

From: Brenda Kopp >
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:49 AM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Subject: Wilkins Beach

Good Morning,

Every summer out of town people come in droves to enjoy our beaches. It is certainly a difficult situation to police and to find the right balance. Last summer, however, went way beyond the 'balance'. Our beaches were nothing short of invaded!! Wilkins Beach was no exception. The crowds, noise, parking, garbage, danger to local children playing, environmental impact of the local area was unprecedented. This beach should never have been advertised, but the damage has been done. Now it is time to fix it.

The residence in the Wilkins Beach area live here and pay exorbitant taxes because of its location and the privilege to enjoy it! We are now the ones to suffer the consequences of the 2020 summer. The 'invaders' will simply move on. **Permanently closing the sandy beach, trails and changing our neighborhood forever is not the answer.** Parking signs and increased fines may have discouraged some, but most said it was a small price to pay to come here.

Towing cars is the only way to stop those who do not care to follow the rules!

If people, without residents passes, arrived to find tow trucks waiting, they would certainly not stay. Wilkins Beach now needs time to heal. Local residents are very much in favour of this and truly believe it is necessary, however, they are not in favour of closing the beach permanently. Stop people from breaking the rules, don't punish those who live and pay taxes here!

Brenda Kopp

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Ernest K. Vettese

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and City of Barrie. People and families of all ages make memories there. It is a key reason why people want to live in our neighbourhood. To close and permanently change the beach would have a huge impact on our community.

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- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
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why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased. Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect. If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay Knight

Murray Giffen

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

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Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay Knight

Tina Haddow, Rob Haddow, Kyle Haddow and Michael Haddow

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Thank you for your consideration.

Tina Haddow, Rob Haddow, Kyle Haddow and Michael Haddow

April 6, 2021

Subject: Opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee
motion number DEV008-21

To the council members of Barrie,

My name is Ernie Vettese, and my family

for over 10 years I would like to thank the council for their efforts to resolve the problem of overuse by non- residents, while protecting and preserving the beach park. We walk to the beach park every day and used the beach frequently. My kids grew up playing in the sand at that beach, and I am extremely proud that the beach is a part of my community and use of my tax dollars. It is a big reason why I chose to live here, and a reason for me to continue living here. I think we can all agree that the park is one of the most beautiful (the most beautiful in my opinion) in all of Barrie. I strongly support the protection and preservation of such an amazing natural jewel, not destruction.

I had hoped that my grandchildren would get to experience the daily joy my children had. Removing the beach would destroy the essence of the park and ruin something so special to our community. The concept of removing the beach from the park, simply to prevent the possibility of others enjoying it is expensive, irresponsible and unnecessary. I do not support any changes to the beach, unless they are done to enhance the natural beauty and health of the beach park. Please work toward a solution to preserve and protect what is there!

I use the beach and trails at least once a day, all year and have been doing so for over 10 years. I was witness to the disrespect, over- crowding and pollution caused by non- residents arriving to expect a public beach, with public beach amenities. The changes made by ticketing cars without resident passes made an obvious improvement, and it appeared to have fixed the problem. Listing it as a public park last year (especially a Covid 19 year) was a clear oversight and mistake. This obviously brought traffic by non- residents and delisting it as such, coupled with ticketing and towing those without a resident pass, seems to be an obvious and effective solution (also a lot less expensive). The pandemic has brought a lot more foot traffic from residents enjoying the beach park, however they have been respectful, and I have not seen any damage as a result (just some foot path erosion). This additional traffic will subside when the pandemic is over and doesn't appear to be a problem anyway.

Please respect the fact that that the beach is a very special place, and needs our protection and respect. Destruction of something so beautiful should not be on the table...that is simply not a solution to any problem.

Sincerely,

Ernie Vettese

From: Jenn Turgeon

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:21 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <OfficeoftheMayor@barrie.ca>; Mike McCann <Mike.McCann@barrie.ca>

Subject: wilkins beach

Please see attached deputation letter regarding Wilkins Beach. Our community and the nature that surrounds us have lived in harmony for many years, please remove Wilkins beach from the list of public beaches in Barrie. Our community has treated this beach as our private back yard - with respect to the environment and all the creatures that live in it. don't penalize the local families for the misuse of others who don't live in the community.
thank you for your time and consideration

Marc and Jennifer Turgeon

From: Shayna Feinstein
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:15 PM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Subject: Wilkins Beach

The people who have made their home in this neighbourhood and used the beach for community enjoyment should not be punished for the actions of people who do not live in the neighbourhood or Barrie. This beach is a staple for me, and the residents of this subdivision.

