



Relax, Refresh, Return

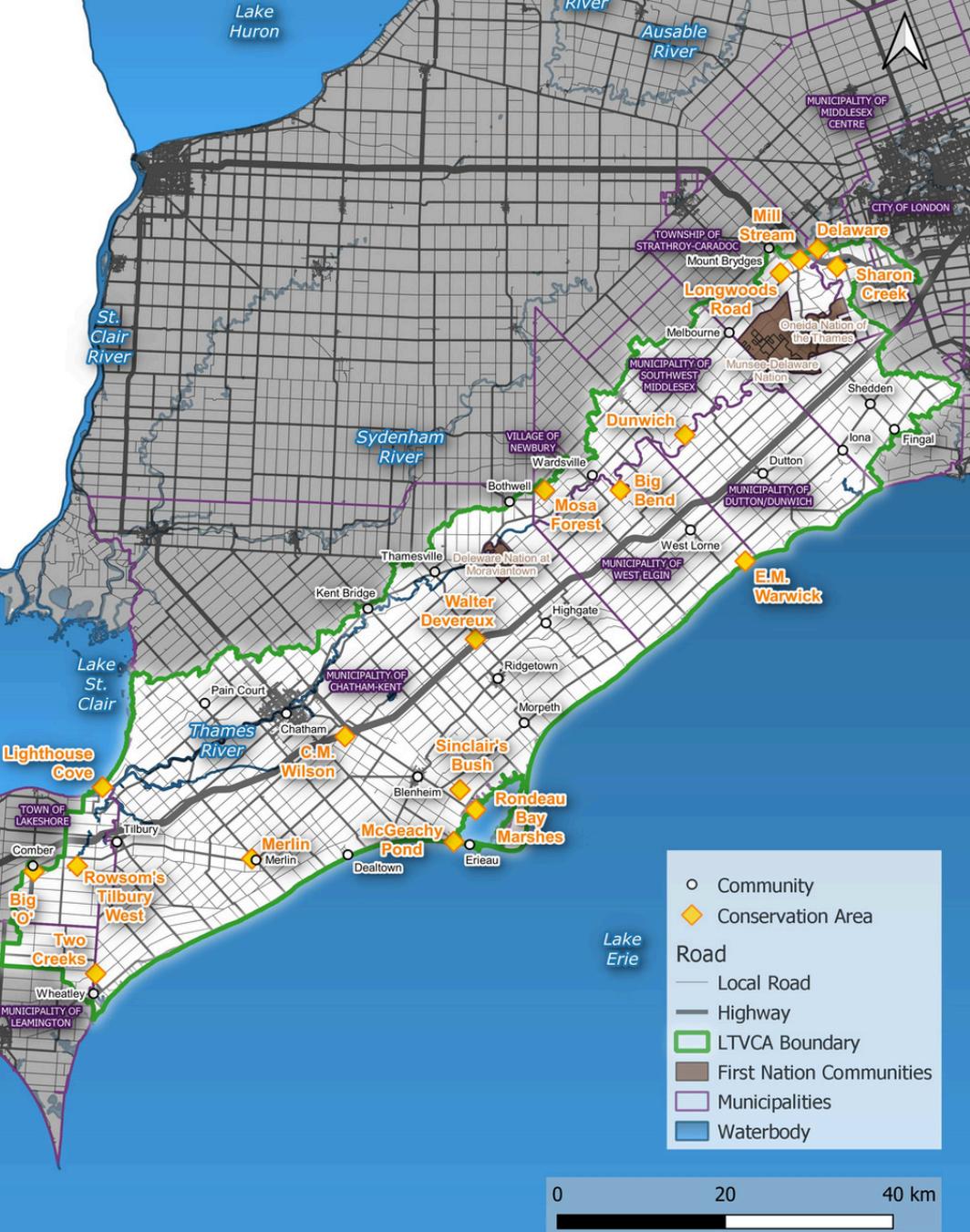
Explore LTVCA

CONSERVATION AREAS



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land within the jurisdiction of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, and Caldwell Nation. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.



The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River



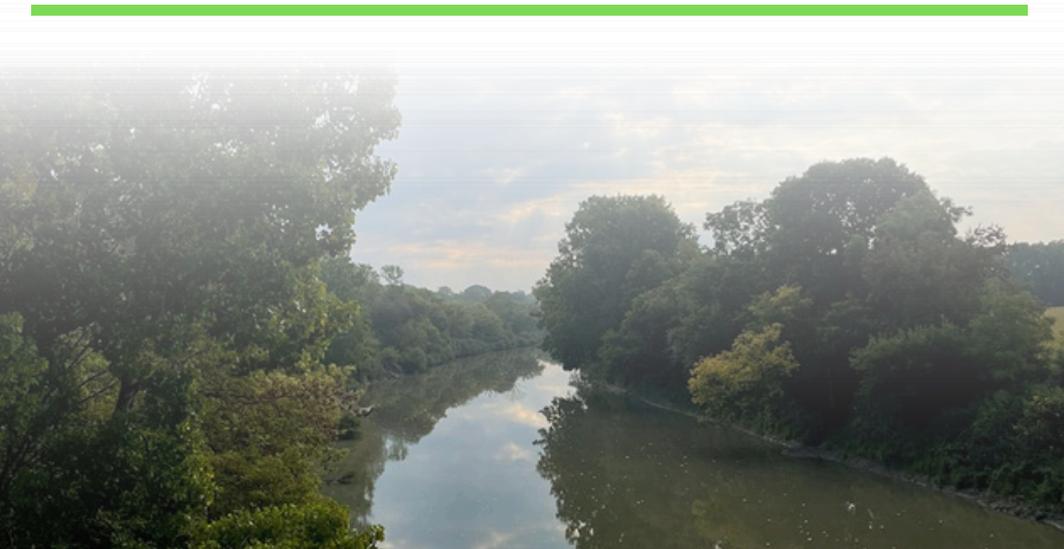


For over 60 years, the LTVCA has promoted, conserved and managed our environment. Now more than ever before we recognize the value of visiting Conservation Areas (CA's) for our mental and physical health. Our local Conservation Areas offer a perfect venue for hiking, biking or just spending time with family and friends. From great vistas at McGeachy Pond in Erieau to the beautiful example of a Carolinian Forest at Walter Devereux CA, there is much to explore in our watershed. With your support we can all make a difference and assist the LTVCA with achieving their goals.



Please visit these Conservation Areas and when you do, be sure to leave only footprints!

Yours in conservation,
Mayor Darrin Canniff



About the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) sits within one of the largest watershed areas of Southwestern Ontario. It is a primary goal of LTVCA to increase the conservation, restoration, and management of our surrounding natural resources. This goal is achieved with cooperation of community partners, and through the acquisition of environmentally significant areas like wetlands, forests, and tallgrass prairies. We work directly with private landowners and provide technical advice and incentive dollars to naturally restore our watershed.

Whether it's hiking, birding, or paddling, I have spent many happy hours in the LTVCA watershed. Yet, with every experience, I find wonder in a new trail, a novel encounter with a plant or animal, or a particularly beautiful sunset. This guide provides a glimpse into what our watershed has to offer, but the real discovery can be found in exploring these properties and local businesses throughout the seasons and with those close to you. See you on the trails!



-Sarah Emons, Chair

Conservation Areas are Open Year-Round for Day Use

General Admission

Please use the Pay and Display machine to pay for parking at Longwoods Road Conservation Areas.
Coin or credit card only.

Please use the Passport Canada phone app at C.M. Wilson and Sharon Creek Conservation Areas to pay for parking.
Instructions on signage.



Annual Conservation Area Parking Pass

Visit year-round! Get access to all LTVCA public conservation areas by purchasing an annual Conservation Area Parking Pass! Fees go directly back into the care of our conservation areas.

LTVCA Parking Pass – \$65 each or 2 for \$100. Pass is valid from date of purchase until December 31 of that calendar year.

Purchase online at www.ltvca.ca.



Once payment has been made, your pass will be mailed. For immediate use, print your receipt and display it on your vehicle's dashboard.

The Parking Pass allows day use entrance to all public LTVCA Conservation Areas including: C.M. Wilson, Longwoods Road and Ska-Nah-Doht Village, and Sharon Creek. Effective for LTVCA sponsored special events.

