

From: Pavlina Faltynek
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Review of Yard Naturalization Bylaw

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of reviewing the by-law which regulates and defines the naturalization of yards in London.

My name is Pavlina Faltynek, and in addition to being a homeowner in the city of London for many years, I also earned my Masters degree from Western University at the Advanced Facility for Avian Research where I learned the importance of supporting pollinators early on in my career.

First, I understand that London is currently facing several pressing social/health issues which are very important to the community. While I agree that these issues are a priority and demand Council's attention, I hope Council will find the capacity to address other issues here and there which are also of great benefit to the community and the environment.

I've lived in the Forest City all of my life, and over the last 10 years I have seen our green spaces, biodiversity, and community engagement with nature dwindle. Naturalized yards support the biodiversity of insects, birds, and other animals, improve drainage during the more severe rain storms we've had in recent years, reduce the need for toxic pesticide use, and are also an excellent educational tool to teach others about the importance of biodiversity and pollinators.

Many other countries (such as the UK) have left the ultra manicured golf green lawns behind in favor of naturalized yards which are healthier for the environment and also more esthetically pleasing.

I urge council to review the bylaw which defines and regulates naturalized lawns in London, allowing for naturalized lawns without legal exemption (with reasonable maintenance required). Let us be the Forest City again, let us set a precedent with our environmental policies, such as the forthcoming green bin program, to lead other municipalities by example when it comes to integrating environmental considerations into our policies and daily lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pavlina Faltynek