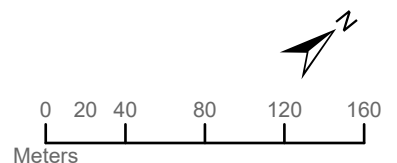


Natural
AREAS SYSTEM

2022 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

SITE MY3

-  NATURAL AREAS
-  VEGETATION COMMUNITIES
-  SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
-  LINKAGES



 **MISSISSAUGA**

Produced by Geospatial Solutions

MY3

CLASSIFICATION Natural Green Space	Park Name Cooksville Creek Trail	PLANNING DISTRICT Mississauga Valley	AREA (Ha) 2.63
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CVC	SUBWATERSHED Cooksville Creek	OWNERSHIP Private	SURROUNDING LAND USE Residential

GENERAL SUMMARY

Along Cooksville Creek from Central Parkway East south to the Canadian Pacific Railway line. Throughout its length Cooksville Creek links a number of natural areas, including CC1/MY1 and CV12.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The topography of this site is level with a shallow slope along the creek. Soils are shallow with imperfect drainage, and consist of Cooksville clay loams formed within sand plain deposits of Lake Iroquois. Bedrock consists of grey shales of the Georgian Bay Formation. Cooksville Creek has been significantly altered throughout this site. The watercourse has been straightened and lined with gabion baskets for erosion control, and the creek has been engineered.

CONDITION

This site continues to remain in poor condition; however, restoration activities have started on site. Disturbances are prevalent and include: garbage, trampling, and damage resulting from extreme stormwater runoff events. Cooksville Creek is engineered through this section with gabion baskets and drop structures. The bottom of the stream channel is concrete. Emerald Ash Borer is present on site. Invasive plant species are common and widespread, which include Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), European Buckthorn, and Manitoba Maple. Eighty-seven introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 54.04% of the total number of species present) which is considered very high. Surrounding land use is residential.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Number of Plant Communities

This site has three vegetation communities (see

accompanying figure), fresh-moist lowland deciduous forest (FOD7), mineral cultural woodland / mineral cultural meadow (CUW1/CUM1-1), and open aquatic ecotype (OAO)

Significant Plant Communities

There are no Significant Plant Communities in MY3.

SPECIES RICHNESS

Flora

The native FQI for this site is 24.14 and the native mean coefficient is 2.81, both of which are low values. The native FQI and the native mean coefficient have decreased from previous values of 22.61 and 2.89, respectively.

There are 161 floral species documented for this site.

1 provincially significant flora species have been noted on site; Endangered in Ontario.

1 locally significant flora species have been noted on site; rare species (known from 1 to 3 locations) within the City.

10 Credit Valley Conservation flora Species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3).

Fauna

From the perspective of wildlife habitat, this site is very narrow and relatively open, with a significant proportion of the habitat occupied by a wide path. The diversity of possible breeding birds was very low. The most abundant breeding bird species was Red-winged Blackbird. Also common were American Goldfinch, American Robin and House Sparrow, a non-native species that nests on buildings. Mallards were noted

commonly along the creek. Other species of interest noted in this natural area include Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird and Common Grackle. There are 29 bird, 2 insect and 3 mammal species documented for this site.

There are 34 faunal species have been documented for this site.

2 provincially significant fauna species have been noted; both Threatened.

10 Credit Valley Conservation fauna Species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The manicured park surrounding the site has been identified as a Special Management Area.
2. The City park, Stonebrook and Dr. Martin L. Dobkin Community Park, is included within this natural area.
3. Additional plantings could occur within the creek corridor to increase canopy cover.
4. Continued monitoring of Cooksville Creek to ensure the frequency and intensity of flooding events is reduced. Continue rehabilitation and adaptive management if needed.

REFERENCES

None noted.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Mineral Cultural Woodland / Mineral Cultural Meadow (CUW1/CUM1-1)

The canopy is dominated by Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*), Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), followed by Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*) and Elm species (*Umblicaria spp.*). Canopy trees are 10-25 m in height and cover between 25-60% of the community. The sub-canopy contains Ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*), Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*), Bittersweet species (*Euonymus spp.*), Honeysuckle species (*Lonicera spp.*), and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). The sub-canopy is 2-10 m in height and covers 25-60% of the community. The understory consists of the same vegetation composition as the sub-canopy with species being 1-2 m in height and covering 25-60% of the community. The ground layer is dominated by Erect Hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*), Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), and Aster species (*Symphyotrichum spp.*). The ground layer is 0.2-0.5 m in height with cover greater than 60% of the community.

Fresh-Moist Lowland Deciduous Forest (FOD7)

The canopy is dominated by Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*), Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), and Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). Canopy trees are 10-25 m in height and cover between 25-60% of the community. The sub-canopy contains Manitoba Maple, Norway Maple, Black Walnut, and Ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*). The sub-canopy is 20-10 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The understory is dominated by European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Bittersweet species (*Euonymus spp.*), Honeysuckle species (*Lonicera spp.*), and Ash species. The understory is 1-2 m in height and covers 25-60% of the community. The ground layer consists of Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Erect Hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*), and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). The ground layer is 0.5-1 m in height and covers

greater than 60% of the community.

Open Aquatic Ecotype (OAO)

This community does not contain a canopy layer. The sub-canopy is dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with a height of 1-2 m and cover of 1-10%. The understory contains an abundance of Soft-stemmed Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*), followed by Cattail species (*Typha sp.*). The understory is 0.5-1m in height and covers 10-25% of the community. The ground layer consists of Buckwheat species (*Persicaria sp.*) with a height of 0.2-0.5 m and covers 10-25% of the community.