The Neighbourhoods of

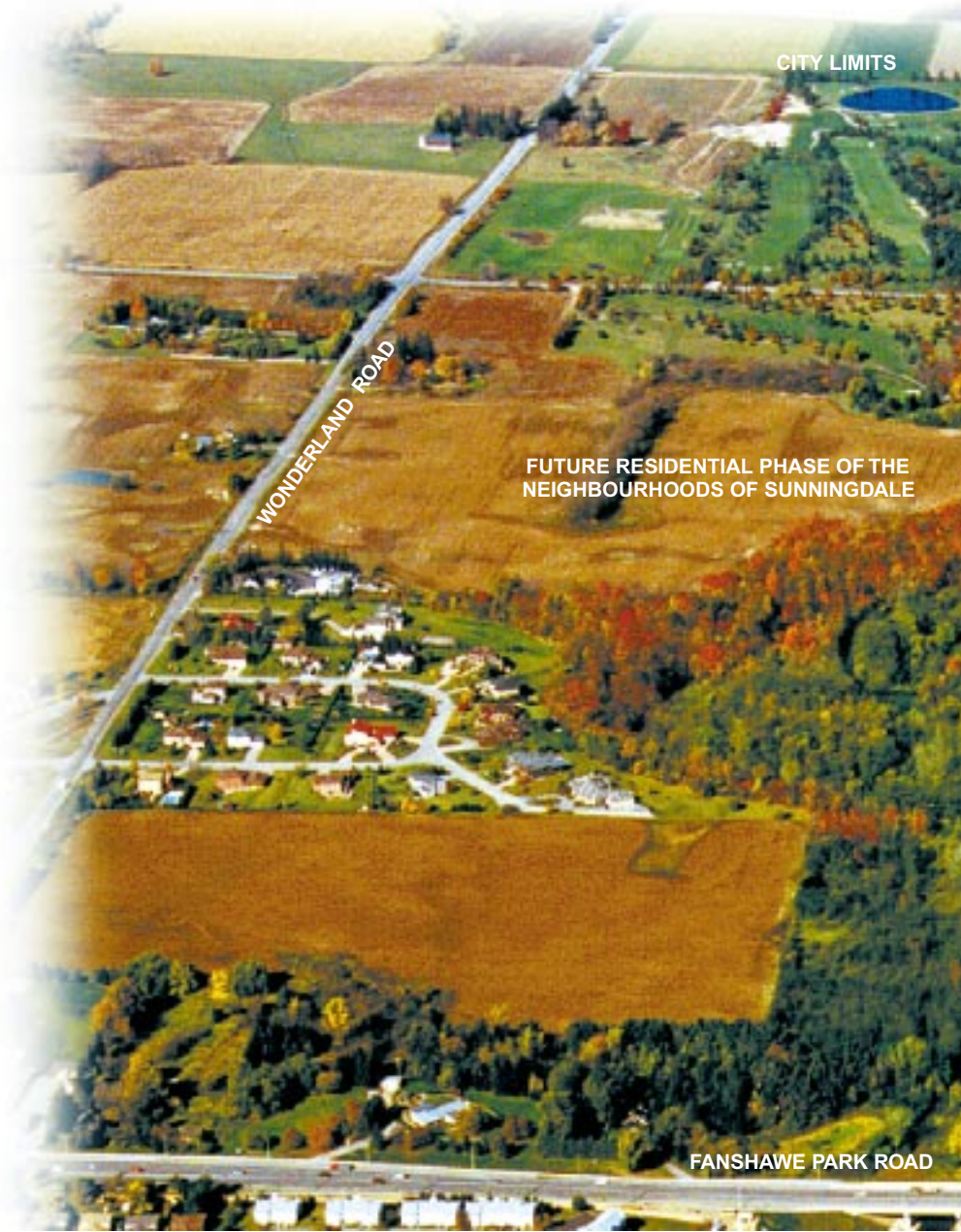
Sunningdale

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDE

Welcome to The Neighbourhood

Your new home is situated adjacent to the Medway Creek Valley, which has been set aside as an Environmentally Significant Area in order to protect important and sensitive biological resources. This area is home to a wonderfully diverse ecosystem that contributes to the Thames Valley watershed and the greater bioregion of Southern Ontario. Living next to this natural area provides a marvelous education opportunity for individuals, families and the community to better understand and appreciate our natural heritage. With this opportunity comes a responsibility to learn how to manage your daily activities in a way that protects and enhances the sensitive functions of the Valley. Enjoy the beauty of this natural area and help protect it for future generations.

A key environmental objective of The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale, and the purpose of this guide, is to assist you in learning about the significance and complexity of the natural features surrounding your new home. We encourage you to learn more about your community's ecosystem and take advantage of the opportunity to practice a lifestyle that respects this special place. We want you to enjoy, appreciate, and understand the beauty and significance of the Medway Valley.



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Prepared by Corlon Properties Inc., developer of The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale, with the assistance of ESG International and the City of London.

Purpose and overview of this guide

This guide has been prepared to inform you of the privileges and responsibilities that come with living adjacent to the Medway Creek Valley. By understanding the environmental processes that occur in this ecosystem you can better appreciate and protect it, while enhancing the natural heritage of your community. This guide presents the following information to assist you and your family:

- Natural features. We will discuss important features in the area, including topography, hydrology, plants and wildlife, and the ecological functions performed by these features.
- Built features in your community. Stormwater management wetlands and buffer plantings help protect this special natural environment and improve habitat by restoring degraded areas and creating additional natural areas for wildlife.
- Stewardship guidelines for Sunningdale residents. These guidelines list specific actions that you and your family can take on a daily basis to live harmoniously with the natural environment of your community. The guidelines are based on principles of environmental conservation developed during the planning process for The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale. They are meant to continue the spirit of environmental stewardship.

For further information about the ways in which you can contribute to this important process, please refer to the “Who can help?” section at the end of this guide.

The community planning process

The Sunningdale Community Plan and The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale were designed with future residents in mind. Public consultation allowed stakeholders and the public to influence the development and preparation of the community plan. Interested citizens and various community groups were welcomed to public forums to review and comment on materials presented and to contribute to the integrated planning process.


Sunningdale Community News

Q&A

Community to feature beauty of golf course and Medway Valley

The Sunningdale Community Plan consisted of four distinct stages. Each stage included an open house and workshop, where the public could evaluate progress and make comments on all information. Technical component studies that analyzed the social, physical, environmental and economic aspects of the Sunningdale Community Planning Area provided a framework for this development. The component studies were:

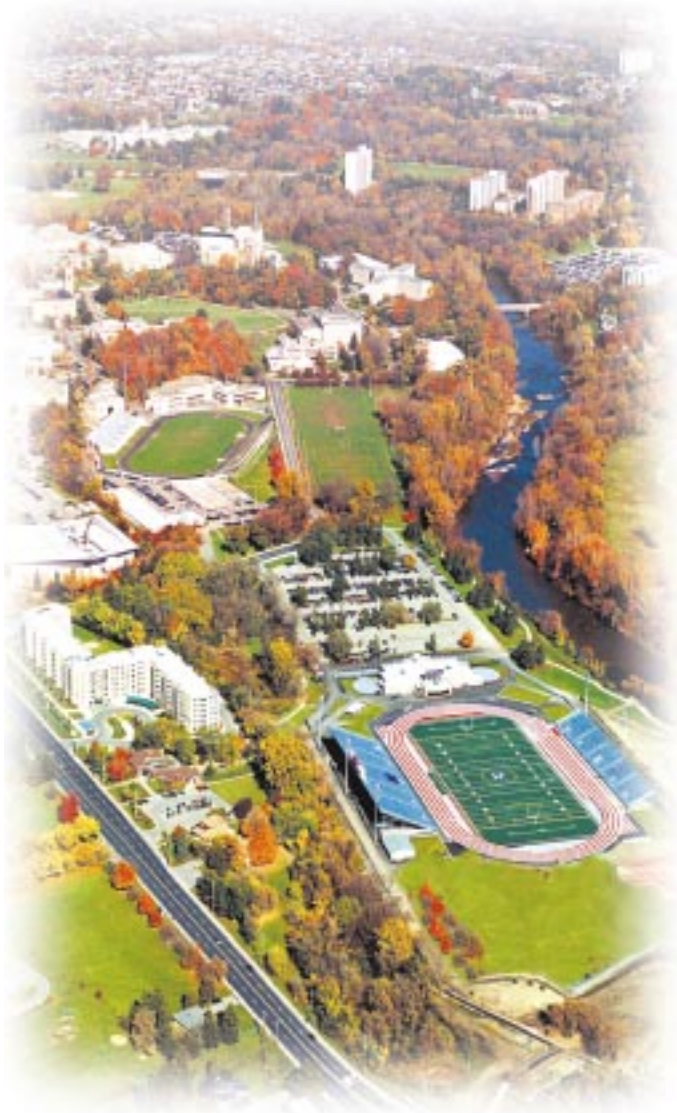
- Land needs
- Community facilities
- Natural heritage
- Water supply and sanitary sewers and treatment
- Stormwater management
- Traffic and transportation
- Financial impact

The Sunningdale Community Plan and The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale represent the conclusion of a thoughtful and carefully organized community planning process. We invite you to learn more about how to contribute to the enhancement and preservation of the unique landscape you live in.

A special community for a unique environment

The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale have been specifically designed to incorporate an ecosystem approach to environmental planning within a traditional urban framework. This combination encourages a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between residents and nature.

The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale is a part of the larger Sunningdale Community Plan. The Sunningdale Community is bounded by Fanshawe Park Road to the south, Wonderland Road to the west, Richmond Street to the east and the City limits to the north. Located in thriving North London, The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale have easy access to the area's flourishing shopping, entertainment, and business complexes, but remains peaceful, quiet and private. In close proximity you will find the Masonville Shopping Centre and surrounding commercial area, the University of Western Ontario campus, the University Hospital and London Health Sciences Centre, the Medway Community Centre, and the Canada Games Aquatic Centre. To the north is the beautiful 36-hole Sunningdale Golf and Country Club, established in 1934.



