



Centretown Citizens
Community Association

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Tomas Whillans
CCCA President

March 3, 2017

Councillor Catherine McKenney
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa K1P 1J1

Dear Councillor McKenney,

Re: The Children's Garden in Dundonald Park

The amount of park space within the borders of Centretown is well below the average for the rest of Ottawa. Dundonald Park plays a critical role in the community as the neighbourhood offers few opportunities for free and accessible outdoor recreation for residents of all ages. The area surrounding the park is extensively developed and features a dense and diverse population. Furthermore, Centretown has a higher than average population of low-income residents with 35% of the children living below the LICO. A children's community garden will provide both children and grownups opportunities for social engagement, community building and cross-cultural sharing while helping children to develop gross and fine motor skills.

During the summer of 2015 a community member installed a temporary children's garden in Dundonald Park. This infrastructure has been well used and embraced by the community. The children's garden complements the existing playground and infrastructure in the park and provides an excellent educational tool.

The Centretown Citizens Community Association (CCCA) is concerned that the temporary children's garden will be removed by the City of Ottawa unless it is appropriately repaired and cared for by a legitimate community organisation. The CCCA, with the support of the Dundonald Park Working Group, the Community Garden Network of Ottawa, and the Off-Bank Community Garden, would like to inherit the Dundonald Park Children's Garden and intends to submit plans for a permanent feature.

In the interim, prior to the installation of a more permanent fixture, the CCCA will arrange temporary repairs to ensure a safe and educational resource for the community.

Sincerely,

Tomas Whillans
President

Centretown Citizens Community Association

cc: Kristina Ropke
Jordan Bouchard
Board of Directors

Dundonald Park Working Group
Community Gardening Network of Ottawa
Centretown Citizens Community Association