



## Dog Park Updates

1. Service Dog Accommodation in Off-leash Parks
2. Update on Dingman Off-leash Dog Park
3. Urban Dog Parks Proposal
4. Timed Off-leash Areas in Selected City Parks Proposal
5. Discussion
6. Next Steps



### 1. Service Dog Accommodation in Off-leash Parks

New accessibility requirements came into force on January 1, 2014.

The City's Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) requested that large service dogs be permitted to use the designated small dog sections of the existing off-leash parks.

Future considerations: paved entrance, accessible benches, shaded seating.

## Small Dogs Corner

Area for dogs under 10 kg (22 lbs.), dogs with disabilities and service dogs





## 2. Update on Dingman Off-Leash Dog Park

Contractors were unable to get equipment onto site due to wet conditions.

The projected costs for drainage works extended well beyond the allocated project funds.

The site was abandon as a dog off-leash park.



## 2. Potential LHSC Lands - Off-Leash Dog Park

Site was identified as a preferred site in previous analysis.

LHSC to advise by March 2015.





### 3. Urban Dog Parks

The City is exploring the option of developing **2 pilot dog off-leash parks** in Downtown London.

Many Londoners are choosing to live downtown, many have dogs and many are choosing not to drive or even own cars.

389 dog license holders live in the urban core but actual number is closer to 710 dogs [assuming 53% registration]



Maple Leaf Gardens – Dog Park Toronto



Lakeshore East Park Urban Dog Park, Chicago, IL



### 3. Urban Dog Parks

Steps toward implementation:

