

BRANTWOOD PARK SHORELINE RESTORATION 2016

BACKGROUND

Enhancement of the shoreline buffer at Brantwood Park in Ottawa, Ontario has been an ongoing effort by local Community Groups (S.L.O.E., Ottawa East Community Association) and the City of Ottawa. In 2016, a site visit was conducted with community members, a member of the local Councillor's Office and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to discuss the issue of geese droppings in the park and potential enhancements for the existing shoreline buffer. The following is an overview of suggestions for potential shoreline restoration activities based on this discussion.



FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF RESTORATION/ENHANCMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BRANTWOOD PARK, OTTAWA.

BUFFER DELINEATION IN AREAS 1 & 2

AREA 1

This 35 metre wide stretch of shoreline is currently mowed and used for camp access and canoe launching. The clear sight lines between the grassy field and the Rideau River create inviting habitat for Canada geese which has led to issues with excessive goose droppings in the park.

GOALS

- Limit low-lying sight lines to water in order to deter geese
- Re-establish naturalized buffer area by delineating a no-mow zone
- Continue to allow water access to this area for canoe launching etc.

RESTORATION PLAN

Stakes will be installed to delineate a new naturalization/no-mow area in this section. This will help park maintenance workers avoid mowing in this area and allow natural grasses and wildflowers to re-establish. An angled access route to the water will continue to be maintained along with an open staging area for canoes and kayaks. By providing angled access routes to the water, direct sight lines to the water for geese are reduced. See Figures 2 and 3 for details.



FIGURE 2: PHOTO OF AREA 1 WITH PROPOSED NO-MOW/NATURALIZATION AREA

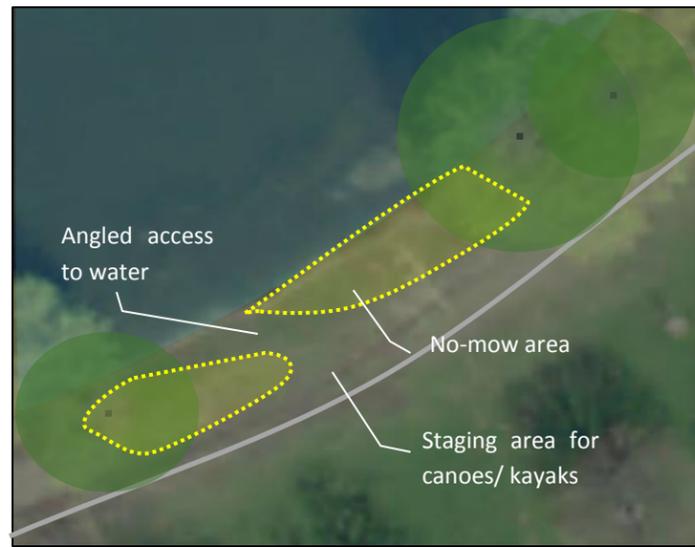


FIGURE 3: OVERHEAD VIEW OF PROPOSED NO-MOW/NATURALIZATION AREA

AREA 2

A 10 metre wide direct access area has been informally created in this location. Within the adjacent grassed buffer there is a large sitting rock that has been enveloped by grass which has limited its use.

GOALS

- Limit low-lying sight lines to water in order to deter geese
- Re-establish naturalized buffer area by delineating a no-mow zone
- Provide community access to sitting rock

RESTORATION PLAN

Stakes will be installed to delineate a new naturalization/no-mow area in this section. This will help park maintenance workers avoid mowing in this area and allow natural grasses and wildflowers to re-establish. The new access point will encompass the sitting rock so that it can be easily accessed by the community. See Figures 4, 5 & 6 for details.

