London is not a flat city, in fact numerous slopes lie adjacent to Natural Areas. Many private properties that back onto Natural Areas may have unstable slopes. You can prevent dangerous slope failures, increase your property value, and protect the health of Natural Areas with the help of this guide.

WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?
Slope erosion is a slow, natural process. However, due to many reasons including increased urbanization, the slopes around creeks and ravines may become increasingly unstable. Unstable slopes can:
• Pose a danger to people,
• Cause structural problems in buildings, and
• Move sediment into watercourses which affects water quality

DON’T BRING ME DOWN!
Heavy loads at or near the top or bottom of the bank can cause serious problems for the slope due to the added weight.
DON’T Construct patios, fences, or sheds on an unstable part of your property.
DO Keep these structures well away from the edge of the slope to protect them and the slope.
DON’T Dump lawn clippings or garden waste onto the slope.
DO Place yard waste in a compost bin or at your curb.

WATCH THE WATER
When it rains, water from your downspouts and driveways rushes into storm drains. From there it travels rapidly through pipes and into the ravines and creeks of Natural Areas. During heavy storms this water can erode slopes and carry contaminants into local watercourses.
DON’T Direct your downspouts or hoses towards slopes, or directly onto pavement.
DO Direct your downspouts onto your lawn and garden.
DO Direct your downspouts into a rain barrel and use this to water your garden.

For more information please visit: www.london.ca/rainbarrel
GO NATURAL

Planting a buffer of native plants and shrubs on and above the slope will help stabilize the bank and keep the soil in place. Native plants don’t disrupt local ecosystems and are highly adapted to the region; this allows them to handle climate extremes and other stressors better.

Other benefits of choosing native plants for your yard include:

• Attracting wildlife and pollinators,
• Soaking up storm water, and
• Reducing lawn maintenance and irrigation

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR!

Nature pays no attention to property lines. A slope failure caused by dumping will impact neighbouring properties. The more positive actions people take, the better off the whole slope will be.

Due to regulations that promote stable slopes, property owners must obtain permission from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority before beginning any development, site alteration, construction, or placement of fill within regulated areas. For more information call 519-451-2800 or go to www.thamesriver.on.ca

Reminder: The Parks and Recreation Area By-Law prohibits dumping in Natural Areas

RESOURCES & TIPS

The City of London has several resources to help landowners control erosion on their property, including:

GARDEN CARE TIPS

Each garden is different. Learn and understand what your property needs by visiting:
www.london.ca/gardentips

RAIN GARDENS

If your property has a natural depression where it collects rain run-off naturally, consider creating a vegetable rain garden! It will also trap storm water that would normally go down the storm sewer and into Natural Areas. For more information please visit:
www.london.ca/raingarden

NATIVE PLANTS

For help with choosing suitable native plants for your home, please visit:
www.reforestlondon.ca/choosing-right-species-london

COMPOSTING

Composting your food scraps and leaves creates a natural garden fertilizer. Backyard composters are available to purchase from the City of London EnviroDepots for $35. They come in a variety of sizes to help suit your household needs. For more information please visit:
www.london.ca/compost