



## **The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**Prepared by:** Mr. Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Administration

**Date of Report:** November 22, 2022

**Report Number:** AD-19-2022

**Subject:** National Urban Park – LaSalle Candidate Lands

### **Recommendation**

That the report of the Deputy CAO dated November 22, 2022 (AD-19-2022) regarding the National Urban Park – LaSalle Candidate Lands be received.

### **Report**

Parks Canada, in collaboration with the City of Windsor and numerous partners (Walpole Island First Nation, Caldwell First Nation, Ontario Parks, Ministry of Transportation Ontario, Hydro One) including LaSalle are in the initial stages of exploring a National Urban Park (NUP) centered on the Ojibway Prairie Complex. Figure 1 shows the lands within the City of Windsor that are the candidate sites for this NUP.

The key objectives of a NUP are:

- Connecting – provide access to nature for communities as well as enhancing urban greenspaces for conservation and public enjoyment.
- Nature – conservation of nature in urban areas and protecting the biodiversity.
- Reconciliation – advancing reconciliation with Indigenous People.

In discussion, there are lands that provide a natural fit and possible expansion/enlarging of the proposed NUP lands that are within LaSalle. Therefore, LaSalle has put forward a few candidate sites as well to be considered as part of the NUP process. Figure 2 shows the original City lands as well as additional LaSalle candidate lands.

Considering the key objectives of a NUP, the candidate lands in LaSalle meet those objectives and can provide a significant enhancement/enlarging to the proposed NUP candidate lands already put forward.

As noted, the LaSalle candidate lands are shown in Figure 2, but they are described generally as follows;

- The LaSalle Woodlot/Brunet Park.
- Stanton Woods.
- Reaume Prairie.
- Turkey Creek corridor around the ETR corridor
- Ojibway Prairie adjacent to Turkey Creek
- Spring Garden ANSI, north of Todd Lane
- Unnamed woodlot in the Town Centre by Sandwich West Public School
- Unnamed woodlot by Villa Maria and Huron Church Line

To provide connectivity to the other City of Windsor candidate sites the Hydro One corridor along with the drainage corridors, of Turkey Creek and Cahill Drain have been identified as the connective spines for human, flora, and fauna connections.

It should be noted that the candidate land sites in LaSalle, are mostly currently zoned Natural Environment or Recreational. Furthermore, the lands are mostly owned by LaSalle, with a small number of lands still being in private ownership.

As noted, this NUP process is in its initial stages, with LaSalle sitting at the table and being part of the discussions. There is still a lot of work to go into this process, to determine the pre-feasibility, planning, designation, and implementation. Of this process, a few of the major task involved are;

- Define NUP selection criteria and confirm/define boundary.
- Develop and implement governance model and land ownership model.
- Develop operational plans and funding.
- Designation of the NUP by policy through Parks Canada.

LaSalle administration currently involved in this process are Mrs. Gudrin Beggs, Director of Planning and Development and Mr Peter Marra, Deputy CAO. Other administrative staff will be brought in as required.

It is recommended the Council receive this report and confirm that administration continues to be involved in the NUP process to establishing a NUP in the Windsor and LaSalle areas.

## **Consultations**

There will be public open houses as part of this process. As these are scheduled, we will communicate these out through LaSalle's social media feeds and through our website.

There was already one open house on November 17, 2022, which concurrently has an online survey open until December 15, 2022. The information from this Nov. 17, 2022, public meeting is available online at <https://letstalk.citywindsor.ca/national-urban-park-windsor>

## **Financial Implications**

Currently, there are no financial implications, apart from staff time for involvement into the process. If LaSalle lands are determined to part of the final NUP, a further update will be provided to Council.

### **Prepared By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Marra'.

Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Deputy CAO

## **Link to Strategic Goals**

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Not Applicable
2. Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town - Yes
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Yes
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

## **Communications**

Not applicable.

## **Notifications**

Not applicable.

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	AD-19-2022 National Urban Park - LaSalle Candidate Lands.docx
Attachments:	- NUP Figure1.pdf - NUP Figure2.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 22, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia