



2024 to 2027 Business Plan

Service: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

\$0.35

Annual cost for the
average rate payer
(2024 to 2027)

0.01%

Of the 2024 to 2027
City of London Net
Property Tax
Supported Budget

Who we are:

- The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is a watershed-based partner with professional staff, working in collaboration with local communities providing services and information to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations.

What we do:

- The LTVCA is mandated with the delivery of services contributing to the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural environments.

Why we do it:

- **Mandatory** - In accordance with The Conservation Authorities Act, we ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of the Lower Thames Valley's water, land and natural resources through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs. We also work to provide protection of people and property from natural hazards.

The following table provides an overview of the budget for this service:

Budget Summary (\$000's)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2024 to 2027 TOTAL
Gross Operating Expenditures	\$4,356	\$4,547	\$4,655	\$4,766	\$18,324
Other Revenues	-\$4,164	-\$4,345	-\$4,447	-\$4,552	-\$17,508
Net Operating Budget	\$192	\$202	\$208	\$214	\$816
Net Tax Levy Supported Operating Budget	\$77	\$81	\$83	\$85	\$326
Wastewater and Treatment Rate Supported Operating Budget	\$115	\$121	\$125	\$129	\$490
Total Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's)	34	40	40	40	N/A

Reflects 2024 to 2027 adopted City budget as of December 1, 2025.

Linkage to the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan

This service supports the following Strategic Areas of Focus in the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan:



**Reconciliation, Equity,
Accessibility, and
Inclusion**



**Economic Growth, Culture,
and Prosperity**



**Housing and
Homelessness**



**Mobility and
Transportation**



Wellbeing and Safety



**Climate Action and
Sustainable Growth**



**Safe London for Women,
Girls, and Gender-Diverse
and Trans People**



Well-Run City

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance (ESG) Considerations

Environmental, Socio-economic Equity and Governance Profile for this service:

Environmental:

- LTVCA's business is closely aligned with a number of actions in London's Climate Emergency Action Plan and assists the City of London in increasing resilience to extreme weather events through the implementation of a science-based integrated watershed approach. Each one of LTVCA's programs and services works in collaboration to inform watershed residents about the natural environment in which they live, work and play. Programs and services protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion and mitigate the effects of natural hazards including a rapidly changing climate by planting trees, undertaking stewardship works such as wetland and tall grass prairie creation and managing and protecting significant landholdings from invasive species while ensuring these areas are available for both passive and active recreation.
- LTVCA ensures that its programs and services are relevant to the user groups it serves by complying with the Conservation Authorities Act and its related regulations, consulting regularly with the community and user groups and working closely with member municipalities.
- LTVCA is working to address a variety of climate emergency aspects as summarized below:

Climate Emergency Aspect/Issue/Impact: Energy Use and Conservation

Climate Emergency Response:

- Phasing out gas powered hand-tools and switching to battery powered alternatives where achievable.
- Investigating Electric Vehicle use for fleet and researching investment to provide charging units on Conservation Authority properties.
- Investigate installation of metre readers in campgrounds to help campers monitor and reduce energy consumption.
- Continuing pandemic business protocols such as on-line meetings to reduce travel.
- Continuing and enhancing electronic business practices (paperless accounting) to reduce paper usage and carbon emissions.

Climate Emergency Aspect/Issue/Impact: Carbon Sequestration Potential, Natural Heritage Loss/ Disconnection, Biodiversity

Climate Emergency Response:

- LTVCA preserves and protects 1,740 acres of land including (woodlots, in-land lakes, wetlands and significant areas).
- Manages invasive species on LTVCA's own landholdings and provides technical advice and funding for landowners to undertake management plans on their own property.
- Planting an average of 90,000 trees, restoring 40 acres of wetland and 95 acres of tall grass prairies per year.
- Manages a large range of initiatives that provide incentives to landowners to undertake stewardship projects on their own lands including wetland creation, tall grass prairie establishment and erosion control.
- Acquired 25 new acres of land through land donation program from 2021 to 2023.

