



G

Garbage, Green Bin and Recycling Collection

Garbage disposal, recycling and yard waste pick up are managed by the City of Ottawa. Collection in Rockcliffe Park is generally on Tuesday, except after civic holidays, when it is shifted to the next day. Please refer to the online garbage and recycling calendar at ottawa.ca/en/garbage-and-recycling/recycling/garbage-and-recycling-collection-calendar. It describes what is picked up and when. Rockcliffe Park is in Collection Zone A. If you need a hard copy of the calendar, email 311@ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1 to have one sent to you. The waste calendar also lists the locations and dates for hazardous waste collections and how to recycle cedar hedge clippings.

Put your garbage and recycling boxes at the roadside by 7:00 am on the day of collection. We have a large and skilled raccoon population so use tightly covered, raccoon-proof garbage containers. Pick up for garbage and blue bins (glass, metal and plastics) alternates weekly with black box (paper and cardboard) collection. Extra recycling boxes are available at a modest cost at most hardware stores.

Green bins are provided by the city; contents are collected weekly. Many residents have their own compost bins and use the results to enhance their flowerbeds. Please always either compost or recycle using the green bins. There are city and provincial waste-reduction targets that we are asked to meet to conserve the remaining space in solid-waste landfill sites.

Wine bottles, beer bottles, cans and some alcohol containers may be returned for cash at any Beer Store (thebeerstore.ca/locations/ottawa). Large appliances will not be collected; they may be donated to various charities or taken to one of the city's Take it Back! partners; go to ottawa.ca/en/business/partners-and-partnerships/take-it-back-program.

Garden Waste

Leaf and garden waste is collected weekly throughout the year in compostable brown bags, available at hardware and grocery stores. Cut branches into four-foot lengths and tie in easily handled bundles for collection, and remove large stones.

Governor General *See also: Events, Rideau Hall*

The Governor General's official residence since Confederation has been Rideau Hall at 1 Sussex Drive. Located on the edge of Rockcliffe Park, guided tours are available and public events are held on the grounds. Go to gg.ca/visit-us for more information.

HI

Heritage Conservation District

Dating from 1864, the Village of Rockcliffe Park is a heritage gem, with a special character that is unique in Canada. Since its inception, Rockcliffe has developed with a sensitivity to scale, massing, spatial relationships and density of housing, all in a park-like setting. The park-like setting is the unifying core of its heritage character – narrow curving roads largely without curbs or sidewalks, generous lots and gardens, houses set unobtrusively within a visually continuous rich green landscape, soft lighting and quietude. It enjoys open spaces and parkland, public pathways, a lake and pond, and is heavily treed. At the same time, it is characterized by a surprising diversity in different areas – of topology, landscape, size and style of houses, and scale and shape of properties, from the large estates of lumber barons to the more modest homes of civil servants and others. Together, this forms a cultural heritage landscape, all aspects of which are an integral part of Rockcliffe’s history and heritage.

The Village Council officially designated Rockcliffe Park as a Heritage Conservation District in 1997. The Village had commissioned a study to determine whether it should become a Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act. Architect Julian Smith and historian Victoria Angel carried out the research and held well-attended public meetings to review draft material with all Village residents. Agreement was unanimous on the merits of designating the Village as a heritage district and on a set of management guidelines to guide development while protecting the Village’s heritage character. The original study may be found online at app06.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2012/03-28/pec/RockcliffeHCDstudy.pdf.

35

The boundaries of the heritage district and the Village are identical. This may be the only entire municipality in Canada to have been designated a heritage district.

Transition from Village to City, 2001

At amalgamation, the area became the Village of Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District within the City of Ottawa. Anticipating amalgamation, residents established The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation, now known as the Rockcliffe Park Foundation, to raise funds to help protect the Village’s heritage character and support community projects. Residents then established the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA) to represent community interests to the new, enlarged City of Ottawa and to carry on Village activities. Major committees of the former Village, such as Library, Heritage and Environment, became committees of the RPRA, with, for a time, many of the same members.

