

# HUMANE URBAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT POLICY: FORESTRY OPERATIONS WILDLIFE PROTOCOL

June 2016

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 allow for tree care and to mitigate risk to property, people and the environment while balancing the various needs of wildlife inhabitants in trees.



## Primary Goals of the Protocol

The protocol attempts to balance the following goals:

- Respect and protect wildlife in their natural habitat;
- Protect critical infrastructure;
- Protect people and property and mitigate risk.

## Protocol

**After conducting a visual inspection of the tree is there a net negative impact on the "Primary Goals"?**

**If No:** No direct action required – proceed with work.

**If Yes:**

- 1) In cases where wildlife is visually present following an inspection but the tree needs pruning or removal, staff will cease work until nesting period is over and the wildlife has left.
- 2) In cases where wildlife is visually present following an inspection but the tree is assessed as an immediate risk, staff will report the conditions to the Forestry Supervisor.
- 3) Following step 2 if the work cannot be delayed. Pre-stressing will be used to encourage wildlife to leave the site.

## Governing Principle

Generally, the safest and most operationally feasible method for managing wildlife in trees is to leave a mixture of live and dead standing trees in clumped distribution. Tree health care depends on an active pruning cycle. Boulevard or 'Street trees' require additional attention because of their proximity to public and private infrastructure.

**Commonly Encountered Species known to nest in trees**

<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>	RISK OF ENCOUNTERING NESTING BIRDS	ACTION BY ARBORIST
September to March	<b>LOW</b>	Unlikely that nesting birds will be encountered, however, should this happen work to be stopped on the subject tree and Supervisor to be notified.
Mid April and Late August	<b>MODERATE</b>	Complete site specific risk assessment, work as normal but be aware of increased risk of nesting birds. If encountered, stop and notify Supervisor.
May -July	<b>HIGH</b>	Complete site specific risk assessment it should be anticipated that birds will be nesting during this period, be vigilant during operations and when nesting birds are encountered stop all works on the subject tree and notify Supervisor.

<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>	Risk of encountering nesting Squirrels	ACTION BY ARBORIST
January—February July-August	<b>MODERATE</b>	Complete site specific risk assessment, work as normal but be aware of increased risk of nesting squirrels. If encountered, stop and notify Supervisor.

**Continuous Improvement**

The protocol will be reconsidered and brought back to Council by the end of 2018 following implementation and training. Going forward, any significant changes to the protocol will be reported back to the various stakeholders and Council prior to implementation.

**Contacts**

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