



TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING AGENDA

Held on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 12:00 PM
at Town Hall – 30 King Street East (Council Chambers)

Video Conference Link: [Click Here](#)

1.	Call Meeting to Order
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof
3.	Approval of Minutes (Adoption) – May 28, 2026
4.	Public Question/Comment (Only Addressing Reports on the Agenda)
5.	Disclosure of Additional Items
6.	Delegations
7.	Presentations by Staff (Others)
8.	Correspondence
9.	Unfinished Business – None
10.	New Business/Reports
	1. St. Lawrence Waterfront Trail – Report (Postponed from May 28, 2026)
11.	McLean Forest Sub-Committee
	1. TTAP & Council Authorization for Tree Planting Activities in McLean Memorial Forest
12.	Invasive Plants
	1. Trees and Trails Invasive Plant – Update
13.	Gananoque Trail Updates
	1. Murray/Bickerton Trails 2. Water Trails
14.	Trail Mapping & Online Visibility
15.	Discussion of Additional Items

The Town invites and encourages people with disabilities to attend and voice their comments in relation to accessibility related reports. For those who are unable to attend, the Town encourages the use of the Customer Feedback Form found on the Accessibility Page on the Town's website.

16.	Next Regular Meeting – _____
17.	Questions from the Media
18.	Adjournment

TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

On Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 11:45 AM
Town Hall, 30 King Street East, Gananoque and Online via Webex

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT		STAFF PRESENT
Chair:	Councillor David Osmond	Robert Kennedy, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities
Members:	Doug Bickerton	Charles Fromentin, Public Works Technologist
	Gerry Brown	Lynsey Zufelt, Recording Secretary
	Kate McLean	
	Calder Schweitzer	
	Alan Smith	
Regrets:	Terry Childs	
	David Frid	
	Alison Timusk	

1.	Call Meeting to Order
	Chair David Osmond called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM.
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof – None
3.	Adoption of Minutes
	Motion-TTAP-2026-07– Adoption of Minutes – March 26, 2026 Moved By: Doug Bickerton Seconded By: Alan Smith BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2026, MEETING. CARRIED – UNANIMOUS
4.	Public Question / Comment – None

	AND FURTHER, THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL REQUEST THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE TREES & TRAILS INVASIVE PLANTS UPDATE FOR INFORMATION. CARRIED – UNANIMOUS
13.	Gananoque Trail Updates
	• Murray/Bickerton Trails – Panel Members discussed trail conditions and signage. • Water Trails – Panel Members briefly discussed portage signage.
14.	Trail Mapping & Online Visibility
15.	Discussion of Additional Items
	1. McLean Forest Tree Planting – Chair Councillor Osmond • It was brought to the Panel Chair’s attention that Council was unaware that trees were being planted in the Judith Scott McLean Memorial Forest. • Subsequently, Staff and Panel Members discussed the 2024 McLean Forest Strategic Plan and the 2025 Year in Review.
16.	Questions from the Media – None
17.	Next Meeting – TBD
18.	Adjournment
	Motion-TTAP-2026-10 – Motion to Adjourn Moved by: Alan Smith BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREES AND TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL HEREBY ADJOURN THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026, AT 12:38 PM. CARRIED – UNANIMOUS
Councillor David Osmond, Chair Lynsey Zufelt, Recording Secretary	

☐ St. Lawrence waterfront trail

St. Lawrence waterfront trail

☆ Our public waterfront walkways

The policy foundation for requiring a continuous waterfront trail is exceptionally strong. The Town's own Official Plan requires acquisition of land for walkways when development provides the opportunity (Section 3.1.2.2, Policy 1), mandates a connected greenway system (Guiding Principle 6), and calls for enhancing public access to the St. Lawrence River shoreline. The Planning Act gives the Town authority to dedicate pedestrian pathways and impose construction conditions as part of subdivision approval. The developer has already included a trail connection block in the draft plan. McLean Forest already connects to the waterfront — what is missing is the waterfront trail itself, the ability to walk along the river from Joel Stone Park to McLean Forest. The task now is to ensure the subdivision delivers that continuous waterfront trail experience — not just a line on a plan.

