

Brian Masse M.P.
Windsor West

BILL C-248
AN ACT TO CREATE OJIBWAY
NATIONAL URBAN PARK



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More Information:

<https://www.brianmasse.ca/ojibway-shores/>

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BACKGROUNDER – BILL C-248

Bill Title: *Bill C-248, An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)*

Sponsor: Brian Masse MP (Windsor West) NDP

Background: The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) would include only publicly owned lands consisting of Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. It is considered one of the environmental hotspots in the country. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism. This would be a significant addition of land protection in southern Ontario, one of most developed areas in the country, and a step towards Canada's goal of preserving more than 25 percent of the country's land. C-248 is the legislative step necessary in the process of establishing Ojibway NUP.

Timeline of building support for Ojibway National Urban Park

- On August 27, 2019, a townhall was held in Windsor where the idea of Ojibway NUP, modelled on the Rouge NUP, was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation.
- Over the past two years a consensus has developed among residents and local, national, and international environmental organizations for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. This proposal has been advocated to several governments. The results have been that all Windsor municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this.
- In the 2020 fall economic statement last year, the federal government finally announced more support for establishing urban national parks.
- On June 7, 2021, the council of the City of Windsor unanimously endorsed my letter of May 18, 2021, to the federal Ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, and the Environment and Climate Change calling for the establishment of ONUP. On June 28, Parks Canada, representatives from Environment Canada, the Mayor of Windsor, myself, and others met to discuss the process of moving forward with the ONUP.
- On August 9, 2021, the federal government signed a *statement of collaboration* with the City of Windsor to ultimately designate the Ojibway complex as a national urban park.

Establishing a National Park in Canada:

- the usual procedure for establishing a national park is to add the name and description of the park to a schedule in the Canada National Parks Act which is done by amending the act which C-248 does.
- there needs to be a geographic description of the park that follows the models in the Canada National Parks Act. C-248 uses the model undertaken by *Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada)*, which became Chapter 35 of the Statutes of Canada of 2014 and established Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve adjacent to the existing Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories.
- All coordinates in C-248 are referred to the 1983 North American Datum, Canadian Spatial Reference System (NAD83 CSRS) and any references to straight lines mean points joined directly on the NAD83 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection plane surface.
- C-248 has been determined to not require a royal recommendation.
- C-248 only applies in establishing Ojibway NUP on publicly owned lands where agreements have been reached between different levels of government.

Parks Canada:

- On August 4, 2021, the federal government allocated \$130 million to Parks Canada to create a network of national urban parks.

Supporters of establishing Ojibway National Urban Park:

- Caldwell First Nation
 - City of Windsor
 - Friends of Ojibway
 - Friends of Rouge
 - Wildlands League
 - The Audubon society
 - Detroit International Wildlife Refuge
 - UNIFOR
-

Private Members Bill C-248, An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)

Q & A

What would make up Ojibway NUP?

A: The proposed Ojibway NUP would include only publicly owned lands consisting of Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. It is considered one of the environmental hotspots in the country. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism. This would be a significant addition of land protection in southern Ontario, one of most developed areas in the country, and a step towards Canada's goal of preserving more than 25 percent of the country's land. C-248 is the legislative step necessary in the process of establishing Ojibway NUP.

What is the history of the endeavour to create Ojibway NUP on the local level?

A: Over the past two and half years, progress has been made. Here is a summary of what has happened:

- On August 27, 2019, a townhall was held in Windsor where the idea of Ojibway NUP, modelled on the Rouge NUP, was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation.

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- Over the past two years a consensus has developed among residents and local, national, and international environmental organizations for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. This proposal has been advocated to several governments. The results have been that all Windsor municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this.
 - In the 2020 fall economic statement last year, the federal government finally announced more support for establishing urban national parks.
 - On June 7, 2021, the council of the City of Windsor unanimously endorsed my letter of May 18, 2021, to the federal Ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, and the Environment and Climate Change calling for the establishment of ONUP. On June 28, Parks Canada, representatives from Environment Canada, the Mayor of Windsor, myself, and others met to discuss the process of moving forward with the ONUP.
 - On August 9, 2021, the federal government signed a statement of collaboration with the City of Windsor to ultimately designate the Ojibway complex as a national urban park.
 - On February 9, 2022, bill C-248 to establish Ojibway NUP was introduced in the House of Commons.
 - On March 21, 2022, first hour of debate began.
 - On June 8, 2022, Bill C-248 passed second reading in the House of Commons (HOC) in a vote of 169 for the bill and 147 against. The bill had the support of the Bloc, Green Party, Conservative party, the NDP, and two liberal MPs.

How is a National Park established in Canada?

- the usual procedure for establishing a national park is to add the name and description of the park to a schedule in the Canada National Parks Act which is done by amending the act which C248 does.
- there needs to be a geographic description of the park that follows the models in the Canada National Parks Act. C-248 uses the model undertaken by Bill S-5: An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve of Canada),

which became Chapter 35 of the Statutes of Canada of 2014 and established Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve adjacent to the existing Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories.

- The coming into force of the legislation only takes place after the government proclaims it. This will be done when final implementation by Park Canada management plan is instituted including the agreements with the municipality and the province as per standard practice.

Does C-248 follow the regular process for establishing a national park in Canada?

- Yes, all national parks are included in the National Parks act by legislation and must include a description of the lands in one of several standard and specific methods.
- C-248 includes the description of the lands that will make up Ojibway NUP.
- All coordinates in C-248 are referred to the 1983 North American Datum, Canadian Spatial Reference System (NAD83 CSRS) and any references to straight lines mean points joined directly on the NAD83 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection plane surface.
- This method has been used in the descriptions of other national parks.

What lands will be included in Ojibway NUP?

- C-248 only applies in establishing Ojibway NUP on publicly owned lands, (federally owned or subsequent to a federal provincial agreement which is standard practice).

Does Ojibway NUP and Bill C-248 have support from the indigenous community?

- Yes, Caldwell First Nation and Chief Duckworth have supported establishing Ojibway National Urban Park from 2019.
- Chief Duckworth and Caldwell First Nation support C-248.
- On April 11, 2022, Chief Duckworth on behalf of Caldwell First Nation wrote a letter to all MPs urging them to vote in favour of C-248.

- Chief Duckworth, Janet Sumner, executive director of the Wildlands League joined Brian in Ottawa at a press conference on parliament hill calling for the establishment of Ojibway NUP.

Does Ojibway NUP have support from the City of Windsor?

- Yes, on June 7, 2021, the council of the City of Windsor unanimously endorsed my letter of May 18, 2021, to the federal Ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, and the Environment and Climate Change calling for the establishment of ONUP.
- On June 28, Parks Canada, representatives from Environment Canada, the Mayor of Windsor, myself, and others met to discuss the process of moving forward with the ONUP.
- On August 9, 2021, the federal government signed a statement of collaboration with the City of Windsor to ultimately designate the Ojibway complex as a national urban park.
- On April 29, 2022, the City of Windsor clerk wrote a letter stating the City Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the passage of C-248 and informed the federal government that the City wants the bill passed.
- The City of Windsor has indicated it is willing transfer its lands to the federal government as soon as the federal government wants them.

What are the next steps for Bill C-248?

- The bill will go to the House of Commons Environment committee for review.
- At the HOC environment committee Caldwell First Nation, residents, local organizations, the City of Windsor, environmental groups, tourism businesses, and others will be able to appear and inform members of parliament about the Ojibway prairie complex, the need to preserve it, the protection from flooding it provides, and the opportunities for tourism and job creation Ojibway NUP would provide.
- The bill will then be voted on in the committee.
- The bill will then have the third reading vote in the House of Commons.
- The bill will then move on to the Senate.



May 5, 2022

Support Bill C-248, *An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)*

Dear Members of Parliament,

Wildlands League is one of Canada's pre-eminent conservation organizations, a not-for-profit charity that has been working in the public interest since 1968 to protect nature.

We collaborate with communities, governments, First Nations, scientists and progressive industry in building solutions that provide a future for all our kids, for climate and for the natural world.

We urge you to support Bill C-248, *An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)*. We have promoted the establishment of a National Urban Park in Windsor for years. Brian Masse's private member's bill moves this vision towards reality.

As the pandemic has shown, we crave nature for sanctuary. Nature unites us. Being in nature, having access to nature and working on projects to protect and restore nature heals us.

The biodiversity and climate crises also require nature protection to resolve them. Wildlands League supports Canada's pledge to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and reach 30% protection by 2030 while fighting climate change.

We encourage all political parties at every level of government to support these goals. Quebec was the first Province to publicly commit to protecting 30% by 2030. It also recognized the importance of protecting nature in cities, suburbs and farmland and connecting it through healthy landscapes.

Windsor embodies the threats and opportunities that are being faced across Canada's South. Its remnant Tallgrass Prairie is the most endangered ecosystem in Canada and there more rare species than anywhere else in Ontario. It's a biodiversity hotspot within a hotspot. But tallgrass is also the landcover most resilient to a warming climate and one of the best natural sponges when the skies open up and waters rise. This is a natural solution in a city where annual flooding makes insurance almost impossible to obtain.

Wildlands League has a vision for Southern Canada of expanded protected areas connected to each other and to the broader landscape by ecological corridors. The establishment of a new



WILDLANDS LEAGUE

Ojibway National Urban Park that includes the Federal Ojibway Shores property is a great example of what can be done to protect Nature in and around cities - the front lines of the of the extinction crisis and the climate emergency.

Together, moving forward with legislation to create a new national urban park in Windsor, we can restore, protect and connect the natural landscapes of this great city and inspire similar work across the country.

Please support Bill C-248.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sumner', written in a cursive style.

Janet Sumner
Executive Director
Wildlands League



Le 5 mai 2022

Appui au projet de loi C-248, Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada (parc urbain national Ojibway du Canada)

Chers députés,

La Wildlands League est l'une des plus importantes sociétés de conservation au Canada. Depuis 1968, notre organisme caritatif sans but lucratif œuvre dans l'intérêt public pour protéger la nature.

En collaboration avec les collectivités, les gouvernements, les Premières Nations, les scientifiques et les industries progressistes, nous élaborons des solutions durables pour nos enfants, le climat et la nature.

Nous vous exhortons à appuyer le projet de loi C-248, Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada (parc urbain national Ojibway du Canada). Pendant de nombreuses années, nous avons promu la création d'un parc national urbain à Windsor. Le projet de loi émanant du député Brian Massé porte cette vision plus près de la réalité.

Comme l'a montré la pandémie, nous avons besoin du sanctuaire que nous offre la nature. Elle nous unit. Se trouver en plein cœur de la nature, avoir accès à des milieux naturels et œuvrer à protéger et restaurer la nature, c'est thérapeutique.

Pour venir à bout des crises de la biodiversité et du climat, la protection de la nature est cruciale. La Wildlands League appuie l'engagement du Canada à stopper et à inverser la courbe de la perte de biodiversité et à atteindre un taux de protection de 30 % d'ici 2030, tout en luttant contre les changements climatiques.

Nous encourageons tous les partis politiques de tous les ordres de gouvernement à appuyer ces objectifs. Le Québec a été la première province à s'engager publiquement à atteindre un taux de protection de 30 % d'ici 2030. Il a également reconnu l'importance de la protection de la nature dans les centres urbains, les banlieues et les régions rurales, et de la relier à des paysages sains.

Windsor incarne les menaces et opportunités que l'on rencontre dans tout le sud du Canada. Le parc Tallgrass Prairie, vestige de la prairie d'herbes hautes, est l'écosystème le plus menacé au Canada; il abrite plus d'espèces rares qu'ailleurs en Ontario. C'est un véritable lieu névralgique de la biodiversité ancré en plein cœur d'un haut lieu de la biodiversité. C'est en outre la couverture terrestre qui résiste le plus au climat en réchauffement, et l'une des meilleures



WILDLANDS LEAGUE

éponges naturelles lorsque le ciel se déchaîne et que les eaux se gonflent. C'est une solution naturelle dans une ville où il est pratiquement impossible de contracter une assurance en raison des inondations annuelles.

La Wildlands League a une vision pour le sud du Canada : des zones protégées étendues reliées entre elles et au paysage plus large par des corridors écologiques. L'aménagement du nouveau parc urbain national Ojibway incluant la propriété fédérale Ojibway Shores est un exemple parfait de ce que nous pouvons mettre en œuvre pour protéger la nature à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur des villes, en première ligne de la crise de l'extinction et de l'urgence climatique.

