



**LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION**



RESTORING THE TRENTON GREENBELT

Project Description

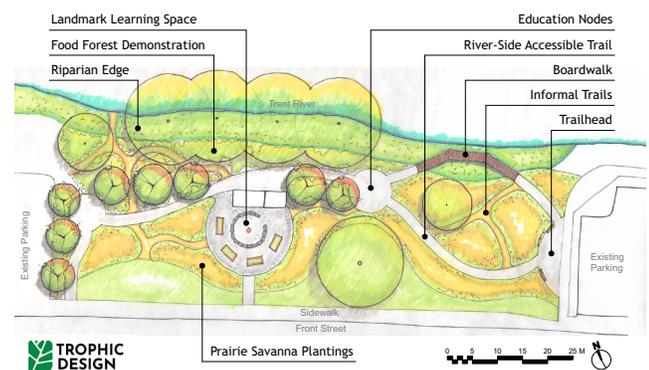
Publicly accessible natural areas allow people to relax and spend time with nature; unfortunately, these areas are few in urban centres. Lower Trent Conservation is revitalizing a small 0.3 ha section of the *Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area* located in downtown Trenton on the bank of the Trent River. This special urban greenspace will be transformed from a lawn into a native wildflower meadow with scattered shade trees, complete with a wide walking trail and resting spots. Visitors will be drawn to enjoy the riverside. Pollinating insects, birds and other wildlife, will benefit from the infusion of native plant diversity. Improved soil health will boost nature-based climate resilience through better water absorption and carbon storage.



Project location at the Trenton Greenbelt CA along the Trent River

What are the project benefits?

- Attractive publicly accessible natural area in downtown Trenton
- A place to connect with nature and the Trent River
- Increased biodiversity with habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife
- Improved soil health and water infiltration
- Demonstration of nature-based solutions that boost drought and flood resilience
- Environmental education opportunities for the community
- Volunteer opportunities for the community
- Decreased lawn maintenance costs and use of fossil fuels



Example landscape design concept.

“Working with Local Communities to Protect Our Natural Environment”

Restoration Steps

Part 1: 2022/2023

- Conduct citizen science surveys of plants and animals at the site
- Measure starting-point soil conditions (water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, soil food web microorganisms)
- Learn about caring for meadow and prairie-savanna habitats from Alderville First Nation and Alderville Black Oak Savanna restoration practitioners
- Prepare the restoration site for native plants by eliminating lawn and invasive plants with careful use of herbicide
- Create a multi-benefit landscape design
- Collect seeds and sow native grasses and wildflowers with community volunteers

Part 2: 2023/2024

- Restore ecological soil function
- Plant thousands of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees with community volunteers
- Continue biodiversity surveys to monitor improvements over time
- Continue measuring changes in soil conditions (water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, soil food web microorganisms)
- Host workshops on ecological restoration techniques, including making good compost
- Install signage, trails and seating



Who is involved?

Lower Trent Conservation is in partnership with the City of Quinte West, Rotary Club of Trenton, and Alderville Black Oak Savannah, Trees for Life, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and many others.

We welcome volunteers! Please contact us at information@ltc.on.ca or 613-394-4829.

This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, a Government of Canada's Department of Environment and Climate Change program in partnership with Conservation Ontario. Photo Courtesy of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

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