



Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (south)

Conservation Master Plan – Phase 2

June 1, 2017 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Community Open House

Why is the Medway Valley Heritage Forest designated as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) in the London Plan?

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA meets all 7 ESA Criterion under our Official Plan 15.4.1.3 / London Plan policy 1371 & this was re-confirmed through the Phase 1 study.

1.

The area contains unusual landforms and/or rare to uncommon natural communities within the country, province or London sub-watershed region.

2.

The area contains high quality natural landform-vegetation communities that are representative of typical pre-settlement conditions of the dominant physiographic units within the London sub-watershed region, and/or that have been classified as distinctive in the Province of Ontario.

3.

The area, due to its large size (>40 ha), provides habitat for species intolerant of disturbance or for species that require extensive blocks of suitable habitat.

4.

The area, due to its hydrologic characteristics, contributes significantly to the healthy maintenance (quality or quantity) of a natural system beyond its boundaries.

5.

The area has a high biodiversity of biological communities and/or associated plant and animal species within the context of the London sub-watershed region.

6.

The area serves an important wildlife habitat or linkage function.

7.

The area provides significant habitat for rare, threatened or endangered indigenous species of plants or animals that are rare within the country, province or county



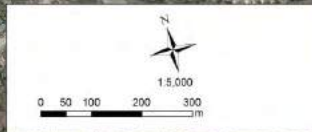
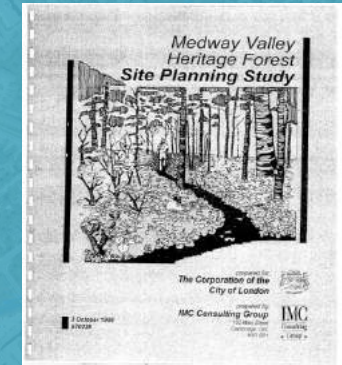
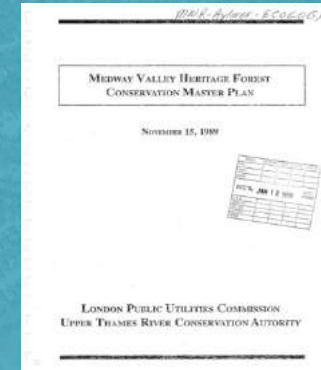
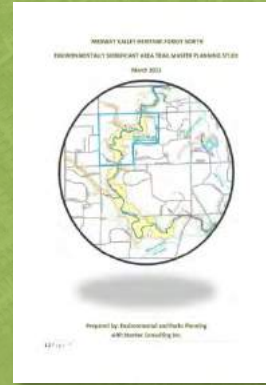
Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)



Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)

Sunningdale Road West

Separate Trail Master Planning Studies have been undertaken for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA lands north of Fanshawe Park Road West – The Council approved trail plan derived from these studies and engagement processes are being implemented in the north.



Fanshawe Park Road West

Wonderland Road North

Western Road

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA is located in north London. The ESA is one feature and while planning has been separate for parts of the ESA, the goals and management are the same.

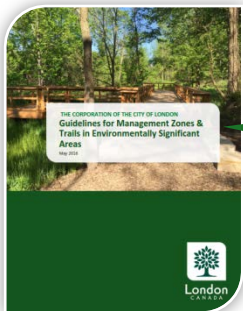


What's A Conservation Master Plan?

Policies for trail planning and design within ESAs will generally be implemented through the Conservation Master Plan (CMP) process.

Background

The CMP Process consists of two Phases as outlined in the award winning City document *Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas*



Available at:

https://www.london.ca/business/Resources/Guideline-Documents/Documents/reference-docs/Guidelines_for_Trails_in_ESAs.pdf

Phase 1

- Community Engagement and Participation
- Life Science Inventory and Evaluation
- Boundary Delineation
- Application of Management Zones and Review of Existing Trails
- Identification of Management Issues

Phase 2

- Community Engagement and Participation
- Goals, Objectives and Recommendations
- Ecological Protection, Enhancement and Restoration
- Trail Planning and Design Process
- Priorities for Implementation
- Final Conservation Master Plan

Conservation master plans may be adopted by Council, and will function as guideline documents for the purposes of providing direction on the management of these areas.



The *Guidelines* also state that:

The ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA shall have **priority** in any use or design-related decision.

A properly designed and implemented trail system appropriate to specific management zones and reflecting sensitivity of the natural features will be implemented to achieve the primary objective of protection and the secondary objective of providing suitable recreational and educational opportunities.

Goal of The Conservation Master Plan

To develop a comprehensive multi-year CMP that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an environmental management strategy.
(Consistent with OP 15.3.8. i, ii, / London Plan policies 1421 and 1422)

Phase 1

Outcome of Phase 1

An initial Environmental Management Strategy was developed for Phase I of the CMP which considered areas that may benefit from restoration, naturalization, and wildlife habitat protection.

Phase 2

1. Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration, further refined from Phase I
2. Trail Planning & Design Process
3. Priorities for Implementation
4. Final Conservation Master Plan

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) observed in the MVHF ESA

Where we are in 2017



PHASE 1:

- ✓ Community Engagement and Participation
- ✓ Life Science Inventory and Evaluation
- ✓ Boundary Delineation of the ESA
- ✓ Application of Management Zones & Review of Existing Trails
- ✓ Identifying Management Issues
(Note: Some issues have already been addressed and additional management issues may be identified during Phase 2)



We are here!

PHASE 2:

- Community Engagement and Participation
- Goals, Objectives, Recommendations
- Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration
- Trail Planning & Design Process
- Priorities for Implementation
- Final Conservation Master Plan

Who is involved in the Phase II CMP process and what is their role?

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AACAC) & Environmental And Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC)

Provides review of draft Phase II CMP reports based on technical skills and mandate of the Committees.

Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

Identifies and confirms ESA management issues; Helps to develop the restoration plan, trail plan and recommendations; Prioritizes implementation of recommendations, and; Reviews the draft Phase II CMP report

Municipal Council

Reviews and approves a final CMP based on input from LAC, EEPAC, AACAC and the Community.



Institutions

Huron University College
Western University
Museum of Ontario Archaeology

Non-profit Organizations

Nature London
Thames Valley Trail Association
Heritage London Foundation

Medway Valley Heritage Forest Adopt an ESA Groups

Friends of Medway Creek
Sherwood Forest/Orchard Park Ratepayer Association
Sunningdale West Ratepayer Association

Resident Associations

Sunningdale West Ratepayer Association
Sherwood Forest/Orchard Park Ratepayer Association
Old Masonville Ratepayer Association
Sunningdale North Residents Association
Attawandaron Residents

Advisory Committees of Council and Agencies

Environmental And Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
Accessibility Advisory Committee
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