Ensemble, en allant de l'avant avec le projet de loi pour la création d'un nouveau parc urbain à Windsor, nous pouvons restaurer, protéger et lier les paysages naturels de cette grande ville et inspirer des projets semblables partout au pays.

Je vous prie d'appuyer le projet de loi C-248.

Merci,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sumner', written in a cursive style.

Janet Sumner
Directrice générale
Wildlands League



Caldwell First Nation

14 Orange Street, Leamington, Ontario, N8H 1P5

Phone: 519-322-1766 Fax: 519-322-1533

April 11, 2022

Letter of Support for Ojibway National Urban Park Bill C-248

Caldwell First Nation is the most southern First Nation in Canada, the traditional territory runs the north shore of Lake Erie from Windsor to London Ontario. Over the years we have seen many changes to southwestern Ontario when it comes to lands, water and air.

Our mother earth is struggling as we continue to extract resources and build more physical structures destroying nature in the process. It is time to protect the environment, especially rare ecosystems such as the Ojibway Tall Grass Prairie complex, almost 900 acres of this nearly extinct habitat is located in a highly developed area of southern Ontario. It also includes the 33 acres of Ojibway Shores, the last natural shoreline on the river between Windsor and Detroit that remains untouched. The entire area contains hundreds of species at risk, the rare tallgrass prairie ecosystem, and provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change. Caldwell First Nation would like to ensure these lands are protected for future generations.

Caldwell First Nation has been involved with the Ojibway Urban National Park project since August 2019, prior to that Chief and Council met with Member of Parliament for Windsor West, Brian Masse, to discuss options of protecting the area.

The next step in the process is to support the Private Members Bill C-248, introduced by MP Masse to ensure that the lands, water, and air are protected. We are in a time of incredible change as it pertains to the climate, and the importance of recognizing the responsibility we all have. I look forward to testifying at the House of Commons Environment Committee to discuss C-248, the protection of Ojibway Prairie complex, and our involvement in national parks.

Caldwell First Nation supports the establishment of the Ojibway Urban National Park. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Mary Duckworth, Chief, Caldwell First Nation



Première Nation de Caldwell

14, rue Orange, Leamington (Ontario) N8H 1P5
Tél. : 519-322-1766 Téléc. : 519-322-1533

Le 11 avril 2022

Lettre de soutien à l'égard du projet de loi C-248 sur le parc urbain national Ojibway

La Première Nation de Caldwell est la Première Nation la plus au sud du Canada; son territoire traditionnel est situé sur la rive nord du lac Érié, de Windsor à London, en Ontario. Au fil des ans, nous avons constaté de nombreux changements dans la terre, l'eau et l'air dans le sud-ouest de l'Ontario.

La Terre, notre mère, est mise à mal pendant que nous continuons à détruire la nature pour en extraire des ressources et construire des bâtiments. Le temps est venu de protéger l'environnement, surtout des écosystèmes rares comme la prairie d'herbes longues du parc Ojibway Prairie, un habitat en voie de disparition dont un secteur de près de 900 acres se trouve dans une région très urbanisée du sud de l'Ontario. On y trouve aussi l'espace Ojibway Shores de 33 acres, la toute dernière berge naturelle non aménagée de la rivière reliant Windsor et Detroit. Toute cette région abrite des centaines d'espèces menacées et l'écosystème exceptionnel de prairie d'herbes longues, et il atténue les inondations causées par le changement climatique. La Première Nation de Caldwell veut protéger ces terres pour les générations futures.

La Première Nation de Caldwell s'investit dans le projet de parc urbain national Ojibway depuis août 2019, après que sa chef et son conseil ont rencontré Brian Masse, le député de Windsor-Ouest, pour discuter des moyens de protéger la région.

La prochaine étape consiste à appuyer le projet de loi C-248 présenté par le député Masse pour assurer la protection de la terre, de l'eau et de l'air. Nous vivons une période de changement extraordinaire en ce qui concerne le climat et l'importance de reconnaître le rôle qui nous incombe à tous. Je serai heureuse de comparaître devant le comité de l'environnement de la Chambre des communes pour parler du projet de loi C-248, de la protection du parc Ojibway Prairie, et de ce que nous faisons pour les parcs nationaux.

La Première Nation de Caldwell appuie la création du parc urbain national Ojibway. Si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations, n'hésitez pas à communiquer directement avec moi.

Je vous prie d'agréer mes sincères salutations,

Mary Duckworth, chef, Première Nation de Caldwell



OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO. _____

April 29, 2022

Mr. Brian Masse, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. ^{Brian}Masse,

Windsor City Council, at its meeting held April 25, 2022, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

That the attached correspondence from Mr. Brian Masse, Member of Parliament – Windsor West, dated April 14, 2022 requesting support of Bill C-248 (An Act to amend the *Canada National Parks Act*) regarding the Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) BE RECEIVED for information; and further,

That Administration BE DIRECTED to send a letter to the federal government in support of Bill C-248 (An Act to amend the *Canada National Parks Act*) for the establishment of the Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP).
Carried.

Advocating to protect, conserve, and enhance the Ojibway Prairie Complex along with the Ojibway Shores property aligns with the goals of the City's Environmental Master Plan. Furthermore, from a climate change perspective, advocating for a National Urban Park that includes the Ojibway Shores property aligns with the goals of the City's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Your consideration to Windsor City Council's resolution would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve Vlachodimos
City Clerk and Senior Manager of Council Services
SV/aa

Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



Item No. 7.1.1.

Windsor

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April 14, 2022

Honourable Drew Dilkens, Mayor of the City of Windsor
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
Canada
N9A 6S1

Dear Mayor Dilkens,

As you are aware, significant progress has been made in the endeavour to create Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) over the past several years.

Beginning at a townhall on August 2019 where the idea of Ojibway NUP was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including Caldwell First Nation, grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. To the present local consensus of the need to establish Ojibway NUP, significant efforts by many stakeholders was needed to make this happen.

The City of Windsor's leadership has been essential and long standing in the work to protect Ojibway Shores, the universal support at city council with a unanimous vote to support the establishment of Ojibway NUP, to the discussions with other levels of government, and other undertakings to demonstrate its commitment to protecting this unique environmental jewel in our region. The crucial effort during the last federal election to include Ojibway NUP as part of the City's *Platform for Windsor* resulted in all candidates endorsing it, further demonstrating the consensus that has been achieved.

My private members bill C-248, An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada), which was introduced this past February, had its first hour of debate and will come to vote on second reading after during the second week in June and then will go to the House of Commons Environment Committee for review. In Canada, the usual procedure for establishing a national park is to add the name and description of the park to a schedule in the Canada National Parks Act which is done by

amending the act which C-248 does. As part of this process of gathering support amongst members of parliament from across all parties, there has been an appreciation of the direct support of the City of Windsor in creating Ojibway NUP and the willingness of the municipality to transfer its local lands to Parks Canada as soon as possible to facilitate its establishment.

Accordingly, as with other supporters of Ojibway NUP from Caldwell First Nation to the Wildlands League, letters of support need to be presented to those members of parliament who wish to examine all aspects of the issue before voting on the bill. While the City has been explicit on its intention and efforts to establish Ojibway NUP, I am requesting a letter from your office in support of C-248 to ensure all members of parliament are clear that Ojibway NUP has broad support from all stakeholders.

I thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Masse".

Brian Masse MP

Windsor West

NDP Innovation, International Trade, Economic Development, and Great Lakes Critic

SERVICES AU CONSEIL

*DANS VOTRE RÉPONSE,
VEUILLEZ INDICHER NOTRE
NUMÉRO DE RÉFÉRENCE*

Le 29 avril 2022

M. Brian Masse, député
Chambre des communes
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6

Bonjour,

Lors de la réunion du 25 avril 2022, le conseil municipal de Windsor a voté à l'unanimité en faveur de la résolution suivante :

Que la correspondance ci-jointe, datée du 14 avril 2022 et envoyée par le député de Windsor-Ouest, Brian Masse afin de demander une lettre d'appui concernant le projet de loi C-248 (Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada) pour l'établissement du parc urbain national (PUN) Ojibway SOIT REÇUE à titre d'information;

Que l'Administration REÇOIVE INSTRUCTION d'envoyer une lettre au gouvernement fédéral à l'appui du projet de loi C-248 (Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada) pour l'établissement du parc urbain national (PUN) Ojibway.
Adoptée.

Le fait de favoriser la protection, la conservation et la mise en valeur du Ojibway Prairie Complex et du site Ojibway Shores est conforme aux objectifs du Plan directeur environnemental de la Ville. De plus, du point de vue de la lutte contre les changements climatiques, le fait de favoriser la création d'un parc urbain national incluant le site Ojibway Shores est conforme aux objectifs du Plan d'adaptation aux changements climatiques de la Ville.

Je vous remercie de l'attention que vous porterez à la résolution du conseil municipal de Windsor, et vous prie d'agréer, monsieur Masse, mes salutations distinguées.



Steve Vlachodimos
Directeur municipal et gestionnaire principal des services au conseil
SV/aa

Brian Masse
Député
(Windsor-Ouest)



Point no. 7.1.1.

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Télééc. : 613-992-5397
brian.masse@parl.gc.ca

Le 14 avril 2022

L'honorable Drew Dilkens, maire de la Ville de Windsor
350, City Hall Square Ouest
Windsor (Ontario) N9A 6S1

Bonjour,

Comme vous le savez, d'importants progrès ont été réalisés dans la création du parc urbain national (PUN) Ojibway au cours des dernières années.

Tout a commencé lors d'une assemblée publique au mois d'août 2019, au cours de laquelle l'idée du PUN Ojibway a été officiellement discutée par de nombreuses organisations locales, nationales et internationales, dont la Première Nation de Caldwell, des groupes locaux tels que les Friends of Ojibway, les Friends of the Rouge, la Audubon society, le Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, la Wildlands League, des scientifiques, d'anciens agents de conservation, des syndicats, d'anciens directeurs de parcs urbains et de nombreux citoyens. Beaucoup d'efforts ont été nécessaires de la part de nombreuses parties prenantes pour arriver au consensus local actuel sur la nécessité d'établir le PUN Ojibway.

Le leadership de la Ville de Windsor travaille à la protection du site Ojibway Shores depuis longtemps. L'appui universel au conseil municipal avec un vote unanime à l'appui de l'établissement du PUN Ojibway, les discussions avec d'autres ordres de gouvernement, et d'autres démarches pour démontrer son engagement à protéger ce joyau environnemental unique dans notre région ont été essentiels. L'effort déployé au cours des dernières élections fédérales pour inclure le PUN Ojibway dans programme de la Ville de Windsor a été déterminant pour obtenir un vote unanime, ce qui démontre une fois de plus le consensus qui a été atteint parmi tous les candidats.

Mon projet de loi d'initiative parlementaire, le projet de loi C-248, Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada (parc urbain national Ojibway du Canada), qui a été présenté en février dernier, a fait l'objet d'une première heure de débat et sera mis aux voix en deuxième lecture au cours de la deuxième semaine de juin, après quoi il sera renvoyé au Comité de l'environnement de la Chambre des communes pour être étudié. Au Canada, la procédure habituelle pour établir un parc national consiste à ajouter le nom et la

description du parc à une annexe de la *Loi sur les parcs nationaux du Canada*, ce qui est fait en modifiant la *Loi*, comme le prévoit le projet de loi C-248. Dans le cadre de ce processus visant à obtenir l'appui des députés de tous les partis, nous avons accueilli favorablement l'appui direct de la Ville de Windsor à la création du PUN Ojibway et la volonté de la municipalité de transférer ses terres locales à Parcs Canada le plus tôt possible pour faciliter l'établissement du PUN.

Par conséquent, comme l'ont fait d'autres partisans du PUN Ojibway, tels que la Première Nation de Caldwell et la Wildlands League, il faut présenter des lettres d'appui aux députés qui souhaitent examiner tous les aspects de la question avant de voter sur le projet de loi. Bien que les intentions et les efforts de la Ville pour établir le PUN Ojibway aient été très clairs, je demande à votre bureau d'envoyer une lettre d'appui concernant le projet de loi C-248 afin que l'ensemble des députés sache que le PUN Ojibway est largement appuyé par toutes les parties prenantes.

Je vous remercie à l'avance du temps que vous consacrerez à ma demande et vous prie d'agréer, monsieur Dilkens, mes salutations distinguées.



Brian Masse, député
Windsor-Ouest

Porte-parole du NPD en matière d'innovation, de commerce international, de développement économique et de questions touchant les Grands Lacs



GREEN UMMAH

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Green Ummah supports Bill C-248 and the establishment of the Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor, Ontario.

Green Ummah is a non-profit seeking to create an environmental movement in Canadian Muslim communities. Since 2019, Green Ummah has achieved a national impact on the environment through:

- Hosting Canada's first Muslim-led environmental conference with 150+ faith and community leaders across Canada (March 2021).
- Launching the *Greening Our Communities Toolkit* in five Islamic secondary school classrooms across Ontario, resulting in 96% of participants wanting to spend more time in nature (2021-2022).
- Advocating on behalf of safe and equitable access of Muslims to nature in Canada on a national panel alongside the then Minister of Oceans and Fisheries and Minister of Environment and Climate Change, to an audience of 2500+ (February 2021).

There is a current issue of access for Windsor Muslims to national parks. This is significant, as Muslims make up 5% of the population in Windsor.¹ Currently, the closest national park in Windsor is Point Pelee National Park which is over an hour away with no access by public transportation. National urban parks are assets in communities as they help reduce stress and mental disorders, increase the opportunities and effects of physical activities, reduce health inequalities, increase life quality and self-reported general health.² Research has shown that there are many benefits associated with access to parks and green spaces on mental and physical health. These spaces play an important role in Canadian lives.³

We believe the creation of the Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor would have a positive impact on Windsor Muslim's participation in nature. Through our *Greening Our Communities Toolkit*, we have supported students to visit national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries, including one classroom in Windsor. For most students, this was their first time engaging with national wildlife areas. After their participation, 96% of students reported that they enjoyed nature-based learning and intend to spend more time in nature spaces. Studies have shown that marginalised, racialized and new-comer communities have many barriers to accessing nature - one crucial barrier being location.

¹<https://windsorstar.com/news/windsor-keeps-the-faith-locals-more-likely-to-believe-than-the-average-canadian#:~:text=Muslims%20now%20make%20up%20about%20five%20per%20cent%20of%20Windsor's%20total%20population.>

² <https://worldurbanparks.org/images/Newsletters/IfpraBenefitsOfUrbanParks.pdf>

³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00031-eng.htm>

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GREEN UMMAH

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There are clear environmental benefits to establishing a national park in Windsor. This is an area with over 130 endangered species and thus would benefit from additional protections offered by national park status. The complex is also the only home for the Slender Bush plant. Without the protection of this park this species will cease to exist. Over 160 species of provincially rare plants and animals have been recorded in the Ojibway Prairie Complex. No other site in Ontario supports such a concentration of rare species.⁴ The Ojibway Prairie Complex is truly a unique natural space in Ontario and must be protected.

We support Bill C-248 to establish the Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor in conjunction with strong public consultation. Canada is losing its biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. We also know that we face issues regarding the access to nature for all. The Ojibway National Urban Park, along with the creation of up to 15 other national urban parks, are a vital part of the strategy to remedy the biodiversity crisis and issues regarding accessing nature.

Board of Directors
Green Ummah
May 2022

⁴[https://www.ojibway.ca/raresp.htm#:~:text=Loxocera%20ojibwayensis%20\(Diptera%3A%20Psilidae\)%20endemic%20to%20Ojibway!&text=Antrostomus%20vociferus%20Whip%2Dpoor%2Dwill\(THREATENED\)%20migrant%20sp.&text=Contopus%20cooperi%20Olive%2Dsided%20Flycatcher%20\(THREATENED\)migrant%20sp.&text=Parkesia%20motacilla%20Louisiana%20Waterthrush\(THREATENED\)%20migrant%20sp.](https://www.ojibway.ca/raresp.htm#:~:text=Loxocera%20ojibwayensis%20(Diptera%3A%20Psilidae)%20endemic%20to%20Ojibway!&text=Antrostomus%20vociferus%20Whip%2Dpoor%2Dwill(THREATENED)%20migrant%20sp.&text=Contopus%20cooperi%20Olive%2Dsided%20Flycatcher%20(THREATENED)migrant%20sp.&text=Parkesia%20motacilla%20Louisiana%20Waterthrush(THREATENED)%20migrant%20sp.)

Green Ummah appuie le projet de loi C-248 et la création du parc urbain national Ojibway en Windsor, Ontario.

Green Ummah est un organisme à but non lucratif qui cherche à créer un mouvement environnemental au Canada communautés musulmanes. Depuis 2019, Green Ummah a eu un impact national sur le l'environnement à travers :

- Accueillir la première conférence environnementale dirigée par des musulmans au Canada avec plus de 150 croyants et leaders communautaires à travers le Canada (mars 2021).
- Lancement de la boîte à outils *Greening Our Communities* dans cinq écoles secondaires islamiques salles de classe partout en Ontario, ce qui fait que 96 % des participants souhaitent passer plus de temps dans la nature (2021-2022).
- Plaider en faveur d'un accès sûr et équitable des musulmans à la nature au Canada sur une base panel national aux côtés du ministre des Océans et des Pêches et ministre des Environnement et changement climatique, à un public de plus de 2500 personnes (février 2021).

Il y a actuellement un problème d'accès des musulmans de Windsor aux parcs nationaux. Ceci est significatif, car les musulmans représentent 5 % de la population de Windsor.¹ Actuellement, le parc national le plus proche de Windsor est le parc national de la Pointe-Pelée, à plus d'une heure de route sans accès public le transport. Les parcs urbains nationaux sont des atouts pour les collectivités, car ils aident à réduire le stress et troubles mentaux, augmenter les opportunités et les effets des activités physiques, réduire la santé inégalités, améliorer la qualité de vie et l'état de santé général autodéclaré.² La recherche a montré que il y a de nombreux avantages associés à l'accès aux parcs et aux espaces verts sur le plan mental et santé physique. Ces espaces jouent un rôle important dans la vie des Canadiens.³

Nous croyons que la création du parc urbain national Ojibway à Windsor aurait un effet positif impact sur la participation des musulmans de Windsor à la nature. Grâce à notre Écologisation de nos collectivités boîte à outils, nous avons aidé les étudiants à visiter les réserves nationales de faune et les oiseaux migrateurs sanctuaires, dont une salle de classe à Windsor. Pour la plupart des étudiants, c'était la première fois collaboration avec les réserves nationales de faune. Après leur participation, 96 % des étudiants ont déclaré qu'ils apprécié l'apprentissage basé sur la nature et ont l'intention de passer plus de temps dans des espaces naturels. Des études ont montré que les communautés marginalisées, racialisées et de nouveaux arrivants ont de nombreux obstacles à accéder à la nature - un obstacle crucial étant l'emplacement.

¹ <https://windsorstar.com/news/windsor-keeps-the-faith-locals-more-likely-to-believe-than-the-average-canadian#:~:text=Muslims%20now%20make%20up%20about%20five%20per%20cent%20of%20Windsor's%20total%20population>

² <https://worldurbanparks.org/images/Newsletters/IfpraBenefitsOfUrbanParks.pdf>

³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00031-eng.htm>

La création d'un parc national à Windsor présente des avantages environnementaux évidents. C'est un zone avec plus de 130 espèces menacées et bénéficierait donc de protections supplémentaires offert par le statut de parc national. Le complexe est également la seule maison pour l'usine de Slender Bush. Sans la protection de ce parc, cette espèce cessera d'exister. Plus de 160 espèces de des plantes et des animaux rares à l'échelle provinciale ont été signalés dans le complexe de la prairie Ojibway. Non autre site en Ontario abrite une telle concentration d'espèces rares.⁴ La prairie ojibwée Le complexe est vraiment un espace naturel unique en Ontario et doit être protégé.

Nous appuyons le projet de loi C-248 visant à créer le parc urbain national Ojibway à Windsor en collaboration avec une forte consultation publique. Le Canada perd sa biodiversité à un rythme sans précédent. Nous savez aussi que nous sommes confrontés à des enjeux d'accès à la nature pour tous. Le National Ojibway Le parc urbain, ainsi que la création de jusqu'à 15 autres parcs urbains nationaux, sont un élément essentiel du stratégie pour remédier à la crise de la biodiversité et aux enjeux d'accès à la nature.

Conseil d'administration
Green Ummah
Mai 2022

⁴ [https://www.ojibway.ca/rare.asp.htm#:~:text=Loxocera%20ojibwayensis%20\(Diptera%3A%20Psilidae\)%20endemic%20to%20Ojibway!&text=Antrostomus%20vociferus%20Whip%20poor%20will\(THREATENED\)%20migrant%20sp.&text=Contopus%20cooperi%20Olive%20sided%20Flycatcher%20\(THREATENED\)migrant%20sp.&text=Parkesia%20motacilla%20Louisiana%20Waterthrush\(THREATENED\)%20migrant%20sp](https://www.ojibway.ca/rare.asp.htm#:~:text=Loxocera%20ojibwayensis%20(Diptera%3A%20Psilidae)%20endemic%20to%20Ojibway!&text=Antrostomus%20vociferus%20Whip%20poor%20will(THREATENED)%20migrant%20sp.&text=Contopus%20cooperi%20Olive%20sided%20Flycatcher%20(THREATENED)migrant%20sp.&text=Parkesia%20motacilla%20Louisiana%20Waterthrush(THREATENED)%20migrant%20sp)

REPORT NO. 100
of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)
of its meeting held
October 26, 2017
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.
Ojibway Nature Centre

Members present at the October 26, 2017 meeting:

Councillor Paul Borrelli, Chair
Councillor Fred Francis
Nelson Santos, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
Derek Coronado
Debby Grant
Mike Nelson
Joe Passa
Dr. Edwin Tam

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by D. Grant,

WHEREAS, the City of Windsor has committed to enhancing the quality of Windsor's natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the property known as Ojibway Shores and owned by the Windsor Port Authority, has important natural heritage characteristics, including significant wetland, habitat of threatened and endangered species, significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat, ecological function, diversity, significant species, significant communities, and condition; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 biodiversity goals and targets for Canada include by 2020 at least 17 percent of terrestrial areas are conserved; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada is the sole shareholder of the Windsor Port Authority;

THERE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor request the Government of Canada conserve the significant natural condition, biodiversity and biological function of the Ojibway Shores property as an environmentally protected area.

Carried.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

NOTIFICATION	WECEC – On file
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Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory/Evaluation



2017

Published by: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club (ECFNC), Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC), Citizen Environment Alliance (CEA), The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA),

Report prepared by: Jesse Gardner-Costa, *President* (ECFNC), Dan Lebedyk, *Conservation Biologist* (ERCA), Tom Preney, *BioBlitz Chair* (ECFNC), Claire Sanders, (ECFNC), Gerry Waldron

Funding and in-kind support provided by:



Copies of this report may be obtained from:

The Essex County Field Naturalists' Club
essexcountynature.com

This report may be cited as:

Gardner-Costa J.¹, Lebedyk D.², Preney T.I., Sanders C.³, Waldron W.^{1,4}. 2017. Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory/Evaluation. Windsor, Ontario. Report prepared for the Windsor Port Authority. 63p.

¹Essex County Field Naturalists, ²Essex Region Conservation Authority, ³Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, ⁴Consulting Ecologists.

Executive Summary

The Essex County Field Naturalists' club, with permission from the Windsor Port Authority, and in partnership with the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Citizen Environment Alliance and Essex Region Conservation Authority were given the opportunity to undertake a biological inventory of the Ojibway Shores property. Data was collected solely on a volunteer basis and findings were verified by local experts. Using 4-season data collected from 2014 & 2015 and an Ecological Land Classification in 2016, this report provides a summary of the findings as well as an evaluation of the significance of the property based on provincial guidelines. The purpose of this report is to characterize the natural heritage significance of the property and its inhabitants and is intended to be used as a resource for future discussions on the land-use and fate of Ojibway Shores.

Ten evaluation criteria for 'natural heritage significance of the property' were developed by the study team. Other natural heritage inventories completed across the Province were reviewed in order to assess the current standards for natural heritage inventories and evaluations. Of the 10 criteria considered, Ojibway Shores met 9 of 10 criteria considered to be significant natural heritage. The 'satisfied' criteria were as follows: Significant Wetland, Habitat of Threatened and Endangered Species, Significant Woodlands, Significant Wildlife Habitat, Ecological Function, Diversity, Significant Species, Significant Communities, and Condition. Satisfying even one of the first 5 criteria typically qualifies a property with significant natural heritage. Scoring 9 of 10 possible criteria strongly indicates the importance and potential benefit of preserving a property's natural heritage.