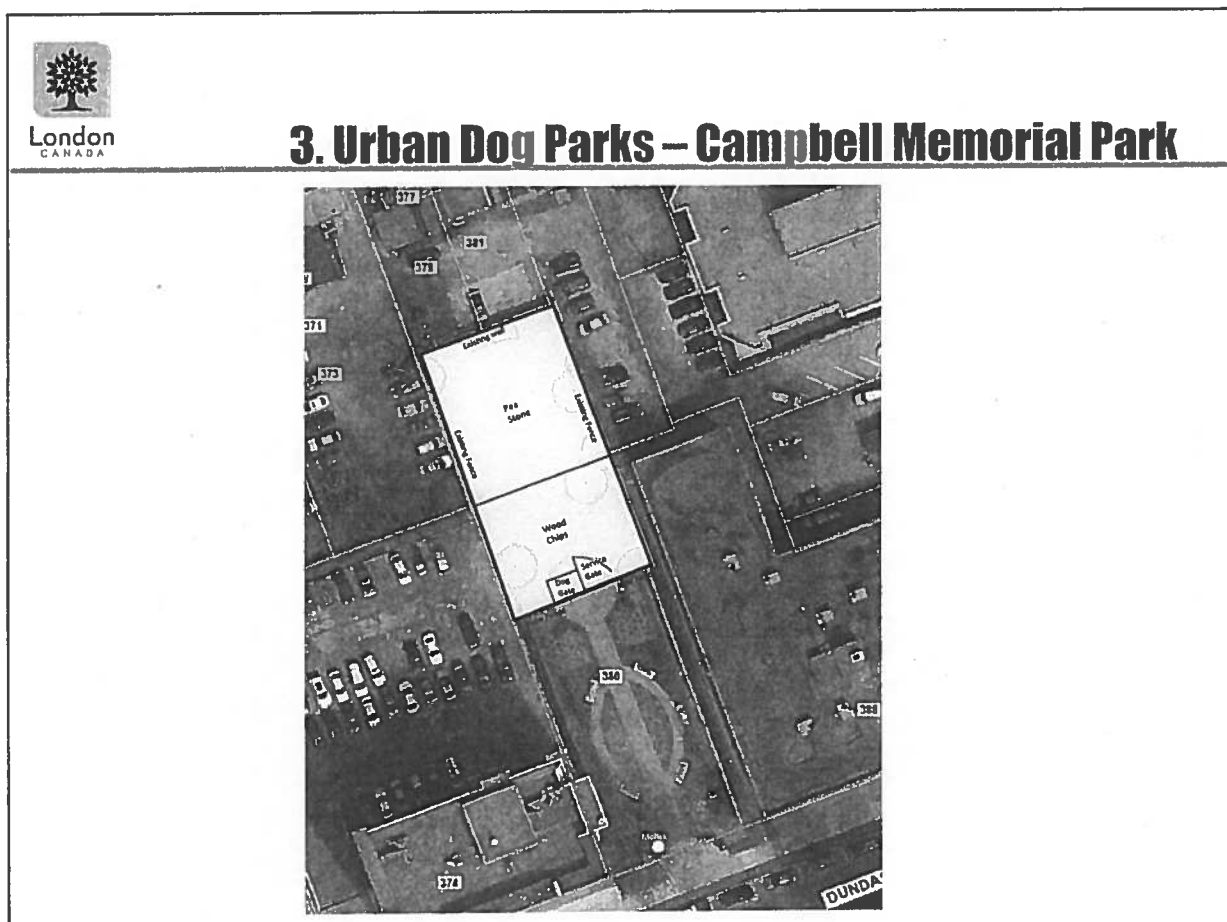
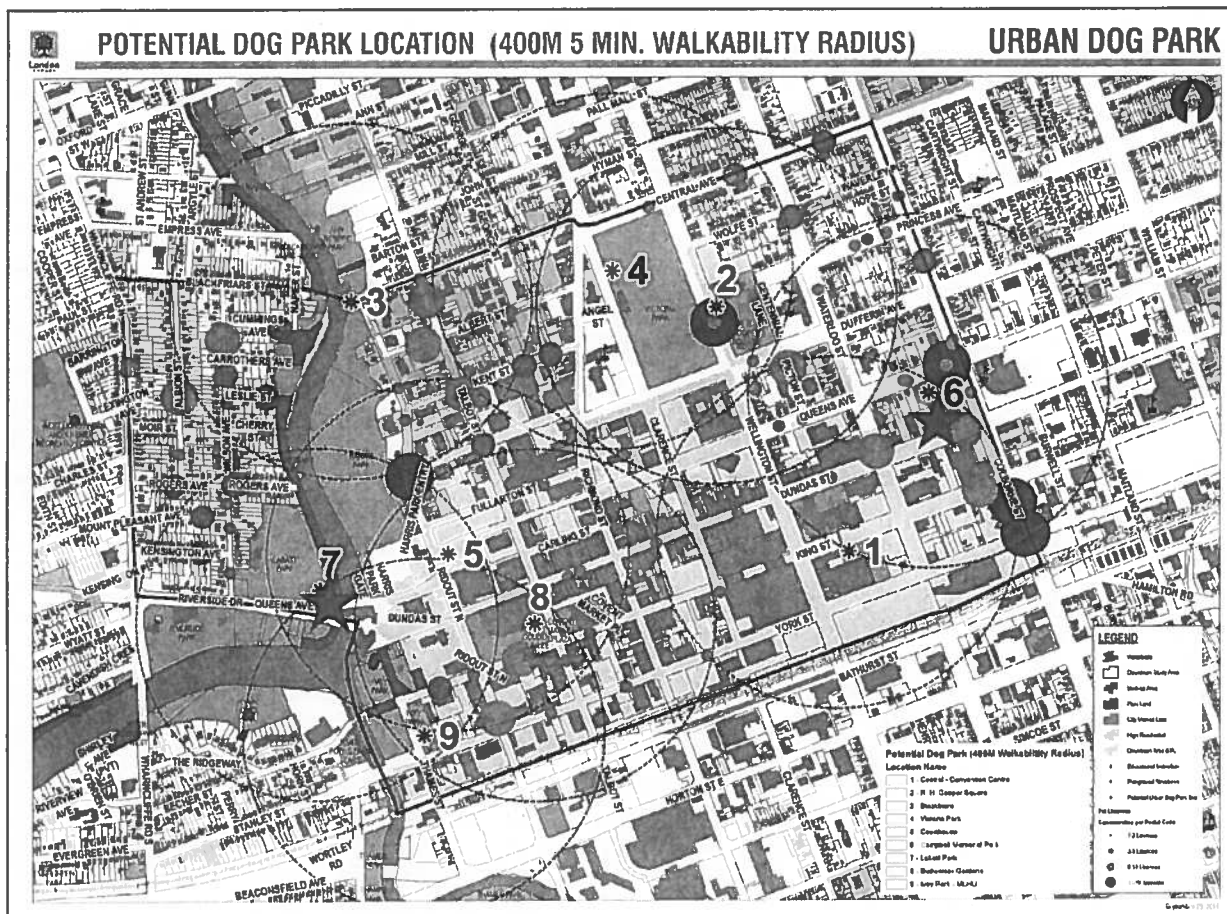
1. Review of precedents in NA Cities
2. Develop Appropriate Site Selection Criteria
  1. 5 min. walk to concentration of dog licenses
  2. City-owned lands
3. Apply Criteria to downtown area
4. Report to AWAC
5. Resolve Operational Issues
6. Finalize Designs
7. Report to Community and Protective Services Committee
8. Public Notification
9. Construction



