

# TI PARK LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN

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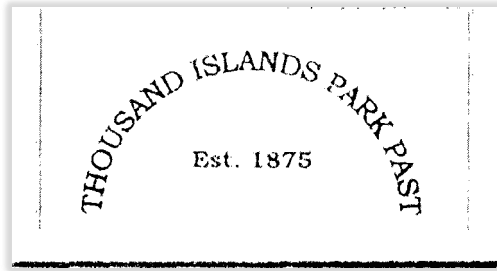


INITIAL "DRAFT" COMPLETED BY TIP "TASK FORCE"

REVIEWED AND AMENDED BY WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION BOARD

DATE: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015



## "THE PAST IS PROLOGUE — STUDY THE PAST"

Each generation on TI Park has helped redefine history from its unique perspective – an everchanging vantage point in time. As each TI Park generation looks back upon a different past, it has faced the future with a different prologue or perspective. We know our own perspective affects what we see, and our view of history should now influence our vision for the future to ensure sustainability.

With TIP's location on an island in the St. Lawrence River and abutting mostly protected natural areas, it's fitting to manage the Park's property within this context. This includes management practices that provide adequate views of the natural landscape, prevents erosion, enhances fish and wildlife habitat, and limits any impacts to the water quality of the surrounding river wherever possible. Sound management will help preserve the Park's natural heritage.

The TI Park Landscape Preservation & Maintenance Plan will bring a closer partnership between stewards of the natural and built environments. This "Plan" of sustainability has developed a sustainable approach to natural resources, preservation, management & restoration. The interaction between the Park's community and its natural resources requires a diligent approach because our historic resources are what link us to our past. We strive to protect our unique historic & cultural heritage simply because we have lived with it and it has become part of us. This Landscape Preservation & Maintenance Plan's initiative will contribute to a better understanding of the significance of "place".

Thoughtful landscape preservation, sustainable maintenance and enhanced community awareness allows a bygone era to be relevant in the present time and become a contributing element to the community going forward.

# TI PARK LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN

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## SECTION I: TREES

The trees of Thousand Island Park have provided a backdrop and setting for Park activities throughout its history. They frame the view of the River, cottages, and scenes throughout the park. Their canopy is a significant asset that the community wants to protect and preserve. The following outlines T.I. Park's Plan for carrying out that mission through Pruning, Planting, Removal, and Historic Designation.

### PRUNING

The preservation of the Park's trees requires an ongoing process. For most trees the optimal time to prune is in the dormant season or right after flowering. The TIP Corporation performs this task on a regular basis. This is supported by an annual arborist visit to make recommendations and develop a specific plan. The leaseholders are also participants in the pruning process and are encouraged to prune the trees on their property. The following outlines the objectives of regular pruning and some guidelines.

- Regular Maintenance (Corporation / Private)
- Safety: Special consideration should be given to potential safety issues related to falling limbs and trees
- Health: Removal of dead and diseased wood. Thinning of the branches to promote healthy growth. No more than 10% of a tree should be pruned per year.
- "Pruning Up": This will vary based on location. Reasonable consideration should be given to the following: View — Nuisance & Air Circulation
- Storm Damage (Corporation / Private — residents should contact Office concerning any storm damage they feel needs to be cleared)
  - Safety
  - Health of tree
  - Prune as appropriate

### PLANTING

TI Park Corporation recognizes the need and responsibility for the ongoing renewal of the Park's tree population. This effort began in the late 1900s and continues to be a major project in the restoration of the Park to its historic character. The TIP Corporation has supported the annual fall planting of 10-15 trees and targeted projects throughout the Park. Leaseholders are also encouraged to plant trees on their property. Memorial trees are encouraged. The current goal is to increase the population of trees on the park. The following outlines the objective of

regular tree planting and some guidelines.

