

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2006

Mandate, Introduction, Objective, Results

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) provides advice and guidance to Ottawa City Council on trees, greenspaces, open spaces and wetlands to help safeguard the environment of the city and retain the green characteristics for which the city is renowned.

OFGAC provides:

- input into plans, strategies, policies, programs and budgets related to greenspace preservation, biodiversity and the management of urban and rural forests including remediation and new forest development;
- recommendations to the city on how to meet its greenspace, biodiversity and forest-related objectives as outlined in the Official Plan and other planning documents; and
- public awareness of the role of greenspace, wetlands and forests in protecting and enhancing quality of life.

In 2006, OFGAC continued to work to have its mandated provision of advice to Council on the importance of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands lead to a new changed way of thinking about planning and development that will conserve these, our greatest natural assets, providing a balanced viewpoint between retention of greenspace and development becomes increasing essential as our city grows. To fulfill this goal, OFGAC has focused its work in four areas (see Appendix 1 for an abbreviated workplan):

Policy and Planning Initiatives

OFGAC has worked intensively with the city on the development of the Greenspace Master Plan and the implementing Official Plan Amendment (Strategies for Ottawa's Urban Greenspaces) and recommended their acceptance to Council. Work on the Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy has been suspended until 2007 due to lack of staff resources for these two vital components of the Official Plan. As well, the draft Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas bylaw, originally deferred at Council in October 2005, has moved forward with participation of OFGAC and will go back to Standing Committees in early 2007 with OFGAC's support. Together, these documents will provide the strategic framework for the preservation of tree and forest and greenspace cover to improve air quality and meet municipal Kyoto targets, and enhance the visual, social and ecological environment of the City.

OFGAC provided input to Community Design Plans for South Barrhaven, East Urban Phase 2, the South Nepean Town Centre and the Terms of Reference for the CDP for Rockcliffe Airbase. The Committee participated in the development of the bylaw for the Protection and Maintenance of Trees and Forests on Municipal Properties and recommended its passage to the Planning & Environment and Agriculture & Rural Affairs Standing Committees (passed by Council and in force as of September 2006). OFGAC also provided comment to staff on the Trees and Forest Maintenance Strategy report and the Trees and Forest Maintenance Program and Quality Standards. OFGAC supported the inclusion of these programs in the LRFP for funding starting in 2008. Members continued to participate in the Public Consultation Group for the N/S LRT and the Public Advisory Group for the E/W LRT studies and made a presentation to Corporate Services arguing for the retention of the Walkley Road Service Yard. OFGAC also supported the acceptance of the Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Addendum Report at PEC. Other major initiatives on which OFGAC provided comment were the Slater Street Escarpment

plan, and Urban Design Framework (guidelines for big box stores, parking lots etc.), Community Indicators, Density Initiatives and the proposed Bill 51.

Emerging Issues and Requested Advice Initiatives

OFGAC was part of a major undertaking by the City in regard to the Goulbourn Wetlands, making two presentations to ARAC on the Wetlands workplan and its recommendations and by participating in an extensive series of meetings over the summer in an attempt to resolve the issues. OFGAC's concerns that the compromise reached (to halt Official Plan designation of Provincially Significant Wetlands) resulted in a Standing Committee statement that this course of action would not be extended to other areas of the City, an important clarification which will help to protect these remaining vital natural areas which are continuously under threat.

OFGAC provided comments on 56 development applications noting how the proposed development would impact our forests and greenspaces and advocating the planting of native trees and shrubs where appropriate. The Committee continued its involvement in the design of the proposed Berrigan/Greenbank Transitway and Park and Ride facility supporting the retention of a maximum number of nationally endangered Butternut trees, as well as Black Walnut, Red Oak and Black Cherry and drawing the City's attention to construction activities that were damaging trees not destined to be removed.

OFGAC's successful effort to have the four wooded lots on Ethier St in Orleans retained in City ownership resulted in two outcomes: the re-evaluation of the entire wooded area and ravine and its designation as Urban Natural Area No. 191 (rated Moderate); and, an agreement to add OFGAC to the list of reviewers commenting on proposed disposal of City property. OFGAC provided comment on approximately 70 proposed sales of city-owned land. The files have not progressed to the state where the outcomes are known, but in 10 cases, OFGAC recommended either retention of ecologically important land or the setting of conditions on the sale (to retain trees) in approximately 10 cases.

