

## Staff Report

---

**Report To:** Community Services Committee  
**Report From:** Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space  
**Meeting Date:** December 14, 2022  
**Report Code:** CS-22-161  
**Subject:** Kelso Beach Master Plan Update- Comments on the Draft Plan

---

### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-22-161 respecting public and stakeholder feedback on the draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to adopt the Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan, including revisions based on public and stakeholder feedback outlined in table 1 of this report.

### Highlights:

- Kelso Beach at Nawash Park is located at 100 19<sup>th</sup> Street West. The waterfront park is 9 hectares (22 acres), including 926m of shoreline, and features a wide variety of park amenities.
- Kelso Beach at Nawash Park is located within traditional Anishinaabe territory.
- Kelso Beach at Nawash Park is a hub for major outdoor events, including Summerfolk, Canada Day, Family Fun Day, the Subaru Triathlon Series, and reconciliation events at the Gitche Namewikwedong Reconciliation Garden.
- The existing Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan was prepared in 2010. In 2022 staff, along with input from community stakeholders, have undertaken an update to the Master Plan to ensure that the Park continues to meet the needs of user groups

and to ensure operational effort and capital planning are aligned with the Plan.

## **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Service Excellence - KR1 - Further develop a culture of learning, development, well-being and embrace new approaches to service provision

## **Previous Report/Authority:**

[CS-21-135 Kelso Beach Master Plan – Background and Proposed Approach to the Update](#)

[CS-22-112 Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan Public Engagement and Next Steps](#)

[CS-22-147 Draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#)

[Recreation Parks and Facilities Master Plan](#)

[Official Plan](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

## **Background:**

Three previous reports provide additional background and progress updates on the Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan.

[CS-21-135 Kelso Beach Master Plan – Background and Proposed Approach to the Update](#) discussed the plan kickoff and methodology.

[CS-22-112 Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan Public Engagement and Next Steps](#) provided an update on the status of the plan, modified the methodology, reviewed public engagement, and discussed the planned approach to stakeholder engagement.

[CS-22-147 Draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#) outlined the draft plan including three key themes – Cultural Heritage and Community, Amenities and Services, and Park Operations. Under each key theme, there are several recommendations.

The draft plan was presented to Committee on November 16 and 23, 2022. At that time, Committee approved the following:

***THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-22-147 respecting the draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the plan in principle with any inputs from stakeholders to be brought back at the next meeting for final approval.***

Since the November meeting, stakeholders who participated in the engagement sessions received a copy of the draft plan for comment. Comments were to be received by the City by the end of day Sunday, December 4, for consideration.

The draft plan was also posted on Our City's public engagement portal and promoted via the City's social media channels. Local media also reported on the draft plan when the November Community Services Committee agenda was published.

In total, 17 comments were received, summarized in table 1.

Table 1.

<b>Theme (# comments)</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Comment Rationale</b>	<b>Response</b>
Cultural Heritage and Community (none)	None	N/A	
Amenities and Services (3)	5.2.15 Upgrade Electrical Infrastructure	Concerns re: lighting design should consider habitat and dark sky initiative,	The City incorporates dark sky recommendation s into new park lighting infrastructure.

		only projecting light where needed.	Modify the recommendation to include a statement in support of dark sky-compliant lighting design
New Suggestion (1)	5.2.10 Create Regulation Beach Volleyball Courts	Comment in opposition to creating Beach Volleyball Courts	The recommendation is to develop a business case to examine the feasibility of beach volleyball courts, including a user fee market analysis.  Modify the Recommendation title to clarify the intent of the recommendation
New Suggestion (1)	5.2.12 Create Park Boundary Delineation abutting the Eddie Sargent Parkway and the north park boundary	Concern over the impact of park delineation on Summerfolk	Georgian Bay Folk Society has been consulted on this item for several years and participated in stakeholder engagement. The organization has expressed no concerns.