- Annual Fall Planting / Memorial Planting / Private Planting
  - Primarily Native Species (Oak, Maple, Ash, etc.)
  - Primarily Young Trees (Less than 3 Caliper inches)
  - Primarily Placed in Natural Setting (Public and Leased Land)
  - Desirable to intersperse young trees with mature trees
  - Some Tree Lining
    - The Greens
    - St. Lawrence Ave
    - Rainbow Street East
  - Reasonable Spacing of Trees
  - Reasonable Accommodations given to leaseholders
  - Right Tree / Right Place (Consider impact of tree at maturity)
  - Special consideration should be given to replacing trees that were removed

#### CORPORATION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR TREE PLANTING

#### **REMOVAL**

While the TIP Corporation's primary goal in this area is to preserve trees, it recognizes the need and responsibility to remove trees under certain circumstances. Tree removal by a cottage owner requires prior approval from the Park Manager. The following outlines the objective of tree removal and some guidelines.

- Considerations for Tree Removal:
  - Safety
  - Construction
  - Health of the tree
  - Reasonable consideration given to leaseholders
  - Corporation permission required for ANY removal of a tree

#### **HISTORICAL DESIGNATION**

The TIP Corporation recognizes the importance of maintaining a list of historically significant trees and trees planted in memoriam. Documentation will include a photo, location and description. These are trees that make an unusual contribution to the character of Thousand Island Park; including trees in memoriam. The following identifies key characteristic.

- Considerations for Historic Designation
  - Age
  - Species
  - Beauty
  - Location
  - Memoriam (Person or Event)

Examples of Historical Designated Trees:

**White Oak**

(Located on Eden Street between Ontario Ave and Island Ave and maintained by Friends of Rock Ridges Nature Trail)

Declared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in June 1992 as the second largest White Oak in existence in NYS.

Diameter: 56.3 Inches  
Circumference: 14.75 Feet  
Height: 95 Feet  
Crown Spread: 108 Feet  
Approximate Age: 200+ Years

**Crab Apple**

(Located on the corner of St. Lawrence Ave and Rainbow Street near Guzzle building)

Donated by Nellie Taylor in the early 1980's. Several generations of children have enjoyed climbing the tree over the years.

**ANNUAL CALENDAR OF KEY ACTIVITIES**

- Inspection with Arborist — Spring
- Planting — Late Fall
- Pruning — Mid Winter

**ONLINE RESOURCES TO ASSIST LEASEHOLDERS WITH PRUNING AND PLANTING**

- <http://sites.middlebury.edu/middland/2013/03/03/pruning-101/>
- [www.arborday.com](http://www.arborday.com)
- <https://www.isa-arbor.com/>
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/>

**SECTION II: GARDENING**

The gardens of TI Park are rooted in a tradition of pride and beautification. They provide pleasure for everyone visiting or residing in the Park, and enhance the scenic views of the river, Victorian homes, and historical buildings. TI Park plans to continue planting and maintenance to preserve and ensure for future generations by providing the following "blueprint" as a guide.

### **Garden Beautification Committee**

The Garden Beautification Committee (formerly known as the Plant Parenthood Committee) is a group of volunteers, headed by chairperson(s) who care for and maintain gardens throughout the Park. The scope of responsibilities includes flowerboxes, urns, and upkeep of the community garden.

To keep maintenance and costs low:

- A gradual shift in future plantings emphasizing long-lived perennials with staggering bloom times and attractive/textural foliage, balanced with minimal annual plantings for consistent bloom and color
- Develop an Annual Plan for beginning annuals from seed and/or cuttings, and overwintering of key plants
- Organic approaches:
  - An established compost system eliminates the need for synthetic fertilizers.
  - Soil enhancement i.e., layering compost in the Fall, and a no-till approach minimizes and improves and sustains soils over time.
  - Careful selection of native and disease resistant plantings. Ongoing assembly of a list of plantings that work well.
  - Raised beds should be edged with 1 or 2 course of angular granite chunks as that is typically how our native stone quarries. Such use of stone is a nice recognition of the history of quarrying on Wellesley, Grindstone and Picton Islands.

