

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The 77-hectare, urban-forested Point Pleasant Park, situated on the southern tip of the peninsula, like other forested city parks, has, throughout its history, undergone repeated change from both natural causes and human intervention. Historically, the forests in Point Pleasant Park were cut for defence and agricultural purposes, with the military of the day seeing the advantage of maintaining clear sight lines to the entrance to the harbour, as was the case with the Prince of Wales Martello Tower (Photo 1.) Agricultural and defence requirements were replaced by the late 1860s with more park-like features including trails and viewsheds. Since then the Park's forests, being largely undisturbed, were allowed to mature with little further management intervention.

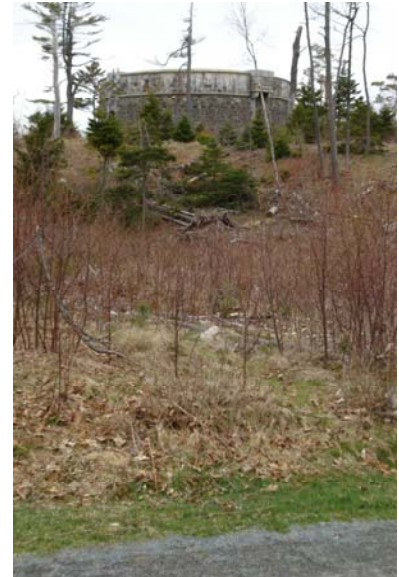


Photo: 1. The signature Martello Tower

Three recent events; an infestation of Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle in the 1990s attacking Red Spruce trees; an ice storm in 2001 which damaged mature trees and led to significant sanitation operations; and Hurricane Juan in 2003 which blew down over three quarters of the mature forest in the Park, caused the City to rethink the management of the Park's forest. With the devastation caused by the hurricane, an opportunity was seen to re-establish the Park's forest to a more rich and healthy state.

The forest management strategy outlined in the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan (2008) recommends that a Forest Work Plan be developed to re-establish a representative Acadian Forest stand within the Park as part of the Park's overall revitalization. The Forest Work Plan would direct the restoration and future sustainable growth of the forest stands to ensure the long-term vitality of the forest vegetation.

1.2 Project Objective

The Forest Work Plan, presented here, identifies and establishes the existing condition of the Park's forest stands and provides recommendation as to the various interventions needed to meet the intent of the Park Comprehensive Plan.

This project identifies, using comprehensive plot sampling (vegetation composition and status), the different existing forest stands found within the Park today. Five forest management areas are identified and a variety of forest management tools to help direct the future growth within each are presented. Recommendation is also provided for management practices around wetlands and archaeological sites within the Park. As well, a number of other maintenance practices pertaining to trails and invasive species management are discussed.