As a result of one proposed land sale review, OFGAC may provide assistance to the City's Affordable Housing group on how to integrate trees into the overall design for a group home. In October, OFGAC was made aware of the proposed disposal of a road allowance leading to the Rideau River and intervened at CSED to note the disconnect between a policy adopted the previous week by Council requiring retention of city-owned waterfront access and the proposal to sell this particular road allowance. CSED then recommended and Council subsequently agreed to retain the Rideau River road allowance at Armstrong Road.

OFGAC also supported two important land acquisitions: the land swap that led to the City acquiring the two Nepean Woodlots (Urban Natural Areas No. 60 and 61) and the purchase of a valuable wetland and adjacent forest on Fernbank Road in Stittsville.

OFGAC appeared before the Committee of the Whole with its perspective on funding priorities for the 2006 Capital and Operating Budget, presenting the case for increased funding in some cases and maintenance of funding for forestry and environmental management programs.

OFGAC continued its work on pocket parks by conducting a small public attitude survey during Wildlife Week and by providing advice to Carleton University students on a socio-economic study of the value of pocket parks in Somerset Ward.

Outreach Initiatives

OFGAC's Web site < www.ottawaforests.ca > continually updated by our volunteer Webmaster, continues to provide information about Ottawa's forests and greenspaces and OFGAC's activities. It has proven to be a vital connection to the public. In 2006, approximately 59,400 requests for pages were received and 7.4 GB of information were transferred. The Marlborough Forest page was especially popular, receiving 666 hits in November.

The Native Trees and Shrubs Database has been completed and a link to it placed on the website. Designed to serve as a guide to encourage the planting of native species, citizens will be able to retrieve a complete write-up on 133 native trees, shrubs and vines, or search for information on salt tolerance, light requirements (sun or shade), water requirement and size (height and/or width) at maturity.

Public interest in Ottawa's urban and rural forests remained high in 2006. Thirty-eight people sent comments, requests for information or complaints about treatment of trees to the OFGAC website (the emails are forwarded to the OFGAC Chair who forwards them to the appropriate person in the City or OFGAC for action). Questions ranged from "is Manitoba Maple a native species in the Ottawa area and is it invasive" (answers No and Yes), questions about ownership and management of trees planted on lot lines between two private properties, to "How can I control the invasive buckthorn" and "What caused those black spots on Norway Maple leaves (Tar Spot fungus)".

OFGAC initiated a series of Walks in the Woods that has proven to be very popular with Ottawa residents. Two-hour walks in the McCarthy Woods, Marlborough Forest, the Arboretum/Preston Street, and Pine Grove Woods attracted a total of 171 participants. Guest tour leaders included Seaton Findlay, author of *Capital Woodlands*; Erwin Dreessen, *Poet's Pathway*; Ken Farr, author of *The Forests of Canada*; Craig Huff, City Forester; Shaun Thompson of the Ministry of Natural Resources; Dan Baker, Fiddlehead Forestry; and, Astrid Nielsen, Dendron Resource Surveys.

An OFGAC member's personal attendance at the Ontario Urban Forest Council meeting in Toronto led to his appointment as a member of the OUFCA Advisory Board. OFGAC has met with the Glebe Community Association's Environmental Committee to discuss a possible pilot project on heritage trees in their area.

OFGAC established contacts with and respond to queries from the media, namely the Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa Sun, Orleans Star, CFRA, Radio Canada TV, and gave a number of radio, television or print interviews on the importance of trees and greenspace, notable/heritage trees, trees and development issues plus the Forest Walks.

OFGAC was invited to participate in the annual Christmas Forestry Seminar and presented a talk on its history, role, and involvement in urban forestry in Ottawa. At Councillor Harder's invitation, OFGAC brought its public information display to her annual Ward meeting with constituents and we also attended and spoke at one Member of Parliament's open house on urban environmental and forestry-related issues.

Management Initiatives

The Chair, Vice-Chair and several members attended meetings with city staff and EAC to discuss how to improve procedures relating to the review of development applications. OFGAC also provided advice to the City Clerk's office on proposed revisions to the bylaw governing the proceedings of its Advisory Committees and also commented on revisions to the Advisory Committee Appointment Policy, Recruitment Strategy and timetable and the bylaw update and participated actively in the Chairs and Vice-Chair meeting with City staff.

