

### **Summary:**

The majority of Environment Committee time for 2022 was focussed on the following:

1. Developing a submission for the City of Ottawa administered Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP);
2. Care, maintenance and 'replacement planting' of the existing planting sites found along Patricia Ave North and Pontiac St (Black Walnut Way, Trout Lily Lane, the Native and Carolinian Forest (aka the Terraces), the Pollinator Garden, and the Tiny Forest);
3. Seed preparation; and
4. Development of new planting sites as proposed in the CEPGP submission.

### **Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP):**

The community's submission/proposal was accepted and \$2550 in funding was allocated to support the development of three focussed planting initiatives: 1) A mini Alvar Forest; 2) a mini Flowering Forest; and 3) an Indigenous Ethno botanical Garden. For practical development and maintenance purposes, these new initiatives sit on and around the current Native Forest and Pollinator Garden sites. Work began in late summer 2022 to develop the sites associated with this grant. Planting is expected in spring 2023. Key planners and contributors were John Arnason, Daniel Buckles and Catherine Shearer. Expenses to date have totalled \$899.99.

### **CPCA Funding:**

Community Association funding support has been directed toward: purchasing replacement trees (due to winter die off); minor equipment maintenance; commemorative 'biodiversity' sign installation (at the north east corner of Champlain Park, at the corner of Pontiac and Carleton); the purchase of mulch used in one of the planting sites to help better define pathways and improve safety in an area prone to Poison Ivy and tripping hazards. Of note, replacement trees were generally native fruit and nut trees intended to increase the 'edible forest' content of the planting sites. Expenses for this year have totalled \$705.

### **Learning Events/Educational Activities:**

Two learning events were hosted in Champlain Park this year. Approx 35 participants were recorded in attendance for a June guided walk-through and lecture in the Native and Tiny Forests, the Pollinator Garden, and Black Walnut Way. This activity was led by Daniel Buckles and supported by the members of the Committee. Elmdale School students participated in a guided walk of Champlain Woods and the community's planting sites in October. This activity was suggested by Peter Laughton and supported

by John Arnason, Catherine Shearer and Daniel Buckles. Approx 60 Grade 4 and 5 students (along with their teachers) participated over two days.

### **Commemorative Sign:**

The Environment Committee completed a project led by Daniel Buckles to create a sign to celebrate community-based biodiversity restoration activities in Champlain Park and the beautification of the northern edge of the City park and boundary with NCC lands. Funding of roughly \$1500 was provided by the CPCA, Councillor Leiper's office, and through a donation by the family of Peter Simms. The sign was conceived, and installed by volunteers; and production costs were greatly offset by the volunteers working in the businesses that helped facilitate this project.

Sign Text:

#### Restoring Native Biodiversity

In 2019, residents of Champlain Park and the Office of Councillor Jeff Leiper de-paved a section of Pontiac Avenue to connect the park to the Ottawa River and capture rainwater. Since then, volunteers have planted native pollinator gardens and community forests that bring colour and joy to urban life.

### **General Statistics:**

1. Approximately 85% of the trees planted in Black Walnut Way and Trout Lily Lane have survived two seasons. These sites feature a 'mound building' planting technique and feature 87 purpose planted and protected trees. See Annexes A and B. Illustrates the benefit of using different planting techniques to match the local conditions encountered.
2. Approximately 90% of the items planted in the summer and fall of 2021 (Tiny Forest) survived through the winter, spring and summer of 2022. This planting site features very localized excavations, and limited new soil supplement. This site features 134 purpose planted and protected trees and shrubs. See Annex C. This former road bed/parking lot is well on its way to being rehabilitated.
3. The Native/Carolinian Forest planting site now hosts approximately 200 different trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants. Planting at this site was completed in summer 2022. This site successfully makes use of a significant amount of storm water overflow in this area, and benefits from an extensive excavation, and mixed organic material and native soil backfill undertaking. Pollinators have returned to the site: monarch butterflies, ruby throated hummingbirds, a variety of bees, etc.; and a variety of other small mammals and amphibians have taken up residence there. This former road bed/parking lot is well on its way to being rehabilitated.

