

Community Connections



Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA

October 24, 2012

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London
CANADA

Community Connections

- Presentation Overview
 - Westminster Working Group
 - Community Connections
 - Background
 - Timeline & Next Steps
 - Questions & Discussion



Spettigue Dock

The Westminster Working Group

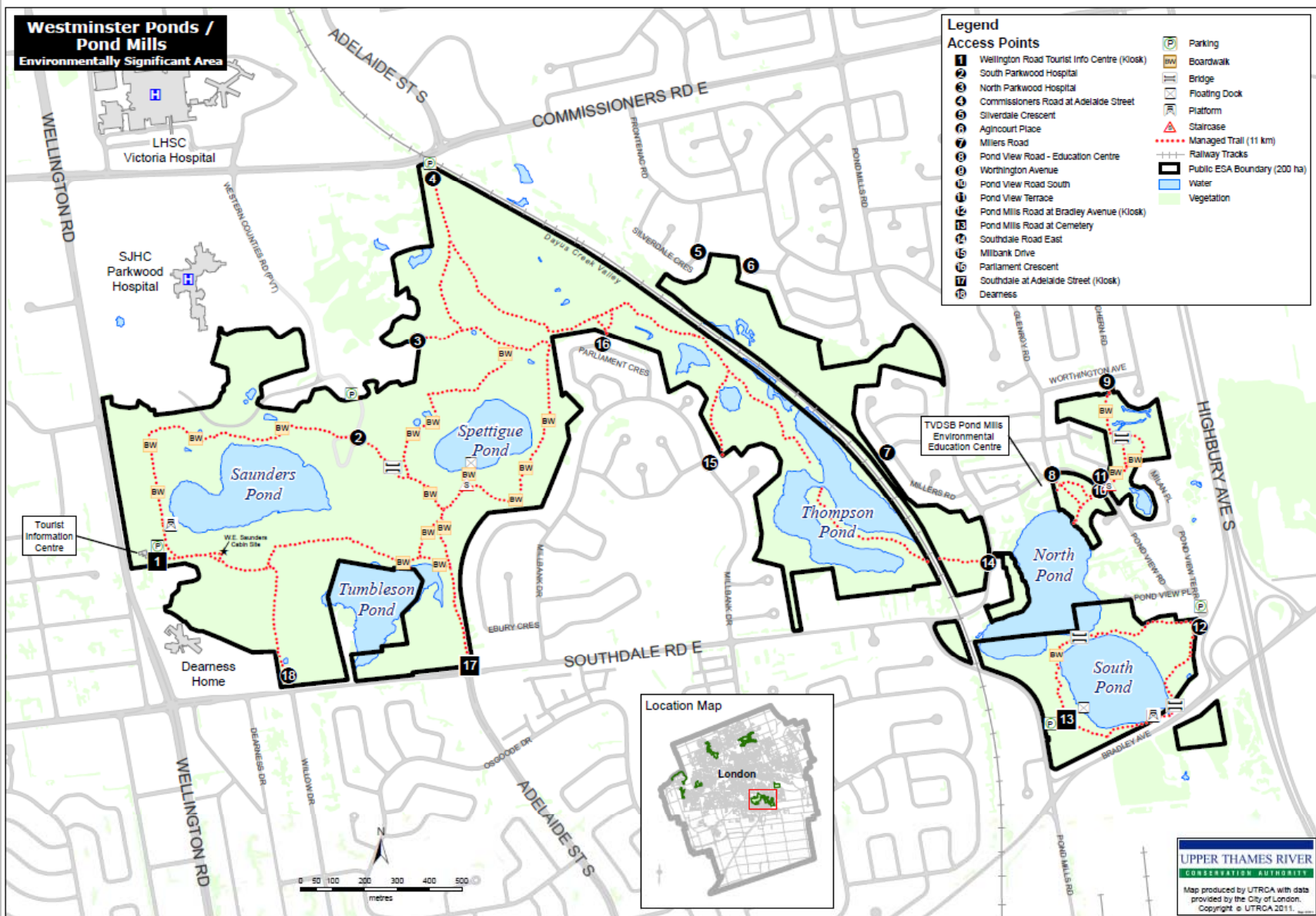
Dedicated to helping children, youth and families live a healthier life.

Neighbourhood Action Plan in 2010 to target 5 priority areas:

- Urban Planning
- Public Safety
- Active Transportation and Accessibility
- Availability of Food
- Physical Activity Opportunities



Current Managed ESA Trails – Red Dots



Existing Unofficial Trails – Purple Lines



Existing Managed ESA Trails – Yellow Lines

Meetings and Discussion with CN Ongoing

MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2005

Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area

Recommendation 62

Develop a partnership with all stakeholders to provide safe passage across the CNR tracks that meets CNR and City of London safety standards.

Some possible suggestions include:

- an overpass
- a crosswalk with alarms and gates that signal when a train is near.

Unsafe CNR crossing occurs at two locations:

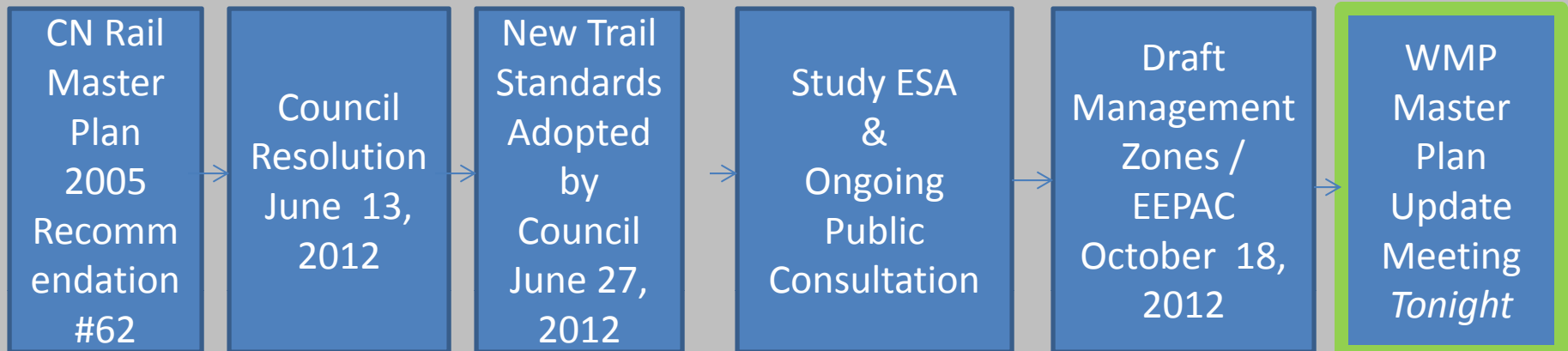
- at one of the main trails that connect the two subdivisions located on either side of the CNR tracks (Map 16, trail 43). Several students use this trail daily, yet it is hazardous because of steep slopes, protruding metal stakes, a concrete drain pipe, as well as frequent train activity (at least seven trains pass per day).
- another uncontrolled CNR crossing is located off Pond Mills Road (Map 16, trail 44).

Existing Unofficial Trails – Purple Lines



Existing Managed ESA Trails – Yellow Lines

Community Connections - Background



Trail Standards Adopted by Council June 27, 2012

City of London
Parks Planning and Design Manual of Design Specifications

**PLANNING AND DESIGN STANDARDS
FOR TRAILS IN
ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS**



Granular pedestrian trail through an old field / savannah habitat in Killaly Meadows ESA

June 4, 2012

**Prepared by:
Parks Planning and Design, Planning Division
with Schollen & Company Inc. and
North-South Environmental**

Now Available
for Free
Download on
City's
Website



Ecological Study & Draft Management Zones to EEPAC




Westminister Ponds ESA Management Zones

Legend

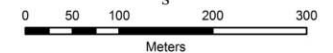
-  Nature Reserve
-  Natural Area 1
-  Natural Area 2
-  Restoration Area
-  Utility Overlay
-  Access Zones

 PSW

 Ecological Land Classification

 Westminister Ponds ESA
Schedule B1 Boundary

DRAFT



 North-South Environmental Inc.
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning



September 24, 2012

Natural Area Zone 2

Natural Area Zone 2 – For the protection of supporting habitat areas such as shrub thickets, old fields, younger woodlands, and plantations that contribute to diversity, connectivity, internal linkages, visual and spatial buffers, restoration opportunities and ecological integrity of the whole ESA. In general, supporting habitat areas may be expected to have lower sensitivity than Nature Reserve or Natural Area Zone 1. Supporting habitat areas, when directly adjacent to an Access Zone may provide an opportunity for introduction of trails that permit use by persons with disabilities.

Primary goal – To protect significant features and functions for which an area has been identified by controlling the type and intensity of use.

