

Report to/Rapport au:

**Planning and Environment Committee
Comité de l'urbanisme et de l'environnement**

**and Council/et au Conseil
23 March 2009 / 23 mars 2009**

**Submitted by/Soumise par: Chair/présidente Nicole Parent
Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee/
Comité consultatif sur les forêts et les espaces verts d'Ottawa**

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Ref N°: ACS2009-CCV-OFG-0001

**SUBJECT: OTTAWA FORESTS AND GREENSPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 2008
ANNUAL REPORT AND 2009 WORK PLAN**

**OBJET: COMITÉ CONSULTATIF SUR LES FORÊTS ET LES ESPACES VERTS
D'OTTAWA – RAPPORT ANNUEL DE 2008 ET PLAN DE TRAVAIL 2009**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee recommend that the Planning and Environment Committee recommend that Council:

- 1) **Receive the 2008 Annual Report of the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee, as detailed in Document 1;**
- 2) **Approve the objectives contained in the 2009 workplan, as detailed in Document 2.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité consultatif sur les forêts et les espaces verts d'Ottawa recommande au Comité de l'urbanisme et de l'environnement de recommander au Conseil :

- 1) **de recevoir le Rapport annuel de 2008 du Comité consultatif sur les forêts et espaces verts d'Ottawa, tel que décrit à la pièce jointe n° 1;**
- 2) **d'approuver les objectifs qui sont présentés dans le plan de travail 2009, tel que décrit à la pièce jointe n° 2 .**

BACKGROUND

City Council, 6 December 2006, reconfirmed its governance structure. This included the advisory committees, and the requirement for each to complete a workplan outlining proposed projects and activities for the upcoming year. The workplan is to identify each and every activity the Committee plans to undertake in the upcoming year, whether they have a budgetary impact or not. The item should be identified with a brief description of the project or activity.

The Lead Department Representatives are to provide the Committee with information on the departmental workplan and priorities, where the workplans of the Committees tie into that workplan, and where the Committee can assist the Department. The Lead Department Representative will also advise on what staff and/or financial resources are available as part of departmental priorities.

There was no funding approved for the advisory committee 2009 workplans.

DISCUSSION

At its meetings of 23 February 2009, the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee approved its 2008 annual report and 2009 work plan.

The mandate of the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee is to help safeguard the environment of the City through the use of trees, forests and greenspace. The complete revised Terms of Reference can be found at Document 3 of this report.

CONSULTATION

Infrastructure Services & Community Sustainability 2009 (Comment)

2008

Planning, Transit and the Environment:

Planning, Transit and the Environment continues to work closely with the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee and benefited from their help and constructive advice in 2007 on policy initiatives such as the Official Plan review process and various development proposals, specifically in South Barrhaven. The work program proposed for 2008 reflects several priority projects for the Department including the continuation of the Official Plan review, the Fernbank Community Design Plan, and stewardship and tree conservation initiatives. Staff can support the work plan with respect to the projects identified under the jurisdiction of Planning, Transit and the Environment.

City Operations 2009 (Comment)

2008

Public Works and Services - Surface Operations

The Department works closely with the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee in a shared goal to effectively manage the City's trees and forests. The Department concurs with the 2008 Workplan and 2007 Annual Report, prepared by the OFGAC, and acknowledges the value provided to the Department in terms of providing comments and advice from the rural citizen's perspective on various projects. Therefore, staff looks forward to working with OFGAC within the Committee's mandate, and as staff resources permit.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

(Comment)

2008 Comment: There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Document 1 – 2008 Annual Report of the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
- Document 2 – Proposed 2009 Workplan of the Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
- Document 3– Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee Terms of Reference(on file with the City Clerk)

DISPOSITION

The Advisory Committee will work to complete the work plan tasks approved by City Council.

*Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
2008 Annual Report - Executive Summary*

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) provides advice and guidance to Ottawa City Council and various Standing Committees. Its mandate is to help safeguard the environment of the City, promote a sustainable, biodiverse landscape and promote the protection and conservation of trees, forests, natural systems and greenspace.

The OFGAC focuses its work in four areas: Policy and Planning; Emerging Issues and Requested Advice; Outreach; and Management.

Under Policy & Planning:

The OFGAC participated in the review of the proposed Official Plan Amendments and submitted comments and recommendations to city staff. The focus was on the implementation of the “Design with Nature” and the conservation of the urban and rural forest, which includes individual city trees and other vegetation, as well as, woodlots and forests within the City of Ottawa. To increase the benefits of urban forest conservation, the provision of a Tree Preservation and Protection Plan at an earlier stage in the development application process was strongly recommended.

The OFGAC supported the Public Consultation Strategy for the Urban Tree Conservation Project, approved a motion and presented it to the Planning and Environment Committee. The City’s White Paper on the Urban Tree Consultation Project and online Survey Questionnaire were reviewed, commented on and a written submission was provided to city staff. Members attended the project’s several public consultations and participated during its table discussions sessions, as well as, attended the Tree Celebration Day. The OFGAC demonstrated continued support for the Urban Tree Conservation Project’s initiative, provided and staffed its own display booth at all the events. The OFGAC Chair also participated in the City’s Public/Technical Advisory Committee.

As a member of the Stakeholders Wetlands Resolution Group, the OFGAC articulated its perspective on the value of wetlands to the entire community, the need to monitor land development proposals and provided comment that leads to wetland conservation and protection.

The Proposed Approach to Parkland Dedication was received by the OFGAC, reviewed and provided a written submission to staff. The need for passive parks was reiterated, especially in areas where intensification is encouraged, providing much needed respite from the hard grey infrastructure of the urban environment.

The OFGAC reviewed the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and provided its perspective on the content of the document and strength of actions proposed and, continues its representation at meetings of the Biodiversity Strategy Group.

Under Emerging Issues and Requested Advice:

The OFGAC members reviewed and provided a written submission on 29 of the 72 development proposals sent for comment in 2008, which included Zoning Amendments, Site Plan Control and Plan of Subdivision and, O.P. Amendments. The OFGAC maintains a record of all the development application reviews received, reviewed, and submitted with comments and recommendations to city staff. The OFGAC has found that feasible retention of major existing hedgerows is often overlooked and the preservation of mature natural areas ignored. Site alterations during pre-construction often increases the grade by over 1.5 meters making it obvious that the only areas that may present some opportunity for tree preservation are around existing woodlots and natural areas. A continuing problem noted by the OFGAC is the frequent clearance of a site before a site plan is approved.

City Forestry Services' major discovery of the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (an invasive forest insect) in Ash trees within the City of Ottawa, having the potential to destroy 25% of the City's urban and rural forests, has prompted immediate action. The OFGAC received and provided comments on the City's Forestry Services' EAB Management Strategy and its development of an overall communications plan to alert and educate the public on mitigating the situation.

Under Outreach:

The OFGAC networks with other citizen and professional groups, local community groups, community associations, and participates in cross-attendance with some Advisory Committees. The OFGAC frequently responds to media enquiries, provides interviews and maintains a website (www.ottawaforests.ca) with links to other groups. The OFGAC increases public awareness with a variety of outreach activities and, has found that the four Walk in the Woods events of 2008 have proved to be very successful in reaching the residents of Ottawa.

Under Management:

In 2008, a significant member transition occurred in which only four existing members could remain and eight new recruitments joined the OFGAC in May, starting with orientation and training. Throughout the year, the OFGAC received many presentations from various groups, which were all well received and provided learning opportunities for all OFGAC members. The former and present Chair prepared and presented several written submissions to Council Committees.

2008 OFGAC Annual Report

Mandate

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) provides advice and guidance to Ottawa City Council, through the Planning and Environment Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. Its mandate is to help safeguard the environment of the City, promote a sustainable, biodiverse landscape and promote the protection and conservation (wise use) of trees, forests, natural systems and greenspace by:

- Providing 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;
- Recommending ways in which the City can meet its greenspace, biodiversity and forest related objectives as outlined in the Official Plan and other planning documents; and
- Promoting public awareness of the role of greenspace and forests in protecting and enhancing quality of life.

Responsibilities

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee shall be responsible for:

- Providing advice and guidance to Council, through the Planning and Environment Committee and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, on City policies, programs, by-laws, regulations and budgets related to forest and greenspace protection and management;
- Assisting in the development of policies, programs and bylaws that would have an impact on trees, forests and greenspace including wetlands;
- Providing a forum for citizens interested in forests and greenspace to raise issues and concerns and to have those concerns heard by Council;
- Advising on areas where the introduction of trees and tree cover would be beneficial to the environment or where their removal would have a negative impact on a site or ecosystem;
- Identifying issues that may have an impact on trees, tree cover or natural systems biodiversity and recommending ways to minimize the impact;
- Advising on the introduction of windbreaks, the shading of transportation corridors, the greening of streets, roads, parks and conservation areas, the preservation of tree cover, and forest management in the City;
- Promoting and facilitating cooperation with local community groups and environmental organizations on education and other initiatives related to forest and greenspace management;
- Conducting advocacy on behalf of issues relating to Ottawa's forests and greenspace;
- Providing advice to Council on the protection, management, acquisition and conservation of greenspace and other environmentally sensitive areas in Ottawa;
- Working to reduce the burden on the City's Environmental Resources Areas Acquisition Fund by promoting partnerships with developers (in the form of land bequests and conservation development) and with other stakeholders (in the form of land trusts and conservation easements);

- Liaising with other City of Ottawa Advisory Committees as necessary.

Definitions

The urban and rural forest includes individual city trees and other vegetation as well as woodlots and forests within the City of Ottawa.

Greenspace is land, water and wetlands that are in their natural, undeveloped state, as well as, land in private and public ownership that has been developed only to the extent consistent with natural systems protection, recreational uses, or agricultural and forest production.

Highlights Report

The OFGAC focuses its work in four areas: Policy and Planning; Emerging Issues and Requested Advice; Outreach; and Management as summarized in the table that follows the Highlights Report.

Policy and Planning

The OFGAC members received staff presentation on the Official Plan proposed amendments and attended Community Leaders public consultation meetings. Members reviewed and commented on the proposed draft amendments and provided written comments to City staff. As per our mandate, the main focus was on the conservation of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands. In addition to the Design with Nature approach stipulated in the Official Plan, we concentrated on the Development Application Review (DAR) process and in requiring the Tree Preservation and Protection Plan at an earlier stage to increase the benefits of urban forest conservation.

To secure priority natural land, the Urban Greenspace Master Plan's Urban Natural Features Strategy's Three-Year Implementation Plan was completed, and the UNF Acquisition Strategy approved by Council in 2008. Regrettably, little has been acquired as part of the approved strategy stipulated in the "Short-Term Action for Completion in 2007-2008". In addition the "Initiate Urban Natural Features Strategy in consultation with other City departments and other stakeholders" as instructed by Standing Committee has yet to shown fruition. Consequently, in the eastern part of Ottawa, an unauthorized clear-cutting of a most ecologically significant natural area took place before the City had time to acquire the high quality urban woodlot. The OFGAC wrote two letters to the Environmental Sustainability Department outlining its concern over this issue and recommended immediate remedial action and environmental mediation. The OFGAC also reiterated the urgent need for the City to take measures to put in place an urban tree preservation and protection by-law.

The OFGAC approved a motion to support the report for the Public Consultation Strategy for the Urban Tree Conservation Project, which was to be presented to the Planning and Environment Committee in September 2008. Members reviewed, commented and provided a written submission on the White Paper for the Urban Tree Consultation Project, as well as, responding to the online Survey Questionnaire on the City's website and attending public consultations. Members participated in three evenings of the Urban Tree Consultation Project's public consultations, table discussions and at the Tree Celebration. The OFGAC demonstrated support

for the Urban Tree Conservation Project's initiative, provided and staffed our Display Booth at the events. The OFGAC Chair also participated in the City's Public/Technical Advisory Committee for the Urban Tree Conservation Project.

The Proposed Approach to Parkland Dedication was received by OFGAC and written comments provided to city staff in September 2008. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan regarding the public consultation deliverables was received and at staff's request OFGAC agreed to participate throughout the Master Plan's roll-out. In August 2008, the OFGAC and the Parks & Recreation Branch's Program Manager agreed to include the OFGAC in the distribution of notification when new parks are created with the provision of a copy of the design proposals consisting of existing vegetation, tree preservation and planting plans. The OFGAC also agreed to participate on the Green Partnership Program selection committee.

Throughout 2008, the OFGAC commented on a dozen Zoning Amendment Proposals and provided written comments to city planners with copies to the appropriate ward City Councillor. Members also looked at some woodlots and wetlands and determined how these areas were proposed to be zoned against the Comprehensive Zoning By-law. In July 2008, the OFGAC made a presentation to ARAC on the Proposed Zoning Application 8089 Franktown Road, Riverbend Golf Course, for the preservation and protection of the riparian border and required buffer zone.

The OFGAC reviewed the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and provided its perspective on the content of the document and strength of actions proposed.

Also, the OFGAC representation continued at meetings of the Biodiversity Strategy group and provided input as appropriate. The Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity Strategy received considerable attention last year and were modified to meet the OFGAC's concerns. Subsequently the Terms of Reference were accepted by the Planning and Environment Committee and sent to Council in 2008.

The OFGAC's present and former Chair participated at the Stakeholders meetings on the Goulbourn Wetlands and the current Chair continues as a member of the Wetlands Resolution Group. The OFGAC articulated its perspective on the value of wetlands to the entire community, the need to monitor land development proposals and provided comment that leads to wetland conservation/protection. Also, in an effort to address city-wide wetland issues and consolidate and simplify activities associated with greenspace areas (wetlands) within the City, the OFGAC has established its own Wetland Working Group.

The former Chair attended a meeting in March 2008 on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines Revision. Regrettably the project has been postponed; with the first full draft is awaiting city staff review prior to circulation to the Advisory Committees. Consequently, the EIS Guidelines Revision is only expected to be back on track in the spring of 2009.

Members attended various Open Houses sponsored by the City on a number of projects, notably the South March Highlands in April 2008 and the Tree Celebration in November.

Emerging Issues and Requested Advice

Issues relating to proposed or ongoing land developments occupied much of our attention: Which focused mainly in the Kanata, Barrhaven, South Barrhaven, Orleans, and East Urban Development areas. Areas in many other parts of the City where greenspaces were not being properly identified nor considered with the “design with nature” approach as stated in the Official Plan. The development application review process required the OFGAC members to focus many hours for site visits, document reviews and in some instances meetings and discussions with community associations, developers and city staff.

