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## **Executive Summary**

Ojibway Prairie Complex is a collection of five closely situated natural areas. The most striking aspect of Ojibway Prairie Complex is its tremendous biodiversity in an urban landscape. Approximately 4000 species have been recorded in the area to date, with many more undoubtedly waiting to be discovered. Wetlands, forest, meadows, oak savanna and tallgrass prairie provide habitat for approximately 200 provincially rare plants, and animals.

Large portions of the landscape are grasslands and prairie, characterized by a lack of trees (less than 2.5 trees/hectare) include grasses and flowers that grow very tall and lush. The Essex County Field Naturalists' set out to promote conservation, increase public awareness, compile species records and generate interest in Windsor's largest natural area. Having a BioBlitz is a great way to accomplish all of these goals.

A BioBlitz is a 24 hour species cataloguing event. Thirty experts and approximately 100 participants set out into the Ojibway Prairie Complex on June 28-29, 2014 to document all flora and fauna they encountered. We found 1119 species (and counting) of flora and fauna, including 12 species never-before recorded in Canada! Forty-Five different orders of organisms were identified; plants and invertebrates made up the largest percentage of species found. Despite lacking experts for a number of species rich groups of organisms (Hymenopterans, Hemipterans, Platyhelminthes, Fungi and others), a large number of taxa were documented by this small, dedicated group. In 2015 we intend to bring in additional experts to cover all the taxa that were underrepresented and bring Windsor-Essex closer to the title of most biodiverse area in Canada. Overall, the BioBlitz provided a family- friendly, novel, engaging way to promote and catalogue biodiversity.

## **Introduction**

The term "BioBlitz" was first coined by National Park Service naturalist Susan Rudy while assisting with the first BioBlitz at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington D.C. in 1996. A BioBlitz has the dual aims of establishing the degree of biodiversity in an area while connecting local citizens, community groups and land use managers with concepts of conservation science. Often local parks are chosen for BioBlitz events as they have many of the key partnerships or stakeholders in place to facilitate the event. Specialists in various disciplines like botany, entomology and ornithology all play a role in identifying species.

Some BioBlitzes have become an annual event, such as the Whistler BioBlitz, started in 2006. Scientists establish a home base near or within the BioBlitz area and provide expertise in identifying species found by the public, as well as doing their own inspection of the area. Ideally, a BioBlitz takes place over a full 24-hour period to encounter diurnal and nocturnal species. BioBlitzes are an innovative way to link aspects of social and natural capital through

raising awareness and re-establishing people's sense of wonder while exploring their natural heritage.

The Ojibway Prairie Complex (located in Windsor Ontario, Figure 1) is a collection of five closely situated natural areas. The most striking aspect of Ojibway Prairie Complex is the tremendous variety of its vegetation and animal life. The prairie landscape, characterized by a low density of trees (less than 2.5 trees/hectare), contains a variety of tall grasses and flowers. Wetlands, forest, oak savanna and tallgrass prairie provide habitat for a great number of rare plants, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Although Windsor-Essex County has relatively little natural area compared with the rest of Ontario, the area is extremely biologically diverse and is home to numerous provincially rare and at-risk species. Our first BioBlitz promoted conservation, increased public awareness, provided records of important species and generated interest in our natural areas. Ojibway is just the start (Figure 2) and we intend to eventually cover all the natural areas in the county with future BioBlitz events. We are in the middle of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the province, and by systematically documenting species through our BioBlitz events, we hope to prove it.