Not valid for camping or non-LTVCA sponsored events/programs.

These Icons are featured on the individual conservation area pages as an overview of what is available at each location.

Facilities



Camping



Group
Camping



Roofed
Accommodations



Accessible
Restroom



Restroom



Event Rental



Paid Parking



Picnic
Shelter



Boat
Launch



Museum/
Heritage



Snowshoe
Rental



Lookout



Playground

Activities



Cycling



Birding



Paddling



Hiking



Accessible
Trails



Cross Country
Skiing



Fishing



BIG BEND Conservation Area

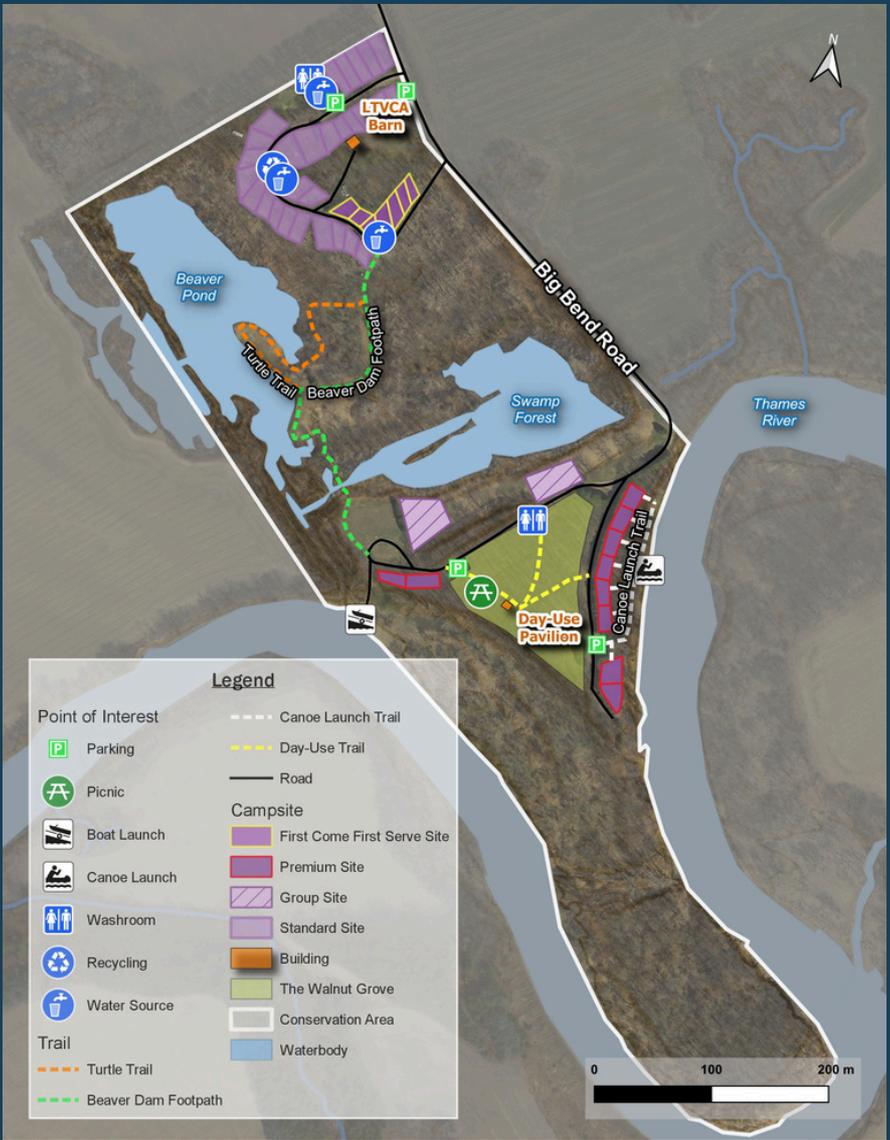
Located on the largest meander of the Thames River, Big Bend offers access to this Canadian Heritage River.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

The Thames River is also called the Deshkan Ziibi in Anishnaabemowin, the traditional language of the Anishnaabe people, which translates to Antler River.



21239 Big Bend Road, Wardsville





BIG 'O' Conservation Area

Big 'O' is located on a migratory route for birds and is known as a 'birding hot spot.' Ponds, trails and viewing platforms offer excellent wildlife observation areas with educational signage.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

The pileated woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in Canada and it can be spotted at Big 'O' Conservation Area.



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C.M. WILSON Conservation Area

Camp in the Carolinian forest and enjoy C.M. Wilson's man-made pond, rustic barn, and more—a place for adventure, relaxation, and memories!

Facilities and Activities





21799 Fargo Road, Blenheim



2025 PARKING PASSES

Visit C.M Wilson, Longwoods Road/Ska-Na-Doht Village and Museum, or Sharon Creek...

Parking passes for Lower Thames Conservation Areas are available to borrow for free with your library card.

Borrow passes free from Chatham-Kent Public Library!
Search 'parking pass' and place your hold at search.ckpl.ca



For more information, call 519-354-2940.



Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival
First Week in October
C.M. Wilson Conservation Area



Wildlife Habitat Management

Interested in creating wildlife habitat or
Improving Water Quality on your
property?

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- Native Tree and Shrub Planting
- Invasive Species Control (phragmites)
- Prescribed Burning
- Wetland Creation

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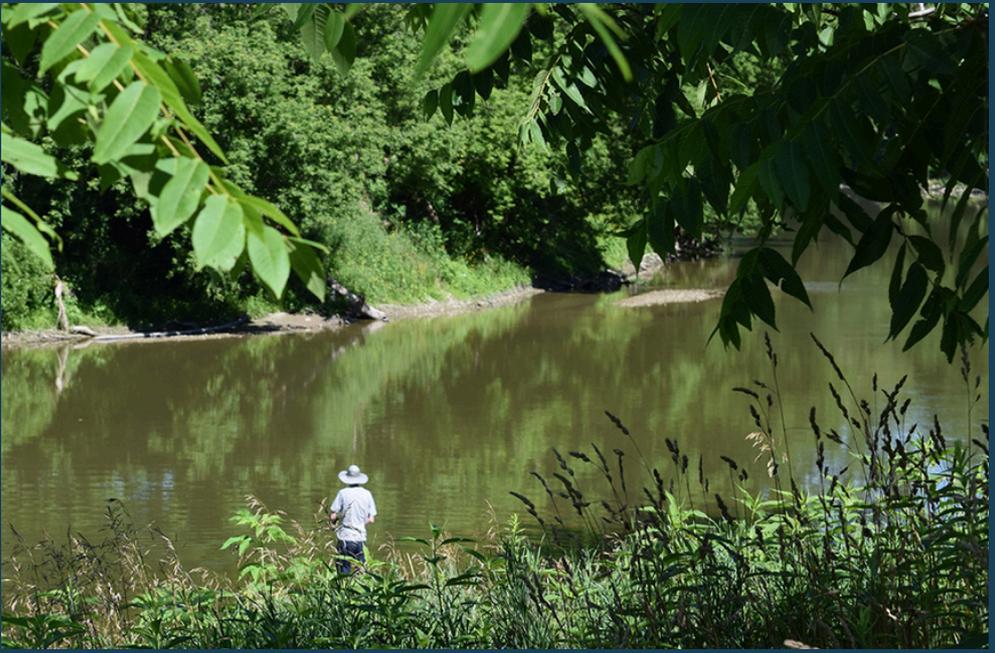
SPRAY UP TO
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DELAWARE

Conservation Area

Delaware is one of the LTVCA's few natural areas subjected to the natural flooding of the Thames River. Catch a glimpse of one of the largest known Swamp White Oaks remaining in the floodplain.

