

Back Dam Park Planting Plan

902 Rock Road, Warsaw, ON

Proposed planting date: Monday, May 25, 2020

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Current site conditions

- Shallow, rocky soil
- Drought in summer
- Ephemeral stream that flows through the southwest side of the land
- There is a pavilion with a picnic table, a playground, and a garbage receptacle, as well as parking at the site. There is also a bridge that goes over the ephemeral stream on-site. Families use the site for swimming and to access the Indian River.
- Who maintains this space? Who mows the grass in the summer? Would there be a possibility for watering plants as they establish along the ephemeral stream?
- Will permitting be required from Otonabee Conservation to plant at this site?
- 76% (n=26) of 41 respondents to the Warsaw Water Survey use Back Dam Park for recreation
- Feedback from the Warsaw Water Gathering showed an interest in more shade, tree planting, and less mowing at Back Dam Park
- Otonabee Conservation has planted a pollinator garden along the southeastern side of the property, near the ephemeral stream

Site map



Site photos



Plants proposed for this site

- Topsoil requirements: approx. 0.5 cubic yards (Triple mix recommended)
- Mulch requirements: approx. 1 cubic yard
- Stakes with twine or fencing is recommended to protect the plants from mowing and human impacts. If stakes are used, 2 stakes per shrub or tree are recommended, and stakes around wildflower area and around grasses.
- In updated version of planting plan, Butterfly Milkweed has been moved to south end of planting site closer to Rock Road, because it can tolerate some exposure to road salt.

Trees	Number
Hop Tree	2
Red Cedar	1
Total	3

Shrubs	Number
Fragrant Sumac	4
New Jersey Tea	9
Ninebark	8
Total	21



Wildflowers	Number
Butterfly Milkweed	13
Common Milkweed	6
Heath Aster	14




Purple Coneflower	5
Wild Bergamot	6
Total	44




Grasses	Number
Indian Grass	6
Little Bluestem	9
Prairie Dropseed	3
Total	18




Ferns	Number
Christmas Fern	10
Total	10




Total number of plants	96
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Trees								
Common name	Scientific name	Sun or shade requirements	Height	Spread	Photo	Notes	Bloom time	Maintenance
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Full sun	30-40 feet	20 feet		Tolerates saline soils, salt spray, deer, drought, erosion, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil, black walnut, and air pollution.	Non-flowering, but produces blue berries	Low maintenance.
Hop Tree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Part shade to full shade	15-20 feet	15-20 feet		Tolerates drought, dry soil, and shallow rocky soil.	Blooms greenish white, fragrant, insignificant flowers in June. Produces showy fruit that can be used as a hop substitute.	Low maintenance. Prefers dry to medium moisture. Provides winter interest. Species at risk in Ontario (special concern status).
Shrubs								

Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Full sun to part shade	3 feet	6 feet		Tolerant to rabbit foraging, drought, shallow-rocky soil, Black Walnut, and erosion.	Blooms yellow showy flowers in April.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil.
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Full sun to part shade	3-4 feet	3-5 feet		Tolerant to drought once established. Tolerates Black Walnut and shallow-rocky soils.	Blooms white, showy, fragrant blooms from May to July.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. Not easily transplanted as it forms deep root systems.
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Full sun to part shade	5-8 feet	4-6 feet		Tolerant to drought and erosion, medium maintenance, and requires dry to medium soil. Tolerates clay soil, shallow	Blooms white/pink, showy flowers from May to June.	Moderate maintenance. Grows in average, slightly acidic, dry to medium, well-drained soil. Prune after first bloom.

						rocky soil, and Black Walnut.		
Grasses								
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Full sun	3-5 feet	1-2 feet		Tolerant to drought, dry soil, erosion, shallow-rocky soil, Black Walnut, and air pollution.	Blooms light brown flower with yellow stamens September to February.	Moderate maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. Cut to the ground in late winter-early spring.
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Full sun	2-4 feet	1.5-2 feet		Tolerant to deer, drought, erosion, Black Walnut, shallow-rocky soil, and air pollution.	Blooms purple-bronze, insignificant flower August to February.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils.
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Full sun	2-3 feet	2-3 feet		Tolerant to deer foraging, shallow-rocky soil, Black Walnut, drought, dry soil, erosion, and air pollution	Blooms pink and brown, showy, fragrant flower August to October.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils.

Fern								
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum arcostichoides</i>	Part shade to full sun	1-2 feet	1-2 feet		Tolerates rabbit, deer, drought, heavy shade, erosion, shallow-rocky soil	Non-flowering	Low maintenance. Prefers organically rich, dry to medium, well-drained soils.
Wildflowers								
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Full sun	1-2.5 feet	1-1.5 feet		Tolerant to drought, shallow-rocky soil, dry soil, erosion, and deer foraging. Moderate salt tolerance. Attracts butterflies.	Blooms yellow-orange, showy flowers June to August.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil.
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Full sun	2-3 feet	0.75-1 foot		Tolerant to drought, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil, erosion, and deer foraging; attracts butterflies.	Blooms pink-white, showy, fragrant flowers June to August. Produces seed pods in the fall.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry-medium, well-drained soils. Allow flowerheads to go to seed.

Heath Aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	Full sun	1-3 feet	1-1.5 feet		Tolerant to shallow-rocky soil, erosion, and drought.	Blooms white, showy flowers with yellow centers August to October.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry-medium moisture, well-drained soils.
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Full sun to part shade	2-5 feet	1.5-2 feet		Tolerant to drought, deer foraging, and shallow-rocky soil.	Blooms June to August. Purple-pink, showy Bloom.	Low maintenance. Grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. Divide clumps if overcrowding occurs. Leaves and flower buds can be used to make herbal tea. Harvest coneflowers beginning in their second year.
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Full sun to part shade	2-4 feet	2-3 feet		Tolerant to drought, Black Walnut, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil, and deer	Blooms pink/Lavender showy, fragrant flowers from July to September.	Moderate maintenance. Grows in dry/medium, well-drained soils. Cut back in fall. Self seeds.

						foraging, attracts humming- birds and butterflies.		
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