Right: University of Western Ontario campus
Left: Sunningdale Golf & Country Club

The most important environmental feature of the Sunningdale Community is the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Ten to twenty thousand years ago, near the end of the last ice age, the lobes of two glaciers pushed up against one another and created the Arva Moraine, an undulating ridge of glacial till and debris picked up and moved to this location by the ice. When the glaciers began to retreat, glacial meltwater cut a spillway through the moraine, creating the Medway Valley.

Approximately 500 years ago, 1500 Iroquois settled just south of the area, and the Valley remained untouched during European settlement. Within the last century, however, much of the Valley was logged, milled, and farmed, until as recently as 1945. Since that time, shifting agricultural practices, urban development, stream protection, public education and nature's processes have combined to create the present forest cover.

The Medway Valley Heritage Forest today is a long corridor running roughly north-south, containing the Medway Creek, broad floodplains and steep valley walls. The Creek meanders across the Valley floor in a dynamic process of erosion and sedimentation. Erosion by the Medway Creek, combined with earlier erosion during the glacial period, has created “slip faces”, exposed banks where the unique glacial history of the area can be read in the various layers of silt, sand and stones. Many minor tributaries feed the Creek through steep ravines, and small wet-weather ponds formed from glacial depressions are scattered across the floodplain. Forested areas, and shrub thickets occur on the Valley walls and tablelands, while lower areas contain meadow marshes, swamp and open wetland. Hundreds of different species of wildlife find their home in the Valley’s extensive range of habitats. In addition, the Medway Creek is a major tributary to the Thames River and contributes to regional aquatic habitat. It is for this diversity that the Medway Creek Valley has been designated an Environmentally Significant Area.

As a resident of The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale, you have a wonderful opportunity to experience first-hand the richness of this natural setting, and to preserve and maintain it for yourself, your family, your community, and for future generations.

What is an ESA?

In London, an Environmentally Significant Area is a specially protected part of the landscape that contains natural features and performs important ecological functions. ESAs are selected through a rigorous review of carefully developed evaluation criteria. The natural areas within The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale met five of the seven criteria used to identify ESAs in London.

1. The area contains unusual land forms and/or uncommon natural communities within the country, province, or London subwatershed region. The Medway Valley exposes the convergence of the Huron and Erie glacial lobes, which is unusual.
2. The area contains high quality natural land form vegetation communities that are representative of pre-settlement conditions. The Medway Valley contains a high-quality maple-beech forest notable for its few invasive species and little evidence of disturbance.
3. The area, due to its large size, provides habitat for sensitive species or species requiring large blocks of suitable habitat. The part of the ESA included in The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale contains approximately 100 acres (40 hectares) of continuous forest cover north of Fanshawe Park Road, and supports four sensitive bird species that rely on substantial habitat blocks. The entire ESA includes more than 750 acres (300 hectares) of protected habitat that is contiguous with the Medway Valley Heritage Forest south of Fanshawe Park Road.
4. The area, due to its hydrology, contributes significantly to the healthy maintenance of a natural system beyond its boundaries. The study area contains a major tributary of the Thames River.
5. The area provides significant habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered indigenous species. The study area has been documented as providing habitat for nationally and regionally rare plant and fish species and three rare bird species.



The significance of the ESA designation

As a result of the Natural Heritage Study, the Valley lands contained within the Sunningdale Community Plan area have been recognized as an Environmentally Significant Area in the City of London Official Plan. The major remaining challenge, for both the City and homeowners, is the development and implementation of practical and appropriate management practices that will maintain and protect the ecological functions and features for which the ESA was identified.

Private stewardship is one of the most important tools in reducing human impact on the ESA. Initiatives such as public participation in management planning, community involvement in ongoing management, and responsible personal stewardship will contribute greatly to this goal. Stewardship does not require a lot of work or a high level of involvement on your part. It is simply your commitment to protect and preserve natural features on and near your property to ensure that your actions will not have adverse effects on the surrounding habitat. Many people also derive a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction from local stewardship activities.

Vegetation in the Medway Creek Valley

The Sunningdale Community is located near the northern extent of the Deciduous Forest Region, often known as the "Carolinian Zone" in Ontario. The Medway Creek Valley Forest is dominated by the typical species of the Deciduous Forest Region including sugar maple, beech, white elm, cottonwood, and black cherry. Chokecherry, gray dogwood, sumac, viburnum and willow species are found in the shrub understory. Groundlayer and marsh plants include white trillium, timothy grass, reed canary grass, ferns and sedges. The Medway Creek Valley contains many diverse plant communities, consisting of over 340 individual species.

Special features

The Medway Creek Valley is home to a provincially rare plant, the false rue anemone (*Isopyrum biternatum*). Found in wet areas of the floodplain, false rue anemone is considered "vulnerable" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and special care must be taken to protect it from changes in creek hydrology and microclimate.

In addition, a significant plant community occurs in parts of the upper slopes of the Medway Valley - a relatively undisturbed maple-beech forest. This area stands as an excellent representation of pre-European settlement conditions, exhibited in its lack of disturbance and the shelter it provides for another highly sensitive herbaceous plant, the twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*).

Safeguarding our native species

Initially, your home site will be a blank canvas on which you can express your personal tastes and desires through a variety of landscape treatments. However, consider enhancing the heritage of your community in an even more significant way - by taking part in the increasingly popular practice of natural landscaping.

Opposite page, far left: Trembling Aspen
Opposite page, left: Twinleaf

Above: Red Oak
Above right: American Beech

Natural landscaping results in an environment that reflects indigenous vegetation communities. It not only helps to preserve the regional ecology, but also offers a simple and cost-effective way to improve the local environment. Natural landscaping uses plants that have grown in the region for thousands of years, have adapted to local soil and climate conditions, and are part of an integrated ecosystem that provides food and shelter for wildlife. Once established in your garden, native plants should require no pesticides, no fertilizers, and less watering. Natural landscapes reflect the local ecosystem and flourish in a way that is both ecologically sustainable and economical.

Advantages of natural landscaping

- Less maintenance. Thoughtful planning and care is required during the early stages, but once established the landscape should be self-maintaining.
- Significantly reduces or eliminates pesticide use. Native plants are hardier than foreign species and can better survive insects and disease without human interference.
- Flexibility. Native plants are diverse in form and function and can be used in conjunction with traditional landscaping practices, such as lawns and shrub groupings.
- Reduces cost. Natural landscapes require minimal maintenance and input once established, and are less expensive than traditional landscapes in the long term.
- Creates wildlife habitat. Natural landscapes provide shelter, food and water for local wildlife.
- Conserves energy. Trees planted in the right locations can greatly reduce energy consumption in the form of heating and cooling.
- Enhances residential privacy and increases landscape appeal. Natural landscapes can block unattractive views, provide privacy screens, provide peace and serenity, and ultimately improve the urban quality of life.
- Reflects a commitment to stewardship. Natural landscaping demonstrates a personal commitment to greener and healthier ideals. At the community scale, adopting environmental alternatives that are less energy intensive and in harmony with local ecological systems can lead to increased environmental awareness and informed, effective participation in landscape stewardship.

Indigenous and invasive plants

An indigenous or native plant is a plant whose origins can be traced to the immediate region. A non-native plant is any foreign plant that was originally imported to the area or intentionally bred to produce special traits. The following is a short list of suitable native species for your home landscape that will complement those found in the Medway Creek Valley.

Trees

- Red Maple *(Acer rubrum* - not red cultivars of the Norway Maple)
- Sugar Maple *(Acer saccharum)*
- Red Oak *(Quercus rubra)*
- White Ash *(Fraxinus americana)*
- Red or Green Ash *(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)*
- White Pine *(Pinus strobus)*
- Eastern White Cedar *(Thuja occidentalis)*
- Cottonwood *(Populus deltoides)*
- Trembling Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*

Opposite page, top: Rugosa Rose
Opposite page, bottom: Purple Coneflower

Left: Swamp Milkweed
Above: Alternate-Leaved Dogwood

Shrubs

- Serviceberry *(Amelanchier canadensis)*
- Red-Osier Dogwood *(Cornus stolonifera)*
- Alternate-Leaved Dogwood *(Cornus alternifolia)*
- Hawthorn *(Craetagus* - native species only)
- Staghorn Sumac *(Rhus typhina)*
- Elderberry *(Sambucus canadensis)*
- Nannyberry *(Viburnum lentago)*
- Purple Flowering Raspberry *(Rubus odoratus)*
- Chokecherry *(Prunus virginiana)*
- Common Witch Hazel *(Hamamelis virginiana)*
- Blue Beech *(Carpinus caroliniana)*
- Highbush Cranberry *(Viburnum trilobum* - not European *opulus)*

Wildflowers and groundcovers

- Canada Anemone *(Anemone canadensis)*
- New England Aster *(Aster novae-angliae)*
- White Snakeroot *(Eupatorium rugosum)*
- Virginia Waterleaf *(Hydrophyllum virginianum)*
- Black-Eyed Susan *(Rudbeckia hirta)*
- Wild Bergamot *(Monarda fistulosa)*
- Goldenrod *(Solidago* - often confused with Ragweed)
- Virginia Creeper *(Parthenocissus quinqefolia)*
- Silverweed *(Potentilla anserina)*
- Swamp Milkweed *(Asclepias incarnata)*
- Cardinal Flower *(Lobelia cardinalis)*
- Wild Strawberry *(Fragaria virginiana)*

Invasive plants are those that have moved into a habitat and reproduced so aggressively that they replace some of the original components of the vegetative community. They compete easily with native plants for food and space, resulting in monocultures and the degradation of habitats and water quality. The following are some of the invasive species that should be avoided in the home landscape. For a complete list check the City of London Guidelines.

