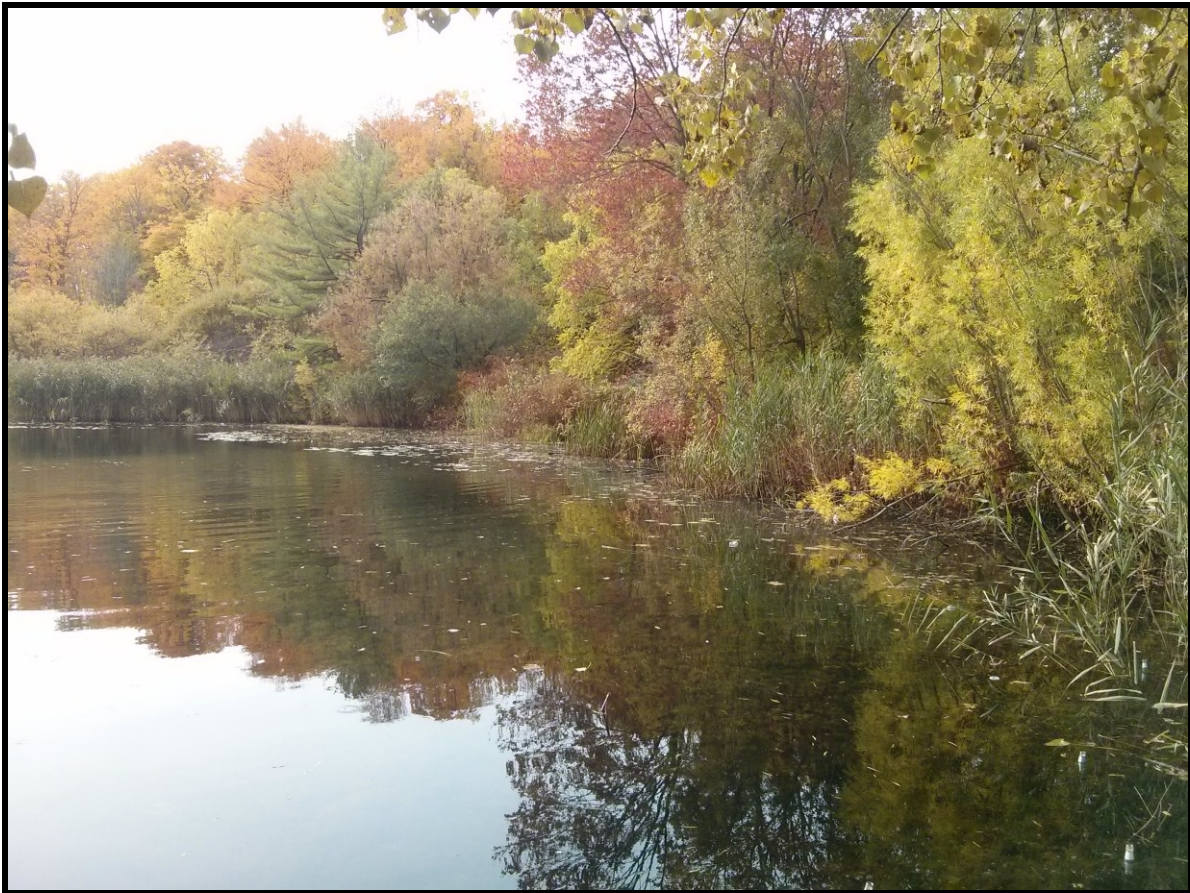


**Westheights Pond and Park.
Restoration and Management Plan
SUMMARY REPORT
May 2025.**



**DANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL
INC.**



DE-478
May 13, 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This summary report has been prepared by consultants to the City of Kitchener (Ken and Kevin Dance from Dance Environmental Inc.), managed by City of Kitchener staff (Joshua Shea and Rachel Voros).

Dillon Consulting (Martina Braunstein, Nicole Beuglet and Angel Bancalé) managed the Public Engagement component of the project.

Numerous residents of the Westheights neighbourhood and members of the “Friends of the Pond” attended public engagement events and provided written comments during development of the restoration and management plan. The local Ward Councillor attended the November 2024 public engagement event.

Westheights Pond and Park: Restoration and Management Plan.

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview and Initiation of Restoration and Management Plan

The larger, northern pond located within Westheights Park was dredged in September 1979. In the more than 45 years since, the pond and surrounding vegetation has provided a significant habitat for a large variety of fish and wildlife species. The pond is also a notable landscape feature within the matrix of wetland, shrub and woodland vegetation present in the Westheights Park.

In recent years, some local residents expressed the opinion that the pond was unsightly and was declining in quality. Some individuals have noted a dislike of the appearance of the aquatic plants present in the pond and expressed the opinion that they also do not like the shrubby growths around the pond margins.

The Ward Councillor discussed the residents' concerns with City Natural Area staff. It was decided that a consultant would be hired to assess the existing condition of the ponds and the adjacent woodland, with the objective of preparing a restoration and environmental management plan for the pond and entire Natural Area.

In May 2023 Dance Environmental Inc. was retained to determine the status of natural heritage features in the study area and to provide background information during the public engagement. The assignment also included preparation of a Summary Report and the detailed Restoration and Management Plan.

The present document is the Summary Report.

1.2 Community Engagement and Consultation

Details of the Community Engagement process have been summarized elsewhere (Dillon Consulting).

Dates when formal community engagement events occurred are as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF EVENT</u>
June 6, 2023	At the Park	Community Site Walk
June 5, 2024	Westheights Public School	Community Workshop #1
November 26, 2024	Driftwood Public School	Community Workshop #2

1.3 Study Area

Westheights Park is a 4 hectare park located north of Westheights Drive; west of Autumn Hill Crescent, and east of Winding Way, see Figure 1.

Westheights Park contains two ponds, a larger northern pond (0.7 ha± in area) and a smaller southern pond which is surrounded by dense tree growth. An upland deciduous forest on rolling topography is another key feature of the park.

The park is classified by the City of Kitchener as a Natural Area. A multi-use pathway runs north-south through the park and connects to Trailview Park, located to the northeast. The park is largely a destination for nearby community members. It is also used as a teaching resource by adjacent schools.

1.4 Plan Objectives and Purpose

The Restoration and Management Plan (RMP) is intended to guide management of the natural features within the Park during the near-term future.

The RMP summarizes the current state of the Park, provides a status analysis for key ecological parameters, and documents potential options for ecological restoration and management, as well as opportunities for stewardship and community engagement.

The RMP provides the City of Kitchener and community members with recommendations to guide actions for ecological restoration and management to maintain and improve natural features, while maintaining aesthetically acceptable conditions for neighbours, and continuing to provide nature-based education and recreational opportunities.

2.0 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Recent Cultural History

Prior to the 1950s, mixed agricultural land use dominated the landscape of the northwest side of Kitchener.

An air photo from 1952 shows the existence of the large northern pond which is currently present in Westheights Park, see Figure 2.

The Westheights subdivision was constructed during the mid-late 70s, as the air photo from 1971 shows no development near Westheights Pond, see Figure 3.

Although there is no specific documentation of this, it is assumed that during subdivision construction some sediment was washed into the northern pond basin, reducing the depth available to store water. This would have also limited vegetation within and around the existing pond area.

Around 1977 the local residents informed City of Kitchener staff that they were concerned about the ecology of the northern pond. In 1978 an ecological monitoring program was put in place.

