



Pinery Bluffs



living in harmony with nature

The Pinery Bluffs Subdivision is situated in a unique natural area that is ecologically significant and sensitive. As a resident of this community, you have the opportunity to participate in the stewardship of the surrounding natural area. This brochure provides an overview of the natural features and how you can help protect them for future generations.

Oak Woodland and Oak Savannah

The predominant habitat type in the area is Oak Woodland. This habitat is characterized by a fairly open canopy of several species of Oak trees (Red, White, Black, Bur and Chinquapin Oak). In addition, Oak Savannah is present on the large sand dune that extends across the subdivision. This habitat is even more open than Oak Woodland, with scattered Oak trees and sunlight tolerant shrubs and ground covers.

Both Oak Woodland and Oak Savannah habitats are considered rare in Ontario. In addition, there are a number of rare plant species present on the site and in the general area, including Dwarf Hackberry, a shrub species considered Threatened in Ontario. Other rare species include Blazing Stars and several species that are associated with prairie / savannah habitats (e.g. Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Butterfly Milkweed, Fragrant Sumac and Black Oak). These plants prefer the dry, sandy conditions found in the area. Other plant species are listed at the end of the brochure.

Wildlife

The Oak Woodland and Savannah vegetation communities also provide habitat for a diverse group of wildlife. A large list of birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and butterflies has been recorded in the nearby Pinery Provincial Park, which contains Oak Woodland / Savannah and other habitat types. The area is particularly notable for its diversity of nesting birds and butterflies, but also provides habitat for many bird species during annual migrations. Some wildlife species found in the area are listed at the end of the brochure.



View of the central dune

Environmental Protection

One of the key objectives in the planning and design of the Pinery Bluffs Subdivision was environmental protection. In recognition of the ecological significance and sensitivity of the Oak Woodland / Savannah and sand dune habitats, a Vegetation Protection Zone has been identified. The Vegetation Protection Zone is shown on Figure 1 of this brochure. It includes most of the

large sand dune, and a band around the perimeter of the subdivision.

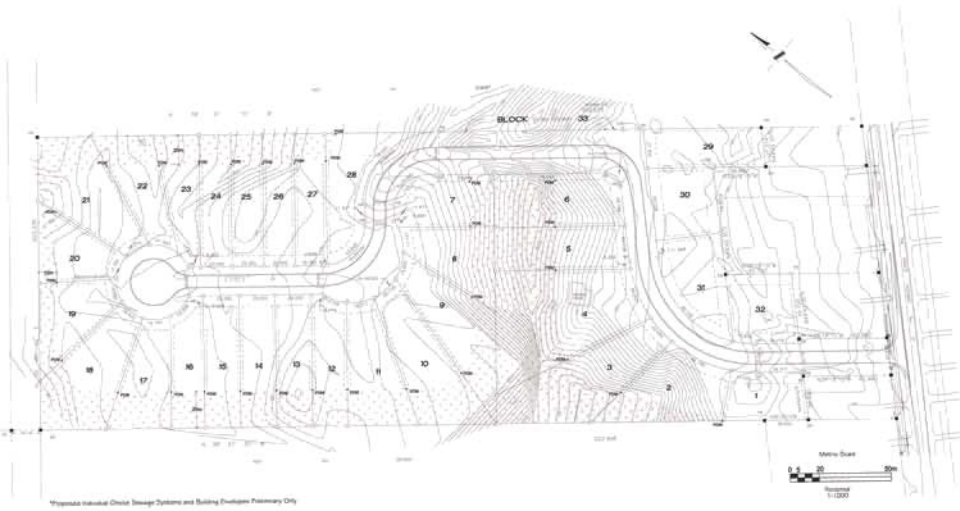


Figure 1. Subdivision Layout showing Vegetation Protection Zone in red

A portion of the rear lots is within the Vegetation Protection Zone, as delineated by decorative Property Delineation Markers.



The intent of the Vegetation Protection Zone is to maintain the existing Oak Woodland and Savannah habitat in its natural state, with no buildings, gardens or other alterations. The Vegetation Protection Zone is shown on your property Title and activities within the zone are regulated by a Conservation Easement, administered by the Municipality of Lambton Shores. For removal of potential hazard trees within the Vegetation Protection Zone on your lot, please contact the Municipality of Lambton Shores.

