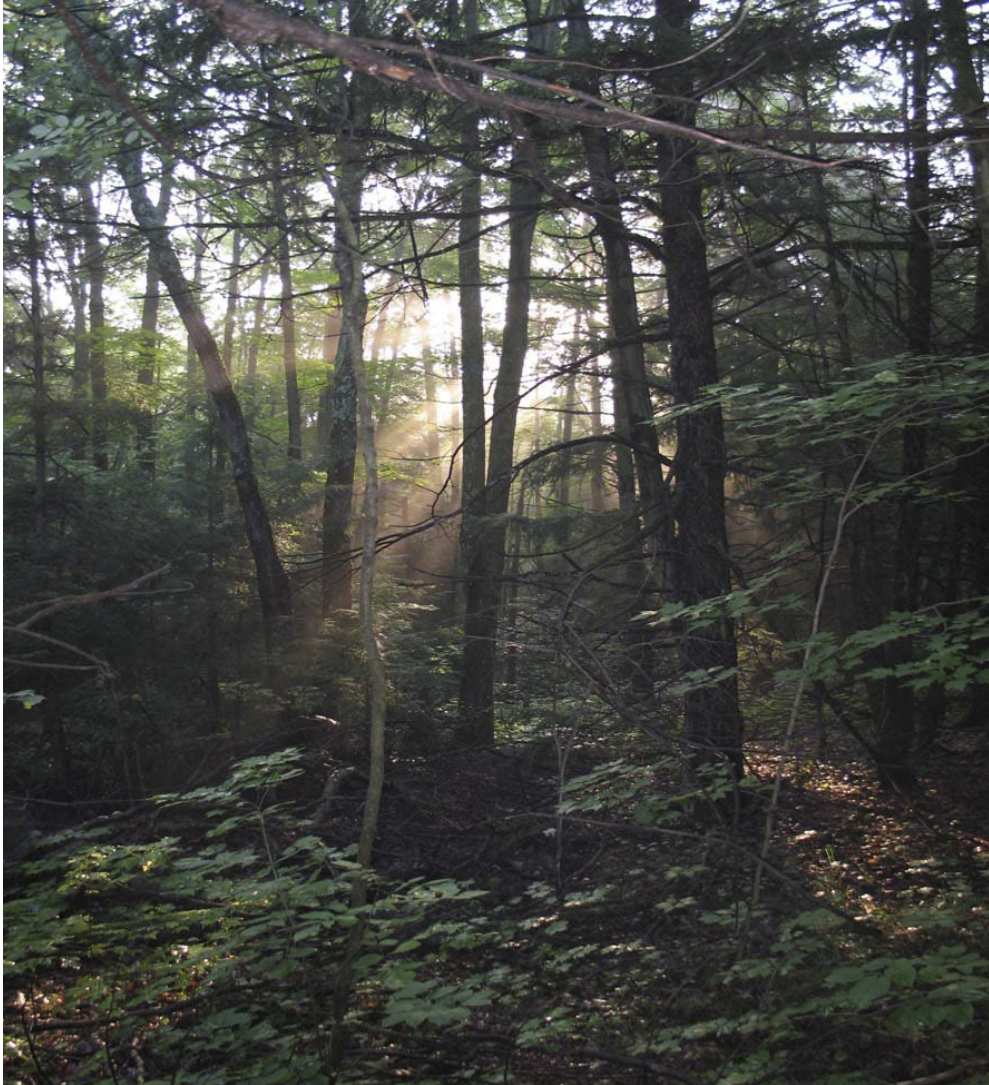




Lower Trent Conservation

# Conservation Lands and Areas Strategy



Approved: November 14, 2024

Resolution: G124/24

*“I would argue that we do not need just the great public wildernesses, but millions of small private or semi-private ones. Every farm should have one; wildernesses can occupy corners of factory grounds and city lots – places where nature is given a free hand, where no human work is done, where people go only as guests. These places function, I think, whether we intend them to or not, as sacred groves – places we respect and leave alone, not because we understand what goes on there, but because we do not.”*

*Wendell Berry*

## **PREFACE**

This Conservation Lands and Areas Strategy has been prepared by Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) to meet the provisions for a “Conservation Area Strategy” as set out [under Section 21.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act](#) and [Ontario Regulation 686/21](#) under this Act. The Strategy applies to all of Lower Trent’s Conservation Lands.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) has prepared this Conservation Lands and Areas Strategy to meet the provisions set out under Section 21.1 of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) (CA Act) and [Ontario Regulation 686/21](#). It applies to all lands owned or controlled by LTC, including any interests in land registered on title, that meet the requirements set out in section 10 of [Ontario Regulation 686/21](#).