Secondary goal – To provide urban residents regular contact with nature through environmentally and culturally compatible nature-based activities.

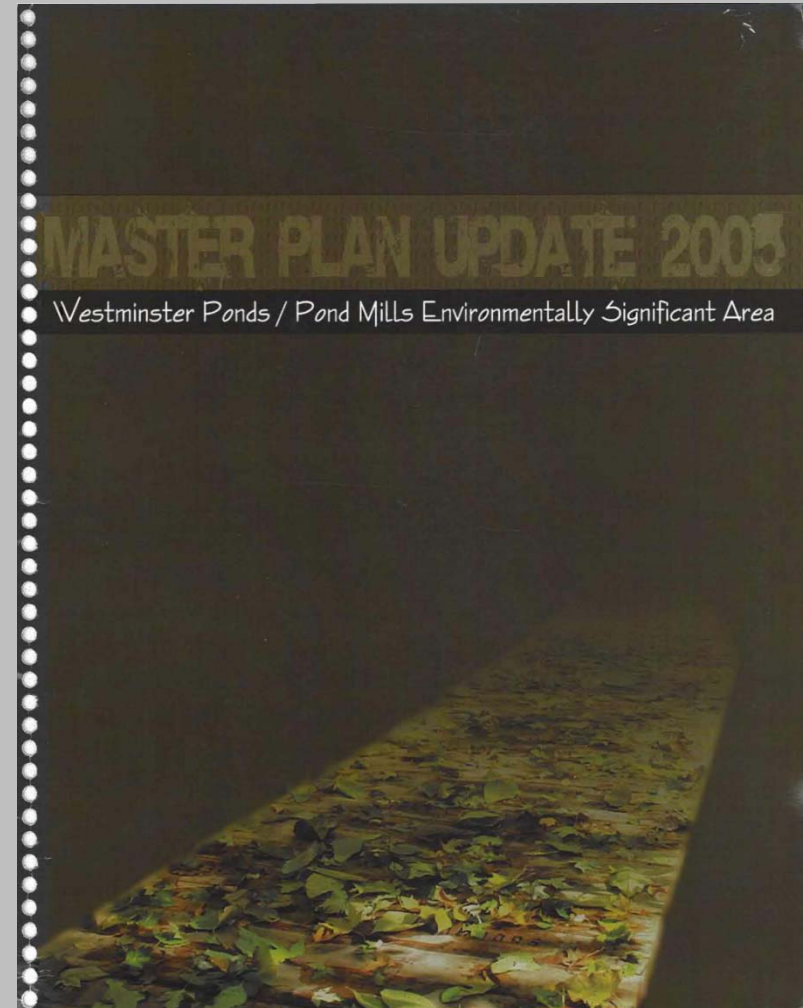
Public access – Level 1 or Level 2 hiking trails. Level 2 trails may be located in Natural Area Zone 2 where it can be demonstrated that the trail will not result in negative impact to the ecological features and functions of the ESA. Temporary facilities for research, education and management may be permitted in less sensitive supporting areas to allow human activities designed to improve values such as biodiversity, wildlife habitat and aesthetics.



Level 1 hiking trails cross through a large open meadow area of a former landfill at the Westminster Ponds ESA. Portions of this area could be considered as lower sensitivity that could potentially support a Level 2 trail while other areas may contain habitat for open country birds at risk where no trails would be permitted.

Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA Master Plan Update

- City is hiring a consultant to complete a **Natural Heritage Inventory, Evaluation & Management Strategy** for The Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area as per Goal 1 & the Recommendations of 2005 Master Plan Update
- Map of Confirmed **Management Zones** for Northern Portion of ESA as an early deliverable once Spring 2013 Ecological Inventory is Complete
- Once **Management Zones** are confirmed **Draft Trail Options** will be reviewed in 2013




Trails Advisory Group – (TAG) 2013 Site Visit

- TAG is to provide comment on trail related issues in London's ESAs that were not addressed or contemplated in the most current Conservation Master Plan for each ESA.
- The TAG will review and comment on the proposed Community Connection trail options during a site visit in Summer 2013.
- City staff will facilitate the site visit

City of London
Parks Planning and Design Manual of Design Specifications


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Planning and Environment Committee

- After TAG visit and comments staff will finalize design and report back to Planning and Environment Committee with a report and a proposed trail layout in Summer 2013
- Once Council Resolution is in place City will plan for construction.



Process – Next Steps



Thank you

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