Ojibway Shores, owned by the Windsor Port Authority, is 33.6 acres (13.5 ha) with approximately 500 linear meters of natural (undeveloped) shoreline. The property has a rich history of use, dating back to the 18th century. Although the property remains undeveloped, it has seen a number of disturbances (natural and anthropogenic) resulting in areas of varied micro-topography, soils and hydrology. Significant aspects of this property include:

- Last remaining stretch of undeveloped, natural shoreline in Windsor on the Detroit River
- Last remaining opportunity to physically link the Detroit River directly to the Ojibway Complex
- Size and location significant to function as an ecological connection.
- Currently supporting native species from a "soft" shoreline and river bottom.
- Is in close proximity to potential additional shoreline projects.

This area provides ecological linkage to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the Ojibway Prairie Complex, the latter is home to over 160 provincially rare plants and animals. Ojibway Shores' natural shoreline and Broadway Drain provide movement corridors, allowing species to maintain genetic diversity. The sandy shoreline provides nesting habitat for turtles (including the endangered Spiny Softshell) and the drain provides overwintering habitat for snakes. Total linkage potential from the Detroit River into the Ojibway Complex is approximately 250 acres (101.0 ha) (with a few smaller parcels included). The overall shoreline

potential is over 1250 m (1 ¼ km) in a natural state or with potential to restore based on ecological design for the bridge plaza complex and the Brighton Beach Power Plant.

Overall, 554 different species were documented on the property (293 fauna, 261 flora) over the course of the inventory. Twenty-eight (28) federally or provincially protected species were identified. A total of 141 species of birds have been documented on the property, over half of the 252 total species recorded in the Ojibway Prairie Complex. This significant number of species in an already species rich area indicates that Ojibway Shores is an important stop-over for migratory birds which includes eight Species at Risk; Bald Eagle, Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Canada Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Peregrine Falcon, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Wood Thrush.

From the 2016 Ecological Land Classification (ELC), 8 distinct vegetation communities were delineated, one of which is provincially rare (FODM7-4 Fresh–Moist Black Walnut Lowland Deciduous Forest, Table 5). By provincial standards, this many vegetation communities are considered to be 'high diversity', the second highest category for the 'potential quality' of habitat. Coupled with the Provincially Significant Wetland designation on a portion of the property and its direct linkage to other natural areas, Ojibway Shores serves as an important corridor habitat for numerous species that are recognized as rare, threatened and common.

Undertaking this study has provided a unique opportunity to study an unaltered piece of habitat in an otherwise developed area. Despite such close proximity to development and residing in a bi-national Area of Concern (AOC –Detroit River), Ojibway Shores supports a number of species and likely supports many more living adjacent to the property. Given the species diversity and habitat heterogeneity, this property would be a great candidate for preservation and habitat enhancement.



July 29, 2022

Hon. David Piccini
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Piccini,

I am writing to you as a follow-up with regard to the progression of the Ojibway National Urban Park project in my riding of Windsor West. In our previous discussions, I highlighted the importance that this Urban Park would have on our region and our province.

As I've explained in the past, the proposed Ojibway National Urban Park would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to many species, including those that are identified as endangered, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community and travellers from far and wide can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

There has been significant support for this Urban Park – from all levels of government and local Indigenous and environmental groups. My federal colleague, Brian Masse MP Windsor West introduced a Private Members' Bill in the House of Commons on February 9, 2022. This Bill details the lands that will be included in the Ojibway National Urban Park as well as amending the National Parks Act to include the Ojibway National Urban Park, ensuring the legal provisions and authorities of ONUP will be in the National Parks Act. Bill C-248 has been supported by all federal parties including all Conservative, NDP, Bloc Quebecois, Greens and two Liberal Members of Parliament respectively. I will also note, the local Conservative MP for Essex, Chris Lewis voted for and spoke in favour of Bill C-248. Caldwell First Nation, the City of Windsor and the Wildlands League had all written letters to MPs and the federal government stating they support the passage of C-248 and encouraged MPs to vote for the Bill. The Ojibway Shores land has been transferred from the Windsor Port Authority to Parks Canada. As well, the City of Windsor is in discussions to transfer the remaining city owned land to Parks Canada. The final piece would include the province finalizing their discussions to transfer the provincial land to Parks Canada.



Lisa Gretzky
MPP Windsor West

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I am asking you to honour the work that so many in my community and across the province have already done. To work with Parks Canada to transfer the provincially owned Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve to Parks Canada to create the Ojibway National Urban Park. I look forward to your response and continuing to work together on this important environmental project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gretzky MPP
Windsor West

Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



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November 18, 2021

Honourable Steven Guilbeault, MP
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Fontaine Building 12th floor
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding the long-term protection of the environmentally sensitive land referred to as Ojibway Shores.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park, to name a few. If connected, this area including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

Over the past two years a consensus has developed among residents and local, national, and international environmental organizations for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. All local municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this and even the Prime Minister has publicly voiced his support in establishing Ojibway National Urban Park. Ojibway Shores

is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) which has demanded that local taxpayers pay for this property which is already owned by all Canadians. I have always maintained that this is unacceptable for the federal government to make residents pay twice for something they already own to preserve the environment. Instead, the senior level of government should seize the opportunity to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action.

As I have outlined in several letters to the previous Environment Ministers, Transport Ministers, and the Prime Minister and to the WPA that the Government of Canada can transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada. All it will take is a change in the letters patent of the WPA. Making changes in a port's letters patent is a routine procedure as I have illustrated in examples presented to the WPA and to various Ministers.

Unfortunately, as reported in the media, the three years long negotiations between the City of Windsor and the WPA have broken down with the WPA at this late date informing the city that the waterfront land (the Doiron property) the City was attempting to acquire as part of a land swap is unacceptable to them. This has precipitated the American owner to sell the undeveloped waterfront land to a developer which puts the shoreline at further risk. This has led to the conclusion that the WPA has no intent of allowing Ojibway Shores to be protected and your department must now intervene in transferring Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada so the process of establishing a National Urban Park can begin. Furthermore, the government should intervene and acquire the Doiron property to ensure the shoreline is protected and eliminate the flood risk to the historic Sandwich town community, which is one of the oldest settlements in Ontario and includes many centuries old buildings including the Duff-Baby House, built in 1798, which is located across the street from the land and is presently a museum as well as designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

On June 7, 2021, the council of the City of Windsor unanimously endorsed my letter of May 18 to the federal Ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, and the Environment and Climate Change calling for the establishment of ONUP. This precipitated the meeting on June 28, between Parks Canada, representatives from Environment Canada, the Mayor

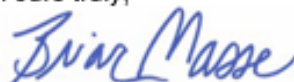
of Windsor, the member from Windsor-Tecumseh and me to discuss the process of moving forward with the ONUP. Finally, on August 9, the federal government announced a statement of collaboration signed with the City of Windsor to ultimately designate the Ojibway complex as a national urban park.

As part of the federal government's efforts to assist municipalities adapt to climate change, intervening to transfer the Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada would further this goal by allowing the City of Windsor to reallocate the resources that would have been used to pay for the land taxpayers already own to other environmental projects. On February 11, 2020 a federal grant of \$140,530, from the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment program was awarded to the WPA so it can conduct a climate change impact study and determine the extent of the potential crisis on the local port due to high water levels and intense storms. This is a federal acknowledgement of need for amelioration and mitigation that preserving Ojibway Shores would be a part of. Additionally, preserving Ojibway Shores would help to meet the government's commitment to have 25 percent of Canada's land have protected status by 2025 as well as preserve habitat of endangered species. This would also follow the government's plan create more National Urban Parks.

As House of Commons is about to convene for the new session and in the spirit of cooperation in this minority parliament, I am requesting that you take action to protect Ojibway Shores. It is your choice to take advantage of this opportunity to achieve several of your government's goals while protecting local taxpayers and preserving the environment.

I appreciate your time and attention to this request. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse".

Brian Masse MP

Windsor West

NDP Innovation, International Trade, Economic Development, and Great Lakes Critic

Cc: Mayor Dilkens, City of Windsor



Lisa Gretzky

MPP Windsor West

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Doug Ford
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David Piccini
Minister of Environment,
Conservation and Parks
College Park - 5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

October 6, 2021

Dear Premier and Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,

I am writing today to make you aware of the need to create Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor West. The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park (ONUP) would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit.

It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, owns and manages Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, which is 230 acres of prairie, savanna, and open woodland. The nature reserve is the largest protected remnant of native prairie in Ontario. It is one of the earth's most endangered plant communities. More than 500 flowering plants are found in and around the nature reserve. About 18 per cent of these plants are considered to be rare in Ontario. It has greater biodiversity than Algonquin Park or the Bruce Peninsula. Harboring more rare species than any other provincial park in Ontario. Recognized in the 1970s as an important natural area, Ojibway Prairie was established as a nature reserve in co-operation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Windsor.

In August 2019, I attended the ONUP town hall hosted by Brian Masse MP Windsor West which included local, national, and international organizations including grassroots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the US Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and hundreds of residents. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation. As well, in June 2021, Windsor City Council unanimously endorsed the proposed plan. . Furthermore, on August 9, the federal government signed a statement of collaboration with the City of Windsor to ultimately designate the Ojibway Prairie complex as a national urban park.

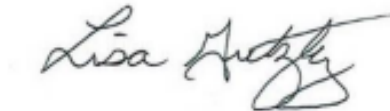
The Ojibway National Urban Park is supported by all three levels of government in Windsor-Essex, as well as thousands of constituents. I am asking this government to:

- Engage in conversations with the City of Windsor, the Federal government, and Parks Canada to establish this Urban Park to protect this vital 900-acre greenspace
- Sign an agreement with Parks Canada to transfer Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve to establish ONUP, similar to what the Province did when it transferred provincial Rouge Park to help establish Rouge National Urban Park.
- Respectfully work with and support local Indigenous peoples such as the Caldwell First Nation to ensure accountability and transparency in the establishment and management of ONUP.

I am confident that your government will support the creation of the Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor West to help protect vital greenspace, flood mitigation, and support ecotourism.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West
NDP Critic for Community and Social Services

cc: Brian Masse, MP Windsor West
Mayor of Windsor Drew Dilkens

Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



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May 18, 2021

The Honorable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M. P.
Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N5

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M. P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
180 Kent Street
Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON, K1P 0B6

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M. P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers Alghabra, McKenna, and Wilkinson,

I am writing to you all again regarding the long-term protection of the environmentally sensitive land referred to as Ojibway Shores. I have spoken to each of you about this issue in the past and provided documentation and correspondence.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park, to name a few. If connected, this area including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

Over the past two years a consensus has developed among residents and local, national, and international environmental organizations for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. All local

municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this and even the Prime Minister has publicly voiced his support in establishing Ojibway National Urban Park.

Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) which has demanded that local taxpayers pay for this property which is already owned by all Canadians. I have always maintained that this is unacceptable for the federal government to make local residents pay twice for something they already own to preserve the environment. Instead the senior level of government should seize the opportunity to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action.

As I have outlined in several letters to the previous Environment Minister, Transport Ministers, and the Prime Minister and to the WPA that the Government of Canada can transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada. All it will take is a change in the *letters patent* of the WPA. Making changes in a port's *letters patent* is a routine procedure as I have illustrated in examples presented to the WPA and to various Ministers.

Unfortunately, as reported in the media, the three years long negotiations between the City of Windsor and the WPA have broken down with the WPA at this late date informing the city that the waterfront land (the Dorion property) the City was attempting to acquire as part of a land swap is unacceptable to them. This has precipitated the American owner to sell the undeveloped waterfront land to a developer which puts the shoreline at further risk. This has led to the conclusion that the WPA has no intent of allowing Ojibway Shores to be protected and your department must now intervene in transferring Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada so the process of establishing a National Urban Park can begin. Furthermore, the government should intervene and acquire the Dorion property to ensure the shoreline is protected and eliminate the flood risk to the historic Sandwich town community, which is one of the oldest settlements in Ontario and includes many centuries old buildings including the Duff-Baby House, built in 1798, which is located across the street from the land and is presently a museum as well as designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

As part of the federal government's efforts to assist municipalities adapt to climate change, intervening to transfer the Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada would further this goal by allowing the City of Windsor to reallocate the resources that would have been used to pay for the land taxpayers already own to other environmental projects. On February 11, 2020 a federal grant of \$140,530, from the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment program was awarded to the WPA so it can conduct a climate change impact study and determine the extent of the potential crisis on the local port due to high water levels and intense storms. This is a federal acknowledgement of need for amelioration and mitigation that preserving Ojibway Shores would be a part of. Additionally, preserving Ojibway Shores would help to meet the government's commitment to have 25 percent of Canada's land have protected status by 2025. This would also follow the government's plan revealed in both the fall economic statement and the recent federal budget to create more National Urban Parks.