Climate Emergency Aspect/Issue/Impact: Extreme Weather Events Risks/Rising Insurance Costs and Shifting Access to Capital Requirements

Climate Emergency Response:

- Operate a flood forecasting and warning system to ensure that residents and municipalities are aware of potential flood related events in a timely manner.
- Issues Flood Warning messages and conducts outreach and education on flood forecasting program and safety measures.
- Participate in Emergency Management Training exercises.
- Collaborate with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority on Flood Forecasting, Warning and related programs.
- Monitor watershed conditions to detect low water conditions and support the Water Response Team in responding to low water events.
- Maintain Natural Hazard mapping, including flooding and erosion areas, and providing customized products for the public, official plans and emergency responders.
- Deliver the Authority's permitting responsibilities, ensuring compliance with Ontario Regulation 152/06 and related policies, site inspections, communications with agents and consultants, and appropriate enforcement action.
- Meet the Authority's delegated responsibility to represent the provincial interest in natural hazards (Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement) providing technical information and advice on land-use planning documents (Official Plans and Zoning By-Law Amendments, Subdivisions, Consents and Minor Variances).

Governance:

- The Conservation Authorities Act and its related regulations guide the programs and services offered by LTVCA and hold it accountable to the Province and its member municipalities.
- LTVCA is bound by the Conservation Authority Act and Ontario Regulation 686/21 to offer the following programs and services:
 - Risk of Natural Hazards (Planning and Regulation, Flood Forecasting/Warning/Low Water, Dam Operations, Technical Studies).
 - Conservation and Management of Conservation Authority Lands.
 - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring.
 - Drinking Water Source Protection Program.
 - General Operating Expenses (Administration, Communications, Information Technology and Geographic Information System (GIS)).
- As a result of Ontario Regulations 686/21 additional programs and services have been added which need to be in place by December 31, 2024, including:
 1. Conservation Areas Management Plan – strategy to guide the management of Conservation Authority owned lands.
 2. Conservation Area Lands Inventory.
 3. Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy.
 4. Ice Management Plan

LTVCA has no option but to meet the requirements outlined in the Conservation Authority Act and Ontario Regulation 686/21. LTVCA's programs and services are monitored by LTVCA's Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives from LTVCA's ten member municipalities.

LTVCA's Board of Directors meets bi-monthly on the third Thursday of every month. Board Meetings are fully transparent and documented with agendas, meeting minutes and recordings available on LTVCA's website. Meetings are also streamed live to Zoom. Audited financial statements, budgets, annual reports are also posted to LTVCA's website. The Board of Director's contact information is also publicly available on the Authority's website.

Socio-economic Equity:

LTVCA works toward creating an inclusive work environment respecting ethnic backgrounds, religious beliefs, gender expression, sexual orientation and physical or mental ability.

LTVCA is taking actions to address barriers to inclusion in its programs and services including the following:

- AODA compliant website.

- Accessible Administration office, accessible Carey Trail at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.
- Training provided to employees and board members on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity and Truth and Reconciliation.
- LTVCA maintains 27 kilometres of natural surfaced hiking trails.
- All First Nations in our watershed are provided with free entry to our Conservation Areas.

The following section provides an overview of the key activities the service plans to undertake from 2024 to 2027 to implement the Corporation's 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan, as well as an overview of the risks and challenges the service is anticipated to experience during this period:

Service Highlights 2024 to 2027

- Key actions include planting of trees, and creation of wetlands and tall grass prairies in the Lower Thames Watershed.

Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2024 to 2027

- Provincial funding cuts and changes to the Conservation Authorities Act may challenge abilities to meet targets. Should municipal support change, significant resources for asset management will not be available to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.
- In late 2025, the Ontario government proposed consolidating its 36 conservation authorities into 7 regional ones, under this proposal, LTVCA would be consolidated into the new Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority together with seven other CA's and encompass 81 municipalities. This new governance structure is proposed to be effective following the municipal elections in 2026.

Other reference information and links:

- Link to the [Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Website](#)

Contact:

- Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
- 519-354-7310 Extension 224
- Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca