

# Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA - Master Plan Implementation

## Agenda

Welcome

Master Plan  
Background

2010/11 Report

Questions &  
Opportunities



## Background



**Pre-European: Area was attractive to First Nation People**

**1793: First written reference to the area**

**1812: Settlement began in Westminster Township**

**1878: Earliest reference to the area having natural significance in the Atlas of Middlesex County**



# Background



1913: Earliest attempt to protect the area when W E Saunders purchased land near Saunders Pond

Around the same time, the Western Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association purchased and protected land around Fish and Game Pond

1915: Railway line established through area to connect commuters from London to Port Stanley.

# Background



1943: Land was secured (expropriated) for a major military health campus for veterans returning from war

1961: Land became part of the City of London through annexation of Westminster Township.



## Background



1971: City council passed a resolution to preserve the Westminster Ponds area through the work of many citizen groups

1977 – 1985: Land acquisition program was undertaken to acquire property in this area

Transfer of lands from the Federal government to the Victoria Hospital Corporation

Several technical studies were initiated in the early 1980's

# Background



1985: Completion of the first Master Plan for the area

1988: The area was designated as an ESA

1990: An agreement between the UTRCA and the City of London was signed

1995 – 1999: Several studies conducted by LHSC to identify appropriate land use





# Background



2000: Initiation of an update to the Master Plan

UTRCA retained in 2002 to coordinate Master Plan Update.

LAC was comprised by a 21 member group of dedicated individuals.

These individuals:  
helped develop the mission statement,  
6 guiding principles, 6 goals and 23 objectives, and 86 final recommendations

2005: Master Plan Update was completed.





## Master Plan Mission

*The City of London, the UTRCA, and community partners will preserve the ecological integrity of Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area while providing compatible educational and recreational opportunities.*





# Guiding Principles



Guiding Principles:  
preserve ecological integrity  
preserve cultural integrity  
utilize a community-based approach for planning and implementing  
use the area wisely  
create opportunities for awareness and education  
consider long term sustainability





# Goals

## Goals:

Maintain and Enhance Ecological Integrity  
Preserve and Promote Cultural Heritage  
Engage Community Partners  
Determine Compatible Uses  
Encourage Awareness and Environmental  
Education  
Implement Recommendations





# Master Plan Implementation



2006:

- Established and began monitoring of groundwater well at Pond Mills
- Finalized land transfer from LHSC
- Removed LHSC fence around Saunders Pond
- Installed new rotary boardwalk
- Removed old “T” boardwalk and replaced
- Replaced education dock at north pond
- Naturalized area off Southdale between Fish and Game and Dearness
- Completed trail monitoring
- Improved main access points at Southdale and Adelaide (Rotary) and at South Pond (Ducks Unlimited)

# Master Plan Implementation



2007:

- Improved main access off tourist centre including wheelchair loop
- Installed boardwalk, benches and viewing platform at Saunders
- Finalized all access points
- Improved high priority trails
- Improved Western Counties Road
- Marked Saunders cabin and installed interpretive plaque
- Closed and signed sensitive trails



# Master Plan Implementation



2008:

- Confirmed nesting of Chimney Swifts in Wellington Building
- Silverdale staircase removed





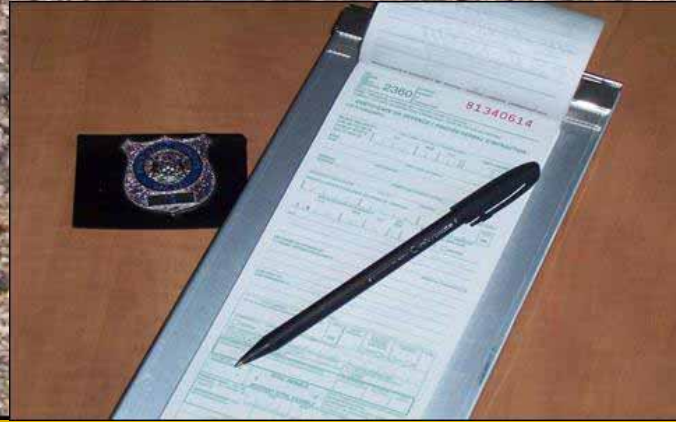
































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Manufactured in Canada  
Produit au Canada  
Fabricated in Canada  
Produit au Canada





**TRAIL CLOSED**



**Natural Restoration Underway**  
Please remain on the marked trails  
marked with orange blazes and allow natural  
restoration of the closed trails. The long-term  
health of this ecologically significant area  
depends upon your cooperation.

*Thank you.*

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1100 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
www.nature.org





### Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area



**Westminster Pond**



**Westminster Pond**



**Westminster Pond**

**Environmentally Significant Area**

**Location and Land Use**

**Environmentally Significant Area**

**Environmentally Significant Area**

**Environmentally Significant Area**

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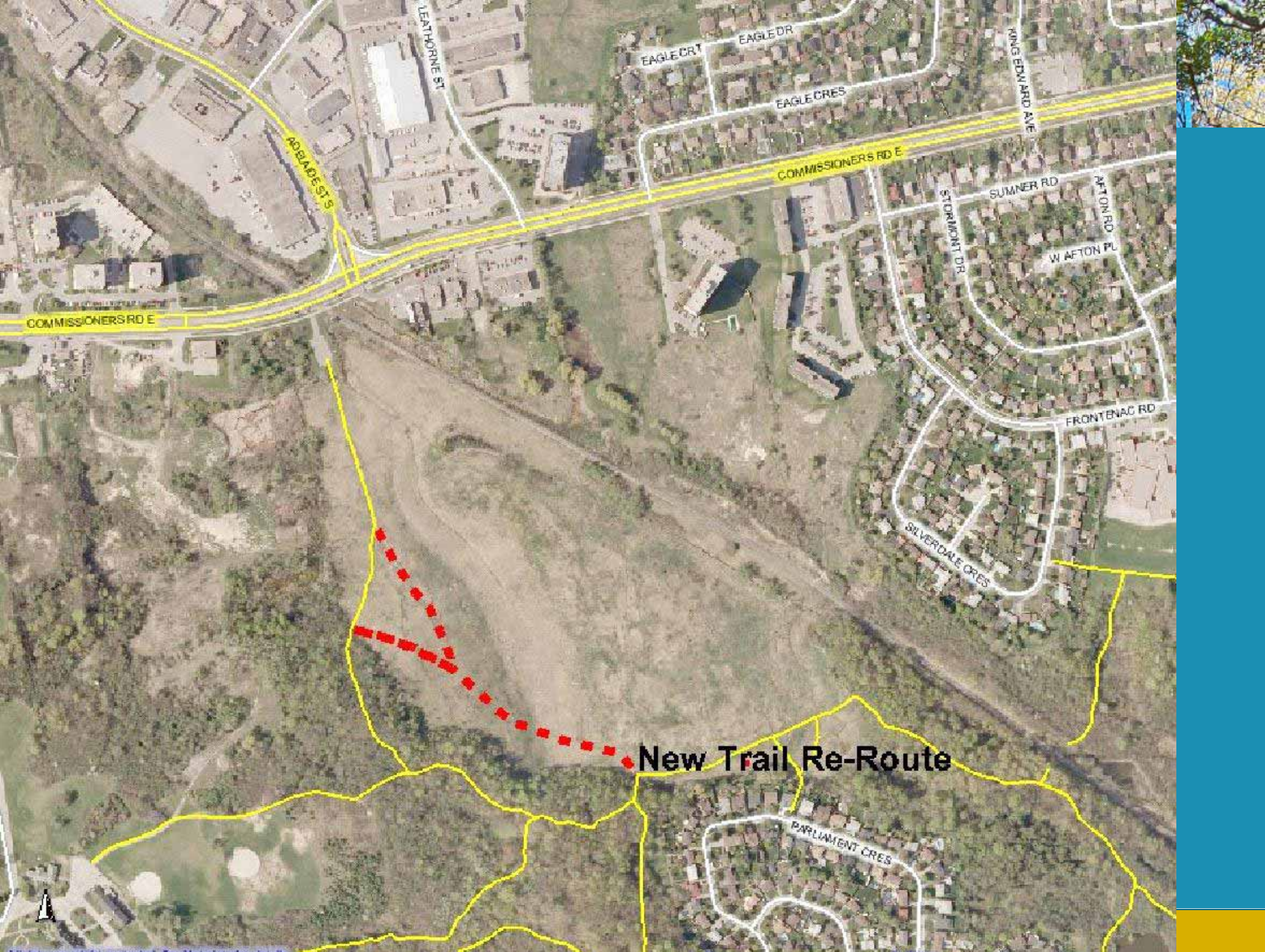












