

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee 2007 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.

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 and with other stakeholders (in the form of land trusts and conservation easements);
- Liaising with other City of Ottawa Advisory Committees as appropriate.

Highlights

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

OFGAC members participated in a variety of fora related to the updating of the Official Plan – the Rural Summit workshops follow-up: Settlement Outside Villages Working Group, Natural Heritage Working Group, Groundwater Resources Working Group and contributed to, reviewed and commented on the White Papers and Discussion Papers as presented at these meeting or as posted on the city website, including the Climate Change White Paper. As per our mandate, our focus was on the conservation of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands. Members also attended consultations and provided comment to staff on a number of planning documents, among them the Greenfields Development guidelines, the Transit-oriented Guidelines, the final meeting to present the Slater-Bronson Escarpment Design and others. The Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity Strategy received considerable attention and was modified to meet OFGAC concerns. OFGAC looks forward to participating in the next stage in all of these processes. Regrettably, there was little movement on the Good Forestry Practices bylaw or the implementation or development of the Urban and Rural Greenspace Master plans, respectively. OFGAC was briefed by staff on a number of proposed or ongoing policy initiatives and was able to provide oral and written comments.

Emerging Issues and Requested Advice

Issues relating to proposed or ongoing land developments occupied much of our attention. South Barrhaven (including Longfields and South Nepean, the Berrigan Transitway and its nut tree grove) along with the many consultations relating to the Official Plan Amendment that would have allowed the Mahogany subdivision in Manotick and the possible destruction of a mature Sugar Maple bush – a NESS site, were also the focus of many hours of meetings and discussions with residents, developers and staff.

In addition, OFGAC reviewed 57 of the 110 development proposals sent for comment. A continuing problem identified by OFGAC is the lack of attention paid to the principles enunciated in the Official Plan in regard to the preservation of natural features and the failure of proponents to “design with nature” and the landscape plans that feature exotic species, some of which are invasive. Another continuing problem we noted is the frequent clearance of a site before a site plan is approved. One notable example involved the Orleans Arts Centre in which Ottawa is one of the funding partners. Not only was the description of the vegetation on the site incorrect, but the site description ignored the presence of mature Sugar Maples which were bulldozed before the site plan was approved and which, according to our review, could have been incorporated into the landscaping plan.

On the other hand, not all development proposals are bad: in two developments we reviewed in Orleans, the vegetation descriptions were accurate and the consultants’ recommendations for maintaining and enhancing the forest and surrounding greenspace were all that we could have wished for. It is possible for developers to hire good people and to adhere to the good design with nature principles in the Official Plan. Another OFGAC success story is the preservation and enhancement of the Butternut and Black Walnut groves in the Strandherd/Greenbank/Berrigan transitway developments. We met with the city’s project engineers and consultants and after extensive discussions not only were fifty nut tree seedlings planted near the existing butternut grove, OFGAC had a historian prepare the wording for a commemorative plaque which recognizes the early settlers of the area and their role in planting the original nut trees.

OFGAC made nine presentations to Council committees in 2007 ranging from topics related to City budgets to development proposals and Official Plan Amendments to support for city initiatives (see Appendix A).

Outreach

OFGAC continued its very successful Walks in the Woods program, with five walks in various parts of Ottawa and on topics ranging from a tour of the Vanier Sugar Bush to forest/woodlot certification. Our website, run by a volunteer, continues to gain attention and credence as an authoritative source of information and portal for citizen concerns and it is now linked to an even wider variety of related websites. OFGAC members continue to attend meetings and events sponsored by other organizations and to serve as links with them. The OFGAC Chair and several committee members were interviewed by the Ottawa Citizen, CBC Radio, Radio Canada and other Ottawa media outlets. The most extensive coverage of tree and greenspace issues arose from the three-page Citizen article in November followed up by letters to the editor on the Citizen website and in print.

Management

OFGAC updated its mandate to clarify its scope of activities. The Chair and Vice Chair attended meetings with staff on a wide variety of issues (meeting the new PTE Deputy City Manager to brief her on issues of importance to OFGAC), meeting the other Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss issues of common concern, and with staff to be briefed on Bill 130, the Governance Review and Recruitment etc. We also initiated a joint meeting with RIAC focused on the Mahogany development proposal, the activities of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the 2008 Official Plan Review. The numerous staff and public presentations (Appendix B) provided learning opportunities for all OFGAC members.

