A photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The text is overlaid on a green rectangular background in the upper left corner.

Natural Area Mapping and Inventory of Vinmont Veteran Park 2011 Survey

Prepared by:



NYC Parks

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Vinmont Veteran Park Natural Area Mapping & Inventory Surveyed 2011

3.52 acres

Introduction

The City of New York Parks & Recreation (Parks) manages one of the most extensive and varied parks systems of any city in the world. These 29,000 acres of city park property occupy about 15 percent of New York City's total area. In addition to flagship parks such as Central Park and Prospect Park, the city's parklands include over 11,000 acres of natural areas.

Until the 1980's, Parks was primarily concerned with developed landscapes and recreation facilities rather than natural areas. In the absence of a comprehensive management policy, these areas succumbed to invasive species, pollution and erosion. In 1984, Parks established the Natural Resources Group (NRG) with a mandate to acquire, restore, and manage natural areas in New York City. The wetlands, forests, meadows, and shorelines under Parks' jurisdiction provide valuable habitat for hundreds of species, from rare wildflowers to endangered birds of prey. To facilitate the protection, management and restoration of natural areas, NRG began an inventory of parkland using entitation, a process of identifying and describing ecologically distinct plant communities (or entities).

Entitation

Originally designed for European landscapes, the system was revised by NRG in 1985 for use in urban parkland. This method of inventory was chosen because it is well suited to the patchy environments often found in urban areas. The focus of this type of survey is to break down a landscape into discrete, manageable units based primarily on dominant vegetation; each unit is described as an "entitation unit". Entitation units are defined using a weighted list of criteria. The following distinctions qualify entitation units:

- Vegetation cover type (e.g. closed forest, vineland, scrub)
- Dominant canopy vegetation (e.g. Norway maple, hickory, oak)
- Understory vegetation type (e.g. herbs, vines, shrubs)

Additional factors, such as topography, current use, environmental disturbance and soil condition (e.g. wet, moist, and dry) are also taken into account. Using aerial photographs and field reconnaissance, a landscape can be delineated and mapped into distinct ecological entities. These maps and descriptions will serve as baseline ecological data to plan and conduct natural areas management.

Data Collection

To prepare for fieldwork, mapping technicians examine aerial photographs, delineate areas of similar cover and create a strategy for on the ground surveys. In the field, boundaries are identified as described based on ground cover and vegetation types. For each unit, staff records the data listed above, current uses, environmental disturbances, historical indicators, community stability, and a narrative description of the area including management concerns and notable other species present.

Once collected, all of this data is then entered into a central entitation database. The field maps are then digitized in ArcGIS with the boundaries of each unit recreated and linked to the entitation database. Once the digital map and database are linked maps can be created and

information can be queried quickly. The final step is to convert the unit map and descriptions into a final report format.

Vinmont Veteran Park Overview

Vinmont Veteran Park serves as a memorial to honor local veterans who served their country in past wars. The park is named after both the surrounding Vinmont neighborhood and adjacent Vinmont Road. These, in turn, are named after Robert C. Weinberg (1902-1974), who designed the private development and the road that serves it. “Weinberg,” meaning “wine mountain” in German, translates to “vinmont” in French. Robert Weinberg, an architect and city planner, was an employee of New York City’s Department of Parks during the 1930s. Responsible for locating and selecting sites for playgrounds, Weinberg redesigned playgrounds according to local needs rather than following formula-like guidelines—an unconventional practice for the time.

In addition to the ball field and playgrounds, a forested woodland dominates the eastern edge of the park. This woodland is mostly native with large oaks, black cherry and sweetgum in the overstory. A recent capital improvement project has focused efforts on removing any invasives and planting more native trees and shrubs. With its surrounding trees, playground, and ballpark, Vinmont Veterans Park provides the neighborhood with a peaceful spot for sport and recreation that can be enjoyed by all.


Technicians: Clara Pregitzer and Tim Wenskus

Vinmont Veteran Park 2011 Entitation Bronx, NY



Legend

 entitation unit

0 25 50 100 150 200
 Feet

Unit:	1	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.09	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IB2a3				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Closed Forest	Norway maple	>30' & 5-30'	Yes		Foot traffic	Trash
Deciduous	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Hemicryptophytes	Cool season grass	<5'				
Level						
Dry						

Comments:

This unit is a forested strip bordered by Riverdale Avenue to the west and a rock retaining wall to the east and is dominated by mature Norway maple. The understory is sparse, compacted and dominated by white wood aster and cool season grass. Other species include: Asiatic day flower, dandelion, smartweed, and plantain.

