



2023 Summer Quarterly Newsletter Manotick Culture, Parks & Recreation Association

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Manotick Culture, Parks, & Recreation Association (MCPRA) is a non-profit, incorporated, volunteer organization that leads and supports environmentally responsible culture, parks and recreation community projects and services in Manotick.

Manotick Indoor Walking Group

The Walking Group is an active and fun program led by instructor Pat DeClerq, retired nurse and certified fitness instructor. The program includes light warm-up and cool-down exercises, Nordic pole instruction (if desired), and indoor walking. The fall program will start September 25, 2023. For details, check <https://www.mcpra.org/manotickwalkinggroup>
MCPRA Project Lead: Darlene Donnelly at dardon956@gmail.com / 613-769-8378.

Introducing the Chic Time in the 'Tick Team

Chic Time in the 'Tick 2024 will return to the Manotick Curling Rink, Friday May 10, 2024 with an Enchanted Garden theme. This is a major MCPRA fundraising event in support of local recreation / environmental initiatives. The 2024 organizing team is being led by MCPRA Board members Darlene Donnelly and Alexa Ives and includes the following Committee members: Joanne Mack, Sue Hale, Sue Kennedy, Susan Goodwin, Tara Adlington, Tara Lanouett, Teri Croucher, Tracy Gates, and Wendy Eberwein

MCPRA Project Lead: Darlene Donnelly dardon956@gmail.com

Public Access to the Rideau River

MCPRA has had several recent inquiries regarding public access to the Rideau River. In 2016 MCPRA worked with the City to create 'public access signage' and to put signs at each of the public access areas within the Village.

An updated list of access points is now on the MCPRA website. <https://www.mcpra.org/water-access-signs-1>. Regrettably some of the water access signs have been removed by unknown perpetrators. Residents can also see the public rights-of-way or road allowance areas on page 65 of the [Manotick Secondary Plan](#).

Tree Planting Hilltop Park

“I’m going to come back in 20 years and see this forest mountain!” exclaimed the excited student volunteer.

After months of planning, 200 trees including hackberry, basswood, red oak, sugar maple, serviceberry, white pine, staghorn sumac and nannyberry, were planted on May 25 at Hilltop Park, which runs from Long Island Road, up to the pond area on Hilltop Drive.



MCPRA first approached the City in 2019 to naturalize this Hilltop Park area – a remnant park parcel with little active recreation potential. Finally getting approval in fall 2022 to plant a portion of the site, MCPRA crafted an action plan.

Tom Plant, MCPRA Parks Committee Chair and a retired teacher, approached the Environment Clubs from both Manotick Public School and St. Leonard’s Catholic School to assist with the planting. Councilor David Brown was fully supportive, and the immediate neighbours provided input and endorsement.

On the day of the planting, the City supplied the trees, mulch, shovels and did a demonstration on how to properly plant a tree. Many thanks to staffers Laura Wood and her capable assistant, Morgan.

Snacks and welcomed refreshments were provided by the local business community – cookies from 692 Café, juice from McDonough’s Independent, and large beverage dispensers from Manotick Home Hardware. A big ‘thank you’ to these supportive local businesses.

At the conclusion of this productive afternoon, the teachers from St. Leonard’s and Manotick Public were overheard chatting “we need to ‘bridge’ next year and do something together like this again”. Many seeds were planted that day, beyond simply trees!

With climate change, it feels good when you can make a small contribution on the positive side. It takes a team.... action happens when everyone pulls together in the same direction.

MCPRA Project Lead: Tom Plant tomplant54@gmail.com

West River Park (northwest corner of Bridge & West River) - the Duck Park

MCPRA cares for this park – putting down wood chips, keeping the site clean, and retaining the park in its natural state. This spring some native shrubs and plants were planted including highbush cranberry, sumac, nannyberry, chokecherry, and native flowers – monarda, coneflower, asters, milkweed, and wild blue indigo.



Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted with the planting – Viv Mitchell, Ron Robinson, and Patricia Roy, and to the City for providing mulch for the pathway and a garbage can for the site.

MCPRA Project Lead: Tom Plant tomplant54@gmail.com

Construction Gets Underway at Centennial Park

After almost five years of planning, consulting, fundraising, and doing detailed design work, construction of the skateboard and pump track facility is now underway at the northeast corner of Centennial Park.

MCPRA began a two-phase endeavour in 2019 with the development of a concept design to revitalize Centennial Park. Based on extensive community consultation, the redevelopment of the northeast corner of the park was established as a key priority.

Phase 1 (the basketball courts and new outdoor rink) began in 2020 and was completed in 2022. This retrofit included a new asphalt surface, lighting, tree planting, a seasonal / removable outdoor rink, and basketball infrastructure. The courts are not only used by the popular summer day camps, but they are heavily used in the evenings by local and out-of-town youth.

Phase 2 includes replacing the skateboard park and construction of a new pump track facility. [A 'pump track' is an asphalt track with various banked curves and elevations that can be used by 'all wheels' including bicycles, skateboards and scooters.] The facilities are 'small town' scale, designed to appeal to both the beginner and those with some experience, but not intended for the 'expert'.

Some may wonder - why build both a skateboard and pump track facility? While looking at various options and visiting other local sites, such as Carleton Place and Perth, it was observed that there were a greater number of young girls using the pump track and the track was popular for any child who had a bicycle. In other words, the pump track offered greater access and use.

After stakeholder consultation and design development by experts in the field, the final Phase 2 design was completed in November 2022; tendered in February 2023; and awarded to an Ottawa firm, Prestige Design and Construction, in May 2023.

Prestige is now on site and estimates completion by late Fall 2023. The perimeter safety fencing went up on July 24th and to date the old equipment, signage, asphalt and some topsoil have been removed. The drainage work began in early August with the installation of the underground drains and weepers connecting to the existing stormwater system. The pump track is now taking shape and the cement skateboard pad will be developed in September.



This project has been feasible because of the contributions of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments and the generosity of many businesses, non-profits, and individuals.

Follow the progress of this exciting community project on the MCPRA website – pictures updated weekly. <https://www.mcpra.org/skateboard-park>

MCPRA Project Lead: Anne Robinson at anne@annerobinson.ca / 613-692-3934.

Centennial Park Pathways Project

MCPRA is undertaking a project to look at potential upgrades and enhancements to the Centennial Park pathway network. With funding from the federal government's Active Transportation Fund, MCPRA contracted landscape architects Ruhland and Associates.

To date an inventory analysis of the pathways and entrances with detailed notes of their condition has been completed. This work was presented at a community consultation June 6, followed by a survey for further community input. Seventeen responses were received, with the majority living within 1 km of the park and accessing it via walking or cycling.

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In the fall MCPRA will be working with Ruhland and Associates to look at recommendations, budget, and priorities. With this information MCPRA will be able to apply for additional funding opportunities and work with the City on an implementation plan.

MCPRA Project Lead: Alexa Ives at aaives@rogers.com

Transportation Master Plan

The City has recently released its updated Part 1 [Transportation Master Plan](#), (TMP) along with a project list. The next step is the development of Part 2 – a Capital Infrastructure Plan, including additional public engagement on proposed transit, road and network investment scenarios.

To provide input to Part 2 of the TMP, MCPRA has now formed a Sub-Committee including Alexa Ives, Kyle Cuthbert, Janet Perry and Robin Wisener, to undertake the following:

- Do an inventory and identify the gaps in recreational pathways *within* the Village;
- Assess recreational pathway connections *to* nearby Villages and destinations and identify gaps;
- Prioritize future recreational pathway priorities.

MCPRA is working in collaboration with the Manotick Village and Community Association and other area groups wanting to advance recreational pathways in the area.

MCPRA Project Lead: Anne Robinson anne@annerobinson.ca / 613-692-3934

Barney McCarney Landing and Long Island Sidewalk

You may have been out walking and noticed the clear-cut area at the end of Van Vliet Road, known as Barney McCarney Landing. The City's Project Manager, Julie Lyons, indicated that this area had all vegetation removed in preparation for the Watermain Link that will be constructed in 2023-24, running from David Bartlett Park, along Bravar, Long Island Road to Van Vliet where it will cross the River. *"The tree clearing is required for the trenchless operation to take the watermain from one side of the river to the other. Due to the underground conditions, micro tunnelling is the preferred method, which requires a lot of space."*

The City has confirmed that the area will be reinstated at the conclusion of the construction. You can see the planting plan at:

https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents/files/CP598_Mar2023_BarneyMcCarney09_en.pdf

This project and construction will also include a sidewalk along Long Island Road on the Manotick Public School side, from Bridge St. to Riverside Cr. (south entrance).

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McLean Park & Centennial Park Outdoor Rink Volunteers

While we're not quite thinking about winter yet...we're prepping for the 'outdoor rink' season!

MCPRA operates both outdoor rinks in Manotick – one located in Hillside Gardens at McLean Park and the other at Centennial Park, adjacent to the Mike O'Neil Arena.



Jason Purcell leads the McLean Park team and Tom Hollinger heads up the Centennial Park group.

Every year volunteers are needed and welcomed. If you'd like to join this team who work quietly in the background to provide an extraordinary community service, contact: manotick.ODR@gmail.com

MCPRA Project Lead: Mike O'Neil at manotick.mike@gmail.com

Thank you to Mahogany Landing Visitors

This summer brought boaters, swimmers, sitters, and cyclists to Mahogany Landing.

Thanks to all for respecting each other and the various creative uses of this dynamic access to the Rideau River.

MCPRA led this collective community effort to build a dock, and from its inception the area was conceived as a 'multi-use' space, to be enjoyed by residents and visitors.



Thank you for sharing this precious space.

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