



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON



Riverside Park Community Association May 8, 2024

Dear Members of the Riverside Park Community Association,

Although every month has beauty, there is something special about the month of May.

Enjoy the beautiful month of May, get outside, have fun and enjoy a stroll amongst the tulips.

Riley Brockington

Mooney's Bay Toboggan Hill Assessment

On May 1, 2024 City Council approved an external consultant to conduct a study to provide recommendations to council on options to make the Mooney's Bay Hill safe for sledding.

Council asked staff in 2022 to investigate options to modify the hill to make it safe to reopen to sledders. It has been removed from the list of approved sledding hills since 2017, when it was deemed unsafe following multiple incidents. After a child tragically died while sledding on the hill in 2021, the City physically installed fencing around the base of the Hill to prevent access for tobogganing.

On a close vote of 13-12, City Council agreed to allocate up to \$150,000 to hire an engineering and landscape architect to assess the feasibility of altering the hill and to develop a concept with preliminary costs. Staff would report back with the results of the study and recommendations for further action and funding. The cost will be split evenly from two accounts, the River Ward Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland account and the City-wide Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland account.

Any potential solution would need to address the known collision hazard between sledders and cross-country skiers and consider the many other activities residents enjoy at the hill year-round. The City would also need to seek the approval of the National Capital Commission, the owner of the park, before changes could be made.

Until the current safety issues are resolved, Parks staff will continue to fence off the hill in the winter months.

I remain a strong proponent for reopening the Hill for public use.

Mother's Day High Tea - Two Seatings (Sold out)

Back by popular demand is our annual Mother's Day High Tea. Join me in celebration of River Ward's mothers and motherly figures; with classical music, great food and friendship. We are offering two seatings: 3pm (sold out) and 4:15pm. Please RSVP, all are welcome!

When: May 11, 3:00pm (sold out) and 4:15pm (sold out)

Where: Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre, 3320 Paul Anka Drive

RSVP: Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca

River Ward Strawberry Social

Annual Social with strawberries, entertainment and door prizes

Please RSVP with my office to secure your seat.

When: June 6, 1:00pm

Where: Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre, 3320 Paul Anka Drive

RSVP: Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Brigil Development – Riverside Mall

On April 18, I hosted a pre-construction meeting with residents and the Brigil team, who provided an overview of the demolition and construction phases of this major development.

The demolition of the Riverside Mall is now slated for July 1. This will take approximately 2 months to complete. Construction phases will be broken down in to four segments.

1. Parking structure (bldg. 1 & 2) Nov 1, 2024 - Sept 1, 2025
2. Building 1 & 2 (303 units) Sept 1, 2025 - Sept 1, 2027
3. Parking structure (bldg. 3 & 4) Sept 1, 2025 - Sept 1, 2026
4. Building 3 & 4 (141 units) Sept 1, 2026 - Dec 2027

Construction completion December 2027

CITY OF OTTAWA

Housing Accelerator Fund Request for Expressions of Interest: REOI 2024 – Projects Selected for Funding

The City has been awarded \$176.3 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) which aims to create more housing supply at an accelerated pace. The Council-approved Spending Plan (ACS2024-PRE-EDP-0035) allocates 90 per cent of HAF funds to the Affordable Housing Pipeline Strategy ("Pipeline").

The objective of the Pipeline Strategy is two-fold: (1) reduce the backlog of supportive and affordable housing developments prepared to proceed, but-for capital funding availability, and (2) review the process used to manage, advance, and prioritize affordable housing projects in the development pipeline. The former will put HAF funds to immediate use for the delivery of affordable units and contribute to meeting HAF targets, while the latter will improve existing processes, in consultation with non-profit partners, to help address any gaps and/or barriers to getting projects shovel ready as part of a sustainable process.

On April 3, 2024, a Council motion established that the Director of Housing Services must consider the cumulative effect and community impact of approving recommended supportive housing projects before allocating HAF capital construction funding to such a development. At this time only affordable housing projects are recommended for capital funding. Two supportive housing projects will receive pre[1]development funding. The projects selected for capital and pre-development funding in River Ward were announced on May 7, 2024 and are outlined:

Capital Funding:

St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa (2865 Riverside Dr – Ward 16 River)

St. Patrick's currently provides long-term care to 288 residents at their existing facility at 2865 Riverside Drive. Over the past three years, they have been working to evolve the services and supports provided at the St. Patrick's campus. They are proposing to construct a 133-unit seniors apartment building, including a range of social and health supports, adjacent to the existing long-term care home on site. Of the 133-units, 67 will be affordable and funded by the City.

Funding request: \$13,000,000

Ottawa Community Housing Corporation (3405 Uplands Dr – Ward 16 River)

OCHC is the largest affordable housing provider in Ottawa, with properties located in various communities throughout the city. Their portfolio includes over 15,000 homes for seniors, families, individuals, and people with disabilities. They are proposing to construct a 6-storey apartment building containing 45 affordable units.

Funding request: \$9,691,265

Pre-development Funding:

Shepherds of Good Hope (1083 Merivale Road – Ward 16 River)

Shepherds of Good Hope is one of the largest not-for-profit registered charitable organizations serving the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Ottawa. They are proposing to expand their supportive housing portfolio with a 6-storey apartment building containing 56 units.

Funding request: \$457,000

Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review - Update

The City of Ottawa is developing a new comprehensive Zoning By-law for approval by Council in 2025. The by-law will implement the policies and directions in Ottawa's new Official Plan, approved by City Council in 2021 and by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on November 04, 2022.

The first staff report for the new Zoning By-law project was tabled at the April 29 Joint Committee of the Planning and Housing Committee, and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. The full text of the proposed By-law will be released in its entirety on May 31. The best place for information and updates is on the City of Ottawa - Engage Ottawa webpage.

The staff report serves as a preview of the first draft of the new Zoning By-law provisions. It summarizes the proposed By-law in plain language and how the By-law is implementing the new Official Plan. This report is just the start of the Zoning By-law review. Over the course of the project there will be two other iterations of the draft by-law that will be developed based on the feedback and comments received until the final version of the By-law is approved by Council in Q4 2025. Consultation for the entire project starts now and will continue until the proposed By-law is approved by Council. Active engagement for this first draft starts in June and continues through October.

I want to underscore how important this review is. The new bylaw will set the stage for development in Ottawa for many years, many new provisions will be controversial and our neighbourhoods will likely absorb new development in the years to come.

Earth Day Event – April 20

Many thanks to the various local environmental groups for attending the River Ward Earth Day event on April 20 at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre. Although Mother Nature brought rain during the event, we pivoted to inside the Centre and kept going. I am looking to coordinate future Earth Day events with the greater community, to ensure the event covers all the basis and preparatory work is shared. Reach out to me if you are interested.

The e-waste depot hosted by Junk That Funk behind the Metro grocery store was also a success. Final numbers on items collected, and diverted from the landfill are still being compiled.

McCarthy Woods and Woods Along the Airport Parkway

The NCC owns and maintains the McCarthy Woods. Many local residents have alerted me to the number of downed trees and in the woods and along McCarthy Road. I have brought this to the attention of the NCC on more than one occasion.

The McCarthy Woods are not maintained to the degree that other trails on NCC lands in the region receive and as such, the strategy is to leave much of the downed trees as is.

The broken fence along the road must be repaired.

In addition, many downed trees along the Airport Parkway remain, starting just north of the Juno Beach Memorial Bridge, southbound to Uplands. Tree debris is particularly heavy between Hunt Club Road and Uplands. The City has assessed the volume of down trees and plan to remove/mulch the trees that rest from the treeline to the road. Downed trees in the woods will be left as is.

Be Prepared for Emergencies

Over the past several years, Ottawa residents, businesses and visitors have experienced first-hand several different types of weather emergencies. For example, tornadoes and a derecho have damaged homes, uprooted trees, and downed power lines; flooding in 2017, 2019 and 2023 caused damage to water-side communities; and, a freezing rainstorm caused branches and power lines to freeze, impacting hydro infrastructure and leaving many residents in the dark.

Emergency Preparedness Week runs from May 5 to 11 and is a good time to reflect on lessons learned and better prepare for the next emergency.

In the event of an emergency, everyone should aim to be able to take care of themselves and their families for up to 3 days (or 72 hours), at least. Read on for some guidelines that can help you get started.

Emergency kit – supplies for 72 hours

One of the easiest tools you can prepare in advance is an emergency preparedness kit. Some items that are useful for your kit can include:

- Two litres of drinking water per person per day
- Battery-operated or crank radio
- Power banks for wireless charging
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Medication
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and a manual can opener (note: be sure to rotate the food in your emergency kit to keep it fresh)
- Pet food for our family members from the animal world
- Blankets or sleeping bags

- Copies of important documents, such as insurance cards, birth certificates, and passports in a waterproof and portable container
- Clothing and footwear (one change per person; more for children)
- Toilet paper and other personal hygiene supplies
- First aid kit

It is also a good idea to be prepared by ensuring you have:

- A paper or digital note with a list of contact names and information of family members, daycares, schools and other important contacts
- Trusted people in place as an emergency backup to pick up your children from school or daycare, check in with vulnerable family members and neighbors and take care of your pets
- Emergency money or a Presto card on-hand for transportation home
- A small quantity of your prescriptions on-hand, should you be unable to get home to take them, or a list of prescriptions so that they can be refilled at a pharmacy

Know how to stay up-to-date with the latest information and warnings

During any emergency, it is important to stay informed. You can follow the City's website at ottawa.ca and follow our social media channels on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook. Also, many weather apps are available for your devices that will provide you with the latest severe weather watches and warnings – giving you advance notice to prepare or seek shelter.

