

2011

# Town of Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory



Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Town of Tecumseh

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Report prepared by: Gerry Waldron, *Consulting Ecologist*, Dan Lebedyk, *Conservation Biologist* (ERCA) and Tom Dufour, *GIS Technician* (ERCA).

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360 Fairview Ave. W., Suite 311  
Essex ON N8M 1Y6

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*TABLE OF CONTENTS*

1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1	Project Intent and Project Approach .....	5
1.2	2005 Provincial Policy Statement .....	5
1.3	Natural Heritage System Concept.....	6
1.4	Regional Context.....	7
1.5	Watershed Context .....	7
1.6	Town of Tecumseh Natural Heritage Characteristics .....	8
1.7	Town of Tecumseh Official Plan .....	8
2	METHODOLOGY .....	10
2.1	Ecological Land Classification.....	10
2.2	Field Methods.....	12
2.3	Evaluation Criteria .....	12
2.4	Criteria Scoring .....	16
3	RESULTS.....	17
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #1.....	22
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Sites #2 & 3 .....	29
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #4.....	40
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #5.....	48
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #6.....	57
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #7.....	64
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #8.....	72
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #9.....	83
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #10.....	95
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #11.....	102
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #12.....	110
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #13.....	117
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #14.....	125
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #16.....	134
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #17.....	142
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #18.....	151
	Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #19.....	159

Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #20.....	167
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #21.....	176
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #22.....	183
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #23.....	190
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #24.....	198
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #25.....	208
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #26.....	218
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #27.....	224
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #28.....	232
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #29.....	241
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #30.....	251
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #32.....	258
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #33.....	267
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #34.....	276
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #35.....	284
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #36.....	291
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #37.....	299
Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #38.....	307
4 REFERENCES.....	315

**Tecumseh Natural Heritage Inventory Site #10****1. Site Location**

Municipality: Town of Tecumseh

Legal Description: Lot 11 & 12, Concession 8

ARN: 374454000001700, 374454000001800, 374454000001900, 374454000002000, 374454000002100 and 3744540000011200

PIN: 752360039, 752360041, 752360268, 752360269, 752360270 and 752360271

UTM Zone 17N: 339929 4678188

**2. Size**

4.6 hectares (11.4 acres)

**3. Ownership**

Private

**4. General Description**

Site #10 is a roughly rectangular woodlot located in an area with a mix of agricultural, residential and light industrial uses. Except for an area of asphalt stock piles in the northwest corner, the west, north and east sides are defined by agricultural fields. Three residences and a light industrial building are located on the south side. The residences and industry front on Provincial Road (County Road 46).

The vegetation consists of a few relict trees of oak, maple and, formerly, ash, surrounded by a youthful swamp forest dominated by Silver Maple. The maple and ash regeneration is dense in places. One of the relict Red Oaks measures 122 cm. in diameter. Buckthorn and dogwood dominate the understorey in better drained portions, particularly where the ash and elm canopy has died. Sedge swards occupy the low areas.

The site exhibits pit and mound topography and iceberg keel marks. The ponds in these features are of a duration suitable for amphibian breeding and duck habitat. An open drain is located along the site's east side with the sidecast berm placed in the woods. This drain flows north to the Sixth Concession Drain along Baseline Road and then east to the Little River. The soil at this site is classified as Brookston Clay.

**5. Evaluation Criteria Fulfilled**

Evaluation analyses have determined that the natural heritage feature has fulfilled the following 5 out of 10 evaluation criteria.

**Criterion No. 3 – Significant Woodland**

The area of woodland exceeds two hectares.

**Criterion No. 6 – Ecological Function**

The site functions as a habitat island in a near-urban situation; as such it is likely a stopover for migrating woodland birds. Hydrologically, the site retains water and provides flow to the Little River watershed.