Figure 1. Westheights Park Natural Area

Management: KITCHENER Ownership: KITCHENER Status: ACTIVE



Park
Active
Proposed
Ecological Land Classification
Community & Woodland Trails
Open Trail
Stream



DE-478
March 11, 2025

Base Map Source:
City of Kitchener, 2023

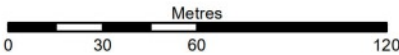
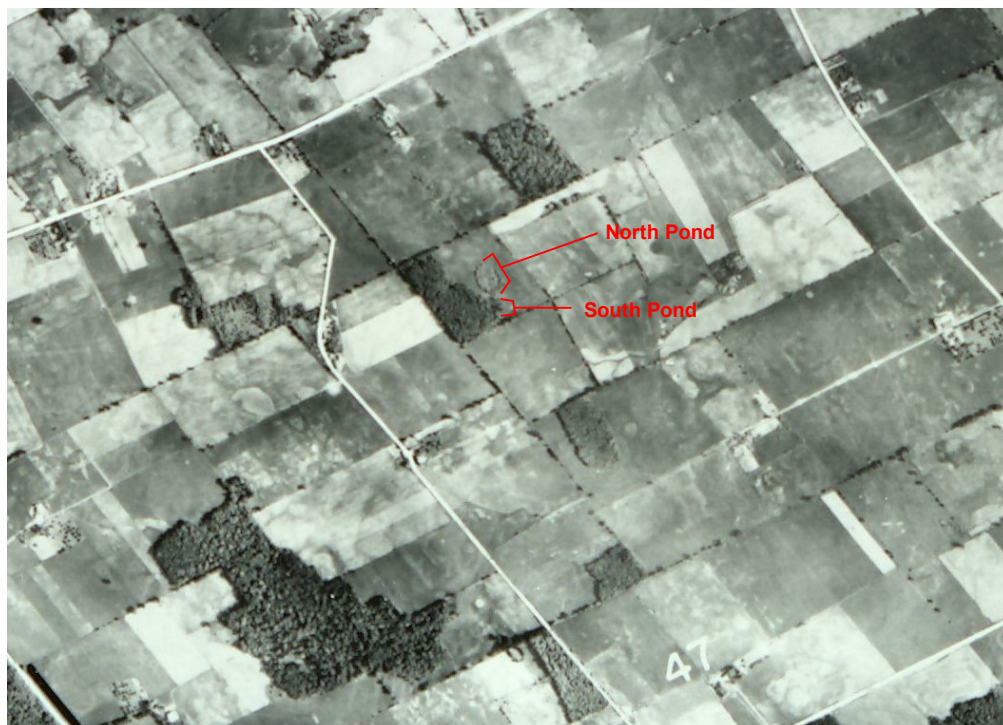


Figure 2. 1952 Aerial Photograph of Westheights Pond



During the dry Summer of 1978 the pond water dried up and a mud flat was left. The 1979 inventory data, provided baseline data prior to dredging of the northern pond in September 1979. Between April and November 1980 ecological parameters were monitored in, and around, the pond (Ecologistics 1980).

Figure 3. 1971 Aerial Photograph of Westheights Pond



Between October 1979 and Summer of 1980, sixteen wetland plant species were introduced to rehabilitate the dredged pond margin. Monitoring of wetland plant numbers between 1980 and 1992 found that nearly all species flourished (Dance and Cecile 1992).

As noted previously, neighbourhood residents expressed concerns about the pond condition in the early 2020s. The City hired ecological consultants to study the pond and the present report documents study findings and recommendations.

2.2 Public Use and Recreation

Public use in general consists of recreation and nature enjoyment. Recreational uses include: walking, biking, photography, dog walking and fishing. Nature enjoyment activities include: bird watching, photography, school class trips, botany, exploration, and quiet reflection. Other activities include: socializing and gathering with neighbours, relaxation, spiritual connection and inspiration.

2.3 Drainage and Water Bodies

As noted previously, there are two water bodies present in the Westheights Park Natural Area. A larger northern pond and a smaller, shallower southern pond. The two ponds are dependent on overland surface drainage from residential back yards and from the Park's deciduous woodland and walkways. Excess water reaching the southern pond flows into the northern pond. When water levels are high, during the Spring melt, water will flow from the north of the North Pond into the City's storm sewer drainage system. Overflow into the storm sewer drainage system was observed during the 2023 – 24 study period. During the present study there were no observations of water flowing from the storm sewer drainage system back into the North Pond. The Westheights Pond does not function as a stormwater management pond and is not managed by the City of Kitchener as a stormwater management pond.

