

Agenda

Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

March 6, 2024, 4:30 PM

Committee Room #1

The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run).

We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

The City of London is committed to making every effort to provide alternate formats and communication supports for meetings upon request. To make a request specific to this meeting, please contact advisorycommittee@london.ca.

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest	
2. Scheduled Items	
3. Consent	
3.1 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee	2
4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups	
4.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group update	
5. Items for Discussion	
5.1 Printing Yard Signs for Naturalization	4
5.2 Earth Fest – Saturday, April 20, 2024	
5.3 Tree Protection By-law	5
6. Adjournment	

Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

Report

3rd Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee
February 7, 2024

Attendance B. Samuels (Chair), B. Amendola, R. Duvernoy, A. Ford, M. Griffith, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, C. Hunsberger, N. Serour and L. Vuong and H. Lysynski (Clerk)

ABSENT: I. ElGhamrawy and A. Pert

ALSO PRESENT: J. Stanford and M. Szarka

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM; it being noted that B. Amendola, R. Duvernoy, A. Ford, M. Griffith, A. Hames, C. Hunsberger, N. Serour and L. Vuong were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

That the election of Vice Chair BE POSTPONED until the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee vacancies have been filled.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 3, 2024, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution – 1st and 2nd Reports of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 23, 2024, with respect to the 1st and 2nd Reports of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, was received.

3.3 2023 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update Report

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion and received the staff report dated January 16, 2024 entitled "2023 Climate Emergency Action Plan Update Report".

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Draft Work Plan 2024

That the draft 2024 Environmental Stewardship and Action Plan
Community Advisory Committee Work Plan BE ADOPTED.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 (ADDED) Planting Under or Around Powerlines and Electrical Equipment

That the "Planning Under or Around Powerlines and Electrical Equipment"
BE INCLUDED as a resource document to assist with tree planting as
proposed in the draft 2024 Work Plan.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Proposal: Printing signs for naturalized yards
February 27, 2024

Background:

In August 2023, ESACAC submitted recommendations for the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law to be reviewed for clarifying the rules for naturalization. Council then passed a motion requesting that staff develop public education materials to support by-law enforcement, including information for recipients of by-law orders and prospective complainants. In January 2024, ESACAC submitted recommendations for public education materials, including a new webpage and content for an information pamphlet. In February, the Community and Protective Services Committee adopted changes to the by-law in alignment with staff recommendations. The updated by-law will be voted on by Council on March 5.

A key component of the transition to greater acceptance of naturalized yards is supporting Londoners to prevent conflicts with neighbours. It is generally recommended to communicate where landscaping is intentional, to help distinguish naturalized yards from neglected ones. Installing an information sign is a simple way to communicate the functions of and desire for a naturalized yard.

To encourage more Londoners to take up naturalization projects on private land, **ESACAC proposes to use up to \$1,000 of the committee’s annual budget towards printing yard signs that can be distributed in the community at no cost to residents.** The signs could be printed on white corrugated plastic, similar to existing signs that the City distributes for residential rain garden projects (see below). It is recommended these new signs should be printed as soon as possible, ahead of the upcoming growing season.

ESACAC proposes the following language for the signs, with the web link made to align with the City’s communications about naturalization and the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law moving forward.

Nature lives here

This area is maintained as wildlife habitat with plants providing community benefits.

[London.ca/neighbourhood-greening](https://london.ca/neighbourhood-greening)



Proposed language for new sign

Existing rain garden sign

To: Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

From: Sandy Levin, Chair, Ecological Community Advisory Committee Chair

At a recent meeting of our committee, we briefly discussed the [Tree Protection By-Law](#). Staff indicated that the matters discussed should be referred to your committee for consideration. I am raising them directly with you through your Chair.

