



Increasing Awareness of Putnam Park and its Importance

Jennie Jacobson and Dr. Joseph Rohrer, Biology Department. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Goals and Purpose

The purpose of this project was twofold: first, to increase awareness of Putnam Park by increasing access to information about the park to the student and city populations; and second, to learn more about the mosses which are found in the park and create specimens for the herbarium on campus.

Our goals were:

1. To find, identify and preserve the park's mosses
2. To increase awareness of the park by creation of a website with park information and activities



Moss

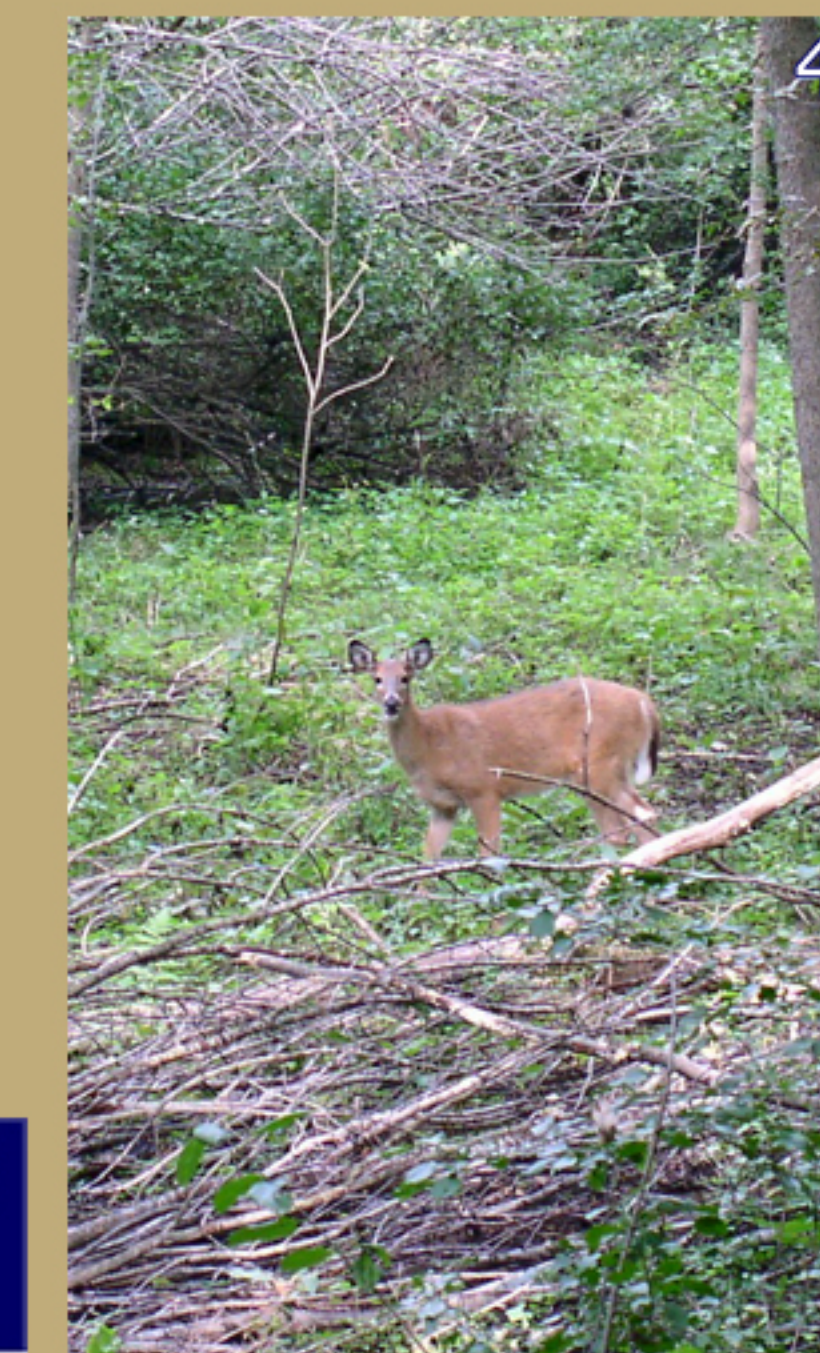
The moss was collected from the west part of Putnam Park, located near the Chippewa River. Notes were taken on the sort of habitat the moss was in, and then they were later identified with the help of various identification books. In order to identify the moss to the species level, it was necessary to spend time looking at the leaflets and sporophytes, and even the spores, under a microscope, sometimes making cross-sections of leaflets and stems. For preservation of the moss we simply allowed it to dry; it is now kept in a folded piece of paper for reference in our Herbarium.

Species Found

1. *Atrichum undulatum* var. *altecristatum*
2. *Bartramia pomiformis*
3. *Brachythecium calcareum*
4. *Climacium americanum*
5. *Desmatodon obtusifolius*
6. *Entodon seductrix*
7. *Isopterygium elegans*
8. *Leucobryum glaucum*
9. *Mnium hymenophylloides*
10. *Platygyrium repens*
11. *Pleurozium schreberi*
12. *Polytrichum juniperinum*
13. *Thuidium delicatulum*
14. *Timmia megapolitana* var. *megapolitina*

Pictures are labeled in upper right corner.

1. Specimen of *Thuidium delicatulum*
2. Specimen of *Bartramia pomiformis*
3. A popular location in Putnam Park: The Rock
4. A whitetail deer, a habitant of the park
5. Close up look at *Entodon seductrix*
6. A screen shot of the home page of the website



Website

The website was created as a means of increasing awareness of Putnam Park, since today the first source people tend to go to is the Internet. The website has several sections containing a wide variety of information, including History, current research/projects, species lists, maps, keys, and children's activities. Part of the motivation behind increasing awareness and interest in the park was the hope that increased use of the park would result in resistance from the Eau Claire community to putting in the "5th Avenue Bridge" through the park, should the issue again come up.

View the site at <http://putnampark.webs.com/>

Park Background

Putnam Park, which is No. 134 of Wisconsin's State Natural Areas, was donated to the city of Eau Claire, and eventually to the university in 1909. It covers 230 acres, containing forested uplands and lowlands as well as some marsh and prairie land. Home to 400 species of plants, 100 species of birds in summer, 23 mammal species, and 6 reptiles, as well as over 3 miles of walking trails, it is an ideal location for bird watching, hiking, researching, and relaxing.



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