

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa

Urban Forest Management Plan Submission to the



City of Ottawa

December 2015

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Urban Forest Management Plan

Phase 1 Consultation

"Many municipalities across North America have developed and implemented urban forest strategies to set long-term visions and objectives for their urban forests, along with specific actions to achieve them. The City of Ottawa has many policies, programs, initiatives and regulations related to trees but is lacking a comprehensive, long-term vision and strategic direction for protecting and enhancing the urban forest." (City of Ottawa, *Urban Forest Management Plan* <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-consultations/environment/urban-forest-management-plan>)

The Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) is very pleased to participate in developing the *Urban Forest Management Plan*. We wish to see this Plan fully integrated with Ottawa's Official Plan and Master Plans, such that, "they all complement each other and work together to create a vibrant, more liveable Ottawa." (List of City of Ottawa *Official Plan and Master Plans* <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/official-and-master-plans>)

The FCA participated in developing Tree Ottawa's *Protecting & Growing an Ottawa Urban Tree Canopy for Generations to Come*, which was prepared and submitted as our collective input to the Phase 1 Consultations for the Urban Forest Management Plan, of November 24, 2015. We fully support all of the elements outlined in this document.

The FCA also supports the Urban Core Community Associations submission of November 24, 2015, *Inputs to: Phase 1 Consultations, Ottawa Urban Forest Management Plan*.

The FCA participated in developing the *Urban Tree Conservation By-law*, adopted by Council in September 2009.

Vision for Ottawa's Urban Forest

1. Introduction:

“It will take great action to break the inertia that is affecting you right now,”

As the ash tree perishes in North America, its message, published in *Voice of the Trees*, 2011, calls us to take decisive action. The proposed Urban Forest Management Plan will be a powerful tool to help us transform the City of Ottawa into a living, green community that all Canadians can be proud to call their Nation’s Capital.

Ottawa’s Urban Forest is the vital green infrastructure that mitigates the impact of climate change, promotes human health and enhances the quality of life for everyone in the City. Trees sequester carbon, clean the air and water, cool our homes, support habitat and biodiversity, promote recreation and education, and foster economic prosperity.

Mature trees link us to our past and point toward our future. Trees are with us for the long term, creating and maintaining a healthy, sustainable city in equal partnership with grey infrastructure. As a key bulwark against climate change, the urban forest is an integral component of Ottawa’s Climate Change Action Plan

The benefits that come from the Urban Forest are summarized here:

<http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/trees-and-community-forests>

Trees’ role in sequestering carbon is explained here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/47481.html>

For these reasons, the FCA believes the preservation of existing trees, whether singly, or in remnant old growth forests (some examples are the Champlain Oaks, Arlington Woods and the South March Highlands), throughout the city, and especially within our communities, should be the City’s primary goal in the Urban Forest Management Plan. This is crucial, given the tremendous loss of trees we have suffered already, due to the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. Tree planting, while a necessary activity to replace dead and dying trees, should not be used as a tool to justify cutting down trees that are healthy or that can be successfully treated and saved.

In short, trees are an integral asset the City should take every step possible to preserve at all times, in everything that it does.

Goals (with thanks to the City of Toronto's *Strategic Forest Management Plan*):

- Preserve existing trees and forests; especially mature trees
- Increase canopy cover

- Achieve equitable distribution
- Increase Biodiversity
- Increase Awareness
- Promote Stewardship
- Improve Monitoring

2. Challenges for Ottawa's Urban Forest

a) Lack of funding and low profile

The absence of a formal Management Plan has contributed to the serious decline in Ottawa's urban forest canopy during the past few years. While the Official Plan cites a 30% minimum target for urban tree cover, the canopy has declined to well below this minimum.

With no coherent vision to tie them together and provide a backbone, the many excellent policies, programs, initiatives and regulations related to tree canopy enhancement and preservation are languishing. The importance of the urban forest is, in general, not well understood outside areas in the Forestry Department. This results in haphazard enforcement, or non-enforcement, of existing By-laws.

b) Ongoing losses

Part of the recent loss to the tree canopy is due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Sufficient funds are needed to ensure that Forestry can respond proactively when biological threats to the urban canopy emerge.

A significant amount of destruction has been caused by the way infill development has been allowed to proceed, and by the City's own practices. Large sections of the urban area are well on their way to becoming treeless, paved-over deserts.

c) Forestry Department Internal policy and operations

In a recent presentation at an FCA member community associations' Annual General Meeting (AGM), a Forestry Department spokesperson made a number of statements that suggest the City of Ottawa's Forestry department's internal policy, when it comes to operations, is not in-line with City Council's New Term Priority of **increasing forest cover** in the City of Ottawa, nor is it geared toward meeting the City's Climate Change plan objectives.

