

Kilally Meadows Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is situated within the floodplain of the North Thames River. The site includes open meadows, riverside woods and swamps.

Trails

The map on the reverse side shows the access points and trail system. The main access points are at the east end of Windermere Road and the west end of Kilally Road.

There is a variety of trails within this site, totaling 10.3 km (see map on reverse). Most of the trails are flat and easy to walk.

The managed trails are identified by yellow trail markers on trees or posts. The Thames Valley Trail (white markers) also uses the trails on the north side of the river. On the south side of the Thames, the paved, multi-use Thames Valley Parkway extends between Adelaide Street and Highbury Avenue.

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

History

London is located in the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples. Archaeological digs around Kilally Meadows reveal that Native peoples were active in the area 2,000 years ago.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the site was farmed and used to graze cattle. In the 1960s, sand and gravel were extracted from several areas that are now regenerating into meadows and woods. The City of London purchased much of the site by the early 1970s, with additional lands purchased since then.



Plant Communities and Restoration

A variety of vegetation communities can be found in the Kilally Meadows ESA, including riverine woodland, thicket swamp, marsh, and meadow.

In the sunny meadows, Orchard Grass, Smooth Brome, and Reed Canary Grass are found along with Wild Bergamot and goldenrods. Joe-Pye Weed blooms along the river in late summer. Some tallgrass prairie species such as Indian Grass, Big Bluestem, Bee Balm, and Butterflyweed are also found here.

Sycamore, poplars, and willows grow along the river. In low wet areas, dogwood and willow thickets dominate. The valley slopes support poplar, Hackberry, Bur Oak, and Sugar Maple. A stand of Black Maples is found on the tableland near Meander Creek.

Springtime brings a variety of wildflowers in the wooded areas including Marsh Marigold, White Trout Lily, Dame's Rocket, and Yellow Violet. 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 river corridor and diverse habitats make this site an excellent place for wildlife. Look for Belted Kingfisher, Bank Swallow, and Mallard by the water. In the floodplain, nesting species include American Woodcock, Gray Catbird, and Yellow Warbler.

In wet areas, you may see or hear Gray Treefrog, Spring Peeper, or Green Frog. Look for Midland Painted Turtles basking on logs and rocks in the river on sunny days.

Mammals common to urban areas may be seen, including Grey Squirrel, Raccoon, and White-tailed Deer. Beaver dams along Meander Creek indicates these animals are also active here.

The meadows attract many species of butterflies



and moths.
Great
Spangled
Fritillary,
Viceroy,
and Black
Swallowtail
are
commonly
seen in mid
summer.

For More Information

For more information on London's ESAs, contact: **Upper Thames River Conservation Authority** 519-451-2800, <u>infoline@thamesriver.on.ca</u>, <u>www.thamesriver.on.ca</u>

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