- Goutweed *(Aegopodium podagaria)*
- Dame's Rocket *(Hesperis matronalis)*
- Periwinkle *(Vinca minor)*
- Purple Loosestrife *(Lythrum salicaire)*
- Moneywort (*Lysimachia Nummularia)*
- Tartarian Honeysuckle *(Lonicera tartarica)*
- Barberries *(Berberis vulgaris)*
- Buckthorn *(Hippophae rhamnoides)*
- Scot's Pine *(Pinus sylvestris)*
- European White Birch *(Betula pendula)*
- Black Locust *(Robinia pseudo-acacia)*
- Norway Maple *(Acer platanoides)*
- White Mulberry *(Morus alba)*
- Garlic Mustard *(Allaria officinallis)*

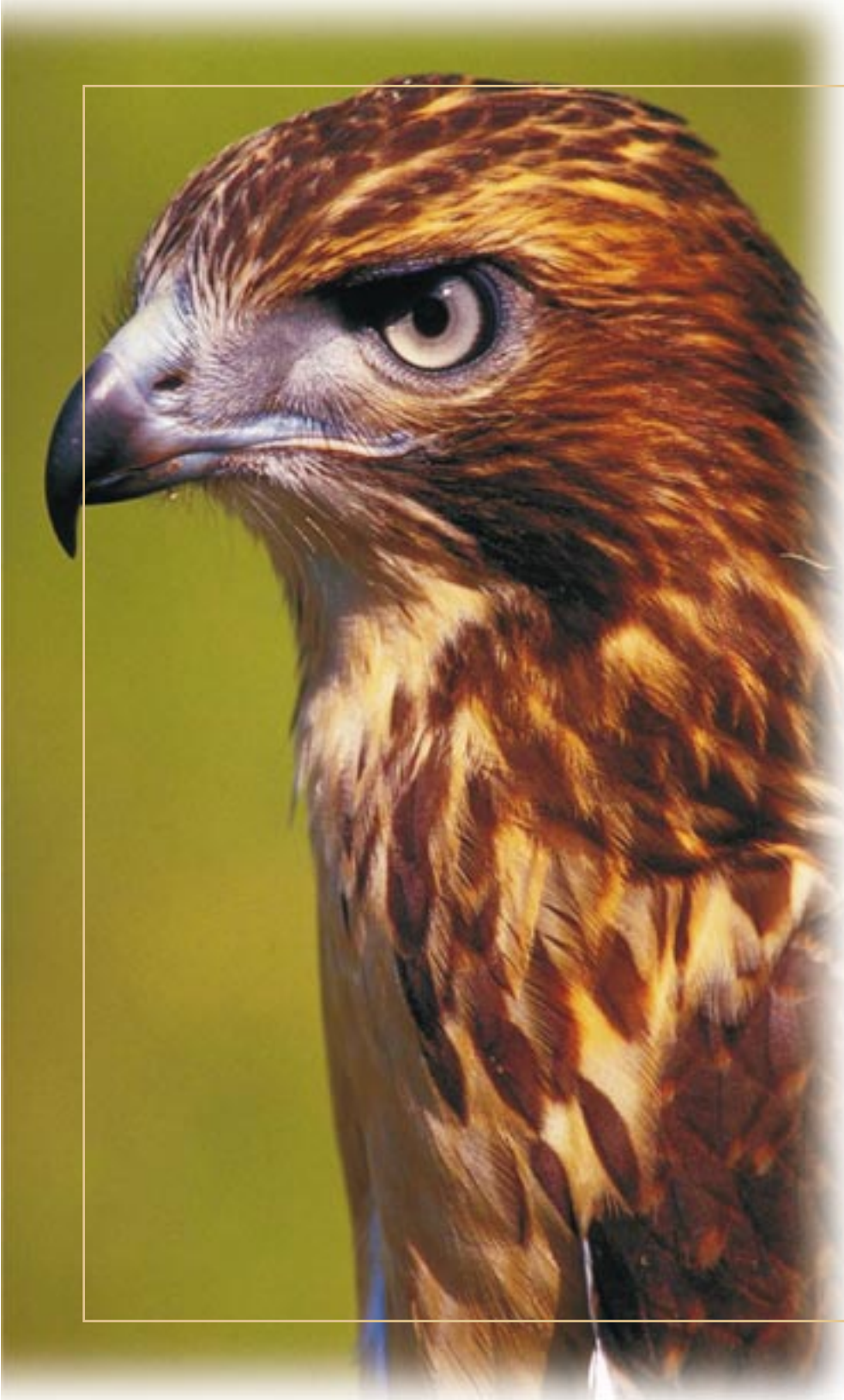
Opposite page, left: Wayfaring Tree
Opposite page, middle: Black-Eyed Susan
Opposite page, right: Silver Maple

Left: Shagbark Hickory
Right: White Pine

Wildlife in the Medway Creek Valley

Wildlife in the Medway Creek Valley is wonderfully diverse. There are sixteen recorded mammal species, ranging from larger predators like coyotes and red foxes to beavers, raccoons, eastern cottontails, opossum, muskrats and chipmunks. There is also a herd of white-tailed deer active in the larger forest blocks. Reptile and amphibian species present in the Valley include snapping turtles and painted turtles, eastern garter snakes, gray treefrogs and northern leopard frogs.