Unit:	2	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.08	Management	Yes	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IB2a3				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Herbaceous	Cool season grass	<5'	No		Foot traffic	Soil compaction
Deciduous	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Hemicryptophytes	Dayflower, Asiatic	<5'	Yes			
Level						
Dry						

Comments:

This is an open, meadow like unit dominated by cool season grass, white wood aster and Asiatic dayflower. A desire line goes directly through the unit. It is bordered by a Norway maple unit and Riverdale Avenue to the west. Other species include: Asiatic day flower, smartweed, poison ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, path rush, Virginia creeper and black locust.

Unit:	3	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.17	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IIB2a3				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Woodland	Locust, black	<5' & 5-30'	Yes		Foot traffic	Soil compaction
Deciduous	Norway maple	<5' & 5-30'	Yes			Trash
Hemicryptophytes	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Undulating	Oak, red	>30' & 5-30'	No			
Dry/Moist	Cherry, black	5'-30'	No			

Comments:

This is a mixed native and invasive woodland unit dominated by black locust and Norway maple with some red oak and black cherry mixed in the overstory. The understory is completely bare in spots and in other areas mostly herbaceous with white wood aster, smartweed and Asiatic dayflower. There is some black locust regeneration in spots. A desire line runs through the unit. Other species: Violet, Japanese honeysuckle, poison ivy, cool season grass, Virginia creeper, and scattered bush honeysuckle.

Unit:	4	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.24	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IB2a3				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Closed Forest	Sweetgum	<5' & >30'	No	Full-crown tree	Foot traffic	
Deciduous	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Hemicryptophytes	Locust, black	<5' & 5-30'	No			
Slope						
Dry/Moist						

Comments:

This is a sweetgum dominated forest with an open aster, goldenrod and cool season grass dominated understory. One large full sun sweetgum and several black locust. There is no shrub layer in this unit but some small regenerating black locust. There is a constructed foot path in the unit, several light posts and some planted which hazel at the path intersection. Other species: wild strawberry, Sassafras, dandelion, oats, spotted knapweed, scattered moss, violet.

Unit:	5	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.04	Management	Yes	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IIIA2a				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Scrub	euonymus, spp.	<5' & 5-30'	Yes		Foot traffic	Erosion
Evergreen	Ivy, English	<5'	Yes			Soil compaction
Lianas	Aster, white wood	<5'				
Slope	Locust, black	<5' & 5-30'	Yes			
Dry/Moist						

Comments:

This unit is dominated by an evergreen euonymus shrub with partial shade from neighboring large oaks. English ivy is dominant in the understory with scattered white wood aster and black locust seedlings. A lot of downed branches and woody debris in the unit from recent storm damage. A compacted foot path along the NW edge of the unit and some old cribbing from previous erosion control efforts. Other species: buckthorn. MC: storm damage created gaps and significant debris piles.

Unit:	6	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.05	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IV3a1				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Herbaceous	Aster, white wood	<5'	No		Foot traffic	Trash
Deciduous	Goldenrod	<5'	No			
Hemicryptophytes	Dayflower, Asiatic	<5'	Yes			
Knoll	Cool season grass	<5'	No			
Dry						

Comments:

This unit is a rocky knoll outcrop with shallow soil. Herbaceous plants exist in tufts of white wood aster, goldenrod, Asiatic dayflower, and cool season grass. Foot traffic though this unit is common, however at the time of the survey the woodland was fenced off.

Unit:	7	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.04	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IIIBa				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Scrub	Forsythia	<5' & 5-30'	Yes			
Deciduous	Ivy, English	<5'	Yes			
Lianas	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Slope	Cool season grass	<5'	No			
Dry/Moist	Oak, white	>30' & 5-30'	No			

Comments:

This unit is a small and dominated by shrubs. Dominant species include Forsythia and English ivy. In the understory there are also scattered patches of cool season grass, white wood aster and goldenrod. There are several scattered white oak, black cherry and hackberry. A lot of woody debris from recent storms is scattered throughout this unit. Other species include: smartweed, path rush, pignut hickory.