Figure 1. Map of the Ojibway Prairie Complex

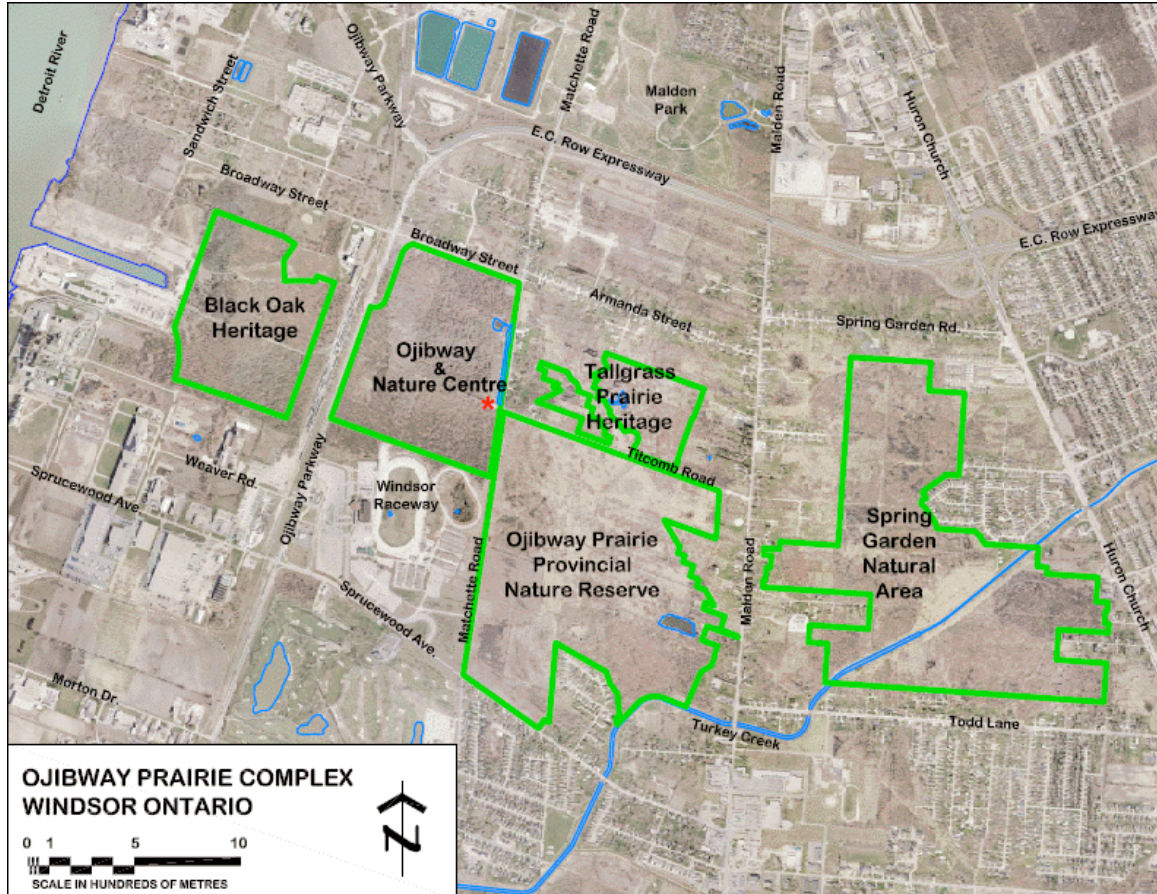
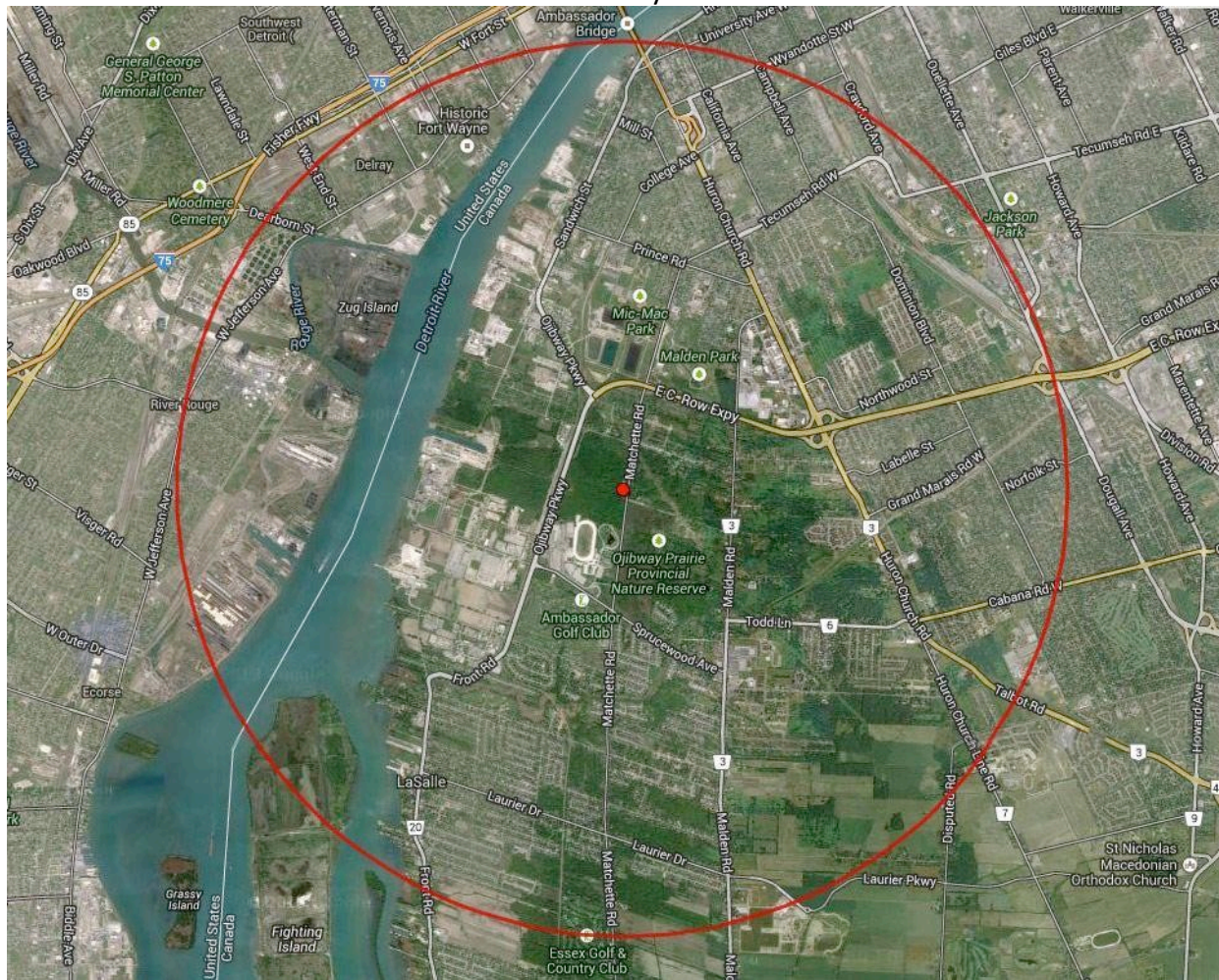


Figure 2. Boundary of the 2014 Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz. Natural areas within the circle on the Canadian side of the border were considered survey areas for the BioBlitz.



## The Ojibway Prairie Complex

The Ojibway Prairie Complex is a collection of five closely situated natural areas within a 10 minute drive from downtown Windsor, Ontario. (Figure 1). The Department of Parks & Recreation's Ojibway Nature Centre administers four of these areas: Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, Spring Garden Natural Area and Black Oak Heritage Park, with an approximate total of 244 hectares (602 acres). The nearby Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, owned by the Ontario Parks, adds more than 105 hectares (230 acres) of additional prairie and savanna.

Ojibway is located in a vast bowl of poorly drained, yellow coloured sandy soil over a thick bed of clay. The sand is saturated with water in Spring, but very dry mid-Summer. This situation is more suited to grasses and wildflowers than trees which require a more consistently wet environment (Burrige 1973).

Fire, of course, provides a regulatory function to the prairie. Without the aid of fire (previously naturally occurring in this habitat) to burn back the invading woody plants, the prairie would never have been able to maintain its tenuous foothold in the province of Ontario.

In the end, neither the forest nor the prairie won the battle. It was the axe and the plough that were the ultimate victors. Essex County, in extreme southern Ontario, has less than 6% natural forest cover. It is also estimated that less than 0.5% of the original prairies and savanna remain in all of southwestern Ontario (Bakowsky and Riley 1994). The largest surviving relicts were lands controlled by first nations peoples, including the people of Walpole Island, and by citizens wedged between the developed urban portions of Windsor and LaSalle, what is now called the Ojibway Prairie Complex.

### **Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz Objectives**

- Catalogue as many species as possible in the Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz circle (Figure 2).
- Provide data to local land use authorities to identify species at risk occurring within their areas of management.
- Provide data specifically from the Ojibway Shores property to aid in its conservation.
- Engage municipal interests, local stewards and the broader public in “citizen science” efforts to enhance conservation actions for species at risk.
- Raise awareness amongst citizens and businesses so they can become land stewards.

### **Expectations**

- Encourage BioBlitz team participants to consider similar survey activities at other potential biodiversity hotspots within the Windsor-Essex County region.
- Raise interest and awareness of our local area’s biodiversity as well as the issues that threaten our natural areas.
- Provide learning opportunities for species identification.
- Report and inform elected officials and land use managers of the biodiversity present in their local areas.

### **Conducting the BioBlitz**

This was the first ever BioBlitz for Essex County! This inaugural BioBlitz took place in the Ojibway Prairie Complex and involved experts and amateur volunteers identifying as many

species (including fungi, plants, fish, birds, insects etc.) as possible within a 24-hour period. The BioBlitz survey area covered a 5km radius from Ojibway Nature Center, which falls within the municipalities of Windsor and LaSalle (Figure 2).

The event started on Saturday, June 28th at 10AM and ended on Sunday, June 29 at 10AM. Participants led hikes and/or taught others to identify in addition to the surveys taking place throughout the day (Itineraries can be found in the appendix). Food and drink was provided for experts and volunteers. Suggestions about the logistics for future events can be found in the Recommendations section.

Generally, we followed the protocol used by Ontario BioBlitz. Methods for sampling specimens were left to the experts sampling; all appropriate permits were obtained before the day of the BioBlitz. For further details, see <http://www.ontariobioblitz.ca/protocol-guide.html>

## Results & Discussion

To date, we have identified 1119 different species including 45 unique orders of organisms all found within the bounds of the BioBlitz. The majority of the data from our experts has been submitted, however, we are still waiting for some species lists and expect our final tally to be over 1200.

We had approximately 30 experts with a total participant number of 96 people. Roughly 11 species were found for every participant in the BioBlitz. This is a relatively high ratio compared with other BioBlitzes in the province; The 2014 Humber River BioBlitz had 400-500 people with 1500 species (and counting) or 3 species found per participant. Congratulations on the hard work and great efficiency of all our participants.

Forty-five orders of organisms were identified; plants and invertebrates made up the majority of the species counts (Figure 3). Plants and invertebrates (specifically Arthropods) were expected to be the most species rich, which had 477 and 495 species, respectively. Twelve species never-before recorded in Canada were identified, 8 spiders, 2 earthworms and 2 beetles (Table 2, pictures of some of the new species are found in the Appendix). As well, we wanted to include some of the personal communication we had with an expert that identified all the new spiders,

“Hi BioBlitz Team,

Here I would like to officially inform you about the results of the Ojibway BioBlitz 2014 related to spiders.