SUGGESTED READING: "*Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*" (Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Guides for a Greener Planet)

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The Community Garden is overseen by the Corporation office. The garden is annually contracted to residents on a first come first serve basis by signed agreement in keeping with the Park's rules. The Park holds the right to revoke garden privileges if terms of the agreement are not being met. The Community Garden provides a designated area to grow edibles and herbs in ideal growing conditions and educational gardening programs are geared towards the Park's youth. Please contact the Corporation Office for additional information concerning the Community Garden.

### **RESIDENT GARDENS**

The Park encourages residents to establish and maintain personal gardens with the following caveats:

- Respectful consideration of neighbors' views
- Upkeep/maintained appearance

- Native plant selections are encouraged to compliment and preserve the Park's scenic, natural surroundings
- Educate residents to make better plant choices of what to plant in their personal gardens
- Refrain from vegetable/edible plantings in the front yard (facing the front facade of cottage)
- Stump planters, urns and hanging baskets are indicative of the Victorian era

**Resources:**

<http://www.hgcny.com>  
[www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)

**Suggested Reading:**

- a.) "Gardens of the Gilded Age: Nineteenth-Century Gardens and Home grounds of New York State" by M. Christine Klim Doell
- b.) "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy
- c.) "Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants" by Heather N. Holm

**CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INVASIVE PLANTS**

It is the Park's position to remove and control invasive plant species. Measures are to be taken to prevent any and all future plantings of invasive plants in order to preserve the beautiful, natural setting of the Park.

- Educate residents on potentially invasive species.
- Encourage immediate reporting of particularly harmful invasive species (<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/subject/reporting>)
- Diligent control and removal of any existing invasive plants

**Resources:**

<http://invasiveplants.net/>  
<http://nyis.info/>

**GARDEN HARDSCAPE**

In order to preserve the character of the Park, hardscapes such as walkways, patios should be made of natural-like materials in a character indigenous to the area. Acceptable materials: Wood, crushed stone of natural brown or gray color, gravel, gray concrete square or rectangular, natural-colored pavers, or flat stone and grass. Hardscapes are to be constructed with Permit, according to codes as outlined by the Preservation Board.



## SECTION III: LANDSCAPING

Thousand Island Park abounds with natural beauty in a variety of venues. This section focuses on shrubs and bushes. Below are guidelines for managing these plantings.

### MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Park has been divided into two areas:

#### Managed (Trimmed & pruned)

Primarily the residential and commercial areas including the shoreline and greens.

#### Unmanaged

Rock Ridges Trail, parts of South Bay shoreline, et al.

Leased lots are the responsibility of the homeowners to manage. The Corporation is responsible for the maintenance of the remaining land in the Managed area of the Park. Cottage owners who wish to assist in trimming any shrubs/bushes on the land maintained by the corporation must receive specific permission from the office before proceeding.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

#### **Shrubs and Bushes:**

Trimming practices should reflect the growing habit of the species; see references below for guidance. In Managed area, shrubs/bushes should be trimmed to a height and girth of about 4 feet, or the height of the adjacent boathouses. In Managed area, all shrubs/bushes/thickets should be trimmed neatly. No plantings should obstruct the view of the River or others. Clear access to paths, boathouses, streets, etc., must be maintained. The shoreline should be trimmed neatly to reflect the beauty of TIP. Native woody plants should remain on steep banks (trimmed to avoid erosion). Avoid planting invasive shrubs (i.e. Barberry and Autumn Olive). Better options are listed in the reference below.

#### LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

Low profile exterior lighting is applicable in instances of safety i.e. nighttime walkways and entries. Exterior lighting should be respectful of neighbors' night views and should not detract or distract, i.e. out of season holiday lighting, flashing or colored solar gadget garden lighting. Exterior lighting should be downcast so as not to pollute.

#### REFERENCE:

*Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning* by Cass Turnbull