OFGAC has recently gone through a visioning exercise to evaluate our first five years and to ensure that we are “on message” for the upcoming year. This additional commitment by members to the Committee is an example of the Committee’s determination to set relevant, trackable short and long term objectives which address the evolving needs of Council and the changing face of the landscape.

Appendix 1 — 2006 OFGAC Workplan in Summary

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
A1 Greenspace Master Plan	B1 Development Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1.1 Review Development Applications (Zoning Changes, OP Amendments) • B1.2 City Capital Works (incl. Transitway) Impact • B1.3 Surplus City Land Disposal 	C1 Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.1 Media outreach and publicity • C1.2 OFGAC Website • C1.3 Community Outreach and Awareness 	D1 Committee Management; Activities to Run the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1.1 Training for members
A2 Forest Strategy	B2 Presentations to PEC, ARAC, CSED and others as appropriate	C2 Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2.1 See list in longer version • C2.2 Rural Summit 	D2 Governance Report review
A3 Special Planning Studies incl. Subwatershed Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3.1 Follow-up and Monitoring Implementation Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3.1.1 UNAEES • A3.1.2 Riverside South CDP • A3.1.3 East Urban CDP Phase 1 • A3.1.4 Ottawa Design Study • A3.1.5 N-S LRT • A3.2 Ongoing Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A3.2.1 E-W LRT • A3.2.2 Rockcliffe Airbase • A3.2.3 South Barrhaven 	B3 Inventories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B3.1 Notable Trees • B3.2 CITYGreen™ Forest Cover Evaluation 	C3 Database of Native Trees and Shrubs	D3 Spatial evaluation of OFGAC activities
A4 Plans and Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.1 Maintenance Plans for Community Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.1.1 Torbolton • A4.1.2 Marlborough (incl. Long Swamp, Corkery) 	B4 Requested Advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B4.1 Southern Corridor • B4.2 Pocket Parks 	C4 Exotic Pest Management (including invasive plants and insects)	D4 Committee Member Recruitment for 2007

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.1.3 Cumberland • A4.1.4 Carp Hills • A4.2 Maintenance Standards for Trees and Community Forests 			
<p>A5 Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1 Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas • A5.2 Municipal Trees and Forests Protection • A5.3 Comprehensive Zoning 	<p>B5 Wetlands and Natural Drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5.1 Wetlands • B5.2 Natural Drainage and Ditching 		
<p>A6 Capital Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A6.1 Road design guidelines (incl. streetscaping) • A6.2 Transitway Design • A6.3 Cycling Plan • A6.4 Strategic Lighting Plan • A6.5 Pedestrian Plan • A6.6 Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines 	<p>B6 Council Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B6.1 Follow-up to EAC- OFGAC Evaluation of Environmental Impact of 2004 Council Decisions • B6.2 Community Impact Indicators 		
<p>A7 Land Acquisition Through Municipal Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A7.1 Ethier St wooded lots 	<p>B7 Input to City Budgets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B7.1 Consideration of OFGAC priorities for Budget 2007 		
<p>A8 Land Trust</p>	<p>B8 International Society of Arboriculture</p>		
<p>A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy follow-up including Adaptation Strategy</p>			
<p>A10 Biodiversity Strategy</p>			

OFGAC 2006 WORKPLAN REPORT

A: POLICY AND PLANNING

A1 Greenspace Master Plan

Objective

Advice to P&EC and city staff during the development of this plan in accordance with time lines and opportunities provided for public consultation
Report or presentation to Council on completion of the plan

Results

OFGAC commented on all versions of the draft and in spite of the change to consider only the urban area, recommended its approval at PEC in June with the proviso that work begin on the rural GMP and that a land acquisition strategy be initiated.

A2 Forest Strategy

Objective

Advice to P&EC and city staff during the development of this strategy in accordance with time lines and opportunities provided for public consultation
Report or presentation to Council on completion of the strategy

Results

Staff has presented two drafts. OFGAC commented on both drafts and gave input. The Strategy has been put on hold until 2007

A3 Special Planning Studies including Community Design Plans

A3.1 Follow-up and Monitoring Implementation Strategies

A3.1.1 Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study (UNAEES) Implementation

Objective

To provide advice to Planning and Environment Committee on the results of the UNAEES and propose future directions and activities

Results

Review of staff report and support at PEC June 27 for the UNAEES Addendum Report. (The Urban Natural Features Strategy due to be brought forward in July to PEC has been postponed until 2007; when it is available, it will be reviewed by OFGAC).