The OFGAC members reviewed 29 of the 72 development proposals sent for comment in 2008: From Zoning Amendments (12), Site Plan Control and Plan of Subdivision (14), to O.P. Amendments (3). The OFGAC maintains a spreadsheet of development application reviews (DAR) received, which ones are reviewed, and the comments provided to staff. A disturbing fact and continuing problem noted by the OFGAC is the frequent clearance of a site before a site plan is approved. Members have elected to review all the development applications to date and list those sites which were cleared prior to the completion of the DAR process and City approval, and bring this to the attention of City Councillors and staff. Another continuing problem identified by the OFGAC is the lack of attention paid to the principles enunciated in the Official Plan in regard to the preservation of natural features, with the failure of proponents to “design with nature”. The development proposals sent for the OFGAC comment are also compared against the approved CDPs or Secondary Plans for the purpose of tree preservation and protection of natural features.

Community Design Plans (CDP) are guidelines that should be respected by developers and builders. When each different phase of residential development comes up at the development application approval process, the OFGAC refers to the CDP guidelines (when available) for compliance. In most cases, the general intent of the CDP is followed. Unfortunately, in some cases, they are ignored, as was the case in the East Urban Development, where a very significant urban natural area was clear-cut, although it had been previously identified as a high priority for acquisition by the City. This lost Urban Natural Area received a high ecological rating. To add insult to injury, it was clear-cut during the birding nesting season in May 2008 in contravention of the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act (which require that bird nests and natural habitats be protected during nesting seasons).

Through the development review application process, many phases of residential development within the South-Barrhaven Community Design Plan have been reviewed by the OFGAC throughout 2008 with emphasis on the retention of the major hedgerows and the preservation of the adjacent City-owned Urban Natural Area next to the Jock River. Regrettably, the entire site for the future phase 2 residential

development of the South Barrhaven CDP was cleared. (For the purposes of pre-loading the land with fill for 3-7 years to allow for consolidation before construction can occur.) Only the interior core of the Cambrian Woodlot and the riparian vegetation of the remaining open drain were kept and the grade raise of the overall site became 1.5m (more in some areas) above the current throughout these lands. Prior to the site’s clearing, it became obvious that the only area that may

present some opportunity for tree preservation was around the Cambrian Woods, the OFGAC obtained the developer's cooperation in maintaining a wider buffer zone around the remaining core woodlot of the Cambrian Woodlot from 30 metres to 50 metres, until such time that it can be determined whether the pre-loading has achieved its purpose and that an assessment can be done on the impact that the site alteration will have on the remaining woodlot. Some creative engineering will be required to ensure that the woods are not flooded by runoff from the adjacent development, but at the same time a water recharge rate is maintained that will ensure the woods are not negatively impacted. In good faith, the OFGAC will continue to work with the City and developer to ensure that the Cambrian Woodlot maintains an adequate buffer zone (50m) to protect and preserve its interior core from development and encroachment.

Further to damage to trees in the Hintonburg area brought to the OFGAC's attention, the OFGAC tabled a formal inquiry, during its March meeting, to Forestry Services regarding Surface Operations during the City's winter operations of 2007-2008. The OFGAC members also worked closely with the Hintonburg Community Association and in April 2008 presented "A Chapter on Trees". The principles of this document are to be incorporated into the Hintonburg Community Design Plan.

In response to a City Councillor's office request, the OFGAC provided background material and an executive summary on the conservation issues surrounding a City-owned woodlot, the Red-Oak Berrigan Woods.

The Beryl Gaffney Park Draft Landscape Master Plan presentation was received and members provided written comments. The Master Plan was then approved by the City In March 2008.

Throughout the process of provincially-mandated Environmental Assessments (EAs) members participated to ensure that the OFGAC's perspective in regard to the preservation of trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands and the enhancement of native biodiversity is incorporated in the study's assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed projects (transportation or development). Members attended and provided the OFGAC's perspective at several EAs open houses, throughout the year, on a number of City road transportation projects.

An invasive forest insect, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), was discovered in Ash trees within the City's boundary by the City's Forestry staff during the summer and, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) was notified. In July upon inspection, the CFIA confirmed the presence of the EAB in Ottawa. This pest has the potential to destroy every Ash tree in Ottawa, 25% of the City's urban and rural forests (2,600 hectares of public and private land). The OFGAC members received the CFIA's Forest Pest Emergencies presentation and update on the EAB situation in the City. The OFGAC also received and provided comments on the City's Forestry Services' EAB Management Strategy, which included information on the development of an overall communications plan. The OFGAC supported the City's EAB Management Strategy which was later passed on consent at the ARAC. The OFGAC Chair and Vice-Chair also attended a workshop on the EAB given by the CFIA Forest Pest Emergencies to those who work in the industry.

The OFGAC participated in the Transportation Master Plan Review as part of the Official Plan Review and provide an OFGAC perspective. Members attended the City's official consultation session for associations and provided comments to staff.

The OFGAC actively participates in the annual Draft City Budget roll-out. Members received the staff presentation in the fall on budget issues, reviewed the budget documents and directions. A Technical Briefing for Advisory Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs was attended in November 2008. The OFGAC's analysis included the background material and prior commitments approved by Council. Members developed a draft presentation outlining the OFGAC's budget priorities for approval and a subsequent formal presentation was prepared and delivered to Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, in December 2008. In our presentation we highlighted support for funding of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Management Strategy, the Urban Natural Areas Acquisition Strategy, the Green Partnership Program, and the City's Trees and Forest maintenance services. The OFGAC urged Council to consider the City's green infrastructure as an essential component of the City and to continue to secure funds for the UNA Acquisition Strategy for 2009 and beyond.

The OFGAC reviewed background material on issues relating to our mandate and prepared written texts to be delivered either by email in advance or in person to Committee of the whole, ARAC, PEC, CSED, Transit or other Standing Committees as necessary. Submissions in 2008 to Council Committees included the: Geotechnical Investigations and Reporting Guidelines for Development Applications in the City of Ottawa; Petrie Island Management Plan; the Ottawa Cycling Plan & Rural Pathways Plan; Development Application Reviews; the Strategy on the Urban Tree Conservation project; the Proposed Approach to Parkland Dedication and; the Proposed Revisions to the Official Plan. The OFGAC made a presentation to Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, on the 2009 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets on December 1, 2008.

Outreach

Part of our mandate also includes increasing public awareness and appreciation on the value of trees, forests, wetlands and greenspaces, including support for city trees and biodiversity initiatives. OFGAC continued its very successful Walks in the Woods events in 2008, with four walks in various parts of Ottawa. The guided tours included topics ranging from obtaining a forest certification of a privately owned woodlot; to identifying stresses of the urban tree in partnership with the Ottawa Art Gallery's Deep Roots Exhibition; to exploring a conservation area in the centre of the City around Britannia's Mud Lake; to creating awareness on what makes a Red Maple-Beech-Hemlock forest in Medeola Woods and surrounding area most unusual. Each walk had a guest expert who highlighted various aspects and specific features based on the guided walking tour event's theme. The public has responded with high attendance and enthusiasm to each event in 2008.

To engage the Ottawa-area community and inform them of the environmental, economic and social values of the forests, wetlands, greenspaces and biodiversity in the City, the OFGAC maintains a website < www.ottawaforests.ca > and continues to gain attention and credence as an

authoritative source of information and a portal for citizen concerns. In 2008, the OFGAC managed a smooth transition to a new webmaster. Regular up-dates are provided on the website in content, work completed, current workplan and annual report, public activities (Walk in the Woods events) and summaries of events throughout the year. Regularly posted on the OFGAC's website are News Releases from the City's Forestry Services and the CFIA on the EAB presence in Ottawa and, the potential effects of the EAB on Ottawa trees and forests were included. The OFGAC receives public enquiries through its Web site and provides timely responses to or re-directs queries received via the website's email address.