Park Operations (1)	5.3.1 Trial an improved waste management strategy for Kelso Beach at Nawash Park	Include cigarette butt disposal options with a waste receptacle trial	Modify the recommendation to reflect that cigarette butt disposal options will be investigated as part of the trial
Park Operations (5)	5.3.5. Remove scrub trees and shrubs from the shoreline	Scrub vegetation provides a habitat for pollinators and other fauna	Modify the scope of recommendation 5.3.5 to clarify the intent of the recommendation to a limited portion of the shoreline.
New Suggestion (1)			
New Suggestion (1)		Winter maintainance on harbour Walkways leading to Kelso Beach at Nawash park	Not in scope for this plan
New Suggestion (1)		Add a disc golf course.	Little representation locally to date. Disc Golf is not identified as a priority in the Recreation Parks

			and Facilities Master Plan.
New Suggestion (1)		Create a divided trail with asphalt on one side paired with soft surfacing on the other side.	The asphalt trail creates an accessible path. Users are not restricted to using the trail for those who prefer different surfaces for walking/running/active transportation

New Suggestion  (1)		Don't Change the Park	Community interest and requests are received by the City regularly. A master plan is responsive to community feedback and services the goals of the Official Plan, Recreation Parks and Facilities Master Plan, recreation Trails Master Plan and the Strategic Plan.
------------------------------	--	--------------------------	---

Complete comments are included as attachment 1. With private personal information redacted including names and email addresses.

### **Analysis:**

A Master Plan is an invaluable tool to ensure the seamless continuity of service delivery to the community and guide decision-makers in ensuring Kelso Beach Park continues to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

To ensure plans are relevant in Parks and Open Spaces, it is a best practice to review, refresh and renew plans a minimum of every ten years.

Feedback received is to be incorporated into the final Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan as per responses outlined in table 1.

Staff recommend Community Services Committee and Council approve the Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan and bring forward a bylaw to implement the recommendations detailed in the plan.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no new financial commitments detailed in this report. The financial impact of the draft plan was outlined in report [CS-22-147 Draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#)

Proposed capital costs in the draft plan will be contemplated through the City's normal Capital budget planning processes and will be presented to Council as recommendations at the appropriate time in the City's 5- year capital planning forecast.

### **Communication Strategy:**

[CS-21-135 Kelso Beach Master Plan – Background and Proposed Approach to the Update](#)

[CS-22-112 Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan Public Engagement and Next Steps](#)

[CS-22-147 Draft Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan](#)

[Our City](#) Public engagement platform

Three in-person Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Draft Master Plan sent to Stakeholders on November 10 for feedback.

This Report

Final Plan to be included as an item for information for the January 18, 2023, Community Services Committee Agenda

### **Consultation:**

Park Staff & Director of Community Services  
Development Team  
Owen Sound Rugby Club  
Sydenham Sportsmen  
Georgian Bay Folk Society  
Owen Sound Minor Soccer



Owen Sound Ladies Slo Pitch League  
Trisport Promotions

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 - Complete Comments

Attachment 2 - Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan

**Recommended by:**

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

**Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space at [aparsons@owensound.ca](mailto:aparsons@owensound.ca) or 519-376-1440 x 1221.

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 27, 2022 5:18:33 PM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Lloyd.

The question that was asked is:

Have you considered setting up a frisbee golf course at the park? Other than the initial set up costs, it requires no funding and requires no supervision. I have seen how well it can be used, drawing many people to enjoy participating who may not have otherwise used the park. Eg., Riverside Park in Guelph or the university of Guelph Aboretum. Also, you mentioned removing the scrub bushes along the waterfront. I hope you are planning on replacing some of them with native shrubs or trees that are wrapped for protection from the beavers. These plants play a critical role in reducing shoreline erosion. Furthermore, the appearance of the shoreline is enhanced by selective tree planting, which helps to frame the view of the water. Without it, it becomes barren and stark. Also, in the 1980's many of the tree plantings were non native species, such as Austrian Pine, Norway Maple and English Oak. It is critical, that we stop that practice and seek out the best choices of native trees that have a chance of surviving in these specific soil conditions. Finally, on matters pertaining to trees, I hope the City interact with the local urban forest community group called NeighbourWoods North. It is important to engage the interest and services of such a group, and thus enhance community ownership for these public spaces.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 26, 2022 3:58:58 PM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Patti.

The question that was asked is:

My main concern here is about trail lights. Owen Sound is developing fast and our natural landscapes are getting brighter. I would hate to see all night trail lights in these beautiful natural space. If lights are mandatory for this space then I would urge the Master Plan to look at ecologically friendly trail lights and parking area lights so we as a Community keep our spaces natural and safe for wildlife and humans.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 26, 2022 11:12:57 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Linda Droine.