More than 100 bird species have been found throughout the area, ranging from common songbirds such as purple martins, nuthatches, waxwings, warblers, finches and orioles, to waterfowl and marsh birds like great blue herons, wood ducks, sandpipers and kingfishers. Several large raptors are also found in the Medway Creek Valley, such as the osprey, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk and great horned owl. The unique habitats of the Valley also provide shelter and food for a number of provincially rare and sensitive bird species. Rare species include the rough-legged hawk, red-headed woodpecker and the red-bellied woodpecker. Some sensitive species that raise their young in the valley are the ovenbird, brown creeper, blue-gray gnatcatcher, and the wood thrush. Finally, the Creek itself is home to approximately 40 fish species, including rare species such as the central stoneroller, greensided darter and silver shiner.



Learning to live with wildlife

Living next to a natural area requires respect for its animal inhabitants. All wildlife plays an important role in a naturally functioning ecosystem, and a healthy and undisturbed animal population is a desirable asset to any community's natural heritage. Your community includes design features such as buffer areas that will help reduce the possibility of wildlife disturbing you in your home. Following a few simple guidelines will ensure that you will not disturb wildlife in their homes.

- **Respect the living space of all wild creatures.** Stay away from nests, burrows, and other animal homes, especially if there are young animals present. Animal parents may become aggressive if they perceive a threat to their offspring.
- **Allow wild creatures to remain wild.** Do not attempt to touch or domesticate any wild animal, even if it appears calm and friendly.
- **Never touch apparently abandoned young animals.** Their parents are usually nearby and will return for their young once you leave. Touching a young animal leaves a scent that may attract predators or cause the parents to truly abandon them.

Opposite: White-Tailed Deer
Left: Red-Tailed Hawk

- Never approach or touch a nocturnal animal that is active in daylight hours, or animals that do not show fear, appear sick, or act aggressively. They may have rabies. Give them space or call the London Animal Care Centre.
- Don't feed wild animals. This not only causes animals to become dependent on human handouts, but most human food is unhealthy or dangerous for many animals. Birds are an exception to this rule, but consult a book to learn about good feeding practices, and how to attract native species while discouraging aggressive, non-native species.
- Even undesirable species are necessary for a healthy ecosystem. Natural predators such as birds, bats and frogs work to control pests like mosquitoes, but if pests interfere with your enjoyment of outdoor activities, screened areas and repellants are more effective measures than devices such as electric "bug zappers". Zappers are non-selective and kill many beneficial insects as well as pests.

Left: Red Fox
Right: Garter Snake

Opposite left: Chipmunk
Opposite right: Field Mouse

- If you encounter a wild animal in your yard or home, stay calm. If the animal is outside, wait for it to move away. Try not to frighten it, and enjoy the encounter from a distance. If the animal is inside your home, it may be wise to contact the London Animal Care Centre, particularly if the animal is large or reacting aggressively. Do not try to remove the animal if you are not sure you can do so without hurting it.
- Put a leash on your dog and a bell on your cat. Domestic pets are still predators, and when allowed to run free they can severely damage the local wildlife populations. Keep your pet within your property or on a leash.

Attracting wildlife

If you would like to attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife to your property, there are many environmentally responsible ways to do so. The following is a brief list of suggestions. You can contact your local Conservation Authority for more ideas.

- **Plant fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.** Many native plants are a natural source of seeds and fruit for birds and small mammals.
- **Non-growing habitats.** Offer non-growing habitats such as old logs or tree stumps that will provide nesting sites for many birds and small mammals like shrews or chipmunks.
- **Nesting boxes.** Boxes built to the right dimensions for birds, squirrels, chipmunks, bats and butterflies can provide ready-made homes for many species.
- **Bird feeders and baths.** Birdfeeders supplement natural food sources during the winter months, but must be kept consistently stocked, as birds will become dependent on the feeder for nourishment. Baths should also be carefully

maintained and either heated or deep enough to prevent solid freezing in winter, and both feeders and baths should be elevated and in an open space where predators are easily detected.

- Water dishes or small ponds. A dish placed directly on the ground can provide water for wildlife unable to reach an elevated bird bath. It should be placed on open ground for detection of predators. Another option is a small pond, which requires some research, design and installation, but can provide an even more extensive habitat for birds, amphibians and fish, as well as an aesthetic focal point for your garden. Remember to change water in bird baths and water dishes to prevent contamination and reduce mosquito breeding.

Conservation features in Sunningdale

The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale include a number of design features specifically aimed at minimizing the impacts of human habitation on the natural environment and limiting potential conflicts between human needs and wildlife needs.

Buffer areas

Your neighbourhood is separated fromThe Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA by vegetated buffer areas. There are several different types of buffers, each designed to meet a specific requirement, such as restoring natural conditions, physically separating urban activity from sensitive areas, preventing erosion and maintaining water quality. These plantings consist of native species grouped to mimic natural plant associations, and act as protective transition zones that enable existing interior habitats to naturally expand outwards. You can contribute to the effectiveness of the buffers by avoiding these areas and any activity that might interfere with natural plant dynamics. The buffers, which may include man-made features like fencing, will mature and change with time, and will eventually provide an abundance of specialized niches for different wildlife groups.

