



Rebecca Ferguson
Muskoka Conservancy
47 Quebec St.
Bracebridge, Ontario
P1L 1T8

Re: Jaspen Park Naturalization

Hi Drew,

Thank you for meeting with me on June 19, 2015 to show me Jaspen Park and discuss the environmental issues associated with the shoreline, specifically Canada geese. As noted by Environment Canada (2010) geese pose many different threats, particularly to the environment by damaging plants, increasing erosion on banks and potentially contaminating water through fecal coliforms. As geese can also be aggressive towards humans when they are nesting or with their young this is also a problem for a public park.

The most important step to managing geese is to first understand their biology. The primary food source for Canada geese during the summer is new grass shoots as they are high in protein- so it is understandable why they like mowed lawns like that at Jaspen Park (Figure 1). Management strategies as outlined by Environment Canada (2010) recommend removing their sight lines of the grass and creating uncertainty of potential predators by adding barriers. The most aesthetic, cheap and environmentally friendly way to accomplish this is to plant a vegetative buffer of tall shrubs, grasses and wildflowers along the shoreline.

With this being said, I will now recommend some good vegetation options that are native, or non-invasive that will do well along this shoreline (see Figure 2 for rough site plan).

Shrubs:

- Elderberry
- Fragrant sumac
- Smooth wild rose
- White snowberry
- Alternate leaved dogwood
- Broad-leaved meadow sweet
- Mountain juneberry
- Kalm's St. John's wart

Grasses:

- Indian grass
- Big bluestem
- Sweetgrass
- Feather reed grass



Wildflowers:

- Wild strawberry
- Black eyed susan
- Pale purple coneflower
- Tall coreopsis
- Common milkweed
- Wild bergamot
- New England aster

Some nurseries in the area that sell native plants are:

- Northway gardeners Inc.
- RH Designs
- Sassafras farms

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! Best of luck getting together a committee and volunteers for this restoration project, I think it will make a huge improvement for the park and many people will benefit!

Thanks again and keep up the great stewardship.

Sincerely,
Rebecca



Figure 1. Jaspen Park, Bala shoreline

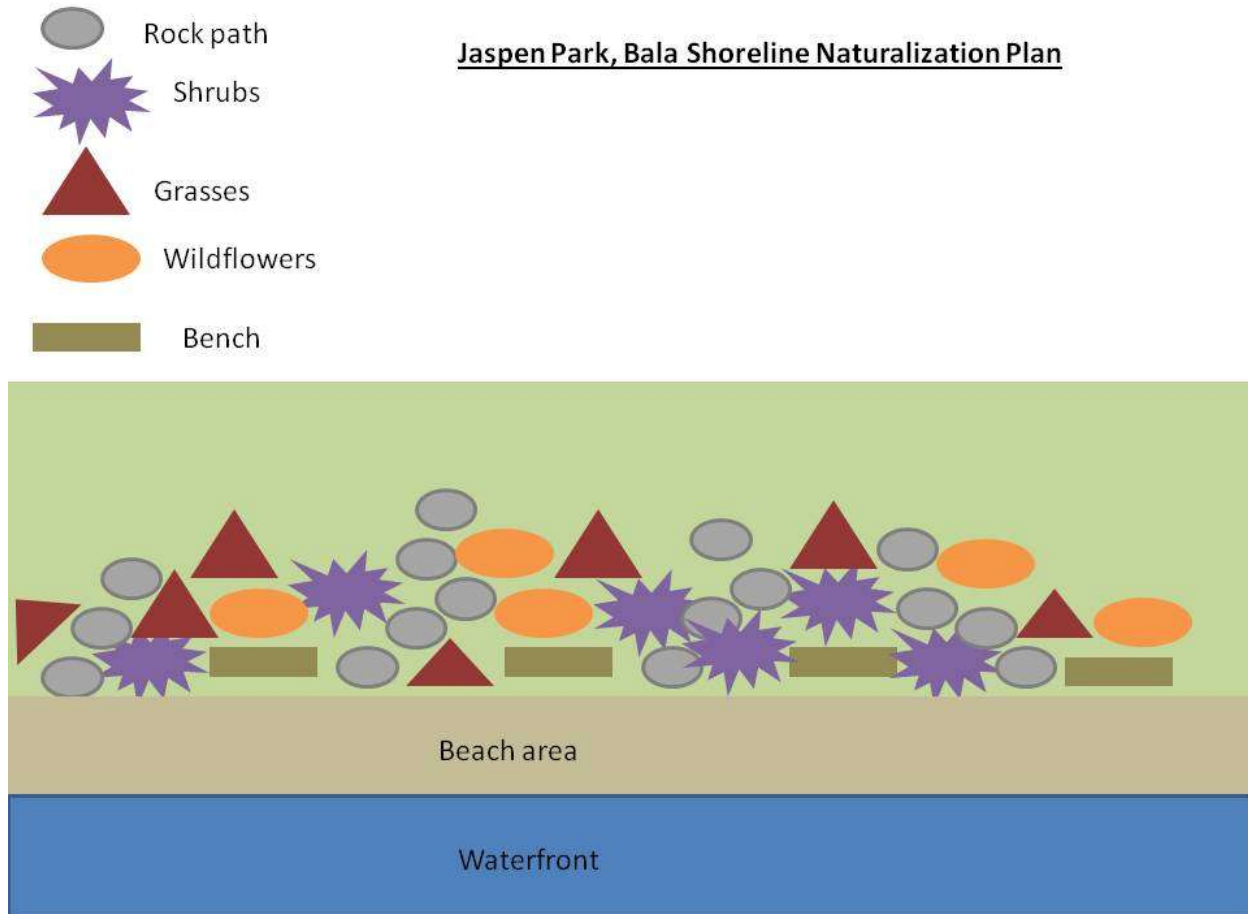


Figure 2. Proposed naturalization for Jaspen Park, Bala shoreline

References

Environment Canada. (2010).

Handbook: Canada and Cackling Geese: Management and Population Control in Southern Canada. Retrieved online on June 25, 2015 from, https://www.ec.gc.ca/mbc-com/6D2B893B-C671-41AF-8439-713305DB384C/Handbook_Canada_Cackling_Geese_e%5b1%5d.pdf