

Stewardship Plan For Ottawa's Great Forest



South March Highlands – Carp River Conservation Inc.

[All photos in this presentation were taken in or of the South March Highlands]

Consider a Proposal:

- Total Investment \$142 M
 - Initial One-Time Investment \$15 M
 - Subsequent Investment \$127 M
- Annual Return: > \$27.8 M
 - Time to Initial Benefit: Zero
 - Payback Period: 5 Years
 - Benefit Horizon: Perpetual
- Would you consider it?



Located At The End of Carp Ridge



A Wild Island Inside Ottawa

10,000 Years Old

3x Larger Than Stanley Park



Old Growth Trees
> 100 Years Old

30 Eco-Types
Of Vegetation

10 Distinct
Habitats

Visible Canadian
Shield

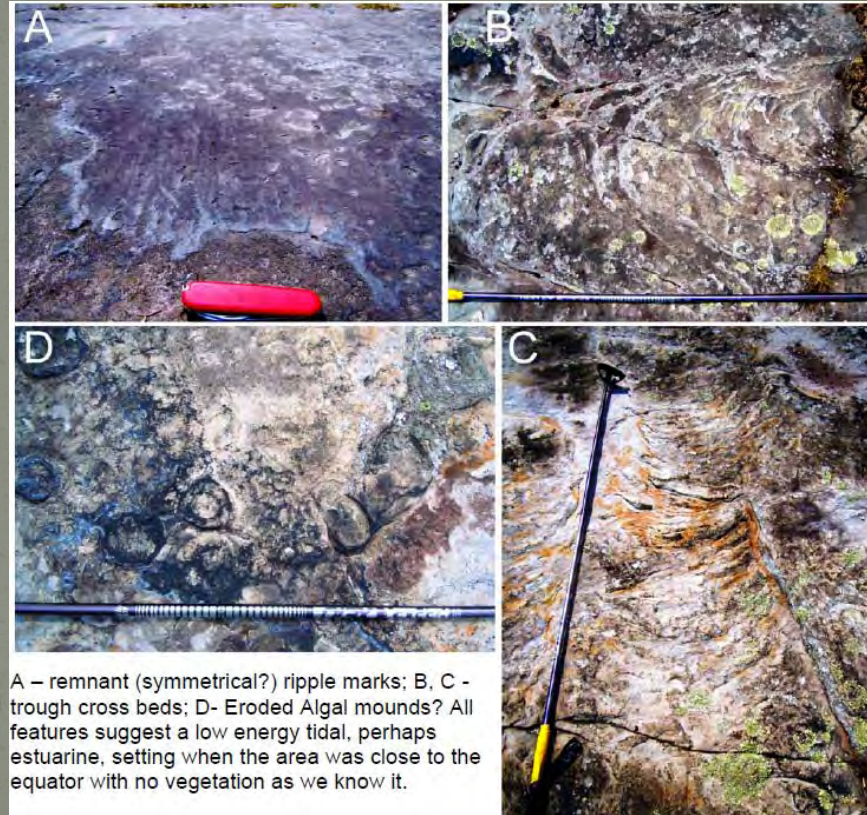
Only Location In Ottawa with Exposed Canadian Shield



Glaciation & Ancient Sea on Display



In area B, glacial chatter marks (above); striations (top right) and crescent gouges are evident. Only chatter marks and crescent gouges provide ice movement direction. The striated surface retains a remnant mm-thick glacial pavement of semi-fused quartz grains.



A – remnant (symmetrical?) ripple marks; B, C - trough cross beds; D- Eroded Algal mounds? All features suggest a low energy tidal, perhaps estuarine, setting when the area was close to the equator with no vegetation as we know it.

Cultural Heritage

Ancient Archaeological Sites



Euro-Canadian Sites Too



**McMurtry's Tannery
(Circa 1860)**

Also:

- **Several 19th Century homestead sites dating back to 1820 (as old as Pinhey's Point)**
- **Richardson Stone House dating back to approx. 1860 (as old as the Log Farm)**
- **A Feldspar Mine dating approximately to 1919-1921 (unique in Ottawa)**