This document provides a clear statement of LTC's policies and priorities for its Conservation Lands Program and guides decision-making for lands management. It establishes objectives to inform the Conservation Authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of its lands. The Strategy establishes land use categories for classifying lands based on the types of activities that occur on each property. Mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services delivered on LTC owned and controlled lands area also identified, along with sources of funding. An assessment of how the lands augment the natural heritage of the watershed region and integrate with other publicly accessible lands and trails is also provided.

## 1.2 Regulatory Framework

Section 21.1 of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) sets out the mandatory programs and services which must be delivered by all conservation authorities. One of the programs and services required is the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the Conservation Authority, including any interests in land registered on title. One of the requirements under this program/service is preparation of a "Conservation Area Strategy."

Section 10 of Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the required components of the Strategy.

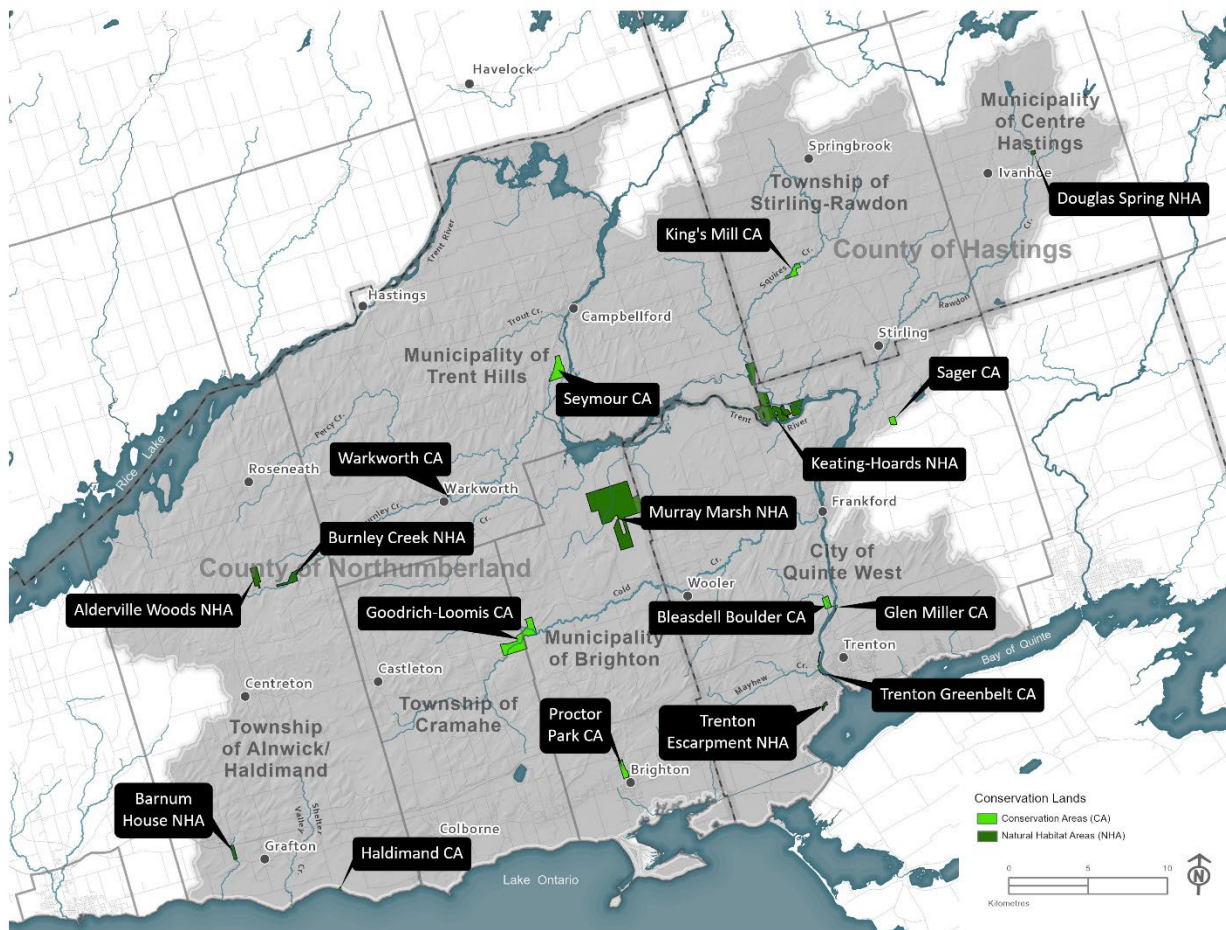
### Ontario Regulation 686/21

**10.** (1) A conservation area strategy referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following components:

1. Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.
2. Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.
3. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,
  - i. augment any natural heritage located within the authority's area of jurisdiction, and
  - ii. integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority's area of jurisdiction.
4. The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.
5. A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.
  - (2) The authority shall ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the conservation area strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.
  - (3) The authority shall ensure that the conservation area strategy is made public on the authority's website, or by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