2007 OFGAC Workplan Summary for Annual Report

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
A1 2008 Official Plan Review	B1 Development Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1.1 Community Design Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1.1.1 Rockcliffe Airbase • B1.1.2 South Barrhaven • B1.2 Development Applications (OP Amendments, Zoning Changes, Subdivisions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1.2.1 Minto Mahogany Development Plan • B1.3 Surplus City Land Disposal, Road Closures 	C1 Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.1 Media outreach and publicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.1.1 OFGAC Web site • C1.1.2 Multi-media and Event Display • C1.2 Community Outreach and Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.2.1 Walk in the Woods series • C1.2.2 Councillor Open Houses and Other events 	D1 Committee Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1.1 Committee Leadership • D1.2 Training for members
A2 Greenspace Master Plan A2.1 Implementation of Urban GMP A2.2 Development of Rural GMP	B2 Presentations to Standing Committees	C2 Networks and AC Cross Attendance	D2 Bill C130 Impact Review
A3 Forest Strategy	B3 Inventories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B3.1 CITYGreen™ Forest Cover Evaluation 	C3 Notable Trees	D3 Committee Member Recruitment for 2008
A4 Special Planning Studies incl. Subwatershed Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.1 Follow-up and Monitoring Implementation Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.1.1 UNAEES • A4.1.2 Riverside South CDP • A4.1.3 East Urban CDP Phases 1 and 2 • A4.2 Ongoing Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4.2.1 N-S LRT • A4.2.2 E-W LRT • A4.2.3 Greenfields Development Guidelines • A4.2.4 Transit-oriented Development Guidelines 	B4 Requested Advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B4.1 Pocket Parks • B4.2 Transportation Master Plan • B4.3 Prototype Development Application 	C4 Exotic Pest Management (including invasive plants and insects)	
A5 Plans and Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1 Maintenance Plans for 	B5 Wetlands and Natural Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5.1 Wetlands 		

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
Community Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1.1 Torbolton • A5.1.2 Marlborough (incl. Long Swamp, Corkery) • A5.1.3 Cumberland • A5.1.4 Carp Hills • A5.1.5 South March Highlands • A5.2 Maintenance Standards for Trees and Community Forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5.2 Natural Drainage and Ditching 		
A6 Bylaws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A6.1 Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas • A6.2 Comprehensive Zoning 	B6 Council Performance Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B6.1 Corporate Plans • B6.2 Community Impact Indicators 		
A7 Capital Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A7.1 Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines • A7.2 Strategic Lighting Plan 	B7 Input to City Budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B7.1 Development and expression of OFGAC 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 2008 Official Plan Review

Objective

- ▣ An updated Official Plan that increases protection for trees and ecologically valuable land (forests, wetlands, greenspace etc.)

Activities / Outcomes

- Participated in Rural Issues working group on Development Outside of Villages and working group on Natural Environment as well as the Groundwater Resources Working Group – providing input to ensure protection of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands
- Participated in the Natural Heritage working group – providing input to ensure protection of trees, forests, greenspace and wetlands.
- Received staff presentation on Greenspace 2003 Official Plan Amendment and provided verbal comment. This amendment will be carried forward to 2008 OP.

A2 Greenspace Master Plan

A2.1 Implementation of Urban GMP

Objective

- ▣ Provision of advice to PEC¹ and city staff during the implementation of this plan

Activities / Outcomes

OFGAC has not been advised by staff of any action in relation to urban GMP implementation.

A2.2 Development of Rural GMP

Activities / Outcomes

- OFGAC has not been advised by staff of any action in relation to rural GMP development. There has been movement on rural development outside of villages under rural summit initiatives and OFGAC has contributed to developing a white paper on rural development patterns and protection of natural areas. Outcomes from this process may eventually be tied back to development of a rural GMP.

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 / Outcomes

- Forest Strategy still in development. City staff expected to release early 2008.

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 approved and funded by Council
- ▣ The process of acquiring ecologically valuable land, as identified in the UNAEES is commenced

Activities / Outcomes

- Strategy and funding approved.
- Provided advice to PEC on the implementation of the UNAEES report and proposed future directions and activities.
- Supported the acquisition of Innes Wood and the two Nepean woodlots as part of UNAEES Strategy and supported at PEC the UNA Strategy to acquire lands identified as having moderate to high ecological value.

