

Greenspace Alliance submission to the City of Ottawa Environment and Climate Change Committee concerning the 2024 City Budget

To: Christopher.Zwierzchowski@ottawa.ca
Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 11:59 a.m.

On behalf of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, please accept our written submission regarding agenda items 6.1 and 9.1 of the ECCC meeting of November 21 2023.

Agenda item 6.1
Budget priorities:

The following are the priorities of the Greenspace Alliance regarding the 2024 budget, all under the Natural Systems Service Area.

1. Appropriate funding of the reserve for the acquisition of natural areas: In the past, a specific reserve was set aside for discretionary acquisition of natural lands. It is not clear from budget documentation if such a fund still exists. If not, one should be re-instated, with particular focus on the rural area. This would support the explicit program area described in the budget under Natural Systems: Identify rural natural lands for acquisitions by the City.
2. Full funding for the Urban Forest Management Plan: The UFMP needs to be fully funded so that activities laid out in the plan for 2024 are completed on time, not delayed or deferred for lack of funding or resources.
3. Addressing tree conservation in the rural area: Other than acquisition, the City has few tools to conserve woodlands and wetlands outside the Natural Heritage System. Funding should be provided to investigate and introduce measures such as tax incentives, subsidies, land swaps and other positive measures for the preservation of rural woodlands, natural areas and wildlife corridors on private land.

Agenda item 9.1
Tree Protection Bylaw:

The Greenspace Alliance wishes to register its full support for the proposed extension to the suburban area of the threshold for the recognition as distinctive trees of all trees of 30 cm diameter or greater at breast height.

Paul Johanis
Chair, Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital