

# Agenda

## Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

5th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

April 3, 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](mailto:advisorycommittee@london.ca).

	Pages
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest	
<b>2. Scheduled Items</b>	
<b>3. Consent</b>	
3.1 4th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee	2
<b>4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups</b>	
<b>5. Items for Discussion</b>	
5.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group update	
5.2 Urban Agriculture	4
5.3 Business Licensing By-law	7
<b>6. Adjournment</b>	

# Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

## Report

4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee  
March 6, 2024

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

ABSENT: C. Mettler and L. Vuong

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor J. Pribil; M. Fabro, W. Jeffery, S. Rowland, J. Stanford, M. Szarka and P. Yeoman

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

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### 2. Scheduled Items

None.

### 3. Consent

#### 3.1 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 7, 2024, was received.

### 4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

#### 4.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group update

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to the next steps for developing climate focused communications related to the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Working Group proposed actions; it being noted that the CEAP Working Group will contact Corporate Communications for assistance.

### 5. Items for Discussion

#### 5.1 Printing Yard Signs for Naturalization

That the expenditure of \$1,000 from the 2024 Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee Budget BE ALLOCATED to printing the attached yard signs for naturalized lawns.

5.2 Earth Fest – Saturday, April 20, 2024

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to Earth Fest; it being noted that the Civic Administration will review the possibility of having onsite representation to address naturalization and to respond to the community's questions.

5.3 Tree Protection By-law

That the following actions be taken with respect to the City of London Tree Protection By-law:

- a) the Civic Administration BE ASKED to review opportunities to enforce the Tree By-law within the *Provincial Offenses Act* window of enforcement; and,
- b) this matter BE INCLUDED on the Civic Works Deferred List.

**6. Additional Business**

6.1 Future Agenda Items

That the Committee Clerk BE REQUESTED to add the following matters to future Agendas:

- a) the Tree Protection By-law related to aerial mapping; and,
- b) Neighbourhood Decision Making Grants related to climate related projects; it being noted that a Sub-Committee consisting of B. Samuels, A. Hames and M.A. Hodge was created to discuss these matters.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

# Community Inquiry About City of London Food Security Team and Urban Agriculture Strategy

Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee | April 3, 2024

## Executive Summary

ESACAC engaged with community members searching for current information about urban agriculture from the City of London. This report includes questions from the community and a synthesis of relevant background information.

### Questions for City staff:

1. Which staff are currently involved with the City of London Food Security Team?
2. How can the Food Security Team be contacted for community engagement?
3. When will the next report on the Urban Agriculture Strategy be presented to Council, if at all?
4. What is the status of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee?
5. Should agenda items related to agriculture and community food security be addressed to the [Planning Community Advisory Committee](#) reporting to the Planning and Environment Committee? Agriculture is not explicitly listed in [the terms of reference for ESACAC](#) but there are linkages between community food security and climate change adaptation.

## Background

### City organizing

Previously, the City of London had an [Agriculture Advisory Committee](#). When the terms of reference for advisory committees were revised in 2021, some items from the committee's mandate related to agriculture were incorporated into the mandate for the [Planning Community Advisory Committee](#). The Planning Community Advisory Committee reports to the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC).

In November 2017 Council adopted the [London Urban Agriculture Strategy](#). The Strategy identifies five broad categories for actions that support urban agriculture: growing, processing, distribution, food loss and recovery, and education and connection. Under each category, community-identified priorities were described, and a series of actions were identified to achieve these priorities. For each action, roles were identified for each of the partners (Urban Agriculture community, Agencies, and City). This Strategy was intended to be driven by the urban agriculture community with City and agency support.

The Goals of the Strategy are to:

1. Develop a strategy to direct urban agriculture efforts in the City of London;
2. Address all aspects of urban agriculture within the city and present policy and regulation amendments where necessary;
3. Determine the roles and responsibilities of the City and community in the implementation of the strategy;
4. Address gaps that may exist in providing for urban agriculture; and,
5. Outline criteria for pilot site selection and/or urban agriculture projects.

In the following years, community gardens have been one of the focal areas of the Strategy that have led to successes. There have also been by-law changes consistent with goals of the Strategy. These include allowing more frequent "garage sales", which allow for residentially grown produce to be sold, as well as allowing for farm gate sales on non-agricultural designated land. The City has participated in various food security projects, such as approving the creation of a Food Hub in Cavendish Park. However, overall, actions taken directly under the Strategy have been described by some participants in the community as "far and few in between".

The City previously engaged with an Urban Agriculture Steering Committee consisting of community members. A summary of activities by this committee in 2019 is provided in an [April 2020 staff report to the Planning and Environment Committee](#). The last known task for the committee in 2020 was to compile an [update](#) for City Council. It is believed that this Steering Committee is no longer active; its future is unclear.

The City formed a Food Security Team in 2020 consisting of staff representatives from different divisions. This Team is briefly mentioned on page 38 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan support document [Overview of City Plans and Strategies that Support Climate Action](#). The status and membership of the Food Security Team is unknown; no information about the Team could be found on the City's website.

