

Advisory Committee on the Environment

Report

2nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Environment
February 6, 2019
Committee Room #4

Attendance PRESENT: S. Ratz (Chair), K. Birchall, M. Bloxam, S. Brooks, S. Hall, M. Hodge, L. Langdon, C. Lyons, D. Szoller and A. Tipping and J. Bunn (Secretary)

ABSENT: J. Howell and T. Stoiber

ALSO PRESENT: J. Ackworth, T. Arnos, G. Barrett, L. McDougall, J. Parsons and J. Stanford

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 London as a Bee City

That the Civic Administration BE ADVISED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment recommends that a communication program be developed related to the Bee City implementation that would increase awareness for members of the public as well as between City of London departments; it being noted that the following items were received with respect to London as a Bee City:

- the attached presentation from L. McDougall, Ecologist Planner, entitled "Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London;
- a verbal delegation from A.M. Valastro;
- a verbal delegation from G. Barrett, Manager – Long Range Planning and Research;
- the resubmitted Memo, appended to the agenda, dated August 22, 2018, entitled "Responses to the ACE's Plight of the Pollinators and Bee City Recommendations (2014 and 2018)"; and,
- the update document, appended to the agenda, dated Summer 2018, entitled "City of London A Leader in Habitat and Pollinator Protection, Engagement and Creation Initiatives".

3. Consent

3.1 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, from its meeting held on December 5, 2018, was received.

3.2 1st Report of the Transportation Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Transportation Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 22, 2019, was received.

3.3 Municipal Council Resolution - 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on December 18, 2018, with respect to the 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received.

3.4 Notice of Planning Application - Zoning By-law Amendment - 6682 Fisher Lane

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application, dated January 24, 2019, from M. Sundercock, Planner I, with respect to a zoning by-law amendment for the property located at 6682 Fisher Lane, was received.

3.5 West London Dyke Erosion Control - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment - Notice of Study Completion

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Notice of Study Completion for the West London Dyke Erosion Control, from C. Gorrie and S. Bergman, Stantec Consulting Ltd., was received.

3.6 Thames Region Ecological Association Representative on the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the communication dated December 4, 2018, from D. Szoller, Thames Region Ecological Association (TREA), with respect to the TREA representative on the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Energy and Built Sub-Committee Report

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Energy and Built Environment Sub-Committee Report dated January 2019:

a) the Civic Administration BE ADVISED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment recommends that the Discover Wonderland Environmental Assessment explore every possible avenue to avoid widening Wonderland Road to six lanes as there are a number of alternative methods that provide better traffic flow, improved options outside of driving ones own personal vehicle (public transit, cycling, walking, etc.), and proper access management; and,

b) the above-noted sub-committee report BE RECEIVED;

it being noted that verbal delegations from J. Ackworth, Transportation Design Technologist and J. Johnson, Dillon Consulting Limited, were received with respect to this matter.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Ice Management in Winter

That it BE NOTED that the submission dated January 28, 2019, from M. Bloxam as well as a verbal delegation from J. Parsons, Division Manager, Transportation and Roadside Operations, with respect to ice management in winter, were received.

5.2 The Precautionary Principle as it Applies to the City of London

That it BE NOTED that the attached hand out from K. Birchall with respect to the Precautionary Principle, was received; it being noted that there will be further discussion on this matter at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Environment.

5.3 Revisiting a City Sustainability Office

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment held a general discussion with respect to a sustainability office in the City of London.

5.4 Current Recycling and Waste Diversion Efforts in the Downtown Core and the <https://getinvolved.london.ca/WhyWasteResource>

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment held a general discussion with respect to current recycling and waste diversion efforts in the Downtown core.

5.5 Advisory Committee Budget - 2019

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) held a general discussion with respect to the 2019 ACE budget and work plan.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

6.1 (ADDED) Green Bin Program

That it BE NOTED that the submission, dated December 19, 2018, from J. Kogelheide, with respect to a Green Bin Program, was received.

6.2 (ADDED) Municipal Council Resolution - Bird-Friendly Development

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution, from its meeting held on January 29, 2019 and the staff report dated January 21, 2019, with respect to bird-friendly development, were received.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London



Community planting prairie & native woodland species with Carolinian Canada, Friends of the Coves, City of London, 2017 at Elmwood Gateway/Coves ESA. Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly nectaring on Dense Blazing Star, 2018 at Elmwood Gateway/Coves ESA.

ACE Pollinator Update - February 6, 2019

L. McDougall, Ecologist, City Planning



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London



Milkweed with monarch caterpillar on residential front yard in Old East Village in London, 2018
London City By-laws permit naturalizations, perennial gardens and wildflower gardens on private property including planting of pollinator species such as milkweed.

- ACE's 10 "Plight of the Pollinator" Recommendations from 2014 were addressed
- Staff met with ACE in May 2017 to review in detail how ACE's 10 Recommendations were addressed
- ACE provided 3 new "Plight of the Pollinator" Recommendations in May 2018 – Memo from City Staff is included on ACE's September 2018 and February 2019 agenda providing detailed responses and updates.

ACE Council Resolution May 23, 2018:

- i) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to research and report back to the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) with respect to the City of London being certified with Bee City Canada; it being noted that ACE supports the initiatives of Bee City Canada; and,
- ii) the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, BE REQUESTED to present at a future meeting of the ACE with respect to an update on pollination work being done by the City of London;



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London



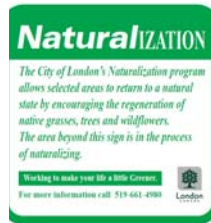
Milkweed with monarch caterpillar on residential front yard in Old East Village in London, 2018
London City By-laws permit naturalizations, perennial gardens and wildflower gardens on private property including planting of pollinator species such as milkweed.

- City Ecologist presented an update on "pollination work" being done by the City of London at ACE's September 5, 2018 Meeting
- City Ecologist reported back to ACE with respect to the City of London being certified with Bee City Canada at ACE's September 5, 2018 Meeting to address ACE's Council Resolution of May 23, 2018
- City Ecologist presented "Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London" and provided free milkweed seeds and City Pollinator Updates at ACE's "Green in the City" event "Bee-coming Pollinator Friendly: In Gardens and Across the City" event on November 23, 2018



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

- About 10% of the City is publically owned parkland, and over 60% of that area or about 1,600 hectares are naturalized, non-mowed areas that provide good pollinator habitat - this area increases every year.



City restoration projects & signs improve awareness and protection of pollinator habitats.



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

London City By-laws permit naturalizations, perennial gardens and wildflower gardens on private property including planting of pollinator species such as Milkweed.



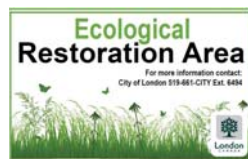
Milkweed with monarch caterpillar on residential front yard in Old East Village in London, 2018



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Many City programs empower community groups to plant pollinator habitats on City property, private property, and right of ways:

- [NeighbourGood](#) [London](#) programs: [TreeMe](#) and [Neighbourhood Decision Making](#) funded over half a million dollars in pollinator habitat projects since 2015.
- The [Adopt a Park](#), [Adopt a Street](#) [Adopt a Pond Program](#) and [Adopt an ESA](#) programs offer more opportunities.





Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Many City programs empower community groups to plant pollinator habitats on City property, private property and right of ways:

- Urban Agriculture Strategy
- London Community Gardens - 17 Community Gardens
- London Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- The Growing Naturally Program
- Active & Green Communities
- Friends of the London Civic Garden Complex



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Many groups are enhancing pollinator habitats in London:

- Pollinative
- Reforest London
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
- Lower Thames Conservation Authority
- Carolinian Canada
- Pollinator Pathway Project in London
- Dancor Bring Back the Bees Project
- Julia Hunter Fund
- St. Georges Presbyterian Church
- Ontario's Pollinator Health Action Plan
- Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program
- Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands
- Wildlife Preservation Canada - Native Pollinator Initiative
- TD Friends of the Environment Grants



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Did you know?

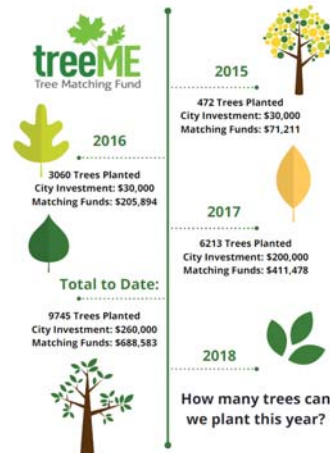
- Trees are critical for pollinators and support a greater diversity of butterflies and moths than most herbaceous plants.
- Trees provide most of the first available food for pollinators in the spring.
- London's urban forest is a key element in provision of habitat and food for pollinators, and, is closely tied to achieving the London Plan pollinator policies.
- The Council approved Tree Planting Strategy is on track and fully funded (\$450,000/year) to plant 20,000 trees from 2016 to 2019.
- The strategy outlines the long term plan to increase London's tree canopy cover from 24% to 34%.



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

treeME Tree Matching Fund – \$200,000 available in 2018 and 2019

- Leverages City funding to get even more trees and good pollinator habitat on private property.
- 90% of land in City is private property



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Neighborhood Decision Making Program – \$250,000/year available

Winning Projects 2016 & 2017 that support pollinator habitat include:

- Plant Fruit Trees near Community Gardens
- Community Garden at First Saint Andrew's United Church
- Cedar Hollow Park Improvements and Plantings
- Natural Landscape Playground in Kiwanis Park
- Save the Bees Pollinator Garden in Byron
- Gleaning Food Forest

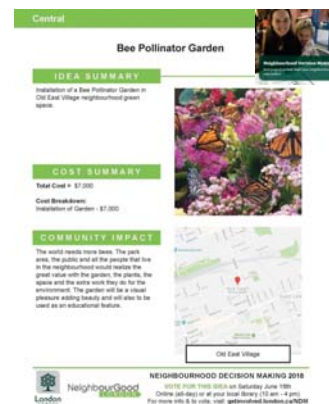


Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Neighborhood Decision Making Program – \$250,000/year available

Winning Projects that support pollinator habitat in 2018 included:

- Nature Sanctuary in Hyde Park
- Bat Boxes in Masonville
- Trees for Accessible Playground
- Cedar Hollow PS Outdoor Classroom - Raised Gardens
- Bee Pollinator Garden
- London's Free Fruit Trees
- Pollinator Pathways Project
- Community Beehives
- F.D. Roosevelt Public School Yard Enhancements





Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Naturalization projects are coordinated every year by City staff and other groups to include opportunities for the Community, "Adopt a ..." Groups, and others to enhance pollinator habitat across the City.



Coves ESA Before and After



2015

2018



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Westminster Ponds ESA – Ecological Restoration of area with 80% non-native invasive buckthorn and dead ash trees



Before picture 2016 – Buckthorn / Dead Ash Monoculture

2018 – Ecological Restoration underway & habitat is improving

Canada 150 Grant from Federal Government helped fund restoration. Began in 2017 with wintertime mulching of the buckthorn and many standing dead ash trees. Project successfully restoring area back to healthy savannah, wetland & forest habitats, supporting a diversity of native species.



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

Ontario Nature Award

- City of London was recognized with the [Lee Symmes Municipal Award by Ontario Nature](#).
- The Award recognizes municipalities that demonstrate community leadership and exceptional achievement in planning or implementing programs that protect and regenerate the natural environment within a community.
- Ontario Nature commended the City of London for ensuring a natural legacy for future generations.



Sifton Bog Environmentally Significant Area, drone photo of accessible AODA boardwalk 2018



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

ACE Recommended that London be certified by Bee City Canada. "In this way we can be recognized as a leader within Canada in the creation of bee-friendly cities."

Agree that the City of London is already a leader in habitat and pollinator protection, demonstrating a proactive approach throughout the City



Ecological restoration of meadow habitat in Westminster Ponds & Coves ESAs



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

- Staff report to Planning and Environment Committee in 2019 will summarize how London will continue to meet Bee City Canada's requirements.
- Staff report will include a draft "Bee City" Council Resolution for Council's consideration



Adopt an ESA, Native Seed Collection Workshop, Common Milkweed Seeds

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENS



Make your garden and London a safe haven for pollinators



London will continue to lead in:

- ✓ Creating, maintaining and improving pollinator habitat.
- ✓ Educating about the importance of pollinators.
- ✓ Celebrating pollinators

ACE Pollinator Brochure on City Website



Protecting and Enhancing Pollinator Habitat in London

3 simple ways to make a difference:

- Plant pollinator species like Milkweed
- Request a boulevard tree at [Service.London.ca](#)
- Visit [NeighbourGoodLondon.ca](#) & [London Environmental Network](#) to enhance local habitat with your community



Photo by Ben Porchuk 2018

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Planning Services

London: Precautionary Principle

The concept of the Precautionary Principle evolved (and continues to do so) first in Europe we are told. Multiple UN and EU sources have pointed to it first coming into being in the late 1850s and is attributed to persons deciding that they were not going to wait for further evidence that cholera was being spread via water distribution methods in use at the time.

For myself a short hand description is that when facing a decision, if there is a risk of negative outcomes, the possibilities have to be fully investigated and risk evaluated.

A 2013 Canadian Federal Government document titled: A Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-based Decision Making about Risk (Framework) reads as follows:

The application of “precaution”, “the precautionary principle” or “the precautionary approach” recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm.

The application of precaution is distinctive within science-based risk management and is characterized by three basic tenets: the need for a decision, a risk of serious or irreversible harm and a lack of full scientific certainty”¹

The idea behind the framework is that if you have your decisions guided by protection against risk of harm to the environment. Better to be safe than sorry is an equally applicable short form descriptor. It is a concept still being refined however, its use by municipalities has resulted in Supreme Court of Canada support in preserving a bylaw that prohibited the use of certain plant control chemicals in Quebec in a case reported as *Spraytech v Hudson (Town)*²

The major issue from that case that needs to be remembered is that the finding recognized the precautionary principle’s underlying purpose in International and Domestic law. They upheld a pesticide ban that was based on a reasonably held suspicion and not on a final determination after years of study. A city has the power to make changes without waiting on the Federal or Provincial government to take steps, provided they insure they are not in direct conflict with existing regulations.

I wanted to ask this committee to examine the interplay with City decision making and the Precautionary Principle as it currently exists in your opinion. My suggested subheading to this topic:

How is the Sustainable Purchasing framework within the City Procurement of Goods & Services Policy being measured currently?

My request to ACE. Please do some reading, I will circulate further materials by email including this one. Come in March prepared for a debate and vote on this.

¹ A Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-based Decision Making about Risk (Framework), available at www.who.int/ifcs/documents/forums/forum5/precaution_e.pdf4

²Case: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/scc/doc/2001/2001scc40/2001scc40.pdf> Analysis: www.dragun.ca/precautionary-principle-and-canadian-environmental-law