

From: Sue Yarwood

Sent: April 3, 2021 3:23 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

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Subject: Stopping suburban sprawl

<https://youtu.be/osPIV-RFmFI>

I am a Ward 1 constituent and homeowner. I am extremely concerned about the potential destruction of incredibly valuable, biologically diverse and agriculturally productive habitats surrounding Hamilton.

I believe that there is a false narrative that there is a huge demand for suburban housing and apparently will be for 30 years despite the astronomical prices. This fallacy is fuelled by 'developers' who wish to make large profits in the short term and leave the long term costs of degraded natural ecosystems and extremely expensive infrastructure to future taxpayers.

Personally, I'd love to see a \$5,000 charge for every tree removed (after all trees provide our oxygen, shade, habitat for wildlife and prevent soil erosion among many other things) as partial compensation for all that is lost for Hamiltonians.

Further, a \$1,000,000 fee for the destruction of natural waterways which are crucial to the entire ecology of our region, seems fair as taxpayers inevitably end up paying wastewater management costs, not to mention the collective psychological price of a lack of access to wild Nature. Any such 'development' fees that reflect the actual long term price of suburban sprawl might start to deter those wishing to make quick, obscene profits at the expense of their children and grandchildren. These fees, or 'actual societal expenses' could be specifically earmarked for the restoration and protection of greenspace and watersheds.

In the short term, however, one of the very BEST ways to prevent sprawl is the change in zoning WITHIN the city. Many people, at many stages of life, require smaller, cheaper housing such as Second Dwelling Units.

Easy access to good transportation and denser, walkable neighbourhoods provide a variety of options for people in different circumstances and contribute to a healthier tax base WHILE SAVING LOCAL NATURE. Suburban sprawl is the most important issue Hamilton faces right now and SDUs are one immediate

tool that council can use to begin solving the problem.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue for Hamilton's future,

Sue Yarwood

Hamilton