



**ESA Team Update**  
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Emerald Ash Borer





Japanese Knotweed



Japanese Knotweed



Heritage Tree

# Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area



Trail near Spettigue Pond

Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is the largest ESA in the City of London, covering approximately 250 hectares (618 acres). The area is significant for its size, rich variety of natural habitats, rolling topography and unique "kettle" ponds, all within an urban setting. The ESA is situated in a long east-west ridge of stony soil (till) deposited more than 12,000 years ago by a glacier. The kettle ponds were created when large blocks of ice were left behind by the glacier, making permanent depressions that filled with water. The ESA's five major ponds and many smaller ponds are the best examples of kettle lakes left in the London area. The deep, cool ponds are fed by surface runoff.

## Spettigue Pond

Each of the five main kettle ponds in Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA is surrounded by a different form of vegetation along its shoreline. The kettle pond closest to this entrance - Spettigue Pond - drains 25 hectares of mostly wooded land. Water moving over land that surrounds the pond. As a result, vegetation, and by a narrow strip of peat that surrounds the pond. As a result, Spettigue Pond is the cleanest of all the ponds with the lowest concentration of nutrients, low coliform counts and good aeration. The pond also has much lower chloride levels because it is not affected by roadway runoff, which typically contains salt and contaminated sediments. Spettigue Pond is home to several fish species, including perch, bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, lowa darter, northern pike and brown bullhead. The unique vegetation surrounding the pond is very sensitive and cannot tolerate trampling. The cold water and steep surrounding slopes have created a cool micro-climate that supports many northerly species not commonly found in southern Ontario. Northern bog species such as leatherleaf, orchids, pitcher plants, sundews, larch and ferns can be found in the narrow strip of peat bog that surrounds the pond. The peat bog is composed of a floating mat of sphagnum moss.



## Take a Hike!

The Spettigue Pond inner loop trail is approximately 500 m from this entrance. The pond loop trail is 1.5 km in length, and generally flat with many low-lying areas. The trails may be wet at times, wear appropriate footwear. Boardwalks and a floating dock are in place to protect the sensitive and rare habitat around Spettigue Pond. Please stay on the trail to minimize your impact on the environment.

## Community Partners

- Organizations involved in the protection and management of Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills ESA include:
- City of London
  - Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
  - Global Action Plan
  - London Advisory Committee for Heritage
  - London and District Labour Council
  - London and Middlesex Historical Society
  - London and Middlesex Centre
  - London Health Sciences Centre
  - Midwestern Field Naturalists of London Inc.
  - Pond Mills Community Association
  - St. Joseph's Health Care London
  - Westminster District School Board

## Look

Brochures are available from the Wellington Authority (661-4149). The City of London has a public concern line.



Kiosk



## Trail Closures





Raft



Graffiti



Hazard Tree

