

## Doon Regional Forest

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# DOON

Region of Waterloo

Regional Forest

<b>Municipality:</b>	City of Kitchener
<b>Location:</b>	Lot: Former Waterloo Twp Concession: B.U.T.
<b>Access:</b>	Open to the Public; entrances on Mill Park Drive, Arrowhead Cres.
<b>General Location:</b>	North of Homer Watson Blvd. south of Mill Park Drive
<b>Size:</b>	29.1 hectares
<b>Physiographic Area:</b>	Till plains and outwash plains
<b>Eco-region:</b>	Central Grand River
<b>Associated ESPA(s):</b>	<b>Homer Watson Park (ESPA 31)</b>
<b>Date of Acquisition:</b>	1949
<b>Soils:</b>	Sandy loams
<b>Primary Public Uses:</b>	Walking, running, biking, cross-country skiing

### General Description

Doon Regional Forest is contained within the larger context of Homer Watson Park ESPA (ESPA 31). Residential development is found on three sides of this Regional Forest while Homer Watson Parkway provides a boundary on the fourth side. This Regional Forest is a popular location for walkers and bikers. Most of the forest consists of conifer plantations, some of which have been thinned in the past while others have been essentially untouched since establishment.

The mature woodland that makes up the Homer Watson Park ESPA (ESPA 31) is located on high, steep wooded bluffs along the Grand River. The major forest type is Sugar Maple-Beech, but there is also a notable stand of large Eastern Hemlocks, Red Maples and Yellow Birch. Small areas of spring-fed mixed swamp forest, cedar thicket, and fields occur along an abandoned railway right-of-way and along the Schneider Creek floodplain. Areas of pine and spruce plantation occur sporadically within the ESPA, the largest of which forms the ESPA's eastern boundary.

### General Management Goals

Due to its urban nature and extensive use, all management activities in the Doon Regional Forest must be sensitive to the ongoing use by the public and the maintenance and enhancement of aesthetic values within the urban context.

Conifer plantations that are showing widespread dieback will be targeted for immediate management, in particular conversion to appropriate hardwood stands. While efforts will be made to retain healthy conifers, it is likely that there will be a need for extensive cutting in several areas. Other stands will be targeted for thinning operations designed to encourage both release of healthy trees and to begin conversion to hardwood stand types.

## **Doon Regional Forest**

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Control of invasive species, in particular Common Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard, is imperative and ongoing monitoring and management of encroachment by neighbours (through yard expansion as well as dumping of organic waste materials) is also a priority.

### **Facilities**

There is an extensive network of trails throughout Doon Regional Forest, many of which have evolved through use by mountain bikers, hikers and children playing in the forest.

There is a small parking area near the Doon Presbyterian Cemetery on Mill Park Road. On-road parking is found at the boardwalks on Arrowhead Crescent and in the residential section of Mill Park Road. A former entrance on Homer Watson Boulevard is no longer readily accessible since the road was realigned several years ago.

### **Special Considerations**

Use by neighbours (especially children) will be a concern during any forestry activities. There has been some discussion with the Waterloo Stewardship Network and the Waterloo Wellington Woodlot Owners Association regarding the possibility/potential of using some of Doon Regional Forest as a demonstration woodlot. The goal of the demonstration woodlot would be to demonstrate forest stewardship to a primarily urban audience by using a variety of sustainable forest management techniques to achieve explicitly stated objectives. A proposal is being prepared outlining the process and requirements for implementing the demonstration woodlot. If the proposal is acceptable, it will be necessary to ensure that management activities throughout the regional Forest are compatible with, and complementary to, each other.