



Friends of North Saanich Parks Annual Report December 15th 2021

**Sharon Hope
Executive Director**

Executive Summary

Thanks to the financial support of the North Saanich municipality Mayor and Council, this year FNSP focused on greater background research with consultants, more internal data collection and a greater number of events and partnerships than we have undertaken in past years. Partnerships were particularly important in order to boost our volunteer numbers in our parks. Our general membership remained at about 168 throughout the year increasing just recently to 173. Our email notification list has about 153 members. In terms of outdoor events and meetings we held 41 Wednesday afternoon gatherings, 70 main volunteer events (usually Saturdays), 28 smaller impromptu events, 17 high school and college student educational visits and 12 outreach meetings for a total of 168 activities. Our total volunteer removal hours for events to December 4th 2021 were 2,625. This volunteer contribution translates with an assumed rate of \$20.00 per hour, to a potential savings in labour to the municipality of \$52,500. Our administration hours have grown extensively this year and we will try to account for these hours in future. Much of the non-removal hours are spent in email interactions, mentoring, consulting and planning.

In 2021 we engaged Madrone Environmental Services to provide an overview of rare plant ecosystems for the seven parks in which we were working. Although consultant Harry Williams found uncommon species in several parks he did not find any rare plant species. The dominate forest associations however were provincially red and blue listed types indicating that these associations are rare.

We also devoted time to exploring cultural features in our parks; Darcy Mathews, a UVIC faculty member and archeologist, visited several of our parks and noted burial cairns in Lillian Hoffar and Nymph Point Parks respectively. The visit was at no cost to us since he generously returned the gratuity. Due to work priorities, Darcy will not return until June of 2022 to explore the cairns further.

Erin Stinson of Parkland High School brought her small class in June and expressed interest for the fall. In the spring we also had fourteen students from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. The HCP students were a great help in Denham Till Park trimming the heritage shrubs and trees. We had a series of meetings in various parks with Ben Martin from Infrastructure Services, North Saanich municipality with whom we discussed a wide variety of topics. In collaboration with Peninsula Streams Society we hired a student for 40% of her time over four months. This action helped move our parks' invasive plant removal program forward.

Last year, as a part of a two year study, we removed invasive species to < 1% in seven 400m plots located in Nymph Point, Lillian Hoffar, Gulf View and Denham Till Parks respectively; this year we analyzed the regrowth of invasive species in the same plots. Results showed after

several years of clearing, Daphne seedlings still regrew in Nymph Point and Gulf View Parks to a significant degree; however, ivy was substantially reduced to an average of < 1 percent in all the plots.

We enjoyed our 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation lunch on July 10th at Denham Till Park with a large turnout and a congenial lengthy lunch break. At the end of July we had the pleasure of a couple from the Netherlands who decided to volunteer with us at Nymph Point Park while visiting their family. In August we removed debris deemed a fire hazard in Denham Till Park in collaboration with a bordering neighbor. We also made arrangements for two HPC students to help us for a week in a number of parks as part of their training and work experience. Having two students for just that length of time accelerated our progress.

We spent some time in the early fall pruning the gigantic rhododendron in RO Bull Park. Fall also brought Parkland High School back to Lillian Hoffar Park to volunteer. A total of 65 combined students and teachers visited in September and October to help us with ivy removal. On Sept. 25th we hosted a talk from Katrina, our coop student, on TEM (Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping) which she had been conducting in our seven parks. This talk concluded our coop contract with Katrina. In one of our first nonprofit collaborations Anne and I paid a visit to the restoration efforts achieved by First Nations in Tod Inlet. We agreed to help them in the spring and fall of 2022.

During October we had several impromptu meetings in Nymph Point Park so that we might finish this park and place it in monitoring. Indeed we completed both Nymph Point Park and Quarry Park to the monitoring stage this year. This was a major step for us. A friend of volunteer Christine's offered as many native plants as we would like from her property. Eve and Pam, two volunteers, also donated plants. These three generous acts resulted in a considerable financial savings for the "Friends". Shortly before our projected AGM, Mark, one of our stewards assumed the newly created position of Director of Community Relations. In the following month, to increase our volunteer partnerships, Mark sent an email of invitation to various organizations to join us. In Denham Till Park we removed some of the accumulated grass clippings that had been dumped for many years in the Park and we continued removal of this material, using some of it for mulch, during November.

During our last month of work, Janine our treasurer began to write our application for registered charitable status which will broaden our ability to raise funds. In addition, we completed our annual monitoring of RO Bull Park. Moreover we electronically re-elected our standing members during our AGM. To free up Anne's vehicle, we began the search for a portable waterproof tool shed that could be donated. Once the toolshed is in place FNSP executive, stewards and others will have easier our access to tools. Our year's work ended on Dec. 4th in Green Park with the presence of eleven volunteers. Our Covid 19 appropriate Christmas party was held on Dec 11th 2021.

