

13 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Carp Hills Rock Barrens -- Interim Conservation Measures on City Lands**

On behalf of the City of Ottawa, I am advising your organization of some interim conservation measures for the protection of City-owned properties in the Carp Hills. These measures focus particularly on the Carp Hill Rock Barrens that lie along Thomas Dolan Parkway, although they apply to all of the City's natural properties in the Carp Hills. The measures are necessary to protect the sensitive natural features, ecology, and wildlife of the Carp Hills, while the City works with its partners on a management and stewardship strategy.

Please inform your membership that the following measures will take effect immediately:

- Off-trail mountain-biking and operation of motor vehicles are prohibited.
- Construction and maintenance of additional walking, mountain biking, or motorized vehicle trails on City properties is prohibited.
- Mountain-biking and operation of motor vehicles are prohibited on the Crazy Horse Trail and the Hidden Lake Trail.
- Group activities are prohibited on City properties without a permit to enter.
- Off-leash dog-walking is prohibited on City properties.
- Damage, destruction, or removal of any plant or animal, or disturbance to any physical property (including the construction of trail markers or rock sculptures) on City property is prohibited without prior, written City authorization.
- Disturbance to any wetland, waterbody, or watercourse on City property is prohibited without prior, written City authorization and permits from Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

These measures are already prohibited under different City of Ottawa By-laws, but have not been previously enforced in the Carp Hills.

At present, the only authorized trails on City property in the Carp Hills are the Crazy Horse Trail, the Hidden Lake Trail in Carp, and two trails maintained by the West Carleton Snowmobile Trails Association. The City also acknowledges the presence

of two unauthorized trail loops on its property on either side of the Thomas Dolan Parkway. No other trails may be constructed or maintained at this time.

Other established public uses of City property in the Carp Hills may continue subject to applicable laws and regulations, and at the sole risk of the users.

The Carp Hills Rock Barrens provide critical habitat for many wildlife species, including provincial and national species at risk. The wetlands in the Rock Barrens are provincially significant and, due to their largely pristine nature, support on-going research programs and monitoring by local universities. The soils and vegetation of the Rock Barrens are very prone to erosion and destruction by even casual recreational activities. Unfortunately, increasing recreational use of the Carp Hills Rock Barrens threatens the natural values and biodiversity of the area.

The City of Ottawa has signed an agreement with the Friends of the Carp Hills for assistance in the management and stewardship of its properties. On June 11, 2018, the Friends of the Carp Hills hosted a well-attended public meeting in the Village of Carp to begin work on a management and stewardship strategy for the Carp Hills Rock Barrens. The Friends of the Carp Hills received generous and positive input from the participants. Further consultations and participation by stakeholders will occur as the Friends of the Carp Hills review the results of that meeting, gather additional information on the Rock Barrens, and draft their management and stewardship recommendations for the City.

If you wish to take part in these consultations, please contact the Friends of the Carp Hills at: [info@carphills.com](mailto:info@carphills.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Amy MacPherson" in a cursive script.

Amy MacPherson, Natural Systems Planner

Cc: Councillor Eli El-Chantiry  
Luc Genereux, Parks Planner  
Janet Mason, Friends of the Carp Hills