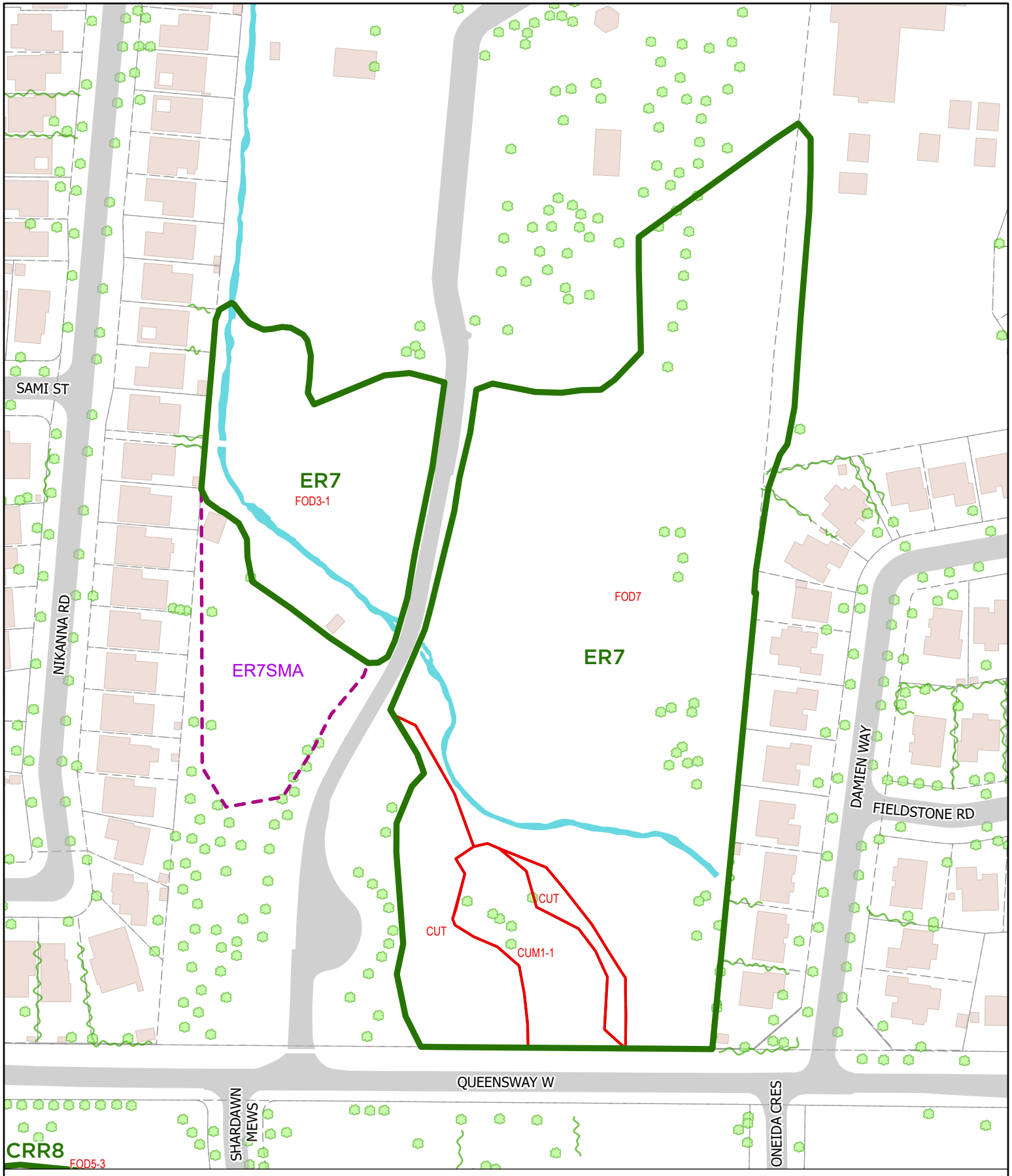

Natural AREAS SYSTEM

2024 NATURAL AREAS UPDATE

SITE ER7

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

0 10 20 40 60 80

Meters

MISSISSAUGA

Produced by IT-GIS, Client Services

ER7

CLASSIFICATION	Park Name	PLANNING DISTRICT	AREA (Ha)
Significant Natural Area	Huron Park	Erindale	3.97
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	SUBWATERSHED	OWNERSHIP	SURROUNDING LAND USE
CVC	Shardawn Creek	Private / City	Residential

GENERAL SUMMARY
North of the Queensway West, west of Mavis Road, and east of Glengarry Road. Shardawn Creek links this natural area to CRR8.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION
This site is located in the headwaters of Shardawn Creek. Soil moisture is dry-mesic on the tablelands to wet-mesic along the creek. 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 west of Shardawn Creek and poorly drained Mississauga clay loam to the east. Modern river deposits are present along Shardawn Creek.

CONDITION
This site is currently in poor condition. Disturbances are prevalent at this site and include garbage, dumping of soil and grass clippings, trampling, soil compaction, odour, and road noise. Evidence of Emerald Ash Borer was observed. Shardawn Creek is channelized both upstream and downstream (under the Queensway only) of this site. Severe flood events are common as evidenced by the flattened floodplain vegetation. Numerous unplanned trails are present throughout the site. Many invasive plant species are present including Garlic Mustard, Tartarian Honeysuckle, European Buckthorn, Canada Thistle, and Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*). Eighty-one introduced plant species are present at this site (representing 45.00% of the total number of species present) a very high number. Surrounding land use is residential.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
Number of Plant Communities
Four vegetation communities are present at this site (see accompanying figure): fresh-moist ash lowland deciduous forest type (FOD7-2); dry-fresh poplar deciduous forest type (FOD3-1); mineral cultural thicket (CUT), and dry-moist old field meadow type (CUM1-1). The lowland forest community occupies the largest proportion of the site.