From:
To: [cityclerks](#)
Subject: Wilkins Beach
Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:55:33 PM

Sherry Feinstein

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach |
General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by General Committee on March 29 regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sherry Feinstein

From: Heather McFarlane

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:05 PM

To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>; Wendy Cooke <Wendy.Cooke@barrie.ca>; Mike McCann <Mike.McCann@barrie.ca>; Andrea Miller <Andrea.Miller@barrie.ca>; Office of the Mayor <OfficeoftheMayor@barrie.ca>

Subject: Comments for Circulation List for Council consideration on Wilkins Beach Restoration Project
DEV008-21

Hello everyone,

Could the attached letter and images be provided for the Circulation List for Council to consider on Mon. April 12, 2021 regarding the Wilkins Beach Restoration Project , General Committee motion number DEV008-21.

Sincerely,

Heather McFarlane

April 6, 2021

Heather McFarlane

Re: Written comments for Circulation List for Council's consideration regarding Wilkins Beach Restoration Project, General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mr. Mayor Lehman and the City of Barrie Councilors,

For the past 13 years, I have been a resident in the proposed area of this report. My address which is noted in the above provides a unique perspective on the matter that is before council today. Our home is impacted by many of the issues. Specifically, the parking in the front of our home, the increase people traffic accessing the beach via the south side of our home to Wilkins Trail and our backyard that is directly on the Wilkins Trail.

Essentially, you have a trail system and beach/waterfront access in the middle of a residential area that was not originally developed to sustain the amount of use that has occurred in the past several years. As the development and population increases in the south east area of Barrie, there will be continued pressures on this small piece of waterfront.

Firstly, the main concern I have with the report is that it only provides Alternatives 1 and 2 which are both on opposite spectrums regarding the matters, essentially it is an "all or nothing approach". However, I do believe Alternative 2 provides the best outcome regarding many issues such as relieving the parking problems, increasing signage, and preserving the creek but if it could be altered to allow a portion of the beach to be accessed/remain open and minimize the proposed rock amount that would eliminate the beach.

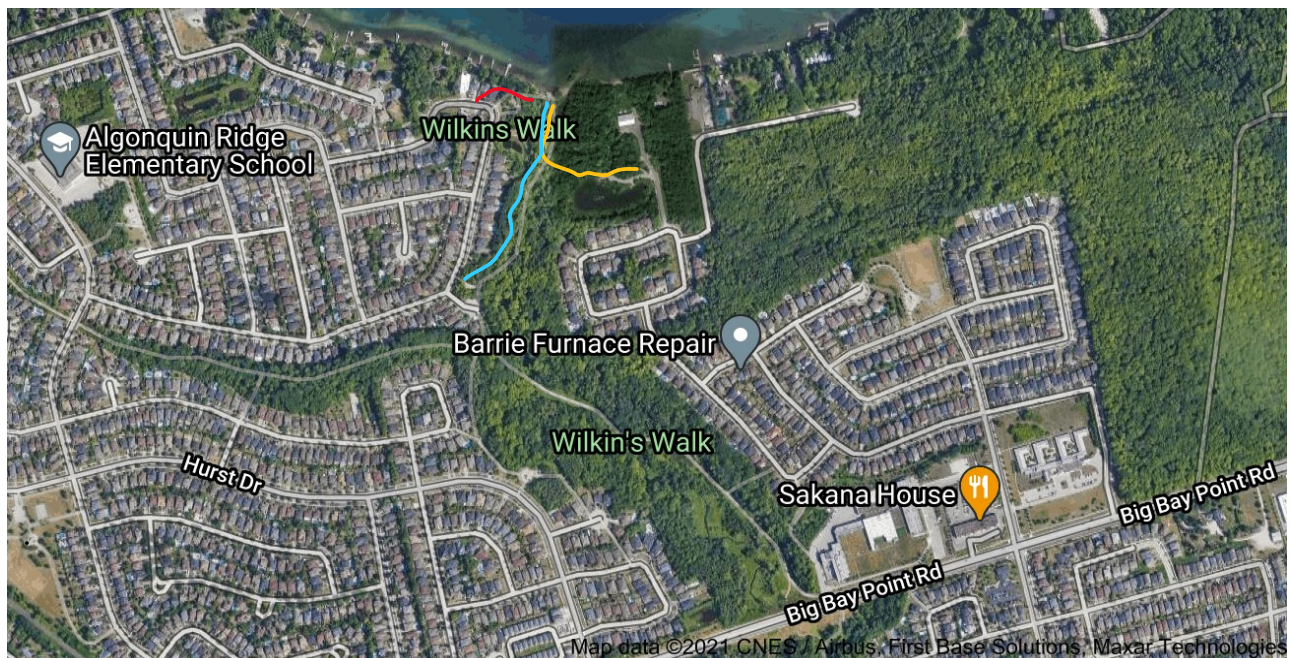
Perhaps, an Alternative 3 could be provided that can appease both sides of the matter. For instance, fencing still could be erected to protect the creek and vegetation while keeping a portion of the beach open for the public to access to swim. It does not need to be completely closed to preserve this area.

