

Oakland Mills Open Space Advisory Committee

Introduction

The Oakland Mills (OM) Village Board formed a Public Space Advisory Committee (OM PSAC) in 2013. The PSAC was initially established under the direction of Phil Engelke in partial response to an unexpected cutback in Oakland Mills Open Space mowing by the Columbia Association. The OM PSAC was to act as a working level interface between the Columbia Association Open Space Management Division (CA OSMD), the Oakland Mills Village Board and Oakland Mills residents on issues involving public space and open space.

In the fall of 2017, the OM Open Space Advisory Committee was split-off from the PSAC in order to concentrate on Open Space issues while the PSAC continues to concentrate on Public Space within OM excluding Open Space.

Current Members of the OSAC

Bill McCormack - Co-chair
Gerhart (Gerry) Witte - Co-chair

Interested volunteers are welcome.

Accomplishments of the PSAC through 2017

- 1) Achieved moratorium of Oakland Mills grass cutting changes in 2013 (impetus for the OM PSAC).
- 2) Established a working relationship with the CA Open Space Management Division.
- 3) Advocated to CA to correct a Stevens Forest Pond silt runoff problem.
- 4) Persuaded the school system to withdraw plans for tree planting at Stevens Forest Elementary School based on residents' safety concerns.
- 5) Lobbied Howard Hughes Corp. to replace four massive wooden safety fences overlooking pathway tunnels.
- 6) Demonstrated the need for "OM12" Tot Lot repairs.
- 7) Designated two open space areas for bamboo removal.
- 8) Championed OM "Beautification" Projects
 - a) Patriot Lane Pond
 - b) Farewell Road
- 9) Assisted with annual OM Clean-up Day Activities.
- 10) Presented budget recommendations to CA Board twice at resident speak-out sessions.
- 11) Credited by CA as the main impetus for CA to develop a 2017 Columbia-wide Open Space Assessment Report.

Columbia Association's Open Space Assessment Report

In 2017, the Columbia Association developed a rather comprehensive plan on Columbia's Open Space. See this report at <https://www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/planning-development/>

Requests for Resident Input

As needed, the OM OSAC will hold open sessions where residents can voice their concerns. Please provide input to the OSAC in writing by sending your comments to the email address at omosac@gmail.com or by contacting the Oakland Mills Village Manager at manager@oaklandmills.org.

Please include the following in your correspondence:

- Name (optional)
- Street name of your residence
- Comments about CA's Open Space Plans as they affect your residence
- Suggested alternatives to the CA Open Space Plans

Note - if you make reference to a particular page from the attached maps, please identify the page title as identified in the legend (i. e. Bullring and Pamplona, Wondering Way, etc)

The Village Board will also schedule time for resident discussion on this topic at a Village Board meeting sometime in the future. Please check the topic list for future village Board meetings.

PSAC Committee Members

If you would like clarification about this email, please contact one of the following PSAC members during the evening or weekend:

Daniel Kirk-Davidoff	410-730-2780	(Stevens Forest)
Jervis Dorton	xxx-xxx-xxxx	(??????)
Mike Greenberg	xxx-xxx-xxxx	(Thunder Hill)
William (Bill) McCormack	xxx-xxx-xxxx	(Stevens Forest)
Gerhart (Gerry) Witte	xxx-xxx-xxxx	(Stevens Forest)

Map Terminology

Mowed Turf - open space areas currently regularly mowed by CA.

Proposed Buffers - open space areas that will no longer be mowed. Vegetation will grow naturally.

Implemented Buffers - open space that is recently no longer mowed. Vegetation is growing naturally

Proposed Reforestation - current open space where new trees will be planted and grass will be occasionally mowed for three years. After that, the vegetation will grow naturally.

Implemented Reforestation - reforested open space that has already been planted with new trees.

Proposed Meadows - (??? Does anyone have a definition for this?????)

~~—The formation of this advisory committee was brought on by some changes in CA's mowing policy for portions of Oakland Mills last summer. These changes caught many residents by surprise and sparked some vigorous conversation between residents and the CAOSD at some OM Board meetings. Hopefully, the PSAC can open the lines of communication among residents, CAOSD and the OM Board to avoid such controversy in the future.—~~