☆ Parkland Dedication (Planning Act, Section 51.1)

The key is to ensure the parkland dedication includes trail-usable corridors and is not limited to decorative greenspace.

For residential subdivisions, the Town can require conveyance of up to 5% of the land (or 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units) for park or public recreational purposes. With 77 units proposed, this amounts to approximately 0.26 hectares, which on its own is modest — but the existing draft plan already proposes 0.596 ha of parkland (Blocks 79–80) and 2.038 ha of open space (Blocks 81–85), which exceeds the minimum.

☆ The Town's own Draft Official Plan contains several policies that directly support requiring a trail connection.

These should be cited in any submission:

Guiding Principle #2: The waterfront will be enhanced through development that creates an accessible and useable waterfront for residents and visitors.

Guiding Principle #6: The Town will plan for a connected system of greenways and parks facilities.

Section 3.1.2.2, Policy 1 (Public Access and Use): Acquisition of land for public walkways shall be required where new development or re-development provides an opportunity to do so. This is directly on point — the subdivision is exactly this kind of opportunity.

Section 3.1.2.2, Policy 5: A balanced network for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists shall be implemented as development occurs, considering connectivity and the extension of existing walkways.

Section 3.1.2.2, Policy 6: A continuous pedestrian walkway through the Lowertown district shall be implemented through development.

Section 3.1.2.2, Policy 8: Access and enjoyment of natural features, including shorelines of the St. Lawrence River, trails and open areas, will be enhanced by: (a) improving physical and visual access; (b) ensuring adjacent development preserves access; (c) providing for public access along and through natural open spaces.

Section 3.5.2.2, Policy 7: Repeats the same access and enjoyment language for rural and open space areas.

Section 2.3, Planning Context, Policy 5(f): Applications for intensification shall be evaluated based on the availability of existing or planned, or potential to enhance, active transportation infrastructure.

☆ Precedent: Gananoque riverfront loop (Hetu Homes Subdivision)

Developer was made to donate the lands along the waterfront for trail use, creating the riverfront loop trail.

☆ Name the specific trail connection requested

A publicly accessible multi-use waterfront trail along the St. Lawrence River through the subdivision lands, helping to close the gap between Joel Stone Park and McLean Forest. The trail should use Block 89 (Trail Connection) and the open space blocks along the waterfront to create a continuous waterfront walking and cycling experience.

☆ Address the gap in the current application

The Planning Justification Report mentions "sidewalk and trail connections" in general terms but does not commit to a continuous waterfront trail. Point out that Block 89 is labelled "Servicing/Trail Connection" but no waterfront trail design or construction commitment is provided. The subdivision would sever what should be a continuous waterfront experience from Joel Stone Park to McLean Forest.

☆ What the Developer's Application Already Includes (Use This as Leverage)

In other words, you are not asking for something the developer hasn't already contemplated. You are asking for it to be formalized, specified, and made enforceable.

The applicant's own documents contain commitments that can be leveraged:

- The Draft Plan includes Block 89 as a "Servicing/Trail Connection" block — the applicant has already acknowledged a trail connection is part of the plan.
- The Planning Justification Report states the development "will include a sidewalk and trail connections through the development" and will "retain natural heritage features."
- The report also claims the development is consistent with PPS Policy 3.2.3, which requires planning for multimodal connectivity — a trail connection is needed to deliver on this claim.
- The applicant proposes 2.634 ha of parks and open space — a trail through these lands is a natural extension of what is already proposed.

Some Possible points for the committee to suggest to council

- 1** Dedicate Block 89 and connecting open space corridors as a public pedestrian and cycling pathway, conveyed to the Town.
- 2** Require the developer to design and construct a multi-use waterfront trail (minimum 3.0 m wide, granular or asphalt) along the St. Lawrence River, connecting to the existing trail network at both ends.
- 3** Trail construction must be completed before assumption of the subdivision by the Town.
- 4** The developer shall post financial securities (letter of credit) to guarantee trail completion.
- 5** Trail design must meet AODA accessibility standards and be approved by the Town.
- 6** Include the above as enforceable conditions in the subdivision agreement registered on title.

June 21, 2026

TTAP & Council Authorization For Tree Planting Activities in McLean Memorial Forest

This work is being completed in response to recent discussions regarding the need for Council approval of tree planting that was undertaken in the McLean Memorial Forest.

Objectives

- Confirm what TTAP activities Council has approved (either through TTAP Terms of Reference or direct approval at Council)
- Confirm if Council Approval is needed for TTAP work in McLean Memorial Forest
- Fill in missing information in table related to work to date - mostly dates
- Request approval from Council at upcoming meeting for past/upcoming planting work

Proposed Motion for TTAP Meeting - June 25, 2026

This motion is proposed assuming formal Council approval is needed for the tree planting activities in McLean Memorial Forest:

Be it resolved that TTAP recommend that Council approve the McLean Memorial Forest In-Year Work Plan and authorize the Trees and Trails Committee (including McLean Forest Subcommittee) to undertake the works included in the work plan.

Trees & Trails Advisory Panel Report to Council - DRAFT

Background

TTAP has been engaged in work related to management of the McLean Memorial Forest since 2024. This includes partnerships with FABN and TIWLT to

TTAP has undertaken tree planting activity outlined in the McLean Memorial Forest In-Year Plan following recommendations from TIWLT.

- Use this section to summarize work to date and key activities

The following is a summary of key documents related to the TTAP work for the McLean Memorial Forest.

Document	Date	Prepared By	Date brought to TTAP	Date brought to Council	Notes
Trees and Trails Advisory Panel Terms of Reference	January 14, 2020		n/a	n/a	Outlines mandate of TTAP

McLean Memorial Forest Donation to Town	September 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	Press Release announcing donation
FABN Update and Letter of Support Request	June 4, 2024		?	June 4, 2024	
McLean Forest Subcommittee Creation	September 26, 2024	TTAP	September 26, 2024	n/a	Meeting where McLean Forest Subcommittee was formally created
McLean Forest Strategy Sub Committee Slide Deck	November 2024	Alan Smith, Terry Childs, Gerry Brown	November 14, 2024	December 3, 2024	Presentation to TTAP on McLean forest sub committee strategy - slides in mtg minutes Minutes of the Nov 14 TTAP shared as correspondence Item at Council Dec 3 2024
McLean Memorial Forest In-Year Plan	May 29, 2025	Alan Smith	May/June 2025	?	Targets priority actions for Memorial Forest Noted that Council will be requested to authorise actions - Unknown if Council formally authorized the actions yet - think not Builds off work to date and recommendations from FABN & TIWLT
Property Management Plan for McLean Memorial Forest	August 5, 2025	Maggie Stevenson (TIWLT) for Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network	?		Plan given go ahead by Tree and Trails Committee Unknown when Christine at FABN presented the report to Council Think that Property Management Plan was adopted by Council
Letter of permission to Report McLean Memorial Forest to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database	August 5, 2025		?	?	Accepted to database - Confirmed by Calder in May 2026 Unknown when/if the Town signed the letter
Decision Support Tool Template for Protected Areas and OCEMS	August 1, 2025				

Deputation Request to Appear Before Council - FABN	August 12, 2025	Christine Grossutti, FABN	?	?	Following up on June 4, 2024 delegation to provide an update on assessment of conservation measures at McLean Memorial Forest to forward the property for Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database
McLean Forest Species Database	Sumer 2025?	Calder on behalf of FABN	?	?	Inventory of all species found in McLean Memorial Forest Work done by Calder's company as contracted by FABN
McLean Forest Tree Planting	June 15, 2026	Maggie Stevenson TIWLT			Maggie's recommendation for tree planting in McLean forest Outlines species to plant and partnership opportunities with TIWLT

TTAP Terms of Reference

The TTAP's mandate is defined in the 2020 Terms of Reference.

- Reiterate key points from TTAP Terms of Reference Document to justify work completed by TTAP in McLean Memorial Forest
- Does TTAP want to/need justify the work done under the Terms of Reference? Or is it just seeking approval from Council?

TTAP McLean Memorial Forest Work Plan

TTAP proposes to continue work as outlined in the McLean Memorial Forest In-Year Plan.

Has completed Objectives XXXX in the In-Year Plan.

- Use this section to confirm the work completed to date and confirm work plans are following the in-year plan.
- Request permission to undertake all activities in the plan