A3.1.2 Riverside South Community Design Plan Follow-up

Objective

Implementation of the Riverside South Community Design Plan follows principles in the CDP.
Retention of significant trees and forests and best use of greenspace in this community

Results

Monitored and completed development reviews for different phases within Riverside South. Contacted the Riverside South Community Association to share information on the natural features inventory OFGAC conducted earlier. Schedule presentation in 2006-2007 to the residents of the community. The preservation of natural features is uncertain and needs to be pursued in 2007 and throughout the development period.

A3.1.3 East Urban CDP Phase I Follow-Up

Objective

Implementation of the East Urban Community Design Plan follows principles in the CDP.
Retention of significant trees and forests and best use of greenspace in this community

Results

Comments provided to staff and presentation made to PEC on Mer Bleue CDP

A3.1.4 Ottawa Design Study Follow Up

Objective

Advice to Councillors and city staff on the Ottawa Design Study

Results

Participated in Slater Street Escarpment workshop and reviews; Participated in sessions reviewing Rban Design Framework guidelines for big box stores, parking lots, development along traditional and arterial mainstreets, drive through facilities, gas stations. Attendance at the public consultations on Density Initiatives resulted in the addition of parks and greenspace as two of the amenities that a developer may provide in exchange for increased height or density in the urban area.

A3.1.5 North-South Light Rail**Objective**

Preservation of greenspace and trees and an environmental perspective as staff report is reviewed by Council

Results

Actively participated in the Provincially-mandated Public Working Group for the purpose of selecting the location for a maintenance and storage rail yard. Attended 8 meetings and reviewed numerous documents and studies. Made a presentation to the Joint Meeting of Transportation and Corporate Services & Economic Development Committees, opposing the City's proposed site for the NS LRT Maintenance and Storage Yard. OFGAC Recommendation not accepted.

A3.2 Ongoing Studies including Community Design Plans**A3.2.1 East-West Light Rail****Objective**

Provide OFGAC perspective through Public Advisory Committee participation

Results

Public Consultation group got as far as determining what type of LRT that will be used. Progress has been slow. EISs have to be done and presented to both Federal and Provincial levels of Government for approval. Postponed until Council decides what to do with LRT.

A3.2.2 Rockcliffe Airbase Redevelopment/CDP**Objective**

Provide OFGAC perspective to Public Advisory Committee

Results

Attended meetings of coalition of neighbourhood groups, meeting with Canada Lands Company and two CLC Open Houses; provided comments to CLC on draft 1 of CDP (contributed to coalition comments); member of PAC and TAC and attended first meetings of these groups in November. Greenspace and tree preservation has been accepted as a major design component and objective by CLC.

A3.2.3 South Barrhaven**Objective**

Provide OFGAC perspective to Public Advisory Committee

Results**A3.2.3.1 South Barrhaven CDP**

Reviewed the proposed concept plans for the future development of Barrhaven South and met with City Staff with their concerns. A formal response was presented to the planner and included in the submission to PEC. The Report on Proposed Design Guidelines was also reviewed and comments submitted to the planner. The identification of natural features and their preservation remains an issue to be pursued in 2007

A3.2.3.2 Southwest Transitway Extension Environmental Assessment

OFGAC members met with city staff and determined that there are no tree/forest issues.

A3.2.3.3 Jock River Subwatershed Study Phase 1

The Jock River Reach 1 Subwatershed Study – Draft Final Report (3 volumes) was reviewed and comments formerly submitted to City Staff promoting the preservation of riparian vegetation, significant greenspaces and blue-green linkages

A3.2.3.4 Greenbank Class Environmental Assessment

Under review

A3.2.3.5 South Nepean Town Centre

Community Design Plan was reviewed and OFGAC submitted comments to the planner.

A3.2.3.6 and A3.2.3.7 Berrigan Road Park and Ride and Transit Station

Responded to Eastern Chapter of the Society of Nut Growers regarding the preservation of an existing Butternut and Black Walnut Grove situated in the middle of the route for the planned Transitway Extension. OFGAC met with the City's Project Engineer, the landscape architect and project consultant and presented an inventory of nut trees on the site recommending that most of the Butternut trees be preserved. The recommendation has been accepted and the final landscaping details and a "nut theme" are planned for 2007. OFGAC met on site with City Staff and Consultants and provided recommendations to improve construction conditions to conserve the trees.