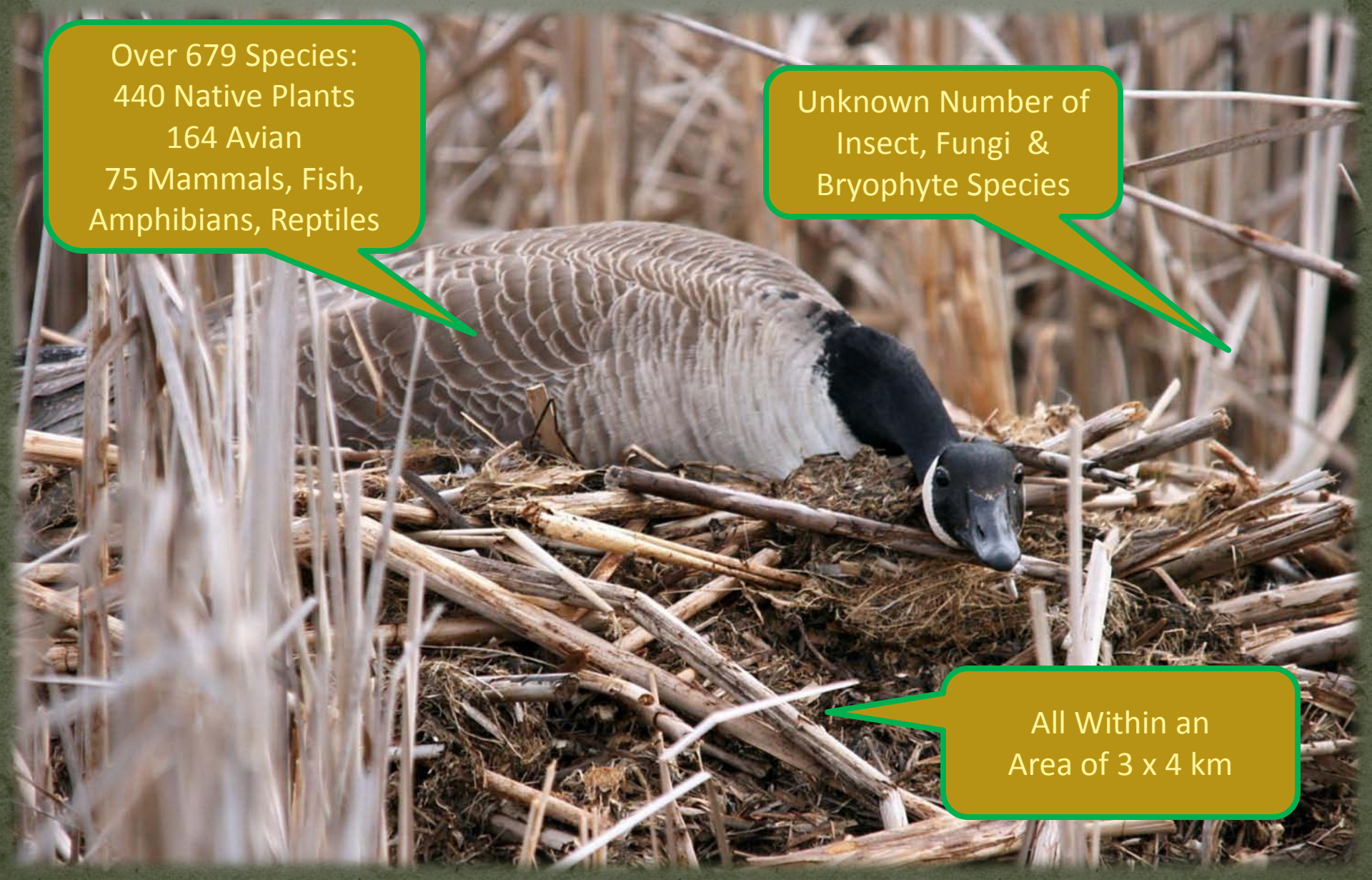
Natural Heritage: Densest Bio-Diversity In Ottawa

[Brunton, 2008]

Over 679 Species:
440 Native Plants
164 Avian
75 Mammals, Fish,
Amphibians, Reptiles

Unknown Number of
Insect, Fungi &
Bryophyte Species

All Within an
Area of 3 x 4 km



Provincially Significant Life Science Area

895 Hectares
Rated ANSI

Highest Floristic
Diversity of Any
Natural Area in
Ottawa

5.08 = Highest
Coefficient of
Conservation in
Ottawa

440 Species
Native Vascular Plants

26 Species
Traditionally Used for
Native Medicine

2 Endangered
6 Provincially Rare
64 Regionally Rare
50 Uncommon
Native Vascular Plants



Old Growth Commonly Found



+ Provincially Significant Wetland Complex

114 Hectares
Rated ANSI

164 Avian Species
Observed

1 Endangered
4 Threatened
5 Special Concern
30 Regionally Rare
Avian Species



19 Known Species At Risk

Endangered or Threatened

- American Ginseng
- Butternut
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Bobolink
- Whip-poor-will
- Golden Winged Warbler
- Olive Sided Flycatcher
- Western Chorus Frog
- Blanding's Turtle
- Eastern Musk Turtle