It turns out that we collected a total of 117 species from 19 families, of which 7 are certainly new to Canada official records, or roughly 9% of all spiders caught during the event are new to the Canadian fauna! Moreover collected within just 24 hours by only three or four guys. That's just amazing! Two of these are actually new genera for Canada

- Gea, family Araneidae (Typical orb-weaver spiders) and Synema, Thomisidae (Crab spiders)(see attached checklist for details). Moreover, for another two species I am not really sure of the name and they can easily be new to Canada invasive american species. I expect another dozen species to be added after using DNA barcoding to help us in the Identification of some juvenile spiders.

According to the results, it appears that Ojibway Park is a unique place in terms of the spiders, and probably of any invertebrates. Of all four or five BioBlitzs, on which I have been to, this is the richest of species.

Regards,  
Gergin Blagoev”

Figure 3. Plot of species found for each ‘group’ of organisms. Groups are classified in easy to recognize classes, not the Linnaean hierarchy.

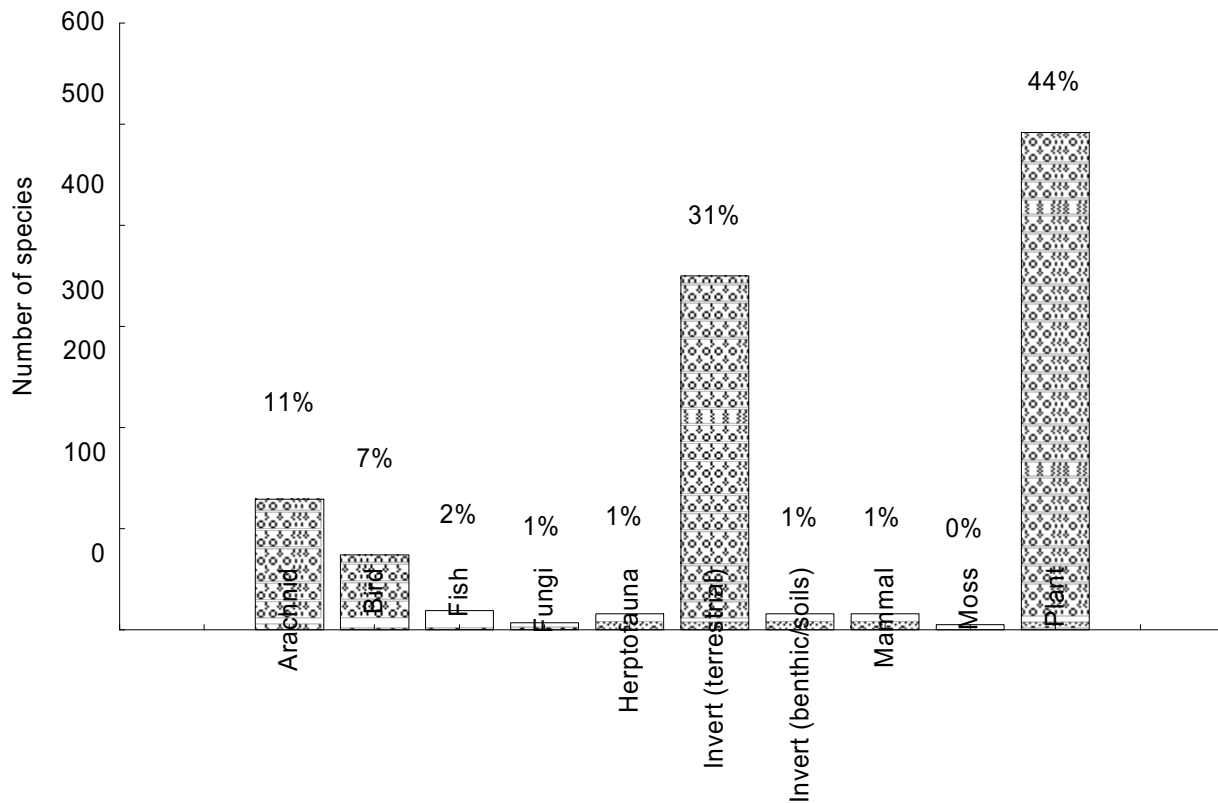




Table 1. Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz 2014 Species List

BioBlitz Grouping Taxon	Number of Species Identified
Arachnids	129
Birds	74
Fish	19
Fungi and Slime Molds	7
Insects (not including spiders)	351
Invertebrates (non insect)	16
Reptiles and Amphibians	16
Lichens	3
Mammals	16
Mosses	5
Plants	483
<b>OVERALL COUNT</b>	<b>1119</b>
	<b>...AND COUNTING!</b>

Table 2. New species to Canada. Species found at the BioBlitz that have never been recorded in Canada.

Identifier	Species	Animal type
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Dictyna bellans</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Gnaphosa fontinalis</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Pirata indigenus</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Oxyopes salticus</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Pholcus manueli</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Synema parvulum</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Micrathena gracilis</i>	Spider
Gergin Blagoev	<i>Gea heptagon</i>	Spider
John Reynolds	<i>Amyntas agrestis</i> (Goto & Hatai, 1899)	
Earthworm John Reynolds	<i>Amyntas hilgendorfi</i> (Michaelsen, 1892)	
Earthworm Bruce D. Gill	<i>Nipponoserica peregrina</i>	
Beetle Bruce D. Gill	<i>Mecas pergrata</i>	
Beetle		

Despite the large number of arthropods found, we missed a number of large groups within that phylum including: Coleoptera (beetles - data is pending), Hymenoptera (ants, bees, wasps), Hemipterans (true bugs), Acariformes (mites), Crustaceans and many more. We found someone knowledgeable in Dipterans post-BioBlitz but it would be helpful to have a few more fly experts for the next BioBlitz. There were numerous other invertebrate phyla that were underrepresented that we will hopefully be able to have experts identify in future events.

*If you know anyone knowledgeable in identifying any of these groups please message the Essex County Field Naturalists (contact info at [essexcountynature.com](http://essexcountynature.com))*

We found 25 Species at Risk (SAR), including the newly discovered spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*). The Ojibway Prairie Complex has 42 known SAR (not including extirpated species) and we were able to find over half of these species. Over the 24 hour period we found 7 birds, 5 reptiles, 1 insect and 12 plants (Table 2). Of all the species catalogued only species at risk (SAR) had their locations recorded and reported to proper agencies; these locations will be withheld from this report and the general public to help protect these species.

Our original intention was to catalogue species for the entire BioBlitz area but also have a separate datasheet for a property we were campaigning to save, Ojibway Shores. Known as the last undeveloped shoreline on the Detroit River, the Ojibway Shores property was previously under threat of development but a large public outcry has swayed the Windsor Port Authority (land managers for the federal government) to reconsider development and they are now actively working with a number of environmental groups (including the Essex County Field Naturalists) to preserve the land.

Although small and somewhat disconnected from the Ojibway Prairie Complex (though it connects directly to Black Oaks), Ojibway Shores had a number of unique species (95) found within it. In fact, a number of the 'new to Canada' spider species were found on that property. Our intention is to use the data collected from this property to help or promote protection of the area. We're proud to have utilized this event to provide support for conservation of our natural areas.

Table 2. Species at risk found during the BioBlitz.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Genus</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Bird	Chaetura	<i>pelagic</i>	Chimney Swift
Bird	Chordeiles	<i>minor</i>	Common Nighthawk
Bird	Contopus	<i>virens</i>	Eastern Wood-pewee
Bird	Hirundo	<i>rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
Bird	Hylocichla	<i>mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush
Bird	Riparia	<i>riparia</i>	Bank Swallow
Bird	Haliaeetus	<i>leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle
Herpetofauna	Emydoidea	<i>blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle
Herpetofauna	Thamnophis	<i>butleri</i>	Butler's Gatersnake
Herpetofauna	Graptemys	<i>geographica</i>	Map Turtle
Herpetofauna	Pantherophis	<i>gloydi</i>	Eastern Foxsnake
Herpetofauna	Chelydra	<i>erpentine</i>	Snapping Turtle
Insect	Danaus	<i>plexippus</i>	Monarch
Plant	Aletris	<i>farinosa</i>	Colic-root
Plant	Symphyotrichum	<i>praealtum</i>	Willowleaf Aster

Plant	Castanea	<i>dentata</i>	American Chestnut
Plant	Chimaphila	<i>maculata</i>	Spotted Wintergreen
Plant	Gymnocladus	<i>dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffee-tree
Plant	Juglans	<i>cinerea</i>	Butternut
Plant	Lespedeza	<i>virginica</i>	Slender Bush-clover
Plant	Liatris	<i>spicata</i>	Dense Blazing Star
Plant	Liparis	<i>lilifolia</i>	Purple Twayblade
Plant	Platanthera	<i>leucophaea</i>	Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid
Plant	Rosa	<i>setigera</i>	Climbing Prairie Rose
Plant	Solidago	<i>riddellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod

## The Ojibway Prairie Complex BioBlitz in Review

### Recommendations & Expectations

#### Logistics

Match up a taxonomic expert with a knowledgeable volunteer(s) to take them to high priority areas. (Some of us hooked up with an out-of-town expert who did not know where to go and how to get there. She really appreciated the volunteers taking her around.)

Have predetermined areas for each type of taxonomist, listed by most to least important so that we cover all the high priority areas first.

Have list of responsibilities for person at registration desk. (Form to fill out, details of tours, etc.)

Change start/end times to a bit later in the day

Write a script for media use with selected questions/comments

Use special t-shirts to identify organizers/volunteers

A "temperature" chart that shows the number of species found to date would increase excitement. We would update it as the time progresses and numbers come in. Since insects are most often not identified until long after, we may want to specifically count each group of species (birds, snakes, frogs, fish, butterflies, dragonflies, etc.) For example, for butterflies, out of the N species documented for the Ojibway complex (target), we have identified Y so far on a temperature chart coloured in. Plus have some splashy notice for species newly identified to the area.

