

MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES 2003 & RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES 2004

BRING BACK THE DON SITES

Notes:

- Please refer to the “Natural Environment Stewardship Crew Summary Report 2003” for further details about tasks carried out by the Natural Environment Stewardship Crew
- Those sites marked with an asterisk (*) are sites shared with Evergreen and the list of activities for that site is not complete

Beechwood Wetland

Participants: Community Stewardship team (4 Participants + 1 bird monitor), Stewardship Crew, Summer students, Bloomberg News Group, SOAR, MNR Don Rangers

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Planted material was watered during periods of drought and re-mulched
- Tall vegetation and vines growing around planted material was clipped back
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Birds and vegetation were monitored
- Native trees, shrubs and herbaceous material were planted throughout the site in spring, summer and fall of 2003
- Weeding of invasive non-native species took place, with a focus on Japanese knotweed and Dog-strangling vine
- Herbicide was applied to Japanese knotweed and Dog-strangling vine
- Grand opening of the site took place in October 2003

Recommended maintenance activities 2004

- Continue to manage the Japanese knotweed colony growing at the northern end of the site, including starting herbicide applications in the spring of 2004
- Continue to manage the Japanese knotweed colonies growing throughout the centre of the site, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Continue to manage Dog-strangling vine growing along the Lower Don Trail, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Care for young trees and shrubs planted at the wetland. The trees and shrubs will need to be watered during drought periods, mulched, and tall vegetation and vines growing around the trees and shrubs will need to be clipped back
- Collect and dispose of litter
- Monitor water chemistry, birds, benthic invertebrates and vegetation
- Plant native vegetation
- Weed invasive non-native species, with a focus on Japanese knotweed and Dog-strangling vine

- Wrap chicken wire or hardware cloth around native trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Beltline Pond

Participants: Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Garlic mustard and Norway maple seedlings were weeded from around the pond edge and from around native vegetation

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to weed invasive non-native species, mainly Garlic mustard, Norway maples, and Manitoba maples, by mid-spring
- Survey vegetation
- Install fencing along the Beltline Trail

Domtar

Participants: Stewardship Crew, Summer students

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Japanese knotweed was pruned a number of times before the herbicide application took place in the fall
- Herbicide was applied to Japanese knotweed

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to manage the Japanese knotweed in this area, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Mow the meadow area to eliminate the growth of invasive woody species

Binscarth Swamp

Participants: Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Herbicide was applied to Manitoba maple stumps

Recommended activities 2004

- Monitor re-sprouts of treated Manitoba maple stumps
- Survey vegetation
- Tree guards should be removed from older, larger planted material
- Cut and monitor colony of Japanese knotweed growing in the swamp portion of this site

Cedarvale Ravine

Participants: None in 2003

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- None in 2003

Recommended activities 2004

- Clearing of vegetation from around planted material in the Bathurst/Heath area and clearing away of cattails from around planted material in the Bathurst street bridge area
- Removal of Purple loosestrife in the Bathurst/Heath area and from under the Bathurst street bridge

Chester Springs Marsh

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (4 participants + 1 bird monitor), Covenant House, Serve Canada, Bloomberg News Group, Summer students, Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Planted material was watered during periods of drought and re-mulched
- Tall vegetation and vines growing around planted material was weeded
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Birds, vegetation and water levels were monitored
- Native trees and shrubs were planted in the spring of 2003
- Weeding of invasive non-native species took place, with a focus on Japanese knotweed and Dog-strangling vine, but also including Garlic mustard, Virginia creeper, Japanese hops, Wild grape, Ragweed, Curled dock, Purple loosestrife, Tansy, Bull thistle, Bindweed
- Herbicide was applied to colonies of Japanese knotweed and Dog-strangling vine
- Tree guards were removed from trees that have outgrown them
- Hardware cloth was wrapped around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Cut back new growth from Manitoba maples and Siberian elm stumps
- Cut/dug out young Manitoba maples and Siberian elm
- Pulled Virginia creeper off cottonwoods
- Removed tree guards from trees that have outgrown them
- Trimmed vegetation adjacent to gravel pathways

Recommended activities 2004

- Care for young trees and shrubs planted at the marsh. The trees will need to be watered during drought periods, mulched, and tall vegetation growing around the trees will need to be clipped back
- Clear vegetation up to 1-metre deep along the two gravel pathways at least once during the summer

- Collect and dispose of litter
- Continue to cut back new growth from Manitoba maple and Siberian elm stumps
- Continue to manage Japanese knotweed growing within Chester Springs Marsh, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Continue to manage the Japanese knotweed colony growing at the northern end of the site, including starting herbicide applications in the spring of 2004
- Continue to manage Dog-strangling vine growing along the Lower Don Trail, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Continue to control the less established invasive non-native species, namely Purple loosestrife, Manitoba maple seedlings and Japanese hops (Japanese hops and other vines had a very prolific year in 2003 and their growth should be monitored next year)
- Cut and apply herbicide to the stumps of mature non-native tree species growing in the vicinity of the wetland to prevent seeding into Chester Springs Marsh and replace these trees with native species
- Identify areas dominated by non-native species, implement appropriate management techniques for these non-native species, and plant the areas with native herbaceous and/or woody species in the fall
- Monitor vegetation and water levels
- Remove tree guards from trees that have outgrown them
- There are high levels of beaver predation on planted material at this site and a solution for protecting very young trees should be sought
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Craigleigh Gardens Ravine