City Council's New Term Policies can be found here:

<http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/budget-and-taxes/budget/new-term-council-priorities>

City of Ottawa Air Quality and Climate Change Plan can be found here:
<http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/planning-and-development/official-plan-and-master-plans/air-quality-and-climate-change>

- When asked what action a resident should take with regard to young ash trees that have not yet been infected by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, the response was, “cut them down”.
- When asked a follow up question about the **parasitic wasp program** the City has implemented to help fight the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, the official responded that it was not his program so he could not comment on it.

The point of the parasitic wasp program is to help save ash trees, especially young ash trees, and ash trees that have not yet been infected. All Forestry personnel should be aware of it. In addition, all Forestry spokespeople should be able to comment regarding all departmental programs, even if they are not the program lead. In this case, a community representative was able to provide the relevant information on the parasitic wasp program. The response to this question, based on City policy, should have been, “Do not cut down your trees until you believe they are going to die. In the meantime, you can treat your trees with TreeAzin, a biotoxin designed specifically to combat the EAB. As a matter of interest, you should know that the City has started a special program with parasitic wasps to help fight the spread of the EAB. If your tree can survive until these wasps gain critical mass, it may survive long term.”

- When queried about preserving trees and forests in rural Ottawa, the spokesperson asked, “Why would we want to stop farmers from cutting down trees?”

The rural area will not be covered by the proposed Urban Forest Management Plan. It is important to note, however, that to meet its climate change objectives, the City will need to work in full partnership with residents in rural Ottawa, to develop a comprehensive approach to tree preservation and management. Ideally, preliminary work should be underway to engage rural Ottawa in this undertaking.

- The spokesperson could not respond to a question on how the Forestry Department's operational plan meets the City's Climate Change objectives.
- The spokesperson told residents not to wait to call the city to cut down their trees, because the longer they wait, the more risky it is for arborists, who suffer more injuries than any other profession.

There are many reasons why particular professions are inherently risky. A fundamental Occupational Health and Safety principal is that adequate training and supervision are the key to preventing most workplace accidents.

It is the City's responsibility to care for and preserve the City of Ottawa's trees.

Increasing forest cover requires preserving existing, living trees; you cannot grow the forest cover if you continue to cut down mature trees.

The spokesperson's comments indicate that there is a gap between the department's approach to its duties and the City's political objectives and approved strategic plans.

d) Existing Tree Protection Measures are not Implemented or Enforced

On May 9, 2012, Council approved process changes that would have integrated the work of Forestry, the Committee of Adjustment, Building Permits and Site Plan Control. These changes (See Appendix A) never were implemented.

Infill developers treat urban lots as if they were blank slates. Despite the Official Plan "Design with Nature" and other policies, they clear-cut existing vegetation and often harm or kill mature trees on abutting properties. They do this with impunity. Homeowners are told that destruction of trees on their property is a civil matter and the City cannot help them. Yet, the *Urban Tree Conservation By-law* Part III 18. (2), in effect since 2009, and (2A) and (2B), in effect since 2013, detail requirements for tree protection. Part III 19 through 24 detail the conditions for Approving, Issuing and Revoking a Distinctive Tree Permit. Part V outlines Enforcement parameters.

Unfortunately, developers and homeowners who damage or kill distinctive trees on their own or others' property suffer no consequences. This By-law is not enforced. There are many examples of this happening in FCA member communities.

e) Developers treat City-owned trees with the same contempt. By-law 2006-279, *Municipal Trees and Natural Areas By-law* is, however, enforced on the occasions when residents are aware that they should report violations of this By-law to the Forestry Department and the City's 3-1-1 line.

f) The City focuses on grey infrastructure to the exclusion of green, life sustaining infrastructure; tree protection and / or planting are a *not-well-planned-for* afterthought. When trees are planted on the City ROW, they are treated as ornamental and often die. Those that survive, do so for only 10-15 years. Long term preservation measures are not considered or utilized. When the City engages companies to install or repair infrastructure, no consideration is given to protecting the trees planted on the City ROW.

g) Urban myths about trees can kill trees. For example, some blame foundation damage on tree roots, when the real culprit is the infill development next door that did not comply with its grading and drainage plan, or the dry spell that caused soil to shrink away from a foundation (a situation that would not occur if the owners were aware that trees sometimes need to be watered).

