

MANDATE

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) provides advice and guidance to Ottawa City Council, through the Planning and Environment 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: Policy and Planning; Emerging Issues and Requested Advice; Outreach; and, Management as summarized in the following table.

2007 OFGAC Workplan Summary

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) • 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 PEC, ARAC, CSED and others as appropriate	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 • A4.1.4 South Nepean CDP • A4.1.5 Greenfields Development guidelines 	B4 Requested Advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B4.1 TREE (Councillor Hume) • B4.2 Pocket Parks 	C4 Exotic Pest Management (including invasive plants and insects)	
A5 Plans and Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1 Maintenance Plans for Community Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1.1 Torbolton • A5.1.2 Marlborough (incl. Long Swamp, Corkery) • A5.1.3 Cumberland 	B5 Wetlands and Natural Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5.1 Wetlands • B5.2 Natural Drainage and Ditching 		

A: Policy and Planning: Corporate Initiatives	B: Emerging Issues and Requested Advice	C: Outreach	D: Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5.1.4 Carp Hills • A5.1.5 South March Highlands • A5.2 Maintenance Standards for Trees and Community Forests 			
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 B6.1 Corporate Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Budget 2007 • B7.2 Consideration of OFGAC priorities for Budget 2008 		
A8 EIS Guidelines Revision			
A9 Air Quality and Climate Change Report follow-up including 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

Commence an internal OFGAC review to identify sections of the 2003 Official Plan for updating. Review and provide comment on proposed OP modifications.

Ensure retention of natural areas sections, enhancement where identified.

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 this plan.

Activities

A2.2 Development of Rural GMP

Activities

Provision of 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.

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

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 approved and 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.

A4.1.2 Riverside South Community Design Plan

Objective

Future development in Riverside South follows the principles outlined in the CDP.

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

Activities

Review and comment on subdivision plans and stormwater management proposals with close attention to preservation of hedgerows, significant trees, wetlands and greenspace.

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

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

Review and comment on subdivision plans and stormwater management proposal with close attention to preservation of hedgerows, significant trees, wetlands and greenspace..

A4.1.4 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

Attend public consultations and provide comments to staff on draft guidelines; provide comments to PEC when guidelines proposed for final approval.

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

Advise the Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee on its community program to collect oak seeds for native hardwoods regeneration. Attend meetings of Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee and provide OFGAC and ecological perspective. Advise on the rare plant inventory and management of those plants.

A5.1.2 Marlborough

Activities

Attend meetings of Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee and provide OFGC perspective

A5.1.3 Cumberland

Activities

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

A5.1.4 Carp Hills

Activities

Advise staff on the development of the Management Plan.

A5.1.5 South March Highlands

Activities

Advise staff on the development of the Management Plan

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 2008 Budget

Activities

Support appropriate funding levels in 2007 to ensure standards of care are implemented and develop rationale for full program funding in 2008.

A6 Bylaws

A6.1 Good Forestry Practices in Sensitive Natural Areas Bylaw

Objective

Passage of the bylaw in 2007

Activities

Continue to meet with senior staff members and Councillors to urge passage of the by-law. Reiterate OFGAC's offer to develop information for a draft staff report for use by Standing Committees and Council.

A6.3 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 and other protective zoning designations reflect true ecological boundaries, not only land-ownership boundaries.

Activities

Review the 2007 draft of this bylaw and match zoning maps against ecological boundaries.

Comment on zoning proposals for forests, greenspace and ecologically important areas. Advocate 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

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.

A7.2 Strategic Lighting Plan

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 2007 standards.

Activities

Review other city's and country's 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 of trees, forests, greenspace, wetlands, biodiversity.

Identify tools for implementation, opportunities and barriers/

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

Liaison with City staff and the Environmental Advisory Committee to review drafts of the action plan document

Provide OFGAC perspective on content of the document and strength of actions described in it.

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

Participate in the development of the Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity Strategy and subsequent writing of the Strategy.

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

Provide OFGAC perspective to Public Advisory Committee (PAC) in the development of the Community Design Plan.

Promote an environmental perspective and the preservation of greenspace including the adjacent Urban Natural Area and the retention of mature trees on the site.

Attend all PAC meetings and sit as an alternate on the Technical Advisory Committee

B1.1.2 South Barrhaven

Activities

Promote an environmental perspective and the preservation of greenspace.

Identify natural features to be preserved.