Have someone do frequent social media updates on the progress e.g., 2 hours into the BioBlitz and we have already identified Y out of the N possible plants known to exist in our area. And so on throughout the day.

## Food

Warming trays for lunch (BBQ)

Hot beverage container for tea, coffee etc.

Have more sugar-free options

Containers for water

Spontaneous lunch on second day from leftovers from the previous night was greeted with appreciation from experts. (This would not be necessary if the times are moved and lunch is provided the second day.)

We should feed experts & volunteers. Not sure about general public as we did this year.

While not a problem this year, it could be as we get more general public out to this event.

## References

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## Appendix

A1. Pictures of some of the new species discovered at the BioBlitz. The full list can be found in Table 1.



*Synema parvulum* (black tail crab spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev



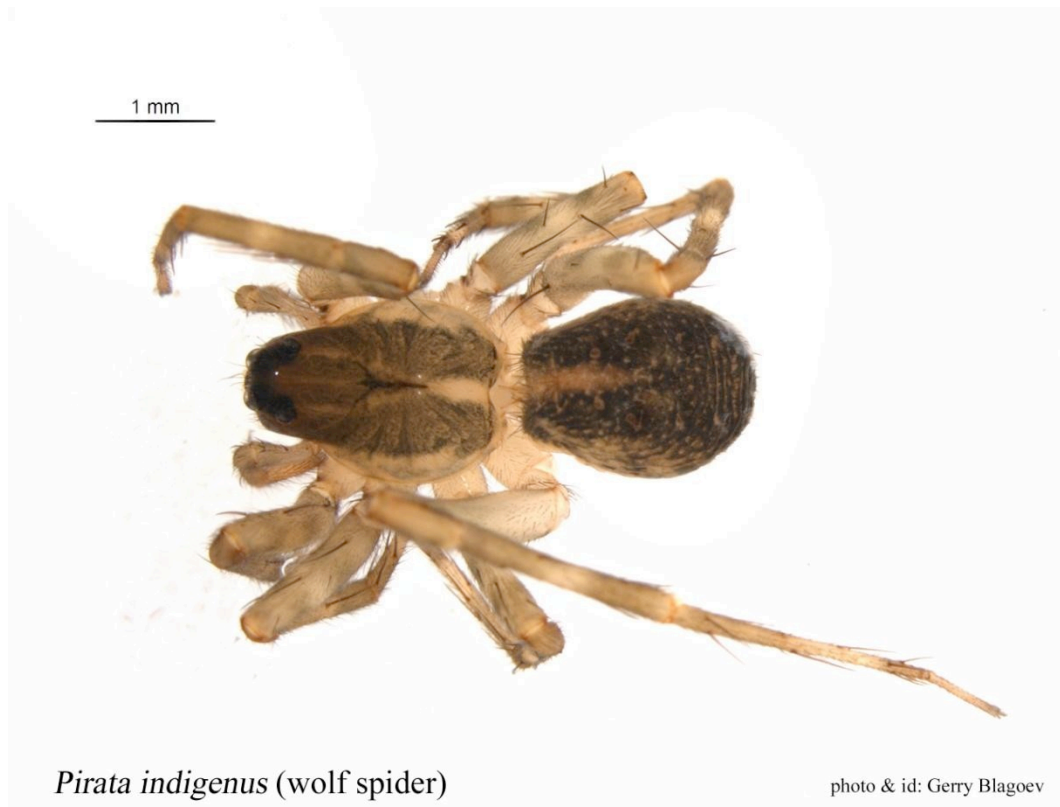
*Pholcus manueli* (daddy longleg spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev



*Oxyopes salticus* (striped lynx spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev



*Pirata indigenus* (wolf spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev

1 mm



*Gnaphosa fontinalis* (stealthy ground spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev

0.5 mm



*Dictyna bellans* (meshweaver)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev



1 mm



*Micrathena gracilis* (spined micrathena)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev

1 mm



*Gea heptagon* (typical orb-weaver spider)

photo & id: Gerry Blagoev

*Nipponoserica peregrina*  
Identifier: Bruce D. Gill  
Photo: Ben Coulter



*Mecas pergrata*  
Identifier: Bruce D. Gill  
Photo: Bill Johnson



A2. Promotional materials, news articles and the itinerary used for the BioBlitz.



**Ojibway Prairie Bioblitz**  
June 28, 2014  
essexcountynature.com

**Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.** – Registration desk opens at Bioblitz tent outside of the Ojibway Nature Centre  
**9:45 a.m.** – Opening ceremony  
**10:00 a.m.** – Bioblitz **begins**  
**2:30 p.m.** – Creature Feature – Endangered Species  
**3:00 p.m.** – Plants and aquatics hike  
**9:00 p.m.** – Night hike

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m.** – Final hour hike  
**10:00 a.m.** – Bioblitz **ends**

\*hikes leave from the tent outside of the Ojibway Nature Centre and will last approximately one hour



amec | WINDSOR | windsor | essex | PEELE ISLANDS | Ontario Nature | WINDSOR | PARKS | Ontario Bioblitz

Figure A1. Promotional itinerary for the 2014 BioBlitz



# Essex County Nature

*Essex County Field Naturalists' Club*

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
(June 6, 2014)

## **Essex County's Inaugural BioBlitz!**

June 28, 2014 at starting at 10am  
Ojibway Nature Centre  
5200 Matchette Rd, Windsor, ON

A 24 hour survey of all plants and animals in the Ojibway Prairie Complex!