And I do not believe replacing the current sand area with 90% rock will deter people from using the area and in fact it will exacerbate an issue that is already a significant problem in this area of dogs off leash on the beach and accessing the water. It will just cause this area to become inundated with problems associated with this type of use.

I do believe adding a portion of pebbles/river rock along the shoreline with an approach of 10% rock would return the area to its natural state. Additionally, I am requesting the council to consider that any of the alternatives decided be amended as a “pilot project” to allow for a period of re-assessment to be conducted such as in the initial 90 days, then to 6 months moving to a yearly basis to determine if or any further action is required to the area. Please refer to Appendix 1 from pages 5-9.

Secondly, in the report there is no indication on how the City will access the beach and lower portion of the creek to do any of the proposed work/maintenance. There are 3 ways to access this area.

1. Red Trail - Wilkins Park (stairs or sloped path)
2. Blue Trail - Wilkins Trail from Valley View Court Crimson Ridge (residences backing on to this area).
3. Yellow Trail - Camelot Square entrance/City of Barrie Water Pump Station location.



Additionally, there is no indication what will be required such as the amount of trucking along any of these access points and the time frame required to do any of the proposed work. For approximately the past 5 years, the City of Barrie has widened and laid gravel along the Blue trail in the map above to allow for their trucks to access the beach area. During the summer months, the trucks travel approximately twice a week along the Blue trail dumping sand and maintaining the beach/creek area ex. garbage disposal and raking sand. In 2019, the Blue trail experienced significant erosion requiring a portion of trail to be rebuilt. Please refer to the below picture.



April 6, 2021 Wilkins Trail -Reinforcement of trail between Valley View and Beach from erosion.



April 6, 2021 Top of Wilkin's Trail accessing from Valley View Park area. Gravel was laid by the City to allow widening of nature trail to access trucks.

I am requesting that an amendment be provided in the report or any decision regarding these matters that the City of Barrie confirms responsibility for the maintenance of the blue trail in the above map and any damages that occur from over use by people and use by city vehicles.

Thirdly, in the proposal there is mention of removing the blue lined swim buoys and the white navigational buoys in this area. I am requesting that the white navigational buoys remain to prevent the area from being inundated with boat mooring that is similar as the adjacent bay known to many as "Chicken Bay", Lake Simcoe. Please refer to the below image for the referenced white navigational buoy.



Lastly, parking restrictions with an increase enforcement of the City by-laws and towing for non-Barrie residents will have the most impact with deterring people and reducing the overuse of a residential area that was never planned for high density use.

Based on the foregoing, I am requesting Wilkin's Beach Restoration Project be delayed for the City to answer the questions and concerns that I have raised, to consider my suggestions as a resident directly impacted by the proposal and to determine if there is a viable Alternative 3 to be considered. Thank you for your time and considerations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather McFarlane

Heather McFarlane

APPENDIX 1:



BEFORE April 8, 2020

AFTER April 6, 2021

Wilkin's Trail mouth to Lake Simcoe. Reeds are devastated from people overuse. The black area in water are the minnows that are hatching. Over the years, I often brushed off people when they would complain about the reeds being trampled and I always assumed they would grow back. I guess I was wrong.

TEMPORARY FENCING could be erected to protect this area allowing for vegetation to revitalize and still provide a place for people to continue to use the beach area with out closing it.



Healthy vegetation in background, again co-existing with sand.

Picture of the healthy and vibrant reeds along the creek.





April 3, 2021, Annie Williams Park, Bracebridge, ON.

