

Bluff Trail Stewardship Program (BTSP) Highlights: Sept 2017

Paradise Cove Clean Up: On 9 September 2017, Mike Lancaster and eight volunteers from WRWEO and CKNS paddled Hubley Big Lake to Paradise Cove and remediated a number of locations from Hubley Big Lake to Upper Five Bridge Lake. They removed an estimated 700 lb of garbage, remediated 2 fire pits, and contributed approximately 44.5 volunteer hours to the effort.



Guided Hike for HRTA: On 11 September 2017, BTSP and WRWEO led members of the Halifax Regional Trails Association on a short hike. The hike leaders gave a brief introduction to the BTSP program and the flora found on the corridor of the Pot Lake Loop. The hike was attended by one BTSP volunteer steward and five guests.

LNT Display at EAC BioBlitz: On 16 September 2017, BTSP Steward and WRWEO Director, Danielle Marchand, represented WRWEO and BTSP at the EAC BioBlitz in Point Pleasant Park with an information station which featured a "Trash Timeline" which illustrated the time it takes for various materials to decompose. Approximately two-dozen people visited the table and fifteen were meaningfully engaged about LNT principles and practices, The Bluff Trail, etc.

NRET Collaboration & Data Collection: On 26 September 2017, eleven students and one instructor from the Natural Resources Environmental Technology (NRET) program at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Lunenburg campus spent the day collecting baseline data on trail width and channelling along either side of the second boardwalk. The students donated approximately 50 hours of volunteer labour and will return on 13 October 2017 to complete the work.

Concerning Activity: At "McIsaac's Sorrow", the BTSP Assistant found a tree that was recently cut just behind the Wilderness Area sign. The BTSP Coordinator and Assistant documented an illegal deer blind near Paradise Cove less than 400 m from the portage connecting the cove with the Hay Marsh Loop. A BTSP Volunteer Steward observed another possible deer blind near Frederick Lake.



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BTSP Reports = 19

14 Trail Reports
4 Event Reports
1 Off-Trail Event

**Total reports to date:
106**

Hours on Trail = 230.75

76.5 (32%) paid
159.25 (68%) unpaid*

**Total hrs to date: 1,194
471 (39%) paid
730.5 (61%) unpaid**

Presence on Trail = 13/30 Days (43%)

12 days on Pot Lake
6 days on Mi'kmaw Hill
2 days on Bluff
3 days on Hay Marsh

Total days to date: 82/273 (30%)

BTSP Stewards

1 trained in August

Total stewards to date: 31

Check-Ins at LNT Sites

4 at Coyote/U'lukwej & Crow/Ka'qaqj;
2 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej & 3 Moose/Tia'm

**Total to date: 27 at Coyote/U'lukwej & Crow/Ka'qaqj
13 at Squirrel/Atutu'wej and 9 at Moose/Tia'm**

People Count = 388

388 People Observed; 139 People Engaged (36%)

Total people to date: 2,011 observed; 813 engaged (40%)

Dog Count = 58

(3 = leash not described)
27 (50%) off leash
28 (50%) on leash

Total dogs to date: 392

In-Kind Contributions = \$6,009.78

On-Trail Labour: 159.25hrs @ \$20.10/hr* = \$3,200.93

Off-Trail Labour: 113.5hrs @ \$20.10/hr = \$2,281.35

Materials, Equipment & Services: 6 canoe uses, 1 kayak use, 15 heavy-duty garbage bags,
& garbage pick-up service = \$527.50

**Total in-kind contribution to date: \$25,173.27
(On-Trail Labour \$14,688.68 + Off-trail Labour \$9,514.34 + MES \$970.25)**

Remediation & Repair

- 22 spur barriers built/refurbished
- 6 trail barriers built/refurbished
- 6 fire pits remediated
- 6 trail signs repaired
- 5 deadfall trees removed from trail
- 2 way markers repaired

List of Acronyms: BTSP (Bluff Trail Stewardship Program); WRWEO (Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization); CKNS (Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia); HRTA (Halifax Regional Trails Association); LNT (Leave No Trace); EAC (Ecology Action Centre); NRET (Natural Resources Environmental Technology); NSCC (Nova Scotia Community College).

*Among the 159.25 hours of unpaid labour, 4 hours were part of paid contract work for WRWEO (sign & infrastructure inventory). The payment for these hours did not come out of the BTSP budget, and the BTSP work performed during that time was surplus to the paid work.

** WRWEO calculates the value of volunteer labour according to the 2015 study, *Working for a Living, Not Living for Work*, released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia in partnership with United Way – Halifax. The report used the Canadian Living Wage Framework to calculate the living wage for Halifax at \$20.10/hr.