Many emergencies – such as severe weather events – can cut off our power for hours or even days.

That's why it is important to have a crank radio or a battery-operated radio with a supply of extra batteries. While the Internet and social media dominate our landscape, the City also uses traditional mainstream media – like local radio stations – to help broadcast messaging and keep you informed.

For more ways to stay informed before, during and after an emergency, visit our [Information sources for emergencies](#) page.

On a well? Fill your bathtub or containers with water – just in case

If your home operates on well water and you see or hear weather warnings involving high winds, severe lightning, or ice, fill your bathtub or some containers with tap water – just in case the power the goes out. This water can be used to flush toilets, for example.

Be sure gas generators and barbecues operate outside of your home

Many residents have purchased gas-powered generators to keep such items as fridges and sump pumps running and to charge their handheld devices. Residents may also rely on gas barbecues to boil water and prepare meals.

But remember, gas generators and barbecues cannot run inside your garage or house. Fumes and exhaust from these devices can poison you and your family with deadly carbon monoxide. Keep them running outside.

Social connections and personal supports

Think of your family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues in your personal and professional networks. They represent people who can help and for whom you should have contact information on hand.

Also, during emergencies, you can act as a vital line for those who need assistance or important information.

Contact your neighbours, friends and family members – especially those who are vulnerable – to see if they need assistance and update them with the latest information and instructions.

In an emergency, know who to call

In an emergency, you need to know who to call and when. Here are some numbers to remember and keep on-hand:

- **9-1-1** - For life-threatening emergencies
- **2-1-1** - For information on provincial government and local community-based health and social services including food
- **3-1-1** - For City of Ottawa services such as garbage collection, by-laws, forestry services and childcare services
- **8-1-1** – For non-emergency health advice and help navigating health services in Ontario

Power outages

- **613-738-0188** - For inquiries to Hydro Ottawa about power outages
- **1-800-434-1235** - For inquiries to Hydro One about power outages

Preparing ahead at home saves time and stress during emergencies.

The Brookfield Community Food Cupboard - Grand Opening - Wednesday May 8

The Cupboard is a collaboration of community members working alongside Brookfield High School students and staff. They are collecting Non-perishable food donations that will be redistributed to the community. Donations can be dropped off at Brookfield High School, the Riverside United Church, The Meeting house (Riverside United Church), Holy Cross Church or St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral.

The Food Cupboard will be open Wednesdays starting **May 8 with** the goal to provide 3 full meals a week to neighbours in need.

Access to the cupboard is located at 824 Brookfield Road in Ottawa, via the entrance at the furthest end of the parking lot of Brookfield high School.

3:05-4pm Students of Brookfield High School

4:30-7pm Public Access

Items most in need:**Canned goods:**

- Fish, meat, soup, fruit, vegetables, tomatoes, pasta sauce, ready to eat pasta

Dried goods:

- Rice, chickpeas, lentils, pasta, flour, sugar, baby food, coffee, tea, bouillon cubes, beans

Snacks and breakfast items:

- Fruit cups, granola bars, juice boxes, cereal, peanut butter, jam, honey, protein bars, meal replacement drinks, dates, raisins

Other:

- Condiments, salt, spices, cooking oil, juice boxes
- Gift cards to purchase most needed items

Maximize your green bin

Since 2010, the City's green bin program has been essential to divert organic waste from the landfill. From kitchen scraps to yard waste, you can easily help divert organic materials to proper composting facilities, helping to reduce methane emissions and produce nutrient-rich compost instead.

Some fun facts about your green bin

A sample of some items you may toss in your green bin:

- Banana peels
- Eggs shells
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Apple core
- Soiled paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Potato peels
- Meat bones
- Sugar, flour and potato paper bags

Did you know you can also place some of the ickier items in plastic bags before tossing them in your green bin? Things like cat litter and dog waste must go in plastic bags to keep your bin clean and to help keep our collection crews safe. At the composting facility, the bags are ripped open and separated from the organics.