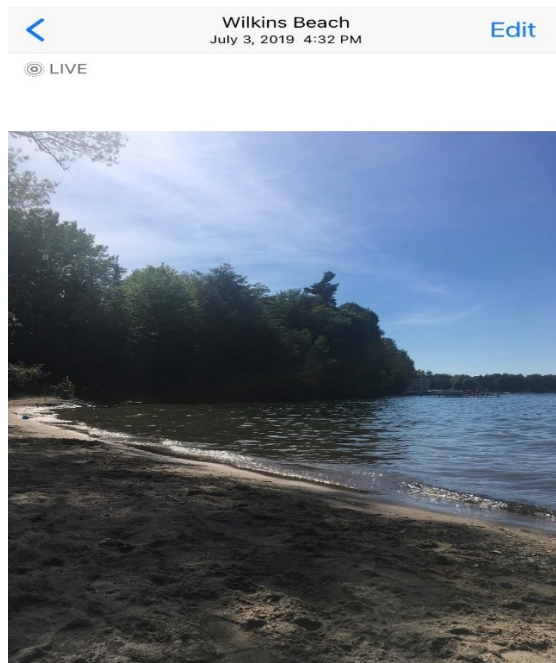
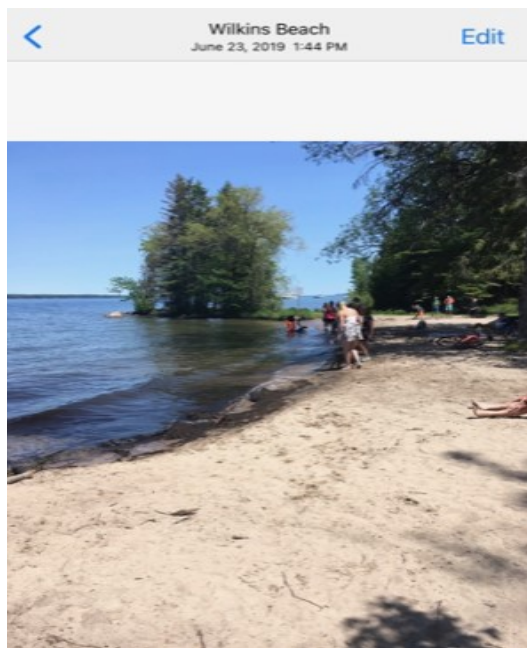
City of Barrie could add additional signage indicating protected areas to assist with the City's educational approach.



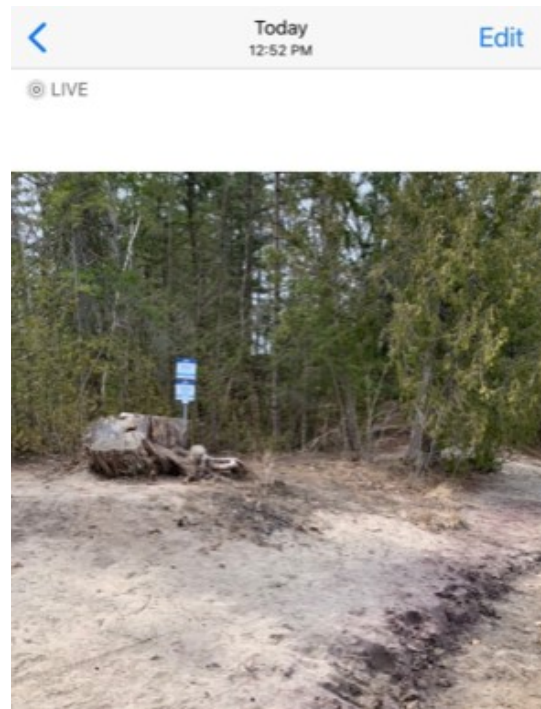
Pioneer Park, Barrie, ON located at the end of Cox Mill Road.

