



January 20, 2024

Wendy Stephanson
City Manager
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON, K1P 1J1

Dear Ms. Stephanson

Grande Allée and Forecourt Parks – Old Ottawa East

Several issues pertaining to new parks were recently discussed at the board meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association and we would appreciate the City of Ottawa responding to our concerns, as outlined below.

1. **Additional Trees:** The Old Ottawa East Community Association requests that the City of Ottawa plant additional trees in the new Grande Allée Park within the Greystone Village neighbourhood of Old Ottawa East. Specifically, we urge the City to plant additional trees between and to the west of the new trees that were added during the course of the creation of the Grande Allée Park and between other trees along the Allée where these other trees are in poor health. See Attachment 1.

Our objective here is to ensure that the Allée is lined and well-shaded by two rows of thriving trees so that when failing trees are removed there will be succession trees of substantial size. We appreciate that the design of the new park reflects the desire to have stall areas for the Main Farmers' Market but we do not foresee that additional trees will in any way constrain the functioning of the market.

2. **Width of Grande Allée Corridor:** Please ensure that the width of the Grande Allée corridor, as currently defined by the southern faces of the two new buildings between des Oblats Avenue and the Grande Allée, applies all along the Grande Allée, from Main Street to the Forecourt Park in front of the Deschâtelets Building.

The Regional Group's draft plan for "Greystone Forecourt" encroaches on the Allée's viewscape from Main Street and would narrow the width of the Allée. Furthermore, the proposed new units near the Allée could limit the root zone for large canopy trees in this section.

We appreciate that Regional is currently making some changes to its draft plans but we want to ensure that City staff are fully aware that the community association will oppose any development that is not consistent with what the City approved for the 6 and 10 des Oblats buildings.

3. **Safe Pedestrian/Cyclist Crossing of Deschâtelets Avenue:** As additional planning is required for Regional's "Greystone Forecourt," the new school / community centre / seniors housing, and the actual Forecourt Park, we would like to ensure that there is a well-designed crossing of

Deschâtelets Avenue so that pedestrians and cyclists may safely travel along the Grande Allée corridor and into the Forecourt Park and on to the river multi-use pathway. The planning of this crossing must not be an “after-thought.” It needs attention now.

4. ***Fire-lane in Front of Deschâtelets Building:*** Originally, there was to have been a narrow, soft-surfaced and very limited access road in front of Deschâtelets Building with its primary purpose being for emergency vehicles. We subsequently have heard that this will now be a paved route used by school buses as well as emergency vehicles. We would like to be consulted on the evolving City-school board discussions on the design of this roadway. We are of the view that there must be severe limitations of motorized vehicle use of this roadway because of its proximity to the Forecourt Park and its interrupting the pedestrian and cyclist traffic flow.

5. ***Planning of Forecourt Park:*** We would appreciate being regularly brought up to date on the planning of the Forecourt Park and be consulted when there is an issue that the community is interested in.

Greystone Village’s new parks, school, community centre, and affordable housing for seniors are all significant improvements for Old Ottawa East. The community’s involvement in their planning will contribute to their successful implementation and strengthening the entire community.

Robert Gordon
President
Old Ottawa East Community Association

Cc Councillor Shawn Menard
Danielle Chatelain, Superintendent of Education, CECCE
Taylor Marquis, The Regional Group

Attach.

oeqa-grande allee trees 24004.

Attachment 1: OOE Grande Allée Proposed Additional Trees, Crossing of Deschâtelets Avenue and Fire-Lane



Legend

- ☆ Proposed additional trees
- Limitation on motorized vehicular use (originally was to be no such use)
- || Safe crossing of Deschâtelets Avenue.

NB – Original graphic from City's consultation. The numbers are not relevant to current issue.

Attachment 2 Environmental Impact Statement in Support of the Development of 175 Main Street (2015)

Tree Assessment

