



Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is situated on the south side of the South Thames River. The ESA contains floodplain woods, deep ravines, mature woodlands, and some active and retired agricultural fields that are now meadows.

Along the Thames west of Meadowlily Road is the Meadowlily Nature Preserve, owned by the Thames Talbot Land Trust. The public is allowed to hike the trail through the preserve.

Trails

The map on the reverse side shows the access points and trail system. The main access point is on Meadowlily Road not far from the river. About 5.6 km of trails loop through the ESA on moderately sloping terrain. The managed trails are identified by yellow trail markers on trees or posts.

The Meadowlily Bridge (c. 1910) at the foot of Meadowlily Road provides pedestrian access across the South Thames River. The ESA connects to the Thames Valley Parkway trail system north of the river.

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. Over 60 archaeological sites are documented in the Meadowlily area, especially on the Ingersoll Moraine. The sites span the entire 11,000 years of prehistory and include everything from aboriginal camps to villages.

In the early part of the 19th century, private homes for commissioned officers were built along the east end of Commissioners Road. One such house was built in 1848 on Park Farm. The Fraser family purchased Park Farm in 1908. Portions of the property were farmed, but the wooded areas were protected by Harrison Fraser until his death in 1982, at which time the City of London obtained the Park Farm estate.

Plant Communities and Restoration

The site has a mix of wetland and upland forest species. In the bottomland along the river, Basswood, Hackberry, willow, and dogwood dominate, while cattails and marsh plants grow in and near the water. In summer, colourful wildflowers can be found including Blue Flag (iris), Turtlehead, and Great Lobelia.

The upland areas are dominated by Sugar Maple, American Beech, Black Cherry, and Red Oak. In the spring, the woods are carpeted with a variety of flowers, including trilliums, trout lilies, hepatica, Bloodroot, violets, and Spring Beauty.

The cool, north-facing ravines are home to Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch, and over a dozen fern species. Skunk Cabbage grows in the wet seepage areas.



Blue Flag (iris)

The meadows and young woods are full of asters and goldenrods in the fall.

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

Over 110 species of migratory and breeding birds have been observed in the Meadowlily Woods area. Due to its large size and location along the river, the forest supports forest interior and area sensitive species such as Pileated Woodpecker and Ovenbird.



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo: Rick Battson

Other nesting species include Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and American Goldfinch.

The animal life is typical of the London area with Raccoon, Coyote,

Red Fox, White-tailed Deer, Grey Squirrel, and Beaver.

The many wet habitats are home Green, Wood and Leopard Frogs, Spring Peepers, Eastern Redback Salamander, and Midland Painted Turtle.

The meadows provide nectar-producing flowers for butterflies and moths. Giant and Tiger Swallowtails, Clouded Sulphur, and Spring Azure are among the species recorded in the area.

For More Information

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

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

Meadowlily Woods

Environmentally Significant Area



Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is located in southeast London, east of Highbury Avenue near Commissioners Road and Meadowlily Road. The publicly-owned lands cover 83.9 hectares.





- 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.

Meadowlily Woods
Environmentally Significant Area

Legend

Access Points

- 1 Commissioners Road Parking Lot
- 2 Meadowlily Road South (South)
- 3 Meadowlily Road South (North)
- 4 Meadowlark Ridge
- 5 Meadowlily Road North
- 6 Thames Valley Parkway East (North)
- 7 Thames Valley Parkway East (South)
- 8 Thames Valley Parkway West

- P Parking
- B Bench
- BW Boardwalk
- Bridge
- Managed Trail (5.6 km)
- Mult-use Trail
- Public ESA Boundary (83.9 ha)
- Water
- Vegetation

Location Map

London

N

0 25 50 100 150 200 metres

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Map produced by UTRCA with data provided by the City of London.
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