Special Concern

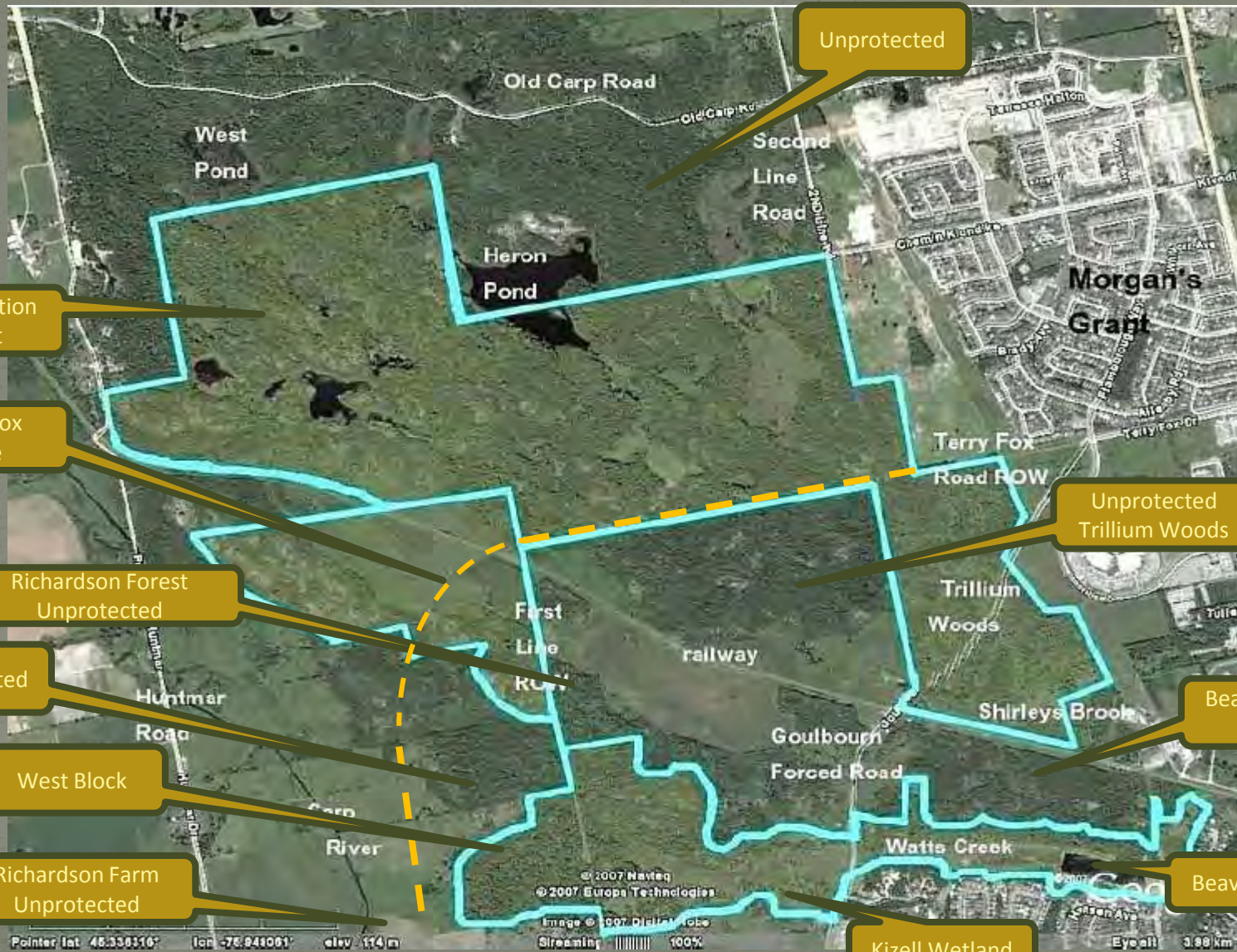
- Bridle Shiner
- Short Eared Owl
- Black Tern
- Common Nighthawk
- Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Milksnake
- Monarch Butterfly
- Bald Eagle
- Red Headed Woodpecker



18 Candidate SAR Also Found in SMH

- Evening Grosbeak
 - Eastern Wood Peewee
 - Wood Thrush
 - Bank Swallow
 - American Bullfrog
 - American Kestrel
 - Belted-Kingfisher
 - Eastern Red-Backed Salamander
 - Field Sparrow
 - Blue-Spotted Salamander
 - American Toad
 - Bluntnose Minnow
 - Boreal Chickadee
 - Killdeer
 - Midland Painted Turtle
 - Northern Two-Lined Salamander
 - Green Frog
 - Wood Frog
- 
- A photograph of a Midland Painted Turtle swimming in a pond. The turtle is the central focus, with its head and front legs visible above the water. Its shell is dark with distinct light-colored patterns. The water is a clear, light blue color, and the background shows a blurred shoreline with some vegetation.

