

Victoria Park Forest Restoration Project

In the summer of 2006 the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Charlottetown launched a Forest Restoration Project that was aimed at restoring the health of the woodlands in Victoria Park.



Woodland Trail

Why protect our woodlands?

- They are a beautiful and peaceful place to take a walk.
- They serve as a great outdoor urban classroom where we can learn about nature.
- They help to buffer the winds that sweep through the Park, stop soil erosion, clean pollutants from the air and water, release oxygen while storing carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), help prevent the soil from getting too hot, regulate soil temperature and moisture, provide shade, provide food and a home for urban wildlife and more!

Did you know?

- **Native plantings increase the woodlands plant biodiversity. Having many types of plants makes the woodlands healthier. If there is an insect or disease outbreak, not all of the plants in the woodlands will be susceptible.**
1105 native trees, shrubs, ferns and wildflowers have been planted throughout the Park!
- **Invasive plant species threaten to choke out our native species in the Park.**
We have removed about 280 ½-ton truckloads of glossy buckthorn. We are controlling that Japanese knotweed by covering it with tarps and soil, seeding it to grass and then mowing it. The knotweed plants that come up in the surrounding woodlands are pulled regularly.
- **Habitat conservation protects plant and wildlife species in the Park.**
Clean up around Dead Man's Pond included removal of garbage from the pond and the surrounding area and removal of glossy buckthorn, an invasive plant species. Native trees and shrubs, planted along one side of the pond, deter people from walking along the water's edge. This protects the plants along the edge of the pond allowing amphibians to hide while they transition from their water habitat to living on the land.



Striped Maple



Japanese Knotweed

- **A healthy forest provides better wildlife habitat. A diverse population of trees and shrubs provide better food and hiding spots for birds and other wildlife. Standing dead trees provide places for woodpeckers to build nesting cavities. Rotting logs are a great place for salamanders to hide and hunt for food.**
- **Trails enhancement creates safe areas to walk, makes the trails more aesthetically pleasing, shows Park users where to walk, allows Parks staff to reduce the small trails that fragment the woodlands, creates better habitat and travel corridors for Park wildlife. We have pruned and planted trees and shrubs along the woodlands trails. The main trails have been mulched and unsafe roots have been removed.**



Each year we hold a Victoria Park Appreciation Day. Many people come out each year to make it a great success. Activities for the day include tree planting, trail mulching, invasive species removal and bulb planting. A participant BBQ and some prize giveaways wind up the event.



We look forward to the 4th annual Appreciation Day in the fall of 2009. Thanks to all the enthusiastic participants over the past three years!

The complete forest management plan, developed by Gary Schneider, Manager of the MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry Project can accessed at the following website:
<http://www.macphailwoods.org/>

Would you like to:

- **go on a nature tour of Victoria Park?**
- **know more about the Forest Restoration Project and Park wildlife?**
- **get involved with Park projects?**

Contact us at the Parks and Recreation office at 368-1025
www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca