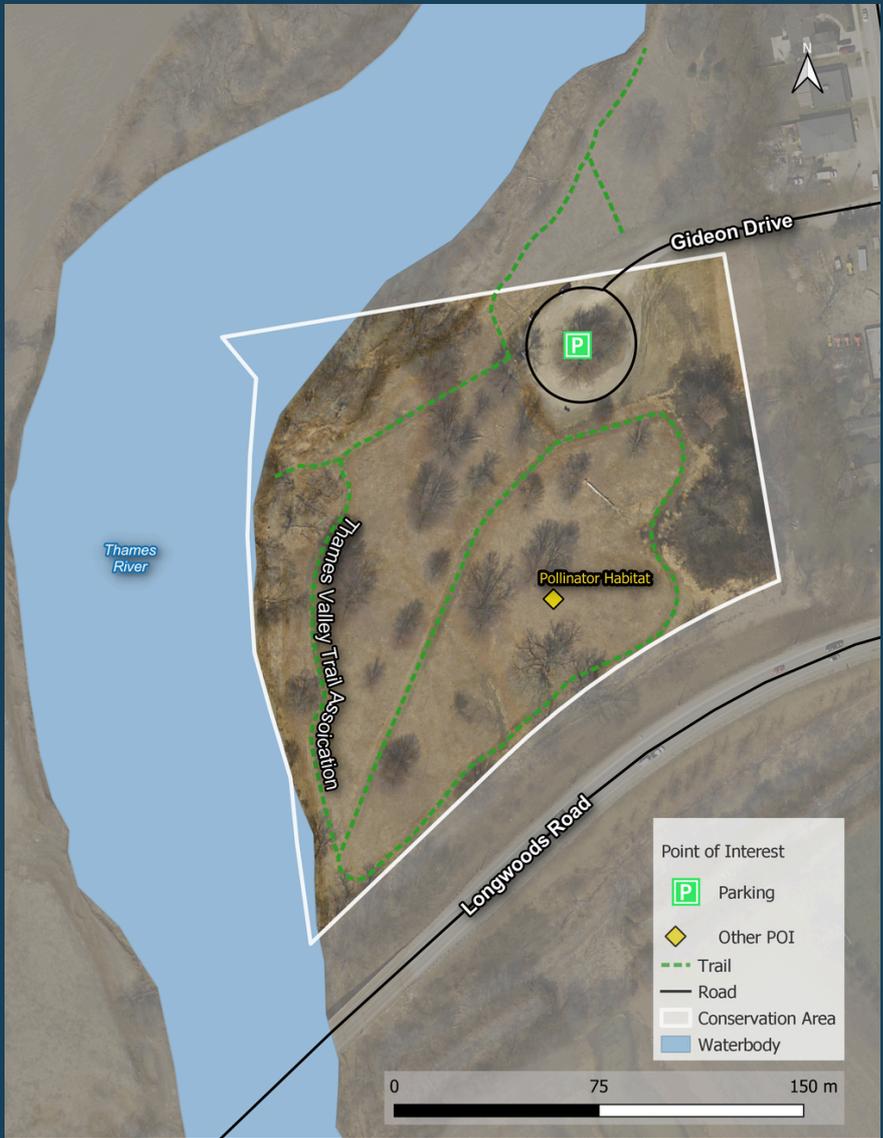
Facilities and Activities



Community Partner Opportunity

**Purchase ad space in our 2027 Guidebook
to support Conservation Areas!**

Ready to order for 2027? www.ltvca.ca



2695 Gideon Drive, Delaware





DUTTON DUNWICH

Conservation Area

Dutton Dunwich provides an ideal spot to launch a canoe or kayak on the Thames River. Located at the end of Coyne Road.

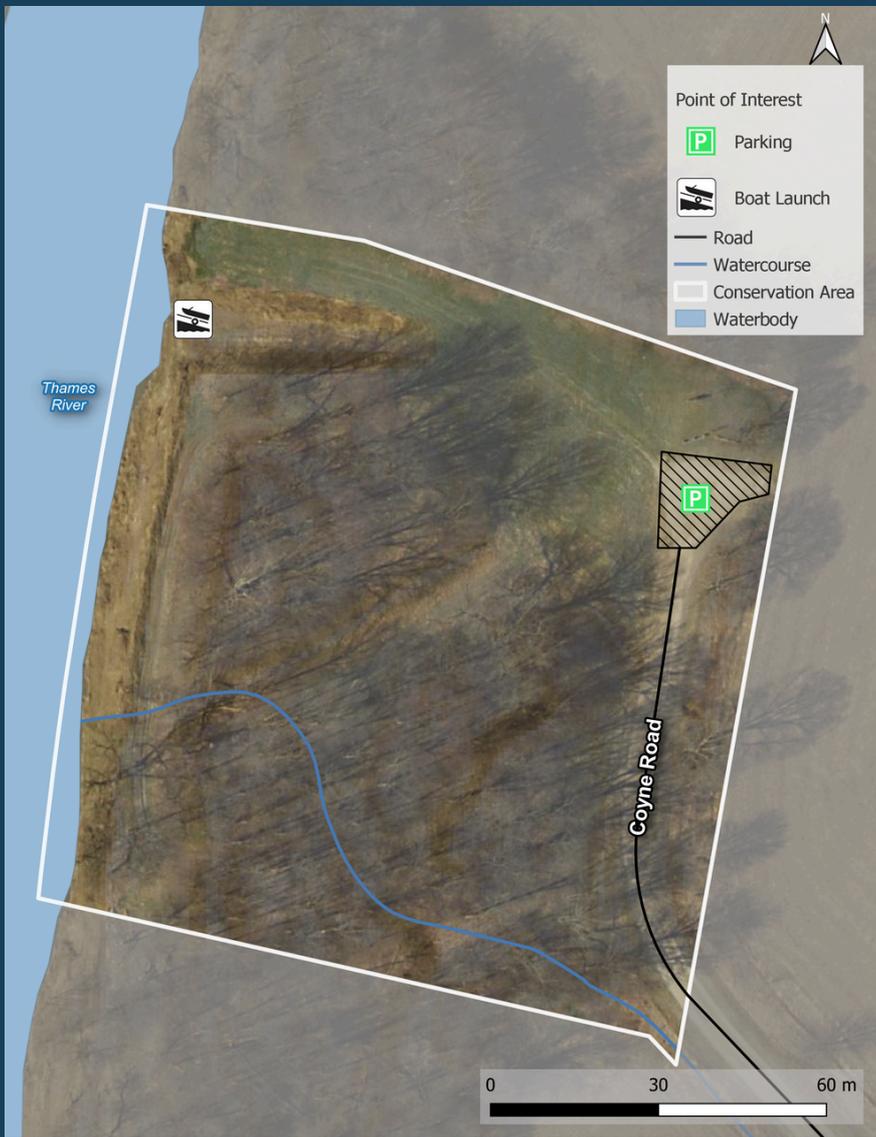
*Boat launch availability dependent on river flow conditions.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

The LTVCA watershed is located in the Carolinian life zone. This life zone is only about 1% of Canada's total landmass but is home to more types of flora and fauna than any other life zone in Canada.