A detailed description of each of the seven parks in which we worked this year appears in Appendix 1 and the estimated amount of invasive species left in each of the seven parks by December 2021 can be found in Appendix 2. The details of our invasive species treatment plot measurements are given in Appendix 3. Appendix 4 contains some historic photos of the parks and Appendix 5 has some general historic landscape photos of North Saanich.



Left: Tara B. pulled back lemon balm in Denham Till Park. Center: Craig and John hauled debris during an event at Lillian Hoffar Park. Right: While Tara L. collected ivy from the bank at Lillian Hoffar Park, she was photographed by Anne.

2021 Annual Report

Progress Details

Early in 2021 we initiated several power point educational sessions tailored to our members. These presentations covered the importance of gathering ecological information in order to understand the parks and included our key mission statements. Forested landscapes, from a number of archived photos that were circulated to volunteers, helped them to look at landscapes with an eye to the vegetation. Batches of these images were distributed throughout the year.

One of our first priorities in 2021 was to find natural resource consultants to help gather background ecological information about each of the seven parks. This step was taken to assist the District staff with the provision of ecological information and to promote our own understanding of the seven parks in which we are working. As another major step, we initiated Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping conducted by our part time coop student. Mapping was based on site associations and surficial geology features in each of the seven parks. This latter report will be made available to the Mayor, Council and key municipal staff in January of 2022.

Barbara Woodward continued to make Covid 19 safe muffins for our events which our members enjoyed very much during the year. Our group renewed their interest in meeting monthly with SPEC members over the document entitled A Bioregional Framework Approach to Ecological Management.

In January, our funds totaled \$3,671.52 which declined to a total to \$3,039 from February onward. We achieved 199.75 removal hours in the first month.

Over the next month, February, we suffered delays due to snow but this situation gave us an opportunity to consider some long term plans for a few of the parks. I contacted Brian Green of North Saanich Municipal Planning and suggested that some of the field in Denham Till Park not currently in use might be used as allotment gardens. Aaron Duff replied that he thought it was a good idea but that the decision was in the hands of the Mayor and Council.

UVIC Geography student Ben arrived in Lillian Hoffar Park on Feb. 23rd and completed volunteer hours doing restoration and removal work as part of his course. Tara L., a Vancouver Island University student, also began working with us in a long-term informal mentorship capacity. Initially she took a major role in tree data collection. At this time, one main event at Nymph Point Park included some difficult Himalayan blackberry removal where the dead and living canes were so thick and tall they constituted a significant fire hazard. We reduced the debris by placing all dead materials to the ground in keeping with current Fire Smart regulations. This is a practice we have employed systematically over the last 5 years. This

month we achieved 211.75 removal hours and the Green Park volunteers continued to put in a considerable number of weekly hours amounting to about one third of our total monthly hours.



Anne photographed Christine, leader of the Green Park volunteers.

Over the following month, we continued to collect noninvasive forest stand information in the parks in collaboration with Gordon, a Registered Professional Forester and volunteer. We had completed about 85% of the collection by the end of March. We also welcomed one additional park steward, Mark, who volunteered in RO Bull Park where he began to remove broom during the spring. Much appreciated funds arrived from the North Saanich District making it possible to realize our plans for 2021-2022. During March we achieved 193.75 hours of volunteer invasive plant removal.

During early April I completed the draft hand drawn ecological classification maps for our seven parks. The maps formed the foundation for understanding the ecological nature of these selected North Saanich parks. The maps were given to Harry Williams, botanist, from Madrone Environmental Services when he came in mid-April to conduct the rare ecosystem and rare plant assessments. Katrina, a UVIC Restoration of Natural Systems student toured the parks with me and we discussed her UVIC GIS student project and the fact she would offer our volunteers a short course in mapping to be presented in September. She began using the hand drawn maps I provided as a foundation.

We reported damage to the municipality within the fragile Camas ecosystem located on the Central Saanich border at Quarry Park. Mountain bikers had built a major additional trail to the top of the rocky knoll and constructed a less used path that was found later on the west side of the knoll, where the path removed all litter layers from a rock face. Several members of the public had complained to us about the damage and we asked them to email or phone the North Saanich District. We placed logs over the newly created trail to prevent erosion.

During April, we achieved 224.75 hours of invasive plant removal. Our total funds were \$9,030.83 that included the money received from the North Saanich municipality.



Left: In Quarry Park bikers dug soil for their new trail up the eastern slope of the knoll. Middle: One of the bike jumps on the slope and Right: Some of the flowers threatened in the camas ecosystem on top of the knoll.



Left: During a session, Jane, a Green Park volunteer, photographed a frog. Centre: Christine photographed Green Park's accumulated debris on May 1st. Right: Anne photographed Trilliums in their spring glory.

