

Natural Linkages as Habitat Connections for Flora and Fauna

Natural linkages, also known as wildlife corridors, are land and waterway connections that allow plants and animals to migrate from one habitat to another. Development of land often fragments the habitat of wildlife species. This isolates wildlife within patches of habitat that are disconnected from one another. Incorporating protected natural linkages into the design of a development project can make connections between natural areas viable. This increases the survival rate of local plant and animal species.

The City of Ottawa has committed to identify and map existing and conceptual natural linkages on a city-wide scale. Specific natural linkages are not protected in the current Official Plan. But in the Official Plan review now under way, Ottawa City staff will recommend identifying specific linkages as part of Ottawa's Natural Heritage System. Development proposals in or near such a linkage area would then have to include an Environmental Impact Statement. This could provide some protection. Is that enough?

Findings presented at this panel discussion will provide a basis for habitat conservation recommendations by all concerned. This will contribute to moving forward Ottawa's policy for protecting key natural areas in the current Official Plan Review.

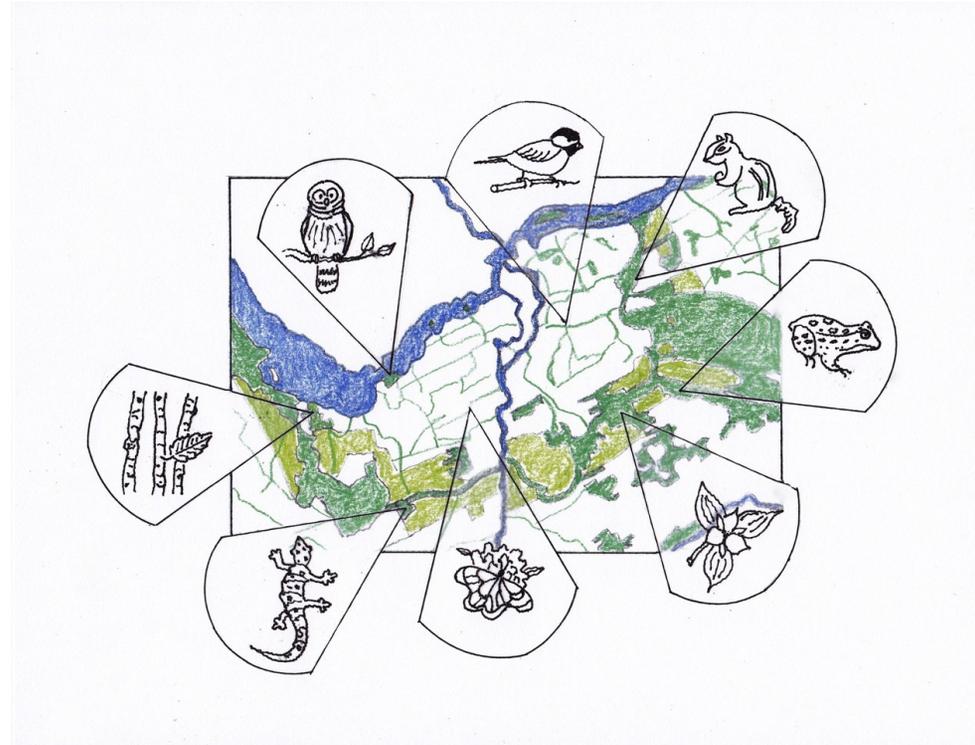
For more information, visit www.greenspace-alliance.ca/linkages

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The Greenspace Alliance works to preserve green spaces in the National Capital area. Concerned residents formed the Alliance in October 1997. Our primary aim is to conserve public and private green space. This includes natural and landscaped places deemed significant by a community. We also work to protect waterways and wetlands.

We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life. Places of greenness contribute to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. They also connect us with the natural and cultural history of our region.

Memberships and donations to advance its work are gratefully accepted.



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## ***Panel Discussion on Natural Linkages for Flora ~Fauna in and around Ottawa***

Saturday, June 8, 2013  
10 am to 12:30 pm

Hintonburg Community Centre  
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

hosted by the Greenspace Alliance  
of Canada's Capital

web site: <http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/>  
e-mail: [greenspace@greenspace-alliance.ca](mailto:greenspace@greenspace-alliance.ca)

## *Panel Discussion on Natural Linkages in and around Ottawa*

### **Programme**

- 10:00 Welcome and introduction -- Iola Price, moderator
- Each 15-minute presentation will be followed by a 5-minute question period*
- 10:05 **Ecological Connectivity: Why it is important and how we recognize it** -- Gray Merriam
- 10:25 **Results from the Nature Conservancy's Ottawa Valley Conservation Plan** -- Gary Bell
- 10:45 **Linkages between core areas of the National Capital Greenbelt** -- François Cyr
- 11:05 **Results of the City's Natural Linkages Analysis** -- Nick Stow
- 11:25 **Ontario and City Policies on Natural Linkages** -- Erwin Dreessen
- 11:45 General Discussion
- 12:30 Closure

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We thank the many volunteers who made this event possible:

Adam Caldwell, Anna Belanger, Chris Busby, Donna DuBreuil, Erwin Dreessen, Elina Elnione, Gert Dreessen, Iola Price, Kringen Henein, Lorne Peterson, Lynne Rowe, Marion Pogson, Martin Callsen, Nicole DesRoches, Prue Thompson, and Simon Callsen.

About the Panelists:

Gray Merriam taught and did research at the Universities of Texas and Carleton until 1997. He was President of the International Association for Landscape Ecology, Editor of the IALE Study Series in Landscape Ecology, and on the Editorial Board of Landscape Ecology. He directed the Landscape Ecology Research Laboratory, the Environmental Science Program, the Environment and Policy Institute, the Department of Biology and the Ottawa-Carleton Institute of Biology. Research of his laboratory focussed mainly on population dynamics of species living in fragmented landscapes. In retirement, he applies his ecological knowledge to the landscapes where he lives.

Gary P Bell is the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Program Manager for Eastern Ontario. Gary received his PhD in Biology from Carleton University and did Postdoctoral studies at UCLA and Boston University. He spent 20 years with The Nature Conservancy, working in California and the U.S. Southwest doing conservation planning and conservation science. In 2006 he returned to his native Canada to join The Nature Conservancy of Canada. His work includes conservation planning, land securement and fundraising.

François Cyr, a graduate in Urban Planning with a Master's in Public Administration, has been the Senior Manager, Greenbelt at the National Capital Commission since 2007. Prior to that, he provided professional services in urban planning, management, and regional development to municipalities, regional organizations, and governments. He has also been a volunteer in the non-profit sector for over 20 years, including 15 years as a leader in Quebec urban planning. In 2010 François was awarded the Mérite du Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec for his contribution to the profession of planner.

Nick Stow is a senior planner in the Land Use and Natural Systems Unit in the Planning and Growth Management Department of the City of Ottawa. The unit is responsible for environmental planning, including subwatershed studies and strategies, policies and tools for the identification of Ottawa's natural heritage system. Nick has 15 years of experience as an ecologist and environmental planner. He previously worked as a wetland biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and as a senior ecologist with environmental consulting companies.

Erwin Dreessen hails from Antwerp, Belgium. He obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972 and immigrated to Canada in 1974, where he worked in the private sector as well as government, before retiring in 2009. He is a member of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics and has compiled an annotated bibliography about what sustainability means for business. Erwin has worked on land use issues since 1993, within his local community association and the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA). In 1997 he co-founded the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and currently serves as its co-chair.