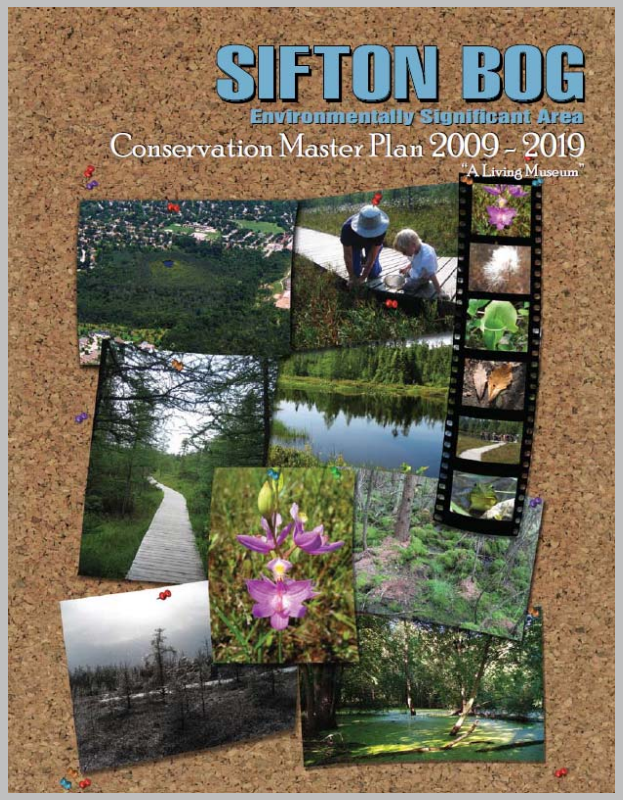
ESA Conservation Master Plan Background



Sifton Bog ESA

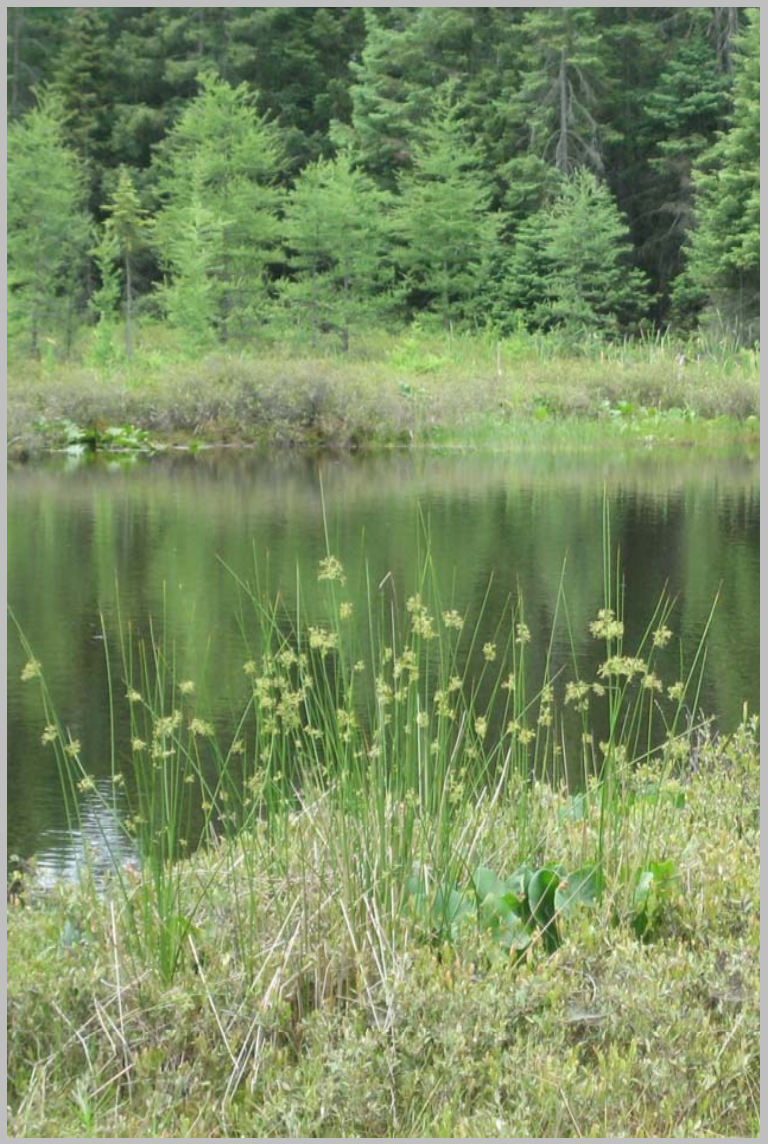
October 9, 2014

James MacKay, M.Sc.