### 1.3 About LTC's Conservation Lands

Within the Lower Trent watershed region, LTC owns approximately 3666 acres of land (Map 1). A very small portion of the land is used for administration buildings (3.8 acres) and public protection (13 acres). The remainder of the Conservation Lands are held in trust for public use and enjoyment and for conservation purposes. They are special places that are protected, where the natural world comes first. Conservation Lands provide outdoor recreational opportunities - hiking, cross-country skiing, biking, and picnicking - for local residents and visitors to the area. They are living examples of the natural ecosystems that LTC strives to protect.



Map 1: Conservation Lands General Location

LTC's Conservation Lands are an enormous asset. They form part of a regional system of protected landscapes that depict the natural diversity of the area: plants, animals and their unique habitats. Protection of natural habitats and linkages has long been recognized as important to allow species to survive and migrate. Given the potential impacts of climate change, this is even more critical to support adaptation to evolving ecological settings.

Visiting Conservation Lands may, for many people, be their sole direct exposure to the work of LTC. It is important that residents get a firm understanding of what LTC does and the value of its lands and programs. Conservation Lands should be viewed as the gateway to natural systems education and should be enhanced to foster this process.

As part of a regional network of passive trails and outdoor recreational opportunities, Conservation Lands promote conservation and environmental awareness and brings economic opportunities to the region.

Conservation Lands are an important part of the LTC program, for many reasons:

- They protect hazard lands (e.g. floodplains, erosion sensitive areas, valleylands) and reduce flooding/soil erosion.
- They provide protection of environmentally significant/sensitive lands (including wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, significant vegetation communities, fish habitat).
- They contribute to biodiversity and the establishment of natural heritage systems, including linkages and corridors for wildlife migration.
- They protect Provincially/Regionally Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI - Earth and Life Science) and other significant features.
- They protect significant water resources (e.g. headwaters, riparian lands, recharge/discharge areas) and contribute to improved water quality.

Additionally:

- They provide outdoor recreation areas.
- They provide opportunities for outdoor education, interpretation, and research.
- They provide locations for conservation demonstration projects such as habitat rehabilitation, land and water stewardship.
- They provide opportunities for small and large-scale ecosystem rehabilitation projects.

## 1.4 History of LTC's Conservation Lands

The conservation movement in Ontario began in the 1940's in response to droughts, floods and erosion and resulted in the adoption of the CA Act in 1946. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck. That same year, a Federal Commission reviewing the aftermath of the flood confirmed the merit of protecting floodplain lands from future development, while still permitting their use for recreation purposes. The revised CA Act of 1954 permitted any lands (floodplains, wetlands, headwaters, forests) to be purchased for conservation purposes. Public use of these lands for outdoor recreation was an integral part of the development and management directives in the legislation.

LTC was formed as the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority in 1968. The founders of this Conservation Authority moved quickly to purchase a land base. Land acquisition was a reason to exist; it demonstrated to the people of the watershed that the newly established Conservation Authority was serious about the business of conservation.

Property acquisitions by LTC were based on a range of program interests and were intended to provide a diversity of functions. Acquisitions were based, to some extent, on recommendations contained in the 1970 Conservation Report to meet certain resource management requirements, and in response to offers of land having some conservation-related significance by individuals and municipalities. Funding for land acquisition was not unduly restricted provided the land was to serve some type of resource management function - flood and erosion control, natural resource protection, or cultural heritage preservation. Some of the originally purchased lands have since been divested, as they no longer met the Conservation Authority's program objectives.

The Conservation Lands currently owned and/or managed by the Conservation Authority assist in the attainment of LTC's conservation objectives and some are managed to provide outdoor recreation and education opportunities.

## 2 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Today, providing natural recreation areas for public use continues to be a very positive service offered by LTC. The challenge is to manage and develop the Conservation Lands in light of current social, economic and recreational trends, as well as environmental concerns. LTC must position itself to take advantage of opportunities whilst addressing changes in legislative direction.

### 2.1 Contributing to LTC's Strategic Outlook

This Strategy document for the Conservation Lands Program provides direction in achieving the Vision and Mission as set out in LTC's Strategic Plan.