As stated in the Prime Minister's mandate letters to cabinet ministers, "people expect parliamentarians to work together to deliver these results," I am requesting that you take action to protect Ojibway Shores. It is your choice to take advantage of this opportunity

to achieve several of your government's goals while protecting local taxpayers and preserving the environment.

Thank you in advance for your time and immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West
NDP Innovation, Science and Economic Development Critic

Cc: Mayor Dilkens, City of Windsor

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



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January 8, 2020

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you regarding the long-term protection of the environmentally sensitive land referred to as Ojibway Shores.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park, to name a few. If connected, this area including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) which has demanded that local taxpayers pay for this property which is already owned by all Canadians. This is unacceptable as local taxpayers are already stretched and the federal government should not double dip on them to preserve the environment. Instead the senior level of government should seize the opportunity to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action.

As I have outlined in several letters to the previous Environment Minister, the Transport Minister and to the WPA that the Government of Canada can transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada. All it will take is a change in the *letters patent* of the WPA. Making changes in a port's *letters patent* is a routine procedure as I have illustrated in examples presented to the WPA.

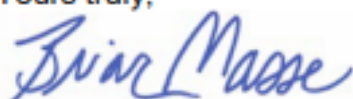
As part of the federal government's efforts to assist municipalities adapt to climate change, intervening to transfer the Ojibway Shores from the WPA to Environment Canada would further this goal by allowing the City of Windsor to reallocate the

resources that would have been used to pay for the land taxpayers already own to other environmental projects. Additionally, preserving Ojibway Shores would help to meet the government's commitment to have 25 percent of Canada's land have protected status by 2025.

As you stated in your mandate letters to cabinet ministers, "people expect parliamentarians to work together to deliver these results," I am requesting that you take action to protect Ojibway Shores. It is your choice to take advantage of this opportunity to achieve several of your government's goals while protecting local taxpayers and preserving the environment.

Thank you in advance for your time and immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West
NDP Innovation, Science and Economic Development Critic

Cc: Hon. Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



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November 7, 2019

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing today to request that as you develop the mandate letter for the new Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Minister that you include the establishment of a national auto strategy for the Canadian industry.

Our future in the automotive manufacturing industry is uncertain. This does not have to be the case and there is little time left to not only protect the remaining jobs and facilities but also attract new investment.

I understand fully that the industry is transitioning and becoming more innovative. However, your government previously had no plan for stopping the plant closures or at the very least mitigating the effects on the workers and their families by having established and clear rules in these instances. We have no greenfield plans to attract future investments, no strategy for global development and retaking our position as a worldwide leader, and no plans to work with the adjacent tool and mold sector to attract opportunities for them like the recent \$ 14 billion in investment opportunities in Detroit. I am attaching the letter I previously sent to Minister Bains with a focus on a strategy for Canadian companies and workers to benefit from these once in a generation investments in our neighbour.

Thank you in advance for your time and immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West
NDP Innovation, Science and Economic Development Critic

Ottawa

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Brian Masse

MP/ Député

May 7, 2019

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing to follow-up with you today on my letter from October 25, 2017 (attached), and my question today in the House of Commons regarding the long-term protection of Ojibway Shores.

As you know, Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park, to name a few. If connected, this area including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

As proposed in my October 2017 letter, Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) and I am again requesting that the Government of Canada transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada and that you begin the process of designating it as a national urban park.

Therefore, I am again requesting that you take a proactive role moving this file forward and protecting Ojibway Shores. It is pertinent that discussions happen with those overseeing the adjacent properties in this process, and together, this group of natural properties would protect the entire area for these endangered species that rely on all of this space for their survival for the long-term.

Since the process is outlined clearly in the attached letter for the transfer of this real property, I have not included it again. However, should you have any questions regarding this process, or if you would like to meet to discuss this matter forward, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours truly,



Brian Masse MP
Windsor West

Attach.(1)

Ottawa

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October 25th, 2017

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Hon. Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Environmentally Critical Land in Windsor, Ontario – Ojibway Shores

Dear Ministers McKenna and Garneau,

I am writing you both today to bring to your attention an issue that can assist your government achieve some of its climate change objectives.

Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority; it is a 33 acre parcel of land of major environmental and heritage significance. This property provides the opportunity to preserve, protect unique and crucial environmental piece of land.

I am proposing the Government of Canada transfer the management of this property from under the Windsor Port Authority to Environment Canada. The law with respect to this process is clear and simple, it only takes political will.

The Windsor-Essex region hosts an incredible collection of properties known as the Ojibway Prairie Complex (OPC); collectively their environmental significance cannot be understated. You will find enclosed some of the documentation outlining the OPC's environmental importance but in short it is a haven for species at risk, rare fauna and flora.

Ojibway Shore needs to be placed under federal environmental protection as a matter of consistency and realizing a community dream.

As a component of the broader OPC, Ojibway Shores is a living environmental laboratory that properly belongs under the jurisdiction of Environment Canada. Bringing it under the jurisdiction of this Ministry will afford the government the opportunity to fully protect and preserve this ecological treasure and advance your environmental agenda.

As Ojibway Shores is federally owned but under the management of the Port Authority, for the land transfer to proceed the Transport Minister would have to notify the Port of his intention to remove the property in question from under the management of the Port. Once this process is vetted the property could then be transferred from one Ministry (in this case Transport) to another (Environment).

As you are aware the Windsor Port Authority is simply the agent of the Federal government holding stewardship over this property. The federal government is well within its authority to remove this property from under their stewardship at any time and is under no obligation whatsoever to compensate the Port. You will find that this parcel of land could be eligible for many of the environmental protection programs administered through Environment Canada.

A recent study jointly published by several leading local environmental organizations, including our regional conservation authority has concluded that this parcel of land is of "natural heritage significance" and further noted that Ojibway Shores is a "great candidate for preservation and habitat enhancement." I have enclosed a copy of this study for your convenience.

You may also be aware that Environment Canada has virtually no federally protected lands in South Western Ontario. Ojibway Shores is a very strong candidate for federal protection and is already federal land, making it an uncomplicated and unique opportunity.

Given the mandate of the Port Authority and the environmental significance of Ojibway Shores the management of this parcel of land is misplaced. The Port is rightly concerned with its own mandate of advancing the marine commercial interests of the region and simply not equipped to properly administer a parcel of land as ecologically important as Ojibway Shores.

The community has time and again re-iterated its deep concern for the protection and preservation of this property. Previous proposals for its development were met with strong community opposition that ultimately led to the WPA and partners abandoning development plans.

Therefore, from the perspective of the WPA, this land is a pure liability as it not possible for them to develop it for commercial interests. The public has spoken; they want their land, which they own protected.

It's clear that the Port Authority understands the untenable situation they are in given their recent statements regarding divestment of Ojibway Shores. As you are likely aware there is a discussion in my community around Community Benefits in the context of the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. They have proposed that \$10 Million of those funds be used to pay the Port Authority for the community to acquire Ojibway Shores.

It's appalling that the WPA interprets the Community Benefits discussion as an opportunity to further their own interests instead of recognizing it as a vehicle through which crucial, mitigating investments can be made in our community. These funds are meant to help offset the significant deleterious impacts we have experienced in places like Sandwich Towne, where we have lost schools, businesses public services and housing all due to a major international border crossing being located in the immediate neighbourhood.

As I point out above, the community already owns Ojibway Shores. In attempting to leverage people's concern for the environment to secure an absurdly high pay out for land that is a pure liability, the WPA is taking an odious position. The land is undevelopable for commercial interest and as such is essentially less than worthless in the furtherance of the WPA's mandate.

However, from the broader perspective of the federal government as a whole and to the Canadian public generally is a major opportunity. Transferring the administration of Ojibway Shores from Port Authority management to Environment Canada will relieve the WPA of a liability; provide the Government of Canada the opportunity to properly protect and study of Ojibway Shores.

Proceeding as I suggest aligns very succinctly with many of the articulated goals in your Government's Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS). Some FSDS priorities listed in the government's document that the transfer of Ojibway Shores to your Department would support include the following:

- Effective action on climate change
- Sustainably Managed Lands and Forests
- Healthy Wildlife Populations
- Connecting Canadians with Nature
- Safe and Healthy Communities

The status quo is no longer sustainable; the Port cannot develop Ojibway Shores and is not equipped to exercise proper stewardship over this property. It is under the direct stewardship of Environment Canada where this property will yield the greatest benefit to all stakeholders – including the WPA.

I trust you will give this proposal your thoughtful consideration; I would be pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this in greater detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Brian Masse M.P.
Windsor West

Encl. (2017) Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory/Evaluation

c.c. The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau – Prime Minister of Canada
Mr. David Cree – President/CEO Windsor Port Authority
Mr. George Sandala – Chair, Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority

Rocco Lucente – Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Windsor Port Authority

Walter Benzinger – Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority

Barry Fowler – Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority

Anthony Mascaro – Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority

Bianca DeLuca – Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority

Mr. Tom Porter – Board of Directors,
Windsor Port Authority



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2022

MASSE'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO CREATE OJIBWAY NATIONAL URBAN PARK HAS FINAL DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT TODAY

Local Essex MP to speak in favour of the bill

(OTTAWA) – Today, Brian Masse MP (Windsor West), will have the final hour debate on his private members' bill (PMB) to establish Ojibway National Urban Park in the House of Commons.

"The bill to establish Ojibway National Park is the culmination of years, if not decades, of work by many residents of this region fighting to protect this unique ecosystem in one of the most heavily developed areas in the country. It has been a real privilege and honour to be the one to finally present the legislation in the House of Commons," stated Masse.

The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

On August 27, 2019, a townhall was held in Windsor where the idea of Ojibway NUP was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, and many individual citizens. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation. Over the past two and a half years a consensus has developed for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. The results have been that all Windsor municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this. Local Essex MP, Conservative Chris Lewis, will be speaking favour of the bill today in the debate.

Since the bill was introduced and the first hour of debate took place there has been further support and developments that have happened. Caldwell First Nation, the City of Windsor and the Wildlands League have all written letters to all MPs and the federal government stating they support the passage of C-248. Additionally, on May 12 in the House of Commons, the Minister of the Environment announced that Transport Canada has signed an agreement with Parks Canada to transfer Ojibway Shores from the Windsor Port to Parks Canada as part of the process of creating Ojibway National Urban Park. The federal government has finally acknowledged what has been known for five years. This action, while needed and important, was taken in anticipation of the vote for bill C-248 on June 8.

"This is the final piece of puzzle to making this park a reality. I am honoured to have been able to debate this bill, and I thank my colleagues across all party lines for their support. All those years of work by so many people across this city and country" Masse stated. -30-

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2022

VICTORY: TRANSPORT CANADA FINALLY AGREES TO TRANSFER OJIBWAY SHORES FROM WINDSOR PORT AUTHORITY TO PARKS CANADA

ANOTHER MILESTONE ALONG THE WAY TO ESTABLISH OJIBWAY NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN THE LEAD UP TO JUNE VOTE ON THE BILL

(WINDSOR) – Today, Brian Masse MP (Windsor West), along with many residents of Windsor, in declaring victory over the Windsor Port Authority when the Minister of the Environment during Question Period announced that Transport Canada has signed an agreement with Parks Canada to transfer Ojibway Shores from the Port to Parks Canada as part of the process of creating Ojibway National Urban Park. This transfer of land is an action Masse has called for repeatedly for the past five years and is in the lead up to the vote on Masse's bill C-248, to establish Ojibway National Urban Park.

"Today is a victory for all residents, the City of Windsor, and all the organization that have called for this land transfer to Parks Canada to happen. I have been advocating for this to many ministers of Transport and the Environment for five years. I even sent directions on how to do it to the Windsor Port Authority. The federal government has finally acknowledged what has been known for five years and should have been done long ago. City taxpayers should pay twice for land they already own. This action, while needed and important, is just one more step in the process of establishing Ojibway National Urban Park. I assume this action was taken today since the House of Commons vote on my bill C-248 to create Ojibway NUP is on June 8," Masse stated.

The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism. On August 27, 2019, a townhall was held in Windsor where the idea of Ojibway NUP, was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the US Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation.

Since Masse introduced the C-248 back in February of this year, the City of Windsor has passed a unanimous council resolution to support the bill and to inform the federal government that it does, along with wanting to transfer all its lands to Parks Canada immediately. Caldwell First Nation has written a letter to all members of Parliament in support of Bill C-248 since it is the Caldwell's traditional territory. The Wildlands League, one Canada's leading organizations with regards to nature protection and National Parks, has also written a letter to all MPs in support of C-248. *(please follow the link to read all three letters along with a timeline and further information on Ojibway NUP <https://www.brianmasse.ca/ojibway-shores/>)*

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

"The bill to establish Ojibway National Park is the culmination of years if not decades of work by many residents of this region fighting to protect this unique ecosystem in one of the most heavily developed areas in the country. Since it is my 20th anniversary of being elected a member of parliament, my colleagues in the House of Commons can give our community, and the country, the best gift I could imagine by voting for bill C-248," stated Masse.