Morgan Crossing Dog Park, South Surrey, BC

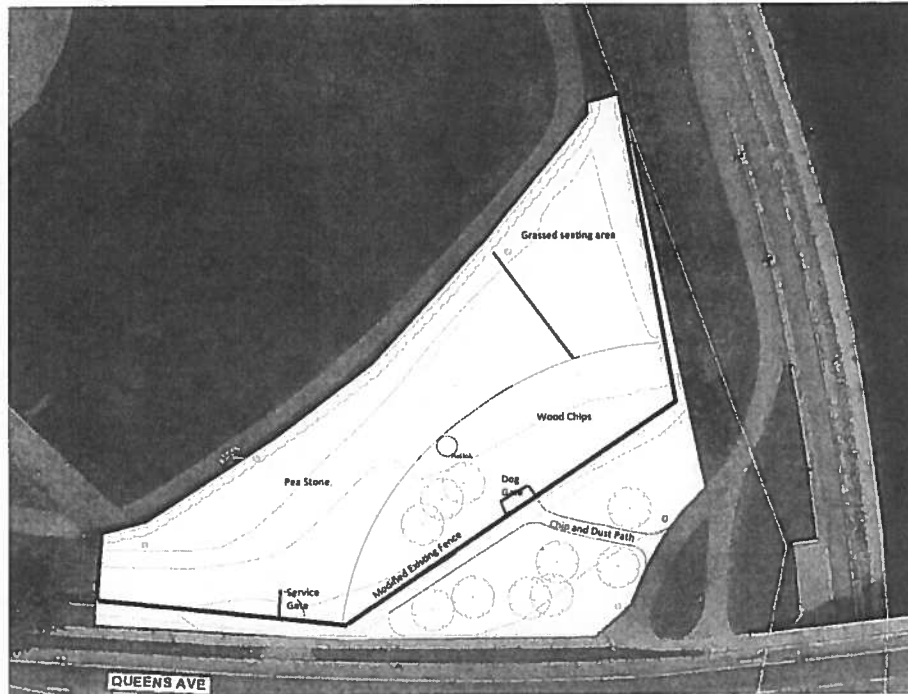


Chelsea Waterside Dog Run Park - NYC





### 3. Urban Dog Parks – Labatt Park



### 4. Timed Off-leash Areas in Selected City Parks

#### Issues to discuss:

1. Review of precedents in other NA Cities
2. Develop Timed Dog Off-Leash Policy
3. Adaptation of existing site selection criteria to timed use
4. Operational Issues:
  1. Garbage
  2. Signage
  3. Enforcement
  4. Other?



## 5. New Funding Source from Dog Licenses

Dog Licensing now provides \$50K per annum towards Off-leash Dog Park development and maintenance.