The OFGAC responds to media enquiries and is available for interviews in French and in English, with radio hosts, television reporters, local newspapers journalists, and university students enrolled in journalism programs. In 2008, the OFGAC Chair was interviewed by the Ottawa Citizen, CBC Television, Radio outlets, local newspaper reporters and other Ottawa media outlets. The OFGAC wrote to the Editor of the Ottawa Citizen to counter the developers' proposal that the City's development review process should be "fast-tracked" and indicated that it was a "review process" not an "approval" one. The OFGAC also did an interview with a local paper about the tar spots on Norway Maples that have reached Ottawa this year. The OFGAC Chair also responded to media enquiries during the Urban Tree Consultation Project and provided interviews, in both French and English, as required throughout the year on issues related to trees, the urban forest, the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer and the OFGAC's mandate.

The OFGAC has display booth which is used at different events. New display material is continually updated. The OFGAC display boards proved to be a true asset time and time again, and served especially well at the public consultation events, such as the Urban Tree Conservation Project and the Tree Celebration Day.

To increase cooperation and information exchange between and among the OFGAC and other tree- and greenspace-oriented community groups and other Advisory Committees, the OFGAC's website is now linked to an even wider variety of related websites. The OFGAC members continue to attend meetings and events sponsored by other organizations and to serve as links with them.

The OFGAC networks with many groups and Advisory Committee Cross Attendance. The OFGAC members attended meetings of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest on a regular basis and have a member who is part of the governing bodies of both. OFGAC liaises with other groups, partnering in specific initiatives, to co-host or co-fund events. In 2008, members participated in Community Tree Planting Projects within the City's TREE Program initiative with local community groups and community associations and during the free tree giveaway days. For example, a member participated in the reforestation project along the Jock River's tributary over several days with members of the Friends of the Jock River organization and, worked on the communication's plan for the 'Jock River Photo Student Contest' initiative. The OFGAC also participates in the Tree Canada Foundation and the Greenbelt of Canada's Capital Committee.

The OFGAC networks with other citizen and professional groups on the subject of exotic forest pests and invasives. We liaise with staff on exotic pest management protocols, contingency planning and educational/outreach programs. One of the OFGAC's volunteer is a member of the Regional Forest Health Committee dealing with exotic pests and attends meetings of this group, hosted by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest. In the fall of 2008, the OFGAC's Chair and Vice-Chair attended the Emerald Ash Borer Workshop jointly organized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the City's Forestry Services.

Management

In 2008, the former Chair of the OFGAC planned the first four official monthly meetings of the year. In early spring, a member transition occurred where seven members, who had reached the end of their term, left in April. This major turn-over included the Chair and Vice-Chair. However, the former Chair continued to work until the transition to the new Chair took effect. A welcome and orientation session for the eight new members was held in May and elections were called at the official meeting in June. The new Chair and Vice-Chair organized the next six official monthly meetings from June to November. Throughout 2008, the OFGAC held in total ten official monthly meetings for which agendas were developed, minutes were prepared and reviewed, and action items assigned, recorded and followed-up. During the official monthly meetings, the OFGAC received many presentations from various groups: One from a Federal Agency; five from City staff; one from a community association and; two from non-governmental organizations. These presentations were well received and provided learning opportunities for all the OFGAC members.

Throughout the year, the OFGAC's Chair and Vice-Chair developed and reviewed the OFGAC position statements and other material prior to distribution to Council, staff and the public.

The OFGAC Chair provided for training to eight new members on issues related to current bylaws, policies and the Official Plan. Also, to assist new members in reviewing development application proposals and provide comments to city planners, the OFGAC Chair held training sessions and established a working group for the development application reviews (DAR). During the period of June to November 2008 members received a presentation on the: Forestry Services; Natural Systems Policies and Forest Strategy; Web Demonstration Development Application Review site; Identifying the Emerald Ash Borer invasive insect and CFIA Protocol in dealing with invasive pests; Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Two members attended and participated in the development and reviews of the on-line prototype development application, as well as, a testing session which resulted in improvements and changes made to the prototype's design. Some members also attended the Urban Design Symposium and Planning Primer I & II.

The Chair encouraged all members to actively seek opportunities for the 2009 recruitment process and OFGAC membership to help safeguard the environment of the City, promote a sustainable, biodiverse landscape and promote the conservation and preservation of trees, forests, natural systems and greenspace.

**Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
2009 Workplan****MANDATE**

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) provides advice and guidance to Ottawa City Council, through the Planning and Environment Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. Its mandate is to help safeguard the environment of the City, promote a sustainable, biodiverse landscape and promote the protection and conservation (wise use) of trees, forests, natural systems and greenspace by:

- Providing 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;
- Recommending ways in which the City can meet its greenspace, biodiversity and forest related objectives as outlined in the Official Plan and other planning documents; and
- Promoting public awareness of the role of greenspace and forests in protecting and enhancing quality of life.

DEFINITIONS

The urban and rural forest includes individual city trees and other vegetation as well as woodlots and forests within the City of Ottawa.

Greenspace is land, water and wetlands that are in their natural, undeveloped state as well as a land in private and public ownership that has been developed only to the extent consistent with natural systems protection, recreational uses, or agricultural and forest production.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee shall be responsible for:

- Providing advice and guidance to Council, through the Planning and Environment Committee and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, on City policies, programs, by-laws, regulations and budgets related to forest and greenspace protection and management;
- Assisting in the development of policies, programs and bylaws that would have an impact on trees, forests and greenspace including wetlands;
- Providing a forum for citizens interested in forests and greenspace to raise issues and concerns and to have those concerns heard by Council;
- Advising on areas where the introduction of trees and tree cover would be beneficial to the environment or where their removal would have a negative impact on a site or ecosystem;
- Identifying issues that may have an impact on trees, tree cover or natural systems biodiversity and recommending ways to minimize the impact;

- Advising on the introduction of windbreaks, the shading of transportation corridors, the greening of streets, roads, parks and conservation areas, the preservation of tree cover, and forest management in the City;
- Promoting and facilitating cooperation with local community groups and environmental organizations on education and other initiatives related to forest and greenspace management;
- Conducting advocacy on behalf of issues relating to Ottawa's forests and greenspace;
- Providing advice to Council on the protection, management, acquisition and conservation of greenspace and other environmentally sensitive areas in Ottawa;
- Working to reduce the burden on the City's Environmental Resources Areas Acquisition Fund by promoting partnerships with developers (in the form of land bequests and conservation development) and with other stakeholders (in the form of land trusts and conservation easements);
- Liaising with other City of Ottawa Advisory Committees as appropriate.

OFGAC focuses its work in four areas:

- A – Policy and Planning;
- B – Emerging Issues and Requested Advice;
- C – Outreach; and
- D – Management

As summarized in the following table.

2009 OFGAC Workplan Summary for Annual Report

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
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A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
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A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
	priorities for Budgets 2007 and 2008		
A8 EIS Guidelines Revision			
A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy			
A10 Biodiversity Strategy			

A: Policy and planning

A1 Official Plan Review of 2008 (includes location of Urban Boundary)

Objective

An updated Official Plan that increases protection for trees and ecologically valuable land (forests, wetlands, greenspace etc.). Ensure retention of natural areas sections, enhancement where identified.

