

This project has been created to demonstrate different features of the natural environment. Please DO NOT consume any of the fruits and berries produced by the different plants, shrubs and trees



# Smith's Creek Natural Area



## Stewart Park – Shoreline Naturalization Site

Background: The naturalization of a cultivated site (lawn) can have many benefits to the community and the environment; it can provide additional habitat for wildlife, it can be used as a learning tool for the community and using native species can reduce the maintenance required in the area.

The naturalization of an area is a process and the area will evolve over time as the plants and trees planted become established. An added benefit to this site in particular is its proximity to Smith's Creek. Incorporating plantings along the creek will promote the establishment of a buffer zone which works to reduce erosion, provide shade over the water area, reduce water temperature and evaporation and help to reduce any contamination from entering the creek.



**1. Forest Habitat** – Several types of native trees have been planted on this site and include; sugar maple, red maple, white ash, showy mountain ash and beech trees. The use of larger trees provides an upper story to the area and can be used for food and habitat for birds, squirrels and other wildlife species.

**2. Shrubs** – Highbush cranberry, nannyberry, elderberry, dogwood, partridgeberry and Sergeant Crabapple have all been planted on this site. The use of these shrubs not only provides habitat but the berries produced can be an important source of winter food for a variety of different wildlife types.

**3. Wildflowers** – Purple coneflower, fireweed, lupins, black-eyed Susan, bee balm, butterfly weed and many other native wildflowers have been planted here. They attract a variety of pollinators including butterflies and bees.

## Millennium Trail – Artificial and Natural Wildlife Habitat

Background: Sometimes when we look around the natural environment we see things like dead and dying trees which at first glance look like they need to be cleaned up. Before we do that, let's take a closer look.

These features in the environment can provide food and habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. The next three stops demonstrate both natural and artificial habitat structures.

**4. Cavity Nests** – Cavity nesters are bird species that nest in the holes found in dead or dying trees. There are two types of cavity nesters; primary nesters which produce their own holes, like woodpeckers and secondary nesters, like wood ducks, who rely on other birds or circumstances to create the hole. This location is a demonstration of a Wood duck nesting box. Wood ducks typically nest in the cavities of trees in close proximity to water. This is one way that people can help to promote wildlife in an area that lacks cavities for nesting.

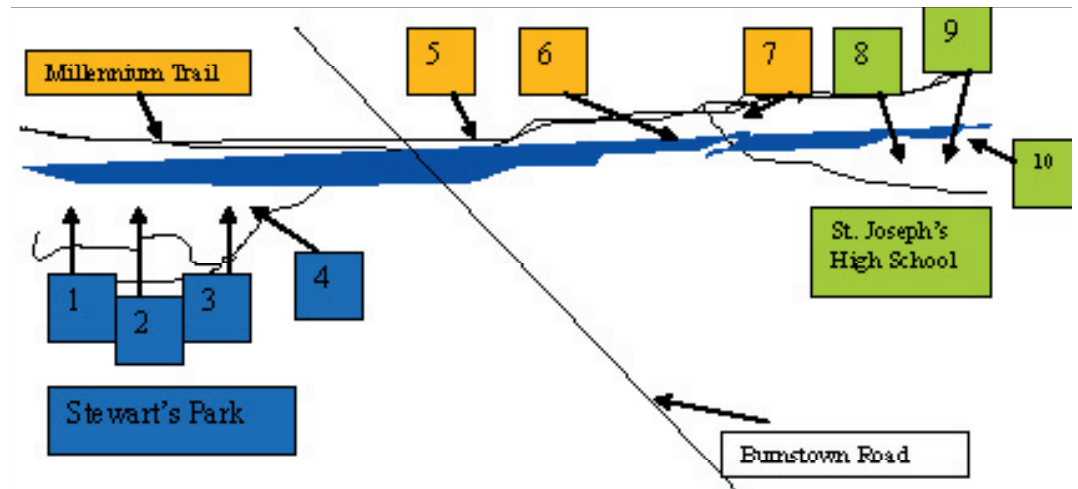
The BRWP gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution made by local businesses and organizations to insure the continuation of all of the BRWP's many projects throughout the landscape. The growing list of corporate partners includes; Renfrew Power Generation, The Town of Renfrew, Bonnechere Valley Windows, Frances Lemke Cooperators Insurance, Renfrew County Stewardship Council, Fulchers of Eganville, Tirecraft Renfrew, Eganville Power Generation, the Renfrew Fish and Game Club, and the Lake Clear Property Owners Association.

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## Millennium Trail - Artificial and Natural Wildlife Habitat

**5. Fish Habitat** – Fallen trees in the natural environment provide a valuable habitat for fish. When fish are spawning fallen trees can provide a safe area for the eggs to develop and act as habitat for the types of food that the newly hatched fingerlings (baby fish) will need to survive. This type of feature can also provide a safe area for the variety of reptiles and amphibians that call the water home.

**6. Turtle Basking Platform** – These platforms naturally occur as logjams or fallen trees. In this case we have constructed a turtle basking platform. This type of feature is critical to the digestive process of some species of turtles. They have a difficult time digesting plant material and use the basking platform to aid in digestion by raising their body temperature. Turtles are typically very timid. Try to approach this site very quietly and you may catch a rare site of a turtle basking in the sun.



## St. Joseph's High School Site - Hayfield Restoration

**Background:** This is a site that is very common in Renfrew County. It is an abandoned hayfield. Abandoning a site is a viable way of naturalizing a site. However, it has some downfalls. Primarily, depending on the type of seeds readily available on the abandoned site there is a potential for the site to become overrun with noxious weeds in a short period of time which compete with the growth of the native plants, shrubs and trees. In addition, the site, left untouched, is limited by the soil types and the conditions of that soil.

On this site we have given nature a hand and planted native species that would naturally grow on this type of site. The trees have been planted in clusters to mimic a natural forest setting which will establish itself over time.

**7. Forage Plots** – This area has been planted with upland and wild turkey food and cover mix.

The mix is made up of 14 perennial and annual forage seed that provides a diverse blend of food for wildlife which include; wild turkey, deer and ruffed grouse. The variety of heights and colours of the plants also provide cover to these animals from potential predators.

**8. Upland Restoration Planting** - The upper part of this site has been planted with a variety of tree and shrub species which include; white pine, red oak, whit ash, serviceberry and sumac. These species have been selected because they are tolerant to sites that are dry and rocky which would be more likely to be found within the upper part of a sloping site.

**9. Lowland Restoration Planting** – The lowland part of this site has been planted with a variety of tree and shrub species which include; larch or tamarack, white cedar, buttonbush, white birch and white spruce. These species have been selected for the low lying land because of their tolerance to low, wet areas.