Heritage Conservation District Plan 2016

The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan, approved by Ottawa City Council in February 2016, has been in full legal force since April 2019, following an appeal of it by a developer. The Heritage Plan replaces the earlier Management Guidelines. It builds on protections that have existed since Rockcliffe Park was an independent municipality, and recognizes that both its unifying landscape setting and its heritage buildings, large and small, as well as other heritage attributes, are to be protected. One heritage building in Rockcliffe, the Hart Massey House at 400 Lansdowne Road, is now a National Historic Site, deemed of importance to the nation. The 2016 Heritage Plan is available at rockcliffepark.ca/resources-and-directories.

Purpose of the Heritage Plan

The Ontario Heritage Act requires municipalities to adopt a Heritage Conservation District Plan for their heritage districts. All development within a heritage district must respect the policies and provisions of the plan. Municipal councils make decisions to allow or deny heritage permits required for development on this basis.

36

The fundamental objectives of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan are to maintain and enhance the park-like qualities and atmosphere of Rockcliffe Park, to preserve buildings and properties that contribute to its heritage character, and to ensure that new buildings, and additions or alterations to existing buildings, are compatible with the established heritage character of their street. The protection and enhancement of Rockcliffe Park's strong canopy of trees, hedges, green space and open space are central to its park-like qualities.

In preparing the Heritage Plan, each property in Rockcliffe Park was evaluated and scored on the basis of its history, design, and landscaped setting. All properties that scored 50 and over are categorized as "Grade I" and those below 50 as "Grade II." The retention of both Grade I and Grade II buildings is an objective of the plan. Grade I properties contribute most strongly to the heritage character of Rockcliffe and cannot be demolished except in extraordinary circumstances such as fire or natural disaster. Demolition of Grade II buildings will be permitted only where the existing building is of little significance and the proposed building is sympathetic to the traditional surrounding environment and meets all requirements of the Heritage Plan. The designation of properties as either Grade I or Grade II can be found at rockcliffepark.ca/heritage-conservation-district.

The heritage character of the Village of Rockcliffe Park was unusually well-protected from the time of its creation until amalgamation with the City of Ottawa in 2001. Its development rested in the hands of its engaged and knowledgeable residents, and the local oversight bodies they put in place.

The 2016 Heritage Plan was meant to give Rockcliffe Park and the city new 'teeth' to protect and enhance the heritage character of our community. Legally, its provisions prevail if there is a conflict between them and any part of the city's zoning by-law. There have, however, been challenges and disappointments: the demolition of important houses; new houses that are not compatible with neighbouring houses in scale, height or siting; additions to houses that destroy heritage attributes and dominate the existing building; failure to preserve existing lot patterns; widening of roads; increasing hardscape and the removal of soft landscaping on properties; and removal of important hedges, trees and landscape features. The Heritage Committee of the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association continues to work closely with the city's heritage staff in assessing development applications based on the provisions of the Heritage Plan.

The city will undertake a review of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District Plan and determine whether it is meeting its objectives within, at most, 10 years from its coming into force in 2019.

Heritage and Heritage Outreach Committees

These two RPRA committees are in place to help protect and enhance the heritage character of Rockcliffe Park. The Heritage Committee works with the heritage staff of the City of Ottawa to assist homeowners when they wish to apply for permits to alter their properties. Changes to properties must meet the provisions of the Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan with respect to alterations and additions to buildings, demolitions and new constructions, changes to the landscape character of properties, new pools and hardscape, and accessory buildings. The City of Ottawa is responsible for issuing heritage permits.

37

The Heritage Outreach Committee is not involved in assessing applications to alter individual properties, but with processes and policies related to heritage such as the city's Official Plan, zoning by-laws, and provincial laws and policies. It liaises with other heritage districts in Ottawa, with Heritage Ottawa, and with specialists in the field of heritage conservation, and undertakes initiatives in the community to enhance understanding and protection of heritage.

