

2 Woodlands

A Natural Features and Areas



Large Areas of Woodlands, Trent University

The Symons Campus boasts large areas of woodlands. Some forest units show their cultural heritage strongly (e.g., cultural woodlands, plantations) others have established more natural states or represent those features that were retained on the landscape throughout its agricultural past. The Phase 1 Preliminary Significance Assessment identified a number of potentially Significant Woodlands. Significant Woodlands are defined in the Provincial Policy Statement as ecologically important in terms of features (such as species composition, age of trees, and stand history); functionally important due to contribution to the broader landscape (such as location, size, or the amount of forest cover in the planning area); or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. Preliminary findings presented in the Natural Heritage Report will be confirmed or updated through site-specific study, which may include changes to levels of significance.

Woodlands create a more comfortable microclimate, and offer habitat for birds, pollinating insects such as butterflies, and other wildlife. Woodlands of varying size offer a range of habitat opportunities on the landscape. Beyond that, woodlands offer opportunities for low impact jaunts through which, studies show strong improvements to mood and attention span, and even enhanced psychological stress recovery.

Cognizant of their significance and sensitivity, measures should be taken to integrate woodlands into proposed developments by recommending edge protection, restoration planting, invasive species management, tree preservation during construction and post construction, and grade adjustments.



Woodland Plantation near Symons Campus, Trent University



Walks through Woodland, Trent University



Autumn Colours in the Nature Areas, Trent University