-30-

For more information contact Mohammed Peer 519-982-8816

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2022

MASSE INTRODUCES BILL TO ESTABLISH OJIBWAY NATIONAL URBAN PARK

The legislation is guaranteed a vote in this session of Parliament

(WINDSOR) – Today, Brian Masse MP (Windsor West), was joined by Rick Labonte of the Unifor Local 444 Environment Committee, at the Ojibway Nature Centre, as he announced the introduction of his private members' bill (PMB) to establish Ojibway National Urban Park.

"The introduction of this bill to establish Ojibway National Park is the culmination of years if not decades of work by many residents of this region fighting to protect this unique ecosystem in one of the most heavily developed areas in the country. It is a real privilege and honour to be the one to finally present the legislation in the House of Commons that so many people locally, nationally, and internationally want to see become law and have this environmental gem be protected forever," stated Masse.

The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area of approximately 900 acres, including the Detroit River could become one of North America's treasures. It serves not only as a home and larger ecosystem to these species, but also provides mitigation of flooding due to climate change and natural heritage areas that our community can enjoy, appreciate, and use for healthy living space and ecotourism.

"Establishing Ojibway National Urban Park, not only preserves the last remaining shoreline and protects remnants of a rare ecosystem but underscores also how important it is to have a natural presence that has been unchanged by humans within a city. This is what makes it even more unique," stated Chief Mary Duckworth of Caldwell First Nation.

"'Save Ojibway Shores' has been on our radar for a long time. It is fantastic to hear that Ojibway Shores will be on the map as a part of a national urban park. To have this legislation finally be introduced is music to our ears. There was so much work done behind the scenes, our community should be proud of all of those involved," stated Rick Labonte, Unifor Local 444 Environment representative.

On August 27, 2019, a townhall was held in Windsor where the idea of Ojibway NUP, modelled on the Rouge NUP, was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the US Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. It is also supported by Caldwell First Nation. Over the past two and a half years a consensus has developed among residents and local, national, and international environmental organizations for all these publicly owned properties, parks, and preserves be combined into a National Urban Park. The results have been that all Windsor municipal, provincial, and federal officials have committed to this.

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

***NEWS
RELEASE***

"Nature unites us. Being in nature, having access to nature and working on projects to protect and restore nature heals us. Together, moving forward with legislation to create a new national urban park in Windsor, we can restore, protect and connect the natural landscapes of this great city. A city on the front lines of the of the extinction crisis and the climate emergency," stated Janet Sumner, Executive Director of the Wildlands League.

"This is the final piece of puzzle to making this park a reality. Drawing number 7 on PMB order guarantees a vote in this session of parliament so the expectations are high for this happen. All those years of work by so many people across this city and country. Maybe luck too since in the last parliament my former sports betting bill was number 7 as well and it became the law of the land," Masse stated.

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2021

Masse: Potential sale of waterfront land connected to Ojibway Shores threatens the environment and the future National Urban Park

WINDSOR – NDP MP Brian Masse (Windsor West), held a press conference to discuss the possible sale of waterfront land that will impact Ojibway Shores, threaten the endangered species that use the Ojibway complex for their survival and put at risk the ecological integrity of the proposed National Urban Park.

"At a time when the City of Windsor is in negotiations with the federal government on initiating the process to establish Ojibway National Urban Park (ONUP), the potential sale of waterfront land connected to Ojibway Shores, where over 100 endangered species live, is a serious danger to the environment. Any industrial use or development would damage Ojibway Shores. This land needs to be acquired by Parks Canada, environmentally tested, and remediated if necessary, and be included as part of the ONUP," Masse stated.

The property is located beside Ojibway Shores along the Detroit River and is adjacent to the Gordie Howe International Bridge & Plaza (GHIB). The land component contains approximately 14 acres, and the water lot contains approximately 1.36 acres for a total site area of 15.36 acres. There is an additional 1.4-acre site of surplus land owned by GHIB and may be conveyed at nominal cost. The property has a full Seaway water depth for bulk shipments. It has been used as a dumping ground for construction debris.

The proposed Ojibway National Urban Park would include Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park, Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, and Ojibway Shores, a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. If connected, this area would total approximately 900 acres. Recently, on June 7, 2021, the council of the City of Windsor unanimously endorsed my letter of May 18 to the federal Ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, and the Environment calling for the establishment of ONUP. Since June 28, Parks Canada, representatives from Environment Canada, and the City of Windsor have been meeting to discuss the process of moving forward with the ONUP and signing an agreement.

"The residents of this community, environmental and community organizations, scientists, and local officials have fought for years to establish ONUP. Any threats to its environmental health and its future must be stopped. The federal government must acquire this property to ensure ONUP's ecological integrity as well as mitigate shoreline erosion and the effects of climate change," Masse stated.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2020

MASSE JOINS LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CALLING FOR THE PROTECTION OF OJIBWAY SHORES: *Create a National Urban Park to protect land in southern Ontario to mitigate effects of climate change*

OTTAWA - Today, Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West), NDP Innovation, Science, Industry and Great Lakes Critic, joined with the Wildlands League and Chief Duckworth of Caldwell First Nation to call for the protection Ojibway Shores permanently.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in along the Detroit River in Canada. It is home to numerous endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park. Additionally, the area helps to mitigate flooding and erosion due to climate change. The property is owned by the federal government and managed by the Windsor Port Authority (WPA).

"Tallgrass Prairie is the most endangered ecosystem in Canada," stated Janet Sumner, Executive Director of Wildlands League, "and it is also the most resilient to a warming climate."

The current archipelago of protection in Windsor preserves a critically endangered remnant Tallgrass Prairie ecosystem. There are over 160 provincially rare species here- more than anywhere else in Ontario. It also is one of the best natural sponges for extreme wet weather, a fact not lost in a city where flood insurance is almost impossible to obtain, and basement flooding is an annual event.

"The desire to unite these parcels under a National Urban Park banner is gaining momentum. Ojibway shores is the missing puzzle piece that would unlock the possibility of establishing Canada's newest National Urban Park. Wildlands League is excited to be supporting this initiative," says Sumner.

"Caldwell First Nation has strong relationships with Point Pelee National Park and with Essex Regional Conservation Authority - building relationships with organizations to ensure conservation. Being that this area is the last remaining natural shoreline and the many species at risk it's important to work together to preserve our habitat," stated Chief Mary Duckworth of Caldwell First Nation.

"This group of natural properties would protect the entire area for these endangered species that rely on all this space for their survival for the long-term and preserve this essential part of our natural heritage while helping to address some of the impacts of climate change. The federal government has the unique opportunity act since it owns the property and can transfer it from WPA to Environment Canada with one signature and begin the process establishing a National Urban Park," Masse stated.

-30-

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**Brian
Masse**
MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2020

MASSE REQUESTS THE PM TO ACT ON TWO LOCAL ISSUES

Demonstrating cooperation on Ojibway Shores and Single Event Sports Betting

(Windsor)- Today, Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West), NDP Innovation, Science, Economic Development and Auto Critic, requested the Prime Minister to act, before the House of Commons returns, by protecting Ojibway Shores and implementing single event sports betting.

"As the Prime Minister will be here tomorrow and in the spirit of cooperation in the minority parliament, I am presenting an opportunity for him to act on two local issues that have achieved consensus and that can be instituted by administrative orders without the need for legislation," Masse stated.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species. It is also a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) which has demanded that local taxpayers pay for this property which is already owned by all Canadians. "This is unacceptable as local taxpayers are already stretched and the federal government should not double dip on them to preserve the environment. Instead, the senior level of government should seize the opportunity to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action. The Government of Canada can transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada. All it will take is a change in the letters patent of the WPA. Making changes in a port's letters patent is a routine procedure," Masse stated

After the election there was a meeting held with all stakeholders from the gaming sector, the Chamber of Commerce, unions, and elected officials including the member from Windsor Tecumseh who is now a parliamentary secretary. The consensus was that single event sports betting in Canada must be established. "The situation has become more urgent with the State of Michigan legalizing single event sports betting in December with implementation to be full in effect for the college basketball playoffs in March. An immediate change in the law, such as an order-in-council, would correct this and put our industry on more stable footing while ensuring their ability to compete," Masse stated.

"To quote the Prime Minister from his mandate letters to cabinet ministers, '**People expect Parliamentarians to work together to deliver these results, ...and adapting to events as they unfold, in order to get the results Canadians rightly demand of us,**' I hope the Prime Minister lives up to the expectations he set for his government and acts on these two issues," Masse stated

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**Brian
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MP Windsor West

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2019

MASSE ANNOUNCES TOWNHALL ON A NATIONAL URBAN PARK

Best way to protect Ojibway Shores and the surrounding parks and preserves

(Windsor)- Today, Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West), NDP Innovation, Science, Economic Development and Auto Critic, announced he is holding a town hall about establishing a National Urban Park which will protect Ojibway Shores and the adjacent parks and preserves permanently.

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Ojibway Prairie Preserve, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park.

Standing beside a billboard with an image of Ojibway Shores along with the words "*Protect our future. Save Ojibway Shores. Time for a National Urban Park,*" Masse declared "The community needs to know about why these lands have to be protected and that the most comprehensive and permanent way is by creating a National Urban Park. At the town hall we will have experts and advocates who have helped establish parks in other areas of the country and even in the United States."

Participants in the town hall will include representatives from Caldwell First Nation, representatives from the Wildlands League, one of the Canada's pre-eminent conservation organizations which was initially founded to preserve Algonquin Provincial Park, representatives from Friends of the Rouge Watershed which were involved in the creation of the Rouge Urban National Park, John Hartig, former director of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the only international wildlife refuge in North America managed jointly by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service, along with experts in ornithology, reptiles and the history of the area.

The National Urban Park Town Hall will be held on Tuesday August 27 between 6 and 8 PM at the South Windsor Arena (Capri Pizza Complex).

"This group of natural properties would protect the entire area for these endangered species that rely on all of this space for their survival for the long-term, preserve this essential part of our natural heritage and help to partly mitigate the effects of climate change," Masse stated.

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**Brian
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**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2019

MASSE DEMANDS THE GOVERNMENT PROTECT OJIBWAY SHORES AFTER YEARS OF DELAYS

Begin the process of establishing a National Urban Park

(Ottawa)- Today, Brian Masse M.P. (Windsor West), NDP Innovation, Science, Economic Development and Auto Critic, in the House of Commons during Question Period demanded that the government finally act after years of delays and protect Ojibway Shores permanently.

Masse stated, "Mr. Speaker, the United Nations report on endangered species hits close to home in my riding of Windsor West. In Windsor Essex the Ojibway Shores, the last remaining stretch of natural shoreline, home to over 160 rare species has been at the center of a battle to protect our environment. We stopped the clearing cutting of trees and dumping on this pristine piece of nature. I have asked the government many times to protect this public property. All I have gotten is excuse after excuse after excuse. The UN was clear, with different choices, we can get better results. Why does the Prime Minister lack the courage to protect Ojibway Shores?"

Ojibway Shores is a vital 33-acre greenspace and the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit. It is home to hundreds of endangered species that rely on migration through surrounding local parks for survival. This includes Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, and the Tallgrass Prairie Park. In an October 2017 letter to the Environment Minister and the Transport Minister, Masse wrote, that since Ojibway Shores is a federal property currently under the management of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) he requested that the Government of Canada transfer the management of this property from under the WPA to Environment Canada for permanent protection. The Letter outlined the land transfer process the government needed to follow in detail.

Today, in a subsequent letter to the Environment Minister, Masse reiterated the demand to protect Ojibway shores and begin the process of designating it, along with adjacent natural areas, as a national urban park. "This group of natural properties would protect the entire area for these endangered species that rely on all of this space for their survival for the long-term and preserve this essential part of our natural heritage," Masse stated.

-30-

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Ojibway National Urban Park

TIMELINE OF WORK - BRIAN MASSE M.P. (Windsor West)

2013

The Windsor Port Authority planned to prepare the lands at Ojibway Shores for industrial development. Since the shores are located along a flood plain, any development would require raising the land by several feet. The Port Authority planned on using excavated dirt from the Herb Gray Parkway

Project as fill, to raise the land for development. This also meant it would also require clear cutting the natural growth forests that lay along the shore. Brian Masse attended their public event with residents and on July 12 requested the federal government take over the lands from the Port Authority to protect Ojibway Shores for the long-term.