The North Pond contained water year round during the recent study, with no significant drawdown being observed. The South Pond had measured water depths of 42cm on May 31, 2023 and water remained in this pond into the Autumn (25cm on September 21, 2023).

During water quality sampling in 2023 and 2024 the maximum water depth in the North Pond was found to be in the 2.1m (7 ft) range.

2.4 Terrestrial Resources

2.4.1 Vegetation

The study area contains a variety of upland and wetland vegetation communities associated with the upland forest, the meadows along walkways, and the wetland and aquatic communities of the two ponds.

Descriptions and mapping of the vegetation communities and species lists are contained in the Technical Appendices of the Main Report.

Alien and invasive vegetation species that are present in the Park study area include: Common Buckthorn, Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, Periwinkle and Purple Loosestrife. Some of these species are abundant enough that they should be managed.

2.4.2 Wildlife

A variety of bird, reptile, amphibian, mammal and insect species were documented to be present in the study area during the 2023 and 2024 inventory visits. Each type of wildlife is discussed briefly here in the Summary Report, with more detail being contained in the Main Report.

2.4.2.1 Birds

An online review of eBird data has revealed that more than 100 bird species have been sighted in the Westheights Park. These include many species of fish-eating birds and waterfowl, as well as migrant sparrow, thrush and warbler species. The 2023 breeding bird and 2024 surveys found 28 bird species were present in the study area during the breeding season.

The upland forest provides habitat for Eastern Screech Owl and Pileated Woodpecker, which were observed during the present study.

2.4.2.2 Reptiles and Amphibians

The North Pond contains Midland Painted Turtles (20+ sunning on June 6, 2023) and Common Snapping Turtles (3 sunning on June 6, 2023). The snapping turtles nest along the gravel walkway near the southern edge of the Westheights Public School yard. No snakes were found during the present study.

Although American Toads had a breeding population in the North Pond historically, none were found or heard calling during the present study. The 2023 frog chorus inventories found small numbers of Spring Peepers calling in the South Pond in April and small numbers of Green Frogs calling there in May 2023. Green Frogs were also seen/heard in the North Pond during site visits.

2.4.2.3 Mammals

During the June 6, 2023 site walk with neighbourhood residents sightings of Virginia Opossum, Striped Skunk, Red Fox, Coyote and Raccoon were reported to the consultant team.

During the 2023-2024 inventory period Eastern Cottontail, Black Squirrel, Red Squirrel and Eastern Chipmunk were encountered. All of the mammals identified to be present are common within Ontario, and common within urban residential areas.

2.4.2.4 Insects and Other Invertebrates

A variety of Butterflies, Damselflies and Dragonflies were encountered during the 2023-2024 inventories. These are listed in the Main Report.



Chimneys of Terrestrial Crayfish were found in the damp soils located between the South and North Ponds and along the southwestern margin of the North Pond. Figure 4 shows a top view of a Terrestrial Crayfish chimney.

Figure 4. Top View of a Terrestrial Crayfish Chimney.



2.4.3 Significant Wildlife

Bird Species at Risk (SAR) which have been documented on eBird or recorded during the 2023-24 inventory period include: Bobolink (Threatened), Barn Swallow (Special Concern – SC), Eastern Wood-Pewee (SC), Wood Thrush (SC), and Canada Warbler (SC). Wood Duck is considered to be a Regionally Significant breeding bird, if nesting in a natural cavity.

Common Snapping Turtle and Midland Painted Turtle were both observed, with Common Snapping Turtle being listed provincially as Special Concern (SC).

Significant invertebrates present include Monarch (butterfly) and Terrestrial Crayfish.

The status of these species is reviewed in more detail in the Main Report.