Less Than 1/3 is Protected Today



Non-Sustainable Subdivisions Planned

- 1996 Beaver Pond Dam
 - No MoE Environmental Assessment
 - No MNR LIRA permit
 - No DFO permit for dredging the lake
- 2006 Kizell converted into a SWM Cell
 - No Environmental Assessment
 - No pollution control
 - Contradicts UNF wetland designation
- 2010 Regional approved locating SWM Facility in Carp River Floodplain
 - Cannot possibly function during floods
- Future plans depend on diversion of storm water from Shirley's Brook to Kizell
 - Not permitted by Subwatershed Plan
 - Increases Flood risk in areas already subject to flooding



Flooding Risk Is Real

- 1500 Homes Flooded July 24, 2009 in Stittsville, Kanata North, Kanata South, West-Carleton
- Common Causes
 - Failure to account for cumulative storm water flows from subdivisions
 - Failure to respect recommendations of applicable Subwatershed Plans
 - Excessive removal of floodplain and wetlands
- Planned subdivisions in the SMH are NOT in accordance with applicable Subwatershed Plans



TFD
July 24, 2009



Beaver Pond
May 2010

Stewardship for Ottawa's Great Forest

- South March Highlands = most accessible of Ottawa's major forests
 - Accessible by OC Transpo with larger forest area than Stoney Swamp
 - Malborough Forest & Larose Forest are larger but not accessible
- SMH has significant value as Green Infrastructure
 - Natural Habitat functions
 - Storm Water Retention
 - Removal of Air Pollution
 - Groundwater Filtration
- Requires active stewardship to:
 - Manage responsible use
 - Protect sensitive areas
 - Maximize educational value
 - Maximize recreational value
 - Celebrate eco-tourism value



Stewardship Proposal

- Acquire SMH from Developers
 - City of Ottawa acquires Beaver Pond Forest
 - NCC acquires remaining areas as part of Greenbelt Master Plan
- South March Highlands Carp River Conservation will
 - Manage the area at no cost to the City using volunteers
 - Education programs in partnership with Ottawa School Boards
 - Recreation programs in partnership with Kanata North Recreation Centre
 - Eco-tourism in partnership with Ottawa Tourism Bureau



Operational Care

- Access & Connectivity

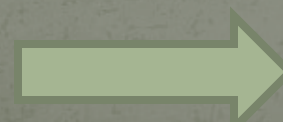
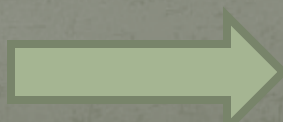
- Trail Mapping & Maintenance
- Wildlife Corridor Protection
- Restricted & Controlled Areas

- Patrols

- Appropriate Usage
- Safety / Lost Persons
- Lost & Found

- Forest, Trail & Stream Maintenance

- Erosion Management
- Litter Control
- Invasive Species Control



World Class Educational Centre

- Natural Heritage

- Geology & Geomorphology
- Forest Function & Vegetation
- Wildlife

- Cultural Heritage

- Archaeological Resources
- Aboriginal Culture & Medicine

- Physical Education & Recreation

- Sports & Fitness
- Therapeutic Health
- Well-Being

- Language & Visual Arts



- Outreach

- Home Schools
- JK – 12
- University & College
- Community Education
- Online Education

- Living Lab

Appropriate Use Management

- Ecotourism

- Events & Ceremonies
- Destination Marketing
- Self Guided Tours
- Retained Tourism