Activities

In 2008, OFGAC received staff presentation on the proposed Official Plan changes, attended Community Leaders Public Consultations, reviewed the City's proposed changes to the 2003 Official Plan, submitted a written report to staff with recommendations on specific sections to be considered for modifications.

Continue the Official Plan Review of 2008 throughout 2009. Ascertain that the OFGAC's written submission of 2008 to staff and Council on the proposed OP modifications are taken into consideration.

Review for compliance with Provincial Policy Statements requirements.

A2 Greenspace Master Plan

A2.1 Implementation of Urban GMP

Objective

Provision of advice to PEC¹ and city staff during the implementation of Urban GMP.

Activities

The Implementation was a Three-Year Plan for the Urban GMP. The Urban Natural Feature Strategy to secure priority natural land was completed by City staff, and the UNF Acquisition Strategy was approved by Council in 2008. But the "Short-Term Action for Completion in 2007-2008" (as stated in the GMP) for the "Initiate Urban Natural Features Strategy as approved by Council, in consultation with other City departments and other stakeholders" has not been completed by City Staff as planned. Consequently the "Long-Term Action for completion in

¹ PEC = Planning and Environment; ARAC = Agriculture and Rural Affairs; CSED = Corporate Services and Economic Development

2009 and beyond”, for the “Preparation of management plans for natural lands secured through the Urban Natural Features Strategy” may be delayed.
Review implementation proposals developed by staff.

A2.1.1 Old Ottawa South Rideau River Nature Trail

Follow-up on securement of nature trail. Review proposals developed by staff as they arise.

A2.1.2 Beryl Gaffney Park 2008 Updated Master Plan

In March 2008, the Corporate & Protective Services Committee was instructed to action any direction received as part of Committee’s consideration of this report. Review implementation proposals as they arise.

A2.2 Development of Rural GMP

Objective

Provision of advice to ARAC¹ and city staff during the development of this plan that reflects OFGAC priorities for greenspace preservation

Activities

No progress to date (in 2008) in relation to rural GMP development. Through the process of the Rural Summit II (of which OFGAC attended) may produce some outcomes that could eventually be tied back to the development of a rural GMP.

Provide advice to ARAC¹ and city staff during the development of this plan in accordance with time lines and opportunities provided for public consultation; interaction with RIAC.

Prepare a report or presentation to Council on completion of the plan.

A3 Forest Strategy

Objective

A Forest Strategy that provides the framework for the management and conservation of municipal forests and other important wooded areas in Ottawa

Activities

The Forest Strategy, expected early in 2008, is still in development and has not been released by staff. Provide advice to P&EC, ARAC 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.

A4 Special Planning Studies including Subwatershed Studies

A4.1 Follow-up and Monitoring Implementation Strategies

A4.1.1 Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study (UNAEES) Implementation

Objective

The UNAEES Implementation Strategy is fully funded by Council. The process of acquiring ecologically valuable land, as identified in the UNAEES is commenced

Activities

Provide advice to PEC on the implementation of the UNAEES report and propose future directions and activities.

Support the UNA Strategy to acquire lands identified as having moderate to high ecological value and the acquisition of woodlots as part of UNAEES Strategy.

In November 2008, through the City's Draft Budget process, the Acquisition Strategies for 2007 & 2008 were pending. Support efforts to increase and maintain the City's green infrastructure and to expedite the implementation of the UNA Acquisition Strategy.

A4.1.2 Greenfields Development Guidelines (Ottawa Design Study)

Objective

Greenfields Development guidelines, approved by Council in September 2007, follow principles outlined in the Ottawa Design Study and attention is given to tree protection and preservation.

Activities

May & June 2007, OFGAC provided comments to staff on the Urban Design Guidelines for Greenfield Neighbourhood.

Provide comments to staff, PEC and ARAC on developments that are not in accordance with the GDG.

A4.2 Ongoing/Up-coming Studies

Objective

As new studies arise, provision of OFGAC perspective on forest and greenspace protection.

Activities

Provide OFGAC advice to the Committee responsible for the study.

Promote the preservation of greenspace and trees and an environmental perspective.

A4.2.1 Cardinal Creek Subwatershed Study

An Open House was scheduled for June 2008 in order to complete the subwatershed plan by the summer of 2008 and obtain Council approval in the fall. As a Class EA process requires, the notification of study completion requires 30 day public review. The City's website indicates an update only to December 2007.

OFGAC received the Greater Cardinal Creek Subwatershed Study in January 2008.

No further activity in 2008 to report, nor updates from staff provided.

Follow-up as to the status of this study and its implementation in 2009.

A4.2.2 Proposed Approach to Parkland Dedication (Cash-in-lieu of Parkland)

The Cash-in-lieu of Parkland is included in the Proposed Approach to Parkland Dedication (PAPD). In September 2008 OFGAC provided comments on the PAPD to staff.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Received the presentation in 2008 on public consultation deliverables and request for OFGAC's participation throughout the Master Plan's roll-out. The areas will only address active recreational requirements. In August 2008 OFGAC reached an agreement with the Program Manager, Parks & Recreation Branch, to be notified whenever parks are created and provided with design proposals consisting of existing vegetation, tree preservation and planting plans.

Review parks design proposals for tree preservation and protection as applicable and provide comment to City Staff.

The Green Partnership Program: OFGAC is a participant on the selection committee in 2009. Participate on the selection committee at meetings held mainly in March and April.

A4.2.3 Wetlands

The Wetlands Working Group to address city-wide wetland issues throughout the year. For the purposes of consolidating and simplifying activities associated with wetland areas (greenspaces) within the City of Ottawa, the first deliverable will be to draft an internal policy-based document, that will assist members in addressing wetlands issues as part of community issues, developer activities or roads. The draft document is scheduled to be tabled at an OFGAC meeting during the 2009 winter months for comments/revisions.

A4.2.4 Hydrogeological Reporting Guidelines

As information becomes available from staff, review the hydrogeological reporting guidelines.

A5 Plans and Standards for Forests and Trees

This project is under development by the City. As information becomes available from staff, review and provide comment.

A5.1 Maintenance Plans for Trees and Community Forests

Objective

Network of stakeholders is established and consultative meetings with interested parties are productive.

Activities

Obtain City's workplan schedule for the development of the community forests' management plans*.

Advise on the development or updating of management plans for community forests.

Provide a forum for public input into these management plans as they are developed

Provide ongoing policy advice on community forests and advice to City during development or updating of community forest master plans.

A5.1.1 Torbolton Forest

Activities

Advise the Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee on its community program to collect oak seeds for native hardwoods regeneration. Advise on the rare plant inventory and management of those plants and the second phase of harvesting of the forest. The acorn program is ongoing for approx. 5 years (2008-2012).

There has not been a meeting since before December 2006. Strictly community clean-ups and more locally activity is taking place.

Attend meetings of Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee and provide OFGAC and ecological perspective.

A5.1.2 Marlborough

Activities

Attend meetings of Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee (MFAC) and provide OFGAC's perspective.

Provide support for the forest initiatives regarding trail maintenance and other projects such as the development of nesting boxes for ducks (subject to community participation). The last MFAC was before December 2006. No activity to report in 2007 & 2008. The City's Forestry Services advised that there is no interest in the community to pursue the MFAC and consequently is not on the City's radar.

A5.1.3 Cumberland

Activities

Provide OFGAC perspective to staff (and Council as needed) on issues arising in regard to this forest.

There has not been any activity in 2008, nor updates by staff.

A5.1.4 Carp Hills

Activities

Advise staff on the development of the Management Plan. There has not been any activity in 2008, nor updates by staff.