4. A semi-permanent rain garden and ethno botanical-themed perennial garden was further developed and maintained in 2022 at the west end of the de-paved section of Pontiac St. Approximately 50 different species have been curated and planted on this site. This site and the adjacent Native/Carolinian Forest have proven successful at making use of a significant amount of storm water overflow in this area. Pollinators have returned to the site: monarch butterflies, ruby throated hummingbirds, a variety of bees and others. Toads are more present in the area, as are a number of voles and rabbits.

5. In 2022, more than 75 native species were grown from seed sourced from native plant seed companies, or obtained as Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Ferguson Forest Nursery, and Ontario native plant nurseries.

6. The plantings featured in different areas: 1) native tree and shrub species of the Ottawa area; 2) Carolinian species to prepare for climate change; 3) species to support pollinators; and 4) food species to support wild birds and other wildlife.

7. Interesting tree/shrub species featured in plantings: See Annex A, B and C. Annex D to follow separately.

8. Volunteers engaged: 5 Committee members; approx. 21 total volunteers, including seven from outside the Champlain Park neighbourhood and 11 students. Special mention goes out to Ayame Tobin, one of our 'star' student volunteers, for all the watering done this summer.

9. In-Kind donations: Received from various sources, these donations (separate from the Simms Family cash donation) in support of Environment Committee activities totalled an approximate value of \$900 - \$1100 during the year. Donations included rain barrels, hoses, spare/replacement parts, tree protection supplies, transportation, mulch and a range of plants, seeds, and trees.

Annex A

<b>Black Walnut Way (BWW)</b>		
<b>Summary:</b> 47 Trees, 16 species		
<b>Planting method:</b> Hugelkulture mounds; black and native soil mix; mulch		
<b>Verification Period:</b> Autumn 2022		
	<b>Species</b>	<b># Specimens</b>
1	Alternate leaf dogwood	3
2	American sycamore	1
3	Black choke cherry	2
4	Black Elderberry	6
5	Bladder nut	1
6	Bur Oak	13
7	Eastern white cedar	6
8	Eastern redbud	1
9	Eastern White Pine	1
10	Fly honey suckle	3
11	Fragrant sumac	2
12	Silver maple	2
13	Tamarack	1
14	White birch	2
15	White Spruce	1
16	Yellow birch	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>

Annex B

<b>Trout Lily Lane (east and west side of trail) (TLL)</b>		
<b>Summary:</b> 40 trees, 13 species		
<b>Planting method:</b> Hugelkultur mounds (80%); black and native soil mix; mulch; some direct planting in native soil		
<b>Verification Period:</b> Autumn 2022		
	<b>Species</b>	<b># Specimens</b>
1	Alternate leaf dogwood	4
2	Black choke cherry	2
3	Black elderberry	3
4	Burr oak	7
5	Button bush	1
6	Choke cherry	1
7	Eastern White Cedar	2
8	Pagoda Dogwood	1
9	Showy Mountain Ash	1
10	Tamarack	2
11	White birch	8
12	White spruce	2
13	Wild rose	2
14	Yellow Birch	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>

Annex C

<b>Eastern Tiny Forest (Pontiac; NW to Carleton) (ETF)</b>		
<b>Summary:</b> 134 trees, 27 species		
<b>Planting method:</b> direct planting in holes dug to bedrock in native soil; with black and native soil mix; mulch		
<b>Verification Period:</b> Autumn 2022		
	<b>Species</b>	<b># Specimens</b>
1	Alternate leaf dogwood	7
2	American basswood	1
3	Black berry	1
4	Black caps raspberry	1
5	Burr oak	15
6	Butter nut	3
7	Choke cherry	15
8	Common snowberry	1
9	Eastern white cedar	1
10	Eastern white pine	4
11	Fragrant sumac	2
12	High bush cranberry	15
13	Ironwood	1
14	Nanny berry	15
15	Nine bark	1
16	Pin cherry	1
17	Red maple	1
18	Red oak	5
19	Red osier dogwood	15
20	Serviceberry	1
21	Silver maple	15
22	Tamarack	2
23	White birch	6
24	Winter berry	1
25	Yellow birch	2
26	Coffee tree	1
27	Tulip tree	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>134</b>

Annex D