

2009 ENVIROTHON ORALS QUESTION

BACKGROUND:

In 1931, Dr. Henry J. Moore dreamed of a garden on the international boundary line, “where the people of the two countries could share the glories found in a lovely garden and the pleasures found in warm friendships.” The purpose of Dr. Moore’s vision was to commemorate and perpetuate the long-standing friendship and pleasant relationship between the peoples of Canada and the United States, by the establishment, maintenance, and development of a living garden of flowers, shrubs, and trees on the longest unfortified border in the world.

The present site of the International Peace Garden, near the geographical center of the North American continent, is bordered by Turtle Mountain Provincial Park in Manitoba and agricultural land in North Dakota. After viewing the site from the air, Dr. Moore exclaimed “What a sight greeted the eye. Those undulating hills rising out of the limitless prairies are filled with lakes and streams. On the south of the unrecognizable boundary, wheat everywhere: and on the north, the Manitoba Forest Reserve. What a place for a Garden!”

Shortly after choosing the site, the Province of Manitoba donated 1,451.3 acres of land and the State of North Dakota donated 888 acres of land, giving the International Peace Garden a total area of 2,339.3 acres. In the years that followed the vision of the Peace Garden grew to include not only the undisturbed natural areas but also an arboretum of native and non-native trees, two manufactured lakes, numerous buildings, a camp ground, memorial structures, nature trails, and flower gardens.

In answering the following question, use the map provided, your first hand experience in the International Peace Garden, the information provided in the presentation at the workshop, and your knowledge of biodiversity based on the background Envirothon material and other study you have done.

QUESTION:

You have been hired by the International Peace Garden Board of Directors to develop a biodiversity strategy for the Peace Gardens. The Board of Directors was motivated to develop such a strategy after considering the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy which outlines a “framework for action that will enhance our ability to ensure the productivity, diversity and integrity of our natural systems and our ability as a nation to develop sustainably”. Today you will have the opportunity to present and promote your biodiversity strategy for the International Peace Gardens to the Board. Be sure to clearly identify the key parts or components of your strategy and to take into account the main Envirothon themes.

After you have developed your strategy, indicate:

1. the potential impacts of your strategy on the human-altered (e.g. gardens, etc.) and unaltered areas (e.g. forests, etc.) within the 2339.3 acre boundary of the Peace Garden;
2. the potential impacts of your strategy on biodiversity beyond the Peace Garden boundaries; and,
3. the indicators that you would use to measure the success of your strategy.

LEGACY PROJECT:

Summarize, in bullet form, the five most important points of your biodiversity strategy (e.g. issues, recommendations and/or benefits) on the paper provided in your orals package. Hand this paper to the facilitator before you begin your presentation. These points will be compiled for all teams and presented to the Peace Garden Board of Directors as a summary of your work and a Manitoba Envirothon Legacy.

Please note: there is a 5 mark penalty for **not** submitting the five point legacy sheet to the time keeper (facilitator) in the preliminary orals room (hut).