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Planner: L. MCDUGALL

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 19, 2015
FROM:	J. M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER
SUBJECT:	FUNDING AGREEMENT with the NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION for IMPLEMENTATION of THE COVES ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, the attached proposed by-law **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting on January 27, 2015 to:

- a) approve the Agreement, attached as Schedule "A" to the by-law, between The Corporation of the City of London and the National Trails Coalition, to fund the implementation of trails in the Coves Environmentally Significant Area, in the City of London, in a form acceptable to the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner and City Solicitor; and;
- b) authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Agreement approved in a), above.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

November 4, 2014 – Coves ESA Conservation Master Plan

BACKGROUND

The Coves Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) is an important natural area within the City of London for which a Conservation Master Plan (CMP) has been developed through an ongoing public engagement process and adopted by Council in 2014. The CMP process is undertaken in two phases. Phase I of the CMP provides a detailed life science inventory sufficient to formalize and refine the ESA boundaries, and define management zones consistent with the Planning and Design Standards for Trails in ESAs. The Coves ESA CMP 2014, Phase II identifies appropriate locations for sustainable trails, kiosk signage, boardwalks and a canoe launch along with recommendations for management to protect and enhance the ecological integrity of the Coves ESA to sustain the diversity of native plants, animals and habitats present.

In August 2014 the City applied for funding, and in October 2014 the NTC/EAP approved the City of London's grant application for up to \$45,000 in funding for the Coves ESA, East Pond project.

This grant from the National Trails Coalition (NTC), a key component of Canada's Economic Action Plan (EAP), will enable the completion of the East Pond portion of the plan which was identified as a high priority in the Coves ESA CMP as it will lead to the creation of a vastly improved, urban, environmentally significant area that protects biodiversity and provides trail connections.

Coves ESA Trail Management Area – The East Pond Key Trail Management Actions

- install boardwalk, establish a canoe launch
- establish parking area at access point with signage recognizing EAP/NTC
- install kiosk signage at access point showing trail locations & recognizing EAP/NTC
- improve trail surfaces for public use, restore natural vegetation
- create overlook at Sycamore tree

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Coves ESA CMP, Trail Management Area - East Pond

NEXT STEPS

We welcome the opportunity to partner with the National Trails Coalition (NTC) and continue our partnerships with the Friends of the Coves, and The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to assist the City in the implementation and management of the trails proposed in the 2014 Coves ESA CMP for the long term, including the East Pond connection as a priority project. Implementation of the East Pond project will commence in early 2015 with input from the community through the Coves ESA CMP Implementation Committee. Substantial completion of the East Pond project will wrap up in late 2015 in accordance with the terms of the agreement with NTC, and consistent with the CMP.

The publically-owned Coves ESA lands will be managed by the UTRCA under contract with the City beginning in early 2015. The Coves ESA has been adopted through the City's Adopt an ESA program by the Friends of the Coves who have agreed to assist with ongoing stewardship. There are funds identified in the City's capital budget forecast for ESA Management in 2015, 2016 and 2017 to begin work on high priority implementation and management items such as the East Pond in 2015.

PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
L. MCDUGALL ECOLOGIST, MES, OALA, RPP ENVIRONMENTAL & PARKS PLANNING	A. MACPHERSON, OALA MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL & PARKS PLANNING
RECOMMENDED BY:	
JOHN M. FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER	

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Appendix A – By-law and Agreement

Bill No.
2015

By-law No.

A By-law to approve an Agreement between the Corporation of The City of London and the National Trails Coalition; and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

WHEREAS section 5(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001 c.25, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS section 9 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purposes of exercising its authority under this or any other Act;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for the Corporation of The City of London (the “City”) to enter into a funding Agreement with the National Trails Coalition, for funding for recreational trails within The City of London (the “Agreement”);

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of the Corporation of The City of London enacts as follows:

1. The Agreement attached as Schedule “A” to this By-law, being the Agreement between the Corporation of The City of London and the National Trails Coalition is hereby AUTHORIZED AND APPROVED.
2. The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the Agreement authorized and approved under section 1 of this by-law.
3. This By-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on January 27, 2015.

Matt Brown
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading – January 27, 2015
Second Reading – January 27, 2015
Third Reading – January 27, 2015

Agenda Item # Page #

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SCHEDULE "A"

NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

(PDF attached)