**Criterion No. 7 – Diversity**

The site has a single plant community, but this is diversified by the variation from wide-spreading ancient trees to dense stands of saplings. The understorey varies in density with the openness of the canopy, which is presently very open in those areas of elm and ash mortality. This mortality has created standing and fallen deadwood with a wide range of dimensions. Further diversity comes from glacial iceberg keel marks, some deep enough to retain water for extended periods. The site formerly had a moist meadow community in the northwest corner, but this has been covered by piles of broken asphalt. The meadow community still exists in a fractured and reduced state.

**Criterion No. 8 – Significant Species**

The following significant floral species were observed:

Scientific Name	Common Name	GRank	SRank	COSEWIC	COSSARO
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i> *	Tall Boneset	G5	S1		
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	Pumpkin Ash	G3G4	S2		
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak	G5	S3	SC	SC
<i>Rosa setigera</i>	Prairie Rose	G5	S3	SC	SC

\* Note that only the Pelee Island population of this species is considered native, so these plants can be considered adventive, most likely as railroad waifs from the nearby Canadian National Railway.

The following significant faunal species were observed:

The Significant Fauna Summary includes breeding species and the species that use the site in large numbers for an extended period of time. Migrants and occasional visitors are not included as significant fauna.

Common Name	SRank	COSEWIC COSSARO	Essex Breeding Status	Partners in Flight Level of Concern	Other Significance
Baltimore Oriole	S4	-	Common Widespread	Regional Concern Regional Stewardship	-

**Criterion No. 10 – Condition**

There has not been much recent disturbance to the site except for the stockpiling of broken asphalt in the wet meadow areas of the northwest corner. The adjacent drain has no doubt affected the hydrology of the site, but this has been mitigated by the placement of the drain sidecast into a berm that acts as a dam for water flowing from the woods. Some exotic species such as Southern Catalpa, Sweet Cherry and Common Privet have invaded the site from neighbouring properties.

**6. Comments**

Older topographical maps show this site as an area of widely spaced trees rather than a forest. At that point, approximately forty years ago, the site was likely a livestock pasture.

**7. Floral Inventory**

Surveyors: G. Waldron and P. Hurst

Field Dates: June 26, November 16, 2009

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GRank	SRank	COSEWIC	COSSARO
<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Freeman's Maple	GNA	SNR		
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba Maple	G5	S5		
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	G5	S5		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	G5	S5		
<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>	Swamp Agrimony	G5	S4		
AGROSTIS GIGANTEA	Redtop	G4G5	SNA		
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Hemp Dogbane	G5	S5		
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	G5	S5		
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	Heath Aster	G5	S5		
<i>Aster lanceolatus</i>	Eastern Lined Aster	G5	S5		
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Calico Aster	G5	S5		
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	G5	S5		
<i>Aster pilosus</i>	Hairy Aster	G5	S5		
<i>Bidens vulgata</i>	Tall Beggar-ticks	G5	S5		
BROMUS INERMIS SSP. INERMIS	Smooth Brome	G5	S5		
<i>Carex blanda</i>	Woodland Sedge	G5?	S5		
<i>Carex granularis</i>	Meadow Sedge	G5	S5		
<i>Carex hyalinolepis</i>	Hyaline-scaled Sedge	G4G5	S4		
<i>Carex normalis</i>	Larger Straw Sedge	G5	S4		
<i>Carex radiata</i>	Radiate Sedge	G4	S4		
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge	G5	S5		
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	G5	S5		
CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES	Southern Catalpa	G3G4	SNA		
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	G5	S4		
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade	G5	S5		
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	G5	S5		
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	Gray Dogwood	G5	S5		
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Cockspur Thorn	G5	S5		
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	Downy Hawthorn	G5	S5		
<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	Dotted Hawthorn	G5	S5		
DAUCUS CAROTA	Wild Carrot	GNR	SNA		
DIANTHUS ARMERIA	Deptford Pink	GNR	SNA		
<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>	Red-footed Spike Rush	G5	S5		
<i>Epilobium ciliatum ssp. ciliatum</i>	Willow-herb	G5	S5		
<i>Epilobium coloratum</i>	Cinnamon Willow-herb	G5	S5		
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail	G5	S5		
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Marsh Fleabane	G5	S5		
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	Tall Boneset	G5	S1		
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved Goldenrod	G5	S5		
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	G5	S5		