Ecologist 519-661-2500 ext. 4865

London
CANADA

What makes Sifton Bog an ESA?



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

- Unusual landforms & rare vegetation community types
- Overall high-quality vegetation
- Large size provides extensive habitat – 50 ha (124 acres), the central bog portion is approximately 23 ha in size
- Provincially Significant Wetlands contribute to ecosystem health beyond ESA boundaries
- Level of unique biodiversity not found in other parts of London
- Important wildlife habitat & linkage function
- Significant habitat for rare, threatened, endangered species

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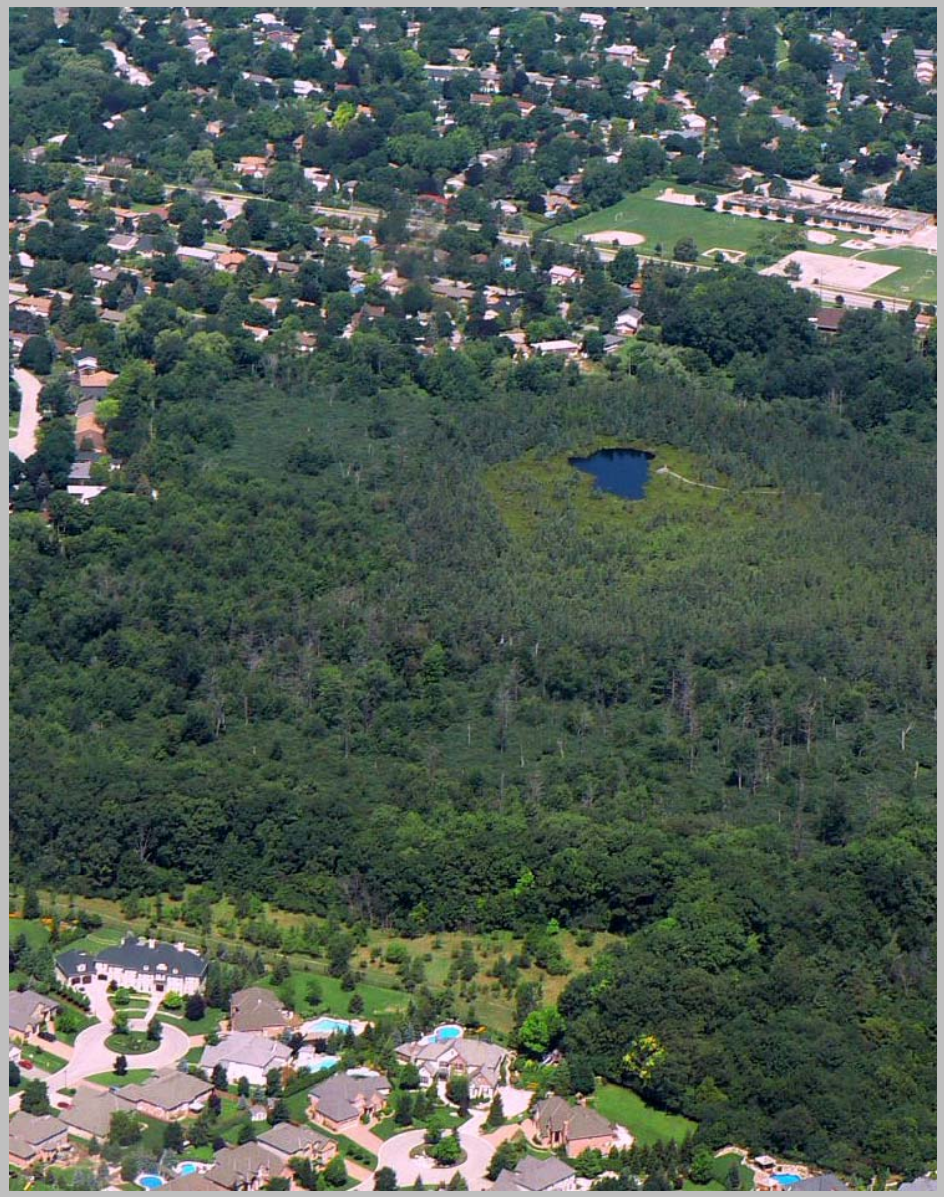
Official Plan Policies for ESAs