A4.1.2 Riverside South Community Design Plan

Objective

- ▣ Future development in Riverside South follows the principles outlined in the CDP

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

- ▣ Retention of significant trees and forests and best use of greenspace in this community

Activities / Outcomes

- Reviewed and commented on development reviews and subdivision plans with close attention to preservation of hedgerows, significant trees, wetlands and greenspace.

A4.1.3 East Urban CDP Phases I and 2

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Development proposals in this area reviewed against principles of the CDP and comments provided to staff.

A4.2 Ongoing Studies

A4.2.1 North-South Light Rail

Objective

- ▣ Preservation of greenspace and trees and an environmental perspective as reports are reviewed by Council
- ▣ Ottawa chooses a light rail route that does minimal damage to environmentally sensitive areas while remaining economically viable

Activities / Outcomes

- The project was cancelled by City Council.

A4.2.2 East-West Light Rail

Objective

- ▣ Provision of OFGAC perspective on forest and greenspace protection through Public Advisory Committee participation
- ▣ Ottawa chooses a light rail route that does minimal damage to environmentally sensitive areas while remaining economically viable

Activities / Outcomes

- Further to the NS LRT project cancellation by City Council, the EW LRT is on hold.

A4.2.3 Greenfields Development Guidelines (Ottawa Design Study)

Objective

- ▣ Greenfields Development guidelines follow principles outlined in the Ottawa Design Study and appropriate attention is given to tree protection and preservation

Activities / Outcomes

- Attended public consultations and provide comments to staff on draft guidelines; provided comments and support to PEC when guidelines proposed for final approval.
- Provided comments to staff on the initial draft and final guidelines.
- Final guidelines incorporated OFGAC suggestions.

A4.2.4 Transit Oriented Development Guidelines (Ottawa Design Study)

Objective

- ▣ Transit Oriented Development guidelines follow principles outlined in the Ottawa Design Study and appropriate attention is given to tree protection and preservation

Activities / Outcomes

Provided comments to staff on draft guidelines.

A5 Plans and Standards for Forests and Trees

A5.1 Maintenance Plans for Trees and Community Forests

Objective

- ▣ Network of stakeholders is established and consultative meetings with interested parties are productive
- ▣ 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 / Outcomes

- Advised the Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee on its community program to collect oak seeds for native hardwoods regeneration.
- Attended meetings of Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee and provided OFGAC and ecological perspective.
- Advised on the rare plant inventory and management of those plants, and the second phase of harvesting of the forest.

A5.1.2 Marlborough

Activities / Outcomes

- Attended two meetings of Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee and provided OFGAC perspective and its support for the forest Initiatives regarding trail maintenance and other projects such as the development of nesting boxes for ducks.

A5.1.3 Cumberland

Activities / Outcomes

- No requests from staff or the public for advice were received; no meetings to discuss Cumberland Forest issues were called.

A5.1.4 Carp Hills

Activities / Outcomes

- OFGAC has not been advised of any action in relation to Carp Hills.

A5.1.5 South March Highlands

Activities / Outcomes

- Attended November meeting where Dan Brunton provided information on his findings for the environmental inventory. The inventory was only cursory but indicates that the area is still in good shape since his last assessment.
- Provided OFGAC perspective in discussions on the parameters of the management plan which was going to be developed by an outside consultant.
- Provided comments on the ToR.
- Provided OFGAC perspective in the discussion on mountain biking in the area (this is not a sustainable use of a sensitive natural area; however it was made clear that this use will continue).
- Noted that OFGAC will endeavour to ensure that requirements for measurable, monitored minimal impacts on flora and fauna are incorporated into the management plan to ensure long term protection of the ecological diversity and health of this important natural area. To this end OFGAC has requested that it be explicitly stated in the management plan that ecological integrity is the priority when considering management options.

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 rational for appropriate funding for 2007 and 2008 Budgets

Activities / Outcomes

- Supported appropriate funding levels in 2007 and 2008 Budgets.
- Council approved advocated/required funding levels in both years.