h) Lack of knowledge of the *Forestry Act Ontario, Boundary Trees*, 10. (1) and (2) <http://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f26> The Urban Tree Conservation By-law states in 18 (4) that written consent is required from both owners of a Boundary Tree before it

can be damaged or removed. Consideration should be given to adding a reference to the Provincial legislation into this By-law.

i) There is a pressing need for Public Consultation on and community notification of decisions affecting trees on public property and in community parks. For example, an original maple tree in Trend-Arlington Park was recently cut down by the Forestry department without any prior notification or consultation with the community. This tree was often frequented by local children who have enjoyed climbing it for 50 years. It was the centrepiece of a park that is currently engaged in a park re-naming contest. A picture of the tree can be found on the title page of this report.

As a minimum, the community association should have been notified in advance of the decision to cut down this tree. Ideally, the community should have been engaged in making the decision, with the City providing the community with evidence and proof of the need to cut it down. All options should have been exhausted before the final decision was made to cut down the tree.

This is just one of many similar examples that have occurred in FCA communities.

The FCA believes that the new Urban Forest Management Plan should make provision for communities to be consulted before decisions like this are made, and, unless the situation is urgent (defined as constituting imminent risk) allow them to seek a “second opinion” from a private company, if they so desire.

Forestry's actions need to reflect this objective. Right now, the focus seems to be on cutting down and replanting trees. An Arborist's focus should be on caring for trees, not cutting them down. Healthy trees are safe trees.

Information on Trend-Arlington's park renaming contest can be found here:

<http://www.trendarlington.ca/index.php/blog/134-space-park-contest>

3. Opportunities for Ottawa's Urban Forest

a) Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan and ensuring that it is coordinated and integrated with the other Master Plans is key if Ottawa is to retain an urban forest.

b) *Immediately* implementing and enforcing the processes and By-laws that are already on the books will slow the destruction of the remaining forest canopy while the Plan is under development.

Enforce tree protection laws and By-laws and laws to the same degree as parking and traffic control By-laws and laws. Make this program pay for itself. Consider setting up a sliding scale of fines based on the level of damage to protected trees. Consider requiring all builders whose properties contain, or abut properties with nearby Distinctive Trees, to deposit funds into a Distinctive Tree Protection account, this amount to be refunded if the trees are thriving five years from the construction completion date.

c) You cannot manage what you do not measure. Forestry has done a significant amount of work to inventory and identify the species and DBH of trees on City property.

Similar work needs to be done for the remaining majority of trees which reside on private property. CBC recently reported that "An app that maps every single one of the 30,000 trees owned by the City of Waterloo took home top honours in the city's first hackathon this past weekend."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/timber-waterloo-open-data-hackathon-winner-maps-30000-city-trees-1.3290541>

Determine if this or another app could be used to count Ottawa's trees. Engage teams of community volunteers to fill in as much information as possible on species and DBH of the trees on private property.

c) Identify and implement best practices for new tree planting, and mature tree protection and preservation. Trees must be considered a long-term investment, since many tree species are only middle-aged at 150 years.

Ensure that trees are equitably distributed throughout the City. Increase the tree canopy where it is most needed.

d) Cross-train City departments on how protection of the urban forest intersects and/or dovetails with their areas of specialization. Departments need to coordinate and consult with each other to ensure that best practices are followed and that laws and By-laws are enforced.

e) Community and Developer Outreach: Identify and address urban tree myths. Provide easy-to-understand materials on tree planting and preservation with every Building Permit. Everyone needs to understand how trees benefit them as individuals. For instance, information regarding the direct health benefits provided by a healthy urban forest must be communicated, as should information on how much value mature trees add to a property. Monitor the uptake.

f) Big trees are integral to Ottawa's heritage; 2017 provides a perfect platform for highlighting the history of and promoting a future for trees in Ottawa. Some communities already are doing good work to identify and celebrate heritage trees.

g) Work in partnership with Ottawa's large pool of citizen scientists, who are eager to build a sustainable, green City.

h) Compile a list of federal and provincial laws and Policies which empower the City to develop and implement measures to protect, preserve and enhance the urban forest. Work in partnership with the Province and the NCC to ensure the protection and good management of *all* of the urban forest within the City's boundaries. We know that City Staff have contacts. It will be helpful if residents also know who to call when they see Provincial or Federal laws being broken.

i) Map the old growth forests inside the city's boundaries. Develop special rules to protect them.