A3.3 East Urban CDP Phase II (Gloucester side)

Objective

Provide OFGAC perspective to Public Advisory Committee

Results

Provided comments on the Mer Bleu Community Design Plan to planner and PEC.

A4 Plans and Standards for Forests and Trees

A4.1 Maintenance Plans for Trees and Community Forests

Objective

Advice to City during development or updating of community forest master plans
Establish network of stakeholders

A4.1.1 Torbolton Forest

Results

Met with staff responsible for forest management regarding residents concerns about thinning program. The Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee has started a community program to collect seed from oaks to encourage re-seeding with native hardwoods.

A4.1.2 Marlborough

Results

Participated in Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee meetings and hosted a Walk in the Forest as part of the Outreach Program.

A4.1.3 Cumberland

Results

OFGAC had a presentation on the use of the forest by a trail riding association and endorsed their proposal.

A4.1.4 Carp Hills/South March

Results

Staff have placed the update of the Management Plan on their 2007 Workplan with implementation schedules for 2008. OFGAC will participate.

A4.2 Maintenance Standards for Trees and Community Forests

Objective

Standards of care for trees, forests and greenspace that are appropriate for Ottawa

Results

Comments were provided on the following: Trees and Forest Maintenance Strategy Report, Trees and Forest Maintenance Program and Quality Standards. The Strategy was presented at the August 28 OFGAC Meeting and OFGAC Supported the Standards at PEC and ARAC (passed by these 2 committees and Council) and staff will propose these programs for funding in 2008

A5 Bylaws

A5.1 Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas Bylaw

Objective

Passage of the bylaw in 2006

Results

OFGAC and staff have met all conditions for passage. OFGAC has met with senior staff members and Councillors to urge passage of the by-law. OFGAC has offered to develop information for a draft staff report for use by Standing Committees and Council. Submission of bylaw to Council delayed by 2006 election.

A5.2 Municipal Trees and Forests Protection

Objective

Passage of the bylaw in 2006

Results

Reviewed 2nd draft of bylaw and supported its passage at PEC 13 June. Passed at Council in July and is in force as of September.

A5.3 Comprehensive Zoning

Objective

Protection of greenspace for conservation and passive use recognized in bylaw

Results

By-law draft received, the format is not user friendly and so has not been reviewed in detail.

A6 Capital Standards

Objective

Standards documents and plans reflect protection of trees, forests and greenspace philosophy and practice

Results

A6.1 Road design guidelines (incl. streetscaping)

Participated in study group on Slater Street Escarpment.

A6.2 Transitway Design

See A3.2.3.7report on Berrigan Transit Station.

A6.3 Strategic Lighting Plan

Presentation from staff in September; OFGAC member appointed to review Strategy when presented in 2007.

A6.4 Pedestrian Plan (no further staff action)

A6.5 Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines

A7 Land Acquisition Through the Municipal Act

Objective

Purchase of appropriate land using either the Special Services Levy or Local Improvement Charge (as described in the *Ontario Municipal Act*) for the acquisition of parks and greenspace

A7.1 Ethier St. Wooded Lots

Results

Consultations with Councillor Monette on use of this provision to fund the retention of four wooded lots on Ethier St Orleans. CSED recommendation and Council decision was to retain the lots without using the special municipal levy.

A8 Land Trust

Objective

Promote idea of a land trust.

Results

No activities in 2006

A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Objective

OFGAC Views are incorporated in the draft Air Quality and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Results

Draft document being prepared by City staff for circulation in 2007

A10 Biodiversity Strategy**Objective**

OFGAC participates in the development of this strategy

Results

In a presentation to Corporate Services, OFGAC supported the development of a Biodiversity Strategy after the Forest Strategy is completed in 2007. However, the project has received special funding via EAC and will start in 2007 with OFGAC and the Conservation Authorities as partners..