Significant Plant Communities
There are no Significant Plant Communities in ER7.

SPECIES RICHNESS
Flora
The native FQI is 31.10 and the native mean coefficient is 3.14, both of which are medium-low values. The native FQI and the native mean coefficient have increased and not changed from previous values of 30.62 and 3.14 respectively.

2 provincially significant flora species have been noted on site; 1 rare to uncommon species and 1 very rare but that has a commonly planted variety.

3 locally significant flora species have been noted on site; 1 rare species (known from 3 or fewer locations) and 2 uncommon (known from 4 to 10 locations) within the City.

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

Fauna
From the perspective of wildlife habitat, this site has a relatively square configuration, consisting of mid-aged to mature trees (including several open-grown oaks of large size) interspersed with successional vegetation. Portions of this site are very open. The site is fragmented into two sections by a paved service road. Wildlife

diversity was relatively low. The most common breeding bird species observed were adaptable, tolerant birds common in urban habitats such as House Sparrow (a non-native species that nests on buildings), American Robin and American Goldfinch. Several bumble bees and other insect pollinators were observed in the cultural meadow. A total of 24 bird, 5 mammal, 2 insect and 1 reptile species have been documented at this site.

There are 32 faunal species documented for this site.

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

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

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City-owned Huron Park is included within this natural area.
2. Access management and invasive species management are priorities for this site.
3. Restoration of the site for native flora is probably not feasible until the flooding regime is addressed.
4. Rehabilitation of Shardawn Creek to reduce severe flooding events.

REFERENCES

None available.

ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Fresh-Moist Lowland Deciduous Forest Type (FOD7)

Due to cutting of dead ash trees infested with Emerald Ash borer, the lowland deciduous forest canopy, previously dominated by Ash is now dominated by Manitoba Maple (*Acer negungo*) with scattered Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*). A few large, open-grown Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) occur in some areas of this forest. The open canopy is approximately 20 m in height and covers greater than 60%. Canopy trees are typically 30 cm in diameter. The subcanopy is 2-10 m in height and covers between 10-25% of the forest. This layer is dominated by Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Manitoba Maple, and Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). The understory is composed European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*). Understory vegetation is 1-2 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer consists of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Yellow Avens (*Geum aleppicum*), and Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*). Ground layer vegetation is less than 0.5 m in height and covers between 25-60% of the community. Within the northern edge of the site, Juneberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) and Heart-leaved Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*) are still common in the understory. Some openings under the oaks sustain native habitat-specific species characteristic of dry open fields and prairies/savannahs, including Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*) and Arrow-leaved Aster (*S. urophyllum*), indicating that this might be a suitable site for restoration of open, native habitat.

One portion of this community has had a large amount of ash removed creating a cultural meadow where restoration plantings have occurred to promote regrowth.

Dry-Fresh Poplar Deciduous Forest Type (FOD3-1)

The western portion of the site consists of an early successional poplar deciduous forest, which contains mature Oaks (*Q. macrocarpa* and *Q. alba*) in the canopy with scattered. The oaks are widely spaced and are therefore open grown and widely branching. Canopy trees are 10-25 m in height and cover greater than 60% of the community. Early successional species, including White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Green Ash, Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and European Buckthorn grow in the subcanopy in openings below the oak canopy. The subcanopy is between 2-10 m height and covers between 25-60% of the community. Understory vegetation is 1-2 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the forest. This layer is dominated by European Buckthorn, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Chokecherry and Riverbank Grape. Common species growing in the ground layer include European Buckthorn, Lesser Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Teasel (*Dipsaucus sylvestris*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis* ssp. *inermis*), and Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). Ground layer vegetation is less than 1 m in height and covers between 25-60% of the community. Large open grown oaks in the canopy and early successional woodland and meadow species in the ground layer indicates that this community might have once been an oak savannah.

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

This community is located at the south end of the site, along the road, within an area of past disturbance. This community is dominated by Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Teasel, Orchard Grass, New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), Field Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Field Vetch (*Vicia cracca*). The canopy is between 1-2 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community, and the ground layer is between 0.2-0.5 m in height and covers greater than 60% of the community. Sparse planted trees such as Sugar Maple,

Trembling Aspen and Red Oak occur in the community. European Buckthorn has started to invade and spread in this community, likely from the surrounding cultural thicket. European Buckthorn should be controlled to keep an open meadow habitat.

Mineral Cultural Thicket (CUT)

This cultural thicket surrounds the cultural meadow at the south end of the site. European Buckthorn is the dominant species in nearly all vegetation layers. The dense canopy is dominated by European Buckthorn and Green Ash regeneration and is 2-10 m in height. The canopy layer covers greater than 60% of the community. The subcanopy is entirely European Buckthorn, with the vegetation 1-2 m in height and covering greater than 60% of the community. The understory is comprised of dense Tartarian Honeysuckle and European Buckthorn. The understory vegetation is 0.5-1 m in height, and covers greater than 60% of the community. The ground layer is European Buckthorn and Canada enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea canadensis*) which is 0.2-0.5 m in height and covering 10-25% of the community.