Old growth forests that exist within the city boundaries (Arlington Woods, the Champlain Oaks in Champlain Park and Westboro Beach, and the South March Highlands are just three examples. See Appendices B, C and D for more information), are unique natural environments and tremendous assets that the City should go out of its way to preserve. These ecosystems provide all the benefits that derive from individual trees, create biodiverse, natural habitats for small animals and birds, have great heritage and scientific value and potentially could become destinations of interest to urban eco-tourists. Two of the three examples mentioned above are well located for this purpose: the Champlain Oaks are walking distance from the new western LRT; and, Arlington Woods is on the soon to be completed Nepean Trail cycling path. The South March Highlands is a 10,000 year-old "wild island", currently 3x larger than Vancouver's Stanley Park, inside the City Limits of Ottawa. It is the most biodiverse area within city limits. (Note: The South March Highlands extends on both sides of Terry Fox Drive. It is an ecosystem that should not be divided and, as a result, destroyed.)

j) Urban forests need protection from intensification and its consequences. Developers must be required to follow the Council-approved requirements specified in the May 9, 2012 process changes; Forestry (with help from abutting neighbours, citizen scientists and community associations) must monitor compliance and enforce the requirements. Adequate space should be required for city and private services, around and under these trees.

Unfortunately, the recent push to intensification without regard to community ecosystems and character has caused the destruction of many mature trees throughout the urban area. Many holes now exist in the urban tree canopy, which were not there in 2006. These holes are not due to the EAB.

k) Non-salt de-icers should be used instead of salt, to prevent trees from being water starved, something which is happening to many of Arlington Woods' 100+ year old pine trees.

l) Native trees should be protected and not cut down, no matter their size, unless they are dead or dying. Residents' ignorance regarding, and fear of, falling branches should not be used as excuses to cut down native forest trees, when pruning will suffice. Trees are resilient and often will grow back, even after severe pruning.

Note: While the appendix contains information on the Arlington Woods and Champlain Oaks urban forest remnants, more community urban forest remnants await recognition. The information provided highlights the substantial work done by community citizen scientists, who recognize the importance of trees to thriving urban communities.

4. Opportunities for Collaboration

a) Collaboration with citizen scientists: Ottawa's communities are full of talented people who will be pleased to work with the City, helping to educate local residents, and helping to document and manage their local urban forest.

b) Residents in the mature neighbourhoods recognize that mature trees are an important element of community character. During the Infill I and II consultations most participants identified **urban tree preservation** as a key issue. This is documented in several Reports to Planning Committee made by the Policy Development and Urban Design Branch of the Planning and Growth Management Department.

Infill I and II created opportunities for urban forest preservation and enhancement (ref: May 9, 2012 Council approved process changes...). The City should take advantage of the momentum and energy generated by this significant cooperative effort.

c) The City should collaborate with communities, the NCC and the Province on all issues that affect the forest canopy within Ottawa's boundaries. Currently, some communities that abut NCC lands, are working on joint projects.

5. What contributions might you (or your organization) be able to make to better support trees and the urban forest in Ottawa.

The FCA is eager to continue participating in developing the Urban Tree Management Plan. To this end:

- We are available to consult with the project development team.
- We will keep our members apprised of the progress made on this project.
- We will bring our members' suggestions and concerns to the project development team and encourage our members to participate actively with Forestry in implementing measures to enhance and preserve the urban forest canopy.
- We will provide examples of the work being done in communities to preserve the urban tree canopy.
- We are available to speak to the Development Community on the benefits of tree planting and preservation.

APPENDIX A

SOME CITY COUNCIL HISTORY

Note: Please see 3) the process changes that Council adopted on May 9, 2012. These should be implemented immediately.

1) <http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/pec/2010/07-05/12%20-%20ACS2010-COS-PWS-0009%20-%20Healthy%20Forest%20for%20the%20Nation's%20Capital.htm>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting of May 11, 2010 the Chair of Planning and Environment Committee requested that the Public Works Department prepare a report outlining the next steps in the tree program, in light of adjustments made in the 2010 budget and the fact that the City was coming to the end of its current tree planting program.

Growing a Healthy Forest for the Nation's Capital is a vision and a multi-faceted program that will plan, protect, plant and maintain a healthy forest for future generations in the City of Ottawa.

