

FRIENDS OF THE PARK REPORT FOR 2022/2023

By Karen Squires and Katherine Hall

Friends of the Park, on behalf of the NECA board continues to pursue partnerships to support our overall goals and objectives, in consultation with community members. In 2022/23, more outreach and engagement were achieved, supported by the community through events such as the Spring park clean up. There are more events scheduled to come such as the flood plain restoration project (led by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority) and the new memorial pollinator meadow (led by Ecology Ottawa) scheduled for later this fall and spring 2024. More details below or see the October edition of New Edinburgh News!

Friends of the Park hosted several meetings and invited the City of Ottawa, National Capital Commission, RVCA, Crichton Community Council and EO this past year and two projects were solidified to remove invasive species and plant native trees on the flood plain area next to the beach, in Stanley Park. October 11th is the date set for the restoration project at the flood plain location and the new pollinator meadow project date for this fall - date TBD. If interested on more details or to volunteer, see contact information on page 20 in the October edition of NEN – online version available at newedinburgh.ca or printed copy at some Beechwood Avenue business locations.

The spring park clean up once again took place on April 22nd, Earth Day and we learned on that day Ottawa Riverkeeper was also doing their clean up, along the river banks- the same morning. We have since liaised with the CEO of Ottawa Riverkeeper to welcome them to the hood (at their new location) and the discussion included understanding goals and objectives, and possible collaboration moving forward.

Friends of the Park continues to communicate the details of these programs, through New Edinburgh News, to engage residents and volunteers and will continue to ensure this level of communication continues throughout 2023/2024.

During ongoing liaison with the City and the NCC, more signage was also implemented around the Fieldhouse to ensure park users understand the rules regarding on leash and off leash areas, throughout Stanley Park. As well, the City of Ottawa had their bylaw officers on location at the parks this past summer, to ensure rules were followed by all (on a variety of issues) around safety. After many discussions, it was agreed more education is required for existing and new park users. However, unfortunately some signage for cyclists was removed by park users which the City of Ottawa and NCC had implemented earlier. As well, Friends of the Park liaised with the City on issues relating to incidents of cars driving directly into the park space during soccer games – a new problem this year! Fortunately, through good communication this issue seems to

have been resolved through photos taken by residents, good communication and the City of Ottawa's quick response.

We look forward to receiving a more detailed report from the City on what the bylaw officers encountered this past summer and how some of these learnings may influence park stewardship and ongoing maintenance moving forward. We have liaised with the City to ensure more garbage bins and benches are available in high volume areas in past years and we also requested recycling bins be introduced in our park soon – even as a pilot project.

Friends of the Park will continue to communicate information and opportunities for residents to volunteer at such programs as Park Clean up (on Earth Day) but we also encourage everyone to help keep our parks clean and safe during all seasons for all users, including pets and wildlife to enjoy! With the volume of park users increasing, please be respectful to everyone and their needs and be mindful of the signage, especially around the children's playground area. Please note seasonal trash bins are removed by mid-October so it's up to all users to do their part in order to keep our parks clean and safe! Thanks to everyone for maintaining our park in big and small ways ongoing! If there are areas of concern at locations in the park, please call 311.