Idea of mixture of pebble, sand and vegetation co-existing

BEFORE: Wilkins Beach 2019

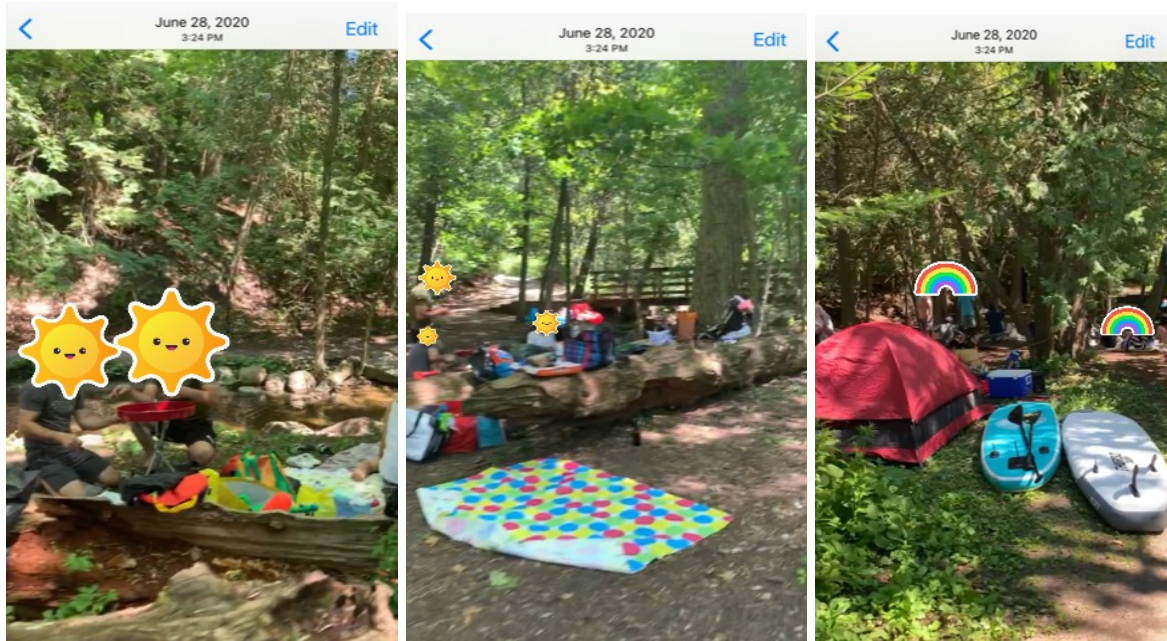


AFTER: Wilkins Beach 2020



NOW: Wilkins Beach 2021 Same tree stump.

AFTER: 2020



This area is in Wilkin's Walk creek. This area was being treated as a free day camping site, like what many people book and pay for in Provincial Parks and are required to pay for parking.

From: Deanna Prentice
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:43 AM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Cc: Mark Prentice
Subject: Wilkins beach protest

Deanna and Mark Prentice

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay Knight

From:
To: [cityclerks](#)
Subject: Protest Wilkins Beach
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:01:35 AM

Brianna Prentice

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay Knight

Sent from my iPhone

Kenneth Stevely

April 6th, 2021

RE: STAFF REPORT DEV008-21, March 29, 2021

Good Morning Mayor and Members of Council,

I do not wish to speak at the upcoming Council meeting however, I would like my comments to be provided for circulation for Council to consider.

I have 3 points I would like to be raised for consideration when decisions are made on the Wilkins waterfront.

1) **Postpone** - I would suggest that the changes to the beach which are considered this summer could be postponed for 1 year. With the challenges everyone is facing through COVID from a mental health point of view, it seems like a very drastic response during a very difficult time for many families. I would think many of the plans to address numbers of people could go ahead but that the changes to the beach itself could be delayed a year, with more time to consider the plan. The public have only had access to this plan for comment for 3 weeks, and considering the long-term impact this will have, that seems like a very short period of time to address the concerns many have.

2) **Drainage** - I don't believe the plan addresses one of my primary concerns. With the number of houses and the roadways constructed in the area, the stormwater drainage system is limited currently. With the adjustment to the channel cut across the Wilkins Parkade 2 years ago, I have noticed the increase in the speed at which the stormwater now makes it's way into that bog area adjacent to the beach (I walk past this every day walking my dog at all times of the year). This has resulted with increased damage to the beach with the runoff passing directly over the beach. There has been no plan implemented to divert some of that runoff under the trail into the river or under the beach area into the lake. The plan currently looks to address erosion from the lake and recover planting into the area, whilst making the area less appealing as a beach area, but it does not address the stormwater issue which has been added to in recent years.

3) **Safety** - I would ask that the white bouys which restrict boat access to the beach area be retained in place, as this will ensure the area can still be used by the public for swimming and access to the water by paddleboards etc. Without these in place the boats which moor in Chicken Bay, just 100m away, will move into the area and make the area dangerous for children swimming.

I make some further comments on the plan below with my views for your consideration.

Removal of Wilkins Beach from media listings – This is an excellent idea and will reduce the footfall which occurred last year.

Resident-Only Parking – This both helped and caused issues last year. The fines were too cheap and actually were a reasonable cost for someone wanting to go to the beach for the day. In addition, at the end of the day there were many who picked up their group from the beach and would sit at the corner of the parkade for 10-15 mins and block access round the corner. Towing would be the right level of deterrent to reduce some of these parking issues.

