

Urban Ecological Site Analysis of Earl Bales Park



Manminder Singh

Background

Earl Bales Park in its entirety is spread across a 127-acre site **south-east** of the intersection of **Sheppard Avenue West** and **Bathurst Street** in the northern part of **Toronto**.



- An integral part of the Don Valley Watershed
- An important link to the wider natural ecosystem for wildlife and humans alike
- Site for stormwater management
- An ever-changing and evolving landscape
- A former post-glacial forest, and likely indigenous settlement, turned farm, turned golf club, turned ski/snowboard centre and sprawling public park



Fallen and sawed-off logs provide habitats for decomposers, and small forest creatures.
M. Singh

Landscape

Carved by thousands of years of glaciation. And human manipulation.

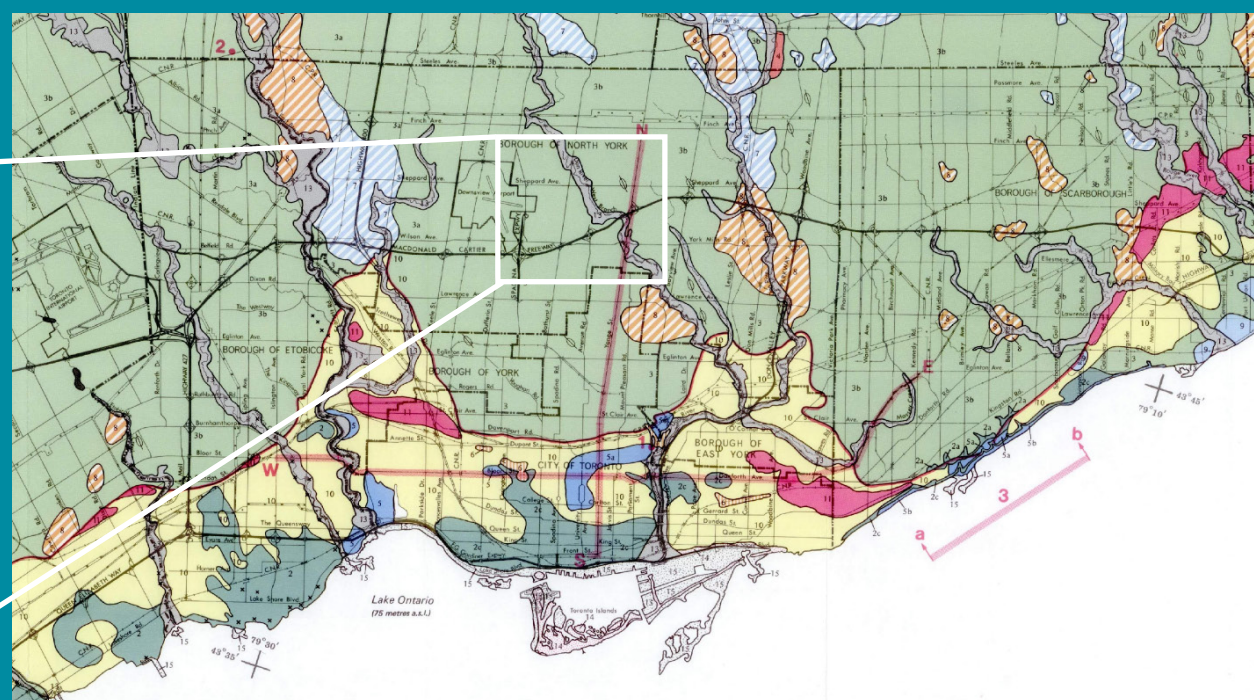
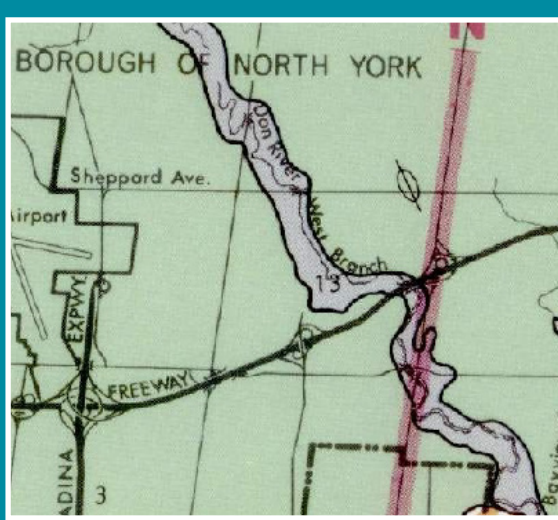
- 1 Erosion of rock by frozen ice and subsequent meltwater would produce layers of mineral rich soil at this site, as well as all over Ontario.
- 2 The rich mixture of soil would be optimal for a dense, biodiverse ecosystem.
- 3 The mineral abundant and now organic matter rich soil and would be integral for human settlement and eventual urbanization.



There are renaturalization opportunities of the water-way under the Sheppard Avenue bridge.
M. Singh



Young till and modern river deposits around E.B. Park.



Soil classification.
Ministry of Natural Resources

Water

Water has shaped the landscape and our relationship with it.

The stormwater management pond has an integral role in the watershed to not only regulate water flows but to provide a habitat for fish and waterfowl.

We have attempted to control and manipulate the way the water flows through the park and beyond, while renaturalization has attempted to reverse course.

The Don River has started to rebound after years of abuse.



Don River Watershed.
Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Usage



Proposed development on the edge of Earl Bales Park.
UrbanToronto

Land use planning is very complex and must balance human intensification and ecological sustainability.



Density requires effective transportation, but human transportation can just as easily disrupt wildlife movements.



The use of land must be done responsibly including when balancing human enjoyment with environmental conservation.



Education and awareness is at the root of urban watershed conservation efforts.



A mallard in Earl Bales stormwater management pond in summer.
M. Singh



Stormwater management pond in summer.
M. Singh



Looking east down into the valley with the North York skyline in the background.
M. Singh



urban ecology
ENVS 3740