14494 Coyne Road, Dutton





E.M. WARWICK

Conservation Area

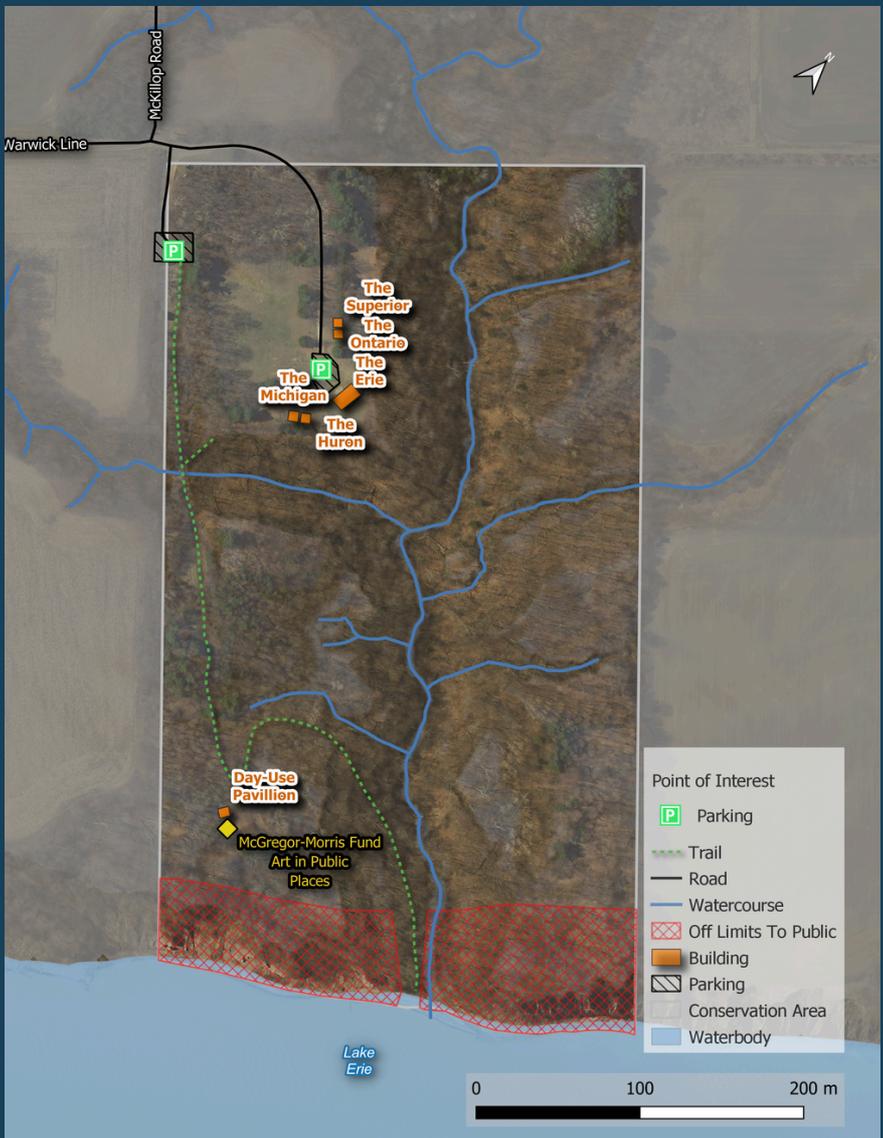
Visit E.M. Warwick for Carolinian forests and ravines. Check out the cabins and community hall - large group rentals available for your special camp or event!

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

Lake Erie is the warmest and shallowest of the Great Lakes. It also contains more consumable fish than all the Great Lakes combined.



26135 Warwick Line, West Lorne



**ALUS
ELGIN**



LIGHTHOUSE Conservation Area

This historic site has guided ships entering the Thames River since the 1790's until its decommissioning in 1968. Bring your camera and binoculars to view the shorebirds found here.

Facilities and Services

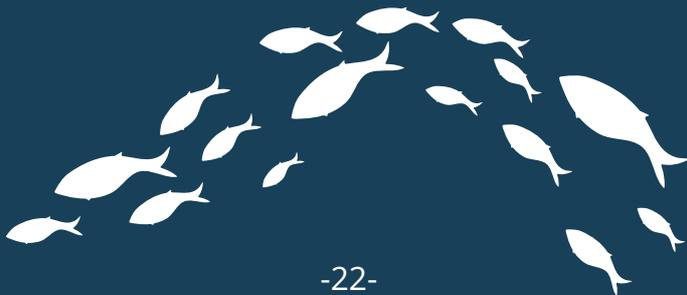


DYK?

Mussels are parasites; they must find a host fish to complete their lifecycle. A single mussel can filter approximately 40 litres of water each day.



19028 Harbour Drive, Tilbury





LONGWOODS ROAD Conservation Area

Explore Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, trails, natural features, and the accessible Carolinian Arboretum and Trail.

Facilities and Services

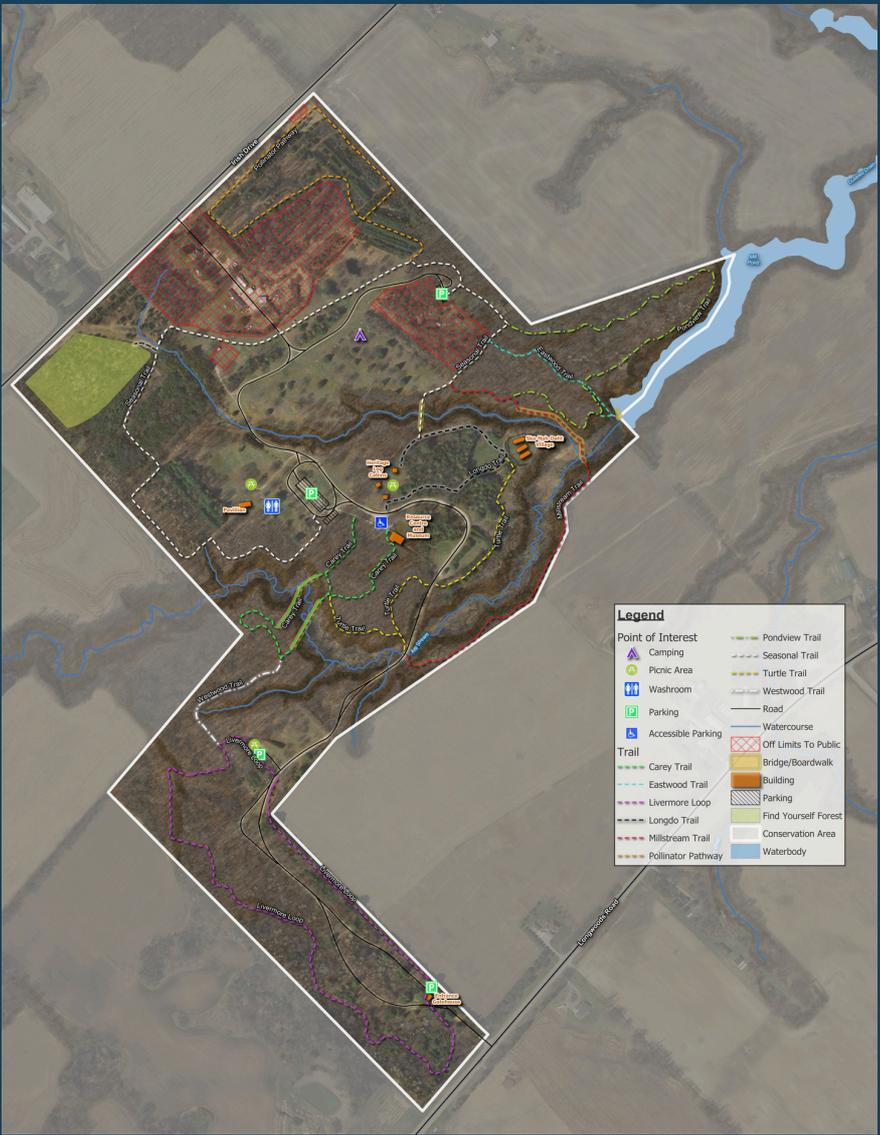


SKA-NAH-DOHT
Village and Museum

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

Ska-Nah-Doht Village is a recreation of a Haudenosaunee Longhouse Village from 1,000 years ago; open daily.

Ska-Nah-Doht Museum features interactive exhibits centered on Indigenous culture and conservation efforts; hours vary seasonally.



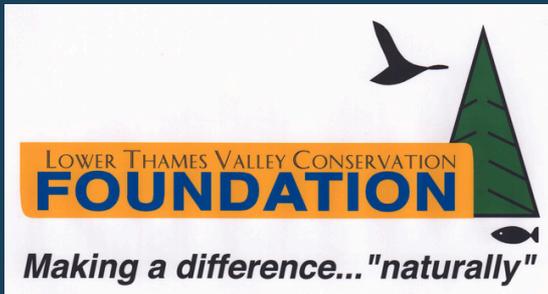
8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges



Lower Thames Valley Conservation

FOUNDATION

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, raising funds to encourage wise management of our renewable natural resources. The LTVCF cultivates and enhances all aspects of conservation, helping to provide present and future generations with a safe and healthy environment which includes our natural and cultural heritage resources. Funding supports education, events, and watershed conservation projects. Its Memorial Forest Program is a collaboration between the McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd., Tilbury and District Horticultural Society and the LTVCA.



The Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity – Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

Donations can be mailed to:
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
R.R.#1, 8449 Irish Drive,
Mount Brydges, ON N0L 1W0

yournature@lowerthamesfoundation.ca
www.lowerthamesfoundation.ca



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MCGEACHY POND

Conservation Area

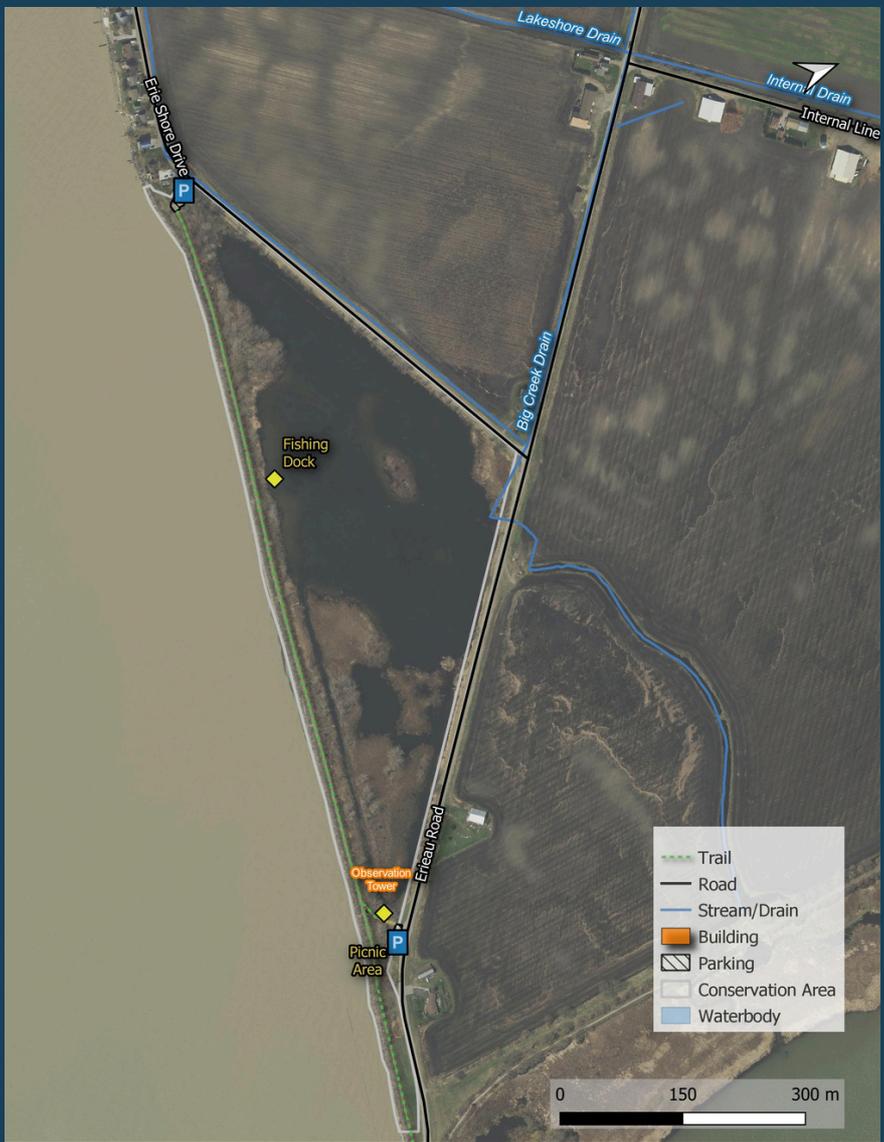
Hike or bike this part of Erieau Trail along the north shore of Lake Erie. McGeachy Pond is a provincially significant wetland with unique bird species like the Dowitcher.

Facilities and Services



DYK?

The lake sturgeon holds the title of the largest fish in Lake Erie. These remarkable creatures have existed since the time of the dinosaurs and can live for more than a hundred years.



17978 Erieau Road, Erieau



ALUS
CHATHAM-KENT



MERLIN

Conservation Area

This property was the former home of the Merlin District High School. Merlin Conservation Area is being re-naturalized. Take a stroll to catch a glimpse of the Bobolink - a species at risk bird.

Facilities and Services

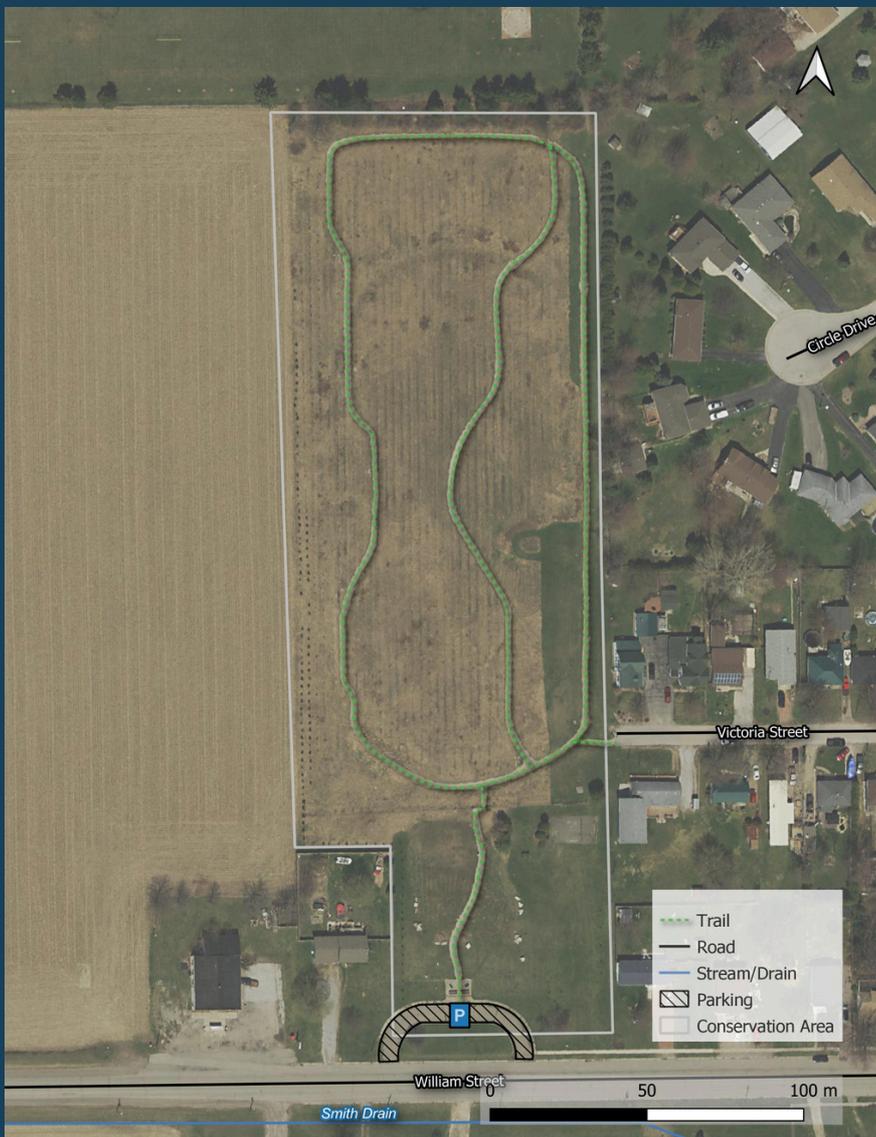


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128 William Street, Merlin





MILL STREAM Conservation Area

Step into nature and find serenity at Mill Stream. As part of a stream corridor, this conservation area offers public enjoyment, while protecting a unique Carolinian forest ravine ecosystem.