The question that was asked is:

I just read the Master Plan document and have the following questions. I'm a birder and note that there is very little consideration being given in the plan to maintaining a healthy viable eco-system for the birds, including waterfowl, and animals that also inhabit the park. Is this a case of "pave paradise to put up a parking lot"? And while "shrub trees" are "unsightly", they do attract and sustain birds and wildlife. One of the attractions of the trails through the park is being able to get close to nature on the waterfront, whether you are able-bodied or not. Did you know that the waters off the park attract birds that birders from other areas drive here to see? What does the plan do to keep nature in the park? And I just can't take the "beach volleyball" proposals and expense for this seriously. All this for maybe 25 people? I can see programming and rentals and space for kayaks and canoes (wouldn't this be more "culturally appropriate"?) but where does beach volleyball even remotely register for the majority of park users? Based on living in Owen Sound for the past 45 years I've seen lots of "special interests" come and go.... a good example is the baseball diamond the the park itself... but also the fitness trail in Harrison Park, raquetball and squash courts, curling,... I could go on. But the closeness to nature and the waterfront are the things that endure and continue to draw park visitors. Beach volleyball means "beach" so how is the beach area (which isn't massive like Sauble or Port Elgin) going to be shared with the community? Spending money on a fad promoted by a special interest group isn't a wise use of tax dollars. This needs a re-think.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 26, 2022 11:06:42 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by ?.

The question that was asked is:

Will the City consider maintaining the paved walking trails free of snow in the winter season? Same request for the trails north of the 10th St. bridge on both sides of the water. Would have been helpful during the brunt of covid, but better late than never.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 12:01:27 PM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Mary Hopkinson.

The question that was asked is:

Why is the waterfront walkway past Kelso Beach to 10th street not maintained in winter? A lot of walkers, bikers, rollerbladers would use it. Just came home from Collingwood- lovely cleared paths? Much safer than dealing with traffic to get downtown. Not everyone has a car

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 11:15:46 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Madeline Sanagan.

The question that was asked is:

The proposed Master Plan looks very thorough and promising with lots of great projects on the list - kudos to the team for their hard work. The only section that I would like to flag for further consideration is 5.3.5 - Removal of scrub trees and shrubs from the shoreline. This section outlines that this work will be done in house by parks & open forestry staff. Although I agree that these species need to be maintained to ensure a balance of recreation space, I do think it's critical that an Environmental Assessment be done for a project like this, and that an environmental consultant be used to provide recommendations for natural erosion protection options. Section 5.3.8 cited high water level damage to shoreline features. Erosion is a great concern, and shoreline plant species play a massive role in soil and sand retention. Section 3.1.1 cited the incredible feat of phragmites eradication that was completed in the park which was amazing to see. Ironically, however, the removal of the phragmites, without replacing it with native plants, left the shoreline bare and vulnerable to the powerful erosion impacts of high waters. If done right, certain areas of the shoreline could be strategically planted with native species of plants that excel in keeping shoreline in tact, but that don't overgrow and block water views. This would be inexpensive, easy to maintain, and with the right species of plants would keep "unwanted" geese off those areas of the shoreline. The swimming beach could be kept as-is and upkeep removal of shrubs could continue there. But other areas would greatly benefit from leaving or replacing the plants that grow there to ensure a reduction in further erosion damages the park. For further information, I encourage staff to look into organizations that specialize in this practice (for example <https://loveyourlake.ca/natural-shoreline/> ) or taking a look at some examples of the plants that could replace the unwanted/tall shrubs and scrub trees (lots of great examples toward the second half of this document: <https://www.cohpoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Native-Trees-Shrubs-and-Plants-for-Shoreline.pdf> ). I hope you consider my recommendations - I truly believe this would be the most cost-effective, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally conscious solution to keeping our beautiful views of the water. No need to fight nature, when it can actually work for us! Thanks very much for your time.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 9:32:18 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Tanja Grasshoff.

The question that was asked is:

Is the fencing idea final? This may not work well for Summerfolk, they rely on the fence to keep non ticket holders out.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team



**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 9:04:49 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Brian.

