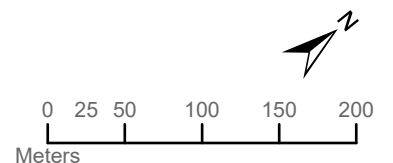


Natural
AREAS SYSTEM

2024 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

SITE ER6

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



MISSISSAUGA

Produced by IT-GIS, Client Services

ER6

CLASSIFICATION Significant Natural Area	Park Name	PLANNING DISTRICT Erindale	AREA (Ha) 2.74
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CVC	SUBWATERSHED Wolfedale Creek	OWNERSHIP Private / City	SURROUNDING LAND USE Residential and Commercial

GENERAL SUMMARY

South of Dundas Street West, west of Mavis Road, and north of Pollard Drive. The natural area CV1 is located within 500 m to the southeast.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This site is located in the Wolfedale Creek subwatershed and marks a former position of the glacial Lake Iroquois shoreline. As a result, there is a steep slope to the south. Soil moisture is dry. Bedrock geology consists of the grey shales of the Georgian Bay Formation. These are overlain by up to 7.5 m of soils and glacial deposits consisting of well drained Bookton sand loam, developed in Lake Iroquois Sand Plain deposits.

CONDITION

This site is currently in poor condition. Disturbances are prevalent and include dumping, trampling, soil compaction, odour, road noise, man-made structures (e.g. firepits and stick forts), windthrow, and erosion. This site is also bisected by a concrete path. Invasive plant species include Garlic Mustard, Tartarian Honeysuckle, and European Buckthorn. Sixty-two introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 52.54% of the total number of species present). Surrounding land use is residential and commercial.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Number of Plant Communities

Three vegetation communities are present at this site (see accompanying figure): fresh-moist lowland deciduous forest type (FOD7-2), dry-fresh Oak deciduous forest type (FOD1), and a cultural woodland (CUW).

Significant Plant Communities

There are no Significant Plant Communities in ER6.

SPECIES RICHNESS

Flora

FQI is 23.75 and the native mean coefficient is 3.17, both low values. The native FQI has increased from the previous value of 22.96, and the native mean coefficient has increased from a previous value of 3.15.

There are 118 floral species documented for this site.

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

2 locally significant flora species have been noted on site; 1 rare species (known from 3 or fewer locations) and 1 uncommon species (known from 4 to 10 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 relatively small, narrow, and linear. A total of 25 bird, 2 mammal, and 1 insect species have been documented at this site. The diversity of possible breeding bird species was low. The most common possible breeding bird species observed were family flocks of Common Grackle, European Starling and American Robin – fauna typical of urban/suburban environments. Gray Catbird was noted at the site. This species nests in thickets and young forests. Wood Thrush, which was also noted at the site, is typically found in moist, deciduous woodlands with thick

understory, but also occur in well-planted parks and gardens.

There are 28 faunal species documented for this site.

3 provincially significant fauna species have been noted on site; 1 Threatened species and 2 Special Concern species in Ontario.

8 Credit Valley Conservation fauna Species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3), all of which are birds.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City-owned Huron Park is included within this natural area.
2. Although in poor condition, this site represents one of the few undeveloped examples of the Lake Iroquois shoreline in the City, thus its management for natural values may be worthwhile for interpretive reasons.
3. Access management and non-native invasive species management are priorities for this site.

REFERENCES

City of Mississauga (1978)

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Fresh-Moist Lowland Deciduous Forest Type (FOD7-2)

Die off of large ash trees has left the canopy more open. Canopy trees consist of Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*). The open canopy is 20 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the forest. Canopy trees are typically 20-40 cm in diameter. The subcanopy of Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and American Elm covers between 10-25% of the community and is between 2-10 m in height. The understory consists of European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), and Privet (*Ligustrum vulgaris*). American Elm, Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) saplings and seedlings are also present in the understory. Understory vegetation is 1-2 m in height and covers between 25-60% of the community. The ground layer is composed of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Yellow Avens (*Geum aleppicum*), Large-leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophyllus*), and Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*). There is also an abundance of Buckthorn seedlings in the ground layer. Ground layer vegetation is less than 0.5 m in height and covers between 25-60% of the community.

height and covers greater than 60% of the community.

Cultural Woodland (CUW)

This community is adjacent to and was formerly a part of the Dry-Fresh Oak Deciduous Forest Type. The narrow community is bound by a walking trail and sports fields, potentially experiencing a higher level of disturbance than the former community. This community is more open and is largely dominated by European Buckthorn in each layer other than the canopy. The canopy is dominated by Bur Oak and American Elm. The canopy is 20 m in height and covers 10-25 % of the community. The subcanopy of Buckthorn and Bur Oak covers between 25-60% of the community and is between 2-10 m in height. The understory consists of European Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). The understory vegetation is 2-10 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer is composed of European Buckthorn, Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and other common grass species in the more open areas, and is 0.2-0.5 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community.

Dry- Fresh Oak Deciduous Forest Type (FOD1)

Canopy trees consist of Bur Oak, Red Oak, American Elm, and Shagbark Hickory. The canopy is 15-25 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the forest. Sub-canopy is dominated by Green Ash, Black Walnut, and American Elm. The sub-canopy is 10-15 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. European Buckthorn and Tartarian Honeysuckle dominate the understory which is 2-10 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer includes Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn seedlings, Yellow Avens and Enchanter's Nightshade. The ground layer is 0.2-0.5 m in