The two committees also work with teams on special projects such as the restoration of the Birkenfels Gates, an oral history based on recorded interviews with longtime Rockcliffe residents, the inaugural Heritage Walk in 2022, and an application to the federal government to have Rockcliffe Park declared a Historic Site of National Significance. An archive of historical material that includes files with photographs and information on most Rockcliffe properties is also maintained.

Heritage Walk

The biennial Heritage Walk, introduced in the summer of 2022, celebrates the history of our neighbourhood with an informative self-guided walking tour. The Heritage Walk builds on the tradition of self-guided walking tours of Rockcliffe first set out in 1982 in the booklet 'Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park,' which added four additional routes in a second volume published in 2011. The biennial Heritage Walk is organized by the Heritage Walk Committee and the RPRA, and is funded by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

History

In 1864, Thomas Coltrin Keefer, regarded as the founder of Rockcliffe Park, produced his Subdivision Plan of Park, Villa, and Village Lots for part of the estate of his late father-in-law, Thomas McKay. This plan combined winding roads with large residential lots, and banned businesses. Thomas McKay, a major contractor of the Rideau Canal, at one time owned a 1,100-acre estate stretching from the current National Research Council building on Sussex Drive to present-day St. Laurent Boulevard, and included his residence, Rideau Hall.

38

The name for the Village was taken from its first house, Rockcliffe, built by Duncan Rynier MacNab. It was completed before his death in 1837 and is now incorporated into the residence of the Papal Nuncio at 724 Manor Avenue. The Keefer and McKay families were among the early residents in the estate, and their histories are deeply intertwined with the development of Rockcliffe Park.

Its expansion proceeded slowly. The first houses were mostly summer cottages, with only a few permanent residences. In the early days, some people chose the Rockcliffe neighbourhood because land was less expensive than in the more fashionable Sandy Hill. After public transportation improved, many Ottawans enjoyed Sunday outings to the Rockcliffe picnic park established by Thomas Keefer, while others chose to live in the country atmosphere of what would become the Village of Rockcliffe Park.

In 1926, Rockcliffe Park was incorporated as a separate municipality in the Township of Gloucester. It had been administered as a Police Village from 1908, with boundaries that have remained unchanged to this day. The Village flourished as an independent municipality; its administration was small, financially prudent, readily accessible and responsive to the needs of residents. Councillors and mayors were volunteers, and residents actively participated in Village committees that reported directly to Council.

This was local government by the community and, in later years, it was a vigorous contributor to regional government. In the 1990s, Ontario decided to amalgamate its regional structures into single municipalities and despite strong objections by local citizens, 11 municipalities were absorbed into the City of Ottawa by January 1, 2001. For more information on the history of Rockcliffe Park, see the Association's website, rockcliffepark.ca.

History of the Village Publication

'Rockcliffe Park: A History of the Village,' by historian, author and longtime Rockcliffe resident Martha Edmond, is the definitive and a most informative coffee table book on the history of Rockcliffe. The book, published in 2005, spans the 200-year period from the first land grant in 1799 to the Village's amalgamation into the larger City of Ottawa in 2001. The project was undertaken by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation in 1998, which secured funding and commissioned Martha Edmond to research, write and produce the book. It is available for purchase at Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Avenue.

Hosers, The Rockcliffe *See also: Ice Skating*

For decades, Rockcliffe's ice rinks have been loyally tended by a group of neighbourhood volunteers who eventually teamed up to form The Rockcliffe Hosers, a non-profit community organization. With the support of sponsors, they oversaw the design and construction of a multi-purpose sports pad and field house in Rockcliffe Park, which opened on December 16, 2018. The Hosers maintain the primary rink and the Jubilee Garden puddle rink all winter long by clearing the snow, and scraping and watering the ice. For more information go to therockcliffehosers.com. To join the Hosers, email therockcliffehosers@gmail.com.