With easy access to Wilkins from the streets on the other side of the creek (e.g. Camelot Square), is this included in the resident only parking restriction?

By-Law immediate powers – The one or two warnings before a fine is applied, doesn't work in this situation where someone is there for a day. I may be wrong, but I didn't hear of many tickets being issued, which would have helped manage the numbers of people and the activities they participated in.

We rely on our appointed Council members to make the right decisions for the community. I trust you will make every consideration of some of the challenges I have raised above as this decision is made.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Stevely', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kenneth Stevely

To: The Mayor, Members of Council & Staff,

We have lived in the immediate area of Wilkins Beach since 2004. Part of the attraction and property valuation has always been this beach, and the trail system leading to it.

We understand that Wilkins Beach was advertised in "Tourism Ontario". We believe that this was a significant error, as such a small beach cannot accommodate significant use. It was this coupled, with COVID restrictions within the GTA that resulted in the overcrowding situation last year, and we were pleased with the City's effective response by enforcing permit parking and other bylaws.

It is our belief that the removal of the sandy beach and replacing it with cobblestones and boulders would significantly reduce the recreational attractiveness for the citizens of Barrie, and devalue our property. We recognize that environmental matters should also be considered, but to remove the sandy beach is an extreme measure. Clearly this is not a desirable path to take as sandy beaches are enjoyed by many residents for picnics, swimming, sunbathing, etc.

Perhaps the environmental impacts can be mitigated to a great extent with a compromised solution to that which is being proposed.

In summary, may we suggest the following:

1. Do not replace the sandy beach with cobblestone, boulders or landscaping.
2. Restrict fencing to the banks of the stream only, not the beach or around the "spit".
3. Plantings should be restricted to areas outside the beach area
4. Maintain the existing pathways
5. Continue permit parking on the street and by-law enforcement.

We appreciate your consideration.

Kind regards,

BWH & MHB

April 6, 2021

Subject: Opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee
motion number DEV008-21

To the Mayor and council members of Barrie.

My name: Mark Prentice

Family: Deanna Prentice (spouse), Brianna Prentice (daughter)

My family and I are strongly opposed to the proposed shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach.

Over the last 20 years we have purchased 2 homes in this neighborhood, and one of the main reasons for choosing to live here was the trail systems that led to the beach access at Wilkens Beach. For those of us who live and pay taxes in this area, we see Wilkens Beach as a sanctuary to the blite of urbanization. It's been a delight to relax and spend time there, access the lake for water activities and make special memories with family and friends.

The proposed restoration, is not a restoration, it's a fundamental change that will have a negative effect the flora and fauna of the natural shoreline and greatly diminish the enjoyment of this area by the local taxpayers.

In my opinion this is an egeris oversight of government that is short sighted and is not aligned with the values of the tax payers in this district.

At this point I'd like to introduce some alternative solutions that have been offered up by local community member Lindsay Knight, I hole heartedly echo and support these recommendations.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem. Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents
- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup

- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for bi-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

I hope that our local community members, elected officials and local government can work together to find a mutually beneficial solution to this issues that doesn't destroy one of Barrie's hidden wonders.

Mark Prentice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mark Prentice', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

From: Phil Holdsworth
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:14 PM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Cc: 'Phil Holdsworth'
Subject: Save Wilkins Beach

To the Barrie City Counsel,

It is with great dismay that I have heard of your intention to destroy the sandy beach at Wilkins Beach.

I appreciate the fact that it has been abused by inconsiderate visitors, but it is used and loved by many local residents in the immediate area.

Every day many people take the lovely path alongside the stream to spend an hour or two or even a day to spend time enjoying the sand.

So many take their young children to have a paddle or swim there because it is close and within a walking distance from their home. How will they be able to walk down and let their children play on this rock/cobble/granular fill alternative.

I am sure your plans to create a rock/cobble/granular fill alternative may be well intentioned and may look nice, but it will destroy the pleasure of the local, and I mean the immediate homeowners, their right to enjoy the small and intimate sandy beach that exists now.

In your council debate on this issue, I urge you to reconsider your plans and instead debate the question of how to stop the abuse by limiting the beach to locals and providing an adequate number of garbage disposal containers for the people to utilise with signs to encourage responsible use of the beach. At least give it a try.

I am sure the cost of these small measures will be infinitely smaller than the quite large cost of the work involved with your idea.

Instead of offending the people you will receive their eternal gratitude.