- Recreational Usage

- Centered on Beaver Pond
- Designated Use Trails within the urban boundary

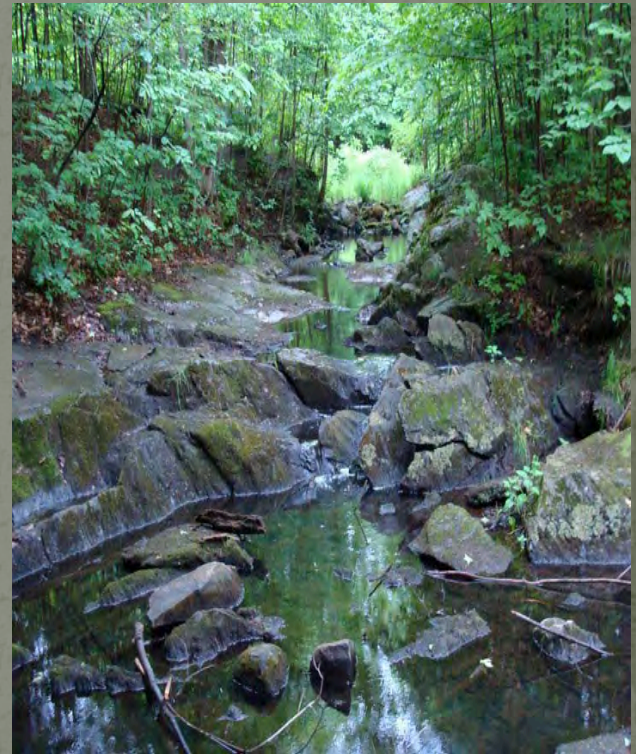
- Reserved Areas

- Primarily on trails beyond the urban boundary



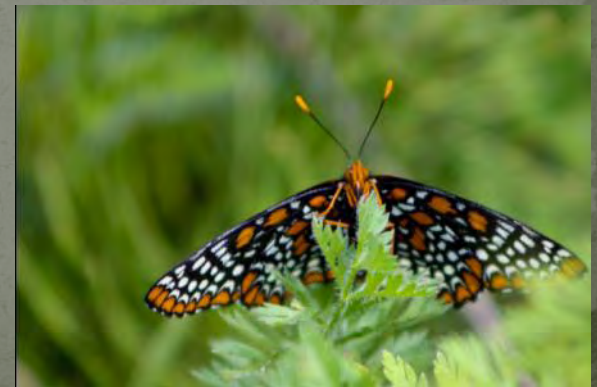
Value of Green Infrastructure

- Value of replenishing Natural Resources
 - \$2 M / year for cleaning Air & Water, pollination, resisting invasive species [Suzuki Foundation estimate]
- Educational Value
 - \$0.3 M / year ongoing reduced travel cost for school field trips based on 2 hour travel time reduction
 - \$priceless: able to experience nature rather than read about it
- Recreational Value
 - \$0.5 M / year user fees for outdoor recreation programs managed by the Kanata North Recreation Centre (KNRC) based on \$5 / person / day
- Eco-Tourism Value
 - \$25 M / year increased economic value from 1% of 7.8 M visitors staying 1 extra day to explore Ottawa's Great Forest



Advantage of Green Infrastructure

- Black Infrastructure must be rebuilt / repaired periodically
- Green Infrastructure is perpetually replenished by nature
- Disadvantage: Requires NO concrete to be poured
 - Disqualified for Federal Green Infrastructure Funds (!!!)
 - Even though this will create jobs
 - Even though this will deliver cleaner Air and Water than the current development proposals



Myth vs Facts

- SMH is Yet Another NIMBY Situation
 - I'm not from Kanata – never even lived there
 - Support for SMH comes from Stittsville, Carp, West Carleton, Kanata, Nepean, Orleans, ... across Ottawa
 - And from 32 countries around the world
- This is a Solution for a Kanata Problem not an Ottawa Problem
 - Ottawa's MOST Bio-diverse Area
 - Highest Floristic Diversity In Ottawa
 - Largest Deer Wintering Yard In Ottawa
 - Oldest Cultural Heritage in Ottawa – Provincially Significant
 - Highest rating in Urban Natural Features Inventory
 - Most benefits from Stewardship Plan accrue outside Kanata
- Why Bother – Lot's of Forest Remains
 - Most species loss is due to lost Critical Habitat
 - Critical Habitat is non-replaceable
 - We are running out of Critical Habitat too!

Does City Council Get It?

- Doesn't feel responsible for solving a planning mistake
- Do not see the urgency
- Have not instructed Staff to hold development plans
- Expect all purchase costs to be carried by Kanata
- See a land purchase instead of Public-Public Partnership
- Have not tried to engage the Province or Federal Government
- Generally lacks vision and leadership on this economic opportunity – because it is an environmental opportunity?

Will You Help?

4742 people via Facebook
1025 people via Twitter
183 people via E-Mail

All Major Ecological
Groups in Ottawa

Ottawa School Boards
Ottawa Macro-Ecology

All of the Community
Associations in Ottawa

