

Environment Committee Report to February 26/24 ASH Board Meeting

The Environment committee met on February 12/24.

EcoFair 2024: EcoFair planning for June 1/24 continues with committee members following up with potential exhibitors. Activities such as guided walks and activities for children are being developed. Some other partnerships are being explored related to activities and funding. An article soliciting ideas and engagement has been submitted to *Image*.

Tree Inventory and Canopy: With information on the City of Ottawa Tree Inventory and the NCC Tree Canopy Assessment, which are available through GeoOttawa, plus information on another neighbourhood's assessment methodology, committee thought a good approach was "doable" ... when weather is better, and we can give more attention when EcoFair planning is complete.

Replace the Grass: There has been an excellent response to the ASH Newsletter item and the Winter Carnival sign-up from people throughout Sandy Hill who are now winter sowing native wildflowers seeds. An article about the Replace the Grass initiative has been prepared for *Image*. More activities are planned, including native plant sales at the EcoFair.

CAFES: February 5th, Marilyn and Bryan participated in a Zoom meeting of the Tree and Zoning group to review a draft report to the City. Afterwards, they provided references to several sites on native trees and other research sources for urban tree requirements.

We have just learned that the Annual Meeting of CAFES will be Wednesday, March 27, 2024. They are hoping receive a renewal of ASH's membership (\$100) by March 20th.

Monitoring Activities:

- Rideau River Riparian Forest Biodiversity Project – Received Community Environmental Project Grants Program (CEPGP) funding three years ago. Waiting to hear from the city forestry department about their commitment to plant trees at the Japanese knotweed control sites.
- St. Albans
- Mini-forests

Other Info Items: Seedy Saturday will be on March 2/24 at a new location, Emmanuel United Church, 691 Smyth Rd.

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