

Summary of stakeholder feedback received on the existing protocol

What We Heard – general comments:

- Wildlife Construction Protocol should be enforceable, not simply a guideline
- City needs better information about wildlife and habitat (not just trees) on sites proposed for development, to inform planning and decision-making
- City staff should conduct field work to ensure the accuracy of existing conditions reporting
- City needs to adopt a site alteration by-law
- Protocol should also apply to City tree removal for non-development purposes

Regarding legislative or policy requirements that should be referenced:

- Federal *Species at Risk Act*
- Federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and associated *Migratory Birds Regulations*
- Ontario *Endangered Species Act, 2007*
- Ontario *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*

Regarding practical and effective measures to reduce harm to wildlife during construction:

- Project-specific wildlife mitigation plans should be developed and made publically available
- See Environment Canada [website](#) for guidance on avoiding impacts to migratory birds
- Current protocol's definition of breeding season (mid-May to end of June) does not capture nesting season for many local migratory birds ([April through August](#))
- Avoid construction during the breeding season for other wildlife, not just migratory birds
- Avoid construction during the winter in areas where wildlife may be hibernating or overwintering
- Where construction during sensitive times cannot be avoided, need to use mitigation measures to reduce impacts
- City should develop Best Management Practices for "pre-stressing" sites (i.e., discouraging wildlife)
- Pre-stressing should begin several weeks before the start of construction, and continue at regular intervals, to allow wildlife enough time to move out
- Alternative sources of food and shelter may need to be provided nearby
- Final inspection should be done the day before construction begins, and any remaining wildlife should be removed by qualified professionals, in accordance with applicable legislation
- Construction should proceed in stages, from most disturbed area to least disturbed, maintaining linkage(s) to adjacent habitat as long as possible
- Manage construction sites to deter wildlife (e.g., remove food wastes, cap open pipes)
- Secure buildings under construction to prevent wildlife access
- Developers should make prior arrangements with wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians for treatment of orphaned or injured animals, in case mitigation measures fail

Regarding prevention of future conflicts between residents and wildlife:

- Include animal-proofing measures in building design and construction
- Provide residents with information about wildlife and how to avoid conflicts
- Suggestion of additional reference material, e.g., "Handbook for Canada and Cackling Geese: Management and Population Control in Southern Canada"