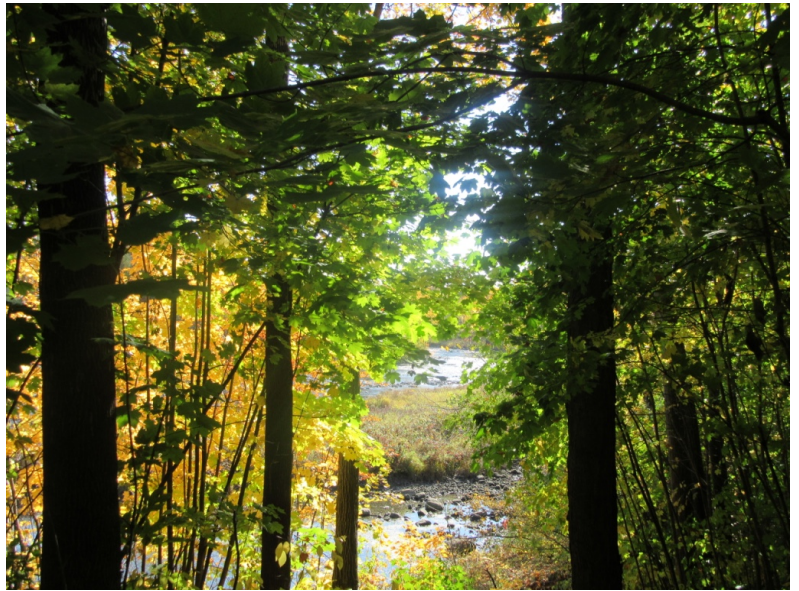


Beryl Gaffney Park ... How We Can Collectively Move Forward

Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association (MCPRA) is grateful that the proposed 'fenced-in' dog park is no longer being considered for Beryl Gaffney (BG) Park, as originally put forward in June 2019.

We're also grateful that the \$400K used to enlarge BG Park, is coming from city-wide cash-in-lieu funds, and NOT being taken from the BG Park development account. Finally, we're very pleased that after 20+ years, a component of the 1999 BG Park Master Plan, a picnic area, is currently being designed with construction targeted for 2021.



Councilor Meehan, in her Manotick Messenger columns of September 11 and 25, called for 'a refresh' of the BG Master Plan. She also called for collaboration between Friends of Beryl Gaffney Park and MCPRA.

While appreciative of this suggestion, we propose a more comprehensive approach – the establishment of a Task Force that includes a representative from each of the following stakeholder groups (listed alphabetically):

1. Beryl Gaffney Family
2. Friends of Beryl Gaffney Park
3. Half Moon Bay Community Association
4. Hearts Desire Community Association
5. Manotick Culture, Parks & Recreation Association
6. Manotick Village & Community Association
7. Nicolls Island Community Association
8. Riverside South Community Association
9. Stonebridge Community Association
10. West Barrhaven Community Association

City of Ottawa and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority staff, and landscape architectural experts could support and be resources to the Task Force; Councilors should *not* participate on the Task Force as they have ultimate decision-making authority.

To facilitate a Master Plan Refresh, the Task Force would need a sense of what components of the original Master Plan Ottawa residents currently support, as well as whether there are any fresh ideas. To this end, the Task Force would create a comprehensive survey, post it on the City's website, and solicit city-wide input. The aim would be to receive at least 500 responses from a wide cross-section of residents.

With these results in hand and publicly posted, the Task Force would:

- discuss and adjust the current Master Plan accordingly, based on both community input, design principles and park development expertise;
- create a ten-year Park Development Schedule, using the available BG Park development funds and leveraging additional resources;
- broadly and publicly circulate the updated Master Plan and Park Development Schedule;
- take the final Master Plan and Park Development Schedule to Community and Protective Services Committee and Council for approval, where all Councilors would have an opportunity for final input.

The above should be completed within 6-9 months.

To move forward, the community needs further and final input, transparency, a timeline, clear process, and formal Council endorsement and commitment.

Beryl Gaffney Park is too precious and too significant to not be developed, or to be developed piecemeal without a vision and Master Plan.

Anne Robinson, on behalf of
Manotick Culture, Parks and Recreation Association