Phil Holdsworth

From: Claire Nagy <

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 11:05 AM

To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>

Subject: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Re: Deputation in opposition to shoreline restoration project at Wilkins Beach | General Committee motion number DEV008-21

Dear Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the recommended motion that was passed by the General Committee on March 29 2021, regarding shoreline issues at Wilkins Park. Specifically, I am opposed to the significant nature of the restoration work proposed, which will permanently change the composition and experience of Wilkins Beach.

Wilkins Beach is a beloved part of the culture and community in the Kingswood neighbourhood and City of Barrie. Our community, which includes families of all ages and Life Stages, visit the beach, the adjacent park and trail not only to make memories, but now more than ever as a means for self-healing, especially during this incredibly stressful time as we live through this pandemic.

The park, trail, and beach is the reason why my husband and I specifically chose to purchase in this neighbourhood. So we would have a special place to enjoy with our children. We take photos here. We've learned to swim, skipped rocks, and met new friends.

All that said, it's not just a place to learn to swim, build sandcastles, watch the ducks, fish and canoes pass.

I like to sit at the beach to meditate, draw pictures, and take photographs.

It brings me joy to bring my family to the waters edge at various times of the year and marvel at its beauty. We call it "Our" beach, just like I'm sure everyone in the neighbourhood calls it the same.

To close and permanently change the beach area would have a large and devastating impact on our community especially when you consider both the physical and mental health implications of such strong actions.

Proposed alternative: Implement a series of less severe measures designed to discourage heavy beach usage by non-Barrie residents, while also preserving the ecosystem.

Test effectiveness of approach post 2021 season to determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

- Maintain the sand beach area for use of local Barrie residents

- Continue to maintain beach area, including sand, swim buoys and especially garbage pickup
- Fix the drainage issues from the reservoir on Crimson Ridge and ditch at the bottom of Crimson Ridge that cause the washout / flooding in spring when there are heavy rains
- Fence the creek / river line from the bridge to the water line, blocking the peninsula
- Implement a signage program, similar to 2020, enforcing rules and regulations within the Wilkins Beach / Wilkins Park areas
- Enforce a no warning system for by-law infringements
- Increase fines for cars parked on streets near beach access, possible tow zone
- Remove any specific reference to Wilkins Beach and Wilkins Trail from the list of City Beaches and all corporate communications channels, social media, mapping, and materials
- Implement an educational signage program promoting the ecosystem, why it's important to preserve and how to preserve it

Until 2020, Wilkins Beach was a hidden gem. Barrie residents came to the beach for an hour or two max, and for the most part treated it with respect.

The 2020 season changed everything. Out of towners came in record numbers and abused the beach.

There's no question that damage was done, which is why our neighbourhood came together to raise awareness and work with the council to implement solutions to limit the traffic. Once those solutions were in place, the traffic decreased.

Our proposed solution today is for council to meet us halfway – to implement measures that will mitigate environmental degradation and deter out of town traffic, while keeping the beach open to Barrie residents to use with respect.

If we can do that, there is an entire community behind you who is willing to help protect the beach. 2020 was a year like no other, and it would be devastating to lose Wilkins Beach as a result of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Claire Nagy and Kevin Walline

Wednesday April 7, 2021

Mayor Lehman and Members of Council

The staff report dated March 2021 deals with the ecological restoration plans for lake and creek shorelines and has identified a section of Wilkins Park to be closed to the public for 2021 restoration work. Under Section 23 it notes "that while there have been regeneration efforts previously taken by the City, the continued overuse of the shoreline area of Wilkins Park reverses these efforts." We live in close proximity to the beach, and yes the summer of 2020 saw an extreme over use of this area, but the City fails to take its ownership of its involvement or lack of, for the damage to this area.

For many years now we have reported the loss of trees and vegetation directly to the City by phone and through our counsellor dealing with the erosion at the point where the creek meets the lake. Only limited restoration of this area has occurred since we moved here 8 years ago. For several years, during maintenance, the City has taken the NATURAL BEACH and extended its size by approximately 30 percent. Particularly in the summer of 2020 where dump truck loads of sand were placed at the waterfront. The City made the beach larger in the year of Covid which contributed to the overuse of the waterfront area. When the sand was being placed and moved by a City 'Bobcat', significant damage was done to the area by the machinery with the removal of several former grassy/vegetation areas in front of the wooded forest and the grassy area leading to the point that consisted of greenery including 3 large clumps of natural lake irises whose bulbed root system supported the natural dense sub soil replacing it with sand. As well the City has actually cut down dead and struggling trees on the point that were being used for firewood but never replaced the trees removed. Two large spruce trees also fell along the path that were removed by the City as well as a tree in the centre of the beach and the old Willow on the shoreline. All were never addressed. The removal of the trees on the point occurred pre-Covid and nothing was done. So our question is how can the City claim previous regeneration of the area when the opposite actually occurred? Is the City proposing to return the beach to its natural size and state? The natural beach was always there and we would like it to stay. We support the restoration of the original beach, regenerating areas of vegetation and replacing the original trees that were removed as well as the point peninsula being addressed.