2.5 Fisheries and Water Quality

2.5.1 Fisheries

During the early 1990s the authors routinely encountered Goldfish and Brown Bullheads in the North Pond. Dance (1997) indicates that there were Goldfish and Carp present in the North Pond. This publication also indicated that in 1992 City of Kitchener staff introduced 6 Largemouth Bass, in an effort to control the Goldfish and Carp.

During the 2023-24 inventory for the present study Goldfish, Koi, Brown Bullhead and a small unidentified minnow species were frequently observed in the North Pond. At the November 6, 2024 Community Workshop Don Silk, a local resident, reported seeing a 60 ±cm long

Northern Pike in the North Pond. The Goldfish, Koi and any Northern Pike are assumed to be introduced fish. During the 2023-24 study there were no sightings of Largemouth Bass and no residents mentioned their occurrence.

Key fish habitat elements present in the North Pond include the following:

- fish spawn on the aquatic plants;
- aquatic plant beds provide nursery habitat for young fish; and
- deeper water zones provide over-wintering habitat.

Limiting factors to native fish populations include:

- low oxygen in deep water areas in Summer, but no fish kills were observed in 2023, 2024 or 2025;
- the large, alien fish populations (Goldfish and Koi) compete for food and rearing habitat with native fish species.

Despite the above limitations, the fish community is self-sustaining and provides food for many fish-eating bird species, which the public enjoys watching.

2.5.2 Water Quality

2.5.2.1 Historical Conditions

There is some historical water quality data from the 1978 to 1995 period, see Table 1.

During the 1978 to 1995 period, concentrations of the nutrient Nitrate were low, but concentrations of the nutrient Total Phosphorus were high enough to support dense growths of aquatic vegetation (Ecologistics, 1980).

Secchi disc depth is another measure of trophic status in a pond or lake. During 1980, the year following dredging, the range of Secchi disc depths was 0.76 to 2.6m from 21 samples. On most dates the Secchi disc reading was $1.4 \text{ m} \pm$. Mackie (2002) indicates that a Secchi disc depth of less than 2.0m indicates an eutrophic state.

There is little historical bacterial count data, but the October 1995 fecal coliform sample that was analyzed had a count of 660 CFU/10 mL of water. This sample indicated that a bacterial pollution source was present and this was thought to be the high numbers of waterfowl present (Dance, 1997).

2.5.2.2 Water Quality in 2023-2024

Table 1 lists the lab analysis results for water samples taken from the North Pond in 2023 and 2024. The results summarized in Table 1 are from a station located in the middle of North Pond where the deepest water was expected: water was collected from the top of the pond and from the bottom of the pond. A “north shore” station was located in shallow water out $1 \text{ m} \pm$ from the armour stone north margin of North Pond.

Water quality sampling occurred on 3 dates: July 10 and October 19, 2023, and April 25, 2024. Figure 5 shows water samples being collected from the North Pond using a kayak.

TABLE 1. Water Quality Lab Analysis Results for Westheights North Pond, July 10 and October 19, 2023, and April 25, 2024 Compared with 1978 to 1995.

			Sample Stations			
			Middle Top (Deepest Part of Pond)	Middle Bottom (Deepest Part of Pond)	North Shore	
	Limit of Results	Unit	Result	Result	Result	Dates of Results
Physical Tests						
Conductivity	2.0	µS/cm	345	348	316	July 10, 2023
			290	289	--	October 19, 2023
			Historical: 215 to 505			1978 to 1995
Anions and Nutrients						
Chloride	0.50	mg/L	10.5	10.3	10.2	July 10, 2023
			6.92	6.85	--	October 19, 2023
			14.0	--	13.7	April 25, 2024
			No Historical results			1978 to 1995
Nitrate (as N)	0.020	mg/L	<0.020	<0.020	<0.020	July 10, 2023
			<0.020	<0.020	<0.020	October 19, 2023
			<0.020	--	<0.020	April 25, 2024
			Historical: 0.10 to <0.40			1978 to 1995
Phosphorus, Total	0.0020	mg/L	0.0997	0.284	0.0910	July 10, 2023
			0.0221	0.155	--	October 19, 2023
			0.0375	0.0514	0.0561	April 25, 2024
			Historical: 0.15 to 0.17			1978 to 1995
Microbiological Tests						
Coliforms, Escherichia coli (E. coli)	1	CFU/1 00mL	118	500	29	July 10, 2023
			27	2500	--	October 19, 2023
			43	--	13	April 25, 2024
Coliforms, total	1	CFU/1 00mL	600	1000	19000	July 10, 2023
			>200	5000	--	October 19, 2023
			600	--	1000	April 25, 2024