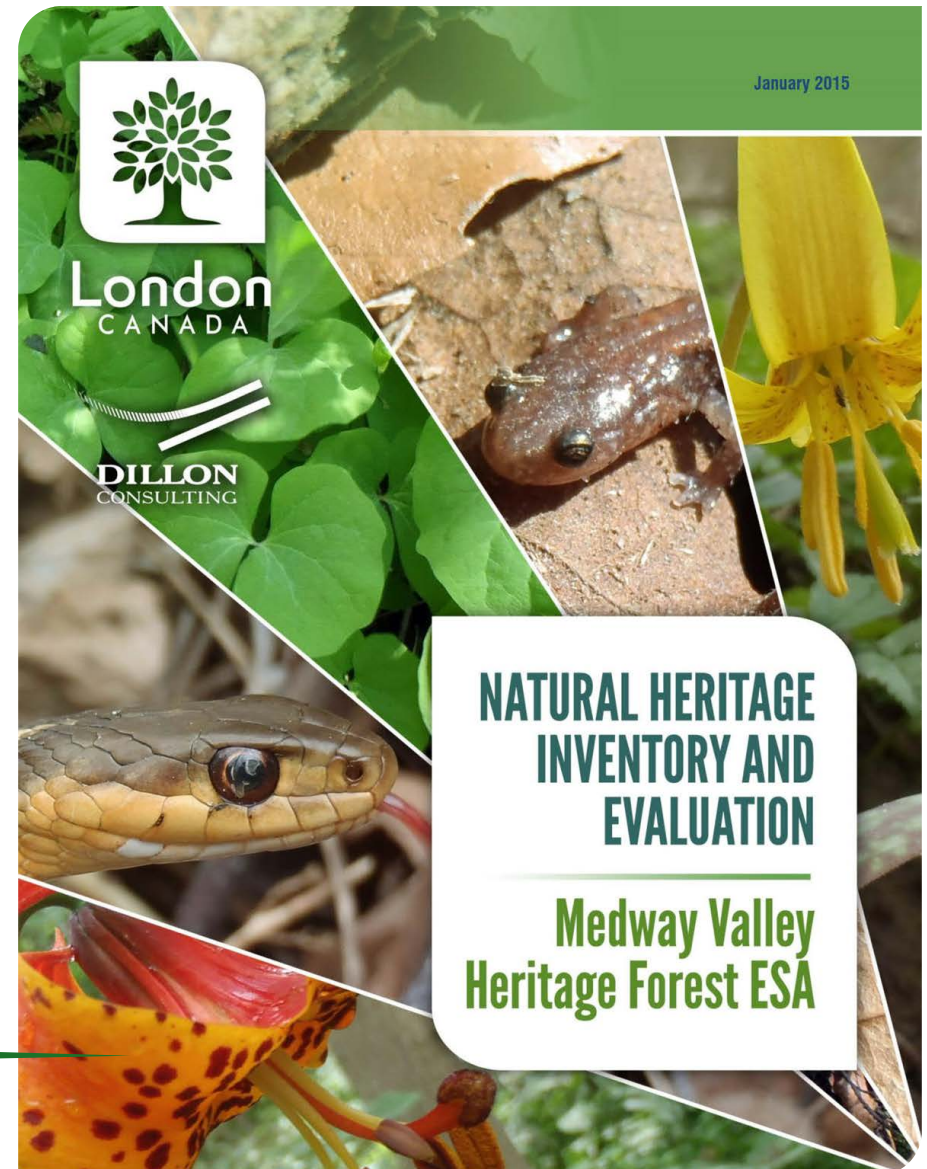
AND YOU!

The public provides community input regarding the Phase II CMP.

What Was Done During Phase I?

- Completed a detailed multi-season ecological inventory and analysis on public lands in the MVHF ESA (south)
- Confirmed and refined the ecological boundaries of the MVHF ESA.
- Updated the Official Plan / London Plan ESA Criteria the MVHF ESA meets.
- Reviewed compatibility of significant ecological features with trails.
- Proposed an initial environmental management strategy for the ESA.
- Majority of ecological restoration work was initiated pro-actively in advance of Phase II.
- Phase I was approved and Phase II was initiated by Municipal Council on February 14, 2017

Available at Conservation Master Plan Review webpage:
<http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Pages/Conservation-Plans.aspx>



Phase I Ecological Inventory Results

Significant Wildlife Habitat identified & recommendations provided for:

- Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat
- Amphibian Breeding Habitat
- Seeps and Springs

Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern:

- Shrubby St. John's Wort
- Striped Cream Violet
- Slender Satin Grass
- American Gromwell
- Green Dragon

Habitat for five Species at Risk provincially designated as *Threatened* or *Endangered* species identified:

- Butternut tree
- Cucumber Magnolia tree
- Kentucky Coffeetree
- False Rue-anemone (plant)
- Queensnake

Butternut



Kentucky Coffeetree



562 species of plants

55 bird species during the breeding season

15 vegetation communities

12 species of reptiles and amphibians

25 migrant bird species

89 species of Butterflies/Moths/
Dragonflies/Damselflies

All significant ecological features identified in Phase I were found to be compatible with the existing managed trails based the *Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs* (May 2016)

False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) observed in the MVHF ESA

Environmental Management Strategy – Management Zones

Management Zones and Overlays were delineated according to the City's *Guidelines for Management Zones and Trails in Environmentally Significant Areas* (May 2016).