Essex County Nature are excited to announce the first ever BioBlitz for Essex County! The inaugural Bioblitz will take place in the Ojibway Prairie Complex and will involve experts and amateur volunteers identifying as many species (including fungi, plants, fish, birds and insects) as possible within a 24-hour period. The Bioblitz encompasses the Ojibway Prairie Remnants in the city of Windsor and town of LaSalle.

This event will start on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and ending on Sunday, June 29. In addition to the surveys taking place throughout the day, we will be leading hikes and teaching hikers how to identify organisms. People of all ages are invited to attend this event! Best of all: Completely free admission! Bring friends and family, water and sunscreen and prepare for a great day of hiking and nature sightings! Our public hikes will have posted times on our website, [essexcountynature.com](http://essexcountynature.com).

Although Essex County has relatively little natural area compared with the rest of Ontario, the county is extremely biologically diverse and home to numerous provincially rare and at-risk species. This event will promote conservation, increase public awareness, provide records of important species and generate interest in our natural areas. We hope to eventually cover all the natural areas in the county with future Bioblitz events. We are in the middle of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the province and we're hoping to prove it!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ojibway-Prairie-Bioblitz/615547621853145>

For more information or if you are looking to volunteer contact Essex County Nature!  
<http://essexcountynature.com/>

Email: Tom Preney ([tompreny@hotmail.com](mailto:tompreny@hotmail.com))



# Essex County Nature

*Essex County Field Naturalists' Club*

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
(June 6, 2014)

## **Essex County's Inaugural BioBlitz!**

June 28, 2014 at starting at 10am  
Ojibway Nature Centre  
5200 Matchette Rd, Windsor, ON

On June 28, 2014, Essex County Nature conducted the county's first ever "BioBlitz," a 24-hour biological inventory and awareness program that teams biological experts with local volunteers. The area of interest was the Ojibway Prairie Remnants in the City of Windsor and Town of LaSalle. Participants studied everything that flies, digs, squirms or grows. Although final results are yet to come, important findings are in.

In all, over 100 people participated in the event and the tally for the Ojibway Prairie Complex yielded over 1000 species in just 24 hours. Of these, nine had never been documented in Canada and two were new to the province. Another highlight was the discovery of a new endangered species to Essex County, Spotted Winter Green. This plant was previously known from only two sites in Ontario, Norfolk and Niagara County.

Although Essex County has relatively little natural area compared with the rest of Ontario, the county is extremely biologically diverse and home to numerous provincially rare and at-risk species. One expert that attended the event was quoted saying "this place is the richest in biodiversity of any of the five BioBlitzes I've attended in Ontario." This event was incredibly successful and we hope to have future BioBlitzes in Essex County.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ojibway-Prairie-Bioblitz/615547621853145>

For more information or if you are looking to volunteer contact Essex County Nature!

<http://essexcountynature.com/>

Email: Tom Preney ([tompreny@hotmail.com](mailto:tompreny@hotmail.com))

## Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz, Saturday June 28, 2014

### Tent

Tent setup	7:30-9:00am	1. Gary B. 2. Kyle C.
Registration	8:30-10:30am	1. Sheeva 2. Sarah Baldo 3. Ella Walker 4. Lisa Jones
Registration	10:30-12:30	1. Cathy Lapain 2. Jessica Rose?
Registration	12:30-2:30	1. Linda MW 2. Dave Munro?
Registration	2:30-4:30	1. Kassie K. 2. Jake M.
Registration	4:30-6:30	1. ___ 2. ___
Data Entry	10:30-7:30pm	1. Sarah Baldo 2. Sheeva

### Food

Breakfast Setup (with Carl)	7:30-8:30am	1. Christine 2. Bonnie Ross
Breakfast Cleanup (with Carl)	10:30am	1. Bonnie Ross 2. Ella Walker
Lunch Setup	12:15-12:45pm	1. Ella Walker 2. Mary C.
BBQers	12:45-2:00pm	1. Shirley Grondin 2.
Lunch Serving	1:00-2:00pm	1. Cathy Lapain 2. Mary C.
Lunch Cleanup	2:00-2:30pm	1. Michelle M. 2. Cathy Lapain
Dinner Setup	5:30-6:00pm	1. Carl