Total coliform comparison July 10, 2013 at Lakeside Park: Shoemaker Pond, mean of four samples was 8750 CFU/100mL, with the highest value being 14,000 CFU/100mL. Lakeside Park had large waterfowl numbers at that time.

Figure 5. Water Samples Being Collected in the North Pond.



A more detailed analysis of the water quality sampling results is contained in the Main Report, but a summary of key findings is presented in Table 2.

In summary, the North Pond is eutrophic with abundant Total Phosphorus and a low Secchi disc depth. This water quality status is typical of small, shallow ponds present in limestone-based geologic settings, such as the Region of Waterloo.

South Pond

Analysis of water samples from the pond shows that no road salt is reaching this pond and nitrate and bacterial numbers are small. Total Phosphorus (TP) concentrations are high enough to support aquatic plant and algae populations, but TP concentrations in the small South Pond are lower than in the North Pond.

The quality of water in the South Pond is better than that in parts of the North Pond, so any surface water that flows from this small pond into the North Pond will benefit the larger pond by maintaining water depths.

Very few Mallard ducks have been observed to be present on the South Pond and these ducks do not appear to be causing significant nutrient or bacterial pollution.

TABLE 2. Summary Interpretation of Water Quality Analysis Results for 2023 and 2024 North Pond Samples.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Interpretation of 2023-2024 Results</u>
Nitrate	- a nutrient parameter, the low concentrations present are not a water quality problem .
Total Phosphorus	- a nutrient parameter, high concentrations present throughout the North Pond support dense growths of aquatic plants and algae. TP is highest at the pond bottom and may be released from pond sediments under low oxygen conditions.
Chloride	- de-icing salt is the usual source in the urban environment, very low concentrations found indicate that no road runoff is reaching the North Pond.
Conductivity	- conductivity is a measure of all total dissolved solids present in a water sample, high nutrient (eutrophic) water bodies have a higher conductivity than low nutrient (oligotrophic) water bodies do; - the 2023 results were in the same range as historical (1978 to 1995) samples.
Dissolved Oxygen	- oxygen dissolved in the water column is taken in via fish gills to support their breathing. Oxygen is given off to the water column by aquatic plants during daylight photosynthesis. Dissolved oxygen concentrations declined with depth at the deep water station in the North Pond where plant oxygen is absent and decomposition of organic matter uses oxygen. Most of the pond water volume had adequate dissolved oxygen concentrations to support the warmwater fish present. Checks in Spring 2023, 2024 and 2025 did not find any fish winterkill due to lack of Winter dissolved oxygen.
Secchi disc	- depth at which a black and white disc disappears from view is measured, this depth is affected by the density of suspended particles in the water column, including microscopic algae. This parameter is a standard indicator of trophic status. Both historical and 2023-2024 Secchi disc depths were less than 2m, indicating that the North Pond is an eutrophic or nutrient enriched water body.
Total Coliform	- this parameter is a measure of all coliform bacteria present per 100 mL of water sample. The highest Total Coliform counts were present in the shallow water at the north end of the pond, the values in the thousands indicates impaired water quality and the presence of a pollution source, i.e. waterfowl (OMOE 1978).

3.0 STATUS OF ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF WESTHEIGHTS PONDS AND WOODLAND

3.1 Status of Ponds

3.1.1 South Pond

This pond is shallow and heavily shaded by trees and shrubs. During years with heavy rainfall this pond has standing water for most of the growing season. As such, it attracts choruses of woodland frogs, such as Spring Peepers. A few Mallards and Wood Ducks use this pond habitat.

