

Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area



**Phase One - Conservation Master Plan
Community Information Meeting
January 27, 2014**

What makes the Medway VHF an ESA?

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

- 1) Unusual landforms & rare vegetation community types
- 2) High-quality vegetation representative of pre-settlement period
- 3) Large size provides extensive habitat
- 4) Significant watercourse contributes to ecosystem health beyond ESA boundaries
- 5) High level of biodiversity
- 6) Important wildlife habitat & linkage function
- 7) 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 (2013): Life Science Inventory and Evaluation

Boundary Delineation

Application of Management Zones*

Identifying Management Issues

PHASE 2 (2014): 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

Conservation Master Plan - Next Steps



- Public Provide Comments by March 10, 2014 Please
- Phase 2 Start-up Meeting
2014 Date TBD
- Phase 2 Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting –
2014 Date TBD
- Phase 2 Process Completed –
2015