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GRank	SRank	COSEWIC	COSSARO
<i>FESTUCA ARUNDINACEA</i>	Tall Fescue	GNA	SNA		
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	G5	SU		
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Red Ash	G5	S5		
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	Pumpkin Ash	G4	S2		
<i>Geum aleppicum</i>	Yellow Avens	G5	S5		
<i>Geum canadense</i>	White Avens	G5	S5		
<i>Geum laciniatum</i>	Rough Avens	G5	S4		
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl Manna Grass	G5	S5		
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's Rush	G5	S5		
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Path Rush	G5	S5		
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Rush	G5	S5		
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red Cedar	G5	S5		
<i>LIGUSTRUM VULGARE</i>	Common Privet	GNR	SNA		
<i>LONICERA MAACKII</i>	Amur Honeysuckle	GNR	SNA		
<i>LONICERA TATARICA</i>	Tartarian Honeysuckle	GNR	SNA		
<i>LOTUS CORNICULATA</i>	Birdfoot Trefoil	GNR	SNA		
<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	Common Water Horehound	G5	S5		
<i>LYTHRUM SALICARIA</i>	Purple Loosestrife	GNR	SNA		
<i>MACLURA POMIFERA</i>	Osage Orange	G4G5	SNA		
<i>MALUS PUMILA</i>	Apple	G5	SNA		
<i>MEDICAGO LUPULINA</i>	Black Medick	GNR	SNA		
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	Moonseed	G5	S4		
<i>MORUS ALBA</i>	White Mulberry	GNR	SNA		
<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i>	Leafy Satin Grass	G5	S5		
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	G5	S5		
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Yellow Wood-sorrel	G5	S5		
<i>Panicum praecox</i>	Panic Grass				
<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	Thicket Creeper	G5	S5		
<i>Penthorum sedoides</i>	Ditch Stonecrop	G5	S5		
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed Grass	G5	S5		
<i>PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA</i>	English Plantain; Ribgrass	G5	SNA		
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada Bluegrass	GNR	SNA		
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May Apple	G5	S5		
<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	Nodding Smartweed	G5	S5		
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood	G5	S5		
<i>POTENTILLA RECTA</i>	Rough-fruited Cinquefoil	G5	S5		
<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	Old-field Cinquefoil	G5	S5		
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Heal-all	G5	S5		
<i>PRUNUS AVIUM</i>	Sweet Cherry	GNR	SNA		
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Wild Black Cherry	G5	S5		
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry	G5	S5		
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	G5	S5		
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Burr Oak	G5	S5		
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	G5	S5		

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	GRank	SRank	COSEWIC	COSSARO
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak	G5	S3	SC	SC
<i>RHAMNUS CATHARTICA</i>	Common Buckthorn	GNR	SNA		
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	G5	S5		
<i>ROSA CANINA</i>	Dog Rose	GNR	SNA		
<i>ROSA MULTIFLORA</i>	Multiflora Rose	GNR	SNA		
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	G5	S5		
<i>Rosa setigera</i>	Prairie Rose	G5	S3	SC	SC
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Common Blackberry	G5	S5		
<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Black Raspberry	G5	S5		
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peach-leaved Willow	G5	S5		
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Sandbar Willow	G5	S5		
<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>	Nodding Bulrush	G5	S5		
<i>SOLANUM DULCAMARA</i>	Bittersweet Nightshade	GNR	SNA		
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Tall Goldenrod	G5	S5		
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod	G5	S5		
<i>SONCHUS ARVENSIS</i>	Perennial Sow Thistle	GNR	SNA		
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	G5	S5		
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	White Elm	G5?	S5		
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	G5	S5		
<i>VIBURNUM OPULUS</i>	European Highbush Cranberry	G5	SNA		
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Common Blue Violet	G5	S5		
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	G5	S5		

