

3 - Theresa Park



Table 3- Theresa Park

Site 3 Theresa Park

General Description

Theresa Park is a small neighbourhood park on the east side of Gail Ave in the Theresa subdivision. A small woodlot exists in the south-east corner of the park, south of a drainage swale. Despite its small size, the park was surveyed because in 2004 the Park in the City Committee initiated a pilot project of woodlot enhancement. Trees in the woodlot were aging and dying and there was no natural regeneration because the grass was being cut in the woodlot. Trees consisted of a variety of Carolinian species that produced a good supply of seeds so natural regeneration was possible if grass cutting was discontinued.

The Park in the City Committee (PITC) partnered with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to plant a riparian buffer area of native wildflowers and shrubs along the swale. (See partial list below of what was planted.) Native trees were planted west of the woodlot in order to enhance and increase its size. There was some discussion with the Municipal Works Department about the extent of the naturalization effort. The PITC Committee had originally argued for naturalization of the entire area south of the swale with grass-cutting along a three metre perimeter next to neighbouring properties. With input from a variety of stakeholders, it was decided to continue cutting the grass in the area of new trees, but to leave a small uncut buffer around the woodlot where wildflowers and trees could seed themselves. Signs were placed around the woodlot to indicate to work crews where the no-cut zone was located.

Almost immediately following the naturalization project, small tree seedlings started to grow in the understory of the woodlot. With time, the woodlot has expanded and grown denser.

Polygon 1

Species planted in 2004 as a buffer: Big Bluestem, Canada Wild Rye, Little Bluestem, Kalm's Brome, Black-eyed Susan, Woodland Sunflower, New England Aster, Butterfly Weed, Ox-eye Daisy, Wild Strawberry, Round-headed Bush-clover, Smooth Aster, Virginia Mountain Mint, White Beardtongue, Wild Bergamot, White Elderberry, Red-osier Dogwood, Fragrant Sumac, Flowering Raspberry.

Species planted in the woodlot: Virginia Waterleaf

Tree species planted adjacent to the woodlot: Basswood, Hackberry, Bur Oak

Recommendations

1. Allow natural regeneration to continue in woodlot. Remove invasive shrubs such as buckthorn which have started to move into the understory. 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.

2. During the survey, dead trees were observed in the area of replanted trees west of the woodlot. These had been girdled by trimmers used to cut the grass around trees. Workers need to be more conscious of the damage these devices do to trees. Trees in areas where grass is cut should be mulched each year so whipper-snippers are unnecessary.
3. 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.
4. Hazard trees shall be dropped where there is the likelihood that they may cause harm to people and/or private/public property. These trees shall not be removed from the woodland and will be allowed to decompose on the woodland floor. Not all dead trees are hazard trees. If the tree does not pose a risk to causing harm to people and/or property it should be left as is. These trees can become important habitat to many species of wildlife.
5. 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.



Figure 1- Signage for no-cut zone, Credit: NF Nature Club



Figure 2- 2004 Riparian buffer planted along swale, Credit: NF Nature Club



Figure 3- Wild Lupine, Credit: NF Nature Club



Figure 4- Regeneration of oak trees, Credit: NF Nature Club

Theresa 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
3	Theresa Park	1	1	Acer rubrum	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	1	Acer saccharinum	r					
3	Theresa Park	1	1	Prunus serotina	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	1	Quercus macrocarpa	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	1	Quercus rubra	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Acer saccharinum	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Carpinus caroliniana	r					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Celtis occidentalis	o			p		
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Cornus alternifolia	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Fraxinus sp.	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Morus alba	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Populus deltoides	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	2	Tilia americana	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Carya ovata	r					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Cornus racemosa	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Cornus stolonifera	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Euonymus alatus	r					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Prunus sp.	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Rhamnus cathartica	o	ai				
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Rhus aromatic	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Rubus occidentalis	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Rubus odoratus	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Salix sp.	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Sambucus canadensis	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Tilia cordata	r					

Site Number	Site Name	Polygon	Layer	Species	Abundance	Invasive	Old Growth	Plantation	Federal	Provincial
3	Theresa Park	1	3	Viburnum opulus	r	i				
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Aster lateriflorus	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Aster pilosus	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Cichorium intybus	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Circaea quadrisulcata	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Cirsium sp.	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Helianthus divaricatus	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Hieracium sp.	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Hydrophyllum virginianum	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Lupinus perennis	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Phytolacca americana	r					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Rumex crispus	o					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Solanum dulcamara	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Solidago sp.	a					
3	Theresa Park	1	4	Vitis sp.	o					

Theresa Park Disturbance Report

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