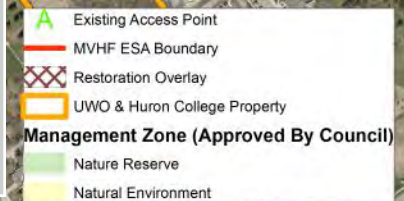
Using the City's Guidelines, zones delineated within the ESA include Nature Reserve and Natural Environment. Overlays include Restoration and Utility.



Environmental Management Strategy – Management Zones and Trails

Nature Reserve Zone (Green): Natural vegetation communities. These areas require a higher level of protection to preserve the ecological integrity of the ESA and represent natural vegetation communities.

Natural Environment Zone (Yellow): Areas of cultural vegetation communities that result from, or are maintained by existing or previous cultural or anthropocentric-based disturbances.



Management Zone	Trail Type	Users	Trail Width	Trail Surface	Trail Structure
Nature Reserve Zone Natural Environment Zone	Level 1	Hikers	1.0-1.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural earth surface Wood chips Boardwalk Corduoy logs Stepping Stones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boardwalk Viewing platform Bridge Control structures Stairways (wood, metal or stone) Directional signs Interpretive signs Warning signs
Natural Environment Zone	Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hikers Pedestrians Strollers Children on Bicycles Accompanied by pedestrian adults Wheelchairs 	1.5-2.0m	Non-erodible material (e.g. asphalt or granular) to create a firm and stable surface	

Environmental Management Strategy (Phase 1)– Naturalization/Restoration/Stewardship

15 areas were identified that require active ecological restoration or special management.

Majority of ecological restoration work is underway in 8 of 15 Restoration Overlays.

Seventeen adjacent properties were identified as potential candidates for stewardship opportunities on private property. Some restoration is underway.

Three areas were identified for naturalization.

On-going work to manage Norway Maple, Periwinkle, Goutweed, Buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed in the MVHF ESA.

European Common Reed (*Phragmites*) treated as “high priority for control” in all ESAs including the MVHF ESA.

Injections of Ash trees to control Emerald Ash Borer continues through 2017



Japanese Knotweed Control
(Herbicide Injection) in the MVHF ESA



Restoration : Species at Risk Protection Success Story

Protection of False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*), a *Threatened*[^] species found in the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA



2013

Phase I Inventory identified Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) as a Threat to False Rue-anemone in MVHF ESA



2014

City contracted UTRCA and Dillon to control Goutweed to assist in the recovery of a Threatened Species at Risk



2015

Goutweed Control early success and native species return to understory



Opportunity to increase awareness of Species at Risk and promote education of invasive species threats consistent with the recommendations in the proposed Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone in Canada, 2016



2016

Goutweed population significantly reduced as of 2016/2017



2017

False Rue-anemone identified in areas where Goutweed once existed

The City of London was recognized for their innovative work, habitat protection and contributions to the Federal Recovery Strategy for the False Rue-anemone in Canada, 2016.

Existing trails in the ESA have helped to limit trampling and promote public awareness of this species, while also providing a physical barrier to prevent the spread of Goutweed

[^] "Threatened" means the species lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered, but is likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening it.



What to Expect in Phase 2

Restoration

The Environmental Management Strategy from Phase 1 for restoration, naturalization and ecological enhancement, including a timeline to prioritize implementation will be updated. Restoration completed or underway will be included.

Education and Stewardship

Identify measures to increase awareness of the significance and protection of the features in the ESA, including funding mechanisms and volunteer opportunities.



The Conservation Master Plan is to be implemented from 2018-2028

Trails

Plan a sustainable managed trail system that prioritizes ecological protection and encourages appropriate uses.

Monitoring

Establish a sustainable management and monitoring program to track the health of the ESA over time.

Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)
observed in Snake Creek Valley

What Do We Need From You?

