

Proposal for Capek Woods Project

as part of

Green Sanctuary

Goals:

1. Human/Nature Interaction

- a. Volunteers develop an understanding of the negative impact of particular invasive plants on the ecosystem. Volunteers learn how to identify and control common invasive plants.
- b. BUC congregation act as conservation stewards of their woods.
- c. Capek Woods provides visitors with a “Green Sanctuary”.

2. Enhance water quality

- a. Develop rain gardens where needed to decrease storm water runoff. Rain gardens can serve as demonstration/education gardens.
- b. Modify water features, (gradients, berms, and pond), as needed to decrease storm water runoff into the sewer system, and to protect the church basement from flooding. Due to substantial costs involved, pond excavation will probably not occur this season (2007)
- c. Assess and protect seep areas to protect ground water. But were did it go? Seep was not detectable last week. Talk to Keith Brown about his observations.
- d. Educate workers, volunteers, and maintenance staff about the importance of guarding against contamination of surface and ground water with fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, etc... (Possibly establish a containment protocol in case of an accident or spill?)

3. Create a sustainable environment

- a. Compost BUC yard and food refuse following compost best practices. Use compost on site to support health and vigor of plantings, and reduce need for supplemental fertilization.
- b. Assess site characteristics of soil type and pH; amount of exposure to sun; seasonal moisture levels; and climate zone.
- c. Select plants that have the greatest potential to thrive on the particular site.
- d. Minimize “input” and “output”
- e. Control invasive plants which upset that natural ecosystem.

4. Provide food, water and shelter for wild-life habitat such as birds and small mammals.

Steps to achieve above goals:

March 7, 2007

Map property and watershed boundaries.
Map elevation gradients.
Map nearby natural or green areas.

March 14, 2007

Inventory trees in woods

Identification of invasive species –buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle and bittersweet vine.

Developed a tentative inventory list of trees in the woods with the help of county forester Sal Henson (sp). Fee for inspection was complimentary, but need to send thank you in name of Green Sanctuary to Sal and to state decision makers concerned with extension funding.

Susie will coordinate with Nancy Duffy about her plans with Strawberry Hill and the recommendations we received.

March 25—meeting at church

Display/presentation on Capek invasive plants, possible control tools

On-line access to resources on buckthorn and garlic mustard

Sign-up for April 28 (9 AM to 3 PM) Garlic Mustard Removal work day

Sign-up for Buckthorn Removal day (possibly July 14— 9 AM to 3 PM)

Identification of volunteers with chain saws (Include on sign up sheet.)

March 26 planning

The goal is to remove all existing garlic mustard and buckthorn this year, knowing this is a yearly effort.

Identify and call potential volunteers.

April 28 workday—

Bruce Lipka will lead this effort and Pat Hammer will assist.

Funding to come from Memorial Glen Endowment.

Remove all garlic mustard

Pat Hammer will have display to teach garlic mustard identification, life cycle

Garlic mustard root and crown must be removed.

Removal efforts start at perimeter and work towards center.

Garlic mustard should be put in garbage bags and thrown in dumpster

If removal efforts are incomplete, concentrate on removing taller, 2nd year plants totally.

Chip wood already downed from wood in Capek woods and put in pathways

Clean up Workday (?) May 19

Postponed buckthorn removal workday because some resources indicated May 19 was still too early. We need to wait until the buckthorn has leaved out, or until the upward flow of sap has slowed. Should we still do the chain saw and herbicide safety on this date, or wait?

Short training by Bob Williams on safe use of power saw, herbicide application
To prepare for chain saw safety, a check list of necessary safety supplies/equipment will be distributed before workday. Bob will do this because he's Bob. Need to confirm date.

We could work on missed garlic mustard, compost pile, hauling woodchips, piling dead wood for chipper, and/or on the inventory of non-woody plants.

June Workday?

It would be good to keep up the momentum.

Buckthorn Removal Workday- possibly July 14—work time from 9am-3pm:

Pat Hammer, Stephanie Patil and Kerrie McMillen

Funding for herbicide and other materials from Memorial Glen Endowment.

Short training by Bob Williams on safe use of power saw, herbicide application
To prepare for chain saw safety, a check list of necessary safety supplies/equipment will be distributed before workday. Bob will do this because he's Bob. Need to confirm date.
See above.

Groups of 3 will work together—a sawyer, an herbicide painter and a person to remove wood to a chipping location.

Equipment needed:

A hand saw is sufficient to cut down most buckthorn.

Chain saw operators should (be over some age? have attended the training with Bob?)

A loppers would be useful to reduce buckthorn to manageable shape and size.

Chipper?

Weed wrench if available

Herbicide, applicator, protective gear. Applicators should be (age, training?)

It is ok to use the buckthorn chips on the paths. Fred will decide optimum location to pile wood chips before they can be carried to the paths.

We will make an appeal to the youth groups and 20-30's group especially. **(Susie will make those contacts.)**

Next steps:

1. We will develop a summer monitoring plan; possibly weekly workday/ monthly work date. These dates would be organized by Capek Woods Green Sanctuary group.
2. Test soil from 3 different environments found in Capek Woods. Samples have been collected. **(Funding will come from the Memorial Glen Endowment.) (Stephanie)**
3. Set new buckthorn removal date. Confirm with Bob. **(Stephanie)**
4. Order weed wrench after evaluate the Hammer's tool.
Note: English Gardens and Lukes Feed Store either didn't know what we were talking about, or said the tool was too specialized to carry. We could maybe offset the cost of the tool by 'renting' it to Capek Woods volunteers so they could control their own buckthorn, without adding another tool to their garage.
5. In May or June, we will bring in someone to help us identify flowers, shrubs and herbs in the area. **(Susie will identify per)**
6. Based on the soil test results, over the summer we will identify native trees that will grow in those areas. Hopefully, in the fall we will be able to begin reforestation in some of those areas. If we do it then, we don't have the problem of watering them during the hot months of the summer.
7. We need to develop a communication system among all the BUC groundskeeper organizations to discuss authority, fund and responsibilities.

Budgetary items for this proposal

(Funding will come from Memorial Glen Endowment):

1. Chippers for April 28 and Buckthorn Removal Day?

2. For buckthorn removal:

Supplies needed:

Rubber/plastic gloves for May 19 herbicide trunk/stalk painting. **(Stephanie)**

\$5 x 3 for 3 pair of heavy rubber gloves available @ automotive supply.

Herbicide trunk/stump painting

Cost for herbicide to paint the stumps

\$16 x3 =\$48 for 3 bottles with included applicator available @ Luke's Feed Store

Smaller plastic bags to throw empty herbicide bottles.

Perhaps plastic bucket to store rubber gloves and herbicide in shed.

\$5 x 1 @ Lowes

Safety glasses

\$5 x 3 @ Lowes

Weed wrench for buckthorn saplings that can pull out a 2 ½ inch trunk so that we can continue to monitor growth in the forest year after year without having to use herbicide. **(\$219)**

3. Other:

Soil tests for 3 zones --\$45

Trees --\$?

Native forbs and grasses -- \$?

Signage? Brainstorm low cost ideas- like pottery.

Non-budgetary items needed:

1. A place to store the herbicide, safety glasses, gloves, (and weed wrench) for use with groups who will continue to work over the summer.
2. A communication plan with staff who will know where Green Sanctuary supplies are located.

In bold are those people responsible for getting information or leading task.