39

Hospitals

Nearest hospitals:

- **The Ottawa Hospital General Campus**, 501 Smyth Road
613-722-7000, ottawahospital.on.ca
- **Bruyère - Hôpital Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital**, 43 Bruyère Street
613-562-6262, bruyere.org/en/s-elisabeth-bruyere-hospital
- **Bruyère - Hôpital Saint-Vincent Hospital**, 60 Cambridge Street North
613-562-6262, bruyere.org/en/s-saint-vincent-hospital
- **Hôpital Montfort**, 713 Montreal Road
613-746-4621, hopitalmontfort.com
- **The Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus**, 1053 Carling Avenue
613-798-5555, ottawahospital.on.ca

I

Ice Rinks *See also: Rideau Hall, Hosers*

During the summer, the main Village ice rink, located next to the Jubilee Garden at 271 Buchan Road, is converted into a sports pad. In the winter months, the sports pad is converted back into an ice rink. Also in the winter months, the smaller Jubilee Garden puddle rink for children is located just next to it, at the corner of Buchan Road and Mariposa Avenue.

The new ice rink/sports pad was officially opened in 2018, in the same location as the previous rink, but enhanced with a year-round field house with washroom, kitchenette, and ample space for changing skates.

Other area outdoor rinks and skating pads include the Lindenlea Rink, the New Edinburgh Park Rink and the Manor Park Rink. A reminder: please stay off the ice when indicated – when the ice needs more TLC (Tender Loving Cold). Go to therockcliffehosers.com for rink and field house hours.

Ottawa's most well-known skating venue is, of course, the Rideau Canal Skateway. Each winter, the National Capital Commission (NCC) transforms the historic Rideau Canal into the world's largest skating rink. The Rideau Canal Skateway winds its way through the heart of the National Capital over a total length of 7.8 kilometres. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Rideau Canal in winter becomes a treasure that is the pride of the National Capital and a signature destination. The skating season typically runs from January to early March, but it is weather-dependent. When open, the Skateway is free and accessible seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Go to ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/rideau-canal-skateway for more details.

41

Invasive Species

The RPRA Environment Committee works with residents to control invasive species such as dog-strangling vine, garlic mustard, common and glossy buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, yellow archangel and Norway maple. Residents are asked to remove these invasive plants from their own properties and to email environment@rockcliffepark.ca if you think you might have one of these plants in your garden.

In recent years there has been an increasing infestation of spongy moths, formerly called gypsy moth – a name now withdrawn by the American and Canadian Entomological Societies. The caterpillar stage eats so much that it can significantly damage trees and shrubs, particularly conifers. Deciduous trees will recover if given enough water but defoliated conifers will die. Go to rockcliffepark.ca/environment for more information on how to remove the eggs from your trees.

J

Jubilee Garden

At the heart of Rockcliffe Park is the Village Green. The two parts of the Village Green include the formal Jubilee Garden to the east and the Centennial Garden to the west, with the areas separated by a cedar hedge. Jubilee Garden is a quiet spot that may be enjoyed by all.

Rockcliffe Park landscape architect Humphrey Carver designed the formal public garden in the heart of the Village. The spot had been a lawn bowling green and it was to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee that the site was redesigned as a formal public space and renamed the Jubilee Garden in 1977.

In the Jubilee Garden, Carver sited sections of the Corinthian columns that were once part of the classical portico of the old Carnegie Public Library that was located on Metcalfe Street at the corner of Laurier Avenue. Other parts of the classical portico of the old Carnegie Public Library – a column and other carved stones – can be found in the National Capital Commission's Rockeries adjacent to the Village. Village residents Thomas and Susan d'Aquino provided major funding for the Jubilee Pavilion. The Jubilee Garden is used for Village events, such as Outdoor Movie Night, croquet, community garage and plant sales, and, during the winter months, as the young children's puddle rink.