Participants: Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Garlic mustard and a small number of Manitoba and Norway maple seedlings were weeded

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to weed invasive non-native species, mainly Garlic mustard, Norway maples, and Manitoba maples, by mid-spring
- Remove dead planted material and tree guards (if present) from the top of the slope
- Continue to plant native plant material in the understorey, to enhance forest regeneration
- Install fencing and Parkland Naturalization signs along the top of the slope, to discourage access and the creation of informal pathways in an effort to reduce soil erosion

Don Valley Brick Works Quarry Area

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (7 participants + 1 bird monitor), Stewardship Crew, SOAR, Summer students

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Informal walking paths were blocked with logs and other natural debris
- Planted material was watered during periods of drought and re-mulched
- Some tree planting took place at the base of the western face of the site, midway to the back quarry wall
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Birds, vegetation and benthic invertebrate were monitored
- Supports were removed from caliper sized trees
- Tree guards were removed from trees that have outgrown them
- Hardware cloth was wrapped around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Weeding of invasive non-native species took place, including Black locust, Tree-of-heaven, Dog-strangling vine and White sweet clover
- An experiment determining the best course of action (herbicide application) for *Phragmites* colonies growing throughout the site was initiated
- Turtle nesting area was created at the south end of Buttonbush Pond by the TRCA in the spring
- One half of the meadow area was mowed by the TRCA in the fall
- Extensive patches of Canada thistle growing in the Front Ponds were brushcut or pruned. The ground at the front pond (the one closest to Bayview) was covered with a black landscape tarp to smother all weeds and the second pond was planted in the fall by Evergreen, to out-compete weeds
- The site was prepared for the TRCA/Don Watershed Regeneration Council's 10 year anniversary celebration on September 14th, 2003, creating 2 new planting beds, grading the road and tidying up patches of weeds

Recommended maintenance activities 2004

- Block informal walking paths with logs and other natural debris
- Care for planted trees and shrubs. The trees will need to be watered during drought periods and re-mulched
- Tall vegetation growing around the trees will need to be clipped back
- Collect and dispose of litter
- Concentrate weeding efforts on the control of high priority invasive non-native species
- Cut and apply herbicide to stumps of invasive non-native tree species (Black locust, Manitoba maples, Norway maples) growing on north-west corner of site and replace these trees with native species.
- Continue to experiment with different methodologies in order to determine the best treatment for control of *Phragmites* colonies growing throughout the site (involves herbicide application)
- Monitor birds, vegetation, water chemistry and benthic invertebrates

- Work with Parks and Recreation operation staff on a mowing regime for meadow areas and along pathways
- Continue to wrap hardware cloth around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Hire a contractor to remove the large non-native tree species (such as Black locust)
- Monitor sand at Buttonbush Pond for turtle eggs during the breeding season
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities
- Monitor for the re-growth of Canada thistle growing around the front ponds, comparing the 2 different treatments for rates of re-growth of Canada thistle

Glen Edyth & Roycroft Wetlands

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (3 participants), Boundless Adventurers

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Weeding of a wide variety of non-native invasive species took place, including Garlic mustard, Burdock, Curled dock, Bittersweet nightshade, Canary reed grass, Canada thistle, Sow thistle, Manitoba and Norway maples, White and Yellow sweet clover, Bird's foot trefoil, Red clover, Barnyard grass, Ragweed, Purple loosestrife, Siberian elm
- Small Manitoba and Norway maples were dug up to prevent re-sprouts
- Vinegar was applied to Thistle species as an experimental means of control and to cut woody stumps to prevent re-sprouts
- Vegetation was cleared away from small planted trees and shrubs
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Birds and vegetation were monitored
- Planted material from previous years was re-mulched and vegetation cleared from around their base
- Fencing was damaged and later repaired by the City of Toronto park superintendent (Chris Martin) and his team
- A homeless encampment was discovered in one of the wetlands and was eventually removed, with the help of the police and City of Toronto staff

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to work with Forestry to remove large invasive non-native tree species (e.g., Norway and Manitoba maples) and plant these areas with native trees and shrubs
- Stewardship crew can remove reasonably-sized Manitoba and Norway maples and apply herbicide to stumps
- Continue to weed invasive non-native species around wetlands
- Develop and install signage
- Repair fencing, as needed
- Continue to monitor birds and vegetation

- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Lower Don Trail: Queen Street to the Riverdale Park Footbridge

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (6 participants), Stewardship Crew, Summer students, Bloomberg News Group, Covenant House, MNR Don Rangers, Serve Canada

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Herbicide was applied to Tree-of-heaven stumps that were not treated last year
- Tall vegetation and vines growing around planted material was clipped back
- Weeding of invasive, non-native species took place, including Garlic mustard, Stinging nettle and Purple loosestrife
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Missing tree guards were replaced
- Hardware cloth was wrapped around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Some tree planting took place, just south of the Dundas Street bridge

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to clear vegetation away from planted material
- Continue to wrap hardware cloth around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm
- Dig out/cut young invasive non-native tree species
- Monitor success of herbicide application to Tree-of-heaven stumps
- Collection and disposal of litter
- Continuing to wrap hardware cloth around trees with a diameter greater than 5cm, as protection from beavers
- Weeding of invasive, non-native species
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Lower Don Trail: Riverdale Park Footbridge to Chester Springs Marsh

Participants: None in 2003

Maintenance & monitoring activities

- None in 2003

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to clear vegetation from around planted trees and shrubs (recommendation from 2002)

Riverdale Farm Ponds

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (8 participants + 2 bird monitors), Covenant House, Serve Canada, Delisle Youth Group, Summer students, Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Planted material was watered during periods of drought and re-mulched
- Litter was collected and disposed of
- Vegetation, birds, water chemistry, water levels, and benthic invertebrates were monitored
- Native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants were planted in the spring of 2003
- Weeding of invasive non-native species took place, with a focus on Japanese knotweed, Garlic mustard and Dog-strangling vine
- Norway maples and European white poplars were weeded from the northern slope
- Herbicide was applied to Japanese knotweed, Dog-strangling vine, Sycamore, Norway and Manitoba maples, and Siberian elms

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to weed invasive non-native species
- Work with Forestry on the management of invasive woody species on the slope adjacent to the Lower Pond, as well as around the Sanctuary Pond
- Continue to research the proposal to mechanically aerate the Sanctuary Pond to create more favourable habitat conditions for aquatic life
- Monitor vegetation, birds, water chemistry, water levels, and benthic invertebrates
- Work with Riverdale Farm staff to disconnect duck pond from the Sanctuary Pond
- Follow up on the new paddock set up at the top of the Sanctuary Pond and its potential negative impacts on the Sanctuary Pond's western slope
- Continue to manage Dog-strangling vine growing along the fence surrounding the Sanctuary Pond, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Initiate treatments to control an extensive colony of Dog-strangling vine growing along the middle walkway running through the site, north of the Lower Pond and south of the very east end of Winchester Road
- Continue to manage Japanese knotweed growing along the shore of Sanctuary Pond, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003
- Informal paths should continue to be blocked with woody debris or other vegetation
- Access to the shoreline around Lower Pond should be limited and open, informal viewing areas should be blocked with fencing and planted material
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Riverdale Park East

Participants: Community Stewardship Team (5 participants), Bloomberg News Group, Stewardship Crew, Serve Canada

Maintenance activities 2003

- Tall vegetation, weeds and vines growing around planted material in the wetland area was clipped back

- Litter was collected and disposed of in the wetland area
- Vegetation, birds and water levels were monitored in the wetland area
- Weeding of invasive non-native species took place, mostly in the wetland area, including Garlic mustard, Curled dock and Queen Anne's Lace
- Herbaceous material was planted in the summer by the Community Stewardship team in the wetland area
- Herbicide was applied to Siberian elm and Manitoba maple stumps in the forest area

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to clear vegetation away from around planted material
- Continue to monitor birds, vegetation and water levels
- Continue to collect and dispose of litter
- Monitor for re-sprouts of treated stumps and for other invasive woody species that may have been missed in the first round of treatments
- The Community Stewardship team could potentially assist the Stewardship crew with controlling the extensive *Phragmites* colonies spreading throughout the wet meadow area by cutting the stalks at chest height and preparing the plants for herbicide application
- The Community Stewardship team could also clear away vegetation growing around planted material located in the wet meadow area
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Riverdale Park West

Participants: Stewardship Crew, Serve Canada, Covenant House, Summer students, Bloomberg News Group

Maintenance activities 2003

- Burdock, Sycamore, Manitoba and Norway maple saplings were pruned at the base or dug up
- Herbicide was applied to larger Manitoba and Norway maple trees
- Sight lines through the forest were created for increased visibility
- Litter was collected and disposed of

Recommended activities 2004

- Continue to remove Sycamore maple, Manitoba maple, and Norway maple saplings
- Follow up on herbicide application from 2003
- Collection and disposal of litter
- Invite members of the surrounding community to become involved in stewardship activities

Zap the Knotweed Site

Participants: Summer students, Stewardship Crew

Maintenance & monitoring activities 2003

- Japanese knotweed was pruned before the herbicide application took place in the fall
- Herbicide was applied to Japanese knotweed plants growing in amongst planted willow trees

Recommended maintenance activities 2004

- Continue to manage Japanese knotweed, following the same schedule of herbicide application as in 2003