

# RENNIES RIVER RIPARIAN REMEDIATION

2015-16

P.O. Box 8732, St. John's A1B 3T1

[info@naacap.ca](mailto:info@naacap.ca)

709-726-9673



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Garbage Cleanup</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Invasive Species Removal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Planting Native Species</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Remediation Sites</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Project Results</b>	<b>8</b>



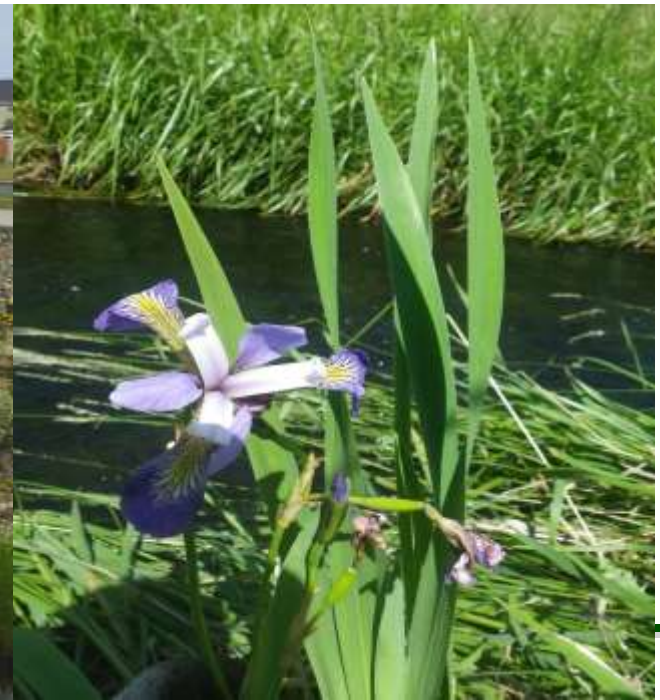




## OVERVIEW

This project was follow up to our project *Rennies River Watershed Riparian Assessment* which was completed during the 2014-2015 project year. During 2015-2016, we worked to remediate some of the riparian zone in the watershed which was identified in the previous year's project as needing some attention.

With the help of a Conservation Corps Green Team, there were three main activities that we undertook to remediate the riparian zone: cleanup of litter and debris; removal of invasive plants; and planting native plants.







## GARBAGE CLEANUP

Clean St. John's provided garbage bags and arranged for pickup of collected garbage for proper disposal at the regional landfill. In addition to the cleanup efforts of the Green Team, there were a number of volunteers who assisted at two community cleanups. Along with small garbage, larger items were also removed, including a bed frame, large pieces of foam, and building supplies were removed from both the riparian zone and in-stream areas.



## INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

There were eight invasive species identified throughout the watershed during the 2014-2015 assessment project. Through consultation with the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, we were advised that many of the identified invasives were very difficult to eradicate. As such, there were only certain species that the Green Team could remove with hand tools. For example, while Japanese knotweed and wild chervil were rampant in the watershed, it was determined that the effort needed to eradicate these plants was more than we could perform in the scope of this project and that they would simply grow back if pulled out with hand tools. Removed invasive plants were: black knapweed, coltsfoot, St. John's wort, and Canada thistle. These plants were discarded in garbage bags and sent to the regional landfill. Plants were removed before producing seed so that the landfill disposal would not result in spreading of the plants.

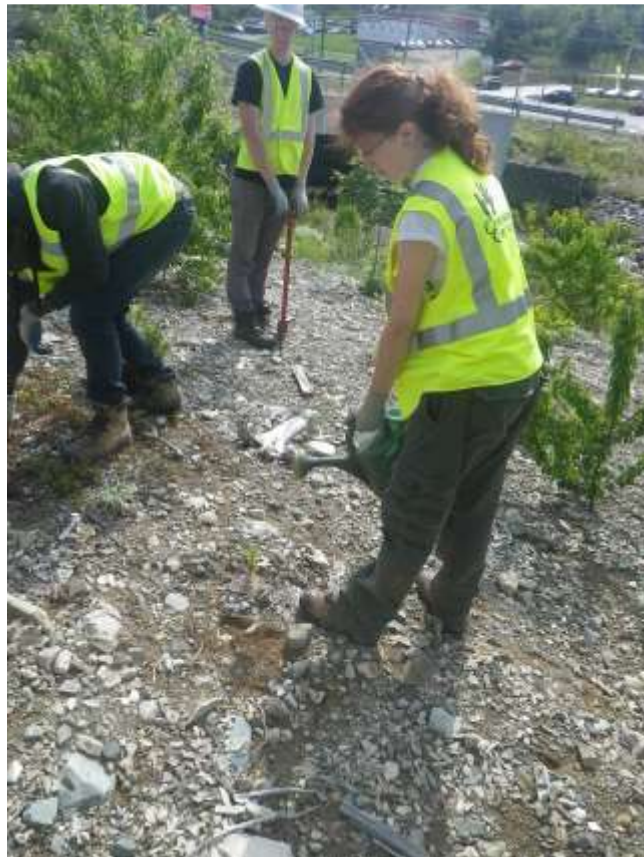






## PLANTING NATIVE SPECIES

In addition to consultation regarding invasive removal, we also consulted with the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden regarding which native species would be best to plant in the riparian zone. Ultimately, the species that we were able to plant was limited by a lack of availability of some species at local nurseries. The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency provided a variety of conifers (black spruce, white spruce and larch); C.D.'s Trees provided chuckley pear and red chokeberry; and the Botanical Garden provided blue flag iris. The City of St. John's provided topsoil and advice on planting. Local Girl Guides assisted with planting downstream of Allandale Road.