In June 2021, John Fleming from the Human Environments Analysis Lab (HEAL) at Western presented a report to the City titled [Making Urban Agriculture Easy](#). The report provides a summary of barriers as well as recommendations for creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment for urban agriculture.

In November 2021, [a staff report was presented to the Planning and Environment Committee](#) regarding encouraging the growing of food in the urban areas. In December, City Council passed amendments to the London Plan and Zoning By-law focused on the regulations for growing food within the urban growth boundary, the development and use of greenhouses in association with urban agriculture, and shipping containers used to grow food in association with urban agriculture.

There is currently little public information about urban agriculture available on the [City of London website](#). Similarly, there is a lack of public information on what has been done since 2021, and lack of direction on what should be done to further advance the Urban Agriculture Strategy.

Previous urban agriculture contacts at the City included:

- Chuck Parker (since retired)
- Isaac de Ceuster (since transferred)
- Justin Adema in Planning (since reassigned)
- Karen Oldham (since retired) administered the LCRN grant to support multi-phase assessment
- Councillor Hadleigh McAlister, member of the Middlesex London Food Policy Council
- Vanessa Kinsley, Neighbourhood Development including community gardens. According to the Deputy City Manager
- Michelle Dellamora, Manager, Community Initiatives and Plans
- Mike Fabro previously engaged with the Middlesex London Food Policy Council

### **Community organizing**

[The Middlesex London Food Policy Council](#) was formed in 2016 with a purview of London as well as Middlesex County. The Food Policy Council was unofficially involved with the development of the City's Urban Agricultural Strategy.

In recent years, the Food Policy Council has focussed on the [multi-phase assessment of community food security](#) facilitated by a London Community Recovery Network grant from the City of London. The assessment involves research on sustainable food systems and community food systems. The Food Policy Council maintains a [Local Food Directory](#) resource that could be made more robust with support from the City. [Phase 3](#) was completed in November 2023 and involved an environmental scan of municipal food system policies and practices. Next steps for the Food Policy Council include analyzing the results of the multi-phase assessment of community food security, producing recommendations and identifying action items. The Food Policy Council is interested in presenting the outcomes of the multi-phase assessment to the City, but they are unsure who at the City to contact about this.

One theme that emerged from Phase 3 of the assessment is the need for a staff member or team from the municipal government to be continuously responsible for food. The current lack of clarity on this front

in London is creating hesitancy and slowing much-needed action in the community. For example, when it comes to seeking information about agriculture-related requests, such as for building greenhouses, accessing land for growing food or changes to zoning, there is limited understanding in the community of who at the City should be contacted for support. Well-established groups like Urban Roots with a network of volunteers have an easier time navigating the City while smaller or newer groups may face barriers. A thriving local food system requires dedicated facilitation that doesn't fall to patchwork volunteer efforts.

Under the current severe economic conditions, there are concerns from the community about the sustainability of existing urban agriculture initiatives. According to the [Middlesex London Health Unit](#), as of 2023 roughly 1 in 6 households in Middlesex-London faces food insecurity. Food security should also be considered in terms of emergency preparedness; local food supply is an important emergency preparedness strategy in the face of current supply chain instability. For instance, it has been estimated that in the event of a border closure (for whatever reason) we have approximately 8 days of food supply.

### **Potential Recommendations**

1. Community food security and the Urban Agriculture Strategy should be included in the next version of the Terms of Reference for ESACAC, given linkages to climate change adaptation. This recommendation could be forwarded to the Governance Working Group that will be reviewing advisory committees soon.
2. Request an update on the Urban Agriculture Strategy from the City.
3. Determine the appropriate staff person and department to assume responsibility for Urban Agriculture Strategy and food security.
4. Dedicate a City of London website page to the Urban Agriculture Strategy and related resources.

### **References**

Background and food security map

[https://www.londonenvironment.net/urban\\_agriculture](https://www.londonenvironment.net/urban_agriculture)

Middlesex London Food Policy Council Community Food Assessment

<https://mlfpc.ca/resources/2022-community-food-security/>

London Urban Agricultural Strategy (2017)

<https://assets.nationbuilder.com/londonenvironmentalnetwork/pages/1364/attachments/original/1606510759/2017-Nov-UAS-Final.pdf?1606510759>

City of London Community Garden Annual Report (2023)

<https://london.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/Community%20Garden%20Report%202023%20Jan%2011.pdf>

### **Who is being consulted?**

Susan Smith, Ellen Lakusiak, Jess Cordes from Middlesex London Food Policy Council.

Richard Bloomfield from Urban Roots/Western University.