During the following month, as in 2020, I continued to seek historic photos as well as any past written details about each park. An interesting article on Quarry Park written in 1985, for example, revealed that in the 1920s the men paving the East Saanich Road with concrete using the quarry materials, worked 11 hour days and had no coffee breaks. Later in September Ruth Chudley a descendent of the water boy Lou King and granddaughter of George King both of whom worked in the quarry, gave us 1920 photos of the quarry in its active state. Ruth asked us to donate the original photos to an archive and we gave them to the Sidney Museum and Archives.



Left: The quarry in 1920. George King is far right back in bib overalls. Right: Facing west showing East Saanich Road. George King is second from left. Photos supplied by Ruth Chudley.
See other quarry photos in Appendix 4.

In May we were happy to welcome Ben Martin, the new Director of Infrastructure Services for the District of North Saanich, who was interested in our work and toured three of our parks. After discussions with him, we began to forward data and information to the District through him. Before that step, we supplied the Council a list of ecological information we hoped to collect over the next several years. Ben joined us for a series of other field visits periodically throughout the year moving from current parks where FNSP was a presence to other municipal parks and trails. Harry Williams' report from Madrone on the Coastal Douglas fir moist maritime rare ecosystems arrived during May which, after reviewing we sent to the Mayor, the Council, our volunteers and selected North Saanich staff.



Left: In May our group contended with large blackberry canes at Nymph Point Park. Right: Kathie dug big Daphne roots in Lillian Hoffar Park.

At the end of May, we partnered with Peninsula Streams to employ Katrina the UVIC RNS student as a part time coop student for four months. Our monthly removal hours rose to 361.25 this month. We attributed this higher total to additional volunteer work beyond scheduled events and the excellent accumulation of hours by the weekly Green Park volunteers.

On June 1st, 14 enthusiastic students from the Horticulture College of the Pacific arrived in Denham Till to prune the ornamental shrubs and fruit trees. There was much deadwood

removal and reshaping which led to a partial transformation in the garden area. There is still much more to do.



Left: In Denham Till Park, the HPC class pruned an apple tree under the supervision of instructor Jo. . Right: Students took dead wood from a laurel.



Denham Till June 1st: The profuse blooms of a beauty bush.

During June, Darcy Mathews, an archeologist from UVIC confirmed First Nations burial cairns in Lillian Hoffar and Nymph Point Park respectively. He explained how First Nations people buried their dead in past centuries and discussed the historic First Nations lifestyle on the coast. He will return next year in June 2022 with a Wsanec Council member to seek further evidence and to document the burial cairns he discovered on this trip. Student Katrina conducted invasive removal in Nymph Point Park as well as helping to transplant sedge, wild rose cuttings and wild rose plants to be used in several parks this fall. Katrina also expanded GIS coverage of the parks to include other additional background information.



Left: This spring an eagle rested in Lillian Hoffar Park to the delight of volunteers. Right: Coop student Katrina prepared earth for transplanting.



Left: At Nymph Point Park, volunteer Karine conquered ivy and blackberry. Right: Anne photographed Tara L. while she was cutting ivy on a tree in Denham Till Park.

Erin Stinson of Parklands High School brought a small group of students to Lillian Hoffar Park. They did an excellent job of clearing a section of ivy along the north fence line. Toward the end of June in Green Park we had a successful combined volunteer effort totaling 38 hours. Masses of ivy and Himalayan blackberry fell during the process and were carried away by cart.

Some attractive but transient mandalas appeared throughout in Lillian Hoffar Park. These patterns intrigued our volunteers but we never found the artist. As the June heat wave took place we had a very pleasant event in Lillian Hoffar in the northern and most shaded section of the park. We totaled 361 hours of volunteer removal and restoration work in June. Calculated separately, Katrina, our coop student, generated an additional 41.5 hours. Our June financial statement showed a balance of \$6,608.53.



Left: The vegetated rocky knoll in Quarry Park. Right: Tools readied for a Lillian Hoffar Park event in June.

On July 10th, twenty volunteers attended our second Annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon that featured potato salad, green salad, lemonade, fruit, cookies and cake. Volunteers received various tokens of appreciation from Anne and I. Anne had made lemon balm syrup from the plants growing in Denham Till Park and distributed recipes. We accumulated a large pile of debris at the park entrance.



Denham Till Park Annual Lunch-Upper Left: Kirsten reduced the lemon balm. Upper Right: Anne had help in setting up. Lower Centre: Volunteers posed for a photograph after a delicious lunch.

In mid-July excited volunteers discovered a Great Horned owl in Lillian Hoffar Park. New volunteer Wendy agreed to create and run copies of our posters. We had ceased poster production due to Covid 19 so resuming this action should increase awareness of FNSP in a modest way. At the end of July a couple from the Netherlands found our poster on a mailbox in North Saanich and joined us at Nymph Point Park. We considered this a novel experience! Our

total volunteer hours for the month of July were less than previous months (176) owing to a reduction in monthly planned events to allow volunteers to enjoy personal summer activities. Katrina our coop student totaled 37.5 hours of paid time. Our account balance was \$5,116.38.

