

**From:** Alan McNair]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 02, 2015 4:37 PM  
**To:** Wendy Cooke  
**Cc:** Wendy Sutherland  
**Subject:** FW: Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan

Ms. Wendy Cooke  
Deputy Clerk  
City of Barrie

Please accept this request to make a deputation to Council regarding their approval of the Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan at last night's General Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Alan P. McNair, MCIP, RPP  
Conservation Chair  
Brereton Field Naturalists' Club

**From:** Alan McNair]  
**Sent:** June 1, 2015 5:04 PM  
**To:** Dawn McAlpine ([dmcalpine@barrie.ca](mailto:dmcalpine@barrie.ca)); Councillor Arif Khan ([akhan@barrie.ca](mailto:akhan@barrie.ca)); Councillor Barry Ward ([bward@barrie.ca](mailto:bward@barrie.ca)); Councillor Bonnie Ainsworth ([bainsworth@barrie.ca](mailto:bainsworth@barrie.ca)); Councillor Doug Shipley ([dshipley@barrie.ca](mailto:dshipley@barrie.ca)); Councillor John Brassard ([jbrassard@barrie.ca](mailto:jbrassard@barrie.ca)); Councillor Michael Prowse ([mprowse@barrie.ca](mailto:mprowse@barrie.ca)); Councillor Mike McCann ([mike.mccann@barrie.ca](mailto:mike.mccann@barrie.ca)); Councillor Peter Silveira ([psilveira@barrie.ca](mailto:psilveira@barrie.ca)); Councillor Sergio Morales ([sergio.morales@barrie.ca](mailto:sergio.morales@barrie.ca)); Mayor Jeff Lehman ([officeofthemayor@barrie.ca](mailto:officeofthemayor@barrie.ca)); Rose Romita

**Subject:** Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan

Mayor Lehman and Members of Council:

The Brereton Field Naturalists' Club (BFNC) sent the submission below to your Parks Planning & Development staff two and a half years ago. We only became aware that this Plan was coming before General Committee tonight on reading last Saturday's Barrie Examiner.

On reviewing the presentation for tonight's General Committee meeting, we still have concerns about what is shown in the presentation and thus will be included in the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan (WSMP).

We apologize for these late comments, but suggest that you might find them useful reference material as tonight's slide presentation unfolds.

Slide 12: Principles. The principles for the WSMP should include Usable, Affordable and Open. These 10 principles would then mirror the principles set out by David Crombie in the Royal Commission on the Toronto Waterfront, which we believe is the gold standard for such a policy document.

Slide 14: Balanced Vision. We believe that the mix of retail stores, restaurants, coffee shops and kiosks should be in the Downtown business area, Victoria Square (Victoria and Ellen Streets), the Allandale business area, and possibly the former Allandale Station (since it was once a noted restaurant). *The waterfront parkland itself should not be further commercialized.* This would have the City as the landlord competing for tenants with taxpaying commercial property owners in the areas just noted nearby the waterfront. *How happy is this likely to make our many fine Downtown and Allandale restaurateurs as they see the City creating more competition for them on publicly owned waterfront parkland?*

There are already plenty of waterfront attractions and events to keep our citizens well occupied without sacrificing more of the fleeting days of summer to traffic congestion along the waterfront.

Slide 18: Gables Park and Slide 22: Connected. What is meant by a “larger open space role on the south shore” for The Gables Park? Shortly after the City purchased “The Gables” in 2000, Council officially designated it as an “Urban Wilderness Park”. BFNC was asked by the City to undertake an ecological inventory of the park and make recommendations about its future use and management. This project was funded by the Rotary Club of Barrie Environment Committee.

The Gables should be an accessible node reached from the Waterfront Trail. The main trail should come up Brennan Avenue and follow along the existing off-road trail along Tollendal Mill Road. *Access to The Gables should be as a local destination from the area of the parking lot, NOT a more developed route allowing bicycles to race right through the park.*

Slide 25: Vision: Opportunities for Economic Development. The Gables is shown as “Potential Space for Events, Festivals and Performances”. *How on earth does any kind of ‘economic development’ belong in an “Urban Wilderness Park”!*

Slide 26: Spirit Catcher Park & Marina. Why erect several City-owned buildings on our waterfront parkland? One is identified as a restaurant and commercial opportunity, taking up roughly double the footprint of the present Sea Cadet building. Another building to the west of the Spirit Catcher is not even identified! What is this for?

Slide 36: This last slide shows an older aerial view of our waterfront when we still had a grove of magnificent weeping willows providing shade for the waterfront trail at the Tiffin Boat Launch, before “improvement” of the boat launch.

***Our waterfront is a priceless public asset and should not be despoiled by over-development. Please do not approve any more commercial buildings in our waterfront parks. They are "Barrie's jewels", and present and future residents and tourists alike will applaud you for your foresight in preserving and protecting them!***

Thank you for considering our comments.

Yours sincerely,

Alan P. McNair, MCIP, RPP  
Conservation Chair  
Brereton Field Naturalists' Club

**From:** [Alan McNair](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 10:18 AM

**To:** [Walter Fischer](#)

**Cc:** [Mayor Jeff Lehman](#) ; [Councillor Alex Nuttall](#) ; [Councillor Doug Shipley](#) ; [Councillor Michael Prowse](#) ; [Councillor Lynn Strachan](#) ; [Councillor John Brassard](#) ; [Councillor Brian Jackson](#) ; [Councillor Barry Ward](#) ; [Councillor Bonnie Ainsworth](#) ; [Councillor Peter Silveira](#) ;

**Subject:** Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan

Mr. Walter Fischer, B.L.A., O.L.A.  
Supervisor, Parks Planning & Development  
City of Barrie

Walter:

Please find below some comments on behalf of the Brereton Field Naturalists' Club (BFNC) regarding the Waterfront & Marina Strategic Plan.

**1. Bayview Park:** **We note that the part of this strategic plan for Bayview Park is consistent with the Council-approved Master Plan for Bayview Park, which uses all of the existing parkland for public park purposes, not for parking for any adjacent commercial redevelopment.** The first of the 8 principles listed for this plan is PUBLIC. The City's Official Plan has a policy specifically stating that the City will not sell or lease public waterfront parkland. But for a mapping error, only recently recognized as such, all of Bayview Park would be designated and zoned Open Space in the Official Plan and Zoning by-law. **We urge Council to correct this mapping error in these planning documents at once and NOT to proceed any further with any discussions or investigations concerning the sale or leasing of any waterfront parkland!** This request was followed by Council.

**2. Strategic Plan Principles:** **BFNC suggests the addition of three more principles to the list of 8: Useable, Affordable and Open.** These are included in the landmark report by the Crombie Royal Commission on the Toronto Waterfront. The other guiding principles from the Crombie Report, "Watersheds", are included in the existing list of 8. **We are still making this request. See Slide 12 comment above.**

**3. General:** **BFNC would like to see more green space and low intensity passive uses along the waterfront.** We feel it is a resource which should be managed primarily for the benefit of Barrie residents and our neighbours, not overdeveloped and overused as a supposed magnet for tourism, providing questionable benefits for stimulating the local economy. We doubt that most visitors to Barrie for waterfront events spend much money in the Downtown Core, but rather at the vendors participating in these events. **See Slide 14, 25 & 26 comments above.**

**4. Commercial Uses:** **We do not support more commercial uses in waterfront parkland. See Slide 14, 25 & 26 comments above.**

**5. Heritage Trail:** BFNC supports the concept of the Heritage Trail system. **BFNC participates in the Waterfront and Heritage Trails working groups.**

**6. Marina:** We feel that the marina, effectively a parking lot for boats, takes up enough of our prime waterfront already. **We do not support a Strategic Investment Levy to fund any costs related to the marina.** The marina users should bear the cost of such operations and facilities. **We also note that the proposed marina building (appears to be 3 storeys high) at the proposed Spirit Catcher Park will block the view of the City's iconic waterfront sculpture from the Downtown and Memorial Square area.** We question the advisability of placing a new larger building next to the Spirit Catcher when it

appears that the intent is to open up the vista of this parkland (with our true art beacon) by moving the existing Sea Cadet building to another location. **See Slide 14, 25 & 26 comments above.**

**7. The Gables Park:** After purchasing The Gables property from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Council identified The Gables Park as an "Urban Wilderness" park. At the request of City Parks staff, BFNC carried out a biological inventory and evaluation of The Gables Park in 2004/05, with financial assistance from the Rotary Club of Barrie. We clearly recommended that the main waterfront trail not pass through The Gables Park, but follow along Brennan Avenue, Hurst Drive and Tollendal Mill Road as is presently the case. **The trail system within The Gables Park should be a local trail only, accessible from the waterfront trail but not part of the major route.** This was to reduce the impact on the very unique environment of The Gables Park and to avoid conflicts with the numerous pedestrian users of the park, many of whom are seniors. The emphasis for The Gables Park should be on preserving this **unique** area of urban wilderness (carpets of native wildflowers and garden escape plants) and areas of mature, old-growth trees, as a passive, walk through nature appreciation area. Uncontrolled dogs running around have torn up the native wildflower vegetation in the waterfront beach area. **BFNC does not support the proposed routing of the main waterfront trail with bicycle use through this park. BFNC also does not support the proposed day camp facility and public art beacon in this unique waterfront park.** **See Slides 18, 22 and 25 comments above.**

**8. Lands west of The Spirit Catcher:** The lands south of Simcoe St. and east of Lakeshore Drive over to the present Spirit Catcher parking lot should be kept as green parkland, not paved over for more parking or built upon for commercial or other uses. **See Slide 14, 25 & 26 comments above.**

**9. Park Maintenance:** There is an obvious problem with the large amount of "goose poop" along many areas of the waterfront parkland, e.g. Tyndale Park, Minet's Point Park, Centennial Beach. The present design presents large areas of manicured grass adjacent to water with no deterrent features for Canada Geese making these areas undesirable for public use. The waterfront edge should be designed in such a way to discourage Canada Geese (the main offenders) from landing and walking up onto beach and manicured grass areas. This does not appear to be mentioned in the Strategic Plan and we believe it should be addressed. **City staff are making continued efforts to resolve this problem.**

**10. Tree Protection:** BFNC would like to see a specific reference to tree protection in waterfront parks in this strategy, so that such activities as the sad removal of the large, healthy weeping willows near the Tiffin St. boat launch will not happen again. The City needs to protect its "*Green Infrastructure*" from the assault of construction of new "*Hard Infrastructure*" projects, such as watermains, sewers, roads, utility poles and towers, etc. The City's Urban Forester must be consulted and his advice taken seriously in these situations. **We are not aware if this has been added to the WSMP.**

BFNC believes that including these comments as revisions to the strategic plan are ways that the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan can be improved.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Alan P. McNair, MCIP, RPP  
Conservation Chair  
Brereton Field Naturalists' Club

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