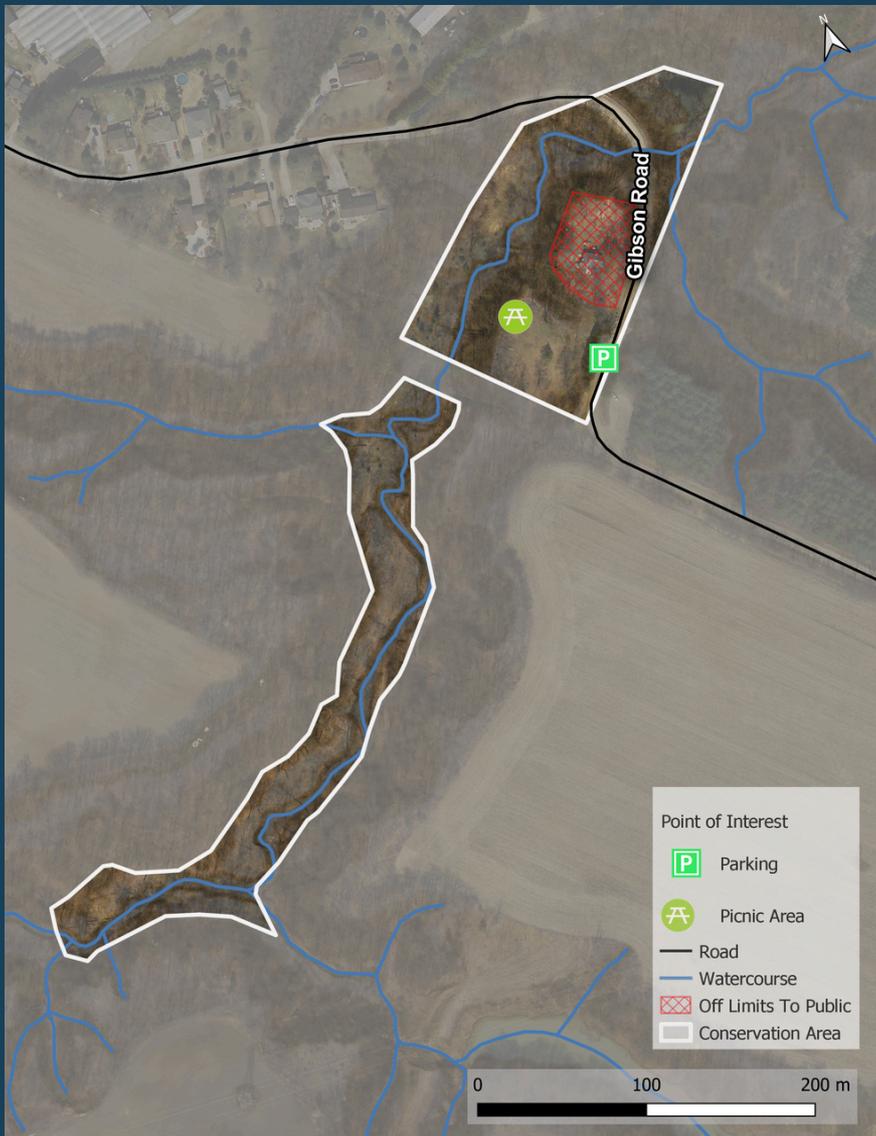
Facilities and Services



DYK?

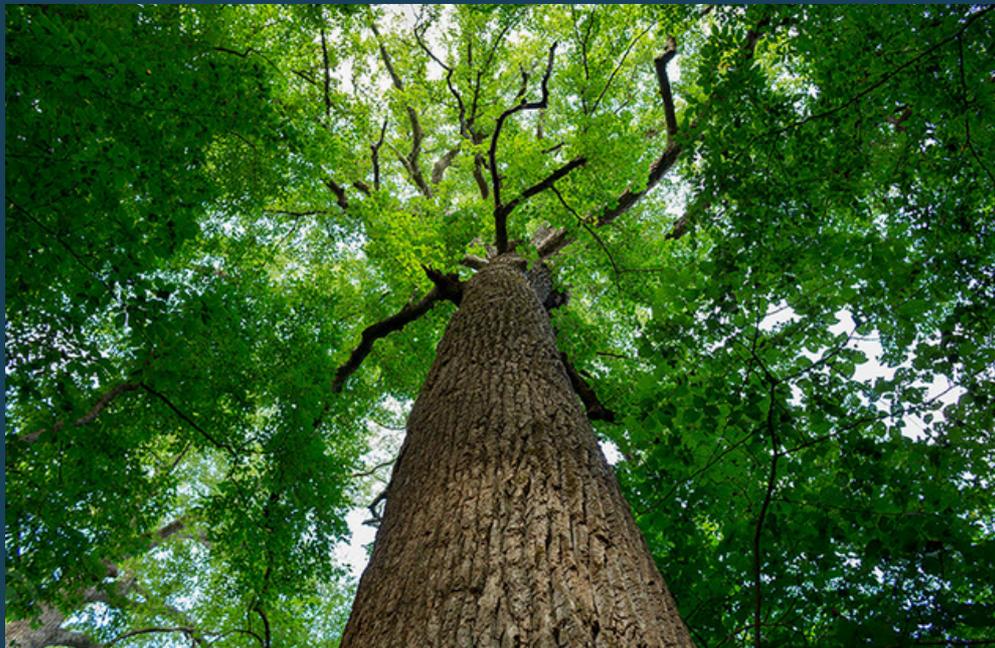
Every turtle in Ontario is a species at risk. Please drive slowly near water and, if it's safe, assist turtles in crossing the road.

Always move a turtle in the direction it is heading.



22035 Gibson Road, Mount Brydges





MOSA FOREST (Skunk's Misery) Conservation Area

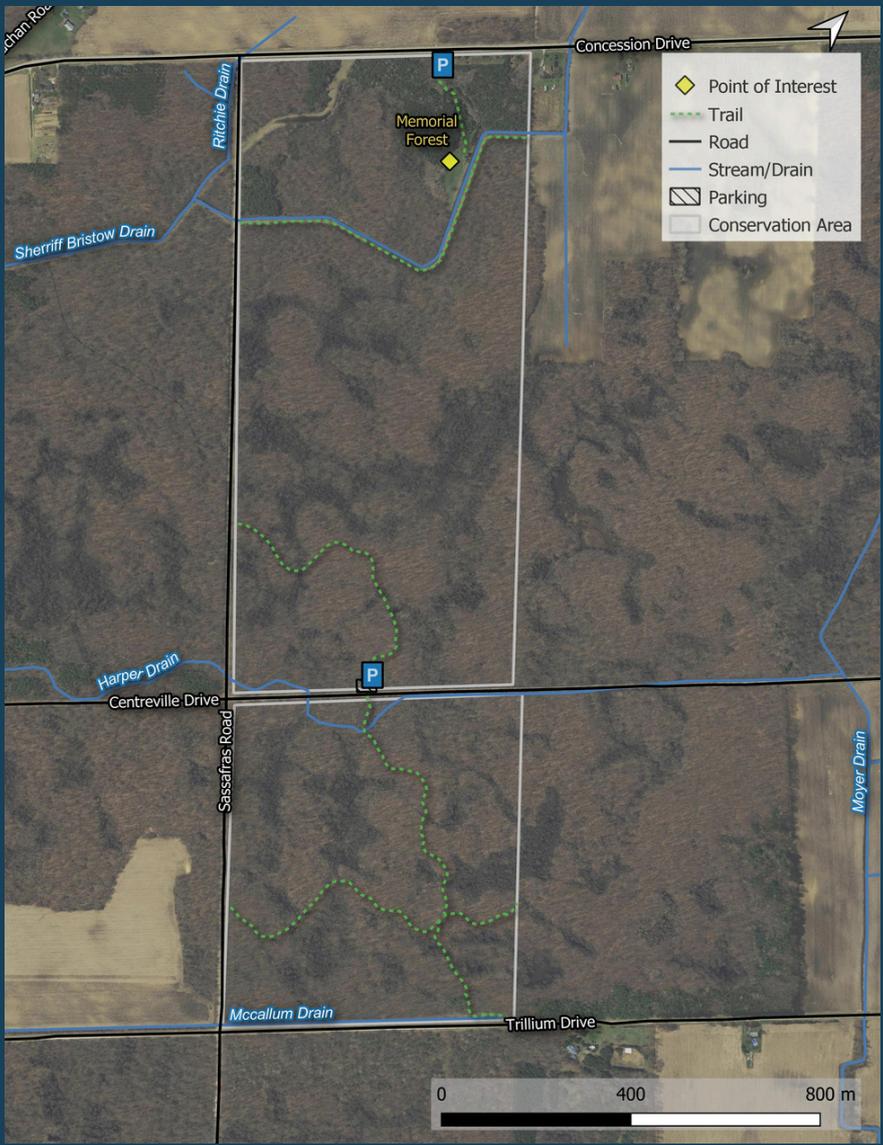
Mosa Forest, locally known as Skunk's Misery, is the largest woodland south of London. This diverse area is home to many unique species only found within the Carolinian Life Zone.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

The Carolinian Life Zone is home to one third of Canada's rare, threatened or endangered species.



