



minto
Communities



MAHOGANY

Conservation Handbook

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1. Introduction

1.1 Creating better communities through great design

At Minto, we believe that people deserve to live better, so we constantly strive to make our homes and our operations more efficient, more resilient and less impactful on the environment. It's a commitment we make to our customers and to the planet, for a healthier, happier future. Reducing the environmental impact of our real estate development, construction, and property management operations while working to create better, more efficient, and beautiful spaces is our promise to you.

We all enjoy quality of life and wellness benefits from living closely with nature. Mahogany Community was designed and built to co-exist with the natural environment now and in the future. The community vision reflects the existing character of the Village of Manotick, the historical legacy of the area, the local iconography of the Rideau Canal and a strong sensitivity towards the existing natural and cultural features on the site surroundings.



2. Natural features of your new community

2.1 Mahogany Creek

This community contains the Mahogany Creek to the east of the stormwater management pond. The Creek flows northward along the eastern border into the Rideau River. It runs through a meadow and in between residential developments.

2.2 Wilson Cowan Drain

The Wilson Cowan Drain is a municipal drain that flows northward on the west side of the Drumlin Forest. Both banks of the Wilson Cowan Drain are covered with a mixture of grasses, shrubs,

and trees. A portion of the Drain, called the Wilson Cowan Tributary, flows northwest from the southwest corner of the community.

2.3 Drumlin Forest

The Manotick Drumlin Forest is a woodland found on the western edge of the new community. The Wilson Cowan Drain flows northward on the west side of the Drumlin Forest. The Forest will become an important resource to the residential culture of the community. There are ten different vegetation community types and/or ecosite types within the Forest, such as Sugar Maple and Red Maple trees.

3. Flora and fauna

3.1 Meet your neighbours

Maintaining natural features in the community means that the area will continue to be home to many of the animals that lived here before these homes were built. Take a look at some of the wildlife that call the Mahogany Community their home:

American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)

The American Toad is one of two species of toads in Ontario. It can be commonly found in the Mahogany Community within spring-time puddles throughout the active agricultural areas. It is a large toad, which grows to around 11 centimetres long as an adult, and is distinguished by a light line down the middle of its back.





**Midland Painted Turtle
(*Chrysemys picta marginata*)**

The Midland Painted Turtle is the most widespread native turtle in North America. It is distinguished by its olive to black upper shell, as well as its red and yellow stripes on the head and the neck.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

The Song Sparrow was the most abundant of bird species observed on the site. It has a high likelihood of breeding on the site. Song Sparrows are medium-sized, bulky sparrows.

Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

The Spring Peeper is a small frog that is tan or light brown in colour and is distinguished with a darker X-shaped marking on the back.



3.2 Species at risk in your community

In Ontario, certain species whose populations are declining are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Many of these species can be found within the Ottawa area and are often seen near developed areas. Within the Mahogany community, the Mahogany Creek and the surrounding area may provide habitat for Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Little Brown Myotis and Butternut trees, among others.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

The Eastern Wood-Pewee's preferred habitat is in a mature and intermediate-aged deciduous and mixed forest with an open understory. It often nests and forages near open areas and forest edges.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

The Wood Thrush's nesting habitat is likely to occur on site in the Drumlin Forest. They can often be found foraging the ground for insects.



Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Little Brown Myotis are little bats with glossy brown fur that are likely to be found in the Drumlin Forest. They feed on insects at night and are most active in the two or three hours after sunset.

Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)

Butternut trees can be found at forest edges and hedgerows.



3.3 We are all stewards

We all have a role to play in protecting the natural environment. Mahogany Community was designed and built to minimize the impact on the environment and as a resident, you are an important steward of the community, including its environmental features.

Your community was designed with nature in mind...

- The woodlot and creeks are maintained and integrated into the parks and open space network within the Mahogany Community.
- The two stormwater management ponds provide aesthetic value and amenity.

- Each of the parks is located a 5-minute walking distance to each other.
- The 'Green Boulevard' serves as a naturalized pathway between the two north-south neighbourhood collectors and provides more natural aesthetic to Bridgeport Avenue.
- The Mahogany Community will provide a logical street system and pathway network oriented towards making parks, natural features and open spaces easily accessible via all modes of transportation.
- Landscape buffers of 4.5 metres will be added along lot lines abutting large lot single-detached dwellings.

3.4 The rest is up to you

Here are some ways that you can help to preserve the natural environment in your community:

In your garden:

- Choose native species of plants which are drought resistant and well suited to the local conditions.
- Practice organic gardening by avoiding pesticides that can disrupt ecosystems and have impacts on human health.

- Use rain capture systems such as rain barrels to reduce the water flowing into the storm sewers and water your garden with rain water.
- Choose permeable surfaces such as paving stones or gravel to allow water to seep into the ground and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff into the storm sewers.
- Make sure you have any required permits before you cut down a tree.

Around your community:

- Protect water quality by always properly disposing of any hazardous materials. Do not pour anything into the storm sewers or the stream.
- Remember that pets must be kept under human control at all times.
- Remember that wildlife can also pose a risk to your pets (especially if your pets are small).

Around the house:

- Reduce the potential for bird fatalities from window strikes. Place markers on your windows so that birds do not try to fly through them. Options include subtle repeating patterns, stickers of falcon silhouettes and stained glass.
- Keep your cat indoors. Cat predation can have dramatic impacts on bird populations. Cats have contributed to the extinction of at least 33 species around the world and are considered the number one direct threat to birds in urban areas.
- Properly store and secure garbage to prevent animals from using it as a food source.

3.5 Try planting some of these native species

Recommended tree species to consider include:

- Red Maple
- White Spruce
- Black Cherry
- White Cedar
- Serviceberry
- Pin Cherry
- White Birch

Recommended shrubs to consider include:

- Common Juniper
- Nannyburry
- Maple-leaf Viburnum
- Northern Bush-honeysuckle

Non-native invasive species can have negative impacts on the natural environment.

Poor plant choices include:

- Amur Maple
- European Mountain-ash
- Norway Maple
- Bugleweed
- Common and Japanese Barberry
- Day Lily
- Honeysuckle
- Periwinkle





4. Important information

Please contact one of these agencies if you encounter an injured animal:

Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
613-258-9480

www.rideauwildlife.org/orphaned-or-injured-wildlife/

Wild Bird Care Centre
613-828-2849

Ottawa Humane Society
Emergency Line: 613-725-1532

<http://www.ottawahumane.ca/services/get-help-for-a-sick-or-injured-animal/>

4.1 Additional information

City of Ottawa (wildlife and conflict avoidance):

ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/animals-ottawas-wildlife

Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (dealing with wildlife problems):

wildlifeinfo.ca/problems.html

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

(creating wildlife-friendly gardens):

<http://ofnc.ca/>

American Bird Conservancy

(impacts of cats on bird populations):

abcbirds.org

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

(species at risk):

www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk

Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife

Services (migratory birds):

www.ec.gc.ca/nature

Rideau Valley

rvca.ca