A6 Bylaws

A6.1 Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas Bylaw

Objective

- ▣ Passage of the bylaw in 2007

Activities / Outcomes

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

- Provided new City staffer with background on the development of the existing draft, and information for a draft staff report for use by Standing Committees and Council.
- No staff progress other than a situation review on this initiative in 2007.

A6.2 Comprehensive Zoning

Objective

- ▣ Protection of greenspace for conservation and passive use recognized in bylaw
- ▣ Land immediately adjacent to watercourses and UNAs, UNFs and RNFs is zoned for low-rise development with appropriate buffers and setbacks built in
- ▣ Environmental Protection (EP) and other protective zoning designations reflect true ecological boundaries, not only land-ownership boundaries

Activities / Outcomes

- Reviewed the 2007 draft of this bylaw and matched zoning maps against ecological boundaries at public open houses.
- Commented on zoning proposals for forests, greenspace and ecologically important areas. Advocated for zoning that affords appropriate levels of protection to ecologically important land.

A7 Capital Standards

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- No request for input into Capital Standards in 2007.

A7.1 Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Arranged for a staff presentation on the draft Guidelines and provided verbal comment.

A7.2 Strategic Lighting Plan

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Arranged for a staff presentation on the draft Guidelines and provided verbal and written comment regarding the policy's impact on trees.
- Final policy incorporated OFGAC's concern for trees.
- Lighting was raised as an issue with respect to trees during the redesign of Wellington Street as part of the Community Design Plan for the Hintonburg Area.

A8 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines Revision

Objective

- ▣ The 1998 EIS Guidelines are updated and improved to 2007 standards

Activities / Outcomes

- No progress by City Staff on this initiative in 2007; to be done in 2008.

A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Reviewed and provided comment on the White Paper: *Climate Change and the Official Plan Review*

- Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy still in development. City staff expected to release early in 2008.

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 development of the draft Terms of Reference as mandated by the CSED and Council in October 2006

Activities / Outcomes

- Participated in the development of the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity Strategy in anticipation of consultations on and subsequent writing of the Strategy in 2008.
- Strategy TORs proposed for presentation to PEC revised at OFGAC urging and revisions to TORs made for presentation in January 2008.

B: EMERGING ISSUES AND REQUESTED ADVICE

B1 Development Activities

B1.1 Community Design Plans

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 Rockcliffe Airbase Redevelopment

Activities / Outcomes

- Provided OFGAC perspective to Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in the development of the Community Design Plan.
- Promoted an environmental perspective and the preservation of greenspace including the adjacent Urban Natural Area and the retention of mature trees on the site; attended Design Open House for in-depth discussions.
- Attended all PAC meetings and sat as an alternate on the TAC. Comments provided to Canada Lands Company and their Consultants.
- Airbase re-development on hold pending resolution of Native Land claims.

B1.1.2 South Barrhaven

Activities / Outcomes

- Promoted an environmental perspective and the preservation of greenspace.
- Recommended that natural features be adequately preserved during the implementation of the SB CDP.
- Reviewed the proposed subdivision plan for Phase 1 of the SB CDP as well as other adjacent "Development Reviews", as they were circulated to advisory committees.
- Visited the site and monitored the preservation of the natural features as outlined in the preservation plans and SB CDP.
- Provided comments and recommendations to staff and developers.
- Provided OFGAC perspective on development issues to Public Advisory Committee.

B1.2 Review Development Applications (OP Amendments, Zoning Changes, Subdivision proposals)

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Received 110 development proposals for review and provided comments on 57 of them to city planners preparing reports to Director of Planning on development proposals or Council on Zoning change or Official Plan Amendment proposals.
- Appeared before PEC or ARAC to provide verbal and written comments on 9 development proposals.
- Staff and council decisions on past developments collated to prepare for a possible assessment in 2008 of the OFGAC process.

- Major large-scale developments reviewed included the Carp Airport, Mahogany Harbour, South Barrhaven, Longfields.

B1.2.1 Minto Mahogany Development Plan

- Provided city, developer and community stakeholders with opportunities to provide their views on the Minto plans for Mahogany Harbour, a 2,000-unit community that would double Manotick's current population of 5,250.
- Reviewed the OPA and accompanying documentation, commenting on where and how ecologically sensitive land could be preserved from development.
- Provided other feedback for company officials, consultants and interested residents on a path forward.
- Final Minto OPA proposal recommended retention of important ecological areas, including the mature Sugar Maple woodlot.
- ARAC and Council have refused the OPA.