A5.1.5 South March Highlands

Activities

Advise staff on the development of the second stage of Management Plan.

April 2008 Open House Presentation by staff in Kanata North.

Obtain May 2008 Meeting Follow-up, Update and next steps from staff.

A5.2 Maintenance Standards for Trees and Community Forests

Objective

Standards of care for trees, forests and greenspace that are appropriate for Ottawa are implemented. Development of rationale for appropriate funding for Annual Budgets.

Activities

Support appropriate funding levels to ensure standards of care are implemented and develop rationale for full program funding not only in annual budgets but also in long-term budgetary planning.

A6 Bylaws**A6.1 Urban Tree Conservation Project (formerly Forest By-law for Private Lands)*****Objective***

Passage of the Urban Tree bylaw in 2008-09

Activities

Continue to bring to senior staff's attention and Councillors the continued practice of destroying natural features prior to and during development application proposals and the demise of the urban tree.

Continue to meet with senior staff members and Councillors to urge passage of the by-law.

Continue to participate in the Public/Technical Advisory Committee and attend Public Consultations.

Reiterate OFGAC's offer to develop information for a draft staff report for use by Standing Committees and Council.

A7 Capital Standards***Objective***

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

A7.1 Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines

Activities

Review strategies and reports as they are made available by staff and comment to staff and the appropriate Standing Committee.

A8 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines Revision***Objective***

The 1998 EIS Guidelines are updated and improved to 2009 standards.

Activities

(Little activity to report on this file by staff. First full draft is awaiting city staff review prior to circulation to ACs (as of late 2008). Project has been delayed due to staff shortages and current workload; this project will be put back on track in the Spring of 2009.)

Review other cities and countries EIS and environmental assessment guidelines and bring these to the attention of city staff. Review drafts of the new guidelines and provide OFGAC's perspective on the adequacy of them in regard to the assessment of impacts of development on trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands, biodiversity.

Identify tools for implementation, opportunities and barriers

A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy***Objective***

OFGAC perspective in regard to role of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands in adaptation to climate change is incorporated in the Strategy

Activities

Ensure that the role of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands in adaptation to climate change is incorporated in the Strategy. In November 2008 OFGAC's comments on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was provided to staff.

Continue liaison with staff and the EAC on the action plan's implementation.

A10 Biodiversity Strategy***Objective***

OFGAC perspective in regard to role of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands in the preservation and enhancement of native biodiversity is incorporated in the draft Strategy.

Activities

Participate in the drafting of the Strategy and represent OFGAC at Biodiversity public consultations (if funds are found to continue the work).

TOR accepted by Planning and Environment Committee and sent to Council in 2008.

Continue to represent OFGAC at meetings of this group and provide input as appropriate.

B: EMERGING ISSUES AND REQUESTED ADVICE**B1 Development Activities*****Objective***

Provide OFGAC perspective to staff (and Council as needed) in regard to role of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands.

Continue identifying issues to staff and Councillors that arise from development activities and application proposals that have, or will have, a negative impact on trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands, and biodiversity.

Address the need for the preservation and protection of trees, the urban forest and ecologically valuable land (forests, wetlands, greenspace etc.). Ensure retention of natural areas and enhancement where applicable.

B1.1 Community Design Plans (under development)***Objective***

Community Design Plans are models of sustainability, reflecting a perspective that respects the environment and preserves trees, greenspace, wetlands to the maximum extent possible

B1.1.1 Fernbank

The Draft CDP, and the Environmental Management Plan done to support the plan, was to be circulated to OFGAC for comments. Fernbank CDP was to go before PEC in late 2008. A second community meeting was to take place prior to going before PEC. In 2008, no activity from OFGAC was reported on this file.

Activities

Comment on the draft status documents and the draft CDP posted on the Fernbank website.

Obtain update and next steps from staff in 2009.

B1.1.2 Richmond Village

The Richmond Village Planning Project TAC Group (City/Agency) met with the Steering committee on January 14, 2009 as a follow-up and continuation of the TAC Meeting of 19 December 2008. Participate as required and relate OFGAC's perspective to city staff on conceptual development proposals.

B1.2 Development Application Reviews (O.P. Amendments, Zoning Changes, Plan of Subdivision proposals, Land Use Plans etc.)

Objective

OFGAC perspective (relating to potential impact on trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands and impact on native biodiversity) is provided to Council, city planners and staff.

Activities

Maintain spreadsheet of DARs received, reviewed and comments provided by OFGAC; copy members with updates twice annually.

Prepare list of DARs reviewed by OFGAC identifying which sites were cleared prior to the completion of the DAR process and City approval.

Review development proposals and provide comments to city planners preparing reports to Director of Planning on development proposals or, Council on zoning changes or, Official Plan Amendment proposals.

Appear before PEC or ARAC to provide verbal and written comments on an as-needed basis.

Review Development Application Proposals, when possible/as human resources allow, which include Land Use Plan, Site Plan Control, Plan of Subdivision etc.

Compare DAR proposals against approved CDPs and Secondary Plans for the purpose of tree preservation and protection of natural features.

B1.3 Review Proposals to Sell Surplus City Land Disposal, Land Use Changes

Objective

Advise Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM) staff of OFGAC's views on surplus city land disposals, road closures or proposed changes to the use of city-owned land.

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

Activities

Review disposal proposals as human resources allow and provide comment to RPAM.

Appear before CSED to provide verbal and written comments on an as-needed basis.

B1.4 Review Environmental Assessments

Objective

OFGAC's perspective is provided and incorporated throughout the process of provincially-mandated Environmental Assessments to assess the potential impacts of proposed projects (transportation or development) on trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands and native biodiversity.

Activities

Participate throughout the EAS process, to ensure OFGAC's perspective in regard to the preservation of trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands and enhancement of native biodiversity is incorporated in the development proposal.

B1.4.1 Strandherd/Greenbank Transitway Extension Project

Activities

Identify trees and natural features that should be saved and protected during the specific routing and construction of the transitway extension.

Monitor construction activities as they progress to ensure the protection of vegetation to be maintained.

B1.4.2 South Barrhaven Road Projects

Participate in the Project EA process; review and provide comments as required to meet objective. Review presentation boards, drawings and specifications as required.

B1.4.3 Prince of Wales Drive Widening Project (Fisher to Woodroffe)

Objective

Preserve the scenic and natural beauty of the Prince of Wales Drive: Protect and enhance the natural features, and advocate against adding pollution to the adjacent waterways.

Activities

Participate in the Project EA process; review and provide comments as required to meet objective.

Second Open House scheduled for February 2009, and third during the spring of 2009.

B1.4.4 Millennium Park & Ride – East Urban Community

Activities

Identify trees and natural features that should be saved and protected during the specific routing and construction of the Park & Ride Facility.

Monitor construction activities as they progress to ensure the protection of vegetation to be maintained.

B2 Monitor Implementation of Community Design Plans

B2.1 Riverside South

Objective

Community Design Plan guidelines are respected by developers and builders.

Activities

Review the plan of subdivision proposals throughout the phases of future development in Riverside South to follow the principles outlined in the CDP.

Comment on plan of subdivision application proposals with emphasis on the retention of significant trees and forests, and the preservation of hedgerows and wetlands.

Provision of an update on implementation of the CDP.

B2.2 South Barrhaven

Objective

Community Design Plan guidelines are respected by developers and builders

Activities

Review the plan of subdivision proposals throughout the phases of future development phases in the South Barrhaven to follow the principles outlined in the CDP.