In August, two HPC students assisted us for a week as part of their horticultural qualifications. They spent time in Lillian Hoffar Park weeding the garden beds and in Denham Till rescuing domestic shrubs, as well as working in Green Park, Nymph Point Park and Gulf View respectively. This assistance helped us grow closer to the monitoring stage for both Gulf View and Nymph Point Parks.



Top: A Great Horned owl rested in nearby Marina Park Strata before flying to Lillian Hoffar Park.

Below Left: Henk and Jeannet who are in their early 70s, live with six others in the Netherlands on a small cooperative hobby farm. They isolated in North Saanich and then came to our event.

Below Right: Horticulture students Casper and Marie ate plums before leaving the Gulf View Park parking lot on their last day.

The Friends also addressed the challenge of removing large dry debris piles that had accumulated in Denham Till Park. The first session involved using a pickup truck to ferry the material to Clayton Road. This action was made possible through the cooperation of an obliging family bordering the Park and volunteer Tara L. who supplied the pickup truck. Thanks to the neighboring couple who took down their fence, as well as raking and carrying material, the removal was very efficient. The second session, involving a long term grass clipping accumulation, was postponed until October when it was partially used as mulch for the heritage

domestic plants, trees and shrubs in Denham Till Park. Volunteer Al spent some time during our DT event trying to remove a buried bedspring which was successfully removed at the next session.

After discussion between Anne and myself, we decided to invest more money in the purchase of plants this fall than we had in the past because at least three parks required restorative plantings. Our total removal hours for August were 233.25 and our coop student Katrina contributed an additional 51 paid hours. In terms of Katrina's time, 20 out of the 51 hours were spent on GIS mapping. Our account balance was \$3,530.09.

In September Anne and I pruned the large rhododendron in RO Bull Park. Here we discovered the main stem had been split by a falling tree and substantial debris was under the shrub which had entirely regrown years ago around the fallen log. In addition to removing foliage Anne cut the dead fallen tree under the shrub and redistributed the dead wood.



Anne pruning the rhododendron in RO Bull Park.

Lynn, a volunteer with the Green Park group, is the only person of the many FNSP volunteers who focuses exclusively on placing dead wood on the ground. During the past months he has addressed standing dead materials in Green Park and in Nymph Point Park. During this month he reduced the woody debris fire hazard in Denham Till Park.

Steward Al, who had completed a pruning course in the past decided to prune and generally revamp a heritage fruit tree in Gulf View Park. Shortly after Al began his pruning it was necessary to leave Gulf View due to a threat from a neighbor. Al will look after Quarry Park work from time to time in the future. Ben Martin suggested a number of ways the District could support us by informing the public and adjacent neighbors about our work.

Early in the month we received an unexpected beautiful bouquet of flowers from Ian Bruce of Peninsula Streams. The flowers came from FNSP volunteer Marjorie's spectacular North Saanich garden. We are very grateful for this token of appreciation. With the arrival of fall, we purchased native shrubs and plants as well as retrieved those we had transplanted earlier in order to prepare for our planting sessions in October. The key plants were: swordfern, snowberry, ocean spray, wild rose and salal. We transplanted sedge from Green Park to Lillian

Hoffar and planted commercially grown sword fern in the same area in L. Hoffar Park. Volunteer Eve K. provided snowberry plants which promptly found a home in Green Park. On Sept. 25th, Katrina's last day, she gave an excellent talk on the importance of Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM), which was enjoyed by all; she also led a field exercise in classification.

We prepared ivy removal sites for the fall classes from Parkland High School. Three of the teachers Erin, Kristine and Kirsten, arranged for their respective classes to come to Lillian Hoffar Park.

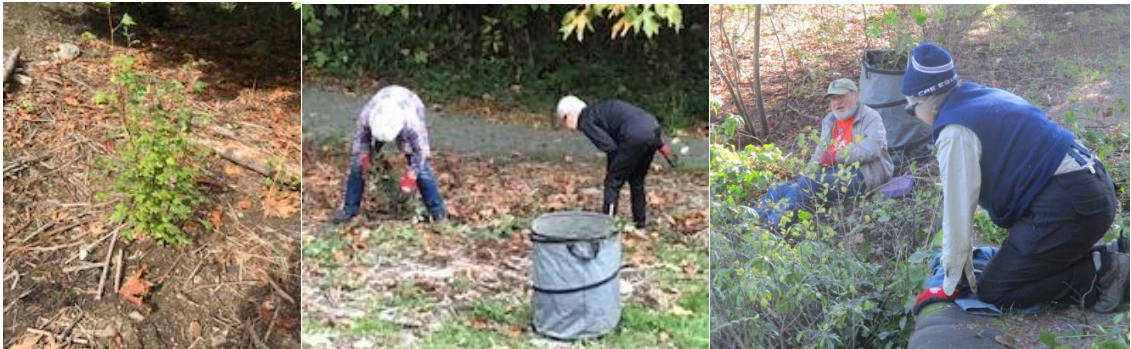


Left: Jan, Anne, John and Craig took a lunch break in Lillian Hoffar Park. Right: In this park, Jan participated in the third sedge restorative planting held in late September. Sword ferns were also planted.