Holders of pet licenses are issued a Pet Owners Rewards Card that provides discounts to veterinarian services and retail stores in London. For further information, visit <http://www.london.ca/petrewards>



### Licensed to Save: Pet Rewards Program

[A Pet Owners Rewards Card](#)

[Participating Vendors](#)

[Vendor Enrollment](#)



## 6. Discussion + Next Steps

# Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy: Beaver Protocol



# HUMANE URBAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT POLICY: BEAVER PROTOCOL (DRAFT)

February 4, 2015

City of London

Version: 1.0

## Why have a protocol?

To successfully implement the City's Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy, specific protocols are required to address potential human wildlife conflicts. This protocol will ensure that beavers are treated in a respectful and consistent manner, balancing the various needs to protect the beaver and their habitat, the overall environment, City infrastructure, people, and property.



## Needs of the Beaver

Beaver communities require a minimum of 1-1.5 meters of standing water where their lodge is located for protection from predators and to successfully weather the winter months. They also can build secondary downstream dams to create shallower ponds to access new trees for food, as well as for ease and safety of travel. They require access to woody vegetation for building materials and food.

## Primary Goals of the Protocol

The protocol attempts to balance the following goals:

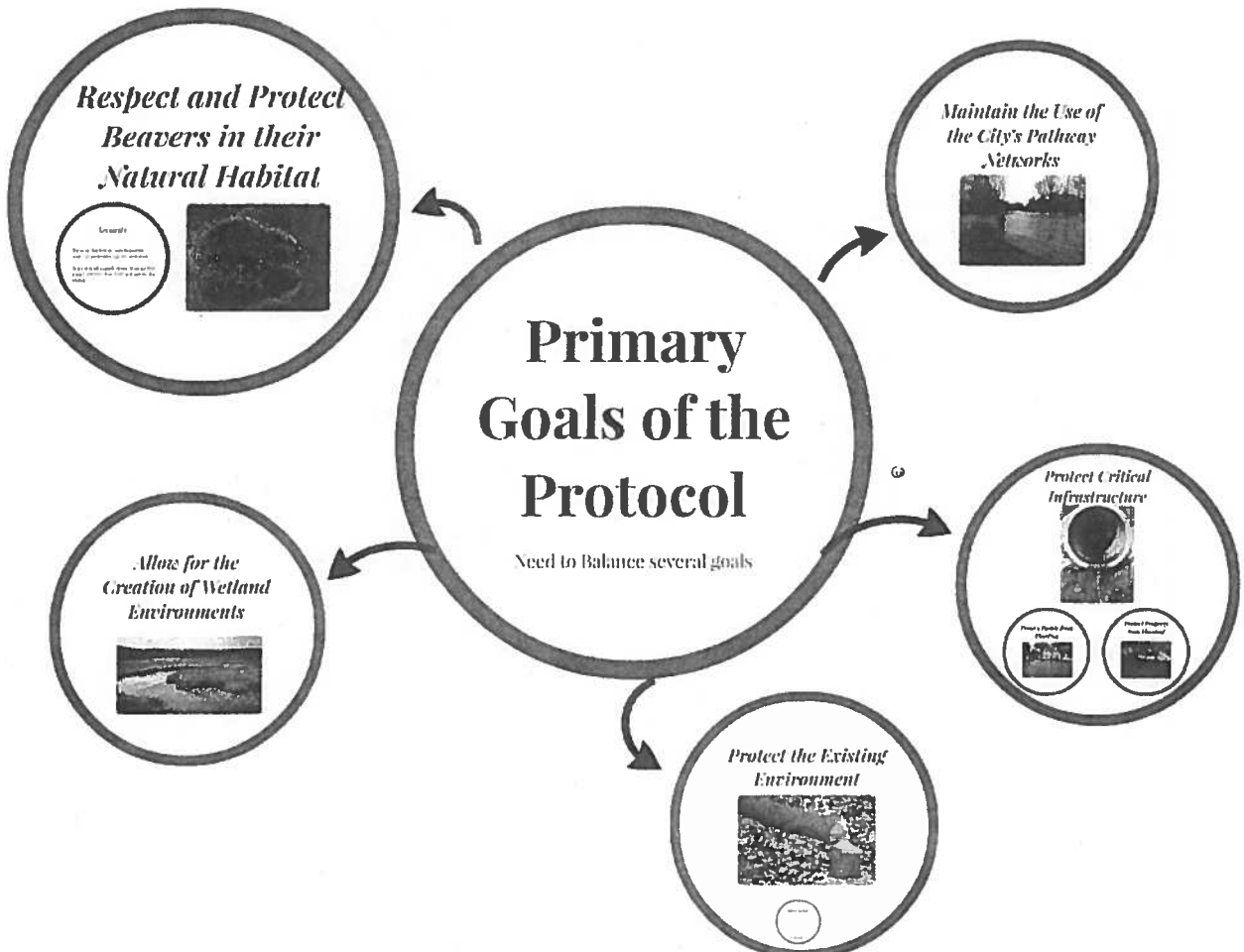
- Respect and protect beavers in their natural habitat;
- Allow for enhancements to biodiversity and the creation of wetland environments;
- Educate the public about the value of beaver created wetlands;
- Protect critical infrastructure;
- Protect people and property from flooding; and
- Maintain the use of the City's pathway and trail networks.

