The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA includes floodplain forests, swamps, marshes, and forested valley slopes. Medway Creek winds between steep banks up to 25 metres in height.

**Trails**

The map on the reverse side shows the access points and trail system on the public lands. The main access points are at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate and Sunningdale Road. The 11.6 km of trails follow both sides of the creek. The terrain is rolling with several steep climbs.

The managed trails are marked with yellow markers on the trees. Several small bridges and stairways have been constructed over wet or steep terrain. Care must be taken when the water is high or the trail is wet.

A large village stood at the site of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology near Wonderland Road. European settlers logged and farmed the valley in the 19th and 20th centuries. After 1945, the land was retired from farming and allowed to naturalize. Over the last 40 years, the lands were donated to and acquired by the City of London and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Western University and affiliated colleges own the ESA land to the east of the public ESA.

**Plant Communities and Restoration**

The valley slope and upland forests are home to Sugar Maple, American Beech, Black Cherry, Bitternut Hickory, and Basswood. Familiar spring flowers include Red and White Trilliums, Mayapple, violets, and Trout Lilies.

In the damp floodplains, willow, Black Walnut, Hackberry, and Sycamore grow. In summer, look for wildflowers such as Spotted Joe-Pye Weed, Blue Vervain, and Swamp Milkweed.

Hawthorn and Grey Dogwood abound in old orchards and abandoned pastures, along with Crab Apple, White Elm, and aspen. Wildflowers fill the grassy meadows in the summer.

Invasive species management and ecological restoration, funded by the City and enhanced by Adopt An ESA groups and volunteers, protects the ecological integrity of the ESA.

**Wildlife**

The Medway Valley provides habitat and food for many species of wildlife, especially birds. Mallard ducks and Belted Kingfisher are common year-round, while Great Blue Heron and Wood Duck are regular summer visitors. Many birds, ranging in size from warblers to Osprey, use the valley as a migration route. Scarlet Tanagers are often seen. The high banks serve as nesting sites for colonies of Bank Swallows. Please do not disturb nests by climbing on the banks.

White-tailed Deer, Grey Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, Raccoon, mice, and moles are common in the ESA. The rarely seen Southern Flying Squirrel has also been recorded. Near the creek, look for Muskrat and Beaver along with Green and Leopard Frogs, and Midland Painted and Snapping Turtles.

Although 43 species of fish have been found in the creek, minnows, shiners, and carp are most commonly seen in the clear water.

**For More Information**

For more information on London’s ESAs, contact: Upper Thames River Conservation Authority 519-451-2800, infoline@thamesriver.on.ca, www.thamesriver.on.ca

City of London, Planning and Development Services 519-661-4980, www.london.ca

Published 2022
Rules to remember in London’s ESAs

- Please use the official access points indicated on the trail maps.
- Stay on the managed trails (marked with yellow markers on trees or posts).
- Bicycles are permitted only on multi-use pathways.
- Access is allowed from 6 am to 10 pm.
- Keep the ESAs litter free.
- All pets must be on leash (2 m/6 ft maximum).
- Do not feed the fish and wildlife.
- Releasing or dumping fish or wildlife of any kind is prohibited.
- Fishing is permitted with a provincial fishing licence. No hunting is permitted.
- See additional rules on signs at ESA entrances.