On September 30th, Anne and I visited Tod Inlet via the well-worn BC Parks trail. Our purpose was to meet with Judith who with one other First Nations person, Sarah Jim a young artist, is trying to restore the vegetation at the former Butchart cement plant site and on the site of the former housing associated with the cement plant. Sarah Jim's art work appears at the former village site. Judith collaborates with the Wsanec Council, different indigenous groups, holds tribal school educational classes, raises some of the native plants herself and does most of the restoration with about two others. Her activities are much the same as those of FNSP; trying to gather volunteers, keeping up with revisiting the previously cleared and planted sites and interacting with Parks staff. They have a cistern on site for watering and a substantial tool shed. After viewing many of the restored sites at the Inlet, Judith asked if we could support them through a volunteer effort twice per year. Our volunteers agreed. We had 208.5 hours of volunteer time in September and Katrina worked another 35 hours. Our account balance for September was: \$2,811.21

During early October at Nymph Point, we completed the Daphne seedling removal for the year, as well as removing most of the blackberry; we achieved all the bank restoration for this year including planting snowberry, Ocean Spray and honeysuckle. Concurrently, Green Park volunteers planted a series of native shrubs and trees. Some of the plants we distributed

around our parks came from Susan, a friend of volunteer Christine's, who allowed us to harvest many native species from her three ha property; others came from volunteers Eve and Pam.



Left: One of the shrubs planted at Green Park in early October and Centre: Two of the volunteers who made it happen. Photos by Jane and Bob, Green Park regular volunteers. Right: Meanwhile Bryce, Anne and others worked on restoring the bank at Nymph Point Park.



Left: Al, at Nymph Point Park, wielded a pickax. Right: Bryce preferred the hands on approach.

During the month we had a conversation with Brad, the Director of the Memorial Park Society. The Society owns and administrates Blue Heron Park, a park that requires considerable restoration. Brad expressed interest in how to achieve restoration in Blue Heron Park. Here FNSP is acting primarily in an advisory capacity. These interactions with Brad led to the appointment of Memorial Park Society Director Floyd as steward of Blue Heron Park through FNSP. His role is different than our other stewards in that he is preparing for next year's work to be done on behalf of the Memorial Society and he is observing the methods we use. We had several other developments this month as well: Mark our steward for RO Bull Park became Director of Community Relations for FNSP. He is interacting with outside nonprofit groups, the District, and the SPEC group. Toward the end of October, Janine our treasurer explored changing our charitable status so we could receive donations and fundraise. At Denham Till

Park, we had a very productive session with a good number of volunteers and we had several more sessions in this park before the year's end. We achieved a total of 230.5 volunteer hours in October. Our account balance for the month was \$2,697.95

In November we completed our annual monitoring session in RO Bull Park and had one and one half sessions in Denham Till where we continued to remove the decayed grass clippings using them for mulch. We also removed at least some of the Himalayan blackberry. We returned to Nymph Point for the final session before that Park entered monitoring. We held a short electronic AGM to vote for the standing Board Members. Unfortunately our secretarial position is presently still vacant. A member of the CRD staff, Stephanie, sent us several native seed packets to be planted in a couple of our parks. We produced a set of protocols about our operating routines. Our total removal hours for November were: 184.25. Our account balance was: \$2,296.03. Our 2021 scheduled events concluded in Green Park on Dec 4th with a most congenial group of members. Our pot luck Christmas Party with Covid restrictions, was held on Dec 11th and was enjoyed by all attendees. Our December hours were: 40.25.



In late November, Diane and Anne worked on some very large ivy roots at Nymph Point Park.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Park Descriptions

Quarry Park: The Park is a Douglas fir–Oregon Grape association (Provincial Red Listed Ecosystem), with steeper slopes covered by a morainal veneer. The surface has cobbles from quarrying and additional colluvial material from natural weathering of the rocky outcrop. The vegetation consists of mature Douglas fir forest with Grand fir; alder stands appear in the most disturbed areas which have taken about 90 years to recover. Owls are resident in the park. On the southern municipal border a small highly sensitive a Fescue–Camas ecosystem exists in combination with a Douglas fir Arbutus ecosystem (Red Listed) and very thin soils. The greatest concerns for this park are: 1) some active mountain biking particularly in the sensitive Fescue Camas ecosystem on the rocky outcrop and 2) the fact that on top of the steeper slopes the trees are subject to wind throw. Some wind throw has occurred in the past few years affecting

the upper portions of the park. Due to manmade disturbance in terms of the quarry no burial cairns have been identified in the park.

