

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee  
Presentation to  
Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee  
17 October 2006

Agenda Item 1

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee agrees with the Environmental Advisory Committee that a Biodiversity Strategy is needed in the City of Ottawa.

We have discussed the timing of the development of the Strategy with staff on several occasions and we have named an OFGAC member to sit on any staff-led committee to develop the Strategy.

Biodiversity is an important component of forest and natural greenspace health. In order to maintain biodiversity, it is necessary to have a good habitat protection and management foundation as the base. We don't have that at the present time in Ottawa, especially in our urban environments. Working to achieve that foundation is a cornerstone of the OFGAC mandate and activities.

OFGAC will recommend to P&E and Council that the Biodiversity Strategy be placed as a priority for development by staff in 2008, after the completion of the Forest Strategy in 2007. This will ensure that the two strategies are developed in tandem to provide a more complete, coordinated approach to the protection of Ottawa's natural areas.

Iola Price and Jackie Oblak  
Chair and Vice-Chair  
Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee