

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa is finalizing its first-ever combined Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (PRFMP) in support of the new Official Plan (OP), with recommendations about new and existing parks and recreation facilities to meet Ottawa's projected growth by 2031 to go to the Community and Protective Services Committee and City Council in September, 2021

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Glebe Community Association sends a letter to the City of Ottawa communicating feedback from the Association on the City of Ottawa's draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, including the GCA's:

- thanks to the City of Ottawa staff for their ongoing efforts to put forward a vision for the city's parks and recreation facilities in the years to come;
- urging of the city to follow best practices for climate sustainability, health and urban liveability and increase the amount of parkland and green space in areas facing increased intensification;
- view decrying the reduction in green parkland per/capita targets, amenities and facilities in the face of plans to reduce private setbacks/greenspace while increasing density:
 - as density is being increased, especially in urban areas, with more people/hectare and less private green space available per person, it is essential that the city increase park and recreation facilities, particularly in the inner urban areas where per person access to parks and recreational space will be reduced and where residents already experience far less parkland access than other residents;
 - the Glebe currently has less than half the parkland guaranteed to residents in new developments but is targeted to have increased density. This is coupled with the higher costs of land in the urban core making it even more prohibitive for the city to acquire additional park land in the Glebe.
- desire to see more micro-parks and to urge addition of an "Inner Urban Micro-Parkette" class of parks between .01 ha - .4 ha eligible for land acquisition under Cash in Lieu of Parkland (CILP) funds. Parkland Dedication Bylaw's current .4 ha minimum size for the allocation of CILP for land acquisition prohibits urban neighbourhoods, which already experience parkland poverty, from taking advantage of city Cash in Lieu of Parkland funding to create public green spaces in the face of intensification. Without such a change, CILP will be effectively prevented from increasing parkland in neighbourhoods like the Glebe.
 - The draft plan park typology (p. 164) stipulates .4 ha (=4000 sq m = 43,056 sq ft) as the minimum Parkette size, 0.2 ha (=2000 sq m = 21,528 sq ft) to 0.4 ha as the minimum size of an Urban Parkette, and .04 ha (=400 sq m = 4306 sq ft) for Urban Plazas. Even this Urban Plaza minimum (43' x 100') is larger than most single family lots in the neighbourhood, and exceeds any likely new potential park acquisition in the Glebe. The Glebe's newest park, the intensively used Exploration Garden, is less than the stipulated

Urban Plaza size, for example. Only the .4 ha Parkette would be eligible for CILP land acquisition funding.

- Only CILP can be used for land acquisition, Development Charges may not.
- While the Draft plan broadly favours acquisition of large parkland units across the city, it is crucial that in the Core and Inner Urban mature neighbourhoods there be recognition of micro parkettes as a means of mitigating climate change, development pressure and of enhancing the liveability of inner urban areas.
- wish to have the Glebe, and indeed other Inner Urban neighbourhoods, be granted Special Administrative Area status so that 100% of the CILP raised in the neighbourhood will be allocated to use in the special administrative area so that sufficient funds can be raised to acquire new park land despite the high cost of land in this park-deficient area;
- wish that any proposal for a program-based Development Charge model that collects urban park development charges from new residential units in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects, ensures that funds placed in an Inside the Greenbelt Urban Park DC Reserve Fund be equitably allocated to Downtown Core and Inner Urban parks which will have contributed to the Reserve Fund.
- concern that the City is counting school-owned greenspace as parkspace, when communities do not have direct say on how it is to be used, if at all, for park space;
- desire that the plan clarify the wording related to the status of Lansdowne Park (including Aberdeen and Horticulture buildings and Aberdeen Square) -- that it is a City-owned and City-run urban park area and public space (and that only the part that is leased to OSEG and run as a partnership be called a P3 recreation complex); and
- desire the parks and facilities master plan to recognize the unique character of heritage parks and that they require different standards of park furniture, lighting, pathways, horticulture and maintenance, including control of invasive species, higher levels of floriculture and historically appropriate choices of trees, shrubs and plant materials. Each heritage park should have an individual maintenance plan developed.
 - As the Central Park West, Central Park East (including Patterson Creek Lagoon Park) have received Heritage designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, the City Parks and Recreation Master Plan should ensure that the cultural heritage values of these built heritage landscapes be maintained through ensuring that overgrowth of bordering wooded areas be trimmed and thinned each year to remove invasive species of shrubs, vines or trees so as to encourage unimpeded reciprocal views between the surrounding heritage properties and streets and the heritage parks themselves;
 - Such action by the City assisted by volunteers during the Cleaning the Capital program would respect the original designs of these heritage parks to the degree possible and

promote pedestrian and park patron safety near the currently dense and overgrown borders of these parks.