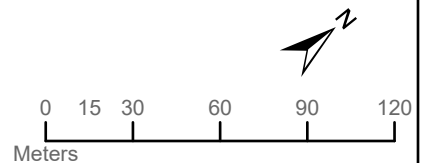


Natural
AREAS SYSTEM

2024 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

SITE EM2

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



EM2

CLASSIFICATION Significant Natural Area	Park Name South Common Park	PLANNING DISTRICT Erin Mills	AREA (Ha) 5.55
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CVC	SUBWATERSHED Sawmill Creek	OWNERSHIP City	SURROUNDING LAND USE Residential / Parkland

GENERAL SUMMARY

South of Burnhamthorpe Road West and north of The Collegeway, between Glen Erin Drive and Erin Mills Parkway. The natural area EM4 is located approximately 500 m to the north.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This site has rolling topography and is located in the Sawmill Creek sub-watershed. Bedrock geology consists of red shales from the Queenston Formation. These are overlain by between 7.5 m to 15 m of soils and glacial deposits consisting of well-drained Oneida clay loam in a thin layer of Halton till. An old intermittent creek bed is present along the eastern edge.

CONDITION

This site is currently in fair condition as FQI is high and there is an average number of native plants, however, disturbances are extensive, and the site is fragmented from other natural areas and divided by numerous concrete trails. Disturbances present at this site are garbage, an extensive formal and unplanned trail network, trampling, soil compaction, invasive species, and evidence of Emerald Ash Borer resulting in a decline of ash trees. Highly invasive plant species (as regarded by Ontario Invasive Plant Council) found on site include Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), and Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*). 52 introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 27.96% of the total number of species present). Surrounding land use is residential and parkland.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Number of Plant Communities

2 vegetation communities are present at this site (see accompanying figure); dry-fresh sugar maple - beech deciduous forest type (FOD5-2)/ fresh-moist ash lowland deciduous forest type (FOD7-2) and fresh-moist old field meadow type (CUM1-1)/ reed-canary grass mineral meadow marsh type (MAM2-2).

Significant Plant Communities

There are no Significant Plant Communities in EM2.

SPECIES RICHNESS

Flora

The native FQI is 42.14 and the native mean coefficient is 3.64, which are high and medium values, respectively. The native FQI and the native mean coefficient have both increased from previous values of 41.30 and 3.61, respectively.

There are 186 floral species documented for this site.

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

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

Fauna

From the perspective of wildlife habitat, this natural area has an irregular configuration and little interior habitat. There are 18 birds and 1 mammal documented at this site. The species noted in the breeding season were habitat-

generalists, capable of nesting in a wide variety of small and large forests and cultural communities in southern Ontario, such as American Robin, Chipping Sparrow, and Black-capped Chickadee.

There are 19 faunal species documented for this site.

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

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City Park, South Common, is included within this natural area.
2. Access to this site needs to be controlled and maintained

REFERENCES

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

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Dry-fresh Sugar Maple - Beech Deciduous Forest Type (FOD5-2)/ Fresh-moist Ash Lowland Deciduous Forest Type (FOD7-2)

The majority of this site is composed of mature sugar maple – beech deciduous forest. The canopy is dominated by Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). The canopy is greater than 25 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The sub-canopy is dominated by Sugar Maple, with occasional Eastern Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and American Beech. The sub-canopy is 10 to 25 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The understory contains Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), Sugar Maple, and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). The understory is 1 to 2 m in height and covers 25 to 60% of the community. The ground layer is dominated by Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea canadensis*), and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). The ground layer is less than 0.5 m in height and covers 25 to 60% of the community.

In areas of lower topography the forest resembles ash lowland. These areas have a canopy dominated by Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*) and Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), the canopy is greater than 25 m in height and covers 25 to 60% of the community. The sub-canopy is also dominated by Freeman's Maple, along with occasional Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and Basswood (*Tilia americana*). The sub-canopy is 10 to 25 m in height and covers 25 to 60% of the community. The understory contains Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and European Buckthorn. The understory is 1 to 2 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer contains Fowl Mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), and Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.). The ground layer is less than 1 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the forest floor. There is noticeable Green Ash deadfall in this area

of the forest as a result of poor health caused by Emerald Ash Borer.

Fresh-moist Old Field Meadow Type (CUM1-1)/ Reed-canary Grass Mineral Meadow Marsh Type (MAM2-2)

At the north end of this natural area is a cultural meadow community. The canopy contains Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*), Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and Tamarack (*Larix laricina*). The canopy is 2 to 10 m in height and covers 1 to 10% of the community. The sub-canopy is dominated by Eastern Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and Grey Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), with occasional European Buckthorn and Willow (*Salix* sp.). The sub-canopy is 1 to 2 m in height and covers 10 to 25% of the community. The understory contains Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and White Panicked Aster (*Symphotrichum lanceolatum*). The understory is 0.5 to 1 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer is dominated by Bluejoint Reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). The ground layer is less than 0.5 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community.