

21 - Fern Park



Table 21- Fern Park

Site 21 Fern Park

General Description

Fern Park is located south of McLeod Rd. off of Fern Avenue. It is just north of a hydro corridor. South of the hydro corridor is privately owned land where the provincially rare wetland species round-leaved greenbrier has been found.

Most of this park is a very wet meadow, making it difficult for recreational use. In the drier west end of the park along Fern Avenue, there have been some park enhancements made including tennis courts, park benches and playground equipment. South of the playground, there is an artificially created sloped area, which could be used as a toboggan hill. A baseball backstop is present but is of limited use due to the wetness of the field. Treed areas have been classified based on the characteristics of the vegetation.

A neighbour on Merritt Avenue commented on the large quantity of poison ivy behind his home and the large number of mosquitoes due to the tall grass and wetness of the park. He recognized that it is difficult for the city to cut the grass during the wet seasons.

Polygon 1

Consists of patches of mature trees with no understory. These areas tend to be relatively dry and the grass is mowed under the trees.

Polygon 2

Consists of areas of uncut vegetation in the southwest corner of the park, primarily shrubs.

Polygon 3

Polygon 3 is a more extensive forested area in the eastern part of the park. It is a young forest with extensive underbrush, making access difficult. Quite a bit of trash has been dumped in this forest area including garden waste and beer cans.

Recommendations

1. Recreational use of this park is compromised by its wet conditions. While wetlands are beneficial to the environment, some improvements might be considered here which would benefit use of the park and not compromise the environment. For example, construction of a swale and a pond area might help to dry out parts of the field area, while maintaining some wetlands.
2. To enhance and ensure the long term sustainability of the woodland, additional planting of native species is needed. The planting shall be of both trees and shrubs. If possible, turf grasses should be removed in the planting area to minimize competition for the new plantings. The location within the woodland will dictate whether the planting will be pioneer or climax species. Efforts should be made to connect wooded

sections within the park.

3. Removal of invasive species should be done. Priority for removal shall be in areas where there is greater impact on the existing native vegetation. After removal of invasive species has occurred, monitoring is necessary to ensure that these plants do not re-establish themselves. The techniques used for the removals shall be tailored to the invasive species being removed and be in accordance with industry standards.
4. To raise awareness of woodland features and functions, informative signage should be put on site. Signage informing and educating the public on proper site usage (e.g. the negative impacts of ATV's) and site features should be explored. The signage should be installed near a main trail or access point to the woodland.



Figure 1- Fern Park in August – this area could benefit from the planting of more trees

Credit: NF Nature Club

Fern 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
21	Fern Park	1	1	Acer saccharinum	o					
21	Fern Park	2	1	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	d					
21	Fern Park	3	1	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	d					
21	Fern Park	1	1	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	d					
21	Fern Park	2	1	Populus tremuloides	r					
21	Fern Park	1	1	Populus tremuloides	r					
21	Fern Park	3	1	Quercus bicolor	a					
21	Fern Park	1	1	Quercus bicolor	a					
21	Fern Park	2	1	Quercus palustris	o					
21	Fern Park	1	1	Quercus palustris	o					
21	Fern Park	3	2	Acer negundo	r					
21	Fern Park	2	2	Juglan nigra	r					
21	Fern Park	2	2	Lonicera tatarica	o	i				
21	Fern Park	2	2	Populus tremuloides	o					
21	Fern Park	3	2	Populus tremuloides	o					
21	Fern Park	3	2	Prunus sp.	r					
21	Fern Park	2	2	Quercus bicolor	r					
21	Fern Park	3	2	Quercus palustris	o					
21	Fern Park	2	2	Ulmus pumila	r					
21	Fern Park	2	3	Cornus racemosa	d					
21	Fern Park	3	3	Cornus racemosa	d					
21	Fern Park	3	3	Ligustrum vulgare	a	i				
21	Fern Park	3	3	Lonicera tatarica	o	i				
21	Fern Park	2	3	Morus alba	r					
21	Fern Park	2	3	Rhamnus cathartica	o	ai				

