



Barbara Green Natural Area

The *Barbara Green Natural Area* is 12.3 acres located in Tryon, Prince County, Prince Edward Island. The natural area is a formerly cultivated agricultural field that is regenerating to forest through plantings and which overlooks the extensive Tryon River salt marsh. The Mi'kmaq name for Tryon is Telisipk, which means “the place where it stretches out” (Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Traditional Use Map).

Acquisition and Legal Status

The *Barbara Green Natural Area* was generously donated by Barbara Green in 2003. The property was protected under the *PEI Natural Areas Protection Act* in 2004. Barbara Green lived next door to the natural area for many years, before moving to Victoria-by-the-Sea. Prior to donating her property, she had already begun reforesting the abandoned field. She began with a simple line of red oaks and, with consistent yearly efforts, had promoted a regenerating forest by the time Island Nature Trust acquired the property.

Landscape Context

The *Barbara Green Natural Area* is surrounded to the north and west by active agriculture fields. To the south, is the Tryon River salt marsh, owned and protected by the Province; to the northeast are several residential dwellings and the Trans-Canada Highway; and to the southeast is the Tyron River Trail which connects to the *Barbara Green Natural Area* and is maintained by the South Shore Watershed Association (SSWA) in partnership with local residents.

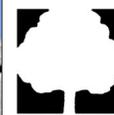
Human Occupation

The *Barbara Green Natural Area* and the Tryon area generally has a rich history of human occupation. Stone artifacts retrieved from along the Tryon River have been dated to 11,000 years ago. In Samuel Holland's first maps of the Island from 1765, he noted several Acadian settlements in the Tryon area, with a number occurring in the *Barbara Green Natural Area*.

This area would have been ideal for early settlers. Its proximity to the rich salt marsh would have given easy access for harvesting of marsh or slough hay. A natural spring, located along the southern border of the natural area and adjacent to the salt marsh, would have provided fresh drinking water. Further evidence of historical human occupation can be seen in the salt marsh, with remnants of constructed ditches and dykes created by Acadian settlers, still visible at low tide.

Plant Community

Since acquiring the *Barbara Green Natural Area* in 2003, Island Nature Trust staff and volunteers have continued with reforestation efforts by planting hundreds of native trees and shrubs. Some of the species planted include red maple, sugar maple, red oak, yellow birch, red pine, red spruce, white ash, butternut, serviceberry, bayberry, red osier dogwood, wild rose, and winterberry.



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There are several problematic invasive species present in the natural area as well, which Island Nature Trust staff and volunteers are continually working to control. Creeping bellflower, a purple flowering plant, has infested the north-east corner of the property, growing amongst the hedgerow. In the same corner grows field bindweed, a pink flowering vine. Norway maple is being controlled by annual cutting. When visiting the natural area, please ensure you are not accidentally moving plant materials or seeds on your shoes, clothing, and/or pets.

Wildlife Community

While the forest in the *Barbara Green Natural Area* is still in its early stages, the natural area does provide habitat for a variety of bird species. Some of the species observed in the natural area include alder flycatcher, American goldfinch, common yellowthroat, grey partridge, northern flicker, and yellow warbler. Looking out into the marsh, you may see osprey, red-winged blackbirds, belted kingfishers, and willets.

Access

A walking trail around the perimeter of the *Barbara Green Natural Area* is maintained by a volunteer who lives near the property. Benches have been installed along this trail for visitors to stop and enjoy the view of the Tryon River salt marsh. The trail also extends beyond the natural area to the east and west as part of the Tryon River Trail maintained by the SSWA. More information on the Tryon River Trail can be found on the SSWA website (www.sswa.ca/tryon/tryon-river-trail/).



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To access the *Barbara Green Natural Area*, turn off of the Trans-Canada Highway in Tryon, onto Route 10. Travel approximately half a kilometer on Route 10 and turn right onto Samuel Holland Lane. At the end of this lane, enter the cul-de-sac and take the first right turn onto an unpaved, grassy driveway. This driveway will lead to an Island Nature Trust sign marking the beginning of the walking trail.

The *Barbara Green Natural Area* is represented in green. Note that the base layer of this map is outdated. The Trans-Canada Highway was realigned in 2014, moving the path of the highway slightly east and converting Samuel Holland Lane into a cul-de-sac.