



Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital  
Alliance pour les espaces verts dans  
la Capitale Nationale

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **NCC ASKED TO PROTECT SOUTHERN CORRIDOR FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT**

Ottawa, 2 May 2005. – The National Capital Commission (NCC) has been asked to remove from its list of "surplus lands" (slated for sale and development), a small, critical natural area of the capital known as the "Southern Corridor". In addition to its natural and urban importance, the Southern Corridor (which includes the remnants of McCarthy Woods and Nepean Creek) is the backbone of a project proposed by the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital known as the Poets' Pathway--a historic project co-sponsored by the Ottawa Literary Heritage Society.

The Poets' Pathway, a proposed linkage of cultural and natural sites around the city's core which has received support from the City and various organizations, would be the only monument in the country to commemorate and celebrate the golden age of Canadian literature that flourished in the Capital in the 19th Century. It would provide residents and visitors with a recreational area showing less-frequented areas of the capital and natural features which inspired a remarkable period of our country.

The NCC currently manages publicly-owned land that could make the Poets' Pathway a reality; however, these lands, like other sites in the capital, have been declared "surplus" by the NCC and are in danger of being sold and lost forever. The Greenspace Alliance, in anticipation of the NCC's public consultation of 3 May 2005, is asking the Commission to take a historic step for the nation, by allowing a planning study of the Southern Corridor with the aim of designating it a literary heritage park of our capital.

The Greenspace Alliance calls on the NCC to act promptly, to prevent the loss of these special lands, and enable the creation of a living monument to a precious period of our country's heritage.

The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital is a coalition of groups and individuals dedicated to the protection of greenspace that is deemed significant by a community. Its members believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributes to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being, and connects us with the natural and cultural history of our region.

-30 -

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