
From: cathy christie

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 5:10 PM

To: Hannah,Allison <ahannah1@cityofkingston.ca>

Cc: Cinanni,Vincent <vcinanni@cityofkingston.ca>; Stephen,Wendy <wstephen@cityofkingston.ca>; Chaves,Paul <pchaves@cityofkingston.ca>; Amos,Don <damos@cityofkingston.ca>; hassan@cityofkingston.ca; Tozzo,Brandon <btozzo@cityofkingston.ca>

Subject: Yard by-law update

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To Whom It May Concern,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the EITP meeting on June 11, 2024. I would like the following comments to be part of the record.

Thank you.

Cathy Christie

[REDACTED]



Wildscaping, healing earth one lawn at a time
Image: Paige Vickers, [The Case Against Lawns](#)

The lawn is the epitome of unsustainability... Lawns ... displace native ecosystems at a rate between 5,000 and 385,000 acres per day in favor of sterile, chemically-filled, artificial environments bloated with a tremendous European influence that provide no benefits over the long term. No food, no clean water, no wildlife habitat, and no foundation for preserving our once rich natural heritage." **THE ROAMING ECOLOGIST**

I am very grateful that the current by-law is being updated. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who worked on updating it to make it more in line with the City's commitment to responding to the climate crisis.

I am enjoying my first spring/early summer in my new home and I am very grateful that my new neighbours are more tolerant of naturalizing than other neighbours in Kingston have been in the past. A few years ago I came home to a different house where I was confronted by the pink by-law notification on my front door- shaming me for trying to provide a safe space for all our relations to grow. I was forced to mow my natural landscapes -including lovely wildflowers because I didn't have the money, time or energy to fight the by-law. I am very grateful that won't happen again when this by-law is passed.

My two 18 month old grandbabies were visiting me this week-end. We were able to see at least three bunnies in my naturalized spaces. When we were inside they wanted to go outside to find the "hop hops". We spent a magical 10 minutes sitting together watching a bunny do it's bunny thing- twitching its ears, scratching itself feeling safe in the tall grass. Imagine toddlers sitting still for that long- looking and learning- just being. Nature is a wonderland if we let it be! My wish for their future is that they can live in a world where gas-powered lawn mowers, blowers and other GHG emitting machines are banned and by-laws restrict who can mow their lawn rather than the other way around.

Once again I want to thank everyone who worked on this by-law for helping us move in that direction!

While it is important to provide space for pollinators and I understand why the focus of the by-law is on pollinators because they are very cute and appealing -it would be more inclusive if you could reference "all our relations" who also need safe places to live. "All our relations" are threatened by this human obsession with mowed grass that is rooted in colonial practices.

Thank you for removing all discretionary descriptive language from the text and for providing a list of invasive species that need to be removed. The Weed Control Act only applies to agricultural settings so I don't think it should be part of this municipal by-law. The list of invasive species is sufficient.

The definition of turf grass could be problematic for native perennial grasses. It would be helpful to have "various perennial grasses" be changed to non-native perennial grasses.

And finally I don't understand why asphalt is included in the section on soil erosion. It is a fossil fuel product that creates heat islands and sheets of water run-off after storm events. It would be great to have asphalt removed from the text.

Thank you so much for considering these requests.

Sincerely,
Cathy Christie

From:

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 5:11 PM

To: Hannah, Allison <ahannah1@cityofkingston.ca>

Cc: Cinanni, Vincent <vcinanni@cityofkingston.ca>; Stephen, Wendy <wstephen@cityofkingston.ca>; Chaves, Paul <pchaves@cityofkingston.ca>; Amos, Don <damos@cityofkingston.ca>; Hassan, Jamshed <jhassan@cityofkingston.ca>; Tozzo, Brandon <btozzo@cityofkingston.ca>

Subject: By-Law Number 2007-136 (Yards ByLaw) amendments

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Dear Ms. Hannah,

Please enter this email into the record.

First I would like to commend the City of Kingston for moving forward on what may seem to be a minor by law but one in which I believe can have major impacts on the city's ability to manage stormwater runoff and support biodiversity. Thank you!

I do respectfully ask that the Committee consider amending three aspects of the proposed amendment.

1) Please remove asphalt from the list of suitable coverings. As climate scientists have been warning us for many decades and we have seen over the past while, flooding and the urban heat island effect will become more and more an issue around the world. Asphalt, in addition to the green house gasses produced in it's production and laying results in an increase in the heat island effect and as a non-permeable surface will increase stormwater runoff further burdening the City's sewer systems and by keeping the water from permeating the land increase the dehydration of the land and thereby decrease the land's fertility and ability to absorb even more stormwater runoff.

2) Please consider changing the wording of the definition of turf grass from "various perennial grasses" to "non-native perennial grasses". Native grasses are actually a lovely and ecologically beneficial ground cover while the non-native ones do not provide the same sort of ecological services and tend to need more inputs that may cause

ecological degradation.

3) Please consider not mirroring the Weed Control Act for designation of plants that must be removed. This could be an overly broad designation that is likely to cause issues for the City's enforcement of this act and includes plants that are at most minimally harmful in a city context. The act was specifically meant for an agricultural not urban context. Perhaps by having a more circumspect designated watch list and removal list it will be easier for the officer's in charge of enforcement to manage and provide educational opportunities that will mitigate the chances of issues.

Again, I think the City is doing a really good job on these type of ecological issues and appreciate all the hard work it takes to make things better. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Josh Cowan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Astrid Muschalla](#)
To: [Hannah,Allison](#); [Sullivan,Iain](#); [Ochei,Derek](#); [Cinanni,Vincent](#); [Stephen,Wendy](#); [Chaves,Paul](#); [Amos,Don](#); [Hassan,Jamshed](#); [Tozzo,Brandon](#)
Cc: [Joyce Hostyn](#)
Subject: comments RE EITP 24-007 Yards By-Law
Date: June 11, 2024 10:56:12 AM

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Salutations to EITP Committee members and staff.

RE EITP Meeting June 11, 2024, 6 - 8 pm

Comments for the record on 24-007 Yards By-Law Agenda item:

I will be attending the meeting via zoom but would like to add my comments officially here.

I feel like this bylaw, as presented, is improving the clarity, and hence, the ability to effectively and efficiently enforce this bylaw. Also, the overall objective: allowing gardens that provide beneficial ecosystem services, reduce pollution, store carbon, and promote biodiversity becomes a real opportunity for leadership from the City. Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important modernization of the Yards Maintenance by-law.

To reiterate from our Exhibit E presented for today's EITP meeting, we, the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners, have been available and will continue to be prepared to support the City with the educational efforts required for enforcement and public awareness. Indeed, a demonstration public pollinator garden on Sir J.A. MacDonald, being referred to as the Strathcona Buzzline, has been planted this Spring, with City staff and our volunteers. This is a great opportunity for an example to point to. Ultimately, if supported, each of us, together, can create another piece of the missing green corridors which are so vital for supporting the health of our changing environment.

Sincerely,

Astrid Muschalla

[Astrid Muschalla, Coordinator, 1000 Islands Master Gardeners](#)