City Councillor Skylar Franke

## Inquiry about Business Licensing By-law

Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee | April 3, 2024

### Background

ESACAC's mandate includes the development and monitoring of London's Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan and a resource for other related policies and strategies; the maximization of the retention of trees and natural areas; and other aspects of environmental concerns as may be suggested by the Municipal Council, its other Committees, or the Civic Administration. The following questions are regarding an item included in the 2024 work plan for ESACAC that was received by Council in February: *"targeted public education at points of sale about preventing spread of invasive species."*

The sale of fireworks in London is a relevant example. Fireworks business licensing is subject to certain conditions under the [Business Licensing By-law](#). The March 18, 2024 [report to the Community and Protective Services Committee](#) included a recommendation to amend the Business Licensing By-law L.-131-16 by adding the new schedule 20 "Consumer Fireworks Sales Business". Under the new schedule, section 2.0 Powers of Licence Manager includes: *2.1 Prescribing the manner, form, and content of information regarding the regulations of the Fireworks By-law including public safety information as outlined in the **consumer information requirements** of this Schedule.* (bold emphasis added)

Section 3.0 Prohibitions includes: *3.4 No person shall possess for the purpose of sale, offer for sale, cause, or permit to be sold, or sell Consumer Fireworks to any person without providing consumer information regarding the Fireworks By-law and any associated public safety information in the form and content prescribed by the Licence Manager.*

The Business Licensing By-law schedule 14 applies to licensing of Pet Shops. Similar to the fireworks licensing, under schedule 14, section 2.0 Powers of the License Manager includes *(d) prescribing the information that a Pet Shop licence holder is required under section 4.6 to provide to a person who purchases, acquires or obtains an animal from the Pet Shop licence holder.*

Schedule 14 section 4.0 Regulations includes: *4.6 Every Pet Shop licence holder shall provide to a person who purchases or acquires an animal from them all of the information about the animal as prescribed by the Licence Manager.*

Goldfish are [a problematic invasive species](#) causing harm in London's natural heritage system. The City of London currently provides a print brochure related to dumping of pet goldfish (see Appendix) with information intended for consumers to consider prior to making a purchase. However, this brochure is not made available to consumers at many pet stores in the City that sell goldfish. Correspondence with some franchised pet stores found they are unwilling to voluntarily provide consumer information from the City.

### Questions for staff:

1. Where can the public access public safety information about consumer fireworks as outlined in the consumer information requirements? (per the Business Licensing By-law, draft schedule 20, section 2.1) Is this information posted on the City of London website?
2. How do license holders acquire printed materials related to the consumer information requirements? (e.g., are print copies provided by the City or do license holders print their own?)
3. What kinds of consumer information about purchasing animals is already encompassed by the Business Licensing By-law Schedule 14 Regulation 4.6 – *"all of the information about the animal as prescribed by the License Manager"*?
4. Could a similar requirement for providing consumer information about goldfish, such as the existing City of London goldfish pamphlet, be incorporated into requirements for Pet Shop license holders per schedule 14, regulation 4.6?



## Appendix

### City of London goldfish brochure

#### What's the problem?

You may bring a Goldfish into your home with the best intentions and then find yourself in the future with a need to find somewhere else for it to live. Goldfish are an invasive species, and bring with them a variety of problems:

- can grow to be 30-35 cm (12-14 in) and weigh several pounds
- can live for 30-40 years
- are messy and should not be kept in small containers
- need large containers as adults with water filtration, oxygen circulation and regular water changes.



#### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** I don't want to, or can't, take care of my Goldfish anymore. Can I just flush or release it outside?

**A:** Pet fish (alive or dead) should never be released outside or flushed down the drain. Released fish can become invasive and/or transmit diseases. Dead fish can also transmit diseases to wild fish. Live fish may survive being flushed and end up in the wild.

**Q:** What should I do instead?

**A:** To find a new home for live fish, submit a classified ad or post on social media, offer your fish to a local school, look for a rescue, or ask pet stores if they will take it.

**Q:** Where can I find more information?

Learn more at these websites:  
[www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/goldfish](http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/goldfish)  
[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)



#### Protecting our waterways

The problem with Goldfish – what you should know about this invasive species

Prepared by the City of London  
Ecological Community  
Advisory Committee

[london.ca](http://london.ca)



#### Why are Goldfish considered an invasive species?

Goldfish are from East Asia and do not belong in nature in North America

#### Dumping Goldfish creates a bigger problem

**Dumped or flushed Goldfish harm native species by:**

- growing and multiplying quickly
- eating other fish species' eggs and young
- eating plants and animals native species feed on
- stirring up mud, causing cloudy water that disturbs native fish and destroys their habitat.

#### Infestation: a growing problem

Goldfish infestations currently occur in London in the Thames River, Westminster Ponds, Sifton Bog, The Coves and other waterways.

#### Before you buy, consider alternatives to Goldfish

Other types of fish or amphibians are easier to keep as aquarium pets:



##### Betta fish

- Live 2-5 years
- Remain small, low-mess
- Solitary (easier to keep alone)



##### Freshwater tropical fish like Guppy, Danio, Tetra, Platy

- Live 1-5 years
- Most remain small in size
- Thrive in most water conditions
- May require a water heater
- Social (best kept in groups)



##### African dwarf frogs

- Live up to 5 years
- Remain small
- Breathe air from water's surface
- Social (best kept in groups)

Before you get a Goldfish - Prepared by the City of London Ecological Community Advisory Committee