

Conservation Handbook and Homeowner Awareness Package



Protecting Nature and Beauty in Your Neighbourhood



As a responsible homeowner, proper maintenance and conservation of the natural features on, and surrounding your property are an essential part of good stewardship. Respect and appreciation for the plants and animals who share the land will ensure their continued health and value as unique attributes of the Richmond Village landscape.



The woodlands, marshes and swamps in the vicinity are home to nearly 300 individual plant species. The most common trees species present in the area are Trembling Aspen, White Elm, Manitoba Maple, Ash (White, Green and Black), Balsam Poplar, Bur Oak, Basswood, White Birch and Eastern White Cedar.

The Richmond area is also rich in Ash trees. Many of these trees are very large and add significantly to the natural feel of the area. Unfortunately, Ash trees in Ottawa are at risk from Emerald Ash Borer beetles, and special precautions should be taken to prevent infestation. Signs of Emerald Ash Borer activity include dead leaves and branches at the top of trees, leaf and branch growth farther down the trunk than observed previously, bark splitting, exit holes from adult beetles, and high woodpecker activity. Please report any suspected case of Ash Borer activity to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (1-866-463-6017) and consult a certified arborist in the event of tree removal.

Flora

Fauna

Protecting Natural Attributes

Species at Risk

Butternut trees have been identified around Richmond village, which are a species at risk and are protected under provincial law. Mature trees can be identified based on their ridged bark, their feather-like arrangement of leaves and the large, light-green nuts they produce in the fall.



The variable terrain in and around Richmond village provides habitat for a vast array of organisms which may be observed or encountered. Many amphibian and reptile species common to Ontario inhabit the nearby wetlands and waterways. A variety of frog species, as well as toads and salamanders are present and active during the spring and summer months.

The forested areas provide breeding habitat for many birds, including Black-and White Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, Veery and Woodthrush. Red-tailed hawks have been seen in the area and may roost nearby.



Waterways in the area provide suitable habitat for a number of common fish species. The Jock river supports over a dozen different species, most notably pike, walleye, and bass, and serves as potential spawning habitat for pike. The Van Gaal and Arbuckle Drains likewise support diverse fish populations.



Community Plan

CAIVAN
COMMUNITIES

Water Features

The community abuts the Arbuckle Drain and its riparian corridor to the east. This area will be home to the stormwater management pond for the community and will include walking trails throughout. The community well is also located within this corridor in the south east corner of Fox Run. These buffer areas also help protect the aquatic habitat of the Drain and the Jock River downstream. Residents of Richmond community should make an effort to respect and preserve natural land formations and waterways in the vicinity to the best of their ability. These watercourses provide a foundational support to the rich ecosystem in the Village of Richmond region.



Keeping the water and surrounding banks free of refuse, chemical compounds, or otherwise non-biodegradable items is essential to maintaining the health of the environment as a whole.

Please note that all street drains eventually empty to these waterways. While the stormwater ponds in a community help protect the aquatic habitat in these systems, they are not designed to handle many contaminants. Please make sure to prevent any hydrocarbons (gas and oil), soaps, detergents, fertilizers or any other waste materials are not flushed into the stormwater system. Organic methods of pest control are extremely important in areas like this and the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides should be avoided wherever possible.

Trails

Natural trails near the Arbuckle drain and paths that pass through the area should be respected. If utilizing one of these walkways, stick to the existing path and resist deviating. Under no circumstance should refuse items be left on or near these trails.



Home Gardens

Properties adjacent to public or forested land may not be extended to include land beyond the boundary line. Encroachment may impact nearby plants, animals, and waterways. Non-native plants such as goutweed, ground ivy and periwinkle tend to spread into adjacent natural areas, displacing native habitat. These plants should be avoided in gardens.

Pets

Cats and other pet animals who may predate birds pose a threat to these species and should be kept inside or enclosed to the best of the homeowner's ability. Nesting birds, their nests, eggs and juvenile offspring should remain undisturbed. Pet waste must be collected and disposed of properly.

New Trees

Residential areas within Fox Run include significant numbers of newly planted trees. These trees will grow to provide shade and wind blocks for the community and will contribute the total canopy cover of the City. Trees present within personal property boundaries should be given adequate care at the discretion of the homeowner. This may include watering young trees, pruning when appropriate, and protecting trees from disease. Watering trees during dry periods is essential during the first three years. Residents may plant addition trees on their property as may fit within the available space.

Any new trees planted however should be located 7 m or more from existing trees, and so as to not interfere with overhead or underground utilities. Only species native to the Ottawa area should be planted.





-  SERIES 1
-  SERIES 2
-  SERIES 3

CAIVAN
COMMUNITIES



Thank you for taking the time to read our suggestions on how best to assist us in promoting “good stewardship” of the natural surroundings in the Richmond Village landscape.

- CAIVAN Communities