B1.3 Review Proposals to Sell Surplus Land, Close Roads, Change Land Use

Objective

- ▣ Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM) staff are advised of OFGAC's views on disposals and 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 / Outcomes

- Reviewed 34 disposal/road closure proposals and provided comment to RPAM on a timely basis.
- Provided reasons for objections to disposal on 3 proposals of which one was not a disposal but for land on which the City had no background information which OFGAC was able to provide.

B2 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 / Outcomes

Reviewed background material on issues relating to the OFGAC mandate and the general public. Prepared written texts to be delivered either by email in advance or in person to Committee of the whole, and PEC. Made 9 presentations in 2007. See Appendix A for details.

B3 Inventories

B3.1 CITYGreen™ - Forest Cover Evaluation

Objective

- ▣ An up-to-date forest cover evaluation for the city in 2007 updates the 1995 analysis of canopy cover and demonstrates the economic value of trees and greenspace in Ottawa

Activities / Outcomes

- Received updates from City staff on progress of the study.
- Provided comments on key issues arising from an OFGAC perspective.
- Final findings and conclusions reported to OFGAC in Fall 2007.

B4 Requested Advice

Objective

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

B4.1 Pocket Parks

Objective

- ▣ A report on the feasibility and proposed location of smaller parks in Ottawa

Activities / Outcomes

- Follow-up to OFGAC survey that determined citizen attitudes toward and amenities desired in pocket parks.

- Project evolved into reclaiming City Right of Ways for greenspace/tree usage using the examples of the trees that were planted around the parking lot at Gilmour, Lewis, and Derby Place by the Centretown Citizens Community Association in conjunction with the City.
- Identified areas along road allowances etc. that could be potential sites for “greening” in the Hintonburg area at the Annual General Meeting in September 2007.
- Photographed these sites which will be incorporated into either the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan or the Community Design Plan currently being undertaken by the City of Ottawa in the Hintonburg area.

B4.2 Transportation Master Plan

- Participated in the Transportation Master Plan Interactive Workshop on Dec 4 2007, to provide input to the city regarding proposed transportation priorities and potential solutions for the city.

B4.3 Prototype Development Application

- Participated in the Planning Branch’s review of a prototype for the provision of development application information on www.ottawa.ca.
- Provided an OFGAC perspective to the Planning Branch and Information Management Services, when doing development reviews on behalf of an advisory committee.

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
- Greater appreciation by citizens of Ottawa on the value of wetlands to Ottawa’s well-being

Activities / Outcomes

- Articulated OFGAC perspective on the value of wetlands to the entire community in key forums (RIAC, OP review).
- Monitored land development proposals and city land sales and provided comments on wetland conservation/protection.
- Attended meeting of Wetlands Working Group and provided OFGAC perspective; provided comments to city consultant on Public Education Program on Wetlands and Municipal Drain Management.

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

Activities / Outcomes

- As part of Wetlands Working Group, received information on proposals for ditching and diversion/conversion of streams (Flowing Creek and other municipal drains) and provided comment to staff – see B5.1.
- Attended meetings on ditching, groundwater management and stormwater management.

B6 Council Performance Indicators

B6.1 Corporate Plan Review

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- No activity in 2007

B6.2 Community Impact Indicators

Objective

- OFGAC perspective on trees, forests and greenspace incorporated into the Community Impact Indicators analysis in 2007

Activities / Outcomes

- No activity in 2007.

B7 Input to City Budgets

B7.1 Development and expression of OFGAC Priorities for Budgets 2007 and 2008

Objective

- ▣ OFGAC perspective on priorities considered and accepted by City Council in 2007 and 2008

Activities / Outcomes

- Reviewed and analyzed 2007 and 2008 budget documents to develop OFGAC priorities.
- Attended Councillors' candidate election meetings to outline OFGAC priorities.
- Members held discussions with individual Councillors and candidates to promote OFGAC priorities.
- Prepared for formal presentation of OFGAC priorities at Council Committee of the Whole in 2007 and 2008. All of OFGAC priorities were funded.
- Attended Ward Presentation and presented OFGAC priorities to Councillors in attendance, and raised awareness that the Acquisition Fund was not being provided for in 2008 although it had been agreed to and approved in the 2007 budget.