## Governing Principle

Creation of beaver ponds / marshes have many positive ecological benefits, but sometimes negative impacts occur that require intervention. This governing principle of this protocol is to strive to coexist with the beaver community in its existing location whenever possible. Use low impact, non-lethal control methods as first options when any of the primary goals of the protocol are negatively impacted. If all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted for coexistence, relocate the beavers to an appropriate alternative site only under specific circumstances and in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) legislation and the Council's approved Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy.

## Continuous Improvement

The protocol will be reconsidered and brought back to Council by the middle of 2016 following the first year of implementing the protocol. Going forward, any significant changes to the protocol will be reported back to the various stakeholders and Council prior to implementation.





# *Respect and Protect Beavers in their Natural Habitat*

## *Security*

Dams are built by beavers to provide ponds as protection against predators.

Beavers need a depth of one (1) meter year round to access their food and survive the winter.



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Beavers need a depth of one (1) meter year round to access their food and survive the winter.

*Allow for the  
Creation of Wetland  
Environments*



*Protect the Existing  
Environment*



*Species at Risk*



Wavy-rayed Lampmussel

*Protect Critical Infrastructure*



*Protect People from Flooding*



*Protect Property from Flooding*



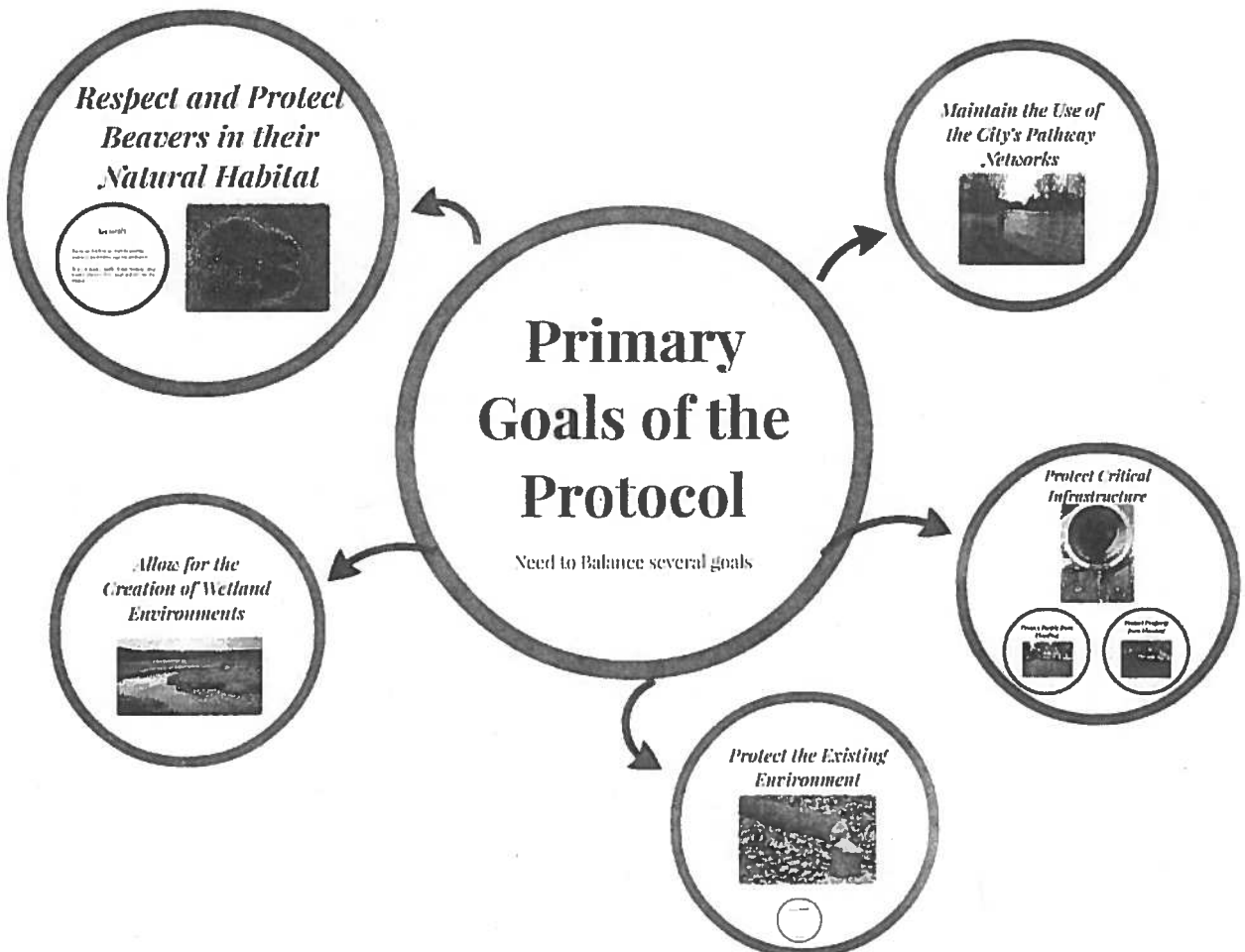
*Protect People from  
Flooding*



*Protect Property  
from Flooding*



# Maintain the Use of the City's Pathway Networks



**Protocol**

If a human-beaver conflict is reported, staff will inspect / assess the conflict situation.

In this situation is there a net negative impact on the "Primary Goals" due to the beaver activity (flooding or tree chewing)?

If No:

No action required – monitor the situation and reassess as needed.

If Yes:

Tree Related Issues:

- 1) Chewed trees to be downed or removed when necessary to resolve issues.
- 2) Protect at risk mature trees nearby from chewing to prevent new issues where feasible.

Flooding Issues:

- 1) Determine if the flooding issue can be resolved with the use of a water control flow device while leaving enough depth for beaver survival.
- 2) Only lower the water enough to resolve the conflict.
- 3) Consider prevention by installing flow devices on nearby at-risk manmade structures such as road culverts.
- 4) Determine the feasibility of relocating the dam materials upstream or downstream within the same general area if it will not create a negative impact to the "Primary Goals". If feasible, move the materials to the preferred location.
- 5) If above interventions are not feasible or successful, relocate the beavers using live trapping and move to an appropriate location at an appropriate time of year and in accordance with MNRF policy and the Council approved Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy.
- 6) If all above management actions fail or are not feasible to implement – address the current conflict as per the Council approved Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy.

**Contacts**

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# The Protocol

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**Yes**

Then action is required.



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### *Tree damage*

- Chewed trees to be downed or removed to resolve issue.
- Protect at risk mature trees nearby from chewing to prevent new issues where feasible.

### *Flooding*

- Use a water flow control device.
- If interventions are not feasible or successful, resettle the beavers using live trapping.





