

January 26, 2026

SAY YES TO MOTION - Clarifying the City Position on the Kanata Golf Club (KGC) Lands [Curry/Gower]

Dear Mayor Sutcliffe and Members of City Council:

The **Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition (KGPC)** writes today requesting your support for this motion to permanently protect the Kanata Golf Course (KGC) lands as essential community infrastructure resource and greenspace in Ward 4 – Kanata North.

To be clear – our longstanding opposition to site development is not a NIMBY-based argument against densification or infill housing. Rather, our position is rooted in **protecting and ensuring the sustainability** of the existing surrounding residential communities of Kanata Lakes and Beaverbrook as well as the Kanata North Tech Park. All rely upon the undeveloped KGC lands as an integral, functional component of the **Kizell watershed**.

We present the following critical concerns:

Public Safety and Environmental Risk

Development of the KGC lands raises significant **public health risks** related to identified mercury contamination levels, which exceed residential limits on the property. The vast 71-hectare site requires full remediation due to the historic, widespread use of mercuric fungicides

- **Feasibility and affordability of a remediation plan is unknown.**
- **Testing to date has been shown to be flawed.** Biased testing to date explicitly avoided those areas where the highest levels of contamination would be expected [Paterson Group Phase II ESA May 2020](#) and this [annotated overview](#) of the Phase I and II testing

- **Geologic profile** Remediation of the extensive surface granite requires rigorous, expensive and extensive, blasting, grinding, buffing risking mercury disturbance with aerosolization and/or displacement into waterbodies and underground flows. Real cost at scale has not been considered.
- **630 existing residential properties are immediately adjacent and thousands more are within 100 metres putting upwards of ten thousand residents at immediate risk of mercury exposure.**

Property Safety

To date, no proposed modification of the existing **Kizell stormwater management (SWM) plan** has proved viable. At present, with approved development, the Kizell system is at or near capacity.

- Undeveloped, these **71 hectares** of KGC lands, located at the source of the Kizell drain provide two irreplaceable functions - undisturbed absorptive holding capacity extending to 5 days in 1:100-year events (expanding system wide capacity) as well as providing unimpeded overland flow to existing city infrastructure.
- The addition of development fill to mitigate the extensive surface granite will negate this basin-like function as a 'holding sink'. The 'spill-over' will deliver **floodwaters to minimally 630 immediately adjacent homes** and conceivably compromise the downstream **2400 home Beaverbrook neighbourhood**

15-Minute Neighbourhoods and Greenspace

Preserving these fully integrated lands as open space is essential for public health, recreation, and active transportation. It is central to Ottawa's key planning principles of the **15-minute neighbourhood** for the existing Kanata Lakes and Beaverbrook communities.

Protect the Kanata North Tech Park, our economic engine

The essential economic growth being driven by the Kanata North Tech Park (KNTP) requires vibrant residential housing options to attract and retain the tens of thousands of workers required for the next decade(s) required by the KNTP as well as Canada's proposed Defence Hub. A failure in the Kizell drain puts this housing infrastructure as well as the highly developed infrastructure within the KNTP itself.

The importance of effective governance.

Development isn't all bad; Some development sites just aren't good.

The current economic pressures to build residential housing quickly should not stifle effective governance or preclude the obligation to consider the merits of every development site in the context of its risks and benefits to existing residents and taxpayers.

We must recognize that **preservation is a building component** that improves and sustains our city, too. Destroying irreplaceable infrastructure- **71 hectares of linked, contiguous greenspace** that provides a designed SWM function that benefits tens of thousands of Ottawa residents - is imprudent and lacks appropriate foresight.

Accountability and Action

In closing, this past week at the World Economic Forum, the world heard Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney remind global governors that a functioning democracy prioritizes the protection of its citizens from the unchecked influence of the powerful. His lesson applies to you today as you consider this motion.

After **seven years of unwavering opposition** by the city and the KGPC to this unwanted, one-sided, high risk and dangerous development proposal, you can work pre-emptively to protect Ottawa's residents by acting here to move positive change.

Passing this motion will embolden staff (and site developers, should they so choose) to move simply from resistance to resourcefulness and pursue productive alternatives to protect this unique infrastructure for the benefit of everyone.

**Say YES to the Curry/Gower motion. Stop the foolishness.
Protect us all.**

Sincerely,

Barbara Ramsay

Chair, Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition
chair@ourkanatagreenspace.ca