



A photograph of Meadowvale Park in the background, showing a playground with a red slide, a yellow canopy, and a swing set. A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered on a paved area near a basketball court. The foreground is a grassy field with some bare patches. Large tree branches with green leaves frame the top and right sides of the image.

Meadowvale Park Safegrowth Project

Spring 2019

What is Safegrowth?

- *Safegrowth is an approach to crime prevention that relies on partnerships with local residents, the City, the police and other local associations to improve the safety of neighbourhoods.*
- City-wide approach?  Pilot projects  Meadowvale Park selected
- Several local residents invited to join the 4-day training and month long study in May-June 2019
- Teams included local residents and members from the Ottawa Police, Carlington Community Health Centre and Ottawa Community Housing.

Meadowvale Park

- Residential park with mini field, play structure, wading pool, skating rinks in winter, field house and basketball net
- Two sides back onto private residences and OCH townhouses, other sides open to Vale St and Chevrier St.
- Historically has had complaints of drug activity and prostitution at the west end of the park and resulting safety concerns



Vision

To increase the use of Meadowvale Park by the local community by:

- addressing safety issues and concerns;
- maximizing the park's recreational spaces;
- encouraging engagement of the local residents

Related questions:

1. *Are the historical crime concerns in the park still a present day concern?*
2. *Does the local community hold a perception of criminal activity or lack of safety in or near the park?*
3. *Do these real or perceived concerns (or other factors) negatively impact community use of the park?*

Approach

In order to answer these questions, the team decided to:

1. Do several site visits (day and night)
2. Interview residents using the park at various times of day
3. Canvas homes surrounding the park with a survey of questions (~50 respondents)
4. Carry out a safety audit

Supplemental Data:

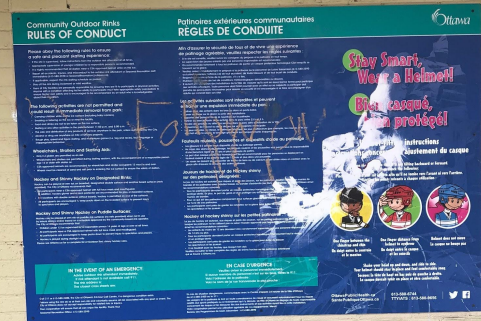
1. Local crime statistics from the Ottawa Police
2. WISE safety audit that was carried out in the park and surrounding streets in mid-2018.

Challenges Identified

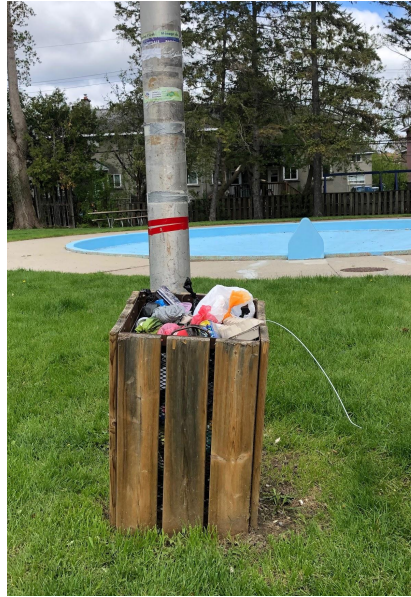
1. Safety concern re: drug activity at the west end of the park
2. Maintenance and signage issues
3. Poor lighting and sightlines
4. Legitimate user conflict - pre-teens and young children
5. Pedestrian and child safety on roads adjacent to the park
6. Lack of community uses of the park and under utilization of the sports field.

Signage

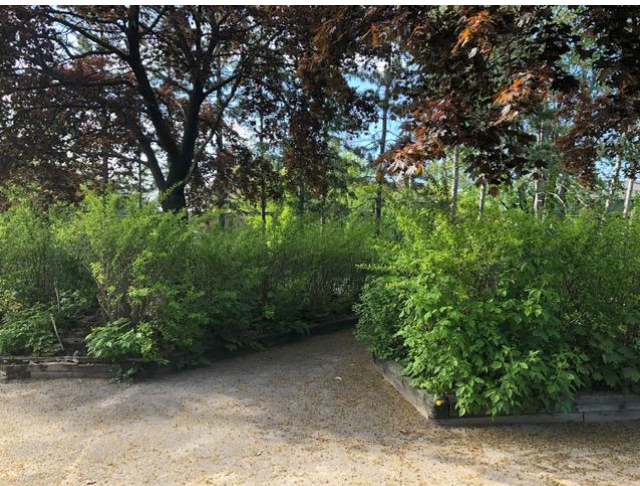
Ottawa
Meadowvale Terrace Park
Parc Meadowvale Terrace
1205 avenue Trenton Avenue



Maintenance



Sightlines



Lighting





So Many Assets!

