MILL CREEK NATURE PARK, NEW BRUNSWICK

OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA BASED CONSERVATION MEASURE (OECM)

Nestled in the heart of Riverview, New Brunswick, Mill Creek Nature Park is a cherished community gem where nature and recreation meet. Covering over 133 hectares, this municipally owned park offers visitors a tranquil escape into the beauty of the traditional Wabanaki (Acadian) forest, while quietly playing a vital role in conserving biodiversity and enhancing the town's resilience to climate change.

In the early 2000s, the community came together to have this space recognized as a municipal park, driven by a shared vision of stewardship and preservation. Through collaborative efforts, stewardship and master plans were developed to ensure the park's long-term protection and sustainable use, safeguarding its natural beauty and ecological value for future generations.

Today the park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, with trails winding through lush forests of sugar maple, yellow birch, and Eastern hemlock. Visitors may encounter a diverse array of wildlife, from songbirds flitting through the trees to white-tailed deer roaming the forest floor. A standout feature is the lookout over the reservoir, a local landmark and a designated Fundy Biosphere Region Amazing Place, offering breathtaking views and a chance to reflect on the natural beauty surrounding the community.

Beyond its recreational appeal, Mill Creek Nature Park is also celebrated for its high-value ecosystem services, particularly in stormwater management. The park's natural wetlands act as a sponge during heavy rainfall, protecting Riverview from flooding and erosion while improving water quality. This ecological workhorse demonstrates how green spaces can serve practical purposes while preserving the delicate balance of nature and people.

What makes Mill Creek truly special is the dedicated team of municipal staff and volunteers, including The Friends of Mill Creek Nature Park Committee who ensure its beauty and biodiversity are protected for future generations. Their efforts conserve the park's rich natural heritage, representing many species found in the Wabanaki forest, from towering trees to diverse mammals and birds.

Mill Creek Nature Park is more than just a park; it's a testament to the power of community-driven conservation. It reminds us that with thoughtful stewardship, even our favorite outdoor spaces can contribute to the global fight against biodiversity loss and climate change.

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE MILL CREEK NATURE PARK IS AN OECM?

Does the property have a defined geographical space?

Yes! The boundaries of Mill Creek Nature Park are well identified and can be found on regional and municipal maps.

Is there an effective way of ensuring that biodiversity will continue to be conserved into the future?

Yes! This land is owned and stewarded by the Town of Riverview who have committed to a Conservation Recognition Agreement with the province of New Brunswick to conserve this land and protect biodiversity in perpetuity.

Is there an expectation that the biodiversity on the site will be conserved for the long term?

Yes! This site is municipally owned and highly valued among the local population, ensuring its stewardship and protection for future generations. Its ecological significance and community support make it a cornerstone for long-term biodiversity conservation.

Is biodiversity conservation the primary objective of the area?

No – and that's okay! This site primarily serves as a recreational park and is cherished for its critical role in stormwater management. The wetlands in and around the park serve as valuable natural assets providing flood reduction services.

Quick tip

If this answer was "yes" for Mill Creek Nature Park, it would likely be assessed as a Protected Area. Both types of areas are important, and both achieve biodiversity conservation.

Is biodiversity on the site conserved?

Yes! Thanks to the dedicated municipal parks staff and Friends of Mill Creek Nature Park Committee, Mill Creek Nature Park conserves diverse species of the traditional Wabanaki forest, including trees, birds, and mammals.