Trails

The ESA has three main access points with kiosks (see map on reverse) and 11 km of managed trails. Most of the trails are gently rolling, with the occasional short, steep hill. Almost all the trails are on clay or muck soils, which are very prone to becoming muddy. Boardwalks cross some lowland areas. The managed trails are identified by yellow trail markers on trees or posts.

Plant Communities and Restoration

The five large kettle ponds and a beaver pond (Thompson Pond) are surrounded by lowland and upland habitats. Approximately 60% of all plant species found in Middlesex County can be found in this ESA.

Kettle Pond Formation

The kettle ponds were created when large blocks of ice were left behind by the retreating glaciers 13,000 years ago, creating permanent depressions that filled with water.

History

London is located in the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples. Archaeological digs uncovered artifacts from First Nations campsites that date back 4500 years.

European farmers first settled the area along Commissioners Road in 1810. The railway track that cuts across the ESA was constructed in 1915 as part of a line from London to Port Stanley.

In the 1940s, several veterans’ residences and other facilities were built north of Saunders Pond, as part of Westminster Hospital. In the 1960s, part of the area was used as a sanitary landfill site. In the 1970s, the City of London and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority purchased approximately 200 hectares for the purpose of establishing an urban conservation area. More land has been acquired since then, including land donated by London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph’s Health Care, London, in 2004.

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

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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.

Westminster Ponds/ Pond Mills
Environmentally Significant Area

Legend
- Access Points
  1. Wellington Road Tourist Centre (Kiosk)
  2. South Parkwood Hospital
  3. North Parkwood Hospital
  4. Commissioners Road at Adelaide Street
  5. Silverdale Crescent
  6. Agriculture Park
  7. Pond View Road - Education Centre
  8. Wellington Avenue
  9. Pond View Road South
  10. Pond View Road North
  11. Pond Mills Road at Bradley Avenue (Kiosk)
  12. Millbank Drive
  13. Parliament Crescent
  14. Southdale at Adelaide Street (Kiosk)
  15. Oland Avenue
  16. Wellington Road South

- Parking
- Beach
- Boardwalk
- Bridge
- Floating Dock
- Heritage Tree
- Riding
- Skatepark
- Viewing Platform
- Managed Trail (11 km)
- Accessible Trail
- Railway Tracks
- Public ESA Boundaries (255 ha)
- Road
- Vegetation

Location Map

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