Avoid the temptation to mow, garden or store belongings in the buffers. Please remember that encroaching beyond private lot lines into natural areas, including buffer zones, is not legally permitted in the City of London. You also may not plant any vegetation within buffer zones or remove plants from within the buffer. In addition, dumping garden refuse or raked leaves in buffer areas is not permitted, as this can limit or prevent natural groundcover growth. Protecting these buffer zones is a critical component in preserving the sensitive ecology of the Medway Creek Valley.

Tree preservation

In order to build The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale, some small woodlot areas and individual trees were removed. However, wherever feasible, the best of these trees, which include sugar maple, white ash and black walnut specimens, were preserved and transplanted to other locations specifically chosen to match moisture conditions and microclimate to the tree's needs. You may see some of the trees along the rear of your property or in the stormwater management facilities and naturalized areas. Other trees, particularly those found on the perimeters of the site, were carefully sheltered and protected during the construction phases.

Protecting water systems

Hydrology, or the movement of water throughout the landscape, plays a vital role in determining water quality, which in turn affects the health of both humans and the natural environment. It is especially important in the Sunningdale Community, which drains seven square kilometers of the Medway Creek subwatershed.

Open grassy spaces or forested lands are permeable, meaning that they allow rain to percolate through the soil where it eventually reaches groundwater, streams, rivers or lakes. Through this cycle, some stormwater may eventually become part of drinking water supplies. However, the buildings, roads and parking lots that replace natural ground are all impermeable surfaces, and prevent stormwater from being absorbed into the soil. Traditionally, stormwater is channeled across these surfaces to underground storm sewer systems and directed through pipes to local streams and rivers. Unfortunately, this system fails during heavy rainfalls or early spring snowmelt, when flow overloads sewer systems and causes flooding, as well as increased erosion and sediment buildup in streams. In addition, water channeled across impermeable surfaces picks up many urban contaminants, such as road dust and petro-chemical residues. In order to mitigate these effects, stormwater management facilities are constructed.

The value of stormwater management (SWM) in Sunningdale

The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale will eventually have several separate stormwater management facilities. Some of these will be located where natural streams already flow into Medway Creek, minimizing changes in existing hydrological patterns. Some of these ravine areas are highly eroded. Replacing the streams with SWM facilities will improve the stability of the area. These ponds will be fully landscaped with native aquatic vegetation such as bulrushes, water plantain and arrowhead, which absorb water contaminants, provide animal habitat, and enhance the aesthetic beauty of The Neighbourhoods of Sunningdale.

Water quality starts at home

There are many personal measures you can take to help maintain and improve water quality in the Medway Creek Valley.

- Never dump waste water, chemicals or oil on the ground or down storm drains. Many household products are toxic and will contaminate the surrounding water sources.
- Maintain your vehicles to reduce leaks and drips and clean up any accidental spills. These chemicals will be washed into water management systems.
- Stoop and scoop. Pet waste can pollute waterways and wetlands. The City of London has a bylaw that requires cleaning up after your pets.
- Respect the natural buffers that surround the stormwater management ponds. Not only are the buffers intended to protect the area from human activity and increase wildlife habitat, but they also play an important role in water quality maintenance by trapping sediments and contaminants.
- Take all household hazardous waste to an approved waste recycling facility. Cleansers and chemical residues that are washed down your drains can eventually make their way into local water systems, endangering wildlife and contaminating our drinking supplies.

- Consider alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Excess nutrients and chemicals can be washed into water management systems. Landscape your yard with low-maintenance native species, compost your lawn clippings and organic household waste for fertilizer. Use companion plantings or natural homemade sprays instead of chemical pesticides. When commercial fertilizers or pesticides must be used, follow instructions exactly and use them efficiently and effectively.
- Install rain barrels or ponds in your yard. Storing rainwater on your property will reduce the load on SWM ponds and provide an excellent source for watering your yard.
- Wash cars, yard and lawn equipment, furniture, etc. on grass or other permeable areas. Use cleaning products that are phosphate-free and do not include toxic alternatives. The wash water will water the grass and infiltration will reduce runoff.
- Do not discharge water from swimming pools until chlorine or bromine levels have been reduced. Swimming pool water can kill aquatic organisms. When chemical levels have dropped, drain your pool onto a grassed area to improve infiltration and reduce runoff. Do not discharge large volumes of water off-site, especially on valley slopes.

Stewardship guidelines for Sunningdale residents

Stewardship begins with understanding and respect for the natural environment. Please use this guide and the resources listed at the end of this booklet to help you, your family, and your neighbours develop this understanding. The following is a summary of stewardship principles recommended throughout this guide. Build these principles into your daily life and join your community as stewards of this special natural area.

- Enjoy the recreational opportunities in your community responsibly. Stay on recreational paths and only enter natural areas if signage permits.
- Keep litter in its place. Recycle your refuse at home. If you see something someone has dropped, pick it up.
- Leave wild plants for all to enjoy. The destruction or removal of vegetation on public lands is prohibited.
- Do not introduce invasive plant or animal species into natural areas. Do not release unwanted pets and do not plant anything in natural areas unless you are participating in a city-organized or sanctioned event.
- Do not do any composting outside your own property. Composting is a beneficial process in your garden, but it can introduce unwanted seeds and smother vegetation if done in natural areas.
- Allow wild animals to remain wild. Do not feed, attract, handle or entice wild creatures.

