



EXISTING CONDITIONS AND DOCUMENTED TRENDS



Deer in field at Tecumseh Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

More than 2700 hectares (6700 acres) in the Natural Areas System
= 9.5% of the City

These calculations include Special Management Areas and Linkages in the Natural Areas System.

The urban forest contains about 2.1 million trees
= about 15% canopy cover across the City

This includes treed natural areas as well as trees outside of natural areas (e.g., in parks, along streets, in yards, etc.)

DOCUMENTED TRENDS

Natural Areas

- Over the past 12 years there have been losses of natural areas (particularly upland wooded areas), but overall there has been a small gain in the extent of natural areas (largely as a result of municipal acquisitions)
- Despite the beneficial naturalization projects undertaken by the City, over the past 12 years the overall quality of the City's remaining natural areas has declined
- The Natural Areas System has some good north-south connectivity (primarily along the river and creek corridors), but east-west ecological connectivity is limited

Urban Forest

- The number of tree species in the City is relatively high (+230 species), but there is a predominance of maple and ash trees
- Most of the trees in the city are in good health and of small diameter
- Emerald Ash Borer currently poses a serious threat to the ash trees in the City



Trail through McKechnie Woods



Public boardwalk