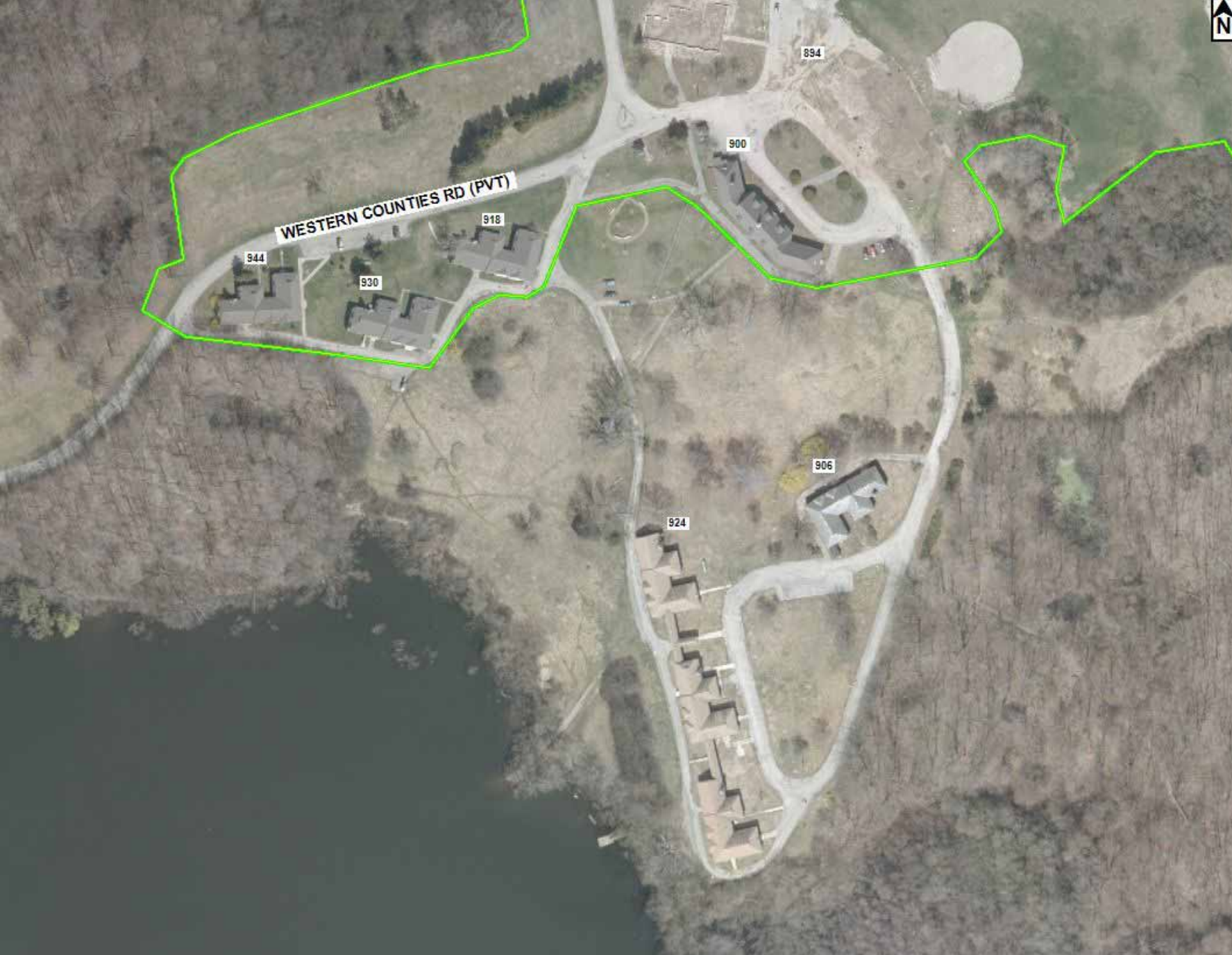
**New Trail Re-Route**







# County Cottages





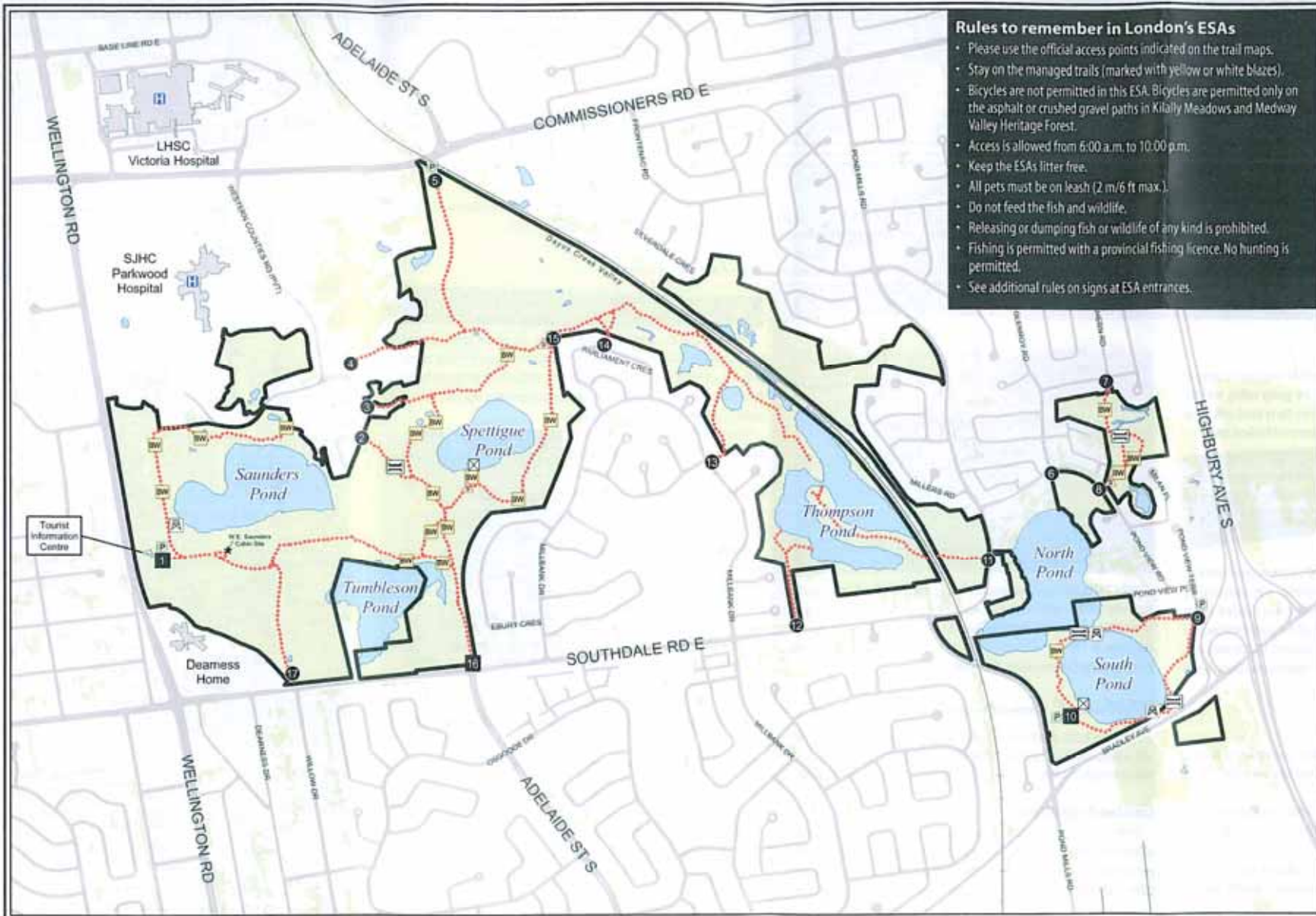
# County Cottages



- **Demolition**
- **Environmental Considerations**
- **Cultural Landscape Masterplan**







- ### 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 or white blazes).
  - Bicycles are not permitted in this ESA. Bicycles are permitted only on the asphalt or crushed gravel paths in Kilally Meadows and Medway Valley Heritage Forest.
  - Access is allowed from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
  - Keep the ESAs litter free.
  - All pets must be on leash (2 m/6 ft max.).
  - 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 Turlall Into Centre (Kiosk)
- 2 South Parkwood Hospital
- 3 Middle Parkwood Hospital
- 4 North Parkwood Hospital
- 5 Commissioners Road at Adelaide Street
- 6 Pond View Road - Education Centre
- 7 Wellington Avenue
- 8 Pond View Road at Mill Plate
- 9 Pond View Terrace
- 10 Pond Mills Road at Brailley Avenue (Kiosk)
- 11 Pond Mills Road at Comslerly
- 12 Southdale Road East
- 13 Millbank Drive
- 14 Parliament Crescent
- 15 North Spettigue Pond
- 16 Southdale at Adelaide Street (Kiosk)
- 17 Deerness

##### Other Features

- P Parking
- B Boardwalk
- BR Bridge
- FD Floating Dock
- PL Platform
- SL Staircase
- MT Managed Trail (11.1 km)
- RT Railway Tracks
- PEA Public ESA Boundary (200 m)
- W Water
- V Vegetation

#### Location Map

London

0 50 100 200 300 400 500  
metres

UPPER THAMES RIVER  
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANT AREA

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