43

The Jubilee Garden may be rented for private functions, such as wedding receptions. For bookings, contact ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/parks-and-green-space#community-gardens.





K

Keefer, Thomas Coltrin

Thomas Keefer is known as the founder of the Village of Rockcliffe Park, which dates to 1864. He produced the original plan of subdivision for the part of Thomas McKay's estate that is Rockcliffe Park. Thomas McKay was his father-in-law.

Born in Thorold, Upper Canada, Keefer began his career as an engineer working on the Erie and Welland Canals. He first gained prominence in 1850 through the 'Philosophy of Railways,' an eloquent and persuasive essay promoting railway development. This gave him wide influence during the railway building era, although he built no lines himself. His public works, particularly the Hamilton, Montreal and Ottawa waterworks, established his reputation as a hydraulics engineer throughout the continent and abroad. He was a founding member and first president of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

He served as chief engineer on the Ottawa River, where he oversaw construction of water control works and timber slides. He was chief engineer of the Montreal Harbour Commission and Montreal Water Board, and he had a hand in the design of municipal waterworks systems for St. Catharines, Toronto, London, Quebec City, Dartmouth, Halifax and Ottawa – where Keefer eventually took up residence in a Rockcliffe Park estate.

L

Leafblowers *See: Yard Maintenance*

Library

Rockcliffe Park Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL)

Located in the same building as the Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, this branch is a hub of the Rockcliffe community and offers a variety of programming and services. Volunteers and OPL staff create a vibrant space by offering programs for children and adults. Membership in the OPL system is free to all Ottawa residents. A number of computers are available for public use, including two dedicated to the system-wide catalogue. Rockcliffe residents can request books from any branch in the OPL system, as well as inter-library loans. Other services include WiFi, the popular ebook tutorials and computer tutorials (both by appointment), electronic databases, various genealogy resources, the Every Child a Reader program and writing contests throughout the year. Volunteers help with the annual Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale and Open House events.

This branch offers various events geared to children and adults. Book clubs, Toddlertime, Storytime, Music in the Stacks and opportunities to meet published writers (Meet the Author) are scheduled, as well as special programs for local schools. Consult the library staff for details, check the Rockcliffe News, or visit the OPL events calendar at bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/programming-calendar.

49

Hours of operation are subject to change; check the website bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/branch/rockcliffe-park.

An external book return slot at the front of the library facing Springfield Road facilitates the return of materials when the library is closed.

Lighting

Soft lighting at night makes an important contribution to the ambiance of Rockcliffe Park. The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Plan protects the wide spacing, low height and warm light of its street lighting, and states that bright lighting around houses is incompatible with the heritage landscape. As well, the Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan (part of Ottawa's Official Plan) was recently updated and reinforces lighting as important to its heritage character. It states: "Lighting in Rockcliffe Park should be configured to be sensitive to the context of the street." Homeowners should limit exterior house lights to avoid light spillage and pollution, and preferably restrict them to entranceways – not facades, soffits, trees or landscape features. Nighttime lighting is implicated in the decline of our fireflies.





M

McKay, Thomas

Thomas McKay, a wealthy entrepreneur, stonemason, and one of the general contractors of the Rideau Canal entrance locks and the mills at Rideau Falls, built the home in 1838 that was to become Rideau Hall – the home of every governor general since Confederation.

Meetings, RPRA *See also: Rockcliffe Park Residents Association*

The Rockcliffe Park Residents Association Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday evening of the month, except July, August and December, at the Community Hall. Meetings are usually held in person but may held by Zoom when necessary. Please contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca for more information. An Annual General Meeting is held in the first quarter of each year. Meetings are open to the public.

