

Birkdale Ravine Management Unit 1 Forest - Adopt-a-Patch. Site Assessment – Physical Characteristics

Date: May 29, 2021

Park/Ravine Name: Birkdale Ravine

Lead Steward Name: Ravi Ponnudurai

Birkdale Ravine: General description: Located at 1299 Ellesmere Road on the south side next to the community centre. Access is from the community centre to a multiuse trail. There are two main management units (M). M2 is a linear vegetated area between the paved multiuse trail and the stream. There is evidence of previous plantings along the stream edge. Bank erosion is occurring along some sections of the stream. The water seems turbid. There are unpleasant odors coming from nearby manholes. There is a large area of mown lawn with occasional mature trees, and quite a few memorial trees of a younger age on the other side of the multiuse trail. These have hardware cloth wire cages around them for protection. This is probably because of beavers. There is evidence of at least one small tree near the river edge that was cut down by a beaver. Other wildlife noted: Mallard ducks, cardinal, gray catbird, black swallowtail butterfly, tiger swallowtail butterfly. M1 is a mature forested area on the other side of the park facing West Northwest onto the large lawn.

Management Unit 1 is a slope with mature native trees. The backyards of homes are at the top of the slope. There is some encroachment from some homes of yard waste and branches. The forest does not appear to get much use. Most of the park use is on the paved multiuse trail and lawn.

Special features: (green indicates features found in this park)

public road	trails	stream/river	erosion	seep
washrooms	picnic shelter	picnic tables	playground	drinking water
boardwalk	DOLA	maintenance bldg.	garbage cans	benches

Grey infrastructure in patch vicinity:

Catch basin	manhole	Gas pipeline	Storm sewer outfall	river channelization
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Physical Characteristics: for M1 Forest: ELC Community - Dry Fresh Sugar Maple/Beech Forest, L4

Aspect	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
Slope	flat	low	medium	steep				
Soil moisture	standing water	saturated soil	damp soil	dry soil				
Site exposure	full sun wet	full sun dry	partial sun wet	partial sun dry	shady wet	shady dry		
Soil type (seems original)	sand	silt	loam	clay	muck	gravel		
Soil compaction	none	light	moderate	heavy				
Litter depth	0	< 1cm	1-2cm	> 2cm				
Bare ground	0%	1-5%	6 – 10%	11– 25%	26– 50%	> 50%		
Coarse Woody Debris	0%	1 - 5%	6 – 10%	11– 25%	26– 50%	> 50%		
Habitat type:	meadow	shrubland	hardwood forest	conifer forest	mixed forest	swamp/ marsh		

**Management Unit 1 Forest - Adopt-a-Patch.
Site Assessment - Vegetation**

Vegetation:

Trees – (relates to the forest behind the patch)						
Overstory Tree Density >13cm dbh						
Native conifers	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high
Native deciduous	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high
Invasive	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high
Regenerating Tree Density <13cm dbh						
Native conifers	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high
Native deciduous	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high
Invasive	none	isolated	few	low	medium	high

Species present: Native: Sugar Maple, American Beech, Basswood, Ironwood, Black Cherry, Bur Oak, Black Walnut, 1 White Pine.

Non-Native: Manitoba Maple, Mazzard Cherry, Norway Maple, European Ash

Shrubs (% cover)						
Native	0%	0 – 5%	6 – 25 %	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	>75%
Invasive	0%	0 – 5%	6 – 25 %	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	>75%

Species present: Native: Choke Cherry, Red Raspberry, Red Osier Dogwood, Vines: Thicket Creeper

Non-Native: European Red Currant Vines: English Ivy,

Herbaceous Plants (% cover)						
Native	0%	0 – 5%	6 – 25 %	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	>75%
Invasive	0%	0 – 5%	6 – 25 %	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	>75%

Species present: Native: Wild Strawberries, Asters, Enchanter's Nightshade, Mayapple, Field Horsetail, White Avens

Non-Native: Periwinkle, Burdock, Garlic Mustard, Creeping Buttercup, Urban Avens, possible Scilla

Please see attached Google Satellite view and Terrain View Images

1. GM patch with B (Edges have same natives)
2. Smaller with DSV - Clearing
3. Thickest Creepers GM, DSV, Wild strawberry
4. Patch of mixed native and invasive
5. Potential patch - GM DSV, B, Natives
6. Slope - mixed grasses on slope
at base of slope mixed natives and invasives
7. Half of the patch - Monoculture of GM and
2nd half with El

GM: Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

DSV: Dog-strangling Vine (*Cynanchum rossicum*)

B: Burdock, (*Arctium*)

El: English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