- 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**

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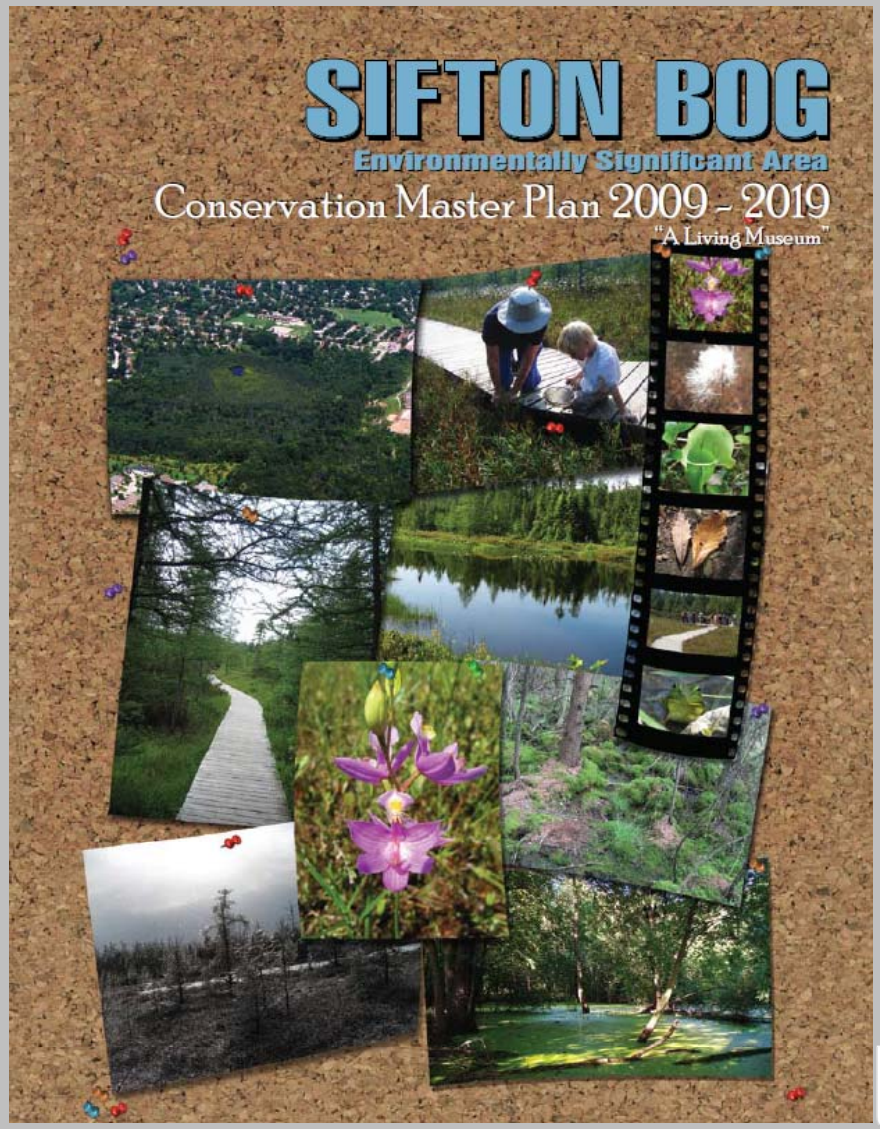
Progress on 2009 Master Plan Recommendations

- 53 Recommendations were identified in 2009 to guide decision-making
- 80% of the 2009 CMP Recommendations have now been addressed or started



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