[LTC's Strategic Plan \(2018 -2028\)](#) outlines its priorities, organizational commitments and environmental goals, which together, will help the organization thrive in this changing world.

LTC's vision for the future is: ***Healthy watersheds for healthy communities***

LTC's mission, its reason for being, is: ***To protect land, water and living things by working with and inspiring others.***

The future planning, development, and management of LTC's Conservation Lands must occur within this framework and must involve local residents. By involving the community and sparking interest in Conservation Lands, LTC taps into fresh ideas and strikes new partnerships, while promoting environmental awareness and increasing public support for the Conservation Authority.

### 2.2 Situation Analysis

Ongoing change will impact the management needs of LTC's Conservation Lands.

Increased public usage of parks and natural areas is occurring and anticipated to continue in the future. The 2020 pandemic awakened an interest in outdoor activities in many people who were

not using parks and conservation areas in the past. More people are becoming more aware of the physical, mental, and emotional health benefits of being active and spending time outdoors. An aging population also means that more seniors and retirees, people with more leisure time, are looking for places to walk, hike and spend time in outdoor settings and natural areas. Local municipalities recognize the importance of natural areas and promote Conservation Areas in their promotional materials and websites. All of this has resulted in more local people using LTC's Conservation Lands. Located less than a two-hour drive from Toronto, many tourists and visitors are coming to the watershed region to enjoy outdoor activities and natural areas. More usage means more maintenance, more potential user conflicts, and an increased demand for services.

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) is legislation intended to ensure that the province is accessible for people with disabilities by 2025. The legislation provides for the implementation and enforcement of standards to make goods, services and facilities in the province accessible to everyone. Implementation of this legislation is resulting in the need to assess accessibility on LTC lands and to upgrade signage and facilities.

Climate change is resulting in an increased need for abundant and resilient natural areas. Conservation Lands provide natural habitats and natural linkages which allow species to survive and migrate. These types of areas are critical to support species' adaptation to changing ecological settings in the face of climate change. Many of LTC's Conservation Lands contain wetlands and floodplains that help store water in flooding events. Undertaking restoration projects and maintaining these areas in a natural state is important to provide wildlife habitat and aid in mitigation of extreme weather events (droughts and floods) that are increasing with climate change.

## 2.3 Opportunities and Challenges for LTC Conservation Lands

LTC should respond to these opportunities and challenges by:

- Recognizing the community's interest in outdoor recreation;
- Providing low-cost, quality recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors to the area;
- Linking with the community to promote conservation lands as part of tourism initiatives and packages;
- Planting native species;
- Taking into consideration measures to adapt to climate change when planning and undertaking work (e.g. facility design, species selection for planting projects, establishing wildlife corridors);
- Aiming to restore ecosystems to increase watershed resilience;
- Promoting the linkage between outdoor recreation and improved health and wellness;
- Providing and promoting accessible opportunities to enjoy the outdoors;
- Promoting environmental awareness on its conservation lands;
- Setting aside natural areas, with limited public access, where nature comes first; and
- Seeking funding from new sources: partnerships, donations, fundraising.



## 2.4 Guiding Principles

Guiding principles have been established to provide the framework for decision-making related to LTC's Conservation Lands program:

- LTC lands should be managed in a manner that values, respects, and enhances the natural heritage of the region;
- Management practices and promoted activities on LTC land holdings should be compatible with healthy watersheds, respectful of the unique character of the lands, and sustainable in environmental, physical and economic terms;
- All current LTC land holdings and any future securements should contribute to LTC's vision of "Healthy Watersheds for Healthy Communities";
- Outdoor recreation opportunities should be affordable, educational, and accessible, where appropriate;
- Partnerships are a valued means of protecting natural areas and establishing trail networks throughout the watershed; and
- Public input regarding the Conservation Lands program is valued.

## 2.5 Objectives

LTC has established the following objectives for its Conservation Lands program:

- To ensure that all present and future LTC land holdings contribute to the goals and objectives of the Conservation Authority, and support an integrated watershed management approach;
- To protect and enhance the ecological integrity of the lands within the LTC watersheds and contribute to a connected natural heritage system;
- To protect cultural heritage within conservation areas;
- To undertake research, monitoring and evaluation of the natural heritage system, and organize current information to identify information gaps and strengthen knowledge of the natural heritage system;
- To undertake stewardship actions on LTC's conservation lands and use these restoration projects as a learning tool for the public;
- To use Conservation Lands, where feasible, to monitor watershed health;
- To encourage passive recreational use of LTC's conservation lands that are classed for public use;
- To support opportunities to connect LTC's trails with broader recreational trail networks;
- To offer educational experiences on LTC's Lands, to enhance awareness of environmental issues and promote stewardship;
- To explore and develop partnerships to increase education, research and stewardship opportunities on LTC lands;
- To acquire new properties, as funding permits, that meet LTC's land acquisition and disposal policies; and
- To ensure that future management of the LTC's Lands will be informed by public input.