This document has two parts, describing two related issues:

1. Violations of the by law that occur without consequence (i.e., lack of enforcement)
2. Discrepancies between the map schedules referenced in the by law, and the London Plan

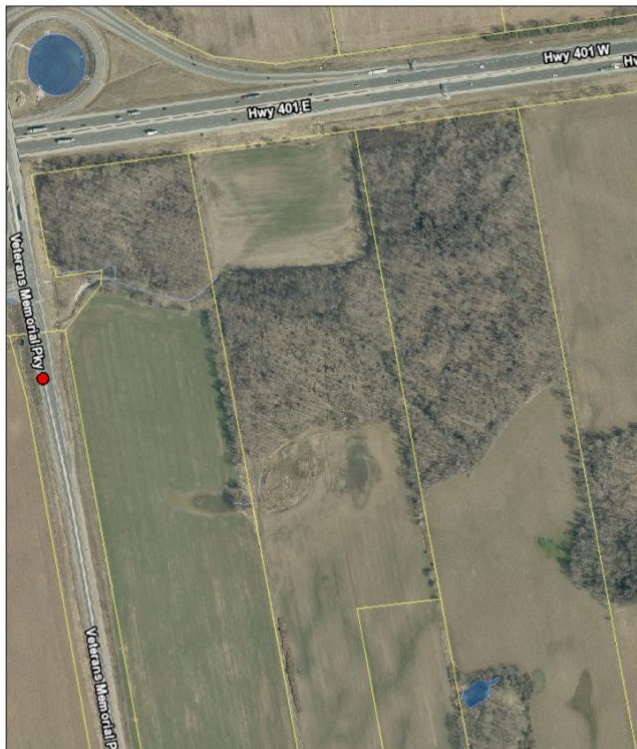
It is hoped that your committee will review these matters and make recommendations.

PART 1 – VIOLATION OF BY LAW

The Significant Woodland located at approximately 42.941566, -81.121247 (southeast of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Highway 401) was cut between 2022 and 2023 without a permit. Apparently the by law does not provide the City with the ability to enforce this unauthorized cutting. What changes are required so that enforcement can take place when cutting is detected? The current practice has a timing window for receiving complaints (21 days after a by-law violation) that seems too short for effective enforcement. It can be difficult to detect violations in a timely manner. In this example, it appears the violation was hidden behind a row of trees left on the west side of the property and by only "coring" the section to the east. Therefore, there may be a gap in the ability of the bylaw to deter violators.

Image from 2022

London City Map



2024-02-21, 4:46:43 p.m.

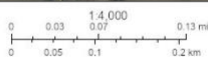
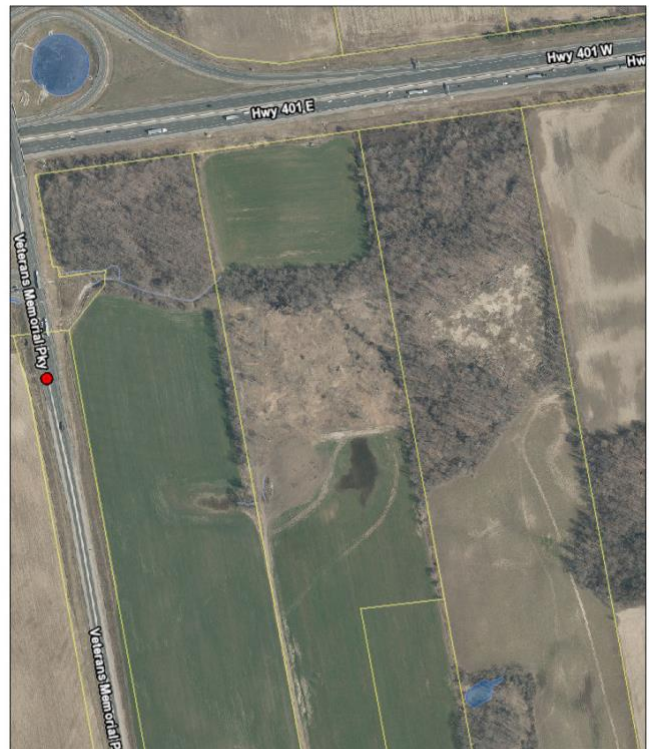
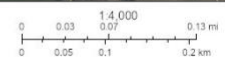


Image from 2023

London City Map



2024-02-21, 4:47:57 p.m.



The area shown in the dotted circle below is where trees have been removed from a designated Tree Protection Area according to the [Key Map for Section B-16](#) under Schedule B of the Tree Protection By-law.



