

Crediton Conservation Area

A. Introduction

Crediton Conservation Area is a small day-use park in Crediton managed by the Municipality of South Huron. The picnic area and arboretum are appropriate uses of the floodplain. The arboretum commemorates 50 years of ABCA tree planting and demonstrates various trees the public could plant on their properties.

The current management techniques fulfill the goal of protecting the Ausable River floodplain but the recreation facilities are minimal. The area is no longer the site of family picnics. There are no picnic tables in the pavilion and the old privies have been removed. The pavilion, playground and ball diamonds in central Crediton fill the community need for this. Crediton residents use the conservation area for brief walks and could use it to access the Ausable River for canoeing. The area could be destination or turn-around area for area residents who walk along the community's sidewalks.

B. Goal

To protect the Ausable River floodplain and provide an area for recreation

C. Objectives

1. To conserve the Ausable River floodplain at Crediton
2. To restore the Huron Park Subwatershed
3. To provide an area for recreation
4. To educate the public about trees through the Arboretum

D. Action Plans

The current management techniques fulfill the goal of protecting the Ausable River floodplain but do not provide an area for recreation. The following action plans will continue to protect the Ausable River while enhancing visitor use.

1. Continue the management agreement with the Municipality of South Huron.
2. Restore the arboretum by replacing dead trees as per the original planting plan. Develop a map for the back of the current sign to educate visitors.
3. Gradually remove the poplars surrounding the parking lot and replace with a mix of shade trees. The dead poplars on the south property boundary should be removed as well. The conifer windbreak planted in 2003 will serve as a visual barrier.
4. Encourage the municipality to return picnic tables to the pavilion. If not, the pavilion should be removed.
5. Create a loop nature trail with picnic tables, benches and strategic plantings.