



February 28, 2025

Marika Atfield, Planner II
Parks and Facilities Planning
City of Ottawa

Re: Bluegrass Park Lifecycle Renewal Project 2025 – call for public comments

Good Afternoon, Ms Atfield,

On behalf of the Bridlewood Community Association (BCA), I would like to provide you some feedback from what we have heard from residents.

Firstly, the Mission of the BCA is to increase stewardship of the community and foster a sense of community pride through the organizing of events and activities. Part of the stewardship function is to liaise with local government officials on development related issues occurring in, and nearby, the Bridlewood community (this includes Bridlewood, Emerald Meadows, and Monahan Landing).

It has been a long time since Bluegrass Park had three viable tennis courts, well maintained asphalt pathways, pathway lights that worked. We have been putting both a boarded rink and a puddle rink on the footprint of the tennis courts and basketball court, however, the asphalt has been terrible shape for quite a while. We understand that the scope of the 2025 Lifecycle project is limited to the tennis court area and the immediately adjacent pathway. It's a good start, and hopefully the other Bluegrass park pathways that need repairing can be done by another City program in 2026.

We have a number of concerns with the City's 2025 design options, and they are as follows with our recommendations:

- The public has great concerns over pickleball noise, and notwithstanding that the *City's draft 2025 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Strategy* paper stating that 50 meters of grass is a suitable buffer distance, we disagree. There is an elementary school within 50 meters of the courts and pickleball noise could be very distracting to students in the school.
 - o **We recommend** that the city makes additions to the design of the proposed pickleball courts to ensure noise reduction, and / or create rules for use of the location to minimize the impact of noise on neighbours and neighbouring buildings (e.g., school hours).

- With the renewal of the asphalt we understand that there will be no ice rink allowed on the pickleball courts, so the area for the boarded rink will be moved to the basketball court side of the courts and there is no planned location for the puddle rink usually in the same area.
 - o **We recommend** the city ensures that the existing puddle rink is moved to the baseball diamond area and not completely removed.
 - o **We recommend** that the boards be installed on the basketball court surface temporarily for the winter season and do not affect the ability of residents to play a proper game of basketball (as it is for basketball at Kristina Kiss Park), and lastly on this issue,
 - o **We recommend** that the city works with BCA representatives recommended by the President of the BCA to discuss placement of amenities for ease of ice rink preparation (e.g., where the openings are in the fencing of the courts, and where the seating is for the rinks)
- There is a challenge with the lighting at Bluegrass Park: there may possibly be inground wiring problems, as some of the lights are not working, and we also understand that the lighting access may not exist for the city on the courts.
 - o **We recommend** that the city ensures that all five of the 25-foot light pylons within the court areas are accessible to city /ice rink and court operators
 - o Refreshing the lighting in the park surrounding the court area for safety (e.g., new light covers for brightness).
 - o The city sorts out the responsibilities of the lighting with the school board and keep the BCA informed and with access to these utilities, as appropriate.

Lastly. Not a concern, but a comment – Councillor Hubley has informed the BCA that there may be some opportunities to fund components of the part that are not funded by existing City funds – we are interested and happy to discuss further.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns and such. We really appreciate your effort in improving our neighbourhoods!

Sincerely, on behalf of the Bridlewood Community Association,



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Cc: Allan Hubley, Ward 23 Councillor
Kevin Wherry, Manager Parks & Facilities Planning