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Appendix 'A'

HUMANE URBAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT POLICY: BEAVER PROTOCOL

March 10, 2015

City of London

Version: 2.0

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.

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Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy: Beaver Protocol

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 direct action required – monitor the situation, plant fast growing native species of trees to provide food for beavers where applicable, and reassess as needed.

If Yes:

Tree Related Issues:

- 1) Chewed trees to be downed or removed when necessary to resolve issue.
- 2) Protect at risk mature trees nearby from chewing to prevent new issues where feasible.
- 3) Plant fast growing native species of trees to provide food for beavers where needed.

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) In all cases above plant fast growing native species of trees to provide food for beavers at the time the water control device is installed.
- 6) If above interventions are not feasible or successful, resettle the beavers using live trapping and move to an appropriate location at an appropriate time of year and in accordance with MNR policy and the Council approved Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy.
- 7) 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.

New Construction Projects:

- 1) In cases where beaver are in conflict with construction activities, consideration will be given to sensitive timing windows and pre-stressing, employing low impact non-lethal control methods, the specifics of which will be directed by the council approved Humane Wildlife Conflict Policy and will be provided in any related committee report.

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