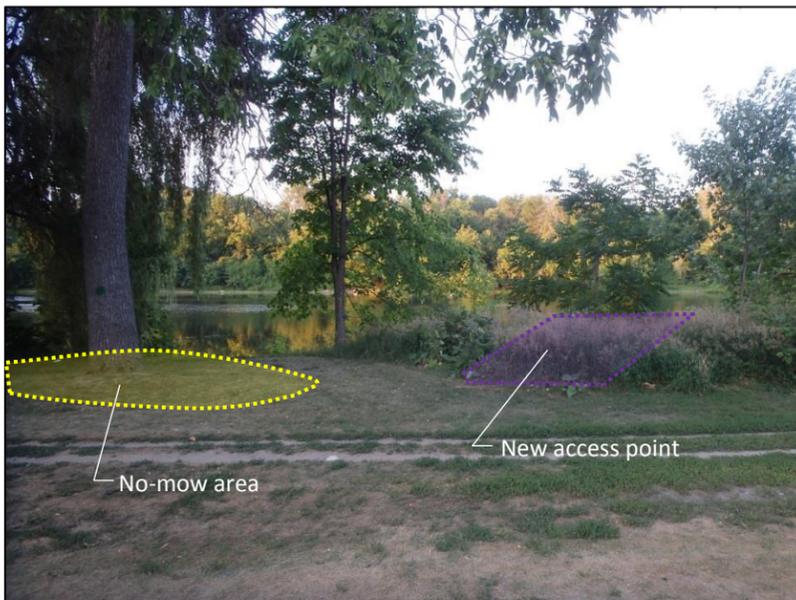


FIGURE 4: PHOTO OF AREA 2 WITH PROPOSED NO-MOW AREA AND NEW ACCESS POINT TO ENCOMPASS SITTING ROCK



FIGURE 5: PHOTO OF AREA 2 WITH PROPOSED ACCESS POINT TO ENCOMPASS ACCESS TO SITTING ROCK



FIGURE 6: OVRHEAD VIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO AREA 2

REFILL PLANTING

The shoreline of Brantwood Park has been naturalized and restored by the community in partnership with the City of Ottawa through a combination of planting and establishing no-mow zones. While the majority of plants have thrived, a few have been lost over the years to beaver activity, grass cutting encroachment and natural processes. Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's (RVCA) Shoreline Naturalization Program would be happy to work with the City and the community to replace some of the lost plants. RVCA can provide support for a community planting day (fall 2016 or spring 2017) by providing bareroot and 2 gallon potted native trees and shrubs (purchased from the Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville), a minimum of 1 staff member to assist with the planting event, on site delivery of the plants and provision of planting equipment (shovels, buckets, etc.). RVCA can work with the local community groups to identify areas requiring refill and to select the desired plants from the species list provided below.

Plant Type	Species	Notes
Native Trees	Bur Oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>)	Deciduous tree, grows up to 12-18 metres
	Eastern White Cedar (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>)	Coniferous tree, grows up to 9-16 metres
	Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	Coniferous tree, grows up to 30 metres
	Larch (Tamarack) (<i>Larix laricina</i>)	Coniferous tree, grows up to 15-25 metres, needles turn yellow in fall and drop
	Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Deciduous tree, grows up to 12-25 metres
	Silver Maple (<i>Acer saccharinum</i>)	Deciduous tree, grows up to 19-30 metres
	Sugar/Hard Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Deciduous tree, grows up to 20-35 metres
	White Spruce (<i>Picea alba</i>)	Coniferous tree, grows up to 20-30 metres
Native Shrubs	Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)	Grows up to 4 metres, showy white flowers
	Bebb's Willow (<i>Salix bebbiana</i>)	Shrubby willow, grows up to 1-5 metres, full sun or partial shade, fast growing
	Black Elderberry (<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>)	Grows up to 1-4 metres, white flowers, purple berries
	Gray Dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>)	Grows up to 1-4 metres, white flowers, white berries
	Highbush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>)	Grows up to 2-4 metres, white flowers, red/orange berries
	Nannyberry (<i>Viburnum lentago</i>)	Grows up to 4-7 metres, white flowers,
	Peachleaf Willow (<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>)	Grows up to 3-20 metres
	Pussy Willow (<i>Salix discolor</i>)	Grows up to 2-8 metres
	Red Osier Dogwood (<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>)	Grows between 1.5 to 4 metres, bright red bark, white flowers, white berries
	Speckled Alder (<i>Alnus incana</i>)	Grows up to 2-4 metres



FIGURE 7: PHOTO OF POTENTIAL BUFFER ENHANCEMENT AREA THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY BURDOCK.