking*, Marion (2016) and found that page 343 of the study EEPAC raises describes what “low-use zones” are noting, “However, this zone occurs at relatively low levels of traffic, generally between 3 and 15 nights of camping per year or 50 to 250 passes per year along a trail (Cole 1995a, 1995b, 1995c).” E&PP would advise that there are currently more than 250 passes per year (therefore it is not a “low-use zone” according to Marion (2016)) along the existing Level 1 trails over the existing sewer alignment, in the lower sensitivity zones (NE), where accessible Level 2 trails are proposed.

For comparison our trail use counter set-up on the trail north of Fanshawe Park Road West identified that an average of 123 people per day use the trails in the north MVHF ESA.

The Marion (2016) study cited by EEPAC above supports implementing formal trails, “Studies reveal that unmanaged visitation frequently results in considerably greater recreational impact. For example, informal (visitor-created) trails have design attributes that make them less sustainable than professionally designed formal trails (Wimpey and Marion 2011).” (p.343)

The Marion (2016) study cited by EEPAC supports the use of improved trails to limit ecological impacts, “Visitors can also travel or camp on durable nonvegetated substrates such as gravel, rock, and snow or artificial substrates such as wood and rockwork on trails that support substantial traffic with very limited impact.” (p.343)

Specific Comments on Individual Trail Options:

Below we will give our critiques of each individual policy plan and our recommendations for improvement.

Enhancing the Trail System “As-Is”: This is not a true “business as usual” option as would be standard in any policy memo. Once recommendations are made to “enhance” the system, it is no longer “as-is”. One could assume that each of the three options are then “enhancing the trail system as-is” because that is exactly what is happening. Therefore, the first option should simply be analyzing the potential outcomes of not making any changes to the trails as they currently stand. This provides a baseline for comparison of the other options.

That point aside, however, and simply analyzing the plan put before us, we would like to know how the trail systems will be improved. How will the Level 1 trails be enhanced? Will there be boardwalks for instance? Clarification is necessary to accurately review the document.

Staff / Dillon Response: The CMP Draft Trail Plan will identify trail locations and trail levels and it will generally be up to the LIC to decide how best to implement those using the Guidelines. This is consistent with the process for the Council approved Coves ESA CMP in 2014.

From Access point 10, Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 5a and Figure 5b all show a Level 2 trail. Site visits by the Working Group, however, have shown that not only is there not a Level 2 trail already in existence, but there is currently hardly any trail to speak of.

Therefore, should not on all those figures, but especially Figure 3, the trail demarcated as Level 2 from A10 to point A be shown as “Improved Trail Surface”? In addition, paving a trail does not fall under an “as-is” scenario. Due to the fact that there is hardly a trail there, we do not see that the “improved trail surface” to Level 2 is solving any problems due to visitor misuse or trampling, and believe that this move is purely for recreational purposes. It cannot be justified for ecological reasons and therefore is contrary to the primary stated goal of the Master Plan and the Guidelines for Trail Management. Furthermore, these Level 2 trails will increase habitat fragmentation, not only with the path itself at 1.5-2 metres wide, also in the immediate vicinity of the path, increasing the potential for harm to sensitive species and the introduction of invasive species.

Staff / Dillon Response: The ecosystem protection provided by the 3 trail concept plan options is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and their compliance with the Guidelines. 4m wide Utility Overlays are present at Access 10 all the way to point A and then out to Fanshawe Park Road W. Access for sewer maintenance and repair are already required and these coincide with the locations where Level 2 trails and connections are recommended (including access point 10) to enhance accessibility as per AODA and the Guidelines. Section 3.1 describes this. Guidelines identify that Level 2 trails could be granular.

We suspect, also, that with the access from A5 to Point A and from A10 to Point A being paved, it is inevitable that a bridge will be constructed at Point A. For that reason, again, the suggestion of paving both the east and west of Point A under “as-is” is disingenuous; the ESA will not stay in its same form. We do not recommend a Level 2 trail on the east side of the river from A10.

In regards to wording of the text, there is a serious error on p. 33 where the sentence reads, “As overviewed in the Addendum, significant ecological features in the MVHF ESA (south) were determined to be compatible with existing managed trails.” Those two phrases should be reversed to read that the trails were determined to be compatible with the significant ecological features, as the primary goal is to ensure the ecological integrity of the ESA.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree will revise order of phrases.

We are in favour of the stepping stones to be placed at Snake Creek, as long as they are concurrent with efforts towards naturalization and stopping off trail activity.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and appreciate EEPAC’s support for stepping stones, naturalization and stopping off trail activity.

