

## Committee Agenda Report

Committee Name: Environmental Action

Meeting Date: 22 April

Submitted By: fred schueler

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**TOPIC:** naturalized communities/municipal publicity

**GOAL:** *to demonstrate that areas currently under lawn can be converted to biodiverse carbon-sequestering stands of native tree/shrub/herb/invertebrate forest, with lessons in control of invasive species in adjacent areas.*

**BACKGROUND:** *Crozier Park contains large areas of lawn surrounded by brushy fencerows which contain many Buckthorns and other invasive woody species. Miyawaki-style mini-forests are “a collaboration of living creatures both intricate and mysterious — microbes, fungi, shrubs, ground- covers. In turn, this assemblage attracts insects, birds and mammals in a merry mashup of collegiality... giving rise to a tiny, forested revolution in cities across the world, including several in Canada... the densely planted forests are perhaps the size of a tennis court, ...but these minuscule forests are mighty, containing hundreds of plants, each striving to get its share of sun and rain.” - <https://canadian Geographic.ca/articles/the-many-benefits-of-the-minuscule-but-mighty-miyawaki-forests/>*

*Some of us in the habitat gardening group suggest that a Miyawaki-style mini-forest in the shape of a Maple leaf – visible from space and on Google maps – be planted on one of the lawn expanses in Crozier Park, with control of the Buckthorns and other invasives in the adjacent fencerows, and publicity about the Miyawaki method, the diversity of species in a mature forest, and the depleted state of biodiversity in the plantations and wind-seeded woods in eastern Ontario. It’s important to emphasise these subjects as our Ash trees are being decimated by the Emerald Ash Borer, with subsequent invasion by Buckthorns, and global warming makes it advisable for cold-intolerant species to move north.*

**HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE COMMITTEE:** This would continue the committee’s concern with native plant biodiversity, the lack of such diversity in large areas of lawns, and invasive plant species.

**HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE COUNCIL WORKPLAN:** *This project would be “green & growing” on municipal land, and would provide an example for such emulation of the municipal model by other land holders.*

**OUTCOME:** Joint study of this idea by municipal staff and the Habitat Gardeners group.