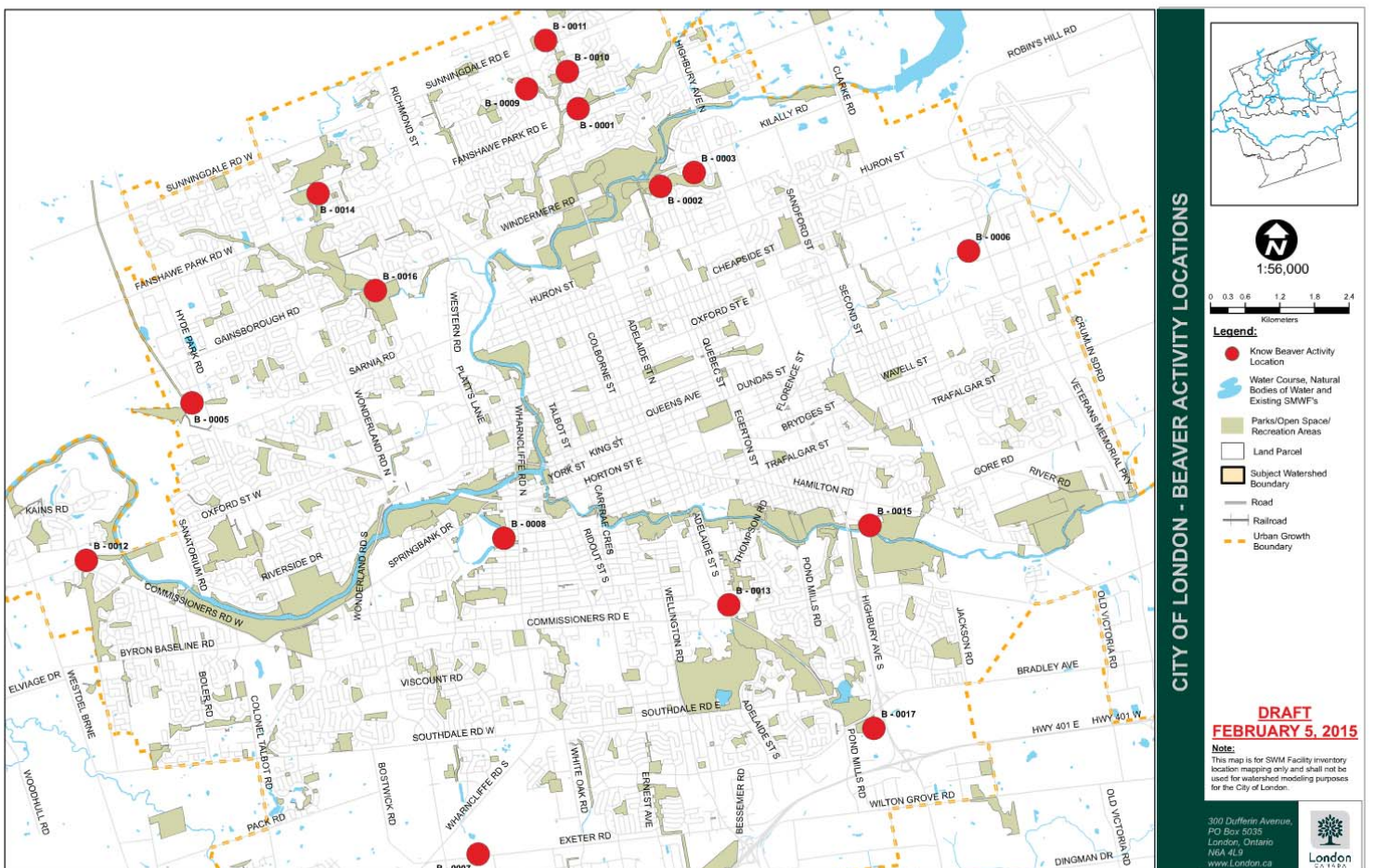# Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy:
Beaver Protocol

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 (MNRF) 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.

Primary Goals of the Protocol

Need to Balance several goals

- Respect and Protect Beavers in their Natural Habitat
- Maintain the Use of the City's Pathway Networks
- Allow for the Creation of Wetland Environments
- Protect Critical Infrastructure
- Protect the Existing Environment

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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Allow for the Creation of Wetland Environments

Protect the Existing Environment

Species at Risk

Wavy-rayed Lampmussel

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

Primary Goals of the Protocol

Need to Balance several goals

Respect and Protect Beavers in their Natural Habitat

Security

Maintain the Use of the City's Pathway Networks

Protect Critical Infrastructure

Protect People from Flooding

Protect Property from Flooding

Allow for the Creation of Wetland Environments

Protect the Existing Environment

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 issue.

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, resettle 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

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

No

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

Yes

Then action is required.

Tree damage

Flooding

The Protocol

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- 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.

Beaver Device Installation

Tree damage

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- 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.

Beaver Device Installation

Beaver Device Installation

The Protocol

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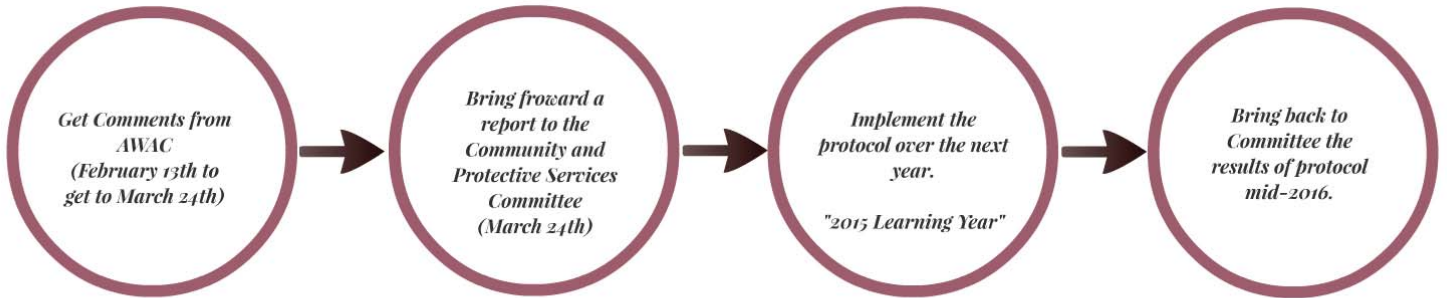
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Tree damage

Flooding

Next Steps

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

→

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

→

Implement the protocol over the next year.
"2015 Learning Year"

→

Bring back to Committee the results of protocol mid-2016.

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