Ensure that natural features are adequately protected and preserved during the implementation of the South Barrhaven CDP, and that the Cambrian Woodlot's buffer zone is maintained (50m) to protect and preserve its interior core from development and encroachment.

Site visits periodically and monitor that the implementation is according to the South Barrhaven CDP, conditions of approval and Official Plan.

Protection of the adjacent City owned UNA at the Jock River to be in accordance to construction and post-construction forestry standards.

Provision of an update on implementation of the CDP.

B2.3 South Nepean

Objective

Community Design Plan guidelines are respected by developers and builders

Activities

Promote the preservation of the mature hedgerows and riparian vegetative borders of the Jock River that meanders through the South Nepean CDP area.

Provide OFGAC perspective to maintain and preserve the natural features of the site to the most extent possible.

Provision of an update on implementation of the CDP.

B2.4 East Urban Phases I and 2

Objective

Implementation of the East Urban Community Design Plan follows principles in the CDP

Activities

Review and comment on plan of subdivision applications with focus on the retention of significant trees, hedgerows, forests and wetlands.

In Spring 2008 the most ecologically significant natural area of the UNA 97 was clear-cut. The unauthorized destruction during nesting season prompted OFGAC to contact the Manager of Environmental Sustainability requesting immediate action be taken by the City regarding the unauthorized clear-cutting. July 2008 the Deputy City Manager of Planning wrote the developer's Chief Operating Officer outlining that this kind of action indicates the need for an urban tree cutting legislation and that the City is putting measures in place to ensure that similar actions do not repeat themselves. measures in the City. 's concern over the unapproved tree cutting which occurred on the UNA 97.

Council approved the Urban Natural Features Strategy including its Acquisition Strategy which included the UNA 97.

Ensure that the acquisition of the UNA 97 proceeds in 2009 and reiterate the urgent need for an urban tree preservation and protection by-law.

B2.5 Hintonburg

Objective

Implementation of the Hintonburg Community Design Plan includes provision for trees and pocket parks.

Activities

Review development application proposals to ensure trees are planted and roadside edges are reclaimed as greenspace.

B3 Presentations to Standing Committees

Objective

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

Activities

Review background material on issues relating to the OFGAC Mandate and the general public.

Preparation of written texts to be delivered either by email in advance or in person to Committee of the whole, ARAC, PEC, CSED, Transit or other Standing Committees as necessary.

B4 Inventories

B4.1 CITYGreen™ - Forest Cover Evaluation

Objective

An up-to-date forest cover evaluation for the city that updates the 1995 analysis of canopy cover and demonstrates the economic value of trees and greenspace in Ottawa.

Activities

Provide an OFGAC perspective as the project unfolds in the next steps and implementation stages: CITYGreen was launched at FCM meeting; Ties in with draft Forest Strategy by Environmental Sustainability City Staff.

B4.2 Emerald Ash Borer in the City

Objective

Contain the spread of the invasive forest insect, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) to protect against the potential destruction of 25% of the City's urban and rural forests.

Background

July 2008, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in City's Ash trees. The invasive forest insect, (EAB), has the potential to destroy 25% of the City's urban and rural forests (2,600 hectares of public and private land). In November and December 2008, the Forestry Services obtained City Council's approval of the EAB Management Strategy, funding in the Draft 2009 Budget, hired Consultants to develop a communications plan.

Activities

Ensure that the CFIA and Forestry Services communicate to the city's residents and property owners, in advance of the Spring 2009 cottage season, who to contact to get confirmation of suspect pest, how to handle infested wood with the EAB, limitations on where wood can be transported and how.

Follow-up on the communications' plan progress to the general public.

Utilize the OFGAC's Outreach activities and events to create awareness and opportunities to educate the general public about the EAB.

Follow-up on the EAB Management Strategy, the progress on injections and tree planting initiatives.

B5 Requested Advice***Objective***

Provision of timely and accurate advice on issues/questions raised by Council, Standing Committees, Councillors, members of the public.

B5.1 Pocket Parks and Reclaiming Road Allowances for Greening***Objective***

A report to PEC on the feasibility of reclaiming city right of ways for greenspace, namely tree usage.

Activities

Work begun in 2007 in reclaiming areas along road allowances for greening and identifying potential sites to incorporate into the neighborhood improvement plan or the community design plan for "Greening" in the Hintonburg. Continue the work through the CDP process undertaken by staff in 2008.

B5.2 Transportation Master Plan***Objective***

A revised Transportation Master Plan that reflects the needs of the citizens of Ottawa and maximizes the potential to save and/or create greenspace

Activities

Participate in the Transportation Master Plan Review as part of the Official Plan Review and provide an OFGAC perspective.

B5.3 City White Paper on Ottawa's Greenbelt***Objective***

City Staff's requested advice on the future of the Greenbelt.

Activities

City's white Paper on Ottawa's Greenbelt and OFGAC Members' discussion and deliberation on the various issues pertaining to the Greenbelt.

Draft a summary report. Upon OFGAC's approval, provide final report to staff.

B5.4. Choosing our Future – Four Workshop Themes

Objective

Plan and prepare for an enhanced green, sustainable and healthy City environment.

Activities

Participate in the workshops throughout the project and provide OFGAC's perspective on the preservation and protection of trees, forests, wetlands, greenspaces and encourage biodiversity initiatives.

B6 Wetlands and Natural Drainage**B6.1 Wetlands*****Objective***

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

Participation in community forums to promote wetland conservation.

Greater appreciation by citizens of Ottawa on the value of wetlands to Ottawa's wellbeing.

Activities

Participate as member of Wetlands Resolution group.

Participation in community forums on wetlands and articulate OFGAC's perspective on the value of wetlands to the entire community.

Monitor land development proposals and city land sales and provide comment that leads to wetland conservation/protection.

Post information on wetlands and their value on the OFGAC Web site.

The "Wetlands Work Group" to create as a first 'deliverable', a policy-based document that will assist OFGAC members in addressing wetlands issues as part of community issues, developer activities or roads. The draft document will be tabled at an OFGAC meeting – target date: Winter 2009 for comments/revisions. This approach represents an effort to consolidate and simplify activities associated with wetland areas (greenspace) within the City of Ottawa.

B6.2 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

Activities

Review proposals for ditching and diversion/conversion of streams and provide comment to staff and Council.

B7 Council Performance Indicators**B7.1 Corporate Plans*****Objective***

Revisions to Corporate Plans include OFGAC perspective on trees, forests, greenspace (including wetlands) and native biodiversity

Activities

Attend consultations and review and provide comments on draft of revised Corporate Plans.

B7.2 Community Impact Indicators

Objective

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

Activities

Review and comment on staff reports as they are made available and attend consultations as they are called.

B8 Input to City Budgets

B8.1 Development and Expression of OFGAC Priorities for Budget.

Objective

OFGAC perspective on priorities to be considered and accepted by City Council.

Activities

Receive or attend staff presentations on Draft Operating and Capital Budgets and obtain 4-year plan.

Attend Technical Briefing for Advisory Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the Fall.

Review and analysis of budget documents or budget directions (usually in the Fall).

Establish OFGAC budget priorities and strategy.

Develop draft presentation outlining OFGAC's budget priorities for Committee of the Whole.

Formal OFGAC's budget priorities presentation to Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, in December.

Hold discussions with individual Councillors, as required, to create awareness on funding issues. on December 1, 2008.

