



Enviro-Friends of Coldstream

Announcement

Butterfly Meadow and New Soccer Pitch Planned for Coldstream Conservation Area

Date: June 6, 2018

A butterfly meadow designed to create a welcoming habitat is one of several modifications being made this summer at the Coldstream Conservation Area (CCA.) Representatives from Middlesex Centre, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Enviro-Friends of Coldstream collaborated in developing a long-term plan to optimize the use and care of the green space within a fiscally responsible framework for the municipality.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's team of biologists will transform the former sports field into a sanctuary meadow for native butterflies including Swallowtails, Angelwings, Viceroy and Monarchs. A special mixture will be developed for the pollinator garden. This will offer food and shelter for the insects' life cycle. (Quick fact: A group of butterflies is called a 'kaleidoscope'.)

A new sports field located by the playground, will be opened to provide a drier, more consistent and safer footing for players. Those wishing to use the field are reminded to contact the municipality and obtain a 'Facility Rental Agreement'. Tracking the on pitch use provides the parks department with helpful data on how many teams and sports are playing on the field. It's all about the number of feet and frequency of play, as the compaction and general wear and tear impacts the grass growth and type of care required. The information gathered is used to create appropriate maintenance plans.

Regular visitors to the CCA may notice changes in the vegetation growth as the upgrading plan also includes a reduction in short mowing in areas less travelled or used on a regular basis.

The Coldstream Conservation Area has two trails – the trail in the south end of the Conservation Area takes you through a cedar swamp, a rare experience in Southwestern Ontario. The trail north of Coldstream Road is a wonderful place for spring wildflowers and birds. The three organizations believe the addition of the butterfly meadow is a natural complement to the flora and fauna of the CCA.

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority owns the CCA and the Municipality in partnership with Enviro-Friends of Coldstream have maintained the property as a local conservation area since 1997. The Enviro-Friends of Coldstream formed in 1994 and has worked since then to raise additional funding for the area and to provide guidance from the community level.

Contact: Scott Mairs, Director, Community Services, 519-666-0190 Ext. 227 or mairs@middlesexcentre.on.ca

To book the field, submit your request to bookfacility@middlesexcentre.on.ca.