Surface water flows northerly from the South Pond into the North Pond. A wet meadow located between the two ponds provides Significant Wildlife Habitat for Terrestrial Crayfish.

Water flowing from the South Pond into the North Pond does not reduce the water quality in North Pond, but helps to maintain water depths in North Pond. The modern day drainage connections from South Pond to North Pond appear to be similar to those documented by historical air photos, Figures 2 & 3.



3.1.2 North Pond

The aquatic and wetland plant communities present stabilize the pond banks and bottom. These plants generate dissolved oxygen for aquatic life to breathe. These plants also form the base of the aquatic foodchain. Terrestrial trees, shrubs and herbs that surround the North Pond are valuable to pollinators and other animal life.

Following dredging of the pond in 1979 a small area that was 10 feet deep was created. Most of the pond basin was shallower than 10 feet. A mapping of North Pond contours in 1995 found that the deeper water zone was primarily 5 feet deep and much of the basin was less than 4 feet deep. During the 2023 and 2024 water quality sampling the deepest water that was found was 7 feet deep, but most of the pond was approximately 4 feet deep. This means that for 30± years water depths in North Pond have primarily been in the 4 to 5 foot depth range, and that there has not been a recent significant loss of pond depth.

The North Pond is the central habitat feature supporting key animal species that community residents value, such as fish-eating birds, turtles, and frogs.

Along with the adjacent woodland, the North Pond provides food and cover for the diverse breeding bird populations that are present in the Park. Alien plant populations which should be controlled include: Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife.

North Pond is nutrient rich, being in a eutrophic state. This is typical of shallow standing water bodies. The small numbers of Mallard ducks and Canada Geese that are present are enough to cause elevated Total Coliform counts along the shallow northern margin of the pond. Again, this is typical in urban park ponds.

North Pond is an important quiet location for contemplation and relaxation. For decades, several of the local schools have used the park and pond for outdoor education purposes. Most neighbourhood residents see the park and North Pond as a natural green oasis. Some other residents feel that the park is too overgrown and appears unkempt. They apparently would prefer that the pond have a more manicured appearance.

3.2 Status of the Woodland

The woodland is a valuable component of the park, adding diversity to the Natural Area. It consists of a deciduous woodland that provides habitat for a variety of bird species including Eastern Wood-Pewee, which is a Species of Special Concern in Ontario, and common urban mammal species.

The woodland is heavily dominated by tall mature canopy trees but very limited ground layer. There are alien, invasive plant species within the woodland such as: Common Buckthorn, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Periwinkle and Garlic Mustard which would benefit from control. Also, the understory of the woodland would benefit from planting of native tree and shrub species that provide cover and foraging opportunities.



4.0 CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Opportunities

- Location for relaxation and contemplation
- Visual variety of water, shrub and tree elements
- Accessible location for nature study, birdwatching, photography
- Accessible to several schools for outdoor education
- Potential to use signage and “Clean Up Days” to educate the park users
- Continue to have stable, diverse, well-connected natural habitats
- Provide habitat for both common and special feature species.

4.2 Challenges

- Both wetland and terrestrial alien, invasive plant species occur that would benefit from control
- Water quality – high bacterial counts in locations accessible to the public, naturally high phosphorus concentrations, low dissolved oxygen concentrations on the pond bottom.
- Striking a balance between the natural environment and human expectations and uses: aesthetics of dense aquatic and wetland plant growths; and turtles nesting on walking trails.
- Carrying capacity of the North Pond relative to waterfowl populations.

5.0 RECOMMENDED RESTORATION STEPS

Recommendations are presented in two groups:

- (1) Priority recommendations - those to be implemented first;
and
- (2) Secondary recommendations – those to be implemented in the near future,
as financial and time budgets allow.