C: OUTREACH

C1 Communications

C1.1 Media Outreach and Publicity

Objective

Increase public awareness and appreciation on the value of trees, forests, wetlands and greenspaces. Increase support for city tree, forest, wetlands, greenspaces and biodiversity initiatives.

Activities

Respond to media requests for interviews / comments following OFGAC media relations guidelines.

Identify opportunities to profile OFGAC and / or OFGAC areas of interest through local / national print, television and radio outlets.

Create profile for OFGAC's areas of interest by leveraging local / national environment-related events (Ottawa's annual tree planting, Clean Air Day, etc) and writing articles on forests and greenspace issues for distribution to local / national media outlets, as appropriate.

C1.1.1 OFGAC Website <www.ottawaforests.ca>

Objective

Public visits to OFGAC Web site increase awareness of the value of trees, forests, and greenspace and support for city tree, forest and greenspace/wetlands and biodiversity initiatives.

Activities

Maintain and regularly update OFGAC's Web site < www.ottawaforests.ca >.

Timely website postings of OFGAC agendas, minutes and presentations and or link to City's website.

Timely Postings of City Forestry Service information and news releases (or redirection to city website as appropriate).

Post planned OFGAC activities and events (Walk in the Wood Series) and post-walk summaries. Post the Notable Tree Presentation from OFGAC's October 2004 Fall Forum on the OFGAC website. Create an area on OFGAC's website to host the photographs of people's submissions of notable trees.

Respond to or re-direct public enquiries received via the Website's email address.

C1.1.2 Multi-Media and Event Display

Objective

The creation of custom, interactive media (print, electronic, etc.) for delivering current, high quality information on Ottawa area forests and greenspace issues

Activities

Continually update and create a new material for the OFGAC table display boards.

Make use of the OFGAC Display Boards at public consultation events throughout the year.

C1.2 Community Outreach and Awareness

Objective

An engaged Ottawa-area community, informed of the environmental, economic and social values of the forests, wetlands, greenspaces and biodiversity in the City of Ottawa.

Activities

Accept invitations to make presentation about OFGAC or opportunities to use the Display Boards at:

Community Association meetings, Councillors Annual Open House, etc. (as human resources allow and opportunities arise.)

C1.2.1 The Walk in the Woods Series

Objective

Increase public awareness and appreciation on the value of trees, forests, wetlands and greenspaces. Increase support for city tree, forest, wetlands, greenspaces and biodiversity initiatives.

Activities

Conduct four "Walk in the Woods" events per year, preferably one per season, in different geographic parts of the City, and in urban and rural areas.

Contact experts to guide the walking tour; select the venue; research potential sites for the Walk in the Woods Series and make contact with property owners and experts to lead the walks.

Plan some events in partnership with other groups that share OFGAC's perspective towards the preservation of natural features.

Prepare either or a brochure, flyer or Press Releases for the planned activities (Walk in the Woods Series) for distribution to network, media and posting on OFGAC's website. Have the announcement translated.

Attend and host the Walk in the Woods Series event, take photos and write a post-summary of the walk for posting on the website.

Write thank you letters to the invited guest tour guides.

C1.2.2 Partnering in specific initiatives with other groups

Activities

Liaise with other groups, partnering in specific initiatives, co-host or co-fund events.

C2 Networks and Advisory Committee Cross Attendance

Objective

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

Activities

Maintain ongoing relations with other tree-, forestry- and greenspace-related groups.

Canadian Institute of Forestry, Ottawa Valley Section
 Canadian Urban Forestry Network
 Coalition to Preserve the Greenbelt
 Community Associations
 Eastern Ontario Model Forest
 Environmental Advisory Committee
 Fletcher Wildlife Garden
 Friends of the Jock River
 Friends of Petrie Island
 Greenbelt of Canada's Capital Committee
 Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
 Hintonburg CDP & Neighborhood Improvement Plan
 Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club
 Lower Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association
 Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance
 Ottawa Stewardship Council
 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
 Regional Forest Health Committee (Chaired by the Model Forest)
 Rural Issues Advisory Committee
 Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee
 Tree Canada Foundation

C3 Notable Trees (Tree Preservation Project)

Objective

Development of a notable tree recognition program for Ottawa

Activities

Use the Heritage Trees Toolkit, specifically developed for use by cities by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA) for pilot projects and an eventual program for the City of Ottawa; continue links with the OHTA, through the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC).

Meet with City staff, the NCC and other partners on notable/heritage tree programs for promotion and protection.

Assist the Glebe Community Association in its ReTree the Glebe Program, including an inventory of notable and other trees, as well as, inventory or notable tree initiatives by other community associations.

Post the Notable Tree Presentation from OFGAC's October 2004 Fall Forum on the OFGAC website. Create an area on OFGAC's website to host the photographs of people's submissions of notable trees.

Follow-up on the 2008 Draft Tree Conservation Project's White Paper and Questionnaire which touches on the feasibility and interest for Notable Trees (Significant, distinctive, heritage tree) within the City.

C4 Exotic Pest Management and Invasive Insects (including plants and insects)

Objective

Advice to PEC, ARAC and staff on exotic forest pests and diseases that could threaten Ottawa's trees and forests during development of the city's forest services protocol

Increase public awareness of exotic invasive forest pests and their potentially adverse impact on Ottawa's trees and forests and timber industry

Activities

Inform OFGAC (via periodic distribution of material, and updates at OFGAC meetings) about exotic forest pests and their potential effects on Ottawa trees and forests, with particular emphasis on the most current invasive threats (ongoing).

Liaise with City of Ottawa staff on exotic pest management protocols, contingency planning, and educational/outreach programs.

Network with other citizen and professional groups on exotic forest pests.

Member of the Regional Forest Health Committee dealing with exotic pests and attend meetings of this group, hosted by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

Attend joint Emerald Ash Borer Workshops by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the City's Forestry Services.

Prepare material for the OFGAC Web site and printed material: general information on exotic forest pests, as well as, on specific current exotic pests threatening urban trees and forests in Canada – Exotic pests as threats to urban trees and forests; Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALHB); Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

D: MANAGEMENT

D1 Committee Management

D1.1 Committee Leadership

Objective

OFGAC deadlines are met and comments provided to Councillors and staff on a timely basis.

Timely production of agendas, delegation of tasks to OFGAC members, OFGAC position papers are reviewed and approved prior to onward transmission.

OFGAC recognized as a positive force and contributor to the City of Ottawa.

Activities

Develop agendas, review draft minutes prior to distribution to members.

Review OFGAC position statements and other material prior to distribution to Council, staff and the public.

Attend Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings and present OFGAC perspective on issues relating to the Advisory Committees.

Receive public delegations, community groups, city staff and other agencies' presentations.

D1.2 Training for Members

Objective

Knowledgeable, effective and up-to-date OFGAC members.

Activities

Seek opportunities to provide information sessions for OFGAC members on topics related to the development review process, the Official Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement, the updated

Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines, the provincial Class Environmental Assessment process, current bylaws, policies and strategies of importance and relevance to OFGAC matters.

D2. Committee Member Recruitment

Objective

Recruitment and appointment of candidates with excellent qualifications and a commitment to the trees, forests, wetlands and greenspaces of Ottawa.

Activities

Seek opportunities for active recruitment throughout the year.

Promote OFGAC membership and actively recruit new members for the 2009 recruitment process.

Review and update selection criteria.

Critical review of submitted applications.

Review and update of interview questions and circulate to Councillors for approval.

Interview and select candidates (with Councillors).