

# 16 - Charnwood Park



Table 16- Charnwood Park

## Site 16 Charnwood Park

### *General Description*

Charnwood Park is a large undeveloped open space, adjacent to and east of John N Allen Park. It is separated from John N Allen Park by a municipal drain which runs along the western boundary of Charnwood. The municipal drain has a relatively steep slope making access to Charnwood from John N Allen somewhat difficult. Charnwood is north of the Lowes Building Centre retail property and south of a hydro right of way and residences along Charnwood Avenue.

Much of the property was a former dump site, consisting primarily of rocks excavated from the hydro canal. The former dump site has been formed into a large flat topped hill which has been dubbed “Montrose Mountain” by many Niagara Falls residents. The hill is clearly visible along Montrose Rd., although properties along Montrose Rd. do not form part of the park, and are deemed as surplus lands by the city.

For purposes of the park survey, the park was divided into 3 polygons. These are described separately below.

### *Polygon 1*

This area is the most northerly section. Access can be obtained via a small rough trail that enters from the hydro right of way. The trail runs along the edge of the municipal drain and is one of the few access points into the park. The vegetation in this section is primarily cultural consisting of an old overgrown pear and apple orchard with pioneer species such as cottonwood, vines and shrub species such as dogwoods, buckthorn and staghorn sumac.

### *Polygon 2*

This area backs onto the homes along Charnwood Avenue. A drainage ditch was dug by the city between the homes on Charnwood Ave and the park to alleviate flooding problems the residents were having due to drainage from the “mountain.” Access to this area would be almost impossible if it were not for a resident on Charnwood Avenue who provided access through his backyard to a trail system he has constructed. Polygon 2 is similar in composition to Polygon 1, consisting primarily of shrub and pioneer tree species. There was one significant tree worth noting: a large pin oak with a diameter of approximately 100 centimetres.

### *Polygon 3*

This area is the wooded slope to the west of the “mountain” and east of the municipal drain that separates Charnwood park from John N Allen Park. This area is very difficult to access due to the drain and the steep slope. It is dominated by cottonwood trees and other pioneer species.

## *Recommendations*

1. The mountain is quickly being populated by invasive species and pioneer plants that are not necessarily favourable for a recreational park. For example, wild honey locust trees which have large thorns are becoming established on the mountain. Without a seed source from more beneficial and diverse native species, the mountain will be overrun by a limited number of opportunistic species. Thus planting projects should be considered soon. Invasive species should be removed.
2. To raise awareness of the woodland features and functions, informative signage should be put on site. The signage should be installed near a main trail or access point to the woodland.
3. Trails within the woodland should be further examined. Some trails should be improved and others should be closed. The formation of a connection between this site and the MacBain Community Center and park should be examined.
4. Litter and debris should be removed from the woodland. Consideration should be made for the installation of waste receptacles at the entrance to the woodland in a convenient location for both the public and maintenance staff. Natural debris from dead trees shall be left on-site but moved off trails.



Figure 1- Trunk of very large pin oak. Charnwood - Polygon 2, Credit: NF Nature Club



Figure 2- Trail System Constructed by Resident. Charnwood - Polygon 2, Credit: NF Nature Club

# Charnwood Park Plant Species Inventory

Legend:

Layer: 1=Canopy(>10M), 2=Sub-Canopy, 3=Understory, 4=Ground Layer

Abundance: r=Rare, o=Occasional, a=Abundant, d=Dominant

Invasive Species: ai=Aggressive Invasive Species, i=Invasive Species

Old Growth: og=Old Growth

Plantation: p=Plantation Species

Federal Status: t=Threatened, v=Vulnerable, sp=Special Concern

Provincial Status: e=Endangered, t=Threatened, v=Vulnerable

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
16	Charnwood Park	2	1	Acer negundo	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	1	Acer saccharinum	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	1	Juglan nigra	r					
16	Charnwood Park	1	1	Malus sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	1	Populus alba	r					
16	Charnwood Park	3	1	Populus deltoides	d					
16	Charnwood Park	1	1	Populus deltoids	d					
16	Charnwood Park	2	1	Pyrus communis	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	1	Pyrus communis	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	1	Quercus palustris	r					
16	Charnwood Park	3	1	Salix sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	1	Salix sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	2	Acer negundo	a					
16	Charnwood Park	3	2	Acer negundo	d					
16	Charnwood Park	2	2	Crataegus sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	3	2	Crataegus sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	2	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	2	Gleditsia tricanthos	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	2	Lindera benzoin	r					
16	Charnwood Park	2	2	Rhamnus cathartica	d	ai				
16	Charnwood Park	1	2	Rhus typhina	a					
16	Charnwood Park	3	2	Rhus typhina	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	2	Ulmus americana	r					
16	Charnwood Park	1	3	Cornus racemosa	d					
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Cornus racemosa	a					