5.1 Priority Restoration Recommendations

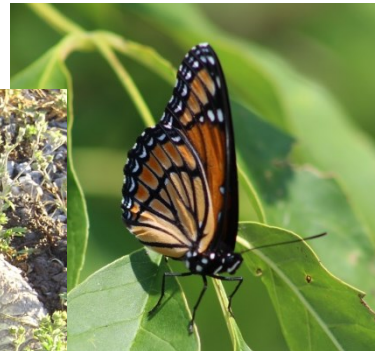
Restoration priorities have featured in the public comments from the Community Engagement sessions. There are two varying perspectives that the Community Engagement sessions made evident. One is the natural habitat present is valued and results in the existing diversity that has been noted. The second perspective is that the pond is dead and habitat present is messy and unsightly. The concept of the pond being dead or dying is not accurate based on conditions that were found during the present study. The proposed recommendations have tried to accommodate both perspectives and still preserve the natural habitat and diversity that all enjoy.

- Phragmites Control:
 - Reduce/eliminate the population of this invasive plant species.
- Protect Terrestrial Chimney Crayfish Area:
 - No heavy equipment in the area where they are present.
 - Plantings as a barrier to human and pet entry.
 - Consider signage.

- Woodland Restoration:
 - Plant native herbs, shrubs, trees to increase diversity and benefit wildlife, and prevent erosion (due to sloped topography within the woodland).
 - Remove non-native, invasive plants such as Garlic Mustard, Periwinkle and Common Buckthorn.
 - Remove BMX bicycle ramps, jumps, side trails; restore soils and vegetation.
- Clean up days:
 - Timing: Spring and/or Autumn.
 - Collect garbage throughout the park, work with City to have park waste picked up shortly after clean up day.
 - Training for any woodland restoration volunteer efforts.
- Develop a monitoring program for the North Pond and woodland to track water quality, and success of alien, invasive plant control efforts, and to identify any emerging management issues.

5.2 Secondary Restoration Recommendations

- Create Pollinator Habitat:
 - Plant native herbs/wildflowers used to benefit butterflies, bees and other insects.
 - Use of visually appealing wildflowers.
 - Visible from main walkway.



- Turtle Nesting Habitat:
 - Sand “beach” placed in a sunny area near the North Pond.
 - Goal of creating the nesting habitat is to lure turtles to a safe nesting location away from busy park trails.
 - Nests could be screened for protection from predators.
- Install a Wood Duck nest box:
 - Place one nest box within the small southern pond.
 - Monitor success.

- Signage where management is occurring:
 - Locations can include the turtle nesting area, areas of pollinator plantings etc.
 - Signage could explain purposes of the restoration actions/improvements which have been taken.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

There are a number of priority and secondary recommended actions which can be implemented to improve and maintain the ecological diversity and stability of the ecosystems present in the Westheights Natural Area.

It is recognized that there are differing opinions among neighbourhood residents regarding how the Park and North Pond should be managed. Some residents are content with existing conditions and appreciate the current aesthetic of a “lily-covered” pond. Others wish for an “open water” appearance and worry that the aquatic plant growths indicate that the pond is becoming overgrown and that it will turn into “a swamp”. This latter group of residents think that the pond must be dredged to deepen it and remove the dense aquatic growth.

The ecological study conducted in 2023 and 2024 has found that the pond supports a thriving, diverse biological community, which is appreciated by neighbours and other park visitors from outside the neighbourhood. The trophic state of the pond is eutrophic, meaning nutrient rich. This is typical of small, shallow, standing water bodies in Southern Ontario.

Although small areas of the North Pond were up to 10 feet deep following the 1979 dredging, most of the pond was 7 feet or less deep. A survey of the North Pond water depths in 1995 found that 5 feet was generally the maximum depth zone and that much of the current pond depths have been in place for the last 30± years and have supported a healthy ecosystem.

We have concluded that there is not an ecological need to dredge the pond and that there is great potential for dredging to cause negative impacts to a diverse ecosystem that is valued by many neighbours in its’ current state.

It is recommended that the pond be monitored periodically to determine how effective the restoration works have been and to determine if additional restoration efforts are required.

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