



2020 Report: Environment Committee, CPCA

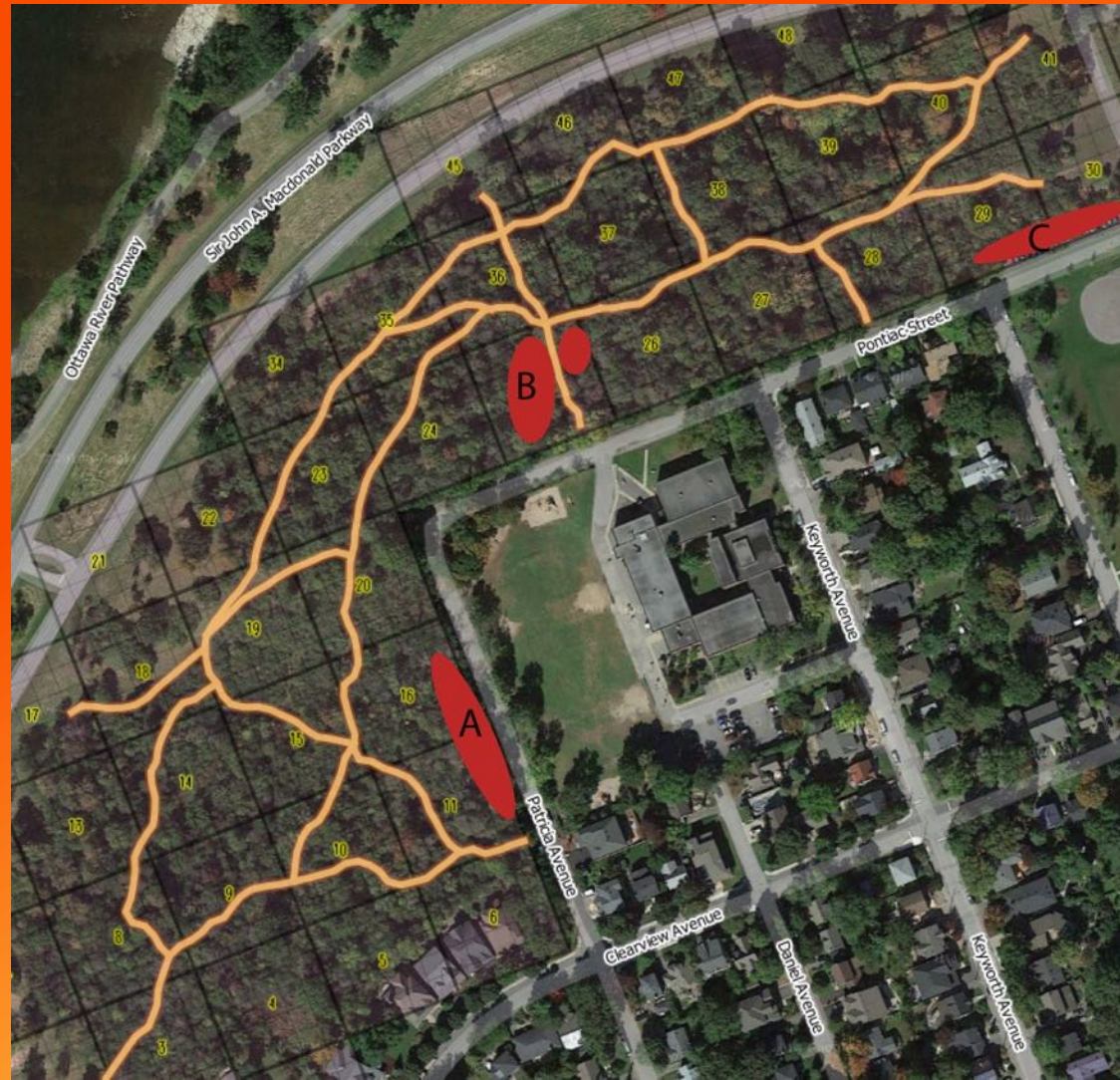
Vision (from CPCA Plan)

- *Sustainable Living in a Healthy Urban Forest*

Main 2020 Activities

- Revitalizing the Champlain Woods
- Expansion of the Park
- Contributions to city-wide policies