Gulf View Park: This site is an ecologically less mature and a drier version of Quarry Park which lies a short distance up the gentle slope from Gulf View Park. Gulf View consists of several rocky outcrops –one with a sensitive Fescue–Camus ecosystem. It is a very stony site. Within this ecosystem, over the past year we have been rewarded with the recovery of the herbaceous cover formerly occupied by continuous ivy. Any planting here should be compatible with the current indigenous vegetation. The remainder of the park is again a Red Listed Douglas fir-Oregon Grape ecosystem with interspersed ocean spray and wild rose. The surficial material consists of a morainal veneer over bedrock. In recent history, the area was used for agricultural crops and for grazing; now it has a grassy mowed open area where the public can walk or sit to admire the view. According to UVIC Assistant Professor Darcy Mathews, there are no First Nations burial cairns in this park.

Lillian Hoffar Park: The Park, which has had an ephemeral stream meandering through it in the past centuries, probably had an old growth Douglas fir stand with perhaps some large redcedar trees scattered in moister pockets. This estimate of vegetation is based on existing decayed stumps and the park's overall moist site position. The site presently consists of mature Douglas fir-Oregon Grape (Red listed by the province) and a substantial polygon of Cottonwood-red osier dogwood created by the moist conditions. The age of the current stands is not known. The park supports a significant garden area with vintage shrubs and has a substantial shell midden, indicating First Nations presence. In terms of surficial materials, like Nymph Point described below, it consists of fine glaciomarine clay overlain, close to the sea, by organically rich loose textured shell middens. There are at least 6-8 potential burial cairns in the park which will be explored further. Owls and eagles visit this park and it is home to rabbits and raccoons.

Nymph Point Park: Nymph Point consists of a classic Douglas fir-Arbutus site (provincially Red Listed) with small amounts of Garry Oak and an ecologically sensitive promontory which was recently planted by the municipality. The third section of the park consists of a mature alder stand with a few scattered shrub sized Grand fir. There is a significant shell midden containing at least 3 or 4 burial cairns located along the cliff edge and, like Lillian Hoffar, the site is covered by glaciomarine clay overlain by an organically rich loose textured layer close to the cliff. The cliff bank is subsiding along the eastern beach access. This park is small and therefore sensitive to any human activity. It has had much Daphne seedling regrowth year after year.

RO Bull Park: RO Bull Park is an old growth Douglas fir site (about 350 years old) with Grand fir and some redcedar. The stand exhibits a typical multi-story structure. The lower strata consisting of Grand fir is about 175 years old. In keeping with its old growth structure it has a great diversity of herbs. This is a significant and rare park with a small Garry oak meadow site

on the slope above. The park was listed as a Canadian Heritage Place by the municipality in 2008. The park is frequented by deer and is home to nesting owls. This park is one of the most valuable in North Saanich and it was the first park that the Friends of North Saanich restored to a 97% invasive-free status.

Denham Till Park: Like Gulf View Park, the forested portion of Denham Till Park had agricultural origins. The natural vegetation consists of Douglas fir-Salal (Blue Listed by the province) with a significant presence of Grand fir. The southern edge of the forested section has a few Garry oak and there are Arbutus scattered throughout the stand indicating that it is on the drier end of the association's spectrum. The park has a large grassy area to the south with a playground, a grassy area just south of the forest which was the site of the house and as well as the location of vintage ornamentals, flowers, and vines. The Friends of North Saanich Parks are gradually clearing the eastern portion of the park of invasive species but still have at least a year of extensive work in this park. Rabbits and deer frequent the Park.

Green Park: We adopted this park relatively recently and the volunteers, who formed their own group, have made rapid progress. The park originated as a dairy farm, owned by a man called Green and now it consists of a Douglas fir-Oregon Grape association (provincially Red Listed) with mature grand fir and scattered redcedar. Two artificial ponds are home to a permanent flock of mallard ducks. Mature alder is also present. The northern reaches of the park are redcedar dominant with subhydric skunk cabbage whereas cedars are dying in the location next to Salal Place. The surficial materials are till. Invasive plant removal was initiated in the southern section in the late fall.

Appendix 2: Year-end 2021 Percentages of Invasive Species Remaining In Each Park

Below are the estimated invasive plant species percentages remaining in each of the seven parks at the end of December 2021:

Gulf View: Less than 1% of the park consists of ivy or Himalayan blackberry but in the spring of 2021 about 35% of the park was covered with dense scattered patches of Daphne seedlings. Most seedlings were removed but not all. This park was left incomplete until next year.

Quarry Park: About 2% of the park has scattered ivy; the Daphne coverage is also about 1 % leaving roughly 97% of the park invasive plant free. The park achieved monitoring status during the year, a major accomplishment for our group.

