

Invasive Plants

2006 Management Update

Fish Creek Provincial Park has an ongoing invasive plant management program. This year, the Park is continuing a four part plan that will reduce the impact of invasive species on Park habitats, and will help stop the spread of these troublesome plants.

The Park will be targeting five species this year and will continue to monitor and inventory several others.

Why worry about invasive plants?

Invasive plants are recognized worldwide as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, because of their ability to outcompete native plants. Native vegetation is the cornerstone of healthy habitats and their relationship to other native plant species, soil, and animals is complex and delicate. When a native ecosystem is overrun by invasive plants, it results in a loss of species diversity. While the land may still appear to be 'wild', the lack of variety within the plant, animal, and insect communities confirms the land is stressed.

What plants will be targeted?



Photograph courtesy of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Leafy Spurge

An invader capable of doubling in acreage over 10 years.



Photograph courtesy of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Canada Thistle

This is the most common invasive plant found in the Park.



Photograph courtesy of Valerie Sowiak

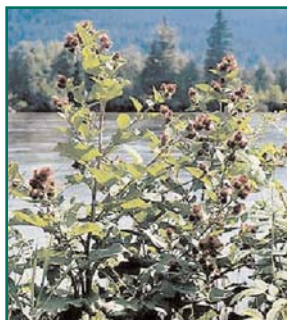
Common Toadflax

A plant that once established is almost impossible to eradicate.



Common Tansy

Tansy is becoming a significant problem on the banks of the Bow River.



Common Burdock

A plant that spreads by seed and is on the move in Votier's Flats.

For more information contact:

Fish Creek Provincial Park
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Calgary, Alberta T2P 0Y8
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Fax: (403) 297-5284

Website: www.fish-creek.org



FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

What methods are used?

Educational

Volunteers pull and bag weeds for disposal at events such as *Purge the Spurge*.



The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society hosts three events to help with invasive plant species management:

- *Purge the Spurge* - June 17, 2006
- *Tackle the Tansy* - July 15, 2006
- *Battle the Burdock* - August 12, 2006

Contact the Friends for more information at (403) 238-3841.

Mechanical

A contractor cuts and bales about 500 acres of grass and Canada thistle.



Haying will commence around the middle of July, focusing on Canada thistle east of MacLeod Trail.

Biological

Insects that prey on leafy spurge are used with help from Agriculture Canada.



New certified bio-control agents will be utilized as they become available in sites where other management techniques can not be used.

Chemical

Spraying is conducted in selected areas of the Park.



During the summer and fall of 2006 the Park will conduct invasive plant management using herbicide. Contractors certified by Alberta Environment and supervised by trained park staff will treat selected areas of the Park targeting leafy spurge and Canada thistle.

NOTICE

in this area will be
sprayed with the
herbicide _____
between __am & __ pm

For information phone
297 - 5293

DATE SPRAYED:

How will I know that an area has been sprayed?

You will find these yellow signs at trail entrances and intersections where spraying will occur. They will be there 24 hours before spraying and 48 hours after. Please keep yourself and your pets on the trail in these areas until the signs have been removed.