962 Centreville Drive, Newbury

ALUS 
Middlesex



RONDEAU BAY MARSHES Conservation Area

Located within the hamlet of Shrewsbury, this Provincially Significant Wetland is a good spot to view and access Rondeau Bay.

Facilities and Activities



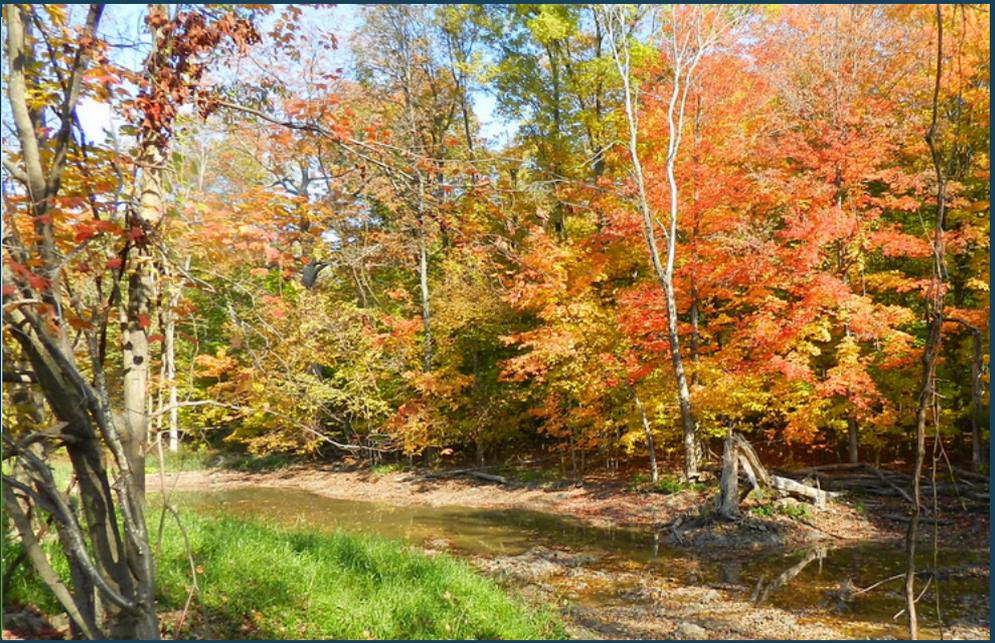
DYK?

Ontario's only native lizard, the five-lined skink, can be found around Rondeau Bay.



92 Wellington Street, Shrewsbury

BUTZER'S
EXCAVATING
AND
TRUCKING



ROWSOM'S TILBURY WEST Conservation Area

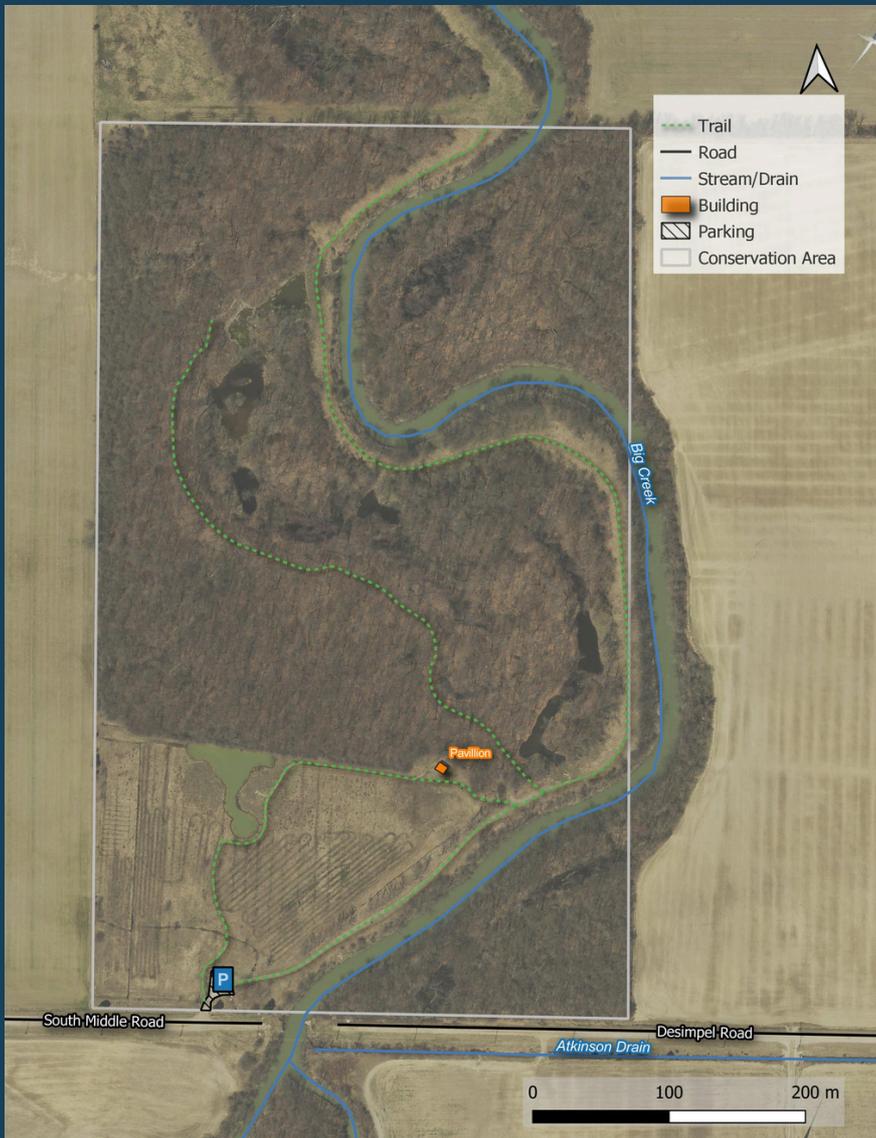
Visit part of Canada's Carolinian Forest along the banks of Big Creek. The trail traverses wetlands, mature forest, the creek and open meadows.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

Tallgrass prairies and savannas are two of the most at risk ecological communities in Canada. Support and connect these ecosystems by planting native flowers and grasses.