Lillian Hoffar Park: Due to the size and complexity of the park, approximately 15% of the park still has its original ivy coverage and about 6% of the park contains Himalayan blackberry. As of June 2021 there were very few Daphne seedlings remaining in the park and only a few

undetected adults. At the rate at which we are proceeding, it will take an estimated two years from 2021 to achieve monitoring status within this park.

Nymph Point Park: A significant number of Daphne seedlings re-occurred in 2021 covering about 15% of the park. These were removed during the year. Himalayan blackberry coverage is <1% in the park mostly in the third section near Marina Way; English ivy is now less than 1%. Removal of Daphne on the bank above the beach and near the docks was quite challenging and now Daphne is < 1% of the park. This park achieved monitoring status in the late fall of 2021. Thanks to all those who made the next stage possible.

RO Bull Park: This location has been in a monitoring phase for the last several years having already achieved a 95-97% invasive plant free environment.

Denham Till Park: The Park is relatively large and as a result our progress has been slower than in other parks. About 10% of the park still has its original dense Himalayan blackberry coverage and about 7% of the park has ivy. It is estimated Denham Till Park will not reach a 95% invasive free stage for at least another year.

Green Park: We began removal in the Park in late 2020. As I mentioned in the body of the report, removal of invasive species in one section of the park has been swift due to the lighter invasive plant occurrence in the northern section of Park and the presence of very active volunteers. The southern section of the park however has significant invasive plant coverage and more difficult terrain. It remains to be completed. The park could move to a monitoring status however, in late 2022 depending on the progress of the volunteers.

Appendix 3 Treatment Study: Plot Measurement 2021 (Year 1)

Introduction

In 2020, we established a series of seven semi-permanent 10X10m plots. The purpose was to measure the response of invasive species to removal in various representative site associations within the CDFmm subzone, over a two year period. The goal was to understand the rate of re-occurrence of invasive plants removed in 2020. We had hoped to assess the response of native species as well but this response proved too difficult to measure owing to seasonal growing conditions and other confounding site and vegetation factors not related specifically related to invasive plant removal.

Methods

The 10X10m plots were established in following parks: Lillian Hoffar, Nymph Point, Gulf View and Denham Till. Before the treatment we gathered ground cover density estimates, percent cover and a general list of plant species for each plot. The specific type and plant cover

for each invasive species was estimated. Within each plot, located in a situation believed representative of its respective park, all invasive plant species were removed to < 1% of the total ground invasive cover. The plots were cleaned very thoroughly in an effort to remove all invasive plants.

In the spring 2021 we reassessed the plots, using a random subsampling of 1m² plots at 5 different locations within each plot. Subsampling provided the opportunity to count small seedlings and note other invasive species re-occurrence in a given area. The percent cover and density (BEC) of such invasive species as ivy and Daphne was measured again within each smaller plot. The cumulative results of the subsampling are summarized below.

Results

At Nymph Point Park the total original coverage of ivy was about 30% in one plot and about 15% in the other. One plot however, in its original state had about 40—50% Daphne plant presence. In 2021, Daphne seedlings still were a presence in both plots although much reduced to about 3-4% from their original density. Ivy was now a minor presence here averaging about 1%. Although scattered regrowth of existing vegetation occurred only a few new seedlings could be found.

Original invasive plant ground coverage in the Gulf View park plots was about 30% in each plot. After one year the plots had Daphne seedlings in some irregular patches but again ivy was only a minor component of about 1-2%. The single plot in Denham Till had only about 10% ivy prior to treatment. After one year, the ivy now was about 1-2%. In Lillian Hoffar Park the plots were a bit more complex. One plot contained about 45% ivy and in the other the ivy was almost continuous at about 90%. When ivy was removed from the second plot, where it was most extensive, the open ground was filled by *Epilobium ciliatum* or purple-leafed herb weed. This native plant occupies disturbed areas.

Conclusions:

- 1) Monitoring and invasive removal should continue in these parks in order that they maintain in a healthy natural state and that this maintenance should be assumed by municipal workers since volunteers cannot be expected to work in the parks indefinitely.
- 2) Invasive species can be controlled to < 1% with proper attention.

Appendix 4: Historic Photos of the Parks

Lillian Hoffar Park



Figure 1: H. I Smith 1898. First Nations Burials. The future Lillian Hoffar Park-north border-identified by the configuration of Curteis Point. Open oak meadow/grass, dead arbutus indicating the start of a Douglas-fir-Arbutus association. Canopy is behind the photographer.

Figure 2: H. I. Smith 1898. Burial cairns. Taken approximately 60 m south of the first photo in present day Lillian Hoffar Park. The location is identified by the configuration of the point where the southern stairs descend in 2021, as well as the rocky shoals and the end of Resthaven Island in the distance. Coastal old growth Douglas fir with Arbutus. There is no understory vegetation at the time of the photograph.

Quarry Park



Figure 3 East Saanich Road and municipal border 1916. Note the sparse vegetation at the future quarry site. Figure 4: Paving the East Saanich Road using the quarry materials and day workers in 1925. BC Gov't Publication.



