

NATURAL AREAS



Do enjoy nature from your house and backyard. Take pictures of the plants and animals to show your family and friends.



Do let nature take care of itself. It is very important for the plants and animals to be left alone so they stay healthy.



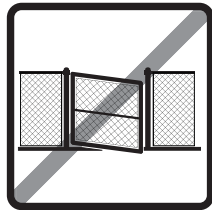
Do keep your dogs leashed and put bells on your cats if they must be outdoors. Cats can injure and kill songbirds and small animals.



Do not cut down trees, remove wood, clean up the forest, or store firewood in natural areas. The trees on the ground in forests help new plants grow and provide homes for small animals.



Do not mow or prune the grasses, flowers, trees, or shrubs behind your fence or anywhere in natural areas. This encourages exotic weeds to grow.



Do not install a gate or cut a hole in the fence at the back of your yard. If found, the gate will be removed and fence will be repaired at your expense.

For more information about natural areas in your community and across the Upper Thames River Watershed contact:

Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
www.ezt.ca
519.462.2697

Oxford County
www.oxfordcounty.ca
1.800.755.0394

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
www.thamesriver.on.ca
519.451.2800

Ministry of Natural Resources - Ontario
www.mnr.gov.on.ca
1.800.667.1940

Ontario Nature
www.ontarionature.org
1.800.440.2366

Stratford Field Naturalists
www.stratfordfieldnaturalists.com

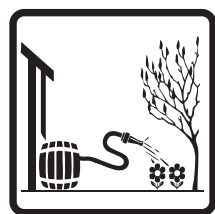
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Consulting Arborists • Ecologists • Landscape Designers

PLEASE RESPECT

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT



Do install a rain barrel to catch rain water from your roof downspouts to water your gardens and save money on your water bill.



Do plant native tree, shrub, and flower species in your backyard to attract birds and butterflies.



Do contact your local naturalist club to learn more about natural areas and nature walks in your community.



Do contact the Township if you see someone damaging the natural area.



Do not dump chemicals, cleaners, oils or paint into creeks, down drains or storm sewer grates on the road. It all flows into our rivers, lakes and groundwater and pollutes the water supply.



Do not dump yard waste (organic waste such as grass clippings, plant material, compost and leaves) or garbage behind your fence or anywhere in natural areas. This kills nearby plants and attracts undesirable wildlife.

a residents' stewardship guide to natural areas
in the **THE PONDS**



NATIVE PLANTS

- Attract birds and butterflies
- Need less maintenance
- Need less water
- Do not require fertilizer
- Save time and money
- Beautify your yard
- Adapt to local climate

LANDSCAPING IN YOUR YARD

Here are some native plants that are available at local garden centres

NATIVE TREES

American Basswood
Paper Birch
Eastern White Cedar
Ironwood
Red Maple
Shagbark Hickory
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
Bur Oak
Red Oak
White Pine

NATIVE SHRUBS

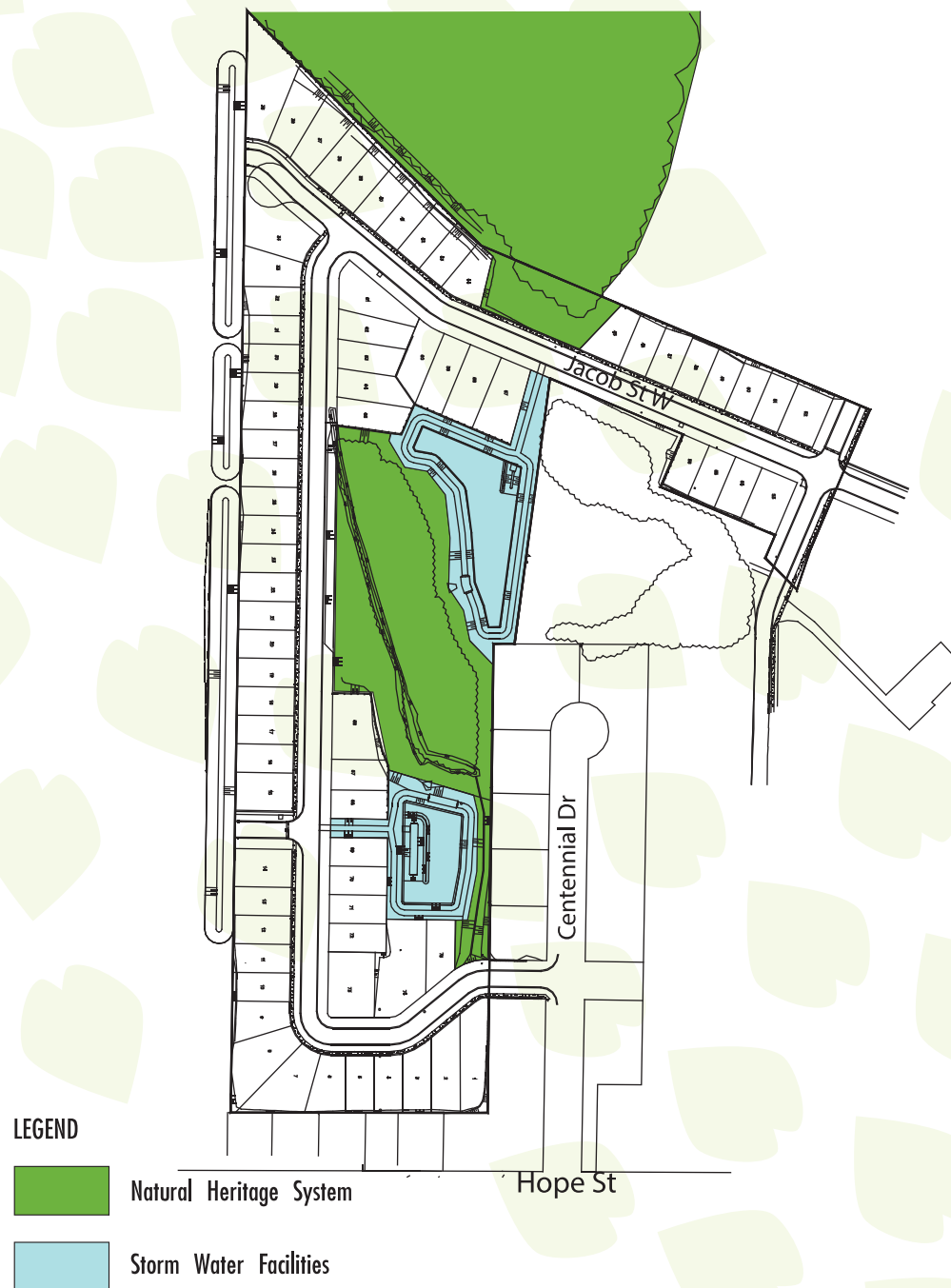
Alternate-Leaved Dogwood
Chokecherry
Grey Dogwood
Red-Osier Dogwood
Common Elderberry
Beaked Hazel
Nannyberry
Eastern Ninebark
Downy Serviceberry
Staghorn Sumac
Witch-hazel

NATIVE FLOWERS

Black-Eyed Susan
Butterfly Milkweed
Lance-leaved Coreopsis
Wild Bergamot
Wild Columbine

Ask your landscaper or local building centre about using permeable surfaces like interlocking brick to let rain soak into the ground instead of asphalt or concrete for driveways or patios to help put less stress on natural areas

Your yard can make a meaningful contribution to local natural features and beneficial wildlife.



LEGEND

- Natural Heritage System
- Storm Water Facilities

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN

Not to Scale . Final Layout Subject to Change

WHAT IS A NATURAL AREA?

The natural area in the central part of this subdivision was protected from development due to the significance of wetland features in Oxford County. A young forest and wetlands are located within this preserved block and additional buffer lands have been added to the natural area to reduce the impacts of the adjacent development.

Preservation of this natural area allows residents to enjoy the variety of plants and beneficial wildlife such as birds. The area will change through the seasons and over time as native wildflowers bloom and trees leaves change colour and vegetation matures. This will enhance the outdoor experience since every observation offers a new opportunity to experience these

developing ecosystems.

The natural area is under the ownership of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock and maintenance will be limited to ensuring the area remains naturalized and continues to contribute to the local natural heritage system. Periodic tree removals and pruning may occur to reduce risk to residents as needed; however, intensive management such as mowing will not occur.

Please enjoy the natural area and help with its stewardship by keeping garbage and pets out, not interfering with the vegetation or wildlife, and encouraging your neighbours to respect the preserved space.

The Township will manage natural areas by:

- Assisting natural processes such as:
- Removing hazardous trees and limbs for safety
- Allowing natural loss and growth of trees and shrubs
- Not mowing or spraying for weeds or insects

HEALTHY NATURAL AREAS

- Increase property value
- Filter the air we breathe
- Clean the water we drink
- Provide animal habitat
- Beautify the community
- Have a calming effect
- Improve quality of life