B: EMERGING ISSUES AND REQUESTED ADVICE**B1 Development Activities****B1.1 Review Development Applications (Zoning Changes, OP Amendments)****Objective**

Advise city planners preparing reports to Director of Planning on development proposals or Council on zoning change or Official Plan Amendment proposals

Provide an OFGAC perspective (relating to potential impact on trees, forests, and greenspace) to Council, city planners and Real Property and Assets Management (RPAM) on proposals to develop, sell or change the use of land in Ottawa

Results

Two training sessions on how to conduct development review held with a resulting increase in quality of reviews and pertinence of remarks. 114 development proposals were received and OFGAC provided comments on 56 of them. Development Reviews of the Chapman Mills and Fernbank areas resulted in OFGAC recommending the preservation via purchase of two woodlots and a wetland. Reviews in other fast growing areas such as Riverside South, Southe Pointe, Barrhaven South, Orleans, Navan and Mer Bleue focused on infill and raw land development where there were concerns on the part of residents and/or the potential to lose significant trees, hedgerows and woodlots.

B1.2 City Capital Works**Objective**

City capital projects have minimal impact on trees, greenspace and wetlands

Results

No paper received from City in 2006.

B1.3 Disposal of City Surplus Lands**Objective**

Lands in municipal ownership with forest, greenspace or wetlands value are retained by the city in their natural state.

Results

Developed a template to complete for standardized OFGAC review. 70 disposals were reviewed by OFGAC between February and December; comments provided to RPAM and Councillors

In about 10 cases there was cause to recommend city retention of the land or to recommend conditions on the eventual sale because of forest and greenspace considerations. No data are available at this time on the outcomes of our recommendations.

B2 Presentations to Standing Committees**Objectives**

Articulation of OFGAC perspective and recommendations on issues relating to trees, forests and greenspace (including wetlands)

Results

24 presentations made (Council, PEC, ARAC, CSED (see Appendix 2 at end of document)

B3 Inventories

B3.1 Notable Trees

Objectives

Development of a notable tree recognition program for Ottawa

Results

Workshop on selection criteria for notable trees attended by G. Brassard, and process for selection of trees in Ottawa described.

B3.2 CITYGreen™ - Forest Cover Evaluation

Objectives

An up-to-date forest cover evaluation for the city in 2006

Results

Attended all meetings to review progress. One small area study completed by staff. Further work is anticipated in 2007.

B4 Requested Advice

Objective

Advice on issues/questions raised by Council, standing committees, members of the public

Results

At the request of councillor Stavinga, OFGAC supported the acquisition of a sensitive wetland in Stittsville. 38 public enquiries to OFGAC through <ofgac@ottawaforests.ca> were answered (see C1.2) in response to queries on the light rail project, trees and development issues, invasive and intrusive tree species, tree cutting issues and the City's Trees in Trust program. OFGAC supported Councillor Hume's 100,000 tree program (TREE) and have assisted him in advising the community via the website and through email.

B4.1 Southern Corridor

Objective

Retention of environmentally important lands in public ownership of them and "green stewardship" of them

Results

On hold until the zoning issues are resolved by the OMB.

B4.2 Pocket Parks

Objective

Research and report on feasibility of smaller parks in Ottawa

Results

Conducted a survey during Wildlife Week to determine citizen attitudes toward and amenities desired in pocket parks (trees 90%, cleanliness 67%, close to home 65%, shrubs 59%, place to sit 55%, size 50%, grass 43%, close to work 38%) flowers 42%). Provided advice to Carleton University students on an socio-economic study of pocket parks in Somerset Ward

B5 Wetlands and Natural Drainage

B5.1 Wetlands

Objective

City decisions favour the protection of provincially and "regionally" significant wetlands

Participation in community forums to promote wetland conservation

Results

Commented to ARAC on the City of Ottawa's Wetlands Resolution Workplan and participated as member of the Wetlands Working Group, providing the OFGAC perspective on the importance of wetlands, especially relating to Goulbourn. Commented to PEC and ARAC on the final report of the Wetlands Stakeholders Resolution Workplan expressing concern about the City decision to cancel OP designation of wetlands in that area. Council clarified that the decision applied only to lands in the "Flewellyn Road area of Goulbourn Ward".

B5.2 Natural Drainage and Ditching

Objective

Natural drainage channels are preserved to the maximum extent possible
Ditching activities strike a balance between protection of wetlands and protection of farmlands

Results

Supported the Wetlands Resolution working group in having beavers removed in problem areas in Goulbourn.