Council has focused on the importance of trees and forests in the City of Ottawa and through the adoption of the Official Plan and Ottawa 20/20. The Environmental Strategy established specific goals for the urban and rural forests as well as a recommended proactive approach towards the maintenance and protection of these green assets. In addition, as part of the Auditor General review of the former Surface Operations Branch, a number of recommendations were made in relation to the need for improved management of the City's forest cover and the need to increase the funding to Forestry Services to ensure that the best management practices are established and followed.

In September of 2006, Council adopted the Trees and Forests Maintenance Program, Quality Standards and Improvement Implementation Strategy report which directed staff to commence a 5 year phased-in program over the period of 2008 to 2012. The report outlined a plan to move from a 1 in 42 year inspection and tree trimming cycle to a 1 in 7 year tree inspection and trimming cycle, which aligns with arboriculture and forestry best practices.

The benefits of a well established maintenance program range from fostering healthy forests, residents and communities to a reduction in risk and liability for the Corporation as well as creating a more cost effective, productive and accountable service.

"Growing a Healthy Forest for the Nation's Capital" identifies key services that will help issues that affect the City's forests. The requirement to plan, protect, plant and maintain the City's trees is addressed through the following:

- A Life Cycle Maintenance program;
- A strategy to manage the impact of Emerald Ash Borer;

- An Infrastructure Renewal Tree Planting program; and
- A Community Based Tree Planting program.

This report outlines the investments that will be required to achieve the goal of Growing a Healthy Forest and proposes that those investments be included as part of the 2011 budget process.

2) Link to September 2006 Report

<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2006/10-11/arac/ACS2006-PWS-SOP-0005.htm>

3) Adopted by Council on May 9, 2012:

PEC report:

<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2012/05-09/pec/01%20-%20ACS2012-PAI-PGM-0097%20Low-rise%20Infill%20Housing.htm>

Approved Changes, from the Minutes:

**1. LOW-RISE INFILL HOUSING IN MATURE NEIGHBOURHOODS
AMÉNAGEMENTS INTERCALAIRES DE FAIBLE HAUTEUR DANS LES QUARTIERS BIEN ÉTABLIS**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED

That Council approve:

1. An amendment to the Zoning By-law 2008-250 to include a new section which provides regulations for infill development as detailed in Document 2;
2. The Urban Design Guidelines for Low-Rise Infill Housing as detailed in Document 3;
- 3. The proposed changes to the City's submission requirements and procedures – including procedures and fees for new planting, the Urban Tree Conservation By-law and the Drainage By-law as detailed in Document 4 and direct the appropriate branches to implement these changes within eight months of Council approval of this report;**

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- 4. The addition of one Full-Time Employee for the Forestry Services Branch as a pressure to the draft 2013 budget, in order to ensure that the amendments to the Urban Tree Conservation By-law can be implemented;**

From the PEC report:

Changes to City submission requirements and procedures, the Urban Tree Conservation By-law and the Drainage By-law