- Exercise responsible pet ownership and keep them under your control at all times. Always clean up after your pet.
- Never dump waste water, chemicals or oil on the ground or down storm drains. Toxic substances may go into your drinking supply.
- Conserve water. Install a rain barrel in your yard, and wash cars and other objects on grassed or permeable areas.
- Reduce your use of fertilizer and pesticides. When using fertilizers and pesticides, follow directions and use the minimum amount to complete the job.

- Use low-maintenace native plant landscaping, mulching mowers, and recycled compost to reduce the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Keep your garbage cans secure to avoid attracting unwanted wildlife.
- Consider naturalizing portions of your yard to selectively encourage appropriate wildlife to share your outdoor living areas. Provide feeders and nesting boxes for birds and bats.
- Consider push mowers and rakes instead of gas mowers and leaf blowers to reduce noise and air pollution and promote exercise.

- Use non-toxic alternatives for home and garden maintenance. Support manufacturers and retailers of environmentally responsible products. Check labels and look for the eco-logo dove to indicate proven alternative products.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle. Use your blue box and take all hazardous wastes to an approved waste facility.
- Practice energy efficiency.
- Remember that you are a steward of your local ecosystem, which includes sensitive natural features. Enjoy the natural and unique beauty of your community and always act with an eye on practices that will help maintain and enhance natural ecological functions.
- Discuss the ways in which you and your family can meet your obligation to be responsible stewards of the natural heritage of your community.
- Set a good example for your children. Teach them why it is important to behave in an environmentally responsible manner. Encourage their interest in the natural world.
- Get involved in community groups and take advantage of opportunities to learn about the natural environment in your area.
- Enjoy your new home!

Who can help?

For more information on London's natural areas, please contact:

- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (519) 451-2800 (www.thamesriver.on.ca)
- City of London Forestry Services (519) 661-5783 or Planning Dept. (519) 661-4980 (www.city.london.on.ca)

To join organized activities in natural areas, contact:

- The McIlwraith Field Naturalists (519) 457-4593
- The Thames Valley Trail Association (519) 645-2845 (www.thamesvalleytrail.org)

For additional information on living next to natural areas:

- For composting tips call the "Rot Line" at (519) 672-5991, a free public service offered by the Thames Regional Ecological Association.
- *Backyard Habitats* and *Natural Invaders*, published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists
- *City of London Guide to Plant Selection for Environmentally Significant Areas* (available at the City of London Planning Dept.)
- *Living with Natural Areas: A Guide for Citizens of London* (available at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)

Books on the subject:

- *The Ontario Naturalized Garden*. Johnson, Lorraine, 1995. Whitecap Books, Toronto, Ontario
- *Landscaping for Wildlife*. Ministry of Natural Resources, 1990. Queen's Printer for Ontario, Ontario
- *How to Get Your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs*. Rubin, Carole, 1989. Friends of the Earth, Ottawa, Ontario

Other resources:

- For yard and garden waste collection dates call (519) 661-5803 (www.city.london.on.ca)
- For injured wildlife call London Animal Care Centre (519) 685-1330 (www.accpets.ca)

Glossary

Buffer plantings: corridors of native species grouped together to mimic natural plant associations and to act as protective transition zones for interior habitats.

Carolinian zone: a deciduous forest region widespread in the eastern United States but existing only in small pockets in Southwestern Ontario; characterized by comparatively rare or unusual plant and animal species.

Ecological stewards: persons entrusted with the protection and management of an ecological system.

Ecosystem: an integrated biological system of living species, their habitat, and the processes that affect them.

Environmentally Significant Area (ESA): a part of the landscape that performs important ecological functions or contains rare, unusual or high quality landforms and natural communities.

Hydrology: the properties, distribution and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere.

Indigenous or native species: a species whose origins can be traced to the immediate region; a species that was not imported to the area or artificially bred to produce special traits.

Interior habitat: the mature and undisturbed center of a large natural area containing established plant and animal communities.

Invasive species: a species that has reproduced so aggressively in an area that some of the original species have been lost; a species that competes with indigenous species to the detriment of the region.

Natural heritage study: a study that compiles background ecological information and the results of field inventories and analyzes it in the context of the landscape; a study identifying natural heritage features, their significant functions and their interrelationships in order to ensure their protection or maintenance.

Rare, endangered or threatened species: rare species are those that seldom occur or are uncommon; endangered species are those facing imminent extinction; threatened species are those likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

Stewardship: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Stormwater management wetlands: a water management system consisting of a series of constructed and naturalized ponds or wetlands that collect and detain rainwater and release it at a controlled rate.

Topography: the configuration of features of the earth's surface.

Transition zone: a vegetative boundary or edge between two different natural areas that incorporates elements from both systems.

Notes

Sunningdale

NEIGHBOURHOODS INSPIRED BY NATURE
ENHANCED BY DESIGN

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