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
21	Fern Park	3	3	Rhamnus cathartica	a	ai				
21	Fern Park	3	3	Rosa multiflora	a	i				
21	Fern Park	2	3	Rubus sp.	r					
21	Fern Park	3	3	Rubus sp.	r					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Arctium minus	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Aster novae-angliae	o					
21	Fern Park	3	4	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Cirsium sp.	a					
21	Fern Park	3	4	Coronilla varia	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Dipsacus sylvestris	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Erigeron philadelphicus	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Impatiens sp.	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Parthenocissus sp.	a					
21	Fern Park	3	4	Parthenocissus sp.	a					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Ranunculus acris	o					
21	Fern Park	3	4	Ranunculus acris	o					
21	Fern Park	1	4	Rhus radicans	r					
21	Fern Park	3	4	Rhus radicans	a					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Rumex crispus	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Solidago sp.	a					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Urtica sp.	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Vicia sp.	o					
21	Fern Park	2	4	Vitis sp.	a					

Fern Park Disturbance Report

Site	Polygon	Disturbance / Extent	Total Score
21 Fern Park	1	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	0
21 Fern Park	1	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
21 Fern Park	1	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0
21 Fern Park	1	Disease/Death Of Trees / Extent Of Disease/Death	1
21 Fern Park	1	Dumping (rubbish) / Extent Of Dumping	0
21 Fern Park	1	Earth Displacement / Extent Of Displacement	1
21 Fern Park	1	Fire / Extent Of Fire	0
21 Fern Park	1	Flooding (Pools & Puddling) / Extent Of Flooding	1
21 Fern Park	1	Gaps In Forest Canopy / Extent Of Gaps	9
21 Fern Park	1	Ice Damage / Extent Of Ice Damage	0
21 Fern Park	1	Intensity / Extent Of Logging	0
21 Fern Park	1	Livestock (Grazing) / Extent Of Livestock	0
21 Fern Park	1	Noise / Extent Of Noise	0
21 Fern Park	1	Planting (plantation) / Extent Of Planting	2
21 Fern Park	1	Recreational Use / Extent Of Recr. Use	2
21 Fern Park	1	Sugar Bush Operations / Extent Of Operations	0
21 Fern Park	1	Time Since Logging	0
21 Fern Park	1	Tracks And Trails / Extent Of Tracks/Trails	0
21 Fern Park	1	Wind Throw (blow Down) / Extent Of Wind Throw	0
21 Fern Park	2	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	1
21 Fern Park	2	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
21 Fern Park	2	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0
21 Fern Park	2	Disease/Death Of Trees / Extent Of Disease/Death	1
21 Fern Park	2	Dumping (rubbish) / Extent Of Dumping	3
21 Fern Park	2	Earth Displacement / Extent Of Displacement	9
21 Fern Park	2	Fire / Extent Of Fire	0
21 Fern Park	2	Flooding (Pools & Puddling) / Extent Of Flooding	1
21 Fern Park	2	Gaps In Forest Canopy / Extent Of Gaps	9
21 Fern Park	2	Ice Damage / Extent Of Ice Damage	0
21 Fern Park	2	Intensity / Extent Of Logging	0
21 Fern Park	2	Livestock (Grazing) / Extent Of Livestock	0
21 Fern Park	2	Noise / Extent Of Noise	0
21 Fern Park	2	Planting (plantation) / Extent Of Planting	0
21 Fern Park	2	Recreational Use / Extent Of Recr. Use	4
21 Fern Park	2	Sugar Bush Operations / Extent Of Operations	0
21 Fern Park	2	Time Since Logging	0
21 Fern Park	2	Tracks And Trails / Extent Of Tracks/Trails	1
21 Fern Park	2	Wind Throw (blow Down) / Extent Of Wind Throw	0
21 Fern Park	3	Alien Species / Extent Of Alien Species	4
21 Fern Park	3	Beaver Activity / Extent Of Beaver Activity	0
21 Fern Park	3	Browse (e.g. Deer) / Extent Of Browse	0

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