



**New Edinburgh Community Alliance**  
**Alliance communautaire de New Edinburgh**  
(NECA)

[www.newedinburgh.ca](http://www.newedinburgh.ca)

## **MEMORADUM TO THE CITY CSST PROJECT TEAM**

**July 5, 2019**

### **Suggestions Regarding Plantings in Area of Stanley Park to be Restored**

The participants at the community meeting on June 8 very much appreciated the attendance of City officials. We are grateful to the whole team for their willingness to listen and share their views on the difficult issue of park remediation.

The proposal we have seen lists four deciduous and four coniferous varieties, namely:

- Red oak, red maple, sugar maple, and hackberry
- White spruce, Colorado spruce, white pine and white cedar.

These are all good, classic trees. However, they are very common in our region and would not bring much by way of variety or new colour to the park. Moreover, the deciduous trees will all mature at roughly the same size, so there is a question as to what would be in the understory part of the “wooded” park. At the meeting, there were photos of other trees posted, such as serviceberry. We don’t know the status of these in the plans so our suggestions might duplicate what is already envisaged.

We would like a good part of the restored area to grow back into dense woodland. The woodland should have trees and shrubs of different sizes. We particularly would like to see woodland in the area around the openings into the sewer, so that these become “lost in the forest”, though there would need to be an access road. At present, the sewer openings are right next to the crossroad of the main paths in the park. The community appears to be united in the feeling that everything should be done to hide the sewer openings at this main intersection. A variety of options for solving the problem might include moving the paths and this crossroad away from the sewer heads and planting cedars, serviceberries and other shrubby plants as a screening perimeter around the sewer heads.

Elsewhere, in the more open areas of the park, the replanting might include signature specimen trees or small groves of trees. These could bring in interesting varieties, including leaves with striking colour (at least seasonally) or flowers. A small beech grove would be especially appropriate given that there are no beech in this park, so near Beechwood. A birch grove would also be a handsome addition. What follows is a list of trees, several of which are natives that are not frequently seen:

**255 MacKay Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1M 2B6**

- Tamarack (a couple in the current park)
- eastern hemlock, beech (including possible weeping or fastigiata, as well as copper varieties),
- katsura tree
- black walnut
- butternut
- white poplar
- Honey locust trees are a good option for colour and light shade.
- Other species that could be considered for the purpose of variety include prospector elm, Turkish hazel, ginkgo, and burr oak.

Given that the park will feel very barren for a period, there should be some fast-growing trees in the mix.

As for flowering trees, there are currently no horse chestnut trees in the park; both red and white horse chestnut trees make wonderful large specimens. There are very few smaller flowering trees, and we would like to see more of these, possibly including Canada plum, black or Japanese cherry, Hawthorn, crab apple, and mountain ash, as well as serviceberry. There could even be lilacs and honeysuckle. Some of these (including some fastigiata versions) would be lovely additions. Of course, flowering trees attract birds and bees.

We have also expressed an interest in wildflowers and have been asked what varieties we might have in mind. Milkweed would have the advantage of attracting monarch butterflies. For the rest, the choices are tremendous: the main interest of the community is in enjoying colour and variety; there are many species that would work well

The replanting of the park is a rare opportunity, but it will inevitably have a raw, immature feel for a few years. So it will be desirable to have a creative approach that will work in different ways over time. A key issue will be those areas that will be left "wild" versus those where the grass will be cut. Many in the community would prefer significant wild areas, both of grasses and wildflowers.

We understand that this memo is part of an ongoing conversation, rather than a decisive last word on a landscape project which will bear fruit for many years to come. We look forward to continuing this conversation, particularly in regard to the pathway routes and park furnishings through the coming months.

This memorandum is being submitted by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance on behalf of New Edinburgh/Stanley park users and area residents.