Example of Property Demarcation Marker

What You Can Do To Help

As residents, your attitudes and actions can have positive or negative effects on natural areas. What we do in our own back yards can have a direct and significant effect on the functioning of a healthy environment. Here are a few things that you can do to help:

Take only photographs

Enjoy the natural area within the Vegetation Protection Zone, but please do not disturb the flora and fauna. Damaging vegetation or digging up plants affects the visual appearance, disturbs the soil, and promotes more weedy species to move in. It may also encourage others to take plants. Enjoy the natural woodland background, but avoid walking through it.

Keep within your own property boundary



Blazing Star

injury outdoors, and is more likely to bring fleas back into the house. At a minimum, put a bell on an outdoor cat. Control your dog on a leash.

Please do not dump yard refuse, garbage, fill, branches, lawn clippings or compost into the Vegetation Protection Zone. The dumped material is an eyesore, inhibits regeneration, and promotes the spread of aggressive weedy plant species. Composting of yard refuse (including leaves) provides excellent mulch and soil material for use in the garden.

Please don't extend rear lot limits and activities beyond the Property Delineation Markers into the Vegetation Protection Zone. This includes building sheds, decks or kennels, placing compost piles or fire pits, or removing vegetation. Such activities tend to "creep" into natural areas, and can result in cumulative damage to woodland resources.

Control your Pets

Please keep your dogs and cats under control. Free ranging pets can kill or disturb wildlife. A free roaming cat can kill large numbers of birds, is prone to

Use Hazardous Products Responsibly

As you enhance and protect your lawn and garden try to use organic alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers that can affect adjacent natural areas. Please adhere to either current or future pesticide regulations in force in the Municipality.

Please do not empty any hazardous wastes (such as oil, varsol, waste paints, automotive or household cleaning products) on the ground, down a sink or storm drain, or in the Vegetation Protection Zone.



Give Nature a Helping Hand

When gardening, try to use native plant species, which are typically more resistant to local climate extremes, insects and some plant diseases and usually require less watering. Native plants can also provide food sources for butterflies and songbirds. Native plants should be obtained from a Nursery or Garden Centre and NOT removed from the Vegetation Protection Zone or other natural areas.

Non-native species can spread from yards and gardens to nearby natural areas and threaten the survival of sensitive native plants. As an example, Norway



Dwarf Hackberry

Maple has infiltrated many woodland areas where its dense shade prevents any groundcover regeneration. Similarly, groundcovers such as Periwinkle, Lily-of-the-valley, English Ivy and Goutweed are highly invasive and spread rapidly into woodlands. Please avoid planting these species on your property.

Thank you for doing your part. Enjoy the natural areas responsibly and everyone, including the environment, will benefit!

Selected List of Flora and Fauna found in Pinery Bluffs:

Flora

White Oak	Black Oak	Riverbank Grape
Red Oak	Dwarf Hackberry	Indian grass
New Jersey Tea	Witch Hazel	Agrimony
Bush Honeysuckle	Lowbush Blueberry	Spreading Dogbane
Chokecherry	Raspberry spp.	Wild Sarsaparilla
Rough Blazing Star	Wormwood	American Harebell
Wild Columbine	Big Bluestem	New England Aster
Little Bluestem	Butterfly Milkweed	Sedge spp.
Smooth Aster	Tick Trefoil	Helleborine
Bedstraw spp	Flowering Spurge	White Snakeroot
Wintergreen	Woodland Sunflower	Wild Licorice
Wild Bergamot	Indian Pipe	Field Hawkweed
Goldenrod spp.	Bearberry	Common St. John's-wort

Fauna

Downy Woodpecker
Cedar Waxwing
White-breasted Nuthatch
American Goldfinch
Eastern Wood Pewee
Red-eyed Vireo
Black-capped Chickadee
White-throated Sparrow
Ovenbird
Wood Thrush
Northern Flicker
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Wild Turkey



Contacts:

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For information regarding applicable by-laws and activities within the Vegetation Protection Zone (e.g. hazard tree removal).

The Friends of Pinery Park. Website - <http://www.pinerypark.on.ca/index.html>

Includes detailed information on Pinery Provincial Park (e.g. lists of flora and fauna, park history and activities)

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Website - <http://www.abca.on.ca/index.php>.

Additional information on environmental features in the area, including wetlands, watercourses and the Lake Huron Coastline.



This brochure has been prepared by Ecoplans Limited.