The question that was asked is:

Maintaining access to the shoreline of Kelso Park is an important aspect of retaining it as a tourist and local user destination. Clearing all growth to ensure a view for those who don't want to get out their cars is not so important. Why? Because of combination of biodiversity preservation and shoreline protection as climate change impact intensify in this area. We have already seen what storm surge can do and the cost of repairs along that piece of shoreline. Allowing indigenous plants and shrubs to flourish where they naturally want to be protects the shoreline material and the root systems keep it in place through storm surge and high water. Please do not turn this shoreline into a neatly mown piece of lawn, devoid of life.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 7:52:55 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Patty Marr.

The question that was asked is:

Leave as is. Update washrooms and picnic tables. Beautiful spot many good memories

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 7:32:35 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Michelle Lawrence.

The question that was asked is:

There is no need to destroy trees, bushes, and naturalised plants because you wish to change a fence location. It is an ignorant oversight to call 100metres+ of native plants 'scrub'. Especially when the park claims to welcome input from (displaced) indigenous people who were once better caretakers of this very land, AND when volunteers have added more trees to this park than the paid staff.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 25, 2022 7:15:39 AM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Laura Wood from Owen Sound Waste Watchers .

The question that was asked is:

Can the new waste receptacles include a separate area to collect cigarette waste, with appropriate signage?

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [City of Owen Sound](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** A new question has been added to Ask your questions  
**Date:** November 24, 2022 11:30:23 PM

---

Hi there,

Just a quick heads up to let you know that a new question has been asked at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan by Judith Stewart .

The question that was asked is:

Is it possible to create a divided trail in areas where you pave, meaning pave a narrower strip and leave an unpaved strip. Paving is touted as accessible however there are many like myself who increasingly suffer from osteoporosis and arthritis and generally a frailer bone system as we age. For us, paving makes it inaccessible as the hard surface cripples us. Increasingly as the city paves, our accessibility decreases. We are already challenged to find a place to walk. Harrison Park has increased its paved areas as has Kelso. Now the plan is to pave more? This decreases our healthy outdoor enjoyment. Please recognize that accessibility does not mean paved for many of us . And disability does not mean we all use wheels. A springy surface is much preferred. Aside from that you have done a lovely job.

Please DO NOT reply to this email. If you want to provide an answer to this question, sign into your site and respond to the question from within the Q & A tool.

Regards

Bang The Table Team

**From:** [Elizabeth Zetlin](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** feedback on Draft Kelso Park Plan  
**Date:** November 26, 2022 11:12:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [kelso park feedbac 2.docx](#)

---

Hello Adam,

I tried to submit feedback in the Question section, but I'm not sure it worked.  
So I'm attaching my feedback here.

Sorry this is so late, just making the Nov. 27 deadline.

Thank you for considering these comments.

best regards,

Liz Zetlin

[My website](#)

[Resilience: Transforming Our Community documentary](#)

[GreyBruce Climate Action Website](#)

[Climate Action Team \(CAT\) Grey Bruce Facebook](#)

[Resilience: Transforming Our Community Facebook](#)

[Owen Sound Water Watchers Facebook](#)



**From:** [Lorraine Rodgers](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Subject:** Kelso Beach at Nawash Master Plan - lighting concerns  
**Date:** November 27, 2022 9:10:33 PM

---

Adam,

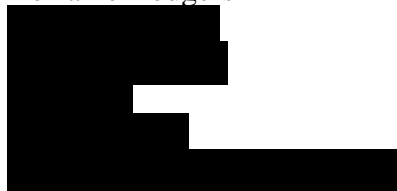
I very recently discovered that the master plan for Kelso Beach of Nawash Park is under review for the next 10 years. My apologies for joining into this process at such a late date. We have lived 3 blocks west of the park for 25 years. Our children spent a lot of time there and it is still one of my favourite places to walk during the daytime, and enjoy the stars at night. It is a peaceful scenic place and is also inviting to wildlife and waterfowl. I have read through your new master plan and appreciate the upgrades that you are proposing. I noted the parking lot maintenance, a new washroom building, perhaps a new bridge at the stormwater outlet, drainage for the soccer field, and several other great proposals.