15172 South Middle Road, Comber





Rick Battson Photography

SHARON CREEK Conservation Area

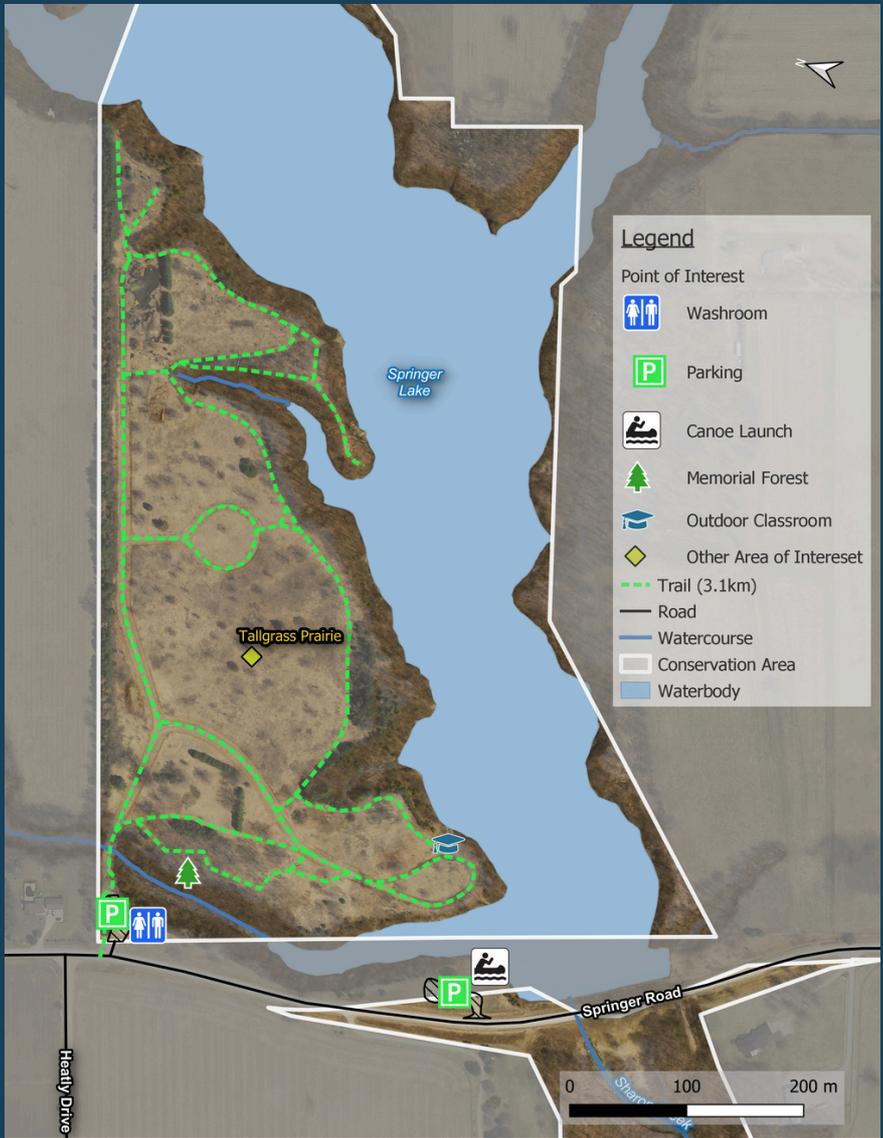
A paddler's paradise and a popular spot for fishing awaits at Sharon Creek. View one of the largest tallgrass prairies in Middlesex County and the lower Thames watershed.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

Spending as little as 20 minutes outside can help reduce stress. A great way to get outside is to bring your paddles to Sharon Creek CA.



4212 Springer Road, Delaware





SINCLAIR'S BUSH Conservation Area

Traveling east of Blenheim and down Sinclair's Line is like going back in time. Sinclair's Bush has an abundance of unique species, such as tulip, beech, shagbark hickory, and pawpaw trees.

Facilities and Activities



Early ☺ N
☺ N y va



10671 Sinclair Line, Blenheim





TWO CREEKS Conservation Area

If you like hiking or biking, this is the place for you!
This property is managed by the Wheatley Two Creeks
Association. Check out their website at www.twocreeks.ca.

Facilities and Activities



DYK?

Wheatley Two Creeks Association hosts a Summer Concert Series. Every Sunday, June through September, bring a picnic and enjoy local music.



21638 Wheatley Road, Wheatley





WALTER DEVEREUX Conservation Area

This property is home to a variety of ecosystems, including tallgrass prairie and Carolinian forest. Take a self guided tour and learn about best management practices for rural properties.

[Facilities and Activities](#)



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Some Events to Watch For!

- Winter Webinar Series
- Family Day Snowshoeing
- Big 'O' Birding
- Battle of Longwoods
- Artifact Day
- Tree Giveaway
- CK Paddle & Clean
- Cultivating Conservation Tour

Check our website for current event details.



Beautiful Wedding Photography Locations

*Longwoods Road
C.M. Wilson
Sharon Creek
and more*





Rustic Country Event Facility Rentals

Longwoods Road C.M. Wilson E.M. Warwick



The LTVCA's Programs & Services

Flood Forecasting assesses climate, water levels and/or flow information to predict the likelihood and severity of flooding and erosion from rivers and lakes.



Maintaining and operating **Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructures** including dams and diversion channels, helps ensure the safety of the public.



Watershed and Shoreline Studies provide a broad perspective of watershed issues to inform planning and regulatory processes.

This offers a balanced program for environmental protection.

Land Use Planning and Regulations direct development away from hazard areas to reduce hardship and loss of property and protect life. (Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and R.O. 152/06.)

Water Quality and Quantity information is collected throughout the watershed to help understand current conditions, and assess whether conditions are changing.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works closely with watershed partners, providing advanced analysis for programs examining the health of the watershed.



Land Stewardship

programs work with landowners, municipalities and funders to provide financial incentive and education for the conservation, restoration and sustainable development in the watershed.

Natural Heritage

Protection helps secure sensitive species and land.



Conservation and Ska-Nah-Doht Village Education

provide opportunities to enjoy nature and heritage so their inherent value is realized.

The management of over 690 hectares, on 31 different **Conservation Lands** across this watershed, provides habitat protection, public recreation, education and event opportunities.



Our Vision

The LTVCA ... for a balanced and healthy watershed.

Our Mission

Leading by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community.

Our Core Values

Respect, integrity, commitment, objectivity, and collaboration.

KIDS CORNER SCAVENGER HUNT



Something
Yellow



Feather



Spider
Web



3 Different
Birds



3 Different
Insects

Something
Fluffy



Maple Seed
Pod



Conifer
Cone

3 Different
Leaves

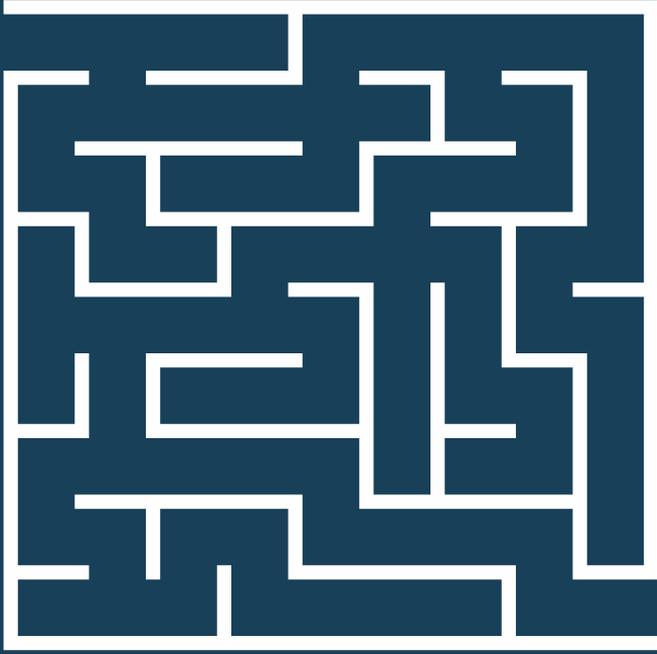


Something
Pink

Please remember to take
only pictures and leave
only footprints!

Kids Corner

Help the beaver find the wetland.



FAQ

What is Conservation?

By definition, conservation is “the wise management and use of natural resources”, primarily renewable natural resources including water, soil, vegetation and wildlife.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed refers to an area drained by a particular watercourse and its tributaries.

What is a Conservation Authority?

A Conservation Authority (CA) is an autonomous corporate body established under the CA Act of Ontario. CA's manage renewable natural resources on a watershed basis. Projects are initiated locally by the CA's member municipalities to meet regional (jurisdictional) conservation needs.

What is the purpose of a Conservation Authority?

Conservation Authorities study and investigate the watershed and determine a program whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed.

What is the area of jurisdiction of the LTVCA?

LTVCA has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into the Thames River from the village of Delaware to Lake St. Clair. Its southern boundary has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek watershed in the east to the Two Creeks watershed in the west. This area of jurisdiction covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) and includes 10 member municipalities.

We thank all of the talented photographers who have shared their images for this Guidebook:

In no particular order, - Vicki McKay, Chad Barry and Rick Battson. And, of course, our staff!

How You Can Help

- Volunteer your time
- Purchase an annual Conservation Area Parking Pass
- Donate online
- Consider a legacy donation to LTVCA

Visit our website and join our email newsletter list to keep in touch.

www.ltvca.ca

LTVCA gratefully acknowledges the financial support from our member municipalities:

Chatham-Kent, Dutton Dunwich, Lakeshore, Leamington, City of London, Middlesex Centre, Southwest Middlesex, Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc, and West Elgin.

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Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8

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2025-2026

Contact Us



(519)-354-7310



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