

Meeting Notes
Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area
Master Plan Update - Community Input
Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association, October 2, 2014

Presentations

- Conservation Master Plan Background - Linda McDougall, City of London – see presentation #1
- Biological Inventory Update - Sarah Mainguy, North-South Environmental Inc. – see presentation #2
- Community Connections Update - Linda McDougall, City of London – see presentation #3
- Rotary Club of London West Legacy Project Tribute - Steve Sauder, UTRCA – see presentation #4
- Western Counties Cultural Landscape Plan Update - Andrew Macpherson, City of London – see presentation #5

Community Input (Questions-Q, Answers-A, Comments-C)

Conservation Master Plan Background:

- Q. What are the 5% of items not completed or started within the 2005 Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA Master Plan?
- A. #9 Acquire Hydro Easement near Highbury, #14 Implement Big Picture Linkages in Carolinian Canada Big Picture Concept, #24 Decommission Abandoned Wells, #31 Test Plots for Garlic Mustard (not really needed now as Ontario BMPs now published for Garlic Mustard Control).

Biological Inventory:

- Q. Is there outflow from the ponds?
- A. Yes, Mar Drain 1 and 2.
- Q. Is the Biological Inventory Report available?
- A. Yes, Volume 1 www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Documents/Westminster%20Ponds%20Draft%20Final%20Report%2017%20September%202014.pdf
Volume 2 www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Documents/Westminster%20Ponds%20Ecological%20Inventory%20and%20Management%20Zone%20Report_Volume%202.pdf
- Q. Is the acidity of the ponds normal?
- Q. Is there a separation of hydrology in terms of groundwater and surface water?
- Q. Were the water inputs from the fire department training area on Wellington Road considered in the hydrology study?
- Q. The report speaks about historic levels within the ponds – what were the historic levels?
- Q. What would be the effect on fish at the Fish and Game Club if the levels were changed?
- C. Have noticed an increase in muddy islands in Spettigues Pond where lily pads are located.
- Q. Does the report recognize the beaver dam at Thompson Pond in Dayus Creek, changes in water level by beavers, effect on biodiversity and ecology? Can these changes and impact be recorded and mapped?
- Q. Is there any water movement between Saunders Pond and Tumbleson Pond?
- A. Did not find any movement while researching hydrology for this report.

- Q. Is water flowing from Wellington Road into Saunders Pond?
 A. Yes.
- C. Groundhogs seem to be disappearing from the area. Perhaps distemper is causing this.
- Q. Why was a detailed forest inventory (species focused) not included in the draft report?
- Q. Should fencing the ESA and having controlled access be considered?
 A. This could block animal movement as well.
- Q. Has the area south of Bradley Avenue been removed from the ESA?
 A. No, need to review this in the mapping for error.
- Q. Ephemeral ponds are being sprayed by the Health Unit. Is this affecting life in the pond?
- C. Concerned about significant erosion along properties on Ebury Crescent.
- Q. Is there any Giant Hogweed at Westminster Ponds?
 A. No, not at this time.

Community Connections and Trails:

- Q. Is there a sense of timing when CN might move forward with the City of London in regards to coming up with a plan for a safe trail/bridge crossing?
 A. The City has had a positive meeting with CN.
- Q. Does the City know how many people cross the tracks each day and how many trains use the tracks daily?
 A. No, there has not been a study of pedestrian traffic. However, it is common knowledge that lots of people use the crossing. The number of trains varies but can be as high as seven per day.
- Q. How can you funnel people toward a safe crossing?
- Q. Have all of the schools in the area been considered in the community connections planning?
- Q. How long has the CN bridge process taken?
- Q. Have you considered a safe path for the students to walk through the ESA - formalizing a safe connection?
- Q. Why is the one area by the railroad corridor classified as 9a (nature reserve)?
 A. Amphibian breeding area.
- C. Concerned about lack of access at Parliament Crescent with the stairs being removed.
- Q. If the fire department training facility is not moving, there is a need to address wet entrance at Wellington Road – perhaps install boardwalks in this very wet area?
- Q. Could more regular work be done on trails and entrances?

Western Counties Cultural Landscape Plan:

- Q. Are the Memorial Forests included in the area?
 A. Not currently.