

South Ottawa roads, playgrounds, pathways, studies, real estate tapped for 2017 cash

South Ottawa projects in 2017 budget

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Dozens of projects in Ottawa's southern wards have been tapped to receive 2017 budget dollars. Here's a breakdown, ward by ward:

Capital Ward

Residents who live in or frequent the Billings Bridge and Heron Park neighbourhoods of Capital Ward can count on the addition of a new red light camera at Bank Street and Riverside Drive in the coming months.

It's just one of a number of items for that part of the ward that are included in the city's 2017 budget.

The design of a new pathway will be completed in 2017 to allow users of the Rideau River Eastern Pathway to walk or cycle under the south side of Billings Bridge at Bank Street and Riverside Drive. Construction is scheduled for 2018 and the cost is being shared with the National Capital Commission.

"That means people going east-west along that multi-use pathway won't have to come up and cross Bank Street anymore," said Capital Coun. David Chernushenko. "It is safer, removes a number of movements, and there will be fewer people for drivers to keep an eye on."

[inRead](#) That will complement plans to begin work on sections of the Rideau River Western Pathway in nearby Old Ottawa South, he said, adding that currently is a patchwork of trails to the University of Ottawa and on to Sandy Hill.

Faircrest Heights, Alta Vista, Billings Bridge and Heron Park residents can also look forward to construction beginning on the Rideau Canal footbridge that will link Fifth Avenue in the Glebe with Clegg Street in Old Ottawa East.

"For a lot of people within the ward it's a real plus," Chernushenko said. "For them, that bridge over the canal is great."

The work on the \$21-million project – the cost of which is being shared between the city and the federal government – will begin in September 2017 and wrap up in 2019.

As well, cycling infrastructure will be added along Heron Road to the Trillium O-Train Line's Confederation Station. And 150 trees will be planted near the RA Centre along Riverside Drive as part of the Canada 150 Maple Grove project.

The city will also continue with the design of the Heron-Baseline bus rapid transit project, as well as the Bank Street South redesign project.

Alta Vista Ward

The 2017 budget includes big changes for Featherston Park, which will be on the receiving end of a fitness park with climbers and other exercise equipment.

A 30-metre obstacle course and running track, which was developed through a 2015 consultation process, will be paid for with \$153,000 in cash-in-lieu-of-parkland funds.

“It will be a very interesting design,” said Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier.

Construction will begin in 2017 and the goal is to open it the same year or in 2018 at the latest.

The budget also includes \$2.9 million in citywide development charges for the Canterbury covered ice rink, which will also be paid for by a ward levy and other revenue sources.

Sharel Park, near Heron and Walkley Roads, will see a \$270,000 splashpad open in late June.

There will also be a fair amount of road work, including the resurfacing of Halifax Road, from Saunderson Drive to Walkley Road, at a cost of \$328,000, plus sidewalk repair at \$76,000.

“It's a well-used street for a lot of persons to get in and out of the community,” Cloutier said, adding this will improve the walkability of the area, which is a busy hub with the Canterbury Community Centre, several apartment buildings, bus stops and Canterbury High School.

Featherston Drive will be resurfaced from Kilborn Avenue to Ryder Street for \$1.4 million. Heron Road will get a similar treatment from Bank Street to Finn Court in Herongate for \$774,000. Some cycling infrastructure will be integrated west of Bank Street, Cloutier added.

And a stretch of Tremblay Road near Eastway Gardens will undergo some sewer and water work costing almost \$1 million.

River Ward

Budget 2017 will include \$150,000 for a consultant to conduct a needs assessment study of the Mooney's Bay Park pavilion.

“There's no doubt that the pavilion needs work,” said River Coun. Riley Brockington.

That report will allow the city to determine the price tag for different renovation options.

“You can have a frugal model, which is just bring it up to code again, you can have a modernized model and you can have a Cadillac model,” he said, adding the modernized option could provide more space for a lifeguard station, the restaurant, revamped washrooms, possibly outdoor showers and an area to rent watercraft.

As well, the replacement of a playground in the Revelstoke community has been granted \$200,000. Brockington said he plans to meet with residents to determine what's needed.

A total of \$100,000 has already been set aside for a new Sue Holloway Fitness Park at Mooney's bay Park, to replace the aging exercise structures torn down in early 2016. A large children's playground was built in its place throughout the summer and fall of 2016.

Brockington said he has had preliminary meetings with city staff about the outdoor fitness park, and he intends to pull together stakeholders in the community in 2017 to help choose where in the park it should be rebuilt (there are three possible locations) and what components it should include.

Gloucester-Southgate Ward

Cash has been promised for a play structure replacement in Bruff Park in Greenboro and new docks at Eccolands Park along the Rideau River, located southwest of Limebank and River roads.

Ward residents will also see the resurfacing of Blohm Drive, from Johnston Road to Hunt Club Road in Hunt Club Park, 28 Fireside Cres. to Tapiola Crescent, and Brando Crescent in Greenboro 2017. The cost of these road projects needs to undergo a final assessment and be put out to tender, according to city staff.

The ward's biggest ticket item in 2017 – though paid for by federal public transit infrastructure dollars – will be the repaving of a section of the Greenboro Neighbourhood Bikeway, which is popular with pedestrians and cyclists, but is aging at more than 30 years old.

“My big priority is getting the bikeway reconstructed,” said Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans. “And that's important because there's a lot of potholes in it. We get a lot of complaints about it. It's really at the end of its lifecycle.”

