

## Mechanicsville and 6,000 allies name their vision

In less than a month, more than 6,000 Canadians have signed a petition to municipal and federal leaders and the National Capital Commission, in support of a *positive vision for a greener future*. Their message?



**YES to Trees, NO to Embassies.**



Mechanicsville Community Association, other community associations in Kitchissippi Ward, two environmental groups, and now thousands of

concerned citizens are speaking out in favour of preserving **Lazy Bay Commons**.

Since early in 2021, Mechanicsville Community Association's working group dealing with issue has wondered how to describe the 3.7 acres of wooded land that the NCC is asking the City of Ottawa to rezone for a crowded and risk-laden embassy precinct.

Now, thanks to a resident's creative suggestion, we are naming it **Lazy Bay Commons**. Why? Because it overlooks the tiny and serene Lazy Bay, just across the NCC parkway from the community's common, open greenspace. Our vision for this land aims to preserve it as a common place of respite and natural beauty, closely tied to the Ottawa River.

The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and Big Trees of Kitchissippi, along with CAs from Kitchissippi Ward, and more than 6,000 online supporters are urging the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa **to collaborate with us in making a positive difference**.

**We want the NCC and city officials to act now to maintain and protect Lazy Bay Commons as an urban forest that mitigates climate crisis. It is a much-loved greenspace that urban residents need, want, and wish to help maintain far into this century, and beyond.**

- In a letter to the NCC's Board of Directors and CEO Tobi Nussbaum dated April 21, 2021, Mechanicsville CA asked the NCC to:
  - withdraw its zoning application to the City of Ottawa;
  - incorporate this greenspace into the adjacent Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park where it will be connected to the National Pathway thereby enabling all Canadian to enjoy this beautiful site with elevated views to Lazy Bay;
  - work with the local communities on the design of the greenspace and explore the Mechanicsville Community Association's offer to work together to secure the resources needed to plant and maintain trees on this site.



Distanced protesters at the parkway edge of Lazy Bay Commons on Earth Day (April 22, 2021) at 8 a.m.

- Support for an alternate vision is not difficult. The NCC just needs to press the pause button. Our April 21 letter ended as follows:  
“The NCC Board should require that an Area Plan be developed that addresses, as a minimum, all of the above matters and be approved by the federal government before the City is requested to amend its planning documents and zoning.”

**Community groups in support of the vision for Lazy Bay Commons:**

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