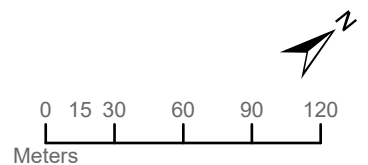


Natural Areas System

2024 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

SITE CE7

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



CE7

CLASSIFICATION Significant Natural Area	Park Name Sugar Maple Woods	PLANNING DISTRICT Central Erin Mills	AREA (Ha) 9.52
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CVC	SUBWATERSHED Mullet Creek	OWNERSHIP Private/City	SURROUNDING LAND USE Residential and recreational

GENERAL SUMMARY

South of Thomas Street between Winston Churchill Boulevard and Glen Erin Drive. The natural area CM12 is located approximately 500 m to the west.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This site is located in the Sawmill Creek subwatershed. Topography of this site is hilly and soil moisture is mesic to wet in swales. Seepage is apparent in many areas and a number of intermittent streams bisect the woodlot. Many of these have culverts where they pass under gravel trails. Bedrock geology of the site consists of red shales of the Queenston Formation. These are buried by up to 7.5 m of soils and glacial deposits consisting of poorly drained Jeddo clay loam, imperfectly drained Chinguacousy clay loam, and well drained Oneida clay loam. The soils have developed in the Halton till deposits, of a partially bevelled tillplain.

CONDITION

This is in good condition. Disturbances present at this site include garbage, road noise, cutting, invasive species, soil compaction, as well as formal and ad-hoc trails. Gravel trails have been installed through this site, with culverts to maintain surface water connections. Invasive plant species including Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) have spread into the woodlot. Fifty-seven introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 30.61% of the total number of species present). Surrounding land use is residential and recreational.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Number of Plant Communities

4 vegetation communities are present at this site (see accompanying figure); dry-fresh sugar maple - beech deciduous forest type (FOD5-2), green ash mineral deciduous swamp type/forb mineral meadow marsh (SWD2-2/MAM2-10), silver maple mineral deciduous swamp type (SWD3-2), and dry-fresh old field meadow type (CUM1-1).

Significant Plant Communities

There are no Significant Plant Communities in CE7.

SPECIES RICHNESS

Flora

The native FQI is a high value of 45.15 and the native mean coefficient is a medium value of 3.93. The native FQI and the native mean coefficient have both increased from previous values of 35.24 and 3.46, respectively.

There are 189 floral species documented for this site.

No provincially significant flora species have been noted on site.

12 locally significant flora species have been noted. 6 rare species (known from 1 to 3 locations) and 6 uncommon species (known from 4 to 10 locations) within the City.

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

Fauna

There are 19 bird, 3 mammal, and 1 lepidoptera species documented at this site. This is a very low

diversity considering that though small, the forest habitat is diverse, and the northern part of the site has a configuration with a low edge to interior ratio. One species of bird found on site, the Eastern Wood-pewee, is considered provincially significant. The majority of bird species observed were habitat generalists such as Northern Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee and American Robin. Generally, minimal bird songs were heard in this natural area. One species moderately dependent on mature forest habitat was present: Red-eyed Vireo. However, this species can nest in a variety of forest habitats, including late successional forests and small patches.

There are 22 faunal species documented for this site.

1 provincially significant fauna species have been noted: 1 Threatened.

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

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As a tableland woodlot enclosed by residential development, this site should be a priority for a Conservation Plan.

REFERENCES

City of Mississauga. 1976. Environmental Planning Program. Woodlot Analysis. Planning Department.

duToit Associates Limited and Ecoplans Limited. 1977. Environmental Report for the Central Erin Mills District and Central Business Park.

Ecoplans Limited. 1981. Central Erin Mills District, Woodlot Assessment.

Proctor and Redfern Limited. 1992. Sawmill Creek Subwatershed Plan.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Dry-Fresh Sugar Maple – Beech Deciduous Forest Type (FOD5-2)

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and Northern Red Oak

(*Quercus rubra*) dominate the canopy of this mature forest. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*), and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) are the associates. The closed canopy (greater than 60% cover) has a height greater than 25 m. The canopy trees are approximately 80 years old and typically 40 cm in diameter, however, trees 70 cm in diameter are not unusual. The sub-canopy contains American Beech, Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), American Beech and Sugar Maple. Sub-canopy trees are 2-25 m in height and cover greater than 60% of the community. The understory is dominated by Sugar Maple, White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) that are 1-2 m in height and covers greater than 10 to 25% of the community. The ground layer is diverse and contains species such as Running Strawberry (*Euonymus obovata*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea canadensis*), False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Ground layer vegetation is less than 1 m in height and covers 10 to 25% of the community.

Green Ash Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type/Forb Mineral Meadow Marsh (SWD2-2/MAM2-10)

This lowland swamp/meadow marsh complex is in a depression within the surrounding forest. The canopy is dominated by Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and Northern Red Oak. The canopy trees are between are greater than 25 m in height and canopy cover is patchy, ranging from 25-60%. The sub-canopy also covers 10 to 25% of the community with species including Sugar Maple and White Elm (*Ulmus B. Americana*), and Riverbank Grape (*Vitis riparia*) that are 2-10 m in height. The understory is mainly composed of Green Ash, Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), and Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) that is 1-2 m in height and covers 25-60% of the community. The ground layer is densely vegetated with wetland flora including Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), Fowl Manna Grass (*Glyceria striata*), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus*

quinquefolia). Ground vegetation is less than 1 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community.

small has mostly filled in and should be treated as an inclusion within the FOD5-2 community.

Silver Maple Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type (SWD3-2)

This swamp is also located in a depression within the surrounding forest. Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*) are the dominant species in the canopy. Canopy trees are 10 to greater than 25 m in height and cover greater than 60% of the community. The sub-canopy is comprised of European Buckthorn, Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White Elm (*Ulmus americana*), and Shagbark Hickory that is 2-10 m in height and covers 25 to 60% of the community. The understory is also sparse (10 to 25% cover) with Grey Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), European Buckthorn and Shagbark Hickory saplings dominating the vegetation and growing between 1-2 m in height. The ground layer is sparse (10 to 25% cover) with species including Sensitive Fern, American Waterhorehound (*Lycopus americanus*), Fowl Manna Grass, Fringed Sedge (*Carex crinita*) and Sensitive Fern that are less than 1 m in height.

Dry-Fresh Old Field Meadow Type (CUM1-1)

The cultural meadow has a sparse (10-25% cover) canopy of Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) that are 10 to greater than 25 m in height. The sub-canopy is similarly sparse (10-25% cover) with White Ash, Bur Oak, Red Oak, and White Elm. Sub-canopy trees are 1-10 m in height. The understory is densely vegetated with Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*), Trembling Aspen saplings, and Garlic Mustard. Understory vegetation is 0.5-1 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer is also densely vegetated (greater than 60% cover) with species such as Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Ground layer vegetation is less than 0.5 m in height. As of 2022, this community is very