A portion of it from Bank Street to Albion Road has already been completed, but now the plan in 2017 is to repave it from Albion Road to Lorry Greenberg Drive. The goal is to eventually have it redone up to Hawthorne Road.

“Greenboro was built as a different model community,” said Deans. “They basically said that this was going to be their internal sidewalk. And it’s a link that goes through the entire community. It’s heavily used by the neighbourhood.”

It also links people to the South Keys Transitway, which further encourages active transportation, she said.

Gloucester-South Nepean Ward

The city is setting aside \$4.5 million to buy a parcel of land south of Limebank and Earl Armstrong roads in Riverside South’s future downtown.

“It’s the first step for getting the rec complex for Riverside South,” said Gloucester-South Nepean Coun. Michael Qaqish.

As well, \$500,000 has been earmarked for the design of a future library that will be located within the same facility.

“It’ll be a community hub,” he said.

The hope is that preliminary designs will be completed late in the first quarter or early in the second quarter of 2017 so they can be presented to the community for feedback. The idea is to include a fitness room, community space for programs and possibly explore the financial feasibility of a pool.

“The Sens might be interested in doing a little community rink there,” Qaqish said. “Like a little Rink of Dreams.”

Other highlights include \$10 million to \$12 million in intersection improvements along Prince of Wales Drive, which will help commuters, including Riverside South residents, said Qaqish.

Prince of Wales will be resurfaced from Strandherd Road to Hunt Club Road for \$4 million, and a new traffic light will go in at Longfields Road and Paul Metivier Road for \$300,000.

Money will also fund a study to improve the intersection at Findlay Creek Drive and Bank Street.

The city will also add 17 new OC Transpo buses in Riverside South, Findlay Creek and Barrhaven.

“There’s going to be more buses or more bus service. And that’s something I hear regularly from residents about improving public transit,” he said. “We still have to procure and buy the buses which means ... we’re actually not going to be able to start the new (service schedule) until the end of 2017,” he said.

Money will also go to phase two of Findlay Creek’s Diamond Jubilee Park, resurfacing Spratt Road to Earl Armstrong Road and storm sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

Osgoode Ward

A much-anticipated signalized intersection is coming to Mitch Owens and Manotick Station roads for about \$1.1 million. It will feature turning lanes when construction gets underway in 2017.

“It’s been problematic from the get-go,” Osgoode Coun. George Darouze said, adding there have been several accidents when cars try to turn onto Mitch Owens Road, which is a truck route.

It’s also hoped it will alleviate some of the pressure on other streets, such as Gough and Apple Orchard roads, that are used by motorists as a bypass. As well, Apple Orchard Road and Parkway Road will be realigned at Stagecoach Road to improve sightlines.

“When you change the intersection it’s going to take lots of pressure off those roads,” Darouze said.

That realignment will soak up about \$400,000 in the 2017 budget, plus another \$300,000 to \$400,000 that will be carried forward from 2016.

Other infrastructure upgrades include new roofs for Larry Robinson Arena in Metcalfe, the Osgoode Community Centre and the Osgoode Township Museum in Vernon, and mechanical upgrades at the Greely and Osgoode fire stations for more than \$1 million.

Osgoode Ward will also see the replacement of 47 culverts, part of a \$3.2-million funding envelope for underground infrastructure work. That includes five major culverts, three of which are municipal drains.

Those have to be done before Darouze advocates for 2018 budget dollars for the repaving of Stagecoach Road.

“Some people are not going to be happy with the detours but it’s needed,” he said. “To keep moving paving, we need to fix all of these underground.”

Victoria Street in Metcalfe will be repaved from Eighth Line Road to Boundary Road for \$1.5 million.

Playground upgrades are coming to four parks in Greely for \$150,000, plus a new gazebo will be built in Metcalfe's Joe Rowan Park, Darouze said. And the lights at Mckendry Park in that village will also be upgraded within that funding package.

Rideau-Goulbourn Ward

Commuters living in Kars, Manotick and North Gower can count on the resurfacing of Prince of Wales Drive, located north of the ward between Strandherd Road and Earl Armstrong Road, which Rideau-Goulbourn Coun. Scott Moffatt said is long overdue.

As well, William McEwen Road will be resurfaced between Bankfield and Century roads, near Manotick, which Moffatt said acts as a Highway 416 cut-through at times.

"Last year, we had a number of roads done in the ward and next year won't be any different," he said.

The intersection at Prince of Wales Drive and Bankfield Road will be redesigned, possibly with the addition of turning lanes.

"It's the flow – it fails miserably," Moffatt said, adding it causes traffic tie-ups at Highway 416. "It's been failing for years."

The goal is to do the design work in 2017 and begin construction in 2018.

A couple of projects that were included in past budgets but will either begin or wrap up in 2017 include the \$350,000 Remembrance Park in Manotick – set to open on July 1, 2017.

The Manotick Arena expansion project will get underway in April.

"While we're expanding the arena to increase dressing room space and community space on the second floor, we're also taking the opportunity to expand some of the lifecycle work into this same project so we're doing it all at once," Moffatt said of the \$2-million project, which is being funded by the city, the community and the federal government.

The goal is to have most of the lifecycle work done in October, so the skating schedule isn't delayed.

The expansion will see three new dressing rooms, existing dressing rooms reconfigured and enlarged, the reconfiguration of washrooms on the second floor, and the creation of two multipurpose rooms to complement the hall space.

"Really, all it is upstairs is one room," Moffatt said. "So if there's multiple groups that want to come in, there's no way to divide that."

