June 21, 2019

Dear Neighbour:

Re: Kiwanis Park – Central South

The City of London is currently working on three planned improvements to Kiwanis Park – Central South, located at 1545 Trafalgar Street (please see map on the reverse).

A. Creation of a Natural Play Area – Plans are underway for a new play area near Trafalgar Road on the east side of the main pathway. Natural play areas are intended to have play elements that are inspired by nature for children aged 2 through 12.

B. Oak Savannah Habitat Enhancement – The City has contracted the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to manage the Pottersburg Valley Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) in Kiwanis Park. The ESA was created through an environmental assessment completed as part of the pedestrian bridge evaluation, details can be reviewed at the following webpage - http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/EAs/Pages/Kiwanis-Park.aspx. The UTRCA will begin a multi-year, ecological restoration plan this fall to manage invasive species and enhance the unique Oak Savannah habitat in the area. The Oak Savannah habitat enhancement area shown on the map will begin transitioning from an area with Oak trees and mowed lawn underneath, into an area with Oak trees and a diversity of native grasses and wildflowers underneath. This unique habitat will better support pollinators, attracting butterflies and birds. A picnic area will continue to be mowed as shown on the map. UTRCA staff will also complete a Tree Risk Assessment and carefully mitigate trees identified as a risk to public safety in early 2020. Opportunities for community engagement in the multi-year, restoration process will be shared on the City’s “Adopt an ESA” webpage.

C. Creation of a Lookout Area – The existing pathway in the park currently ends near Pottersburg Creek. This project includes removing approximately 50 m of the existing pathway, restoring the area with native species and creating a small accessible lookout with a bench overlooking the Pottersburg Valley. Selective removal of some plants and hazard trees are expected in this area as well.

The City of London is inviting comments and suggestions regarding the accessible design feature(s) of this project, as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. More specifically, we would like to consult on:

- Outdoor play spaces: What are the needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities?

You can forward your questions, comments and suggestions to Eric Conway at the Parks Planning & Design section by phone at (519) 661-CITY (2489) ext. 4288, by fax at (519) 963-1483, or by e-mail at elconway@london.ca. Please provide comments by July 15, 2019.

Construction for this project will happen in multiple phases and is expected to start in August 2019. Please note that the schedule is dependent on weather conditions.

Sincerely,

Eric Conway
Parks Project Coordinator

Cc: L. McDougall, Ecologist Planner
J. Michaud, Landscape Architect
J. Bruin, Manager, Parks Planning and Design
D. Clarke, Parks Operations
K. Hodgens, Forestry Operations
S. Lewis, Ward 2 Councillor
M. Van Holst, Ward 1 Councillor

Please contact 519-661-2489 Ext. 2425 or accessibility@london.ca by July 10, 2019 if you need information in an alternate format, or require the assistance of a communication support. Arrangements are made upon request by submitting a Customer Accommodation Request Form, and at no additional cost.