## 2.6 Restoration and Management Priorities

To meet the goals in the Strategic Plan and to ensure that the Conservation Lands contribute to a healthy watershed and healthy communities LTC must direct effort to stewardship and restoration. The following is a summary of restoration priorities.

- Complete Ecological Land Classification for all LTC lands.
- Inventory Species at Risk and their habitats
- Monitor for invasive species and undertake management as feasible
- Survey and monitor potential threats to property ecosystems
- Prairie – Savanna habitat restoration at Goodrich-Loomis, Sager, Seymour, Glen Miller and Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Areas
- Thinning of pine plantations at Goodrich-Loomis and Sager Conservation Areas to allow for more diverse regeneration
- Maintenance and expansion of wetland buffers, creation of grassland bird habitat in the old field on Ames Island in Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area
- Encourage regenerative agriculture on leased agricultural lands at Murray Marsh and Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Areas to ensure that LTC lands provide examples of sustainable farming practices
- Research potential carbon offsetting programs that would pay to manage LTC forested lands
- Participation in the seed strategy/cooperative with Rice Lake Plains Partnership including the establishment of a seed orchard
- Enhance volunteer opportunities starting with trail steward program
- Establish demonstration sites to engage and educate the local community in restoration efforts
- Register LTC lands in the Canadian Protected and Conservation Areas Database to be included as part of Canada’s international commitment to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030 as part of the [Global Biodiversity Framework at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference \(COP 15\)](#)

## 3 CONSERVATION LANDS CATEGORIES

An inventory of LTC’s Conservation Lands has been completed, as required by Section 11 of [Ontario Regulation 686/21](#). A database was developed for the Lands Inventory for internal documentation and use as per the regulation.

The Regulation requires the establishment of land use categories to classify lands in the land inventory based on the types of activities engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel. The categories, as recommended by Conservation Ontario, are provided below:

- Conservation Areas (Active Recreation, Accessible to the Public)

- Conservation Areas (Passive Recreation, Accessible to the Public)
- Management Areas (Public Accessibility Varies) (e.g., Natural Heritage Lands, Natural Hazard Lands, Water Management Areas, Forest Management Lands, Environmentally Sensitive Lands, etc.)
- Conservation Authority Administration Areas.

Below, LTC’s conservation lands have been classified into these categories. Please note that LTC does not have any conservation areas that are classified under “Active Recreation.”

### 3.1 Conservation Areas

LTC owns 10 conservation areas (Map 1) designated for passive recreation and accessible to the public.

1. Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area
2. Glen Miller Conservation Area
3. Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area
4. Haldimand Conservation Area
5. King’s Mill Conservation Area
6. Proctor Park Conservation Area
7. Sager Conservation Area
8. Seymour Conservation Area
9. Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area
10. Warkworth Conservation Area

### 3.2 Management Areas

Twelve of LTC’s properties are considered Management Areas (Map 1). These properties are all open to the public, but there are no facilities. They are managed as natural assets. LTC classifies seven of the properties as Natural Habitat Areas, while five are classified as Public Safety Lands.

#### NATURAL HABITAT AREAS

11. Alderville Woods
12. Barnum House Creek
13. Burnley Creek
14. Douglas Springs
15. Keating-Hoards
16. Murray Marsh
17. Trenton Escarpment

#### PUBLIC SAFETY LANDS

1. Barry Heights/Mayhew Creek (Murray Ward, Quinte West)
2. Frankford Pipe (flume) along Cold Creek (Frankford Ward, Quinte West)
3. Mill Creek Floodplain (Percy Ward, Trent Hills)

4. Trout Creek Property (Campbellford Ward, Trent Hills)
5. Warkworth Flood Wall (Percy Ward, Trent Hills)

### 3.3 Administration Areas

LTC owns two properties that house staff (Map 1). Corporate operations and field operations are run from these administrative buildings.

1. Administration Office
2. Workshop

## 4 DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF LTC CONSERVATION AREAS

### 4.1 Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area

Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area is located in the Sidney Ward of City of Quinte West – the entrance is at 760 Trenton-Frankford Road. The property is 69 acres in size (Map 2).

The property is a mixture of woodland and wetland. A small tributary of the Trent River runs through the property. The main feature is the Bleasdell