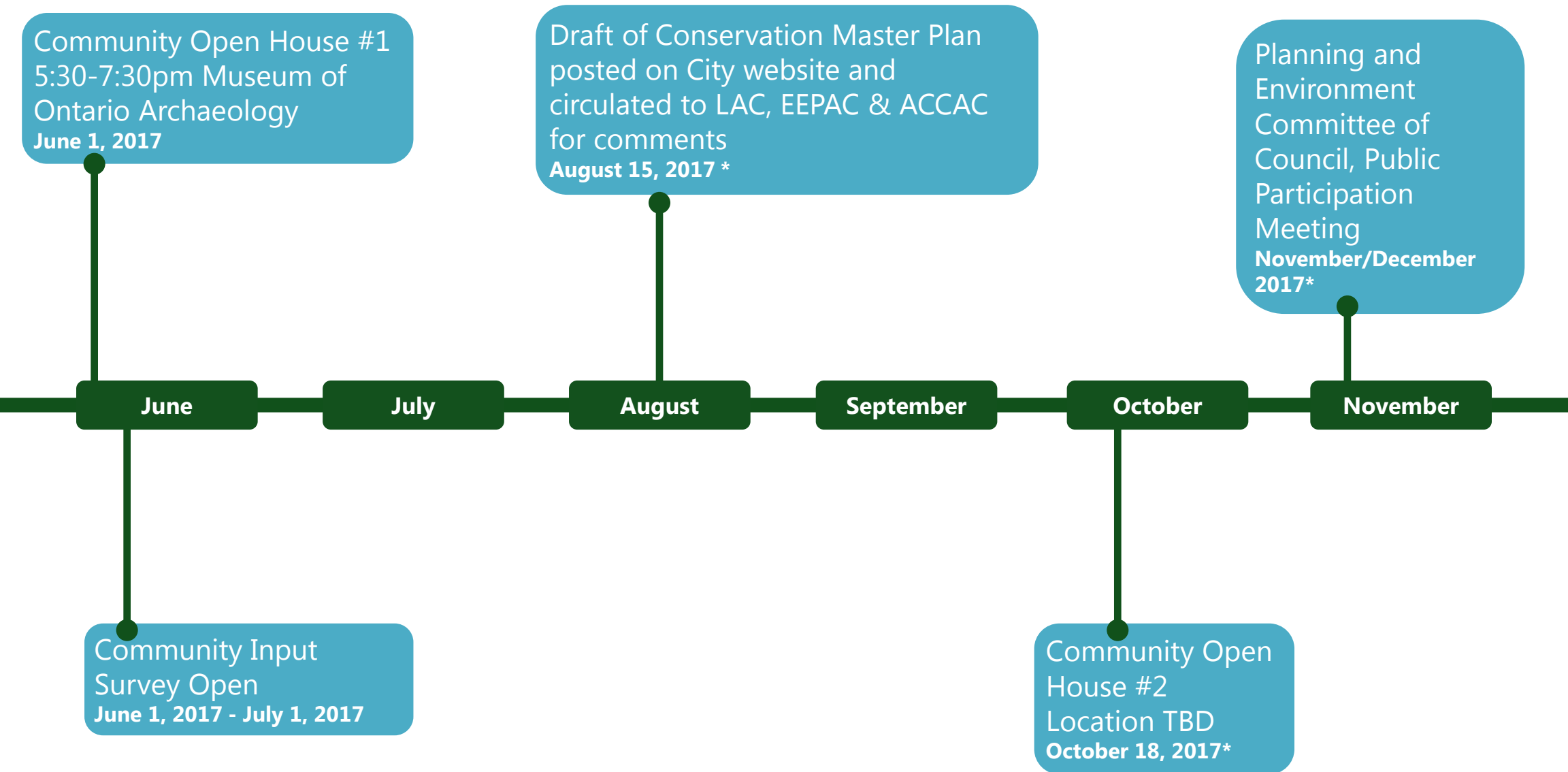


Your Feedback on long term management and trail planning
for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south)!

Your feedback will help guide the direction of the next part
of Phase II.



Conservation Master Plan Proposed Timeline and Next Steps



Thank You for Attending!

Your Feedback Will Help Guide The Following:

- Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration
- Trail Planning & Design Process
- Priorities for Implementation
- Final Conservation Master Plan



**Please Mark-up Our Maps
with Your Ideas, Issues,
Opportunities,
Observations!!**



**Also take our Online Survey to provide your
feedback to be considered during Phase II on
the:**

ESA Conservation Master Plan Review webpage:
www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Natural-Environments/Pages/Conservation-Plans.aspx



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