

APPENDIX “A”

Southshore Naturalization Subcommittee - 2019 Activities

1. The Active Transportation & Sustainability Advisory Committee (AT&S AC) passed a resolution at their May 28, 2019 meeting recommending that a subcommittee of the AT&S AC be established to consider the following proposal:

“Outline for naturalization project for City parkland east of the Southshore Community Centre and Military Heritage Park – AT&S Subcommittee.”

The area under consideration lies between the woodland on the south side of the Southshore walking/cycling trail (east of the Southshore Community Centre) and Lakeshore Drive, to the east of Military Heritage Park.

Residents and interested groups across the City wish to encourage the further naturalization of this area with more native wildflowers and pollinating plants, along with the protection of the existing red oak woodlot that follows the slight ridge paralleling the east end of the existing multi-purpose trail. There were preliminary discussions with City horticultural staff in 2018 and recently to explore this objective. The removal of some areas of poison ivy would also make sense.

This proposal to provide a home for bees, butterflies and pollinating insects would also further the recent initiative by Councillor McCann to have Barrie designated as a “Bee City”.

It is suggested that a subcommittee of the AT&S Committee be established to look into this proposal. The subcommittee could include representatives from AT&S AC, Barrie’s Garden Club, Nature Barrie, City horticultural/parks staff, Communities in Bloom Committee and previously interested citizens.”

2. The subcommittee met on June 24, 2019 with City staff at the Operations Centre. The following recommendation was presented to the AT&S AC on June 25:

“From our discussion and at the recommendation of City staff, we would like the AT&S Advisory Committee to pass the following motion:

“That staff from Roads, Parks & Fleet and from Engineering work with the subcommittee towards the further naturalization of the Southshore parklands (east of Military Heritage Park), in support of the City’s Bee City initiative to provide more homes for bees, butterflies and pollinating insects, and that City staff complete a forest health assessment of the eastern woodlands in Allandale Station Park from the Kempenfelt Bay shoreline to Lakeshore Drive.”

This motion will assist in providing some baseline data on the condition of the wooded area which is part of the Southshore parklands.”

3. The subcommittee volunteer members made two visits of 2 to 2 1/2 hours each to the site on August 15 and September 26, 2019 to familiarize ourselves with the existing landscape and plant features and generate ideas for long-term naturalization of this area.
4. The subcommittee volunteer members then met on November 21, 2019 to discuss how these ideas generated on the site visits can be formulated into a Management Plan for the area east of Military Heritage Park, extending from Lakeshore Drive to the main Southshore trail and to the edge of Kempenfelt Bay, officially known as Allandale Station Park.

5. The present Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan does not speak to this area in great detail, so more long term management planning is needed to solidify the present direction for controlling invasive species and enhancement of the natural area.
6. In light of Council's recent initiatives to become a "Bee City" to protect pollinators and the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Barrie, this is an opportunity to come forward with a bold plan to provide long term protection and enhancement of this major waterfront natural area and would support Barrie's designation as a "Bee City".
7. This site could also become a focus for public education, including how both First Nations and later settlers have lived with and lived off of this natural environment and how we can learn to live within this environment as we face a more uncertain future due to Climate Change.
8. Community Partnerships: Members of the subcommittee include representatives from:
 - Living Green Barrie
 - Barrie Native Friendship Centre
 - Barrie's Garden Club
 - Allandale Neighbourhood Association
 - Nature Barrie
 - Area residents (Ward 8)

Several of these organizations are interested in partnering with the City and other groups (e.g. Rotary Clubs' Environment Committees, other Service Clubs, etc.) to pursue grants and other funding sources which may not be available to the City directly.

The boundaries of the Allandale Station Park are shown on the following link:

https://publicmaps.barrie.ca/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=Parks_Rec_Finder&layerTheme=&scale=2256.994353&basemap=MjAxNiBhZXJpYWwgaW1hZ2VyeQ%3D%3D¢er=-8869325.84375%2c5523443.409899998&layers=2d%2BOE40DiN9C0vG31N3BhdXc

9. Work to be undertaken in 2020 in preparation for a Park Management Plan for this site as resources and budget permits:
 - a) Undertake a detailed site ecological inventory in 2020 with assistance from Community Partners (e.g. Living Green Barrie, Nature Barrie, Barrie Native Friendship Centre, etc.)
 - City forestry plans include this site for Forest Health Assessment in 2020.
 - b) Ongoing gradual naturalization; and
 - c) Removal of invasive species (e.g. dog strangling vine, garlic mustard,) and poison ivy.

Allandale Station Park Naturalization Management Plan:

Recommended motion from the Subcommittee:

That the preparation of an Allandale Station Park Naturalization Management Plan be identified as a priority for the 2021 Capital Plan.

Timeline - Spring 2020 and succeeding years

1. Preparing a Management Plan for this parkland area should be a priority for the City.
2. This priority decision implements major City initiatives such as:
 - 2.1 Council 2019-2022 Strategic Plan
 - Fostering a Safe & Healthy City – Build a greener Barrie while mitigating and adapting to climate change;
 - Build Strong Neighbourhoods – Create great public spaces; and
 - Offering Innovative & Citizen Driven Services – Inspire community participation.
 - 2.2 Waterfront Heritage Trail
 - This area is the location for Interpretive Station # 1 – Natural Heritage & Pre-Settlement.
 - 2.3 Climate Emergency declaration
 - Council agreed to “deepen our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from climate change”.
 - 2.4 Bee City pollinator designation
 - Completed in 2019 ✓
 - 2.5 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The following link references a 2018 study by the Nature Conservancy (USA) on the value of grasslands as a tool for curbing climate change:

https://uwmadscience.news.wisc.edu/ecology/grasslands-among-the-best-landscapes-to-curb-climate-change/?fbclid=IwAR0Eg-epsPMuLwOsn9mMYU3a_GM27dXh4q6dyT8vjm1kQYOIEEiBsy6hAlg
 - 2.6 Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan

Ideas for consideration in the Allandale Station Park Management Plan

1. Native plant and tree species enhancement and new planting, including fruit trees like edible species like serviceberry, apple, etc.
2. Tall Grass Prairie restoration plots - this vegetation was historically native to part of the Kempenfelt Bay area.
3. Native wildflower meadow plots to encourage pollinators – start from the centre of the meadow area and work outwards.
4. Potential for some additional native tree planting to help reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

5. Visual delineation such as spaced limestone boulders would help visitors to view this natural and cultural heritage site as special and unique.
6. Restrict mowing to maintaining pedestrian access along narrow pathways.
7. Natural Heritage Education:
 - a) First Nations and Settler users/uses of the landscape (e.g. native plant uses, maple sugar camps, etc.);
 - b) Natural Heritage planting ideas for home and City-owned landscapes;
 - c) Pollinators/Bee City;
 - d) Adaptation to new species due to Climate Change; and
 - e) Potential for using former public art installation (entitled “Reconciliation”) along with First Nations interpretative information by the lower pathway in the shoreline woodland, near the water’s edge.
8. Interpretive signage on the historical and cultural use of the landscape as part of the Waterfront Heritage Trail – could use QR codes to link to additional information sources.
9. Emphasis on a passive environment to be enjoyed and provide learning opportunities to appreciate the unique gift Barrie has along the lakeshore.

Submitted by:

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Subcommittee Chair**