
Land and Greenspace Update April 8

Network contact grushman@rogers.com

Hi all,

Unfortunately, the NCC has now postponed our meeting until later in the spring. The NCC's project team expects to be in a position to discuss their workplan for the McCarthy corridor by June.

In the meantime, I have asked the NCC to clarify its definition of the McCarthy corridor and to specify which portions of the corridor are now part of the "Lands for Homes" initiative.

Will keep you posted.

A.

Here's an update on our planning issues, volunteer events, and other activities. I've compiled this report in consultation with Mireille Trent.

1. Planning issues

Meeting with the NCC. Several weeks ago, the HCCA requested a meeting with the NCC's Public Engagement team to begin a dialogue on McCarthy Woods and the Southern Corridor. We see this as a "getting to know you meeting" that will lay the foundation for more detailed discussions. A virtual meeting has now been scheduled at the manager level on Wednesday, April 8, with representatives of the HCCA, RPCA, OSEAN, and the Greenspace Alliance.

Greenbelt Master Plan. The HCCA and other partners will be represented on the NCC's Public Advisory Group for the renewal of its Greenbelt Master Plan. The first meeting of this group will take place on Thursday, April 9. It will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the NCC's plans and priorities.

Build Canada Homes. As Councillor Brockington has reported, a special committee meeting on Friday, April 10, will consider a report on the City's partnership with the "Build Canada Homes" initiative. This partnership will provide an estimated 3,000 housing units, including 2,000 units on federal lands at 1495 Heron Road (the former Federal Study Centre) and in Phase 7 of Wateridge Village (the former CFB Rockcliffe).

<https://pub-ottawa.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=fe65d656-9605-48af-ae6b-a0a746a6c697&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English>

NCC's Lands for Homes. The City of Ottawa, however, has not been able to reach agreement on a similar partnership for the NCC's development projects. In the meantime, the NCC has indicated that the McCarthy Woods corridor is part of its "Lands for Homes" initiative and that its Real Estate Department is reviewing options for residential development on these lands. The NCC expects to be in a position to discuss its workplan for the corridor later this spring. (At present, only the Woodroffe-Merivale section of the Southern Corridor has been placed in the Canada Public Land Bank).

<https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/business/ncc-lands-for-homes>

Next steps. At the HCCA's meeting on March 2, we discussed ways of promoting the conservation and stewardship of the McCarthy Woods corridor as a core responsibility of the Hunt Club

Community Association for the long term. At the next HCCA meeting on Monday, April 13, we will consider a motion to create a formal initiative along these lines.

2. Volunteer events

April 18 - Earth Day. The HCCA and OSEAN are working with Councillor Brockington's office and other partners in preparation for Earth Day festivities at the Hunt Club Community Centre on Saturday, April 18. Among other events, there will be guided walks, led by the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, in McCarthy Woods and in the McCarthy Meadows (2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.). There will also be information booths hosted by partner organizations and a CAFES Ottawa workshop on the removal of invasive species (1:30-2:45 p.m.).

<https://cafesottawa.ca/invasive-plant-species-talk-at-river-ward-earth-day-april-18/>

April 25 - Riverwood Park. At the invitation of the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, the OFNC will lead a guided walk in Riverwood Park on Saturday, April 25 (starting at 12:00 p.m. near the Kimberwick entrance). Although Riverwood Park is not part of the NCC's lands, it is one of only two Environmental Protection zones in the Hunt Club community (along with McCarthy Woods).

May 1-3 - Jane's Walks. The HCCA is planning to host three Jane's Walks in McCarthy Woods and its greenspace corridor. A similar walk ("How to Read a Forest") is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, in Hampton Park:

<https://www.janeswalkottawa.ca/en/walks/janes-walk-ottawa-gatineau-2026/22073>

May 16 - Get Growing Hunt Club. This HCCA initiative provides free seedlings to residents who wish to grow their own vegetables. We will provide an information booth at this event, which will be held at the Hunt Club Community Centre.

<https://getgrowinghuntclub.ca/>

3. Other activities

User survey. The "Who's Visiting the Woods" survey, using posters with QR codes to collect data, has been a great success. It has received about 300 responses in the past few weeks from residents using trails in McCarthy Woods and its meadows, Leopold Woods, and the Riverwalk near Rivergate Way.

Grant submissions. The HCCA is working on submissions to the City's grant programs for environmental initiatives. One of these submissions, prepared in cooperation with the Poets' Pathway and OSEAN, seeks funding to create a pollinator patch near the Confederation Poets' plaque at the entrance to McCarthy Woods.

Field research. Mireille has made contact with a number of academics and experts who have expressed an interest in conducting field research in the McCarthy Woods corridor. Some of this research would require the NCC's permission to remove specimens for analysis. Although the NCC has declined to authorize such research, we will try to clarify the NCC's position at our meeting on April 8.

Please let me or Mireille know if you have any comments.

Andrei