Membership, RPRA *See also: Rockcliffe Park Residents Association*

In addition to implementing and managing our community's programs and events, the RPRA performs the essential role of representing Rockcliffe's interests with our councillor and at City Hall. The RPRA is a membership organization, so a robust membership is essential in supporting the significant efforts made on behalf of the Rockcliffe community. Your participation also ensures that your voice is heard on important issues. There is a nominal annual membership fee. Show your sense of community and ensure that your household has its annual membership; join or renew online at rockcliffepark.ca, through membership forms sometimes included in the Rockcliffe News, or by emailing secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

53

Mile Circle *See also: National Capital Commission (NCC)*

This area, between Sandridge Road and the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway, is owned and maintained by the NCC. It is primarily used for dog walking year-round and cross-country skiing in winter. It is also a prime butterfly and pollinator habitat.

Mosquito Control Services

The Environment Committee of the RPRA discourages the use of mosquito control, as mosquitoes are an important source of sustenance for birds, bats, and a variety of aquatic life. The product often used to control mosquitoes is pyrethrin, an insecticide toxic to bees, birds, cats, fish, and a wide variety of insects. If residents must use mosquito control services, they are encouraged to use a natural garlic-based control. Mid- and late-summer use of mosquito control products are generally not needed as mosquitoes are mostly absent by that time.

NI

National Capital Commission (NCC)

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is the federal Crown corporation dedicated to ensuring that Canada's Capital is a source of pride for all Canadians and a legacy for generations to come. NCC's lands in the Rockcliffe Park area include the 2.65-hectare Rockcliffe Rockeries and the Rockcliffe Pavilion.

NCC River House

The NCC River House is a century-old heritage building that is accessible year-round, located at 501 Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. It features a free public dock for swimming or to launch a kayak or canoe (in season), and food and beverage services. For details, go to ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/ncc-river-house.

Neighbourhood Watch *See also: Community Police Centre*

Neighbourhood Watch is a community-driven crime prevention program. Rockcliffe Park residents are encouraged to participate, as neighbours are uniquely qualified to notice and report anything unusual. Members of Neighbourhood Watch are simply asked to be aware of what is happening in their area, maintain sensible security practices, and report any incidents of crime, vandalism or suspicious activity. (See police contact information under the Community Police Centre listing in this booklet.) They are eligible to receive crime reports, and to be on a contact list in case it should ever be necessary to send out alerts in an emergency. Joining is easy and free. Members of the RPRA are already covered for Neighbourhood Watch membership; to join as a non-member of RPRA, to find out about becoming a block captain, or for any further information, please contact secretary@rockcliffepark.ca.

55

Newsletter

The Rockcliffe News, funded by the Rockcliffe Park Foundation and produced by the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association, is published six times a year and distributed to all households in the Village, with a digital version available at rockcliffepark.ca. Submissions are welcome; email editor@rockcliffepark.ca for details. Paid advertising is not accepted. Check the latest issue for publication deadlines and schedule.

Noise

Rockcliffe Park is notable for being a quiet place – it is part of its attraction and residents value it. Please bear this in mind, especially when gathering outside. Also, yard maintenance can be very noisy – residents are asked to avoid the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, which blight the quietude of our all-too-short summers. For some useful tips, go to crimepreventionottawa.ca/neighbourhood-toolkit/noise.







Official Residences

Rockcliffe Park is the home and official residence of the leader of Canada's Official Opposition. The house, Stornoway, is on Acacia Road. Of the roughly 700 homes in Rockcliffe, several dozen are official residences of heads of mission and ambassadors to Canada. The booklet 'Walking in the Village of Rockcliffe Park, Vol. 2,' produced by the RPRA Heritage Committee, provides the history of some of the homes and their occupants through the years, with maps for various self-guided tours. Booklets may be purchased at Books on Beechwood.

Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC)

See also: Rowing, Sailing, Tennis

The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC) offers tennis, rowing, sailing and kayaking programs. The recently renovated historic boathouse, now known as the NCC River House, dates back to the 1920s and is located on the shores of the Ottawa River on the outskirts of Rockcliffe Park. Outdoor lighted clay and hard tennis courts and a clubhouse are just across the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway. ONEC also offers multi-sport summer camps for children and teens ages seven to 17. Many different membership options are available.

