



Dear Mayor Goldring & Members of Council,

As you may recall, on October 25, 2011 I addressed you as a delegate on behalf of BurlingtonGreen on the staff report regarding criteria to purchase surplus school sites.

At that time we offered our support of the staff recommendations to approve criteria and share it during a 2012 stakeholder and public consultation process as we believe the implementation of criteria to be a step forward in providing a consistent framework of which to assess surplus school lands.

As we have conveyed at various times before, we emphasized the need for the City to create a greenspace masterplan with criteria to rank mapped inventory. The staff proposed criteria can only be effective if you have first taken stock of Burlington greenspace, applied a priority ranking and integrated a strategic acquisition plan. Otherwise a reactive, piecemeal approach will continue.

The past week's public outcry regarding the at risk greenspace in the Orchard Community should come as no surprise. We are pleased citizens voiced their concerns with you directly. Their expressed concerns and passion to preserve a vital asset to support a quality of life are very much consistent with what we hear from citizens on a regular basis. Parklands and particularly, walk to community greenspace are extremely valued by the people of Burlington and we believe the expressions of these values will only increase as our communities become more intensified. This has and continues to provide key rationale for BurlingtonGreen's continued recommendation for the City to advance a greenspace master plan/protection strategy.

As stated at October's delegation, *"we would welcome the opportunity to learn of the City's interest in supporting our longstanding recommendation to establish a greenspace masterplan of which the surplus school site criteria and process can be integrated."*

Respectfully,

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director

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