

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