



Love where you Live.

IN YOUR BACKYARD A look at nature in your neighbourhood

Warbler Woods - A Sifton Properties Neighbourhood

WARBLER WOODS



Natural Features of Warbler Woods

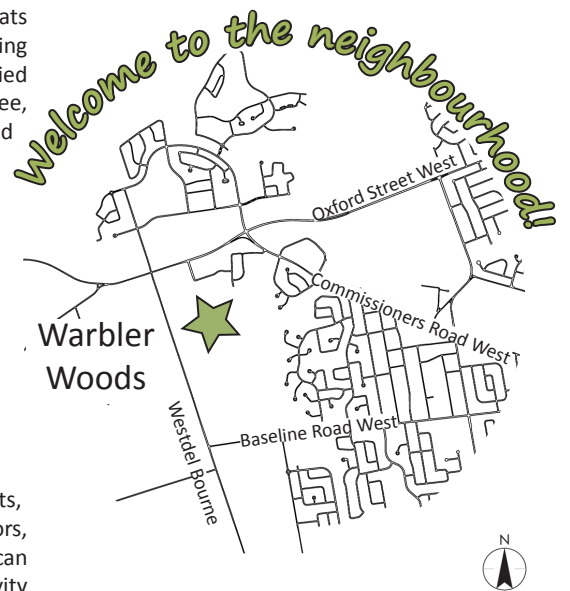
Warbler Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and Hickory Woods Significant Woodland both contain a diverse mix of ecological features that perform important functions within the ecosystem.

Living near Warbler Woods and Hickory Woods makes being aware of their natural features that much more significant. The areas provide wildlife habitat to a diversity of flora and fauna, including rare species, such as the Tawny-Edge Skipper butterfly. Fallen trees and decaying logs provide important habitat for insects, invertebrates, and amphibians. Coniferous trees create winter wildlife cover, old hollow trees make homes, and nut producing trees supply food. The tree canopy helps capture rainfall and control the runoff of polluted water to streams. Trees provide shade to lower the surrounding air and water temperatures. They also clean pollutants from the air and generate oxygen.

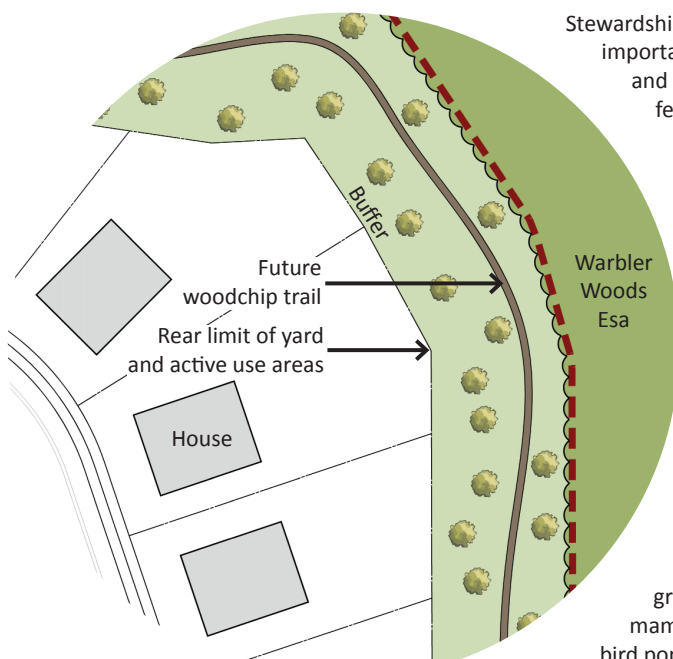
Warbler Woods and Hickory Woods provide habitats for several significant bird species, including the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Purple Martin, and Eastern Towhee, and habitat for wildlife such as the White-Tailed Deer, Leopard Frog, Red Fox, Woodchuck, and Monarch Butterfly.

Warbler Woods and Hickory Woods are habitat and travel corridors for many amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Animals use these corridors to move safely across the landscape by utilizing the tall grass species, shrubs, and tree canopy as protection from predators. Like our own homes, this woodland provides the essential needs for several species... food, water, and shelter.

By being educated, aware of conservation efforts, and supporting local natural heritage endeavors, you can make a difference. Your efforts can contribute to maintaining the quality and longevity of the life of these natural environments.



Stewardship of Natural Areas



Stewardship of natural areas is one of the most important tools available to help protect and maintain the special natural heritage features within your community.

As landowners that back onto Warbler Woods and Hickory Woods, you have been awarded a stewardship role. It is important to respect the limits of your property and the buffer zone adjacent to the woods as the violation of property boundaries will be destructive to natural habitats, disturb wildlife, and be detrimental to biodiversity. Likewise, confining active recreation such as hiking and biking to marked trails, or keeping pets on leashes will ensure the conservation of sensitive ecosystems. Dogs can trample low-growing vegetation and disrupt nesting mammals, and cats wreak havoc on local bird populations.

Stewardship of natural areas benefits the community by...

- 01 Preserving and creating plant and wildlife habitat;
- 02 Maintaining or creating unique aesthetic features that contribute to community identity and property values;
- 03 Preserving recreational opportunities such as hiking and biking on designated trails;
- 04 Minimizing the introduction of pollutants to the soil and water through appropriate yard maintenance practices;
- 05 Maintaining and improving ground water quality by trapping sediments and storing nutrients;
- 06 Providing storage for flood waters within the wetland.

