

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2006 12:54:34 -0400 (EDT)
From: saveourgreenspace saveourgreenspace
<saveourgreenspace@rogers.com>
Subject: Fwd: Bowesville Woods LRT Site
To: "Frederick W. Schueler" <bckcdb@istar.ca>
CC: Albert Dugal <awdugal@rogers.com>

Dr. Schueler,

Attached is Mr. Albert Dugal's research and analysis of the Federal Government Transport Canada lands at the Bowesville site - the City of Ottawa's preferred site for a maintenance yard.

Mr. Dugal's research findings show:

1. That the flora indicates that much of these woods should be classified as a wetland.
- 2; As well, that the woodland contains a large population of *Carex debilis*, a Regionally Significant vascular Plant species, as well as 13 species of Regionally Uncommon vascular plants.

Your knowledge of the Bowesville ponds and woodlot is important. I know that you have visited this site a number of times, can you support Mr. Dugal's research and analysis?

Are you able to offer more information on amphibians, reptiles, Molluscs, and Crayfish in this area of the chosen maintenance yard or along the rail tracks in the Greenbelt?

Your help is much appreciated, thanking you in advance,

Cheryl

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2006 15:30:18 -0400
From: "Frederick W. Schueler" <bckcdb@istar.ca>
To: saveourgreenspace saveourgreenspace <saveourgreenspace@rogers.com>
CC: Albert Dugal <awdugal@rogers.com>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Bowesville Woods LRT Site

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Our summary of this woods was: "The Bowesville Woods are low flat big-tree Aspen/Red Maple woods with a ferny ground cover that suggests spore-borne colonization. Broad-leaved Plantain and vivid Heal-all throughout the woods are further indications of the secondary nature of the ground cover, and the older trees are spaced out as if the woods were quite heavily grazed until recently. We saw two small dark frogs that may have been Wood Frogs, a Ruffed Grouse apparently distracting us from a brood, an apparent Fox den, a Redtail Hawk acting as if it were near a nestsite, and dried-up vernal pools containing the Polished Tadpole Snail, *Aplexa hypnorum*."

All this adds to Albert's evaluation is that the presence of estivating aquatic snails removes any doubt about the wetland character of the woods. Wider sampling would be necessary to see how widespread the snails are, but they at least corroborate the botanical evidence of wet conditions.

As I said in my report, finding amphibians would take spring visits, since mid-summer is the worst time to seek them. We did, however, see frogs that looked like Wood Frogs, which would have likely bred in vernal ponds in these woods, rather than moving from the small ephemeral Pasture Pond SW of High Rd, where we found Wood Frog tadpoles.

...or along the rail tracks in the Greenbelt?

"The wetlands and woods between Lester and Hunt Club roads are a very

diverse mosaic of contiguous habitats: shrub swamps that would be plausible habitat for the Blanding's Turtles; vernal ponds extending into swamps, low woods dominated by alien Earthworms, sandy woods with a relatively intact flora, the open Monarch Butterfly fields in the centre of the area, grassy tracksides that support populations of the large native land snail *Neohelix cf. albolabris* (as evidenced by scattered shells on the railbed), the non-freezing North Pond, and woods south of there with large trees, but an understorey made up of forest edge herbs." -- i don't have much more of an answer than this until I know what the question will be. Albert, do you have a copy of my report to Cheryl & Larry (from which these quotes come)?

Maybe we should take a swing through the Lester woods with the GPS and delimit the wetland areas, if this is what's going to force a more intensive EA?

You might both take a look at <http://pinicola.ca/nasuta.htm>

fred.

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