

Report on Ottawa Neighbourhood Studies (ONS) Teleconference 19 September 2019

I sat in for Paul Johanis on this electronic meeting. The meeting chair Kaitlyn Carr (kaitlincarr@gmail.com) reviewed the scope of the project (can be found on the ONS website. The object of the ONS are, by April 2020 to

1. Identify and merge all **greenspaces datasets** in the NCR
 - a. Identify data gaps
2. Conduct greenspace **research**
 - a. Identify the research context and gaps in research
3. **Community Awareness**
 - a. Who has a use for greenspace data?
 - b. Validate the outcomes
 - c. Work via social media

The immediate focus is to identify greenspace datasets – for starters, what greenspace datasets held by the National Capital Commission and the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau hold. Could these be identified and listed on a Google doc by October 3?

Nick Stow will list all the city’s datasets – this is part of the update of the Greenspace Master Plan.

Other questions asked of Nick Stow included: Is the list of the 200+ Urban Natural Areas part of the dataset that the ONS knows about; are conservation areas listed? He answered that some greenspaces were listed as parks but are not managed as parks. Is there a list of amenities such as benches, lights in greenspaces – Nick will see if he can find out. Provincially Significant Wetlands and wetland cover were also mentioned and again, Nick is to provide what information he can.

The comparability of the ONS data and the city’s data can’t be evaluated because of the because of the tight timelines surrounding the development of the Official Plan and Nick cannot hold up his work just because the ONS system is on a different timeline.

Data Merging will include the following sets

- The cycling network – city + the NCC network of cycle paths
- Pedestrian network - city + the NCC network of pedestrian paths
- Trails – ONS has merged the city + NCC + Canada Trail into one map/layer
- Parks – the city and NCC datasets are merged
 - The polygons in these two datasets do not necessarily overlap and the question is Why? And the answer may be that some are stormwater management ponds in the city inventory – if they can be used by the public, they are called “parks” – i.e. two different classifications.
 - Look at Open Street

I mentioned EDDMapS (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System) and iNaturalist – both work on a ‘by species’ system but for the most part, the species listed would occur in the wild/natural areas.

INNOVATION

Mike Sawada is measuring the perceived quality of greenspace using Mapillary. Human participants look at 2 GoPro pictures and say where they would rather be. This process allows the neural network AI

system to “learn” and eventually, look at only one picture and judge greenspace quality without human intervention.

The ONS is also working on walkability. The data (or pictures?) are on the ONS website for every street in Ottawa.

Next Steps

- Identify all data sources/datasets
- Produce a data dictionary by Christmas
- Look for funding – the Community Foundation is one potential source
- Next meeting will be in late October – look for a Doodle Poll
- Attend Ecology Ottawa workshops – Morgan’s Grant and Kanata North SMH and the hydro corridor – contact greenspaceprotection@ecologyottawa.ca

Iola Price

23 September 2019