Tree Preservation & Buffer Zones

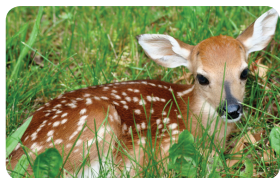
Tree preservation is an effective measure to help reduce disturbance. It can be accomplished by protecting the trees and native groundcover on adjacent lands. This brings the natural features of the woodland closer to you and creates a transition between urban and natural habitats. Buffers help to prevent erosion and increases in water temperature, provide cover and food sources for local wildlife, protect the functions of the woodland, and minimize degradation caused by intensive human activity. Larger shrubs and trees in the buffer area also provide wind protection to your home in the winter. Although it is not mandatory, we encourage you to consider allowing at least the last fifteen feet of your rear yard to act as part of the buffer area.

Yard Fencing

Access to the natural areas must be limited to minimize potential damage, such as destruction of vegetation and nesting habitat. For this reason, yard fencing has been installed along the rear limits of the property bordering the natural area. This fencing protects the woodlands from destruction to vegetation and wildlife habitats. It is important to respect marked limits between rear lot lines and the natural buffer, and keep gardens, lawn, and structures contained on your property.



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird



Newborn Fawn

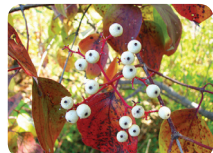


Tawny-Edge Skipper Butterfly

Landscape Design

Grading

The grading plans for lots adjacent to the Warbler Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and Hickory Woods Significant Woodland have been designed to help runoff from the yards, as well as the rooftops, make its way back to the natural area. If you are considering landscaping plans that may change the general grading of your lot, you may affect the amount, quality, and speed of water leaving your site. There are a number of things you can do to maintain the sheet grading and drainage pattern on your lot that will protect and help your yard integrate with this environmentally significant area.



Grey Dogwood



Black Walnut



White Pine



American Chestnut

Yard Maintenance

Chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides can have very negative effects on natural areas and the animal species that live there. These effects can include surface water contamination, the destruction of the microorganisms and earthworms that keep soil healthy, and poisoning animals and insects in addition to the targeted species.

What can you do?

- ✓ Resist the urge to tidy up by retaining tree and shrub litter or dead wood within or around your property;
- ✓ Protect trees and shrubs within the buffer zone and in the ESA adjacent to your property. Trees help moderate water and air temperature, prevent erosion, and provide a habitat for various animal species;
- ✓ Contact the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to address potential hazard trees within the ESA. Trimming or removing large trees and shrubs within the ESA is prohibited.

What can you Do?

- ✓ Plant large areas of native garden beds;
- ✓ Maintain the original graded slope of your lot as much as possible. Building berms, retaining walls, or swales at the back of your lot can obstruct or alter the flow of water to the natural areas;
- ✓ Use permeable materials and construction methods rather than poured concrete or asphalt (i.e. brick, wood, and flagstone) if you are using hard surfaced materials;
- ✓ Avoid using chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers near the woodland;
- ✓ Keep compost within your property limits and don't dump organic waste within the ESA. Bag leaves and clippings to leave at the curb on yard waste collection days.

Plant Material

Warbler Woods Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and Hickory Woods Significant Woodland are home to a large number of native plant species. Witch Hazel, Red Currant, Silky Dogwood, and Chokecherry are native shrubs found in Warbler Woods. Beautiful wildflowers bloom through the growing season, including Red and White Trillium, Trout Lily, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Rose, Yarrow, Field Thistle, Buttercup, and Aster.

Warbler Woods ESA supports a rich variety of tree species, such as Sugar Maple, White Pine, Blue Beech, Sumac, Ironwood, Paper Birch, Shagbark Hickory, Black Cherry, Trembling Aspen, and Red Oak. Rare species of trees, such as Pignut Hickory and American Chestnut also grow in the Warbler Woods area.

Living next to Warbler Woods ESA and Hickory Woods provides a natural backdrop for your yard and can inform decisions on what plant species to select for your garden. These decisions can enhance the functions of the locally significant property if you choose non-invasive native

plant species. Native plants provide additional habitat for local birds, mammals, and insects, which perform important pollinator roles within the local ecosystem. They are generally hardier and more disease resistant than many exotic species.

Choosing the Right **TREE**
IN LONDON, ONTARIO



The Sherwood Fox Arboretum and ReForest London

Choosing the Right **Shrub**
IN LONDON, ONTARIO



The Sherwood Fox Arboretum and ReForest London

ReForest London publishes native plant selection pamphlets. These pamphlets are available at www.reforestlondon.ca.

What can you Do?

- ✓ Plant native species as much as possible;
- ✓ Cultivated varieties of native plants are acceptable, but not encouraged. Keep more formal gardens and exotic plants in your front yard;
- ✓ Buy native plant species from garden centre or seed supply company;
- ✓ Refrain from removing native plant species from the ESA. Doing so could jeopardize the remaining population of that species;
- ✓ Visit reforestlondon.ca for lists of native trees and shrubs that are appropriate for incorporating in your garden. The lists also make recommendations on invasive species to avoid planting.