

# 26 - Willick Road Woodlot



Table 26- Willick Road Woodlot

## Site 26 Willick Road Woodlot

### *General Description*

Willick Road Woodlot is located at the northeast corner of Willick Rd. and Ort Rd. The woodlot can also be accessed from Lyon's Parkway, which is to the north of the woodlot. A rough trail runs north from Willick Rd. to Lyon's Parkway.

Overall there is minimal disturbance to the property by human activity. There was some minor dumping of rubber tires along the road edge of Lyon's Parkway and garden waste along Willick Rd. A number of old hunting platforms exist in some of the trees, indicating this was once a popular spot for hunting wildlife. There was no evidence that any hunting had occurred here recently.

This woodlot was surveyed in the year 2007 as part of the Natural Area Inventory conducted by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. For the most part, the two surveys indicate the same species; however some different species were noted since the two surveys were conducted at different times of year.

### *Polygon 1*

The woodlot is one of the most diverse and healthy visited during this survey of city properties. For example, there are a number of specimens of the relatively rare black gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) in the woodlot. There are numerous vernal pools that provide habitat for amphibians. A number of amphibian species were seen during the survey including leopard frogs, spring peepers and American toads. In the south-east portion of the property, there is a stand of pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*) in a vernal pool, with one pin oak of considerable size. Large burr oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) were also observed near Willick Road. Invasive species, while present, were in much fewer numbers than on most of the properties surveyed.

### *Recommendations*

1. A new subdivision is currently being built to the east of the woodlot, which may be a concern in the future. To avoid encroachments, dumping of yard waste and other negative effects on the woodlot, a fence should be constructed to separate the woodlot from private property. This is particularly important because of the close proximity of the pin oak vernal pool to the development in the southeast area of the property.
2. Dense shrubbery and a deep ditch along Ort Rd and dense vegetation have provided protection from human disturbances to this woodlot. Disturbances are limited to areas along Willick Rd and Lyon's Parkway where access is easier, although the thick vegetation along the periphery of these roads limits access to only a few points. This has probably protected the woodlot from invasive species which are often tracked in on shoes and clothing. As the subdivision is developed, there will

likely be greater human traffic in the woodlot. A trail system should be established.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Removal of hunting blinds.



**Figure 1- Black Gum (*Nyssa Sylvatica*). Credit: NF Nature Club**



Figure 2- Vernal Pool shaded by Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). Credit: NF Nature Club

## Willick Road Woodlot 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
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Acer rubrum	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Acer saccharum	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Carya ovata	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Fagus grandifolia	d					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Fraxinus americana	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Nyssa sylvatica	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Prunus serotina	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Pyrus communis	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Quercus bicolor	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Quercus macrocarpa	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Quercus palustris	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Quercus rubra	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Tilia americana	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	1	Ulmus americana	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Carpinus caroliniana	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Crataegus crus-galli	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Crataegus mollis	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Ostrya virginiana	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Rhamnus cathartica	a	ai				
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	2	Salix sp.	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Amelanchier	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Cephalanthus occidentalis	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Cornus racemosa	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Ilex verticillata	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Lindera benzoin	d					

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Lonicera tatarica	o	i				
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Ribes sp.	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Rosa blanda	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Rosa multiflora	o	i				
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Rubus hispidus	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Rubus idaeus	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	3	Spiraea alba	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Agrimonia gryposepala	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Alliaria petiolata	o	ai				
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Asclepias syriaca	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Aster macrophyllus	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Aster novae-angliae	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Aster pilosus	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Aster simplex	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Athyrium Filix-femina	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Bidens frondosa	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Carex crinata	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Carex intumescens	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Carex lupulina	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Chelone glabra	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Circaea quadrisulcata	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Collinsonia canadensis	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Cyperus esculentus	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Dactylis glomerata	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Daucus carota	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Dryopteris spinulosa	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Epifagus virginiana	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Erigeron annuus	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Eupatorium perfoliatum	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Fragaria sp.	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Geranium maculatum	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Geum sp.	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Impatiens sp.	a					

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Lycopus uniflorus	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Lysimachia nummularia	a	i				
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Maianthemum canadense	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Melilotus alba	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Onoclea sensibilis	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Phragmites communis	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Pilea pumila	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Polygonum lapathifolium	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Prenanthes sp.	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Prunella vulgaris	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Rhus radicans	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Rumex crispus	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Scirpus atrovirens	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Smilacina racemosa	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Solidago canadensis	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Solidago graminifolia	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Solidago rugosa	r					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Tovara virginiana	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Tussilago farfara	a					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Typha sp.	o					
26	Willick Road Woodlot	1	4	Vitis riparia	o					

## Willick Road Woodlot Disturbance Report

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