

Champlain Park Community Association Enviro Summary Report: 2019

Sustainable Living in a Healthy Urban Forest is one of five core and interconnected goals of the Champlain Park Community Association (see the website for the others). The Enviro Committee (formally called the Environment Committee) has accomplished many projects this year in support of this goal.

1. Woodlands Revitalization:

- a. At Patricia and Clearview (the “Littlewoods”)
- b. Along Pontiac near the school play structures (“Trout Lily Lane”)
- c. Inside the “Champlain Woods” between Keyworth and Cowley (the “Wigwam Circle”).

The overall goal of the project is to revitalize the woodlands bordering the residential neighbourhood by connecting fragmented green spaces and bringing colour, native plant diversity, birds and beneficial insects into the woodlands (a detailed report is available on request). In short, the project involved two interconnected activities:

- Removal of unneeded and damaged fences between the Littlewoods (a City-owned environmentally protected lot) and the “Champlain Woods” (the larger NCC protected woodlands) to connect and merge the two greenspaces into one. Funding for this activity, coordinated by Adrian Bradley, came from Councillor Leiper’s office (\$510), an Environmental Grant from the City (\$650) and a cash donation from a neighbour. Rita and Jim Blatman contributed in various ways, as did the NCC and the City.
- The judicious removal of dominant invasive plants (buckthorn, poison ivy, garlic mustard, Japanese Knotweed, Dog-strangling vine) and introduction of native trees and native flowering plants and shrubs. Building on successful tree planting efforts of the previous three years, in 2019 the project shifted to focus on creating an understory of native ground cover and shrubs needed to enhance biodiversity and begin to nudge out invasive plants. Lead volunteers were Catherine Shearer, John Arnason, Daniel Buckles and Adrian Bradley, with support from Ken Stevenson, Rita and Jim Blatman, Steve Cumbaa, Linda Landreville, Alex Smith, Viv Walsworth, Charles Hodgson and other residents. We dug holes, added soil, and planted a range of native flowering plants and shrubs as well as a few new trees (tamarack, balsam fir, eastern white cedar, sugar maple, burr oak). Funding (\$1,109) provided by the CPCA went into the purchase of planting stock and materials to protect saplings in all three spaces (the Littlewoods, Trout Lily Lane and the Wigwam Circle), with cash and in-kind contributions from John Arnason and other residents.

2. Expansion of the Municipal Park to connect the NCC greenspace and the Ottawa river.

The project, involving Councillor Leiper's office, the EnviroCentre, and the NCC, connects the green spaces, formally brings the SJAM all-purpose trail into the park, provides a new permeable surface to help manage surface water and calms traffic. Funding was provided from outside sources, with volunteers led by Adrian Bradley.

3. **Planters on Pontiac**

The project mobilized 7 volunteer gardeners to beautify Pontiac Avenue at the Park. The planters will remain in place for coming years. The project has a new volunteer coordinator, Alexandra Evershed, taking over from Daniel Buckles.

4. **Maintenance of woodland trails**

The trails in Champlain Woods and Remic Woods are maintained on a regular basis, mainly by Adrian Bradley. This involves trimming overhanging branches, removal of fallen trees and bushes, cleaning debris off the trails and spreading wood chips in low places to improve walkability. The goal is to maintain safe and accessible year-round trails and accommodate the SJAM multi-purpose main trail in winter months.

5. **Ottawa River monitoring**

Water quality at Remic Beach (north end of Carleton) was regularly monitored by Dan Wilcock, our local member of Ottawa Riverkeeper's riverwatcher network (a detailed report available on request). Water Rangers provided a Citizen Science kit to test temperature, clarity, pH, hardness, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen and conductivity of the river water, and water samples were regularly tested for E.coli at Ottawa Riverkeeper's in-house Citizen Science Lab. The good news is that water quality results at Remic Beach were overall very good (see results at:

<https://app.waterrangers.ca/locations/2513>

<https://www.theswimguide.org/beach/9207>

6. **A Purple Martin Birdhouse** was set up by the NCC along the Ottawa River Parkway towards the Remic Woods (Adrian Bradley and Catherine Shearer, coordinating).
7. **A Monarch Butterfly Meadow** in the Champlain Woods near Island Park Drive was launched and will be improved in 2020 (Adrian Bradley and Catherine Shearer, coordinating)
8. **A Guide to Planting Trees in Small Spaces** was developed and tested with neighbours (available for use in our shrinking yards). (Daniel Buckles, coordinating).
9. **A Review of the City of Ottawa Tree By-laws**, facilitated by Daniel Buckles with assistance from Heather Pearl, mobilized 40 Community Associations across the city to make recommendations regarding the City's tree by-laws.