



CAFES Ottawa

Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

Wildlife Strategy Review

Joint Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Environment and
Climate Change Committee Meeting

Monday, June 17th, 2024

Erica Shardlow
Program Coordinator, CAFES Ottawa
eshardlow@cafesottawa.ca



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- About Us



- Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) was founded in 2010 and is a network of local and neighbourhood environmental leaders and community builders.
- Our members include representatives from urban, sub-urban and rural communities.
- As of June 2024, the network includes almost 200 individual and organizational representatives across all wards, and over 50 neighbourhoods.

Overview of Presentation

1. Biodiversity - Montreal Pledge
2. Wildlife corridors and crossings
3. Flow devices
4. Increased public awareness
5. Bird-friendly city



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1. Biodiversity

Issue:

- **Biodiversity crisis** - wildlife strategy should adopt a broader focus to prioritize biodiversity
- **City Council signed the Montreal Pledge**
 - City needs to follow-up with action
 - Cities are at the forefront in observing biodiversity loss and being impacted by its effects
 - Local governments are well-placed to take rapid, concrete action to halt this decline
- **Conservation of natural landscapes** - provides ecological functions such as flood reduction, carbon sequestration and storage, maintenance of biodiversity, reduction in conflicts



- 1 Integrate biodiversity into territorial and regulatory planning
- 2 Restore and rehabilitate ecosystems and their connectivity
- 3 Conserve existing natural environments through protected areas and other effective and equitable measures
- 4 Ensure the conservation and recovery of vulnerable species, both wild and domestic, and effectively manage their interactions with humans

2. Wildlife Crossings

CAFES supports and recommends:

- Wildlife-sensitive planning measures to include wildlife crossings and eco-passages to create corridors
 - Official Plan supports this
- Wildlife corridors protect biodiversity by creating pathways of land, air, water to facilitate movement
 - Natural habitats can be severed by roads and poorly planned development
- City of Edmonton's 30+ wildlife passages reduced collisions by 51%
- Blanding's Turtle - at risk

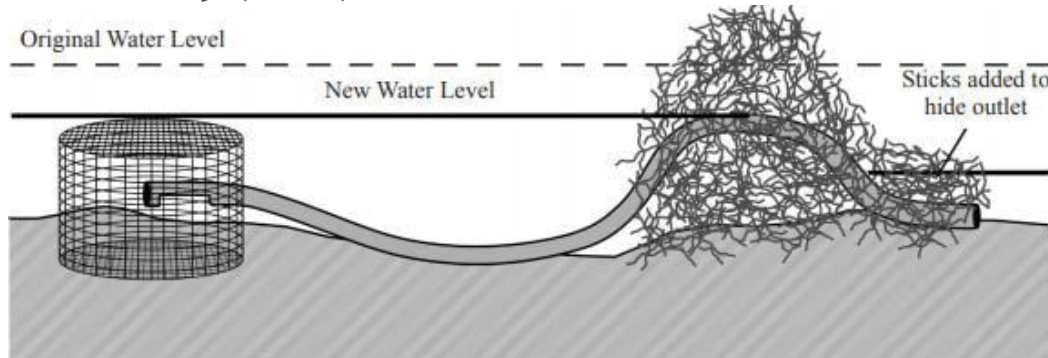


From left: Blanding's Turtle; Wildlife bridge in Banff; one of Edmonton's Wildlife Pathway Program designs; wildlife culvert in USA

3. Flow Devices for Beavers

Recommendation:

- Staff to investigate where modern flow device technology can be used - to mitigate flooding, and maintain essential ecological services of beavers
 - Pond levellers
 - Culvert protectors
- Cost-effective technologies that reduces expense to taxpayers
- Eliminates unnecessary repetitive work by staff
- Have been effective in London, ON
- Boyles and Savitzky (2008) - cost-effectiveness of flow devices

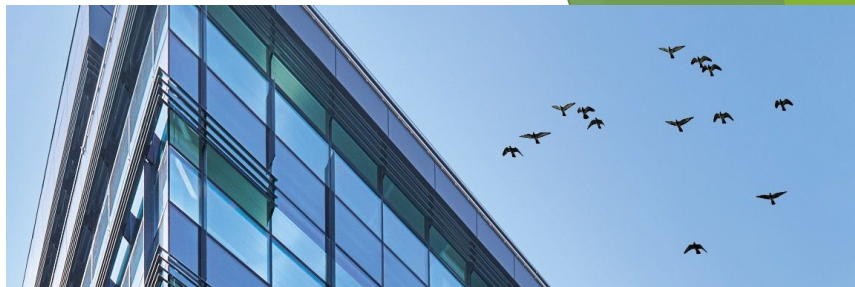


4. Increased Public Awareness and Education

CAFES supports:

- Enhanced public awareness on:
 - Local wildlife habitats, behaviours, breeding seasons, other seasonal factors
 - Preventing conflicts (ie. humane strategies to discourage dens, etc.)
 - Who to contact or where to go when residents need info
- City to create a strategic Public Education Program:
 - Presentations/community workshops to adults and youth
 - Expand City of Ottawa website key messages
 - Councillor newsletters
 - Social media messaging
- Partner with established wildlife organizations
 - CAFES can play supportive role in engaging with community for dialogues or workshops

5. Creating a Bird-Friendly City



- Strategy lacks info on birds and creating a bird-friendly urban environment
- Report acknowledged that the City's Bird-Safe Design Guidelines are not a focus of this strategy
 - If the City is to prioritize biodiversity - there needs to be strong cohesion between strategies
- More public education



Pictured: Feather Friendly window markers





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Thank you

Contact us at info@cafesottawa.ca

Visit our website <https://cafesottawa.ca>