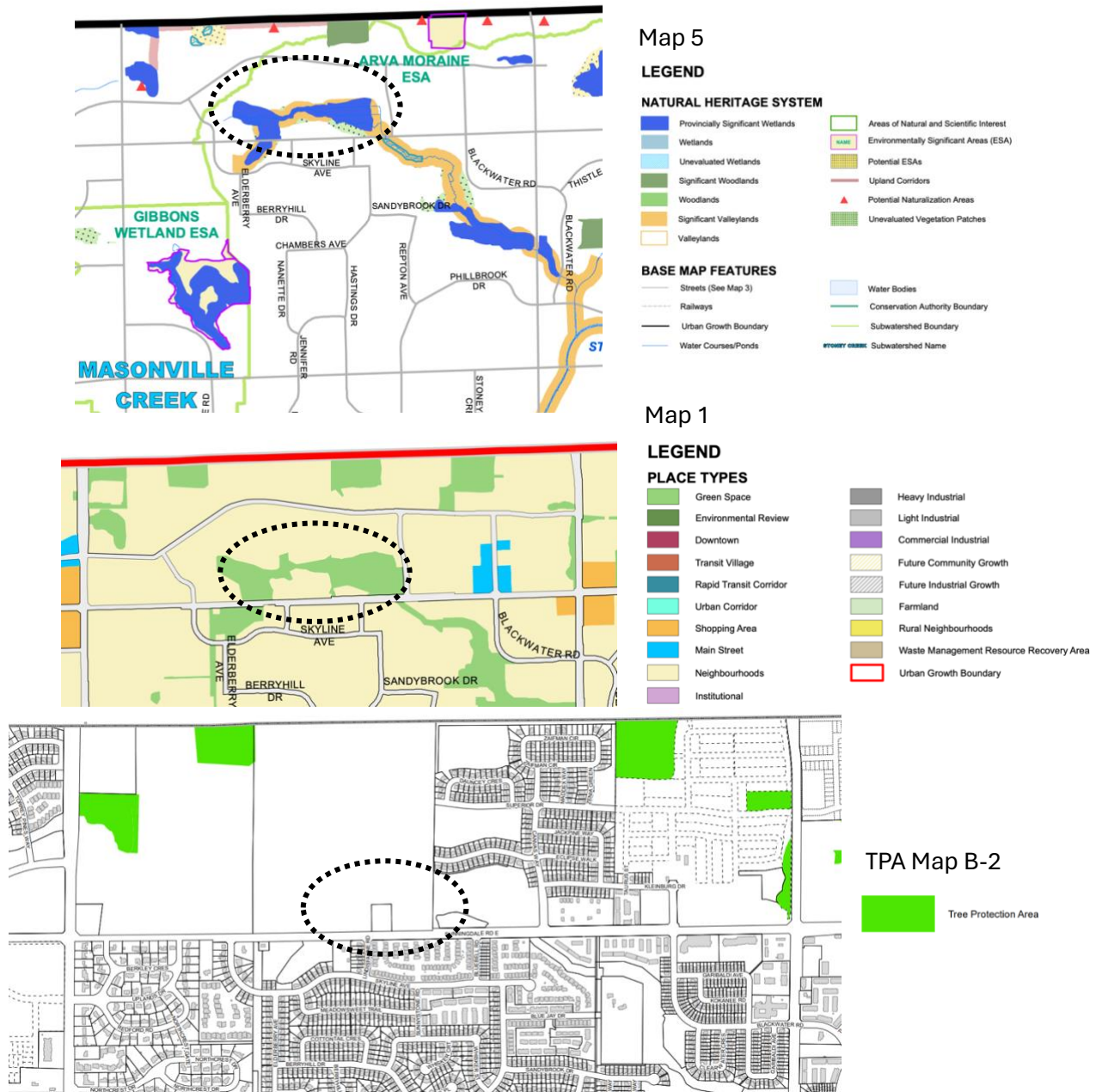
Questions for staff:

1. Why wasn't the Tree Protection By-law enforced in this case?
2. Why are only 21 days following a by-law violation allowed for complaints to be submitted?

PART 2 – MAPPING INCONSISTENCIES

Map 5 of the London Plan shows the Natural Heritage System. It would be expected that all parts of the Natural Heritage System shown on Map 1 (Place Types) and Map 5 would be included in maps of Tree Protection Areas. The following is an example of where that is not the case. It is suspected that there are other such examples across the City.

A wetland north of Skyline Avenue is marked in the dotted circle. It appears in Map 5 and Map 1 but it does not appear on the Tree Protection Area [Key Map for section B-2](#).



Questions for staff:

1. Why are there discrepancies between the Tree Protection Area and Map 5 and Map 1 of the London Plan? How can these discrepancies be identified and corrected?