## 8. Faunal Inventory

Surveyor: Pete Read

Field Date: June 10, 2009

### Birds

Common Name	# Individuals or Territories / Breeding Evidence	SRank	COSEWIC/ COSSARO designation	Essex Breeding Status % squares	Partners in Flight Level of Concern	Other Significance
Red-tailed Hawk	2 AE	S5	NAR NAR	Common Widespread 75%	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	2 SM	S5	-	Common Widespread 86%	-	-
House Wren	3 SM	S5	-	Common Widespread 86%	-	-
American Robin	6 SM	S5	-	Common Widespread 89%	-	-

Common Name	# Individuals or Territories / Breeding Evidence	SRank	COSEWIC/ COSSARO designation	Essex Breeding Status % squares	Partners in Flight Level of Concern	Other Significance
Gray Catbird	4 SM	S4	-	Common Widespread 81%	-	-
European Starling	3 FY	SNA	-	Abundant Widespread 94%	-	-
Song Sparrow	2 SM	S5	-	Common Widespread 83%	-	-
Northern Cardinal	1 SM	S5	-	Common Widespread 94%	-	-
Common Grackle	5 SH	S5	-	Abundant Widespread 94%	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	1 SM	S4	-	Common Widespread 94%	Regional Concern Regional Stewardship	-

**Breeding evidence codes:** SH = suitable habitat, SM = singing male, T = territory, P = pair, A = agitated behaviour, N = nest building or excavation of nest hole, V = visiting probable nest site, AE = adult entering presumed active nest hole, FY = fledged young, CF = carrying food, NE = nest with eggs, NY = Nest with young. SNA = Exotic, non-native species.

### Mammals

No mammals were observed.

### Reptiles

No reptiles were observed.

### Amphibians

No amphibians were observed.

### Butterflies

No butterflies were observed.

### Odonata

No dragonflies or damselflies were observed.

## 9. Restoration and Enhancement Opportunities

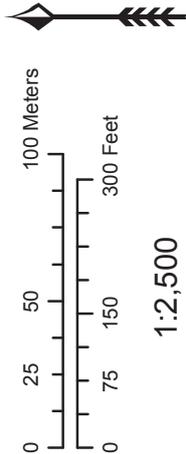
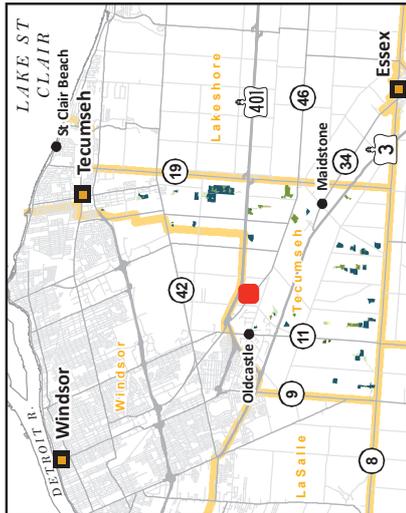
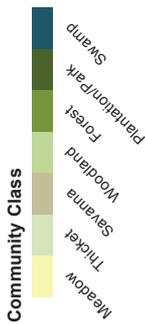
No specific habitat restoration recommendations, as proposed in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS), are noted for this site.

# Site 10

## Legend

- [---] Extent of Ecological Land Classification (ELC) Mapping
- [---] Vegetation Community Boundary\*
- [---] ELC Site Boundary

\*Vegetation Community Code descriptions may be found under 'Criteria No. 7 - Diversity' section of the site report. Community Codes highlighted with a red halo (ex. **SAF 1-2**) denote provincially rare vegetation communities (S Rank).



Data Sources: ERCA field surveys, Spring 2008, aerial photography, Aerial photo copyright the Corporation of the County of Essex, 2008  
 Source: \\swp\Projects\ERCA\Projects\Natural Heritage Mapping\Municipal Projects\Tecumseh Site Report Maps\Tecumseh CNHS - Site Report Map - Sept 2011.mxd  
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