- Beautiful greenspace and useful field house (when open)
- Nice play structure, swimming pool and skating rinks
- Diverse residents - ethnically, socio-economically, age/stage
- Supportive community association
- Some engagement happening (park clean-ups!)
- Manageable ways to capitalize on physical assets
- People who can help!



Report Recommendations

- *Realized that we can achieve our vision with the support of local residents, our partners and with reasonable support/investment by the City of Ottawa*
- Foster the development of social cohesion and community building
 - Plan several annual park events
 - Build ownership and pride in our shared greenspace - park becomes a community hub
 - Knowing and watching out for each other enhances safety
 - Provide healthy options for children and leadership opportunities for youth/teens
- Enhance physical features of the park to allow it to be used by a broader age range and across a larger breadth of the day
 - Replace broken and damaged components - sign, wooden beams and graffiti
 - Improve access to washrooms - allow caregivers and kids to use the park for greater periods of time
 - Improve seating for caregivers/park users - in the shade and with visibility of pool/play areas
 - Replace crooked single bball net with a full court with painted lines
 - Consider future improvements - soccer nets/lines, splash pad, tennis court (?), mini skate park (?)

Short Term (<6 months)

- Encourage local residents to:
 - plan a summer 2019 event (potluck, BBQ, sports day, etc) ✓
 - form a “Neighbours of Meadowvale Park” committee ✓
 - compile email list of neighbours interested in park engagement ✓
 - apply to ‘Adopt-a-Park’ through the City ✓
 - present Safegrowth project at the CCA Annual Meeting ✓
 - encourage park users to report issues in and near the park ✓
 - collect used toys and sport balls for park use ✓
 - paint lines on asphalt near sandbox to create a ‘tricycle road’
 - investigate why mini-field is booked nightly, but not used



THE NEIGHBOURS OF MEADOWVALE PARK

present

'Welcome Back' Community Party & BBQ

SAT. SEPT. 14TH

4-6PM

MEADOWVALE PARK

FREE & EVERYONE WELCOME!

Hotdogs, Drinks &
Kids Activities

Action!

We formed a small 'Neighbours of Meadowvale Park' committee and planned a park event in partnership with the CCA and Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) and with the support of the Ottawa Police and the Ottawa Public Library.



welcome
* neighbours
* of
* meadowvale
* park
* * * *



FREE
hotdogs
(halal & veggie)
options

1st Meadowvale Park Community Party!





Short Term Goals (<6 months)

- Request the City of Ottawa to:
 - trim bushes by playground ✓
 - replace burnt out light over basketball court
 - replace sodium light with LED bulb
 - move down the Vale St. streetlight lower in the tree canopy
 - replace/maintain park sign
 - install park bylaw signage (esp. no smoking signs)
 - clean sand
 - install stop signs at Vale St/Trenton Ave., Kingston Ave/Vale St. and Trent St./Chevrier St.
 - paint crosswalk stripes crossing Vale St. and Chevrier St.

Medium Term Goals (<1 year)

- Neighbours of Meadowvale Park' committee
 - plan several inclusive annual park events (clean-up, garage sale, plant sale, winter event) - coordinate with CCA committees ✓
 - plan weekend drop-in 'sports mornings'
 - apply for grants to run park programs for children and youth
 - invite local recreational leagues for evening use of mini-field
 - apply for 'Paint-it-Up' program to replace fieldhouse graffiti with mural
 - liaise with the CCA, OPS and City

Small physical changes that mean a lot!



Medium Term (<1 year)

- request the City of Ottawa to:
 - remove bushes by playground and some near east entrance to the park
 - install benches or landscape flat surface below trees for caregivers to sit
 - replace wooden beams around sand areas
 - provide bathroom option for daytime use (toilet unlocked or muralled portapotty - like Harrold Place)



Long Term Goals (>1 year)

- 'Neighbours of Meadowvale Park' committee
 - re-evaluate perceptions and crime stats for the park to monitor changes
 - continue engaging local community in use and care of the park
- request City:
 - replace bball net with a full painted basketball court
 - replace pavement throughout court, playground, pool, sandbox area
 - replace wading pool with splash pad
 - install a water fountain on the outside of the fieldhouse
 - investigate the viability of a pre-teen park activity structure (small skate park?)



Learnings and Future Steps

- People care about their community and the park!
- 50 households signed up to receive news about the park!
- 25 people were interested in helping plan events!
- A winter event (with a CCA grant!) is in the early stages of planning
- Several residents are brainstorming free weekly drop-in kids sports activities
- Continue the process of Adopting-the-Park through the City
- Continue and grow the dialogue with the City, Riley Brockington, the Ottawa Police, Ottawa Community Housing, CCA and other partners!
- Talk to our neighbours! Relationships are the foundation of community!