ONEC marked several important milestones for this community club in 2023, including 50 years of summer camps, 100 years in the heritage boathouse, and its 140th anniversary. For information, go to onec.ca.

59

Outdoor Spaces

Shared outdoor spaces are a wonderful part of living in Rockcliffe. These spaces include Pine Hill, the Village Green, the Jubilee Garden, the Rockeries, the Hillsdale soccer field (and dog park), and the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area around McKay Lake and the Pond. Information on these shared spaces can be found at rockcliffepark.ca.

P

Pavilion *See also: National Capital Commission (NCC), Tobogganing*

Overlooking the Ottawa River, the Rockcliffe Pavilion, constructed in 1917, is a recognized Federal Heritage Building, managed by the National Capital Commission. Go to ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/rockcliffe-park-and-the-rockeries.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Use

The RPRA's Environment Committee encourages everyone to use an organic method of weed and pest control, and not use herbicides and other pesticides on lawns and gardens. There are concerns that the infiltration of fertilizers via groundwater may alter the nutrient balance and encourage the growth of algae and other water weeds in McKay Lake and the Pond, and pyrethrin-based mosquito control products may drift and kill aquatic organisms. To preserve these bodies of water, the Environment Committee promotes the use of organic compost or lawn clippings rather than chemicals to fertilize lawns and gardens.

Pets *See also: Dogs*

The City of Ottawa requires cat and dog owners to register their pets; this ensures the city has the necessary information to help reunite you with your pet if it becomes lost. Pet registrations must be renewed on an annual basis. For more information, refer to ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/cat-and-dog-registration.

61

Playgrounds

Popular playgrounds are located in New Edinburgh at 193 Stanley Avenue (and includes a splashpad), the Lindenlea Park at 15 Rockcliffe Way, and Optimiste Park at 43 Ste. Cecile Street in Vanier (with a splashpad and outdoor pool). There is also a children's playground park in the Anthony Vincent Park in Manor Park, as well as a playground at the Rockcliffe Park Public School, accessible outside of school hours.

Police *See: Community Police Centre*

Pond, The *See also: Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area, Swimming*

Located south of McKay Lake, the Pond was originally a sand and gravel pit, excavated over the period 1890 to 1949. The Sandpits, as it was called then, filled with water over time. During the time of sand extraction, the Pond became a popular swimming hole. It continues to be a welcome spot for swimming in warmer months, but restrictions apply (no swimming after 2:00 pm) in order to preserve the natural habitat. There is no public swimming in McKay Lake.

Public Open Spaces

Central to Rockcliffe Park are the Village Green and Jubilee Garden. There is a footpath through the Caldwell-Carver Conservation Area along the east side of McKay Lake and to the Pond, where there is limited access for swimming. A footpath links Lansdowne Road North to the corner of Lansdowne Road South and Mariposa Avenue. There is a sports pad/skating rink behind the public school. Immediately to the north and west of Rockcliffe Park is accessible open space managed by the National Capital Commission (NCC), notably the beautiful Rockeries with architectural ruins, accessible from Acacia Avenue and Hillsdale Road.

Rockcliffe Park is a Heritage Conservation District within the City of Ottawa. Recreation and parks are listed at ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks. For other information about the City of Ottawa, go to ottawa.ca. If you would like to learn more about other parks and green spaces in the Ottawa area, see ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/parks-and-green-space#park-locations.

Public Transport

OC Transpo Route 6 is the main bus line that runs along Maple Lane via Acacia Avenue to Beechwood Avenue, heading downtown via Rideau Street toward the Parliament Buildings and then along Bank Street to South Keys. It ends at Billings Bridge. On Beechwood Avenue, one also has the choice of Routes 17 and 7, or the 9 along Creighton Street. Go to octranspo.com/en/plan-your-trip for more information.

There is a useful website, moovitapp.com, that can help map routes and public transportation options for traveling within the city.