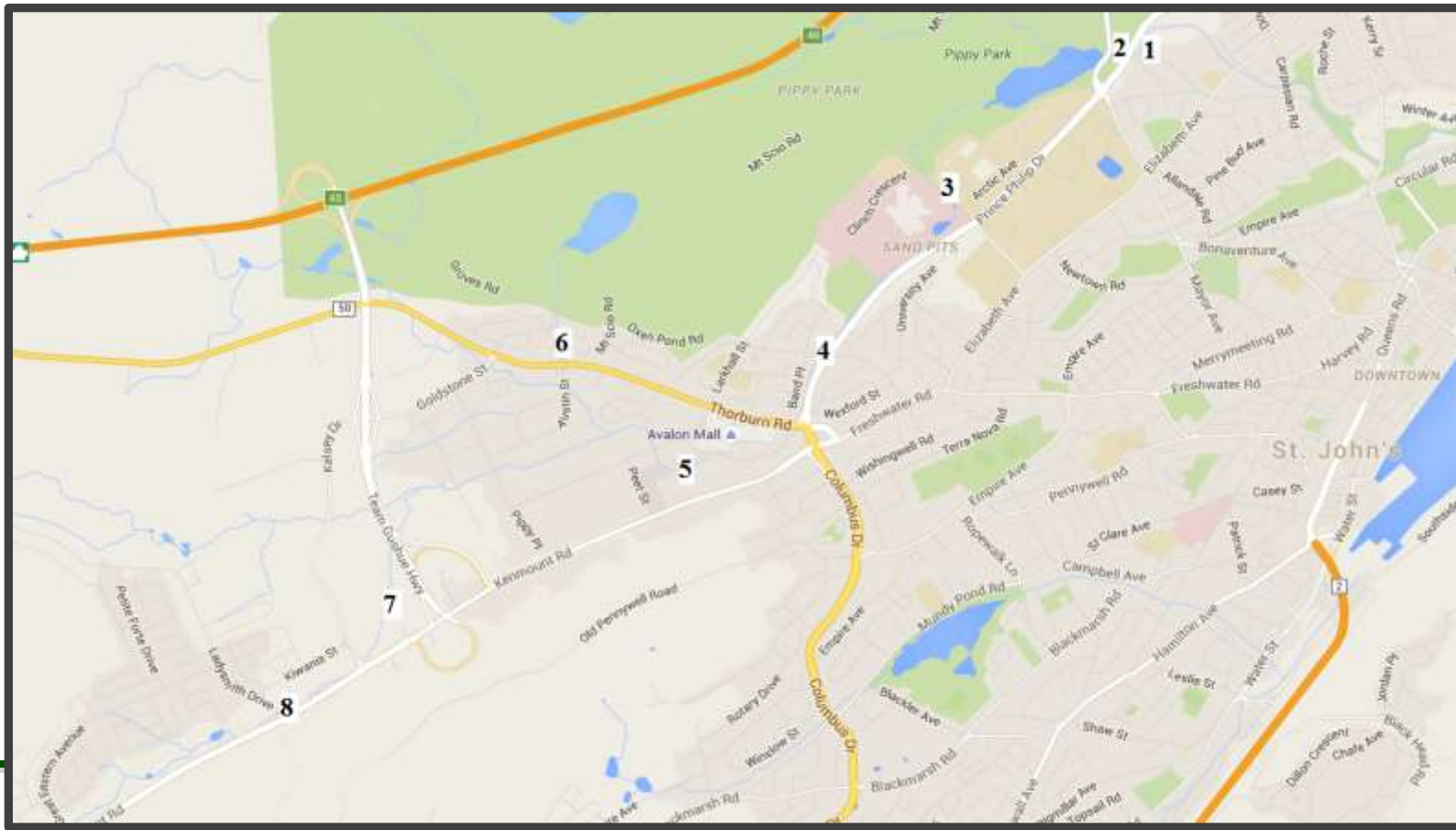




## REMEDIATED SITES

This table contains the sites where remedial activities were undertaken as part of this project. Each location can be found on the map below.

Location	Activities
1. Rennies River downstream of Prince Philip Drive.	Removed invasive plants, planted conifers and blue flag iris.
2. Rennies River downstream of Allandale Road.	Removed invasive plants, planted conifers with the help of Girl Guides.
3. Leary's Brook downstream of Clinch Crescent East.	Cleaned up garbage, removed invasive plants, planted conifers and blue flag iris.
4. Leary's Brook between Thorburn Road and Wicklow Street.	Hosted a community cleanup.
5. Leary's Brook behind Avalon Mall.	Cleaned up garbage.
6. Tributary from Oxen Pond at Seaborn Street Park.	Hosted a community cleanup.
7. Kenmount Brook upstream of Team Gushue Highway.	Cleaned up garbage.
8. Kenmount Brook upstream and downstream of Ladysmith Drive.	Cleaned up garbage, removed invasive plants, planted conifers and shrubs.





## PROJECT RESULTS

There is still much to be done to improve this urban waterway. Garbage and debris is a large and reoccurring problem, and some identified locations from 2014 are difficult to access for cleanup. Many of the invasive plants identified in 2014 remain, as a more aggressive removal method is needed. Also, there were areas of extreme erosion identified in 2014, the remediation of which was beyond the scope of this project. As well, with continual anthropogenic development in the watershed, there will continue to be upset to riparian vegetation.

Regardless, at the completion of this project the watershed is cleaner, and soil stability, native biodiversity, and habitat have been increased.

- Over 900kg of garbage was removed from both the riparian zone and in-stream
- There were 1040 native plants planted
- There were approximately 3000 invasive plants removed from the riparian zone