

Wardsville Woods

Wardsville Woods is a 20 ha (50 acre) tract of upland and ravine forest located at 1635 Longwoods Road in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex. Wardsville Woods is located in the Skunk's Misery Natural Area (SMNA), a 35 km² mosaic of mature Carolinian forest and productive farmland. Skunk's Misery contains mature Carolinian deciduous forest and productive agricultural land centered at the intersection of the four municipalities of Southwest Middlesex, Dawn-Euphemia (in Lambton County), West Elgin and Chatham-Kent. The SMNA represents the finest example of Carolinian (deciduous) swamp and upland forest remaining in southwestern Ontario. It is home to a significant number of Ontario's rare and endangered plants and animals, including snakes and birds, such as the Acadian Flycatcher and Cerulean Warbler.

Part of Wardsville Woods was formerly a nine-hole golf course, which covered about 6 ha on the east side of the property. This area is now being returned to a natural state through the removal or mitigation of hazardous man-made features and through the control of invasive plants. The bulk of the property (14 ha) consists of mixed-deciduous woods. Mature specimens of two iconic Carolinian species, Tuliptree and Sassafras, as well as American Beech, White and Red Oak and Sugar Maple trees are found here.



A small creek flows through Wardsville Woods to the Thames River. The property contains a sizable forested ravine, which represents rare terrain at Skunk's Misery. Other ravines here that extend towards the Thames River contain little mature forest. While Wardsville Woods - as does all of Skunk's Misery - lies on the Bothwell Sandplain, the creek at the bottom of the ravine has eroded through the upper sand deposits to expose the underlying heavy clay. This provides the property with a variety of soil types and drainage conditions (upland, slope, and floodplain forest) and a wide representation of Carolinian trees and understory plants, including a rich ground layer of spring ephemerals on the hummock and swale microtopography of the upland forest.

Wardsville Woods is currently not open to the public. TTLT volunteers are working to restore damaged habitat on the property and to develop a trail system. After suitable progress has been made the property will open for the community to visit and enjoy.

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Subject Property:
Wardsville Woods
Pt Lot 18, Range 1, NLR
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Middlesex County

Legend

- Wardsville Woods
- Assessment Parcel
- Waterbody
- Watercourse



1:12,000



Aerial imagery taken in 2010.
This map is for illustrative purposes only.
Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator
of routes, locations or features nor as a guide
to navigation.

