

Petersburg Regional Forest



PETERSBURG

Region of Waterloo

Regional Forest

Municipality:	Wilmot
Location:	Pt. Lot 3, 4, COnc. N.S.R.
Access:	Via right-of-way at 1974 Snyder's Road East. Also via Hydro Right-of-way ("the Hydrocut") at the northern extreme of the property
General Location:	North side of Snyder's Road, east of Petersburg
Size:	40.5 ha
Physiographic Area:	Waterloo Sandhills and outwash plains
Eco-region:	Wilmot
Associated ESPA(s):	15 (St. Agatha Forest)
Date of Acquisition:	1948
Soils:	Loam and sandy loam

General Description

Petersburg RF is part of ESPA 15 (St. Agatha Forest) and a Life Science ANSI of local significance. The tract has long been a popular recreation area for residents of the nearby cities, used for walking, skiing, hunting and other activities. Hunting is no longer permitted due to its increasing popularity as a recreational area for walkers, cyclists and horseback riders. Bush parties and the use of dirt bikes have caused some conflicts with neighbours in the past. Most recently, mountain bikers have making extensive use of the existing trail network as well as establishing a new trail network.

The northern region of the tract contains some high quality hard maples that can serve as a natural seed source for conversion of conifer plantations to hardwoods.

This area is an extremely valuable corridor for the movement of wildlife in the Region of Waterloo. It links to other natural areas such as Spongy Lake, Baden Hills and the Phillipsburg Floodplain Forest.

General Management Goals

Conversion of poor quality conifer plantations to mixed hardwood stands. Petersburg Regional Forest has become a very popular location for mountain biking and other recreational activities and management that allows for such ppursuit will be a priority

Facilities

A small parking lot at the southern entrance via right-of-way at 1974 Snyder's Road East. Officially the tract has approximately 3 km of gravel road (0.7 km) and packed dirt track (2.4 km); however, there are several additional kilometres of "single track" bicycle trails that have become established over the past few years.

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Special Considerations

ESPA designation of this tract and the high level of recreational use and the related impacts may be a conflict. Forest management activities have the potential to reduce the recreational value of this tract which may result in the recreational users to look elsewhere for their pursuits. In turn this may result in the degradation of other areas, which may well be of higher ecological and environmental value than the present day Petersburg.

At one time the wetland area in the southeast corner was of reasonably high quality with some unique species; however, a washout from the gravel pit to the east caused a massive quantity of sediment to be deposited in the wetland, significantly decreasing its value.

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Scale: 1 to 6500

PETERSBURG (Regional Forest)

Area: 40.5 ha

