



Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition

A Not-for-Profit Corporation established in 2019

5 November 2020

Mayor Jim Watson,
City of Ottawa, Ottawa ON

Delivered by Email Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Dear Mayor Watson,

I hope this letter finds you well and safe given the ongoing challenges we continue to experience as we face down Covid-19. Our community and supporters are aware that you and our City Council are working through the development of the 2021 Municipal Budget and the various committees will be addressing their budget decisions in the coming weeks. We too understand this will be a particularly difficult task not only because of the incredible financial burden created by the pandemic, but also, the loss of financial opportunity and resources as well.

At our Board Meeting on November 4, 2020 we discussed the importance of an approach to City budgeting that remains mindful of the critical role our environmental and natural resources play in ensuring the City remains resilient and sustainable in the face of ongoing critical climate challenges but also liveable for all of its residents whether in pandemic or otherwise.

As a result, we offer the following two motions passed with an eye to ensuring the appropriate protection of our irreplaceable natural resources are not lost in the acute, current monetary challenge.

- Ensuring the Protection of Accessible Green and Open Urban Spaces
- Funding the 2020 Tree Protection By-Law

The motions address the concerns of many community associations and groups across the City and we ask that you direct them to all relevant departments and committees. They follow this letter in their entirety.

We understand that the budget deliberations will be particularly difficult this year, however, the KGPC expects that you and all of our elected officials and city staff will neither forget or fail to protect our non-monetary assets that have but one life and are often irreplaceable.

Sincerely,


Barbara Ramsay
Chair, Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition

cc: Councillor Jenna Sudds, Ward 4 – Kanata North
Rick O'Connor, City Clerk

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Ensuring the Protection of Accessible Urban Green and Open Spaces

Whereas, the unrelenting Covid-19 pandemic is projected to continue and compromise the health and safety of all Ottawa residents until an effective and adequate supply of vaccine is developed and made broadly available in 2021 or beyond; and,

Whereas, the Ottawa Public Health department has acknowledged the importance of access to green and open public spaces for both physical and mental health and ensuring all Ottawa residents have access to safely distanced exercise, fresh air and the ability to develop appropriate coping strategies to face the unparalleled challenge of Covid-19;

Whereas, an update and review of the City of Ottawa Greenspace Master Plan is slated to begin under the auspices of the new Official Plan and its 5 Big Moves currently in development and which should require fulsome public consultation;

Be it resolved that the **Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition**, in support of its ongoing urban greenspace advocacy efforts and in light of the 2021 City of Ottawa municipal budget considerations made more difficult due to the financial constraints created by the Covid-19 pandemic, emphasizes the need to apply the critical lens of urban green and open public space accessibility appropriately to the upcoming funding decisions of Council and wishes to contribute meaningfully to any future discussions.

Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition
info@ourkanatagreenspace.ca

Approved by the Board, November 4, 2020



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Funding the 2020 Tree Protection By-law

Whereas trees are a critical resource for all cities facing the challenge of environmental sustainability and resiliency in the face of accelerating climate change;

Whereas the City of Ottawa's publicly owned green and open spaces and parks are home to only a portion of the large and mature tree canopy within the City, the great balance of which reside on private properties;

Whereas the new Tree Protection By-law, approved in January 2020 by the current Council is designed to retain, protect and grow the current urban forest into tomorrow's mature forest through a two part implementation strategy; and,

Whereas the implementation of the strategy's first phase was delayed from May 2020 to January 2021 due to the impact on staff resources of the Covid-19 pandemic and, as a result, ongoing development (infill and otherwise) is resulting in the destruction of trees which would have benefitted from protection under this By-law;

Whereas, the staff report suggests that implementation of this By-Law requires up to five additional staff for timely implementation of both phases and that without these essential resources, the education, monitoring and enforcement activities entrenched in the By-law will be unattainable;

Be it resolved that the **Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition**, in support of its ongoing urban greenspace advocacy efforts and in light of the 2021 City of Ottawa municipal budget considerations, urges Ottawa City Council to provide all necessary resources to implement the Tree Protection By-law expeditiously.

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Approved by the Board, November 4, 2020