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Ligustrum vulgare	r	i				
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Lonicera tatarica	o	i				
16	Charnwood Park	3	3	Prunus avium	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	3	Rosa multiflora	o	i				
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Rosa multiflora	o	i				
16	Charnwood Park	1	3	Rubus sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Rubus sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	3	Viburnum acerifolium	r					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Agrimonia gryposepala	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Agrimonia gryposepala	r					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Alliaria petiolata	o	ai				
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Alliaria petiolata	a	ai				
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Arctium minus	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Centaurea sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Circaea quadrisulcata	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Daucus carota	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Desmodium glutinosum	r					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Dipsacus sylvestris	r					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Erigeron annuus	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Fragaria sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Fragaria sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Geranium maculatum	o					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Geum canadense	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Geum sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Geum sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Parthenocissus sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Parthenocissus sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Parthenocissus sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Phragmites communis	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Phragmites communis	a					
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Polygonella cuspidatum	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Polygonum sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Potentilla simplex	o					

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Prunella vulgaris	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Prunella vulgaris	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Rhus radicans	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Solidago sp.	a					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Solidago sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Solidago sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Tussilago farfara	a					
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Vicia sp.	o					
16	Charnwood Park	2	4	Vinca minor	o	i				
16	Charnwood Park	1	4	Vitis sp.	d					
16	Charnwood Park	3	4	Vitis sp.	a					

## Charnwood Park Disturbance Report

Site	Polygon	Disturbance / Extent	Total Score
16 Charnwood Park	1	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	4
16 Charnwood Park	1	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Disease/Death Of Trees / Extent Of Disease/Death	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Dumping (rubbish) / Extent Of Dumping	1
16 Charnwood Park	1	Earth Displacement / Extent Of Displacement	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Fire / Extent Of Fire	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Flooding (Pools & Puddling) / Extent Of Flooding	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Gaps In Forest Canopy / Extent Of Gaps	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Ice Damage / Extent Of Ice Damage	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Intensity / Extent Of Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Livestock (Grazing) / Extent Of Livestock	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Noise / Extent Of Noise	1
16 Charnwood Park	1	Planting (plantation) / Extent Of Planting	4
16 Charnwood Park	1	Recreational Use / Extent Of Recr. Use	1
16 Charnwood Park	1	Sugar Bush Operations / Extent Of Operations	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Time Since Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	1	Tracks And Trails / Extent Of Tracks/Trails	4
16 Charnwood Park	1	Wind Throw (blow Down) / Extent Of Wind Throw	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	4
16 Charnwood Park	2	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Disease/Death Of Trees / Extent Of Disease/Death	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Dumping (rubbish) / Extent Of Dumping	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Earth Displacement / Extent Of Displacement	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Fire / Extent Of Fire	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Flooding (Pools & Puddling) / Extent Of Flooding	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Gaps In Forest Canopy / Extent Of Gaps	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Ice Damage / Extent Of Ice Damage	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Intensity / Extent Of Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Livestock (Grazing) / Extent Of Livestock	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Noise / Extent Of Noise	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Planting (plantation) / Extent Of Planting	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Recreational Use / Extent Of Recr. Use	1
16 Charnwood Park	2	Sugar Bush Operations / Extent Of Operations	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Time Since Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	2	Tracks And Trails / Extent Of Tracks/Trails	2
16 Charnwood Park	2	Wind Throw (blow Down) / Extent Of Wind Throw	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	1
16 Charnwood Park	3	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0



<b>Site</b>	<b>Polygon</b>	<b>Disturbance / Extent</b>	<b>Total Score</b>
16 Charnwood Park	3	Disease/Death Of Trees / Extent Of Disease/Death	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Dumping (rubbish) / Extent Of Dumping	1
16 Charnwood Park	3	Earth Displacement / Extent Of Displacement	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Fire / Extent Of Fire	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Flooding (Pools & Puddling) / Extent Of Flooding	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Gaps In Forest Canopy / Extent Of Gaps	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Ice Damage / Extent Of Ice Damage	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Intensity / Extent Of Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Livestock (Grazing) / Extent Of Livestock	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Noise / Extent Of Noise	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Planting (plantation) / Extent Of Planting	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Recreational Use / Extent Of Recr. Use	1
16 Charnwood Park	3	Sugar Bush Operations / Extent Of Operations	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Time Since Logging	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Tracks And Trails / Extent Of Tracks/Trails	0
16 Charnwood Park	3	Wind Throw (blow Down) / Extent Of Wind Throw	0