Want to learn more about what happens to your green bin waste after it gets collected? We've got just the video for you! Check out ottawa.ca/greenbinvideo to learn more.

Leaf and yard waste

Extended hours for leaf and yard waste collection began mid-April and will continue until the end of May. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, waste collection operators have until 8 pm to pick up separately set out leaf and yard waste at the curb. The peak season typically lasts for approximately four weeks but can be longer depending on yard waste quantities and the weather. While leaf and yard waste is technically accepted in the green bin, setting it out separately allows the City to bring it to the Barnsdale leaf and yard compost pad at the Trail Road Waste Facility, which is more cost effective than bringing it to the City's contracted organics processing facility. To learn more about leaf and yard waste and proper set out, visit: ottawa.ca/leafandyard.

Planting a garden - some tips for you

If you love gardening then you probably love deciding which plants and flowers to buy and where to place them?

If you're an experienced gardener, then you may already know that certain plants are better-suited to help pollinators or to control rain water. If you're a considerate gardener, you know which plants are a nuisance to neighbours or can cause harm. If you are inexperienced or simply looking for new ideas, then read on.

Help pollinators

Go beyond "no mow May" by converting parts of your lawn to a native wildflower garden or meadow instead, to provide habitat all year long. Traditional mowed lawns need lots of maintenance and don't provide benefits to native pollinators or other wildlife. By reducing your lawn area, you can reduce your yard's water consumption and your time spent mowing permanently, instead of for just one month.

To encourage pollinators in your garden, plant native wildflowers, including early and late flowering species, to provide nectar sources and other food for pollinators. If you're looking for an example, we have a pollinator garden at City Hall. It includes species such as common milkweed, New England aster, wild bergamot, prairie smoke and a variety of goldenrods. Many native trees and shrubs also have flowers that support pollinators – did you know that maple flowers are appreciated by many of our early spring pollinators?

Spring Tree Planting Plan

Forestry Services' spring caliper tree planting program began on April 29 and will run until mid June, weather permitting. This includes tree planting in parks, at City facilities, and along streets through Forestry Services' lifecycle tree planting programs as well as some projects for the Schoolyard Tree Planting Grant Program.

River Ward will welcome 80 new trees, mostly on the City right of way land on residential front lawns, but will also include new trees in Meadowvale, Raven and Stanstead parks.

Next steps in renewing City facilities at Lansdowne

On April 17, City Council approved a recommended model to procure the design and construction of a new event centre and north-side stands at Lansdowne Park.

Following Council's approval of a concept plan in November 2023 that would see the existing City-owned north-side stands and TD Place arena demolished and replaced with a new event centre, new north-side stands and a mixed-use development where the Civic Centre is now located, the City studied a range of approaches before recommending a tried-and-true procurement model, known as design-bid-build. This model would award two distinct, fixed-price contracts: one for design and one for construction. The City has traditionally used this model to procure large-scale infrastructure, and it aligns with the Ottawa LRT Public Inquiry recommendation to opt for proven approaches when investing public funds in large-scale projects.

The preferred approach represents the best option in terms of cost and timelines. It requires preparation of a detailed design first, which will help determine final construction costs. The design would also inform how the new north-side stands will connect with the planned retail space, which will be important as the City prepares for the future disposal of air rights. The City is proposing to sell or lease those rights for the space above and below the retail building. The City's financial contribution to the project will be paid for, in part, by the disposal of these rights.

As the City and its partners move ahead with detailed design, staff will report to Council later next year on the final package of approvals, including the final construction price, final air rights value, and any required funding strategy amendments prior to construction.

EVENTS

Story Time at the Hunt Club Riverside park Community Centre

This Spring, the Ottawa Public Library is offering free, bilingual, drop-in Storytime programs at the Hunt-Club-Riverside Community Centre. Friday Storytimes will begin at 11am and will run for 45 mins. Join us for stories, rhymes and dancing!

Location: Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre, 3320 Paul Anka Drive

www.RileyBrockington.ca | 613-580-2486 | Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca

Time: 11am
Dates: May 10, May 24



RIVER WARD UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY	11	Mother's Day High Tea, Two Seatings: 3Pm and 4:15 pm Hunt-Club Riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Drive
JUNE	6	Strawberry Social, 1pm Hunt-Club riverside Park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Drive
JUNE	15	Father's Day Concert, Governor General's Foot Guards Brass Band Alexander Community Centre 960 Silver Street
JUNE	29	Canada Day, Cake, Concert and BBQ Hunt-Club Riverside park Community Centre 3320 Paul Anka Drive



**MORE
INFORMATION**

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Riley Brockington
May 8, 2024