

PARKS REPORT 2024 – 2025

By Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd

While much effort to remove invasive species at Monarch Meadow, in Stanley Park, happened during the spring 2025, we are currently liaising with Ecology Ottawa to determine if further work will be done on this project now, with the passing of Lyle Robert Young this year. Basically we've been told that since the project "fell into disuse, that the City has put this application back at the beginning of the queue, for approval to plant so it's now considered as a new application." This has been frustrating for Ecology Ottawa but they will keep us posted with any new developments for next year, being we are already in the fall season.

Otherwise, during the spring of 2025, Friends of the Park (partnering with Ottawa Riverkeeper) had a great turn out with almost 100 volunteers and over 270 pounds of garbage was collected. The group dispersed along the multi-use pathways between St. Patrick's Bridge and Sussex Drive. The seasonal bins continue in the park but as volumes of users increase, garbage can accumulate in high density areas such as the Fieldhouse area or where sports are played or near the tennis courts.

On tree canopy improvement, nine trees were planted by the City of Ottawa in and around the Fieldhouse area and 81 additional trees are scheduled to be planted this fall, by the National Capital Commission. This area is further along the multi-use pathways at/ beyond the beach, on NCC land managed areas. The objective is to create a green canopy along the pathways for sun protection, during hotter weather. More information on this can be found in New Edinburgh News fall edition.

Friends of the Park have also liaised with the City ongoing on cycling safety/speed in the park and while signs were installed along the paved pathways, for some reason they were taken down and no reason was provided, after multiple attempts to address. As well, ongoing discussions with the City on reducing the "mowed areas" (in the dog park) to protect tree base erosion continues. This continues to be an area of concern for Friends of the Park but thus far no solutions have been suggested by the City. We hope to continue liaison with the City to ensure tree health throughout the park, as opposed to what we are seeing in some locations currently.

Following winter 2025 ice clearing at the beach area, there was some liaison with the City on soil erosion resulting from this operation. Minimal work was done to correct the issue so hopefully better planning for winter 2026 to minimize further erosion will be put in place. Otherwise, on ice safety, we continue to spread the word to stay off the river ice (with or without our dogs) as the ice is not safe to walk on, at any time, according to City officials. Also, if you see anyone/anything in the park which looks concerning, please call 311 to report or 911 if there is a potential threat or crime in progress.

Finally there was a request put forward to add pickleball lines to our tennis courts but thus far this has not been done (at Stanley Park) but we were just advised by the City that much needed repair work has been confirmed, for the tennis courts, in October 2025. We always look forward to input from users to ensure better stewardship of our green spaces. Otherwise, thanks for actively participating in keeping our spaces clean, picking up and gently guiding people to use the trash bins throughout the park areas!