C: OUTREACH

C1 Communications

C1.1 Media Outreach and Publicity

Objective

- ▣ Increased public awareness and appreciation of the value of trees, forests, and greenspace (including wetlands)

Increased support for city tree, forest and greenspace (including wetlands) and biodiversity initiatives

Activities / Outcomes

- Responded to several media requests for information / interviews over the course of the past year:
 - Ottawa Citizen feature November 18 2007 three pages on urban trees and the difficulties of maintaining tree canopy in the city. Coverage included OFGAC and its role. Letters to the editor continued the discussion among residents of Ottawa.
 - OFGAC Chair interviewed by Maria Cook of the Ottawa Citizen on the subject of the Rockcliffe Airbase re-development and greenspace and tree protection.
 - OFGAC Chair interviewed by Mathieu Nadon of Radio Canada on the subject of the Rockcliffe Airbase re-development and greenspace and tree protection.
- The Outreach subcommittee worked to profile OFGAC and / or OFGAC areas of interest through various creative means, such as by:
 - Writing a feature on OFGAC for the Ottawa Citizen's *Our Town Kudos 'n Applause* published February 25, 2007.
 - Adding OFGAC website as a resource on trees and greenspace to popular and other online environmental networks, such as Wikipedia.ca, planetfriendly.net; nature.ca (Canadian Museum of Nature); ottawastart.com/nature.php; greenottawa.ca/#parks, greenspace-alliance.ca; eomf.on.ca (Eastern Ontario Model Forest).

C1.1.1 OFGAC Web site <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 / Outcomes

- Maintained and regularly updated the OFGAC website < www.ottawaforests.ca > in terms of planned activities (Walk in the Woods Series), summaries of events throughout the year and creation of new material for the OFGAC website.
- Timely production of OFGAC agendas, minutes for Ottawa.ca website and OFGAC presentations on the OFGAC website.
- Posting of City Forestry Service information (or redirection to City website as appropriate).
- Responded to or re-directed 39 public enquiries received via the website (in English and French according to language of original inquiry).

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 / Outcomes

- Continually updated and created new material for the OFGAC table display boards.
- Developed a generic OFGAC PowerPoint slide show that can be customized according to audience and subject matter.

C1.2 Community Outreach and Awareness

Objective

- An engaged Ottawa-area community, informed of the environmental, economic and social values of the forests and greenspaces of Ottawa

C1.2.1 The Walk in the Woods Series

Activities / Outcomes

- Conducted five public “Walk in the Woods” events: March – Vanier Sugar Bush; April – Spring flowers; June – Landscape Planning in Suburban Environments; August – Socio-ecological interfaces of community and forest; November – Forest Certification.
- Each walk was attended by 20-50 people.

C1.2.2 Open Houses and Other Events

Activities / Outcomes

- Participated in Wildlife Week at Billings Bridge with OFGAC display to promote the value of trees, forests, greenspaces, wetlands and native biodiversity to the City of Ottawa
- Presented OFGAC and its role to the Stonebridge Community Association at an official community meeting where attendance was over one hundred people. Identified the key areas in which OFGAC’s South-Barrhaven Sub-Committee are involved. Prepared illustration boards highlighting the projects involved in within the community’s surrounding area.
- Promoted trees and their value in the urban landscape as members of the Continuity Task Force for the Community Design Plan and the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan being undertaken by the City of Ottawa in the Hintonburg Area
- Presentation of OFGAC Objectives and Activities to Eastern Ontario Chapter of Nut Growers.

C2 Networks and Advisory Committee Cross Attendance

All members

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

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

Environmental Advisory Committee	Stonebridge Community Associations
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Rural Issues Advisory Committee	Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club
Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee	Tree Canada Foundation
Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee	Friends of Petrie Island
Canadian Institute of Forestry, Ottawa Valley Section, Eastern Ontario Model Forest	Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance
Canadian Urban Forestry Network	Ontario Urban Forest Council;
Eastern Ontario Model Forest	Ottawa Stewardship Council
Fletcher Wildlife Garden	Continuity Task Force – Hintonburg
Friends of the Jock River	Community Design Plan and Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.
	All members – their community associations

On his own resources, an OFGAC member attended the Ontario Urban Forest Council Annual meeting as a member of its Advisory Board, and Chaired a session on Climate Change and Urban Forestry.