Establishing Partial Connectivity. We have little comments on this policy option beyond what was already said for the “as-is” option because there is only one difference between the two scenarios. It is our belief that this option could be combined with the “as-is” option as it stands and then, as previously mentioned, have the policy option of no changes at all. At the moment there seems little reason to have three separate policy options as they are currently written.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and goal is to choose one Draft Trail Concept Plan for inclusion in the CMP, the options are just a tool to help everyone to think about some options and arrive at the goal.

*Establishing enhanced connectivity of the MVHF ESA. To begin, we support the decisions not to install river crossings at points B, C and E. **However, we do not support crossings at points A and D.***

To support the plans for bridge crossings, the report uses degradation of air quality as a reason to install the structures: “users may drive from one side to [sic] other, while not presenting a significant impact to the ESA, may add to carbon emissions levels and degradation of air quality”. We believe this reason in support of the connectors should be stricken from the report as the chances that users are driving from one side of the river to the other, rather than exploring the area nearest to them, are negligible. Moreover, the actual addition to carbon emission levels should some users drive to access a different area of the ESA are also negligible. The point is equally irrelevant because local citizens may also drive to other ESAs, parks or green spaces in the city regardless of the crossings simply because people like to explore new areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree to strike the sentence that notes “...may add to carbon emission levels and degradation of air quality.” The sentence is not needed as the support for linkage A and D is fully detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts they mitigate, and their compliance with the Guidelines.

Under Enhanced Connectivity, much reference was made to the problems of erosion, however the report contains no maps showing areas of high erosion. Incidence of erosion should be a deciding factor in determining which trails will be closed. In some cases, areas that are experiencing high erosion may require improved trail surfaces to try to stop the erosion, but these should be highlighted on a map. On Figure 5, erosion is significant on the north side of the river between A18 and A17 (the bottom of the “boot”) but no reference is made as to future plans to deal with that erosion and how that will affect the level 2 trail found there.

Staff / Dillon Response: The Enhanced Connectivity option is detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts it mitigates, and its compliance with the Guidelines. Page 6 of the Draft CMP describes the scope of Medway Creek Subwatershed Study Update (MCSSU) and how that study which is still in progress helps to inform the CMP. Section 4.2.7 in the Draft CMP covers Bank Migration which is a natural process. The Level 1 trail (no Level 2 trail there?) between A18 and A17 will be monitored.

As mentioned above, we do not support crossings at points A or D. We would like to know what the ecological problem is that is the City is trying to solve at these points and whether the crossings could actually solve the identified problem. According to our site visits, the informal trail to the north of the Creek at A is essentially non-existent and there is no evidence that visitors are crossing the river at either A or D. If large structures are placed in these areas and/or the trails are paved, it will simply serve to threaten the ecological integrity of the north. The most southerly part of the ESA (south of Gainsborough Road towards the University), is already heavily trafficked and the results of that use are apparent when compared with the areas north of D and the area between Access #4 and the False Rue.

Staff / Dillon Response: A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the

community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17.

The Enhanced Connectivity option including A and D is detailed in Table 10, Table 11 and Section 4.3 including the impacts it mitigates, and its compliance with the Guidelines. Level 2 trails are not typically paved most are granular and that would be up to the LIC implementing the CMP following the Guidelines.

If a crossing is established at either point, the trails would have to be greater than a Level 1, (as the bridge itself would have to be both wide and high due to potential for flooding) which would cause habitat fragmentation and increase the risk of introduction of invasive species. It would also increase visitor numbers, which while a benefit for recreation, would not be compatible with protecting the biodiversity in the area. There would be greater chances of inappropriate use, walking of trails, dogs off leash, illegally harvesting species and potentially disrupting species at risk and/or their habitat.

Staff / Dillon Response: A good example of an existing bridge and trail protecting ecosystems and SAR habitat is the one in Medway south near Metamora presented at LAC 3 and 4. The bridge over the tributary went in nearly 20 years ago funded by the community and is surrounded by False-rue Anemone (THR) and rare species as shown on slides from LAC 3 and 4. Folks stay on the managed trail that directs users over the bridge to successfully protect this population of SAR east of Access 17.

The experience in London consistent with Crime Prevention and Environmental Design (CPTED) principles is that as trail use increases, compliance with the rules also increases through natural surveillance. The proposed Recovery Strategy for False-rue anemone in Canada recommends outreach and stewardship to educate the public on the species and its habitat, in areas with public access noting the well-defined walking trails in the Medway in London have helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness of this species.

At the same time, we do not support the installation of stepping stones at either A or D, as such a crossing would not be safe due to high water levels, the distance to each side of the creek and the potential for the stones to become slippery. Stepping stones would also affect aquatic life in the creek and would change the flow rate. No surveys of aquatic species are included in the CMP.

Staff / Dillon Response: Thank you for your comment.

VII. Community Engagement

We are in favour of increased community engagement and education uses of the ESA, including information signs and other activities. We have noted that Child Reach, through their Wild Child program, take children into the woods and leave them to explore the area. While we are in agreement with bringing children into nature, teaching them about wildlife, plants etc, we wonder if the staff are trained in regards to how one should act in an ESA – the do's and don'ts – and whether they are aware of invasive species and species at risk. We wanted to recommend that those that use the ESA for educational outings work with the City for training to avoid damage to sensitive areas.

Staff / Dillon Response: Agree and we have reached out to Child Reach staff.

VIII. Participation

The Working Group does not believe that the participation rates for the surveys and the meetings were not sufficiently high to be used to determine the need for Option C “Enhanced Connectivity”. Between 100-110 participants is a low response rate and given the number of comments that were likely disregarded, it is difficult to say how many people ‘actively’ participated in a meaningful way. We wonder why the survey was not more prominent, either on the City website, Twitter, etc.?

Staff / Dillon Response: The LAC 2 minutes in Appendix B of the draft CMP identify LAC’s input on how the Community Open House and Survey would be publicized and note that, “Sandy Levin was puzzled as to why anybody could fill out the survey (i.e., the survey is open to anyone who has access to the internet).”

Notification about the MVHF ESA (south) CMP process and survey included a notice in the Londoner, mail out to all homes within 200m of the entire MVHF ESA (1860 letters), letters and/or emails to those who participated in Phase 1, signs at every ESA access (20) inviting residents to attend the open house/fill in survey, notice on website, the formation of a 17 member (and alternates) Local Advisory Committee and other engagement methods including presentations by staff and consultants at the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayer’s (OPSFR) AGM,. OPSFR members were invited via their email newsletter to attend EEPAC to hear the presentation of the draft CMP (1 attended).

The survey was not well advertised and even some citizens living right by the ESA were not aware of the information sessions on offer. Therefore, we believe there was a statistically insignificant number of people involved in the survey. In addition, the Master Plan states that the information collected by citizens was just to be used as guidance for the plan, which suggests that the policy options were already in place prior to the information collecting. We believe that the exact information from the surveys should be included in the report for the purposes of transparency.

Staff / Dillon Response: The consultants noted on page 8 and 9 of the CMP that the review and compilation of comments was not done quantitatively or statistically. The LAC 2 minutes in Appendix B of the Draft CMP identify LAC’s input regarding the details of the Community Open House and Survey. Notification about the MVHF ESA (south) CMP process and survey included a notice in the Londoner, mail out to all homes within 200m of the entire MVHF ESA (1860 letters), letters and/or emails to those who participated in Phase 1, signs at every ESA access (20) inviting residents to attend the open house/fill in survey, notice on website, the formation of a 17 member (and alternates) Local Advisory Committee and other engagement methods including presentations by staff and consultants at the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayer’s (OPSFR) AGM,. OPSFR members were invited via their email newsletter to attend EEPAC to hear the presentation of the draft CMP (1 attended).

Moreover, the Draft appears to ignore participant input if it went against the favoured policy, namely enhanced connectivity. A good example of this bias occurs in the statement on p. 30, which reads, “Feedback indicates a desire for connectivity of the managed trails on the east and west sides of Medway Creek, though there is also clear opposition.” Given this was not a quantitative survey, a more balanced and accurate way of stating this would

be, “Although there is a desire for connectivity from the public, there is also opposition to the addition of crossings and a desire to protect the ecological integrity of the site.” Or you could point out that 18 percentage of survey respondents indicated an interest in improved connectivity (as per the pie chart presented at LAC meeting #3).

Staff / Dillon Response: The consultants noted that the review and compilation of comments was not done quantitatively or statistically. Comments received during the engagement process from the public and the LAC to date were used to identify items for consideration and community members were encouraged to provide feedback on “Ideas, Issues, Opportunities, and Observations” as noted on page 8 and 9 in the Draft CMP and in the LAC minutes. The communities’ ideas were then reviewed with Council’s Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs and those that complied with Guidelines were considered for inclusion in the CMP for the protection of ecological integrity.

IX. A final word (EEPAC)

The City of London provides a variety of recreational opportunities in many diverse venues for the City’s residents. There are a few ESAs and the reason they exist in policy and practice is to protect identified species at risk, unique landforms, large forested areas, etc. They aren’t recreational areas like many of the fine areas we have in the City. The Medway Valley has been used (and abused) in a variety of ways since London was settled. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if it could now be treated as an open air laboratory to study the impact of regeneration, naturalization and the nurturing of species at risk? Then it will be there for future generations.