2014

The Port Authority put their clear cutting plan on hold but have indicated that they were weighing their options with respect to what to do with this property going forward. With the future of Ojibway Shores still unclear Masse presented the

Minister of Transport a proposal that would allow the federal government to purchase the property at \$0 cost. Working with Amico Infrastructures Inc., the primary builders of the Parkway project, and the environmental community he brought forward a proposal to the Minister of Transport to save the federal government over \$1M on the new bridge plaza project. This saving could then be put toward the purchase of Ojibway Shores.

2015

Proposal was created by the City which would endanger the Ojibway Prairie Complex at the Windsor Raceway site. It would have required the City of

Windsor have their development permit approved by the Province of Ontario to relocate some of the species at risk.

The development proposal was protested by residents who created a petition to stop that development and instead create a national park. Brian Masse agreed that a park is possible, and he continued working towards federal acquisition of Ojibway Shores and then working together with all partners to create a wildlife corridor.



Ojibway National Urban Park

TIMELINE OF WORK - BRIAN MASSE M.P. (Windsor West)

2017

October 2017: Masse writes the Port Authority requesting numbers on the land costs. Minister of Transport visits Windsor and discusses Ojibway Shores with the Mayor. Masse reiterates the importance of this project to the community in his speech in the House of Commons. He also makes a statement in Parliament calling for the federal government to act on this last remaining greenspace on 25 October 2017. The same day, the Windsor Port Authority responds to Masse's letter. Masse begins a campaign with local, provincial and national environmental organizations to demand the Minister of Transport take this seriously and transfer the lands.

2017

On 26 October 2017 the WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC) for the City of Windsor passed a resolution calling on the City of Windsor request the Government of Canada conserve the significant natural condition, biodiversity and biological function of the Ojibway Shores property as an environmentally protected area.

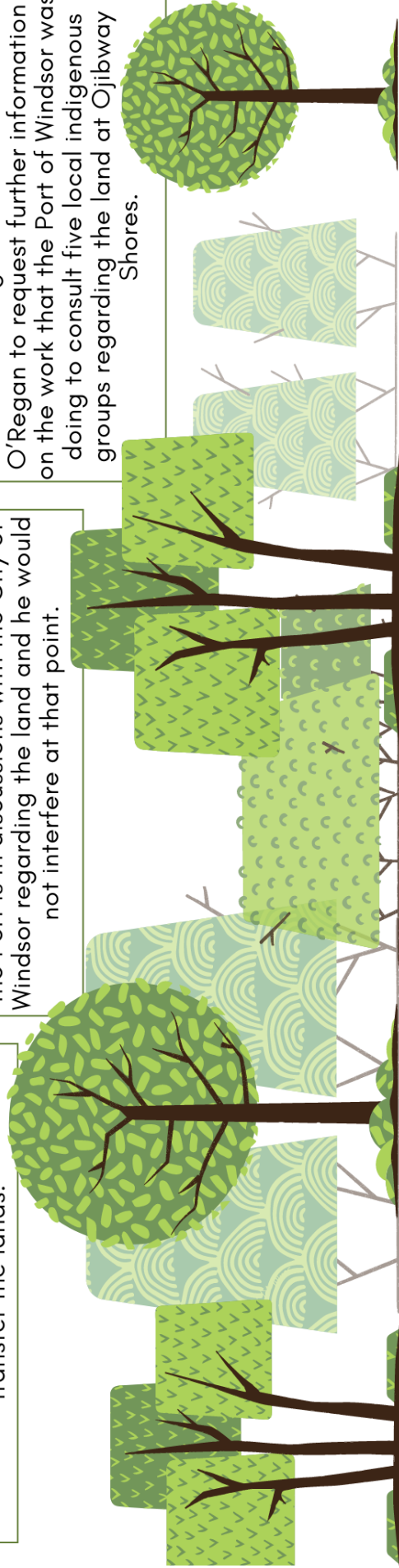
November 2017: Masse holds a public meeting calling for Ojibway Shores land transfer, community benefits and protecting Sandwich Towne.

December 2017: Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, writes Masse to say that the Port is in discussions with the City of Windsor regarding the land and he would not interfere at that point.

2019

January 2019: City of Windsor Council voted to protect Ojibway Shores and transfer the lands to the federal government for long-term protection. Masse writes Environment Minister McKenna requesting that she respond on behalf of the Government to the requests he has made since October 2017 about the land transfer.

May 2019: Masse pressures government to take action in light of the United Nations resolution for the protection of the endangered species. He makes three statements and speeches in Parliament, and writes the Minister of Environment again to follow-up on his January letter. and to Indigenous Minister Seamus O'Regan to request further information on the work that the Port of Windsor was doing to consult five local indigenous groups regarding the land at Ojibway Shores.



Ojibway National Urban Park

TIMELINE OF WORK - BRIAN MASSE M.P. (Windsor West)

2019

August/ September 2019: Masse brings the campaign to transfer the lands to the people of Windsor West through media and petition campaigns. He holds a large public meeting with environmental groups including local residents, local, national and international environmental groups, scientists, former local park officials, and indigenous leaders.

October 2019: becomes and election issue with Masse and residents demanding results from the federal leaders.

2020

January 2020: Parliament resumes after the October 2019 and Masse demands results in Parliament. By January talks on the land swap break down.

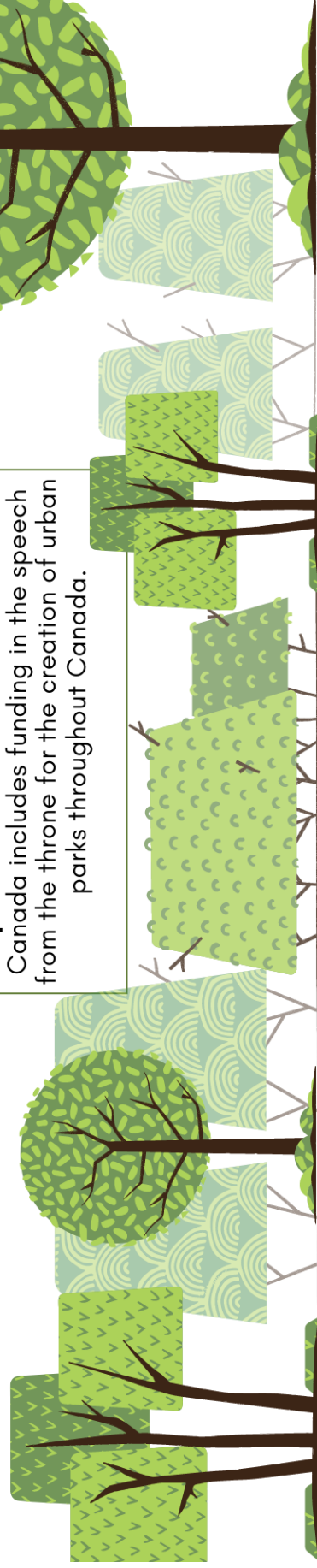
February 2020: Masse suggests that environmental agreements could save Ojibway Shores deal. Canada is a signatory to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an agreement among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to preserve wetland and waterfowl. To help pay for that plan, the U.S. passed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which provides money to protect wetland and its wildlife in all three countries. Masse argued that Windsor could be eligible for money from the U.S. to acquire or restore Ojibway Shores and protect it for the long-term.

September 2020: The Government of Canada includes funding in the speech from the throne for the creation of urban parks throughout Canada.

2021

March 2021: Budget 2021 announces funding for the creation of Urban Parks in Canada. Masse continues working with City of Windsor and environmental groups about how the best way to proceed with this National Urban Park.

May 2021: Port and City of Windsor continue talks and negotiations for a land swap. Brian Masse calls on the Government in the House of Commons to take action and create Ojibway National Urban Park, he follows this with a formal letter.



Ojibway National Urban Park

TIMELINE OF WORK - BRIAN MASSE M.P.
(Windsor West)

2021

June 2021: Windsor City Council has voted unanimously to endorse NDP Windsor West MP Brian Masse's proposal seeking the federal government's help in turning Ojibway Shores into a national urban park. In a letter to the federal government, Masse requests that federal ministers transfer Ojibway Shores from the Windsor Port Authority to Environment Canada so the land can be included in a national urban park. Brian Masse participates in the People's Summit to share Ojibway National Urban Park with environmentalists from across Canada. MP's, City and Parks Canada meet to discuss a national urban park at Ojibway.

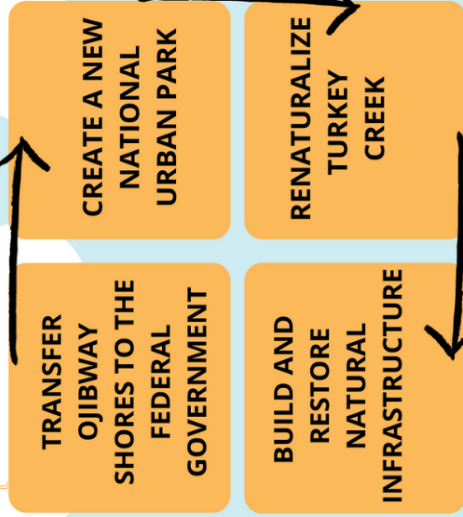
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Next steps

Making Ojibway Shores a National Urban Park



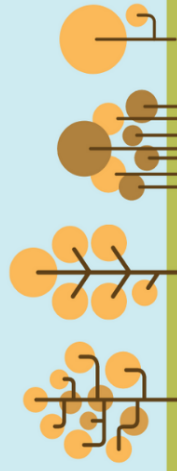
Benefits of Urban Parks

TOURISM

KNOWLEDGE

EMPLOYMENT

SERVICE



LEARN MORE: <https://www.brianmasse.ca/ojibway-shores/>

NEXT STEPS

OJIBWAY NATIONAL URBAN PARK

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSFER

The Federal government needs to transfer Ojibway Shores to Parks Canada, this begins creation of jobs, investment and protection.

SIGN AGREEMENTS

The Federal government needs to sign an agreement with the City of Windsor and the Province of Ontario to transfer/ manage parks and lands to Parks Canada.

OFFICIAL FEDERAL DECLARATION

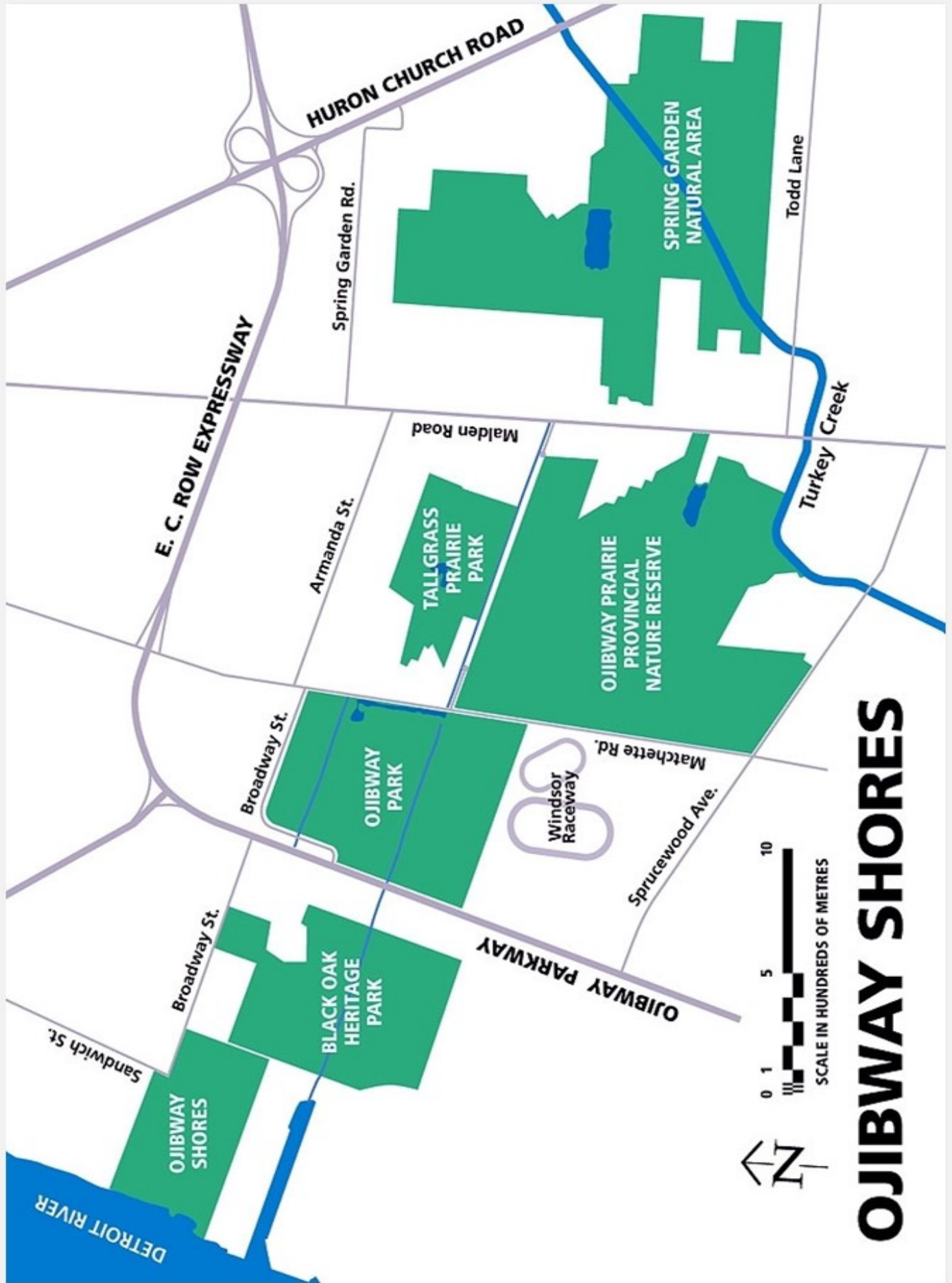
The Federal government has to make an official public declaration to establish ONUP with a specific deadline like was done for Rouge NUP in 2011.

TO CREATE OUR OWN POINT PELEE

When the House of Commons reconvenes for the fall session, a bill needs to be introduced to create ONUP since in Canada national parks are officially established with legislation just like Rouge NUP was.

OJIBWAY NATIONAL URBAN PARK ESTABLISHED

Then we can enjoy the new park while protecting the environment, ecosystems and endangered species for the long-term. It will also provide annual supports for jobs, investment and eco-tourism for our future.



OJIBWAY SHORES

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CBC.ca: Windsor | Windsor

Windsor City Council Endorses Masse's proposal for Ojibway Shores

Windsor City Council has voted unanimously to endorse **NDP Windsor West MP Brian Masse's** proposal seeking the federal government's help in turning Ojibway Shores into a national urban park.

In a letter to the federal government, Masse requests that federal ministers transfer Ojibway Shores from the Windsor Port Authority to Environment Canada so the land (about 33 hectares of greenspace) can be included in a national urban park.

"It's something the community has brought forth and we've been championing for a number of different years," said Masse.

Land exchange terminated

Masse has been pursuing the national urban park idea for a number of years, but the fate of the land was called into question earlier this month when a land exchange between the Windsor Port Authority (WPA), the City of Windsor and private property owner Mike Dorian, fell through.

Since 2018, the City of Windsor had been in negotiations with WPA to eventually take ownership of Ojibway Shores. The plan included the expropriation of 13-hectares of industrial land from Mike Dorian, who resides in Clinton Township, Michigan but owns property in the area.

Under the plan, the city would expropriate the industrial land and it would be given to WPA. In exchange, the port authority would cede ownership of Ojibway Shores, the last remaining, undeveloped natural shoreline in Windsor-Detroit, according to Masse.

But Dorian recently sold his land to a local buyer, throwing a wrench into the three-year land exchange negotiation.

According to Masse, the port authority is also balking at taking the industrial land, saying it's unacceptable to them. A federal transfer of Ojibway Shores from WPA to Environment Canada would seemingly remove that hindrance, among other benefits.

If Masse is successful, Ojibway Shores along with other municipal parks and reserves in the area including Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park, the Tallgrass Prairie Park and other natural areas would combine to form a national urban park.

Masse says there are a total of about 360 hectares of land that could be included in a park system.

The letter

Masse addressed the letter to ministers **Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, **Jonathan Wilkinson**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and **Omar Alghabra**, Minister of Transport.

He points out a growing consensus among local residents, national and international environmental organizations about establishing the park. He says even Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** has expressed support.

In the letter, he also says it should not be paid for by taxpayers, but that the federal government should seize the opportunity "to combat climate change, protect endangered species and help municipalities with a simple direct action."

Photo: Ojibway Shores, a 33-hectare natural area on the west side of Windsor, is considered an ecological gem and is currently being managed by the Windsor Port Authority.

Credit: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Url: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-city-council-ojibway-shores-1.6058071>

Masse demands protection for Ojibway Shores site

by: Dave Battagello

Local MP Brian Masse (NDP - Windsor-West) is calling on the federal government to quit wasting time, approve the transfer of Ojibway Shores to the federal environment minister and establish the entire Ojibway complex as a national urban park.

"There is a unified effort now on these properties," said Masse on Tuesday. "The interaction and feedback we are hearing from people is they want a stronger ecological presence that includes Ojibway Shores and to unite these properties in a more comprehensive way."

Ojibway Shores is the last remaining untouched riverfront property in Windsor, located on the city's far west end. It belongs to the Windsor Port Authority which years ago attempted to lease it for shipping use until a movement among local environmentalists to protect the site began several years ago.

Despite multiple discussions at every political level about the fate of 33-acre property - including Masse's previous call for federal government intervention - the site's status has remained unchanged.

The local port authority operates under the federal control of Transport Canada.

"All that's needed for Ojibway Shores is a signature," Masse said. "Sign over Ojibway Shores to the Minister of Environment (from Transport Canada). It's simple to do that.

"What we want is to see that happen before the (next federal) election and protect it. We need to get it safe and sound."

Protecting the riverfront site would be a first major step toward creation of a national urban park that would include linking together all of the protected Ojibway properties, he said.

Masse admitted the process would likely be more complicated because some of the protected Ojibway lands belongs to the city of Windsor and some to the provincial government.

He said his hopes were bolstered on Friday when Parks Canada announced \$9.9 million in federal funding for long-awaited improvements and upgrades to Point Pelee National Park.

"You can not do everything all at once," Masse said. "The first thing is to get Ojibway Shores protected. It is the linchpin to all of this because it has the water connection and never want to lose that.

"Then bring in all the agencies on how best to go from there and look at creating a national urban park. These things are happening elsewhere, so it can happen here. This is an ecological opportunity."
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THE WINDSOR STAR

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Masse presses for **federal** action on protection for Ojibway Shores

Dave Battagello

MP Brian Masse is once again pushing for the protection of Ojibway Shores - the last untouched parcel of riverfront land within the city of Windsor.

The 33-acre site on the city's far west end is controlled by the Windsor Port Authority - under **federal** jurisdiction - and in recent years has been the source of debate on whether to declare the land protected green space in perpetuity.

During question period in the **House of Commons** on Tuesday, Masse (**NDP** - Windsor West) called on the Trudeau government to end speculation and protect the site. Ojibway Shores, which sits adjoined to several other protected Ojibway complex sites, is cited by environmentalists as a critical link to the Detroit River for species and wildlife.

Masse cited this week's United Nations endangered species report that revealed how one million species presently face extinction because of human behaviours and industry. "Mr. Speaker, the United Nations report on endangered species hits close to home in my riding of Windsor West," Masse said in the House. "In Windsor Essex, Ojibway Shores, the last remaining stretch of natural shoreline, home to over 160 rare species, has been at the centre of a battle to protect our environment.

"I have asked the government many times to protect this public property. All I have gotten is excuse after excuse after excuse. The UN was clear, with different choices, we can get better results. Why does the prime minister lack the courage to protect Ojibway Shores?" Ojibway Shores is connected to Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park and Tallgrass Prairie Park.

In October 2017, Masse issued a letter to the **federal** environment and transportation ministers calling for the transfer of management of the property to Environment **Canada** so it could be permanently protected. That has not occurred.

In another letter this week to the **federal** environment minister, Masse called for Ojibway Shores and all other adjoining protected Ojibway lands to be designated a national urban park.

"This group of natural properties would protect the entire area for these endangered species that rely on all of this space for their survival for the long-term and preserve this essential part of our natural heritage," Masse said.
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Photo: / Brian Masse;

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Urban parks experts on tap for public meeting to protect Ojibway Shores

by: Lindsay Charlton

Local MP Brian Masse is bringing in the experts and holding a town hall about establishing a National Urban Park to permanently protect Ojibway Shores - the last natural shoreline in Windsor.

The Aug. 26 meeting will feature guest speakers and representatives from Caldwell First Nations, the Wildlands League, experts in ornithology, biology and preservation, and representatives from Friends of the Rouge Watershed, who were involved in the creation of Rouge in Toronto - Canada's first urban national park.

"They're the experts in terms of how they went about in their community united a series of properties in an urban area to make this a situation where it was a partnership amongst the community and it will be developed over generations," said Masse (NDP Windsor West).

Ojibway Shores is a 33-acre green space along the city's west end riverfront and has been regarded as an ecological hot spot - surrounded by Ojibway Park, Spring Garden Natural Area, Black Oak Heritage Park and Tallgrass Prairie Park.

"We're looking at almost 900 acres of environmental treasures that we can link together for our future," Masse said.

"This is an exciting opportunity and I'm happy to have these types of people from wildlife groups to local as well to come together and show us we have a future down here.

"It's a special opportunity not just locally but also nationally and we'll be looking forward to the public to be able to come and be part of this process."

The City of Windsor has also expressed support for protecting the Ojibway Shores. Mayor Drew ~~Dilkens~~ said the city is currently working on a deal to protect the land with the Windsor Port Authority.

"The city's goal is to protect Ojibway Shores and keep it in a natural state in perpetuity and connect it to the broader Ojibway complex," he said.

"We are well down a path with the port authority to try and get this deal done and that's our focus right now - continuing down that path with the Port Authority."

He said the city and Masse have a "shared goal" of protecting the area in a natural state.

"To the extent we could put it under one umbrella at the end of the day would be better for accomplishing a broader goal of connecting all of the pieces and creating a real great space," ~~Dilkens~~ said. "But I know that will be very difficult in getting three levels of government to do this."

The Ojibway Shores area is owned and controlled by the port authority - a federal agency - while the surrounding Ojibway Prairie Complex has multiple owners including the city and the province.

"This is kind of just to get some of those components together from experts that have worked on these multi-faceted, multi-ownership properties and to see what can be done," Masse said.

Masse said protecting the Ojibway Shores has been part of his repertoire for several years and said getting the community together is the next step. He recently pushed for the protection of the space in May during question period in the House of Commons where he called on the Trudeau government to protect the site. He issued a letter calling for the Ojibway Shores and all adjoining protected Ojibway lands to be designated as a national urban park.

"It's amazing work that's been done down there by the community groups - to inventory the endangered species was a significant point," he said.

Masse said he's issued flyers throughout his riding inviting the public to the town hall Aug. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the South Windsor Arena (Capri Pizza Complex). lcharlton@postmedia.com

Photo: NICK BRANCACCIO / Windsor West MP Brian Masse announces plans Thursday for a town hall meeting on Aug. 26 about a national urban park proposal in the Ojibway Shores area during a news conference in front of one of his billboards on Division Road East.;

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Council votes to ask government to convert Ojibway Shores to protected land

Windsor City Council has agreed to ask the Canadian government to convert Ojibway Shores into protected land.

The decision was reached during the Monday-night council meeting.

The property is currently under the Windsor Port Authority's ownership. According to the organization's website, the organization plans to develop the lands for commercial gain and lists Ojibway Shores as a development site, details which have made environmentalists nervous.

"It is so important to save that property forever," said Tom Henderson from the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup. "The whole idea is to keep the issue in public view."

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Environmental group wants Ojibway Shores protected by 'any means necessary'

Council unanimously endorsed the resolution.

"It's a piece worth fighting for," said Mayor Drew Dilkens, who added the city has plans to meet with the Windsor Port Authority, which currently owns the land, to "find a way forward."

The 13-hectare natural area on Windsor's west side is considered an ecological gem, which the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup has previously fought to protect "by any means necessary."

- Transport minister meets with mayor to discuss Ambassador Bridge, Ojibway Shores

Windsor West MP **Brian Masse** has argued transferring the land would save the port authority money. He also stated the land would make a "wonderful gateway to the Gordie Howe bridge" as well as open the land up to recreation and tourism.

Photo: The 13-hectare natural area on the west side of Windsor is considered an ecological gem and is currently being managed by the Windsor Port Authority.

Credit: Essex County Field Naturalists' Club

Url: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ojibway-shores-protected-windsor-council-1.4509648>