

February 10, 2016

Mayor Matt Brown and Councillor Paul Hubert
City Hall
London, ON

Dear Mayor Brown and Councillor Hubert,

Re: Proposed 2016–2019 capital budget for Environmentally Significant Areas

The proposed 2016–2019 capital budget for protection of London's Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) raises a question: Why is it remaining at \$200,000 per year, which is really a reduction over previous years when inflation is factored in? It fails to take into account that

1. Invasive species are an increasingly major problem in Environmentally Significant Areas and require increased funding for ongoing eradication efforts;
2. The ESA Management Team's work is limited by its small number of staff having to carry out a large number management projects in the ESAs, especially since undergoing a reduction in staff in recent years; and
3. The Coves ESA has been added to the list of City ESAs, and yet the capital budget for ESAs isn't being increased.

Please consider, as some will suggest, that the battle against invasive species be supplemented with funds from the City's annual contribution to the Woodlands Acquisition Fund.

Also, please consider increasing the UTRCA's budget to allow the hiring of an additional person for the ESA Management Team.

Thank you for considering the above comments and requests.

Sincerely,

Anita Caveney
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London, ON N6H 4C4.