My hobby is astronomy and so I often go down to Kelso Beach park to enjoy the stars or the moonrise. I am an active member of the Bluewater Astronomical Society. This has made me aware of the gift of dark skies in our region. It is a natural resource that we must protect for ourselves and for future generations. Most people who visit our area from bigger cities have never seen the Milky Way and all the stars in the night sky. In September our club hosted a binocular astronomy night at Kelso Beach, for the patrons of the Library. This was a popular event and we hope to host it again. There are now some bright lights at the marina, but we were able to choose a location where the lights could be blocked out by trees.

The master plan mentions new lighting for several places like the walking trails and the parking lots. I fear the loss of the dark sky, such a rich resource right within the city limits. Our club could offer you suggestions of how to provide lighting where needed, but in a way to make it as unobtrusive as possible. For example, lights can be directed downwards, they can be shielded to only shine where needed and reduce glare. The colour and intensity of the lighting can also affect how well the dark sky is preserved. Some places install low lighting that is at the level of our feet along the pathway. Timers could also be installed, to turn off lights when they are not needed. The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) has done much research in this area and resources are available on their website [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org). Light pollution is a big challenge as we continue to develop our cities.

If you wish to discuss this or would like more detailed information, myself or another person from our club would be happy to assist you in this. My contact information is

Lorraine Rodgers



Our club's email address to contact someone and receive further guidance or input is:  
[Redacted email address]. Thank you for your time.

Lorraine Rodgers

## **4.2 Stakeholder Engagement Meetings**

Add to the list of stakeholders for future Parks community engagement:

Owen Sound Field Naturalists  
Grey County Master Gardeners  
Rebound Owen Sound  
Climate Action Team Owen Sound

### **5.3.3. Create a tree planting plan**

Amend this to read "Create a tree (native where feasible) and native plant planting plan"

Native Plants:

- Provide habitat for native pollinators and other creatures that have evolved over thousands of years in association with each other, creating functioning ecosystems
- Provide food – nectar, which contains carbohydrates and minerals, and pollen, which contains protein, fatty acids, minerals and vitamins – in the amounts and quality to which native pollinators are adapted
- Contribute to biodiversity
- Create habitat connections and pathways for insects and other animals
- Are adapted to local conditions and tend to require less supplemental watering and/or amendments when the native plant species is matched with the conditions it requires
- Tend to have deep and extensive root systems (for meadow, prairie and native grass species, in particular) that enhance the soil, prevent erosion, encourage water infiltration and groundwater recharge, and store carbon
- Contribute to climate resiliency

Tell fascinating and beautiful stories of long relationships with humans in a given place

\_ Connect us with nature and natural processes and help us engage with the local ecology of where we live

- Are beautiful additions to gardens"

(Source" A Garden for the Rusty-Patched Bumblebee: Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators by Lorraine Johnson and Sheila Colla)

"Mature native plants require less water than lawns and their robust roots contribute to:

- Improved soil capacity to store water;
- Reduced rainwater runoff and flooding;
- Carbon sequestering in the soil, building richer and more nutritious soil over time;
- Reduced need for fertilizers and pesticides, as the roots can access deeper soil nutrients to stay healthy"

(Source: Pollinate Collingwood:

[https://www.earthrevival.ca/\\_files/ugd/cf4c34\\_2a0ce168cbbd48339872fd220615f38e.pdf](https://www.earthrevival.ca/_files/ugd/cf4c34_2a0ce168cbbd48339872fd220615f38e.pdf))

### **5.3.5 Remove scrub trees and shrubs from the shoreline**

Amend to read: Maintain scrub trees and shrubs at the shoreline

This will protect biodiversity and native pollinators, which already exist on site.



As part of amended 5.3.3, add appropriate native plants which will not obstruct the view and will provide pollinator habitat

**Add a new item: 5.3.10**

**Using a climate lens, work towards developing Kelso Park as part of a pollinator corridor in the city**

"A pollinator corridor is basically a pathway that will offer contiguous habitat and forage to vulnerable native species. This can be achieved through having small pollinator habitats, like roadside flower beds and home gardens, connect with the bigger habitats such as parks and meadows."

