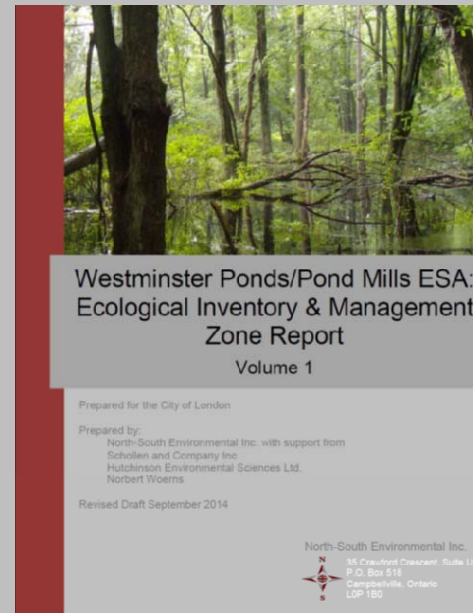
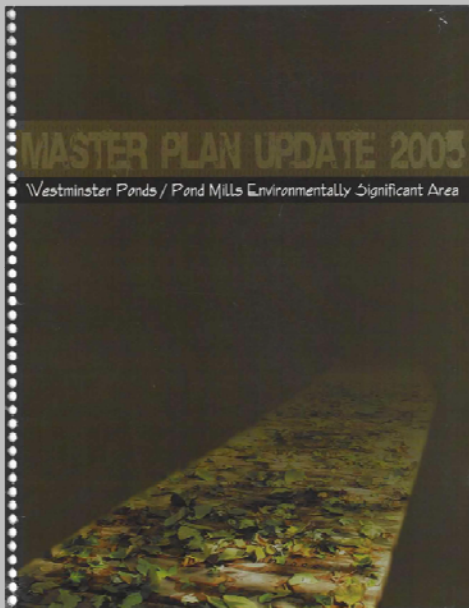


ESA Conservation Master Plan Background



Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA

October 2, 2014

Linda McDougall

Ecologist 519-661-2500 ext. 6494



London
CANADA

What makes Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills an ESA?



The ESA has natural features & ecological functions that contribute to ecological integrity & biodiversity as defined by:

- Unusual landforms & rare vegetation community types
- High-quality vegetation representative of pre-settlement period
- Large size provides extensive habitat – 250 ha
- Provincially Significant Wetlands contribute to ecosystem health beyond ESA boundaries
- High level of biodiversity
- Important wildlife habitat & linkage function
- Significant habitat for rare, threatened, endangered species

Official Plan Policies for ESAs



- ESAs contain natural features and perform ecological functions that warrant their retention in a natural state (15.4.1)
- Where necessary, public access to identified ESAs within public ownership will be controlled so that access is not detrimental to the significant features of the property (15.4.1.4)

How do we protect ESAs and permit use?

CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN PROCESS

- PHASE 1:** Life Science Inventory and Evaluation
Boundary Delineation
Application of Management Zones*
Identifying Management Issues
- PHASE 2:** Community Engagement and Participation
Goals, Objectives, Recommendations
Ecological Protection, Enhancement and Restoration
Trail Planning and Design Process*
Priorities for Implementation
Final Conservation Master Plan

* From the June 2012 Council approved Planning and Design Standards for Trails in ESAs



Progress on 2005 Master Plan Recommendations

- **86 Recommendations** were developed in 2005 to guide decision-making
- Study completed by North South Environmental directly addresses over 20 of the 2005 Recommendations
- **95%** of the 2005 CMP Recommendations have now been addressed or started
- Recommendation #62 is CN rail crossing



Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA: Ecological Inventory & Management Zone Report Volume 1

Prepared for the City of London

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Revised Draft: September 2014

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