

## **Hiking Trails and Access Points**

The access point for the Lower Dingman ESA is located at 3370 Homewood Lane, reached via Deadman's Road east of Westdel Bourne. The 1.6 km of managed trails (see map on reverse) are identified by yellow trail markers on trees or posts. Most of the trail is flat and sections offer picturesque views of Dingman Creek.

## **History**

London is located in the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples. Prior to 1955, the land west of the creek was cropped, while the east side was a mixture of pasture and woodland. The land was reforested in stages in the 1950s to 1980s, starting in 1959 by the Delaware Sportsmen's Association.



Please stay on the marked trails on City property to protect yourself and your pets, and to protect wildlife habitats from disturbance.

In 2005, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London removed Alsop's Dam, a weir built on Dingman Creek in the 1940s, in order to improve water quality and fish habitat.

### **Shaping the Landscape**

The Lower Dingman ESA is located at the western end of the Ingersoll Moraine, which was deposited by melting glaciers roughly 13,000 years ago. The moraine consists of a mixture of silt, clay, sand, and pebbles, and has a gently rolling topography.

#### **Plant Communities and Restoration**

The trail system is located within a White Pine, White Spruce and Black Walnut plantation. The valley slopes and young woodland on the east side of the creek are dominated by Sugar Maple, American Beech and Red and White Oaks. Eastern Hemlock can be found on the ravine slopes.

Ecological restoration, funded by the City and enhanced by volunteers and Adopt An ESA groups, is underway to manage non-native invasive plant species, including European Buckthorn, Norway Maple, Periwinkle, and Garlic Mustard.

### Wildlife

Dingman
Creek supports
a variety of
warm water
fish species
including bass,
sunfish, darters,
chub, suckers
and minnows.

The Lower
Dingman
ESA is home
to a variety
of terrestrial
species common
to the London



area including White-tailed Deer, Groundhog (Woodchuck), Eastern Cottontail, and Eastern Chipmunk. Red-spotted Newt and Bald Eagles



have also been reported in the area. Common bird species include woodpeckers, Northern Cardinal, and chickadees.

#### **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, <u>www.london.ca</u>

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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.





The Lower Dingman Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) covers 20 hectares of publicly-owned lands in southwest London. While still within City limits, the ESA is situated in a rural setting, unlike most of London's publicly-owned ESAs. The ESA is part of the larger Lower Dingman Corridor potential ESA, most of which is in private ownership.