B6 Council Performance Indicators

B6.1 Follow-up to EAC-OFGAC Evaluation of Environmental Impact of 2004 Council Decisions

Objective

Transmittal of environmental evaluation that provides Councillors with the two committees' perspective on the impact of council and Planning staff 2004 decisions

Activities

Results

OFGAC report provided to City staff working on Community Indicators. No response from Councillors to OFGAC's request for comment; project folded into B6.2.

B6.2 Community Impact Indicators

Objective

OFGAC perspective on trees, forests and greenspace incorporated into the Community Impact Indicators analysis in 2006

Results

Attended 4 meetings and focus groups with city staff to review proposed indicators and present OFGAC view on importance of greenspace and forests indicators; final report published in August reflected some of OFGAC's views.

B7 Input to City Budgets

B7.1 Consideration of OFGAC Priorities for Budget 2007

Objective

OFGAC perspective on priorities considered and accepted by City Council in 2007

Results

City budget material reviewed in preparation for OFGAC presentations in 2007. Staff presentation in November on 2007 budget and 4-year planning process.

B8 International Society of Arboriculture Ottawa Meeting

Objective

Ottawa meeting of the ISA is successful

Results

OFGAC will assist with logistics for this meeting in April 2007

C: Outreach

C1 Communications

C1.1 Media Outreach and Publicity

Objective

Increased public awareness of the value of trees, forests, and greenspace
Increased support for city tree, forest and greenspace initiatives

Results

The Ottawa Sun interviewed the chair about trees in Ottawa ; member interviewed by local CTV about heritage trees. Other interviews were given to the Ottawa Citizen, Orleans Star, CFRA and Radio Canada TV.

The Media & Publicity sub-committee merged with the Community Outreach and Awareness sub-committee, and became the Outreach Sub-Committee.

C1.2. OFGAC Website <www.ottawaforests.ca>

Objective

Public visits to OFGAC website increase awareness of the value of trees, forests, and greenspace and support for city tree, forest and greenspace initiatives

Results

The Site map was posted to 'Google' to improve website index by search engines. Volunteer Webmaster posted much new material, including details and photos of OFGAC Walks in the Woods outreach events and OFGAC presentations to Standing Committees. Based on a 3-month sample, the Website received 59,400 requests for pages in 2006 and 7.4 GB of content were transferred to readers. In November, the most popular page (666 hits) was the Marlborough Forest Management Plan. Email to the website resulted in 38 enquiries on trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands which were answered or passed to the appropriate staff person for a response. Questions ranged from is Manitoba Maple a native species in the Ottawa area and is it invasive (answer - No and Yes), questions about ownership and management of trees planted on lot lines between two private properties, what caused those black spots on Norway Maple leaves (answer Tar Spot fungus), how to control the invasive buckthorn (answer - pull it out)

C1.3 Community Outreach and Awareness**Objective**

Engage and educate both the general public and professional community with respect to forests and greenspace in the City of Ottawa to expand the informed segment of the population that is supportive of sustainable forestry and knowledgeable about the environmental, economic and social values the forests and greenspace in Ottawa play

Results

Developed the "Walk in the Woods" series of 2-3 hour guided walk with local expert every two months starting in June

McCarthy Woods [50 participants including local Councillor – partner with Author of Capital Woodlands and Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital: Poet's Pathway initiative];

Arboretum and Preston Street area The Distinguished & Distressed, [40 participants – partner with Eastern Ontario Model Forest and Canadian Forest Service – Ken Farr Author of The Forests of Canada];

A Forest in the Fall -- Marlborough Forest [46 participants -- Sean Thompson: Ecologist, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Craig Huff: Forester, City of Ottawa];

The Crowning Jewel of Ottawa – [35 participants NCC Pine Grove Woods -- Dan Baker: Fiddlehead Forestry, Astrid Nielsen: Dendron Resource Surveys Inc.].

Developed a public relations strategy.

Presented a talk on OFGAC: its mandate and objectives, activities and accomplishments to the annual Christmas Forestry Seminar, participated in the 3-day annual Wildlife Festival at Billings Bridge, reaching thousands of visitors; attended Councillor Harder's annual Ward meeting with the OFGAC display.