Revitalizing the Champlain Woods



Revitalizing the Champlain Woods

- Planting 90+ native trees and shrubs



Revitalizing the Champlain Woods

- Removing invasive plants
- Stabilizing and maintaining trails



Revitalizing the Champlain Woods

- Monitoring water flow



Revitalizing the Champlain Woods

- Supporting and protecting wildlife



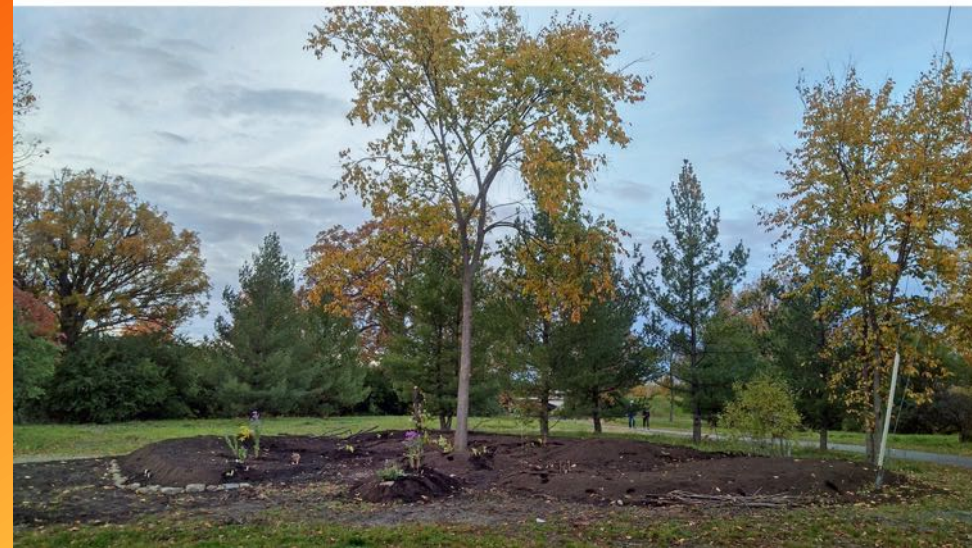
Expansion of the Park

- Tending 7 planters



Expansion of the Park

- Establish a native pollinator garden



Contributions to City-wide Policies

- Tree Protection By-law
- Heritage Oaks
- New Official Plan
- Planting trees in small spaces



Welcome contributions

- Energy saving options
- Light pollution
- Wildlife / Domestic animals
- Thanks!



2020 Report: Environment Committee, CPCA (text and slides)

1. 2020 Report: Environment Committee, CPCA
2. The association community plan for the environment is to foster “sustainable living in a healthy urban forest”. Activities of the Environment Committee for 2020 can be divided into three blocks: i) revitalizing the Champlain Woods; ii) expanding the Park; iii) informing city-wide policies
3. Revitalization of the Champlain Woods focused in 2020 on the three areas marked in red on the map, plus the orange lines showing the system of trails.
4. We have been planting trees and shrubs in these areas for 5 years now. 2019 focused on introducing native shrubs and flowering plants as an understory for previously planted trees. This year we tried out an innovative tree planting technique by building mounds and trenches of rotting wood and soil instead of digging into the very rocky and thin soils. It allowed us to plant many more trees than we have every accomplished before, more than 70 in all over a period of a few days. A \$1,600 Community Environment grant from the City of Ottawa helped us with the purchase of soil, tree saplings and wire cages.
5. We also continued to stabilize and maintain trails in the woods, and efforts to hold back the invasive Japanese Knotweed by smothering it under tarps. While the small Buckthorn tree is also an invasive, non-native plant, it is so dominant in the woods we limit our efforts to areas where native trees are being actively planted. The photo show Adrian Bradley at the worst of the Japanese Knotweed plots and Catherine Shearer with Buckthorn root puller she borrowed from the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.
6. We have also been monitoring water flow in the woods, which continues to present risks of flooding near Pontiac and stagnant water in the woods. Some vegetation around the drainage ditch at the north end of Northwestern was removed in error, and we still need to think through and plan with the NCC and the City how to replace the vegetation and improve drainage from there out to the river.
7. Finally, efforts to revitalize the Champlain Woods have also tried to support and protect local wildlife. This includes work with the NCC to put up and manage a Purple Martin birdhouse and efforts to encourage dog walkers to keep control of their dogs with a leash. The woods have lots of rabbits, mice and squirrels in them, which naturally attracts apex predators such as the red fox.
8. The second major block of activity by the committee has been work to support expansion of Champlain Park. The Pontiac depaving initiative which started in 2018 involved setting up 7 planters cared for by volunteers. I don't have a photo of the planters from this year, but I do know that this year they offered lots of green, a splash of colour and even some tasty herbs appreciated by passersby. We are currently waiting for the City to get back to

- us on plans to formally integrate the planters into the park, and better define how we can continue to use them to beautify the space and educate people about garden plants.
9. Now the piece de resistance for this year, the native pollinator garden established on the boundary between NCC property and the city park at the end of Carleton. This was a big job, involving removal of a half-buried chain link fence and Buckthorn brush and stumps. More than 20 cubic metres of soil was added and shaped and many stones taken out of the woods and used to reinforce the border. Many people chipped in, even by bringing leaves down to protect the soil over winter. Our new Board Member, Kris Phillips, proved most of the labour and contributed financially as well. Catherine Shearer, and our resident botanist John Arnason are working on a plan to populate the space with native plants that support pollinators such as butterflies and bees.
 10. Finally, various members of the committee and association have contributed in different ways to discussions on city-wide environmental policies affecting the neighbourhood, including a new tree protection by-law, lobbying to recognize and protect the heritage oaks in Champlain Park, and input to the new Official Plan. We even produced and distributed throughout the neighbourhood our own very local guide to planting trees in small spaces, something the city has so far failed to do on their own.
 11. We would, of course, welcome your contributions to any of these activities, and to lead other initiatives. There is lots of scope for working with neighbours on things like building retrofits, heat pumps and other energy saving options. Light pollution in the city and our neighbourhood is a serious issue affecting birds and insects as well as our ability to see and appreciate the night sky. The interaction of wildlife and domestic animals is another topic area. Cats are in fact a big killer of birds, something that can only be addressed through awareness raising among pet owners. The interaction of wildlife with domestic animals and humans is also an important issue to explore in our neighbourhood, not only because of the presence of vector borne diseases such as Lyme disease but also because urban green spaces place people in proximity to pathogens hosted by other mammals. Volunteers to look into these issues from a neighbourhood perspective would be a great addition to the work already being carried out.

On behalf of my co-chair Adrian Bradley and myself, thank you to all the volunteers involved. Daniel Buckles