The City report refers to the shoreline and point as a "groyne " which by definition is usually manmade, built perpendicular to the shore that interrupts water flow and is usually made out of wood, concrete or stone and engineered. In the plan the City is naming the NATURAL shoreline and point as a groyne.

(Appendix B). Since groynes are manufactured how can this area be labeled as such? The point is actually a very small natural peninsula that is surrounded by water on three sides. Presently it may be serving as a NATURAL groyne but it was never intended to be so which is why the erosion is occurring at the point. A real groyne if necessary should be built to the west of the shoreline going out into the lake that would thereby protect the entire shoreline. Can you make a natural peninsula into a groyne and cause this area to work even harder against unnatural water flow? A groyne is also built to protect the shore from wave action and erosion but we need to remember most of the erosion to the beach area is occurring from the retention ponds, the slope of the land and walkway from BEHIND the shoreline and not from the wave action. Only the point is being effected by actual wave action.

In the City plan the erosion at the point and tree replacement was not even addressed. Appendix A - Why? This is an area with extensive damage. By all means fence off the area proposed in the map showing the point but regenerate this area FIRST. Let's SLOW Things DOWN and restore the area back to its original state which included the NATURAL BEACH to permit future enjoyment for generations.

Next, address the REAL source of erosion to the beach area which is actually caused by the urbanization with the establishment of the surrounding subdivisions which creates intense water overflow from severe weather. There are 2 retention ponds that were designed and built by the City to address this issue approximately thirty years ago and they are in very close proximity to the shore. See Appendix "C". However, both retention ponds were designed to overflow into Hewitt's Creek and the forested area which is the real source of the water erosion and NOT the wave action of the lake. The erosion to the beach is coming from water flow from BEHIND the shoreline which in our opinion the boulders along the beach will not address the real erosion issues. One retention pond flows right into the creek at the bridge. The area needs a detailed, comprehensive plan, by an engineer studying the entire area, to deal with the real issues that will have a positive long term solution that maintains and respects the actual natural beach and shoreline area. The end result may very well be the pride of Barrie for years to come.

We have included 6 aerial views of the shoreline that show the changes that have occurred over the last two decades.

From: Paul Forde
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Service Barrie <Service.Barrie@barrie.ca>
Subject: good idea

Hello...

Please forward this email to the correct department. I suspect someone in planning. :)

I just saw some postings on signs around the beach area of Hewitt's Creek. The locals are complaining. It says the city is planning on changing the mouth of that creek from a beachy area to a rocky and more naturalized area.

I think this is a super idea! :)

I am a member of the local naturalists (though am writing in now as a private citizen) and enjoy observing the bird wildlife around the mouth and just offshore... and think it is a sound plan to naturalize this zone. It needs it.

The people pressure there is overwhelming at times on the beach and in the creek itself. The erosion due to people there is calamitous and I am sure the dogs people let run around are doing a lot of damage with both their fecal matter and the scaring of the birds. Its good you are trying to control this damage so present and future populations will have that area to enjoy for its natural beauty.

Last year I observed a fairly rare shore bird there on the beach for a few minutes until a dog walker letting his dog run free into the lake and scared it off. (Red-necked Phalarope) We might expect to be enriched more by these natural sightings if your planned shoreline damage mitigation measures are brought to fruition.

I only wish you could have changed the mouth of Lovers Creek to a more naturalized area. But I think that ship has sailed.

Thank you.

Paul Forde

From: Mike Ferguson
Sent: Saturday, April 3, 2021 1:29 PM
To: cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Subject: Wilkins Beach

I am against the plan to alter the design of Wilkins Beach. Many residents, myself included, very much enjoy being able to walk down the street and go for a swim and walk the trails on both sides of the bridge. Don't take these things away from the tax paying residents who enjoy them, come up with a better plan to stop out of towners from abusing them.

Mike Ferguson