

MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ESA
CONSERVATION MASTER PLANNING PROCESS – PHASE I

February 12, 2013

GOAL

Revisit the Site Planning Study (1996) and other related documents to complete a new Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area (MVHF ESA) for approval through the City's public consultation process

OBJECTIVES

Review 1996 Plan relative to current O.P. policies, the new Planning and Design Standards for Trails in ESAs (approved by Council June 2012) and the Conservation Master Plan process for ESAs

Conduct current life science inventory and analysis

Establish Ecological Management Zones based on application of ESA criteria and site sensitivities

Develop environmental management strategy and goals for the protection and enhancement of the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the MVHF ESA.

Assess natural disturbance processes and document human-generated disturbances with recommendations for management or mitigation measures.

Solicit technical and community input during the Phase I Study

ROLE OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)

Provide advice and information on the ESA given current degree of knowledge

Review and comment on the Draft

ROLE OF EEPAC

Provide review of technical and scientific inventory data and evaluation analysis as per the mandate of the Committee. Review and comment on the Draft Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation of the MVHF ESA.

ROLE OF THE PUBLIC

Provide community input regarding the Master Plan process Review and comment on the Draft Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation of the MVHF ESA.

PROPOSED TIMING

Project start – March 8 2013

Site Inventories – end March to end September 2013

Preliminary draft report – late October 2013

Public Information Meeting – one at the start of the process (March-April 2013) and one to present results of the study (November 2013)

Finalize Phase I report – December 1 2013