Figure 5: Quarry photo taken from East Saanich Road looking east in 1920. Figure 6: Crew photo taken on the quarry floor 1920. Photos from Ruth Chudley, George King's granddaughter. Lou King the waterboy aged 11 in centre and George King, his father, second from right.

Nymph Point Park



Figure 7: Nymph Point circa 1920 on the right opposite Mill Point to the left; the North Saanich dock is in the centre. Figure 8: Looking directly across from Mill Point to Nymph Point. Date is unknown but likely about 1930.



Figure 9: Aerial view of Nymph Point in 1932. Air photo from the UVIC Air Photo Archives.

Denham Till Park



Figure 10: Dora Madeline and Frederick Denham Till had an extensive garden on their property and many of the plants, trees and shrubs remain. The house was built in 1928. Image is from the North Saanich Municipality website.

The following description is from the internet: “Frederick moved to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and purchased a tea plantation in 1907. In Ceylon, Till met Madeline, whom he married later in Mombasa. During the Second World War, the couple moved to Kenya where Commander Till went to work for British Intelligence. After returning from the war, and sensing political unrest in Ceylon, the couple immigrated to Canada in 1946, taking up residence in this house”.

Gulf View Park



Figure 11: Gulf View Park Air Photo 1946. The road to John Dean Park runs to the top of the photo. Note the few trees in Gulf View, the drive through loop and parking in the centre. Photo from UVIC Air Photo Archives.

Green Park

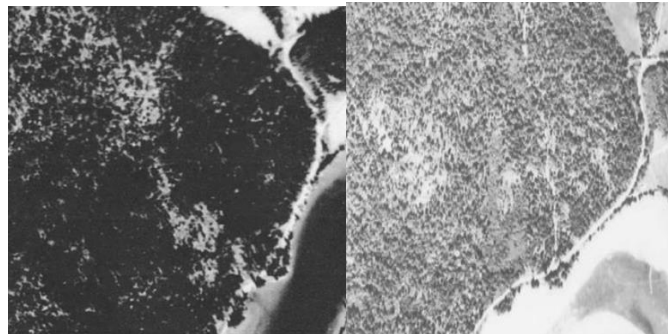


Figure 12: Air photo of “Green Park” in 1932. Note the logging where the park is approximately now. Figure 13: Air photo of “Green Park” in 1946. The trees have filled in after logging. Photos from the UVIC Air Photo Archives.

RO Bull Park

Roland Osborne Bull (1895-1972), for whom this park was named, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and was a Colonel with the military. He later worked as Vice President and General Manager of Gairdner and Company in Toronto, a large investment firm. Bull and his wife, Ruth Ruston Flanders, retired to Vancouver Island in 1957. Roland Osborne Bull soon became a pivotal community figure and in 1960 he founded the Victoria Boys’ Club. In honour of this achievement, Bull was made an honorary citizen of Victoria on December 30, 1971. The Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the land for this park in 1977, with funds donated from various sources including friends, relatives, citizens, corporations and societies, such as the Victoria

Horticultural Society. The park commemorates R.O. Bull, his commitment to the community, and his love of trees.

Appendix 5 Historic Photos of North Saanich

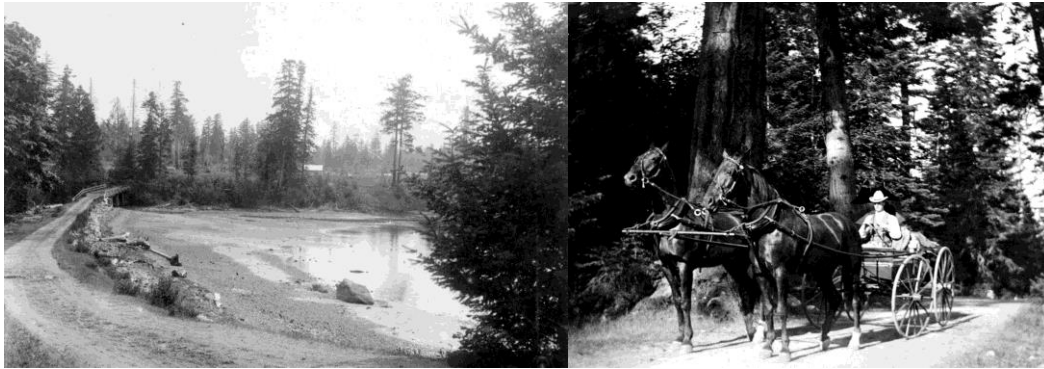


Figure 1: Patricia Bay along West Saanich Road-the foreground is the site of the Coast Guard facilities. 190-.BC Archives. Figure 2: Driving along West Saanich Road 189- BC Archives.



Figure 3: West Saanich Road facing south 189-Mt. Newton is in the far background right. BC Archives.