



Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, Ontario N9H 1S4
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January 20, 2025

RE: Notification of Overall Benefit Activity for Species at Risk – LaSalle Woods

The Town of LaSalle will be performing an **Overall Benefit Activity (OBA)** for **Species at Risk (SAR)** within **LaSalle Woods**, as outlined in the attached figure. The initiative specifically targets the Easter Fox Snake and the Massasauga Rattlesnake, both of which are protected species. The OBA is being carried out as required by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act.

This important conservation effort will focus on the SAR Management Area, which encompasses **0.8 hectares** of suitable habitat for protected species. To create a safe basking habitat for the snakes, some trees will be removed. This action will provide these species with a natural space to sunbath away from roads and pathways, reducing the risk of injury from human activity and vehicle traffic.

The primary goals of this OBA are to enhance and protect the habitat for these vulnerable species. The following actions will be carried out as part of the initiative:

- A minimum of **ten (10) Microhabitat Features** will be installed within the SAR Management Area to provide critical resources for the Protected species.
- **Vegetation removal**, including the controlled use of **herbicides**, will be conducted in accordance with the **Best Management Practices for Identifying, Managing and Creating Habitat for Ontario's Species at Risk**.

In light of this, we ask residents to be aware that the SAR Management Area has been designated for the protection of these species and their habitat. As such, certain human activities that could disrupt or harm the habitat will not be compatible with the intent of this project. Specifically, activities such as **dumping yard waste, cycling, ATV use, and dirt bike use** should be avoided within the SAR Management Area.

Work will begin immediately, as the winter work season minimizes disruption to vegetation and wildlife. We ask for your cooperation in respecting these guidelines to help ensure the success of this important conservation effort. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (519) 969-7770 ex. 1464 or publicworks@lasalle.ca.

Thank you for your understanding and support in protecting our local species at risk.

Sincerely,

The Town of LaSalle
Public Works Department
5950 Malden Road
LaSalle, Ontario
N9H 1S4



Figure 1: SAR Management Area

