

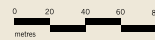
# Natural AREAS SYSTEM

2017 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

**SITE ER6**

## NATURAL AREAS SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION

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



# City of Mississauga Natural Areas Survey (2017)

## Natural Areas Fact Sheet

NATURAL AREA NAME	PLANNING DISTRICT	AREA (HA)	UTM GRID REFERENCE
ER6	Erindale	2.74	6103 48240

### 1. LOCATION

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.

### 2. CLASSIFICATION

Significant Natural Area

### 3. DESCRIPTION

#### A. Physical Features

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.

#### B. Biota

There are 110 floral and 24 faunal species documented for this site. Two vegetation communities are present at this site (see accompanying figure): fresh-moist lowland deciduous forest type (FOD7-2).

##### 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.

##### 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 and large shrub layers include Green Ash, American Elm, European Buckthorn and Tartarian Honeysuckle. Height is between 1-10 m and cover is 10-25%. Ground layer includes Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn seedlings, Yellow Avens and Enchanter's Nightshade.

##### Fauna

From the perspective of wildlife habitat, this site is relatively small, narrow, and linear. A total of 23 birds and 1 mammal 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

#### 4. **CONDITION**

This site is currently in poor condition. Disturbances are prevalent and include dumping, trampling, soil compaction, odour, road noise, windthrow, and erosion. This site is also bisected by a concrete path. Invasive plant species include Garlic Mustard, Tartarian Honeysuckle, and European Buckthorn. Forty-nine introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 51.04% of the total number of species present). The native FQI is 21.46 and the native mean coefficient is 3.13<sup>1</sup>, both low values. The native FQI has increased from the previous value of 20.59, and the native mean coefficient has decreased from a previous value of 3.14. Surrounding land use is residential and commercial.

#### 5. **SIGNIFICANCE**

- 1 “species at risk” within the province (COSSARO) and nationally (COSEWIC): Barn Swallow.
- 1 “species at risk” nationally (COSEWIC): Wood Thrush.
- 1 plant species considered uncommon within the City (known from 4 to 10 locations): Sweet Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*).
- 7 Credit Valley Conservation flora Species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3).
- 5 Credit Valley Conservation fauna Species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3), all of which are birds.
- Close proximity to natural area CV1.
- Remnant of Lake Iroquois shoreline deposit.

#### 6. **MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

- 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.
- Access management and non-native invasive species management are priorities for this site.

#### 7. **PRINCIPLE REFERENCES**

City of Mississauga (1978)

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1. Floristic quality is explained in Appendix 1 of the report.