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**To:** [Bradley, Jim](#); [Norio, Ann-Marie](#)  
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**Subject:** Correspondence from Niagara Parks  
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Good afternoon Chair Bradley and Ann-Marie:

I am writing you to provide an update on the status of the Ramsar designation in relation to Niagara Parks. At its board meeting on September 10, 2020 the Commission declined to move forward as the Lead Nominator in pursuing the Ramsar designation for the Niagara River. The Commission also asked that Niagara Parks step down from our participation on the Steering Committee.

This decision was made after legal review that was part of our consideration of potentially being the lead nominator as well as our need to prioritize our resources in light of the impact of COVID-19.

This decision does not impact any of Niagara Parks' key environmental stewardship projects currently underway or scheduled to be started in the near future.

Niagara Parks is proud of its environmental stewardship work, which includes the following notable initiatives that are currently being delivered:

- Environmental Stewardship Action Plan 2020-2030
- Coastal Wetland Restoration Project
- Niagara River Riparian Restoration
- Urban Forestry Management Strategy
- Pollinator Garden Route
- Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Certification at Legends on the Niagara
- Trails Assets and Tourism Initiative in collaboration with Brock University
- MOU's with Forests Ontario and Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Chippawa Grassland Bird Habitat Project
- Annual Prescribed Burn Program
- Invasive Species Management Strategy

A presentation that outlines more information about the important environmental stewardship work that Niagara Parks has and continues to do can be found [here](#). (DropBox link to download a powerpoint presentation)

Thank you

David



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