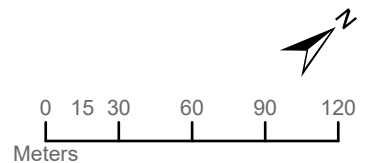


2024 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

**SITE NE7**

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



## NE7

CLASSIFICATION Natural Green Space	Park Name -	PLANNING DISTRICT Northeast (1)	AREA (Ha) 3.01
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY Toronto Region Conservation Authority	SUBWATERSHED Little Etobicoke Creek	OWNERSHIP Public-Private	SURROUNDING LAND USE Industrial- Commercial

### GENERAL SUMMARY

NE7 is located north along Little Etobicoke Creek from Highway 401 to Britannia Road East. East of Tomken Road and west of Dixie Road. Throughout its length Little Etobicoke Creek links a number of natural areas including AW1, RW5, and NE3.

NE7 is single parcel of riparian area surrounded by industrial and commercial buildings. NE7 supports habitat-generalist wildlife.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

NE7 is a small sized natural area for the City. This site is composed of a channelized section of Little Etobicoke Creek. Bedrock geology consists of the grey shales of the Georgian Bay Formation. These are overlain by soils and glacial deposits consisting of imperfectly drained Chinguacousy clay loams and well drained Oneida clay loams, both formed within deposits of the Halton till plain.

There are no known Earth Science Features within this area. Hydrological Features within this area include a watercourse.

### CONDITION

This site is currently in poor condition. Disturbances include the channelization of Little Etobicoke Creek, the lack of woody vegetation cover along the creek, dumping, and erosion in the floodplain. The presence of Emerald Ash Borer is also noted.

Highly invasive plant species (as regarded by Ontario Invasive Plant Council) include European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*), Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Purple

Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

### ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

#### Number of Plant Communities

There are three plant communities within NE7, a Deciduous Swamp (SWD), Meadow Marsh (MAM) and Cultural Meadow (CUM). Community descriptions are appended.

#### Significant Plant Communities

There are no Significant Plant Communities in NE7

### SPECIES RICHNESS

#### Flora

138 species have been recorded from the site, a medium diversity for the City. The native FQI is 21.71 and the native mean coefficient is 2.51, both of which are low values. The native FQI increased, and the native mean coefficient decreased from previous values of 21.47 and 2.60, respectively. In total, 63 introduced plant species are present (representing 45.70% of the total number of species present).

Two flora species considered provincially significant or at risk within the province and/or nationally have been recorded at this site.

Four locally significant flora species have been noted at this site.

18 Credit Valley Conservation flora species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3) have been recorded on site.

#### Fauna

There are a total of 28 faunal species documented for this site: 23 bird, 2 mammal, 2 insect, and 1 reptile species.

Three fauna species considered provincially significant or at risk within the province and/or nationally have been recorded at this site.

Five Credit Valley Conservation fauna species of Conservation Concern (Tier 1-3) have been documented at this site.

#### **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Invasive species should be controlled now, as it will become harder as they become more established.
2. Riparian vegetation along the creek should be restored and a natural buffer should be established.
3. All future plantings should be native species.

#### **REFERENCES**

City of Mississauga (1978)

### **ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

#### Willow Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type (SWD4-1)

The Willow Deciduous Swamp has a canopy and sub-canopy of Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*), willows (*Salix* sp.), immature Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). These trees are primarily located along the creek banks. The canopy is 10-25 m in height and covers >60% of the community. The sub-canopy is 2-10 m in height and covers 10-25% of the community. The understory is dominated by saplings and shrubs including European Buckthorn, Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). The understory vegetation is 1-2 m in height and covers 10-25% of the community. In areas which have more saturated soils the groundcover includes species such as Swamp Red Currant (*Ribes triste*), Yellow Avens (*Geum allepicum*), Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), Common Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), and Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea canadensis*). The ground layer vegetation is typically 0.2-0.5 m in height.

#### Dry-Moist Old Field Meadow Type (CUM1-1)

A canopy of sparse (10-25%) conifers, including Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), have been planted in places along higher slopes. A shrub layer (1-2m in height) is also sparse (10-25%) and comprised of Multiflora Rose, Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) and European Buckthorn. The ground layer is densely vegetated (greater than 60% cover) with old field species including: Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculata*), and Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). The ground layer vegetation is typically 0.2-1 m in height.

#### Meadow Marsh (MAM)

The Meadow Marsh is dominated by European Common Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*) with intermittent Cattails (*Typha* spp.).