



October 23, 2023

Good morning Mayor Meed-Ward, Members of Council and City staff,

BurlingtonGreen appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the planning of Tyandaga Golf Course. We have been pleased to promote the City's invitation to the community to provide input via the Get Involved Survey and various engagement workshops.

Upon reviewing the *"Considerations for the evolution of Tyandaga Golf Course"* report back in September, we were **extremely pleased** to read the author's (Emilie Cote & Renee Kulinski-McCann) emphasis on the "opportunity to restore and preserve ecosystem health, increase our urban tree canopy while establishing appropriate recreational uses.", via the option of a 9 versus 18 hole golf course.

Within the context of the climate emergency declared unanimously by this Council, along with the growing biodiversity crisis, the opportunity to take action on these urgent issues while 'striking a balance' by preserving **some** golf and by advancing other passive and active recreational opportunities at the area, is one that cannot be missed.

Consistent with the City's values, strategic priorities, and the objectives of the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark, the opportunity to establish a new vision for the expansive and beautiful 108-acre space that leverages climate mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity improvement opportunities, cannot be overstated. Additionally, a future for the area that reflects the key principles of the [8-80 Cities mission](#), that sees the creation of healthier, more equitable, and sustainable spaces for everyone, is simply tremendous.

Before you lies the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in realizing a vision to action for this area that can serve as a landmark example of how all community spaces should be designed and implemented during a time of unprecedented environmental challenges. Globally, and locally, more people are relying on and appreciating opportunities to explore and connect with accessible nature, and this is why our organization established the popular [Nature-Friendly Burlington program](#). In fact, at times it can be a challenge for our small team to keep up with community inquiries and requests pertaining to this urban nature-focused programming, and we are confident that evolving the Tyandaga Golf Course to a location that provides more opportunities for Burlington's growing population to experience more of these essential connections, will be a decision you will most definitely never regret.

Transitioning the current golf course to 'co-exist' with extensive naturalization with native, pollinator plants, and the planting of many much needed trees to advance the City's ambitious (and necessary) forest canopy coverage target, while providing a safe haven for local wildlife, should be of top priority. Compatible active and passive seasonal opportunities for Burlington's diverse community can be advanced at the area such as [winter programming that embraces and supports newcomers to the City](#), and many more fun and inclusive offerings.

Together with the community, we must ACT on every opportunity available, and particularly significantly impacting ones such as the Tyandaga Golf Course, to restore and grow natural ecosystems locally, and to provide welcomed, accessible, inclusive places to enjoy for all current and future generations of Burlington.

Respectfully,



Amy

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Together we make a difference

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Acknowledging – Honouring – Acting

In Burlington, our work with the community takes place within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and we recognize this land as being home and the traditional territory to Indigenous people since time immemorial. [Learn more.](#)