		2.
Dinner Cleanup	7:00-7:30pm	1. Carl 2.

**Hikes (record data, GPS rare species, photos samples as needed)**

Birds	10:00am	1. Kory assisted by Conrad 2. Claire (OPPNR) assisted by Nancy 3. Jeremy assisted by Kathy Les.
Flowers	10:00am	1. Shirley (OPPNR) assisted by Michelle M. 2. Shane (Spring Garden) assisted by Tina?
Mammals	10:00am	1. Tracy Cameron (Ojibway Park)
Butterflies and Dragonflies	10:00am	1. Steve Pike assisted by Mary C. And ____ 2. Paul D. Assisted by Pauline
Reptiles and Amphibians	10:00am	1. Jonny C. (TGPHP) assisted by Gary B
Spiders	11:00am	1. Jenn N. (Ojibway Park)
Insects	11:00am	1. Hillary Bruner (Ojibway Park)
Flowers	11:00am	1. Claire (Ojibway Park) Mc
Flowers	11:00am	1. Karen Cedar (BOHP)
Trees and Shrubs	1:30pm	1. Derek (Ojibway Park) assisted by Kathy Les
Butterflies and Dragonflies	2:00pm	1. Steve Pike assisted by Nancy
Butterflies and Dragonflies	2:00pm	1. Paul D. Assisted by Pauline
Aquatic Species	3:00pm	1. Steve A (Ojibway Park) assisted by Dave K and Brent Reeves
Things we missed hike	4:30pm	1. Kristen Evon (Ojibway Park)
Nothing	8:00pm Brunet Park	1. Bert Harris 2. Kyle C.
Nothing	8:30pm Ojibway	1. Lynda Corkum

	Park	2. Cathy Les.
Mothing	8:30pm BOHP	1. —
Night Hike	9:00pm	1. Tom Preney (Ojibway Park)

Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>

### Tent

Tent setup	6:00am-8:00am	1. Paula 2. Theresa Benoit
Registration	8:00am-10:00am	1. Lynn M
Data Entry	9:00am-10:00am	1. Sarah Baldo? 2. Sheeva?
Cleanup	10:00am-11:00am	1. — 2. —

Earthworm Volunteers: Kyle C. 10:00am-12:00pm, Conrad D. 2:00pm-5:00pm

### Egret Newsletter

Essex County's First Ever BioBlitz

Essex County Field Naturalist Tom Henderson wrote a letter to *The Windsor Star* which appeared on the *Star's* Editorial page on Thursday, July 15, 2014. Tom wrote that the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club conducted Essex County's first ever "BioBlitz," a biological inventory and awareness program that teams biological experts with local volunteers. The date of the "BioBlitz" was June 28, 2014.

Tom's letter to the Editor stated the area of interest was the entire Ojibway Prairie Complex including Ojibway Shores on the Detroit River in Windsor.

Participants studied everything that flies, digs, squirms or grows. Although final results are yet to come, important findings are in.

On Ojibway Shores, biologists discovered a new spider never before recorded in Canada and two other spiders new to the province of Ontario.

In all, the tally for the Ojibway Prairie Complex yielded over 1,000 species in just 24 hours. Of these, nine have never been documented in Canada.



One expert said, “This area (Ojibway) has the richest biodiversity of any the five BioBlitz areas I have ever done in Ontario.”

These creatures are not found in isolation. To put icing on the cake, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recently designated Ojibway Shores a Provincially Significant Wetland.

The Ojibway Prairie Complex including Ojibway Shores comprise a unit, a big picture, joined together in a necklace of green stretching from the Detroit River clear through to the Spring Garden Natural Area.

So far unprotected, Ojibway Shores, an ecological treasure, is the last remaining piece of the puzzle.

### **Summary of BioBlitz Expenses**

Tent Rental	\$389.85
BioBlitz Stickers, promotional printing	\$59.88
Food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)	\$1040.00
Accommodations	\$101.70
Isopropyl Alcohol	\$29.80
Printing (forms, data sheets)	\$156.96
Name tag badges	\$31.38
Laminated map of BioBlitz circle	\$35.17
BioBlitz Banner	\$500.00
<b>Total cost of event</b>	<b>\$2344.74</b>



A few of our BioBlitz volunteers  
Photo courtesy of snapd



Opening ceremony  
Photo by: Chris Ho



Arachnologist and entomologist search for spiders and beetles at the Ojibway Prairie BioBlitz.  
Photo courtesy of Windsor Star



Arachnologist sort the days specimens  
Photo by: Laura Foy



Ojibway Nature Centre naturalists, Paul Pratt and Karen Cedar tallying species in the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve  
Photo courtesy of Windsor Star



Botanist working hard to key out a variety of sedges and grasses from the previous day  
Photo by: Tom Preney



Nocturnal insects are drawn in by a bright light which allow volunteers to photograph and collect specimens  
Photo by: Chris Ho



Volunteers search for anything that squirms, digs or moves along Titcombe Road  
Photo by: Laura Foy

# Ojibway Prairie Bioblitz

Saturday June 28, 2014

**FREE EVENT!**

Meet at Ojibway Nature  
Centre at 9:00am

What is a Bioblitz? A Bioblitz is an event where expert and amateur volunteers survey a natural area, and catalogue as many species as possible within a 24-hour period.

Guided Nature Walks  
Creature Feature,  
BBQ and more!



Hosted by Essex County Field Naturalists' Club  
[www.essexcountynature.com](http://www.essexcountynature.com)