## *Tree damage*

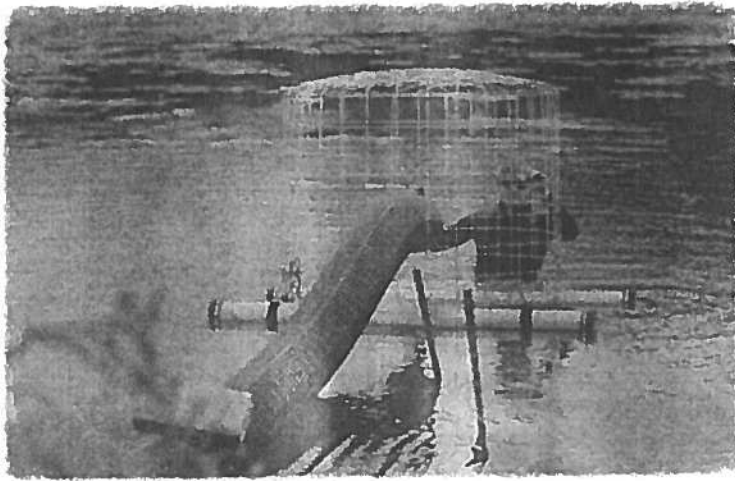
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*Beaver Device Installation*



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**Tree Chewing**

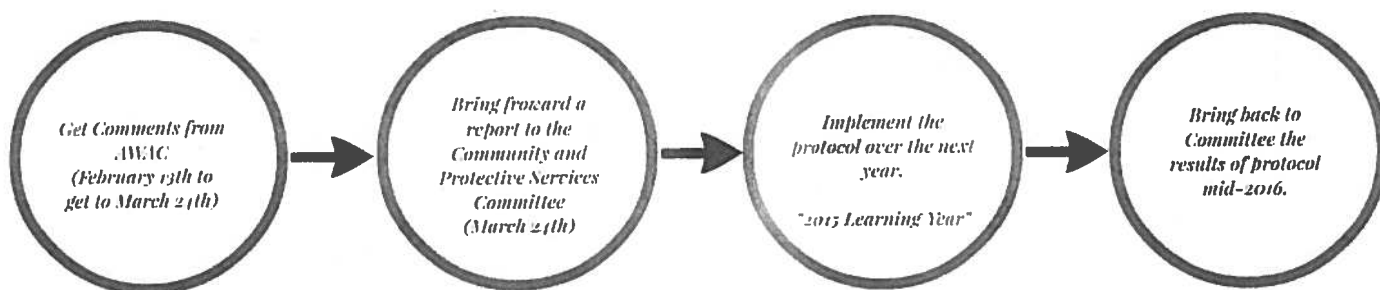
When a tree is chewed, it can be damaged or killed. This can lead to a loss of habitat for the beaver and other animals that rely on the tree for shelter and food.

**Flooding**

Beaver dams can cause flooding, which can damage crops and property. This can also lead to a loss of habitat for the beaver and other animals that rely on the water for shelter and food.



## Next Steps



*Get Comments from  
AWAC  
(February 13th to  
get to March 24th)*

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*Bring forward a  
report to the  
Community and  
Protective Services  
Committee  
(March 24th)*



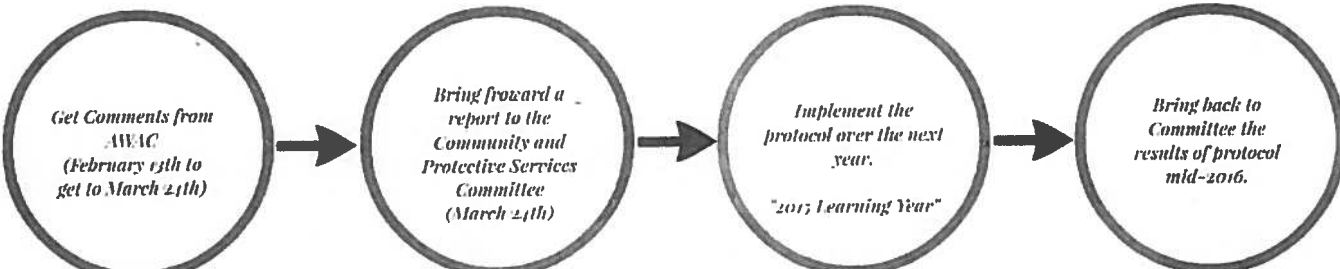
*Implement the  
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*"2015 Learning Year"*



*Bring back to  
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