C2 Networks**Objective**

Increased cooperation and information exchange between and among OFGAC and other tree- and greenspace-oriented community groups and Advisory Committees

Results

Maintained ongoing relations with other forestry groups including: Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Canadian Institute of Forestry, Urban Forest Network, Ottawa Valley chapter of Canadian Institute of Forestry and Ontario Woodlot Owners Association. Reciprocal membership established for EAC and RIAC. Maintained ongoing relations and regular exchange of information with environmental groups such as Greenspace Alliance, Friends of the Jock River, Fletcher Wildlife Garden (OFNC), etc

C3 Native Trees and Shrubs Database**Objective**

Database of native trees and shrubs on the OFGAC web site

Fact sheets on selected native species

Memorandum to P&EC on city use of native species and PEC adoption of OFGAC proposal on use of native species

Results

Data base with information on habitat requirements and characteristics of 133 native trees, shrubs and vines completed and launched on the website. Searchable product table also developed on tree size, light requirement, water requirement, salt tolerance using information from the database. Very positive comment received from professional foresters and horticulturists.

D: MANAGEMENT

D1 Committee Management

Objective

Timely production of agendas, delegation of tasks to OFGAC members, review of OFGAC position papers before transmission to appropriate authorities

Results

OFGAC deadlines met, comments were provided to staff and Councillors on a timely basis; OFGAC was recognised as a positive force and contributor to the City.

D1.1 Training for Members

Objective

Knowledgeable and up-to-date OFGAC members

Results

Two training sessions given to OFGAC members on how to conduct and write development review; several sessions on tree identification given by the city forestry staff prior to OFGAC meetings. Eastern Ontario Model Forest tree identification workshop publicised and attended by an OFGAC member; tree identification lessons given during the Walks in the Woods.

D2. Governance Report Review

Objective

Timely review of 2006 Governance review report and incorporation of OFGAC objectives for the outcomes in it

Results

Comments on governance needs and possible changes to advisory committee bylaw sent to Committee Services staff; attended Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting to discuss changes in Governance Procedures Re-drafted OFGAC Terms of Reference and Mandate Statement Met with chair of Health, Recreation and Social Services and a member of Secretariat Services staff to discuss ways of improving the AC advertising and member recruitment process

D3 Spatial Evaluation of OFGAC Activities

Objective

Spatially analyze where OFGAC focused its effort in 2005
Make recommendations regarding improvements in its effectiveness

Results

Built a computer with monitor from donated parts that will be used as a part of the OFGAC display and serve as a repository for OFGAC media.

D4 Committee Member Recruitment for 2007

Objective

Recruit and have appointed candidates with excellent qualifications and a commitment to the trees, forests and greenspace of Ottawa

Results

See D2 re recruitment process. Council decision means no recruitment for 2007.

Appendix 2 — OFGAC Presentations to Standing Committees

Council

Leitrim (jointly with the EAC)	Damage to adjacent wetland, contaminants in groundwater	27 September
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Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Wetlands	Comments on Working Group Workplan	9 March
Wetlands	Comments on WG recommendations and wetlands impact elsewhere	22 June
Municipal Tree Protection Bylaw	Support bylaw passage	22 June
Bill 51	Support conservation land easements	24 August
Tree Maintenance	Support staff proposal	28 September
Morris Island	Fund infrastructure repairs	26 October

Corporate Services and Economic Development

6350 Fernbank Road	Support acquisition of wetland	17 January
2006 Budget	Support for trees, forests and greenspace maintenance and protection	7 March
Ethier St Woodlots	Support retention in city ownership, UNA status	16 May
N/S LRT Maintenance Yard	Use existing Walkley Road site	16 May
Biodiversity Strategy	Support in 2008	17 October
Nepean Woodlots Acquisition	Support land swap and acquisition of two UNAs and	17 October
Sale of Access to Water	Retain road allowances to river edges in public ownership	17 October

Planning and Environment

5350 Fernbank	Support acquisition of wetland	24 January
Grange Park Sale	Fund other parkland acquisition when parks sold	28 March
Mer Bleue CDP	Delay approval of CDP	9 May
Leitrim/Findlay Creek Subdivision	Wetland damage, contaminants	13 June
Municipal Tree Protection Bylaw	Support bylaw passage	13 June
Greenspace Master Plan	Support GMP; Develop and fund implementation strategy	27 June
Bill 51	Support conservation land easements	22 August
Leitrim	Delay zoning change; Save part of UNA 108	12 September
Tree Maintenance Strategy	Support staff proposal	26 September
TREE	Support Councillor Hume proposal	28 November