(Source: <https://www.youth4nature.org/blog/pollinator-corridors>)

"Pollinators in Ontario are in severe decline and require immediate action. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, ants, birds other insects rely on native wildflowers as a food source, moving pollen in their search for food and shelter. Some native insects like the Monarch butterfly are now listed as Species at Risk both provincially and federally due to the loss of the breeding and nectaring habitat from the widespread use of pesticides, herbicides and mowing during critical life stages.

Roadsides, parks and utility corridors are traditionally planted with non-native grasses that are mowed and sprayed with herbicides, greatly reducing pollinator habitat. By changing management practices of these areas, the availability of pollinator forage plants can be enhanced." (Source: Ontario Native Scape: <https://www.ontarionativescape.ca/>)

Liz Zetlin



Michelle Lawrence



Nov. 28, 2022

To: Adam Parsons  
Manager of Parks and open space  
City of Owen Sound

In light of the current draft plan for Nawash Park, I would like to recommend leaving plant growth around the shoreline. I have observed this park slowly through 42 weekly reports that I have done as a volunteer with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre in 2021 and 2022. (See more on their Coast Watchers citizen science project at <https://www.lakehuron.ca/coastwatchers>).

Maintenance crews at Nawash Park have been warring with erosion over the last two winters and are increasingly managing it by trucking in stones and by paving surfaces, when living material has a massive ability to prevent erosion and at the same time, to provide ecosystem services, like cleaner water, air, and more wildlife. Living material includes what the draft plan calls "scrub", but what is actually a complex, diverse ecology of plant, invertebrate, fungal and animal life.

At the bottom of this letter are 4 photos of plant life I observed in between 2021 and 2022. **The first photo** shows a naturally propagated willow sapling in 2021. The **second photo shows a naturalising shoreline** on June 24th, 2022. I spoke to the mowing crew that day about their aggressive grooming elsewhere, and pleaded with them to retain this natural space. However as seen in a **third photo** taken on July 1, 2022, the young willow tree was cut down.

The crew mowed the week after I pleaded with them to retain some natural space. They said they need 'official direction' to approach this differently. They mow at least once a week and almost the entire park is a lawn monoculture. In addition, I frequently see damage to existing trees from construction and mowing vehicles; as seen in **PHOTO 4**.

The crew needs different direction in order to be kinder to the trees and plants that are already there. To start: not driving lawn equipment over the shallow roots of saplings planted by volunteers along the parkway, and to improve: leaving some spaces that are not used as sports fields to naturalise. As a park manager you need to foster the natural habitat, ecology, and wildlife that visitors come to a **park** to see. This is not for the roadway, this is not for views from the parking lot, and it is not for the homes up the hill; It is a place for people to be immersed in nature.

Here is a link to some resources from the Lake Huron Coastal Centre about conservation: <https://www.lakehuron.ca/beaches-and-dunes> . Though our beach is partially a manufactured one,

some of these resources on erosion and beach grooming apply very well to the shoreline at Nawash Park.

Please take this into consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Lawrence  
Resident of Owen Sound  
Volunteer with Lake Huron Coastal Centre

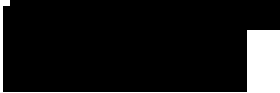






PHOTO 1: Naturally propagated Willow sapling





PHOTO 2: Naturalising shoreline





PHOTO 3: willow and other plant life removed





PHOTO 4: Tree damaged by equipment

**From:** [M. Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Adam Parsons](#)  
**Cc:** [Alyssa Bourassa](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: draft plan for Nawash Park & destruction of its natural space  
**Date:** November 28, 2022 12:55:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Parks Manager Nov 2022.pdf](#)

---

Adam Parsons,

Please consider my recommendation to protect a natural shoreline at Nawash park as explained in the attached letter.

The letter is a response to the 'Kelso Beach at Nawash Park Master Plan'  
<https://ourcity.owensound.ca/kelso-beach-at-nawash-park-master-plan> which, sadly, has recommended the following:

**5.3.5. Remove scrub trees and shrubs form the shoreline**

I have copied both Erinn Lawrie, Executive Director of the Lake Huron Coastal Centre and Alyssa Bourassa, Coastal Stewardship Technician at the Lake Huron Coastal Centre.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Lawrence