



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ontario K8V 5P4

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Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

September 13, 2021

NOTICE

Opportunity for Public Comment *Proposed 2022 Fee Policy and Schedules*

BACKGROUND:

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) charges fees to assist with covering the program costs for services and products that are not supported through provincial grant funding, to reduce the general levy. The fees take into account estimated staff time, travel, and material costs to provide the service, but only partially cover the cost of the service.

The current LTC Fee Policy and Schedules were approved by the Board of Directors in November 2020. Due to COVID-19 considerations there were no increases in fees in 2021. The Fee Policy sets out a requirement for an annual review by staff to monitor effectiveness. Should changes be proposed, public consultation is required prior to approval of revisions by the Board of Directors. There are some fee changes being proposed for the upcoming year.

Lower Trent Conservation is seeking comments on the attached proposed Fee Policy and Schedules. It can also be viewed on the website at www.LTC.on.ca.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY:

- Updated reference to the new provincial reporting structure.
- Changed the effective date from the date of approval to **the date set** by the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEE SCHEDULES:

Schedule 1 – LTC Plan Review Fees

- In keeping with Cost of Living increases, the general fee increase for plan review services will be approximately two to three percent over last year.
- Addition of a fee for Ministerial Zoning Order – suggested minimum deposit to cover all costs relating to staff, general administration, Board costs and legal fees.

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Member of Conservation Ontario
Representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

Schedule 2 – LTC Regulations Fees

- In keeping with Cost of Living increases, the general fee increase for most regulations services will be approximately three percent over last year. We have retained the **free** general inquiry service.
- The addition of Routine Permits for specific services to align with provincial reporting requirements.

Schedule 3 – LTC General Fees

- An increase in charge out rates for staff working on special projects.
- To cover the costs associated with the administration and operation at conservation areas, increase in permit fees for group uses of Conservation Areas for those wishing restricted access to the areas.
- To cover the costs associated with the administration and operation at the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Centre, increase in rental fees.
- Increase in the fees for hunting at Murray Marsh NHA. The cost is more reflective of the administration of the program. More intense administration during and after COVID.
- Unique uses, addition of athletic events, and “other”.

Schedule 4 – LTC Stewardship Services Pricing

- Revised fees for tree seedlings due to increases in nursery pricing.
- Addition of Little Forest Kits which provide a high diversity of native tree and shrub species in high density plots resulting in trees that grow quickly and increase biodiversity in a short period of time.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS:

Comments must be submitted in writing to the attention of Anna Morgan at information@LTC.on.ca or by mail to: Lower Trent Conservation, 714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, ON K8V 5P4 no later than **Friday, October 15, 2021**.