C3 Notable Trees

Objective

- ▣ Development of a notable tree recognition program for Ottawa

Activities / Outcomes

- Continued discussion on criteria for notable trees or stands of trees taking into account the work of the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA).
- Helped develop pilot projects with Glebe and Hintonburg Community Associations.
- Glebe Community Association tree inventory proposal funded (OFGAC provided letter of support).

C4 Exotic Pest Management

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

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Informed 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).
- Prepared material for the OFGAC Website on specific current exotic insect and plant pests threatening urban trees and forests in Canada – 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 recognised as a positive force and contributor to the City

Activities / Outcomes

- Developed agendas, reviewed draft minutes prior to distribution to members; continued 24-48 hour transmission of Action Items table to facilitate "Who does What by When".
- Reviewed OFGAC position statements and other material prior to distribution to Council, staff and the public.
- Updated OFGAC mandate.
- Attended Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings and presented OFGAC perspective on issues relating to the Advisory Committees.
- Initiated joint meeting with Rural Issues Advisory Committee.
- Met with new Deputy City Manager PTE to brief her on OFGAC issues – Good Forestry Practices bylaw, urgent need for an Ottawa Land Trust and OFGAC concerns about the development review process.
- Attended Planning Primer I and II to improve OFGAC knowledge of the planning process, Municipal Act and Planning Act.

D1.2 Training for Members

Objective

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

Activities / Outcomes

- Investigated the potential to provide media training for OFGAC members.
- Provided information on free media training (in French) availability.
- Arranged for staff and members of the public to make 13 presentations to OFGAC (see Appendix B for list) in order to provide opportunities for staff to explain new policy and program activities and to

facilitate exchange of ideas with staff and the public; result is enhanced information flow and understanding of issues and policies.

D2. Bill 130 Impact Review

Objective

- ▣ OFGAC perspective on the 2007 staff report on impact of Bill 130 on City procedures, changes to Advisory Committees and other issues is transmitted to Council and staff

Activities / Outcomes

- Attended meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs called by city on Governance, Recruitment etc. at which some staff insight into Bill 130 implications was provided.
- Attended separate meeting of only Chairs and Vice-Chairs to share information on issues of common concern.

D3 Committee Member Recruitment for 2008

Objective

- ▣ Recruitment and appointment of candidates with excellent qualifications and a commitment to the trees, forests and greenspace of Ottawa

Activities / Outcomes

- Reviewed and updated selection criteria in anticipation of 2008 recruitment interviews.
- Reviewed and updated interview questions in anticipation of 2008 recruitment interviews.

Appendix A — OFGAC Presentations to Standing Committees

Committee of the Whole

- Budget 2007 – 19 February
- Strategic Directions – 9 July
- Budget 2008 – 3 December

Planning and Environment

- Oppose Zoning 4798 Bank St (Leitrim Wetland) – 13 February
- Support Acquisition of Innes Park Woods (UNA 87) and OPA to designate it an Urban Natural Feature – 13 February
- Support Urban Natural Features Strategy – 24 April
- Present 2006 Annual Report and 2007 workplan – 22 May
- 456 Lansdowne development – 6 city mature Sugar Maples endangered – 27 November
- Support Continuation of Green Partnership Program – 18 December

Appendix B – List of Public and Staff Presentations to OFGAC

Staff presentations

- Mahogany Development and Official Plan Amendment
- Getting Greener
- 2008 Official Plan review process
- Natural Heritage Systems in the Official Plan review
- Development Charges
- Rights of Way Street Lighting Policy
- Stormwater Management Policy
- CITYGreen™

Public Presentations

- Petrie Island Management Plan – Friends of Petrie Island
- Green Streets Canada presentation of \$38,000 grant to Ottawa – Tree Canada Foundation
- Marlborough Forest Management Plan and Agreement with City – Ducks Unlimited

- ❑ Activities and Objectives of Tree Canada Foundation – Michael Rosen, President TCF
- ❑ Rockcliffe Airbase Redevelopment – Canada Lands Company