Unit:	8	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.03	Management	Yes	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IIB2a3				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Woodland	Oak, red	>30'	No			
Deciduous	Forsythia	<5' & 5-30'	Yes			
Hemicryptophytes	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			Erosion
Undulating	Ivy, English	<5'	Yes			

Comments:

This is an oak woodland with a Forsythia shrub layer. In the understory is scattered white wood aster, goldenrod, English ivy and evergreen euonymus. A desire line with compacted soil cuts across this unit. A lot of debris from recent storms is scattered through this unit. MC: erosion and storm damage.

Unit: 9 **Date of Visit:** 10/17/2011 **Species Changing:**
Acreage: 0.05 **Management** Yes **Community Structure**
Classificatio IIB2a3

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Woodland	Locust, black	5'-30'	Yes			Soil compaction
Deciduous	Elm, American	>30'	No			
Hemicryptophytes						
Level						
Dry/Moist						

Comments:

This is a small woodland unit with two trees at edge of the park bordering Riverdale Avenue. There is little or no understory in this unit and it is mostly compacted soil but there are a few scattered asters patches. A desire line runs through this unit towards the meadow area. MC: This unit has soil compaction and very little understory. There is an American elm which should be monitored. Other species: White wood aster, smartweed.

Unit: 10 **Date of Visit:** 10/17/2011 **Species Changing:** No
Acreage: 0.90 **Management** Yes **Community Structure** No
Classificatio IB2a3

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Closed Forest	Oak, red	>30'	No	Full-crown tree	Foot traffic	Trash
Deciduous	Oak, white	>30' & 5-30'	No	Paved path		
Hemicryptophytes	Hickory, pignut	>30' & 5-30'	No	Planting		
Undulating	Aster, white wood	<5'	No			
Dry/Moist	Goldenrod	<5'	No			
	Locust, black	<5' & 5-30'	Yes			

Comments:

This is a closed forest oak-hickory dominated unit. This is the largest forested unit within this park. The overstory is dominated by red and white oak and pignut hickory with scattered black cherry. The understory is a mix of natives and invasive species and dominated by white wood aster, goldenrod, cool season grass and Asiatic day flower. There is an excess of woody debris in the unit from the recent storm. Several established foot paths as well as desire lines run through the unit contributing to soil compaction. Near the main path intersection several American beech trees are found. Patches of moss are also found in several areas. Other species include: path rush, smartweed, oriental bittersweet, bush honeysuckle, and Virginia creeper.

Unit:	11	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.22	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IIIB1a				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Scrub	viburnum, arrowwood	<5' & 5-30'	No	Fence	Foot traffic	
Deciduous	Japanese zelkova	5'-30'	Yes			
Thallophytes	dogwood, redbud	<5' & 5-30'	No			
	Sumac, fragrant	<5' & 5-30'	No			
	Cool season grass	<5'	No			

Comments:

This is a landscaped edge surrounding the playground at Vinmont Veteran park. This is dominated by clustered plantings of arrowwood viburnum, red twig dogwood, uniformly planted Japanese zelkova, fragrant sumac and cool season grass. A few scattered London plane and sweetgum on the north side. Other species: dandelion, plantain, leatherleaf viburnum.

Unit:	12	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.86	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	IV2f				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Herbaceous	kentucky bluegrass	<5'	Yes		Sports	Soil compaction
Deciduous					Construction	
Hemicryptophytes						
Level						
Dry/Moist						

Comments:

This unit is an open sports field under construction. At this time it is full of soil, with some patches of cool season grass.

Unit:	13	Date of Visit:	10/17/2011	Species Changing:	No
Acreage:	0.38	Management	No	Community Structure	No
Classificatio	VCD				

<u>Site:</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Exotic</u>	<u>Historical</u>	<u>Uses</u>	<u>Disturbances</u>
Scarcely	Dandelion	<5'	No			
Deciduous	Plantain, common	<5'	No			
Therophytes						
Depression						
Dry						

Comments:

This unit contains a comfort station and a developed playground with asphalt. There are a few areas where dandelion and plantain are growing out of the asphalt.