Provide OFGAC perspective 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

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

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

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

Objective

Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM) staff are advised of OFAC'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

Review disposal/road closure proposals and provide comment to RPAM on a timely basis.

If data available, determine outcome of OFGAC's 2006 advice.

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

B2 Presentations to Standing Committees

Objectives

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

Activities

Review of background material

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

B3 Inventories

B3.1 CITYGreen™ - Forest Cover Evaluation

Objectives

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

Attend meetings to review progress. Comment on results from an OFGAC perspective; report to OFGAC.

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

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

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 wellbeing.

Activities

Participate as member of Wetlands Resolution group when re-constituted.

Participation in community forums on wetlands and articulate OFGAC 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.

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

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

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

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

B6.2 Community Impact Indicators

Objective

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

Activities

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

B7 Input to City Budgets

B7.1 Consideration of OFGAC Priorities for Budget 2007

Objective

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

Activities

Review and analysis of 2007 budget documents to develop OFGAC priorities
 Attendance at Councillors' candidate election meetings to outline OFGAC priorities
 Discussions with individual Councillors and candidates to promote OFGAC priorities
 Preparation for formal presentation of OFGAC priorities at Council Committee of the Whole in 2007

B7.2 Consideration of OFGAC Priorities for Budget 2008

Objective

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

Activities

Review and analysis of 2008 budget documents or budget directions to develop OFGAC priorities
 Attendance at Councillors' meetings to outline OFGAC priorities
 Discussions with individual Councillors promote OFGAC priorities
 Preparation for formal presentation of OFGAC priorities at Council Committee of the Whole in 2007-2008

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

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

Maintain and regularly update OFGAC's Web site < www.ottawaforests.ca >.
 Timely posting of OFGAC agendas, minutes and presentations on the Web site.
 Posting of City Forestry Service information (or redirection to city Web site as appropriate).
 Respond to or re-direct public enquiries received via the Web site.

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
 Develop an 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**

Conduct six "Walk in the Woods" events. Four walks have been planned to date: March – Vanier Sugar Bush; April – Spring flowers; June – Landscape Planning; August – McKay Lake Carver-Caldwell Conservation Area

C1.2.2 Councillor Open Houses and Other Events**Activities**

Attend Councillors' Open Houses with the OFGAC display to promote the value of trees, forests, greenspaces, wetlands and native biodiversity to the City of Ottawa.
 Attend other events such as Wildlife Week at Billings Bridge to promote the value of trees, forests, greenspaces, wetlands and native biodiversity to the City of Ottawa

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

Frances Coates – Environmental Advisory Committee

Bill Grant – Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Iola Price – Rural Issues Advisory Committee

Peter Hall – Canadian Institute of Forestry, Ottawa Valley Section

Guy Brassard, Mark Rowsell – Canadian Urban Forestry Network

Mark Rowsell, Martha Copestake, Peter Hall – Eastern Ontario Model Forest

Iola Price – Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Nicole Parent – Friends of the Jock River

Peter Hall – Friends of Petrie Island

Iola Price – Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital

Pieter Leenhouts, Bill Grant, (Sandra Garland) – Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee

Jackie Oblak – Torbolton Forest Advisory Committee

Iola Price Ottawa – Field-Naturalists Club

Peter Hall – Tree Canada Foundation

Pieter Leenhouts – Ontario Woodlot Association

Guy Brassard, Deborah Ironside – Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance

Mark Rowsell – Ottawa Stewardship Council

All members – their community associations

C3 Notable Trees**Objectives**

Development of a notable tree recognition program for Ottawa

Activities

Discuss and establish criteria for notable trees or stands of trees taking into account the work of the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance (OHTA).

In consultation with the Arts and Heritage Advisory Committee, Local Architecture Conservation Advisory Committee, Heritage Ottawa, begin research on and for suitable trees (i.e., history and provenance), including groups or stands of trees.

Meet with NCC and City Forestry staff and city Heritage staff to promote concept of a program for Ottawa. Develop publicity and outreach program to obtain tree nominations from citizens, organizations, corporations, and government agencies.

Develop a pilot project with a community association.

C4 Exotic Pest Management

Objectives

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

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).

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) – in collaboration with OFGAC's Outreach Subcommittee.

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.

D: MANAGEMENT

D1 Committee Management

D1.1 Activities to Run the Committee

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

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.

D1.2 Training for Members

Objective

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

Activities

Investigate the potential to provide media training for OFGAC members.

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

Review staff report when released, comment on possible changes to Advisory Committee status,

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

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)

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