DOCUMENT 4

Changes to submission requirements and City procedures	
1.	<p>Existing Trees</p> <p>o Grading plans submitted for Site Plan Control, Committee of Adjustment, and Building Permit applications, will require the inclusion of <i>Tree Disclosure</i> information on the grading plan (see endnote 1).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The <i>Tree Disclosure</i> information must include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A table listing the diameter at breast height (DBH), species, condition, and ownership for all City-owned trees on City property adjacent to the subject site, all trees with a DBH of 50 cm or greater on the subject site, and all trees with a DBH of 50 cm or greater on adjacent properties that have a critical root zone within the proposed excavation area on the subject site. The table must indicate if each tree is to be retained or removed. o A plan showing the location of all the trees listed in the table, overlaid on the grading plan. o Where excavation is planned to occur within the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of any of the trees listed in the table, an Arborist assessment of the impact of the work on the trees must be included. o Protection measures for trees to be retained (including on subject site, in the ROW, and/or to protect trees on adjacent private lands). o The <i>Tree Disclosure</i> information must identify where site works will harm or destroy trees on adjacent private lands. In such cases, an arborist and/or applicant is required to contact the owner of the adjacent affected property. o If Distinctive Tree(s) will be lost, the applicant, with the support of the property owner, is required to apply for a Distinctive Tree Permit from the City. Note that all owners of a jointly owned tree, as determined by the location of the trunk, are required to sign the permit. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all property owners are in agreement and have signed the permit. o If trees with a DBH of 50 cm or greater may be harmed or compromised, the applicant is required to erect tree protection and signage prior to the commencement of any site works and both must remain in place until all site works have been completed and inspected. The City will create sign templates to be used by the applicant/arborist that will identify the “<i>Tree Protection Zone</i>”. <p>These changes will be implemented through an amendment to the Urban Tree Conservation By-law 2009-200.</p> <p>Critical Root Zone (CRZ) - The critical root zone (CRZ) is established as being 10 centimetres from the trunk of a tree for every centimetre of trunk DBH. The CRZ is calculated as DBH x 10 cm.</p>
2.	<p>New Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A tree planting fee will be charged to all Building Permit Applications for each new single, semi, duplex and triplex (units that are not subject to Site Plan Control or Plan of Subdivision). o A per lot fee will be collected at the time of Building Permit application and transferred to Forestry’s Tree Planting Fund.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The amount will cover Forestry Services’ costs to plant and maintain one new tree per lot for a two-year period; the estimated amount is \$700 plus HST. o The tree will be planted in the right-of-way (ROW). o If there is insufficient room in the ROW, the funds will be used for tree planting programs in the neighbourhood. o If there is already a tree in the ROW of the lot, a refundable security will be collected and kept for two years to ensure that the tree survives. If the tree does not survive, the funds will be used to plant and maintain a replacement tree. (Note that if an existing tree is not properly protected and is damaged during construction, additional fines and/or compensation under the Municipal Trees and Natural Areas By-law may be collected).
3.	<p>Change to drawing requirements (see endnote 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Grading plans submitted for Site Plan Control, Committee of Adjustment and Building Permit applications will be required to clearly identify, dimension and label all hard and soft surface areas and materials (e.g. asphalt, pavers, wood deck, grass, planting bed etc.) in the front yard, corner side yard, rear yard and Right-of-Way (ROW). o The drawings must show private lands as well as the entire ROW area to the curb, and materials for all of these areas. o Additionally, the drawings must show all utilities and any furniture in the ROW (e.g. bus shelters, mail boxes).
4.	<p>Change to required review</p> <p>Calculation of building height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordination between the grading approvals unit and Building Code Services will be improved in order to ensure changes to the previously approved grading plans will be reassessed by the Zoning Plans Examiner to reconfirm whether the more recent changes to the grading will building height calculations prior to issuance of the building permit and revisions thereto. <p>Review of private approach and encroachment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In an effort to ensure better compliance with the Private Approach and Encroachment By-laws, Building Code Services will circulate grading and site plans to the Right of Way, Bylaw Permits and Inspections unit which will contact the applicant directly should there be requirements to be met per either by-law.
5.	<p>Final grading inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Certification of final grade will now be required for all infill homes. The purpose is to ensure that the site grading is completed as per the Planning and Growth Management, Development Review, Infrastructure Approvals approved grading plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In order to implement this, the Drainage By-law will be amended. This amendment may include the taking of securities. o Once the final site grading has been completed, the applicant will be required to submit to the City a stamped letter from a Professional Engineer or Ontario Land Surveyor (OLS) certifying that grading has been implemented as per the approved grading plan. o Once the certification letter is received, the City will complete a site inspection if deemed necessary by the City.
6.	<p>Landscape Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Once the final landscape has been installed, the developer/builder or their agent will be required to submit a letter, and accompanying summertime photo, certifying that all hard and soft landscape areas have been installed as per the approved plan and that all protected trees remain. o The information will be reviewed by Planning and Growth Management and forwarded to By-law Services should there be compliance issues.
Committee of Adjustment	
1.	<p>Existing Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The City Forester will provide comments to Committee of Adjustment based on the <i>Tree Disclosure</i> information supplied with the application. o The City Forester may provide comments in support, or not, for the Committee's consideration, and/ or identify conditions related to existing trees to be included if the Committee approves the requested minor variance and/or consent.
2.	<p>Information Session</p> <p>Planning and Growth Management will run an information session for the Committee Panels to inform them about infill issues, the changes to zoning and the applicability of all City policy documents</p>
Other	
1.	<p>Public Consultation on Infill Projects</p> <p>In an effort to encourage better communication practices, the Planning and Growth Management will create a 'consultation process' template that builders/developers will be able to follow as good business practice; this will be posted online. However, it should be noted that there is no legal basis for the City to require a builder/developer to follow the suggested process. The consultation template will be created by the Urban Design group following Council approval.</p>
2.	<p>Education and incentives</p>

	<p>The City will pursue the idea of creating an Infill Housing Award as part of its biennial Urban Design Awards. Projects will be nominated jointly by the community and builder/developer and judged based on architecture, urban design and the construction and communication process.</p> <p>Staff currently responsible for the Awards program will integrate this new initiative in the next round of awards, currently scheduled for 2013.</p>
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Endnotes:

(1) Currently, although grading plans are required to show the location of existing trees in the right-of-way the information is not always given. Under current practice grading plans may, but are not required to, show the location of trees on private property. The proposed change would ensure that the tree information is provided on a consistent basis

(2) The additional information on grading plans will be used to assess whether all aspects of the application are in conformity with all relevant existing City By-laws (zoning, encroachment, private approach and drainage). Submission of the information on the grading plan will allow for the proper, early review of the plan by the appropriate City approval areas and will assist in determining whether additional permits (e.g. curb cut) will be required. The additional information will also create a record of the approved treatment of the private and right-of-way lands, which will be of assistance to By-law Services should there be later changes to the property that contravene City by-laws.

APPENDIX B: CHAMPLAIN OAKS

What are the Champlain Oaks?



Above: this house was built around the tree decades ago – an example of tree-friendly symbiotic development from Patricia Avenue

These magnificent Bur Oaks are old-growth remnants of an oak forest that once lined the Ottawa River from Chaudiere Falls to Deschenes Rapids. The oldest of them are confirmed to be more than 160 years – which means they are not just older than the 60 year-old neighbourhood built up around them, they are also much older than Canada itself. Some were here when Nepean was first being settled in the 1840s.

This oak forest ecosystem would have covered the South shore of the Ottawa River when Samuel de Champlain explored the area that bears his name in the early 1600s – and he surely would have seen some of the parents of our current oaks. One of his compatriots, Captain Pierre Chevalier de Troyes, noted “the oak forest” here in 1686 on his way up the river to expel the English from James Bay.

The neighbourhood of Champlain Park – near the Champlain Bridge in the West End of Ottawa – has managed to preserve more than two dozen of these centuries-old trees. They are called the Champlain Oaks because of their location in Champlain Park and because, like Samuel de Champlain himself, they are part of our heritage.

For more information please see: <http://www.champlainoaks.com>

APPENDIX C: ARLINGTON WOODS



The neighborhood of Arlington Woods was carved out of the eastern most part of a native white pine forest, according to local lore, that sprang from the destruction of the great fire of 1870 (read below), which destroyed much of the Ottawa area. At one point it extended from the Ottawa River to Barrhaven.

Today, the white pine forest extends from Graham Creek in Trend-Arlington through the NCC at Bruce Pit and across the 416 Highway into the community of Bell's Corners behind Bell arena. It boasts hundreds of century old white pines that reach heights in excess of a 100 ft. It is home to many small wild animals and birds, insects, plant life and unique fauna.

The Great Fire of 1870; Published book by Terry Currie

All of the ingredients of a devastating fire were present – a tinder dry landscape from four months of drought, a collection of farms built largely of fire friendly white cedar and a rising wind.

And then it happened – on Aug. 17, 1870, workers cutting brush for the new Central Canada Railway line near Blakeney between Almonte and Pakenham set about to burn it but the fire got away, spreading into the adjacent bush area. Efforts to contain the fire proved fruitless as the wind, eventually to reach 100 mile per hour speeds later in the day, began to rise, spreading the fire, which eventually devastated much of Carleton County and Lanark County, and became known as the Great fire of 1870.

“The wind kept getting up,” said Fitzroy township native Terry Currie. The wind-assisted fire first spread north, missing Pakenham but reaching the outskirts of Arnprior and then Fitzroy Harbour, all in the morning, spreading at a speed difficult for people to avoid, with the wind blowing harder and harder.

Stittsville was eradicated.

By the afternoon, the wind carrying the fire was blowing around 100 miles an hour, becoming, as Mr. Currie put it, “one of the most violent wind storms in the history of the

Ottawa Valley.”

In the afternoon, the wind shifted and began blowing eastward, with the fire front increasing from the seven mile front experienced in the Fitzroy Harbour area to an 11 mile wide front when the fire reached the Goulbourn/Stittsville/Bells Corners area.

Mr. Currie told how the combination of wind and fire, when it hit a tamarack swamp at Stittsville, threw whole trees into the air, with ashes and living flames hurled far and wide.

“Stittsville was eradicated,” Mr. Currie said.

Eventually the fire hit the outskirts of Ottawa but action taken to direct water from Dow’s Lake to LeBreton flats as well as a declining wind and the firefighting efforts of all available men meant that Ottawa and its 20,000 residents were spared from the fire.

The same could not be said for much of Carleton County and Lanark County, with 3,000 farms burned out, with each averaging about seven family members.

“It left a countryside devastated, blackened and ruined,” said Mr. Currie.

These countryside residents sought refuge either by rushing to the Ottawa River and wading into its waters, along with other men, women and children and farm animals like pigs, horses and sheep or by climbing down their dug wells or by burying themselves in trenches in their potato/turnip fields.

Mr. Currie pointed out that 1870 was a year of “tremendous drought” in the Ottawa Valley, with rivers running almost dry and the swamps all drying up. While there had been lots of snow the previous winter, rain on May 6 was the last rain that fell for months. It would not rain again until Sept. 24 when it poured rain for the first time in five months.

The tinder dry conditions of the countryside were evidenced by three fires which had broken out before the Great Fire. One was in the White Lake area where six farms were lost; one was near Carp where the Carp Airport sits today; and one was near the present-day location of Canadian Tire Centre.

Mr. Currie emphasized that the settlers affected by the Great Fire were familiar with fire, always burning brush and trees. There were piles of brush and dead trees all around and houses, fences and barns were built with white cedar, a very flammable wood. Inside the shanty or house, all heat and light was provided by an open flame of some sort.

In this environment, fires were always happening, with death or property loss by fire being very common.

APPENDIX D: SOUTH MARCH HIGHLANDS

The South March Highlands (SMH) is a 10,000 year-old "wild island", currently 3x larger than Vancouver's Stanley Park, inside the City Limits of Ottawa. It is the most bio-diverse area in Ottawa distributed into 10 distinct habitats and its continuous eco-systems include over 30 Eco-Types of Vegetation. The SMH is the only expression of the Canadian Shield in the City of Ottawa and marks a transition zone where coniferous forest meets deciduous vegetation .

The 875 hectares of the SMH have been rated as a Provincially Significant ANSI candidate for over 30 years, rated at 5.08 it has the highest coefficient of conservation in Ottawa and the highest floristic diversity of any natural area in Ottawa. Currently 114 hectares of the SMH have been rated as Provincially Significant Wetlands, including the Kizell wetland.

The SMH Conservation Forest which occupies only 455 hectares of the natural boundaries of the entire SMH (which extends from the Kizell wetland north to March Road, west to the Carp River, and east to the Hydro line). The remainder of the SMH is unprotected to the North and South of the current SMH Conservation Forest which is bounded by Terry Fox Drive to the south and the lower half of Heron Pond in the north.

Yet the entire SMH is a continuous, highly inter-connected set of ecosystems whose continuity, according to the City of Ottawa, has been maintained by a network of both wet and dry eco-tunnels under Terry Fox Drive. The SMH is also documented as an important recharge area for the Nationally Significant Greenbelt as it supplies the only two cold water streams remaining in the Greenbelt. Both these streams are threatened by development.

To-date, over 810 species have been documented in the area excluding Anthropods (insects), Bryophytes (Non-Vascular plants such as Mosses, Lichens), and Fungi which have not been surveyed in any depth. Yet even with limited study, over 62 species of Butterfly are known to be present in the SMH in areas outside of the limited boundary of the current Conservation Forest. Over 169 Avian Species have been documented in the SMH, a number 3x higher than found in the Punta Cana's Eco-Tourist area.

20 Species-at-Risk have been documented in the SMH as well as 18 additional species evaluated by COSEWIC as high Potential Species-at-Risk. This includes the largest known population of Blanding's Turtle in Eastern Ontario, whose critical habitat has been recently documented both inside and outside of the current SMH Conservation Forest. Sadly, another 12 previously documented SAR have already been eradicated from the SMH by development activity - highlighting the urgent need for greater protection of the area.

The Trillium Woods portion of the SMH is also outside of the current SMH Conservation Forest and has been rated by the City as the most significant natural area within Ottawa "with rich plant and animal life found nowhere else in the urban part of the City" (2008 Ottawa Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation) - yet only 1/2 of this area is within the Monk Conservation Forest which has been eco-severed from the SMH Conservation Forest by Terry Fox Drive to the north and is threatened by development activity to the west of Goulbourn Forced Road.

The entire SMH area was also declared a Sacred Forest by the principal elder of the Algonquin First Nations, William Commanda, because of its natural and cultural significance to First Nations. At least 2 stone-age tool working sites, 3x older than the Pyramids and Stone Hedge, have been documented in the SMH.

A map of the South March Highlands follows on the next page...

Map of the South March Highlands:

