

CROTHERS' WOODS

STATUS: New ESA (133)

CRITERIA FULFILLED: 5, 6

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Crothers' Woods is located in the Borough of East York north of the Don Valley Parkway between Bayview Avenue and the Redway access road. .

The ESA boundary includes the mature oak and maple forest and associated early successional communities. The mature forest is dominated by Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). Early successional stands are associated mostly with Hydro right-of-ways and are dominated by White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*).

Most of the property is owned by the MTRCA and managed by Metro Parks and Culture. Several hydro easements exist on the edges of the woodland. The Surrounding area includes the North Toronto Sewage Treatment Plant, a shopping plaza and residential development. Crothers' Woods is also used by the East York Board of Education as an educational study area.

CRITERIA UPDATE

Criterion 5

The following plant species found on the site are considered rare in the MTRCA Region:

Greater Straw Sedge	(<i>Carex normalis</i>)
Thin-leaved Sunflower	(<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>)
Pale-leaved Sunflower	(<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>)

All three species are also considered rare in the Southern Region of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. *H. decapetalus* is geographically restricted to the Carolinian portions of that region.

Criterion 6

A number of woody species are found In this relatively small woodland, including:

Eastern Hemlock	(<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>)
Bitternut Hickory	(<i>Carya cordiformis</i>)
Butternut	(<i>Juglans cinerea</i>)
Black Walnut	(<i>Juglans nigra</i>)
Blue Beech	(<i>Carpinus carolinus</i>)
Beaked Hazel	(<i>Corylus cornuta</i>)
Ironwood	(<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)

American Beech	(<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)
White Oak	(<i>Quercus alba</i>)
Red Oak	(<i>Quercus rubra</i>)
Witch-hazel	(<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)
Black Cherry	(<i>Prunus serotina</i>)
Black Maple	(<i>Acer nigra</i>)
Sugar Maple	(<i>Acer saccharum</i>)
Basswood	(<i>Tilia americana</i>)

Only one Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) was found in Crothers' Woods, probably because the site is far from residential areas. Norway Maple is common in many urban forests and often invasive where it occurs. Dog-strangling Vine (*Cynanchum rossicum*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) are introduced on the site and cover some portions extensively, but not in the interior to a large extent.

White Oak is regenerating on the site, an unusual occurrence in the Toronto area (Miller pers. comm. 1995).

COMMENTS

Sweet Joe Pyeweed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) may have been found on the site but further investigation is needed. That plant is nationally and provincially rare and has not been found in the MTRCA Region in recent history.

The following plants were found on the site and are considered rare in York-Metro by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources:

Oval-leaved Sedge	(<i>Carex cephalophora</i>)
Greater Straw Sedge *	(<i>Carex normalis</i>)
Poke Milkweed	(<i>Asclepias exaltata</i>)
Thin-leaved Sunflower	(<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>)
Pale-leaved Sunflower	(<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>)

* first sighting in York-Metro

The woods have been impacted by uses such as mountain biking and other recreational activities. Severe gullying is found on several south east facing slopes. Impact management is being undertaken by Metro Parks and Culture and other Crothers' Woods stakeholders.

Twenty-six bird species were observed as possible breeders on June 15 including (MTRCA 1995) Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Eastern Wood-peewee (*Contopus virens*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) and Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*).

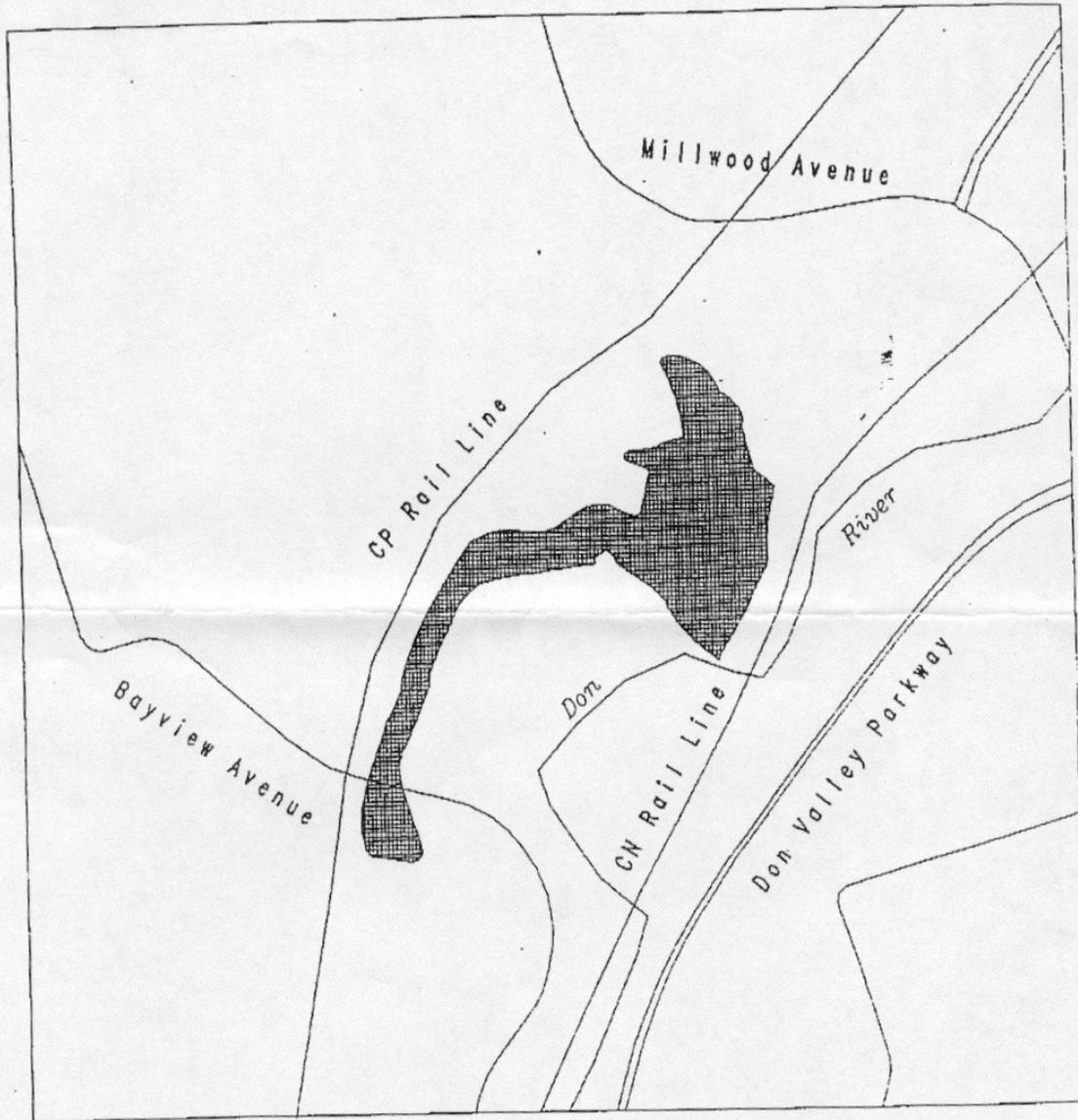
The woodland adjacent to Crothers' Woods on the east may function in conjunction with the ESA as it contains similar species as the ESA. In addition, Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) is found on that site (Miller pers. Comm. 1995).

(Prepared by Gavin Miller June 1995)

Environmentally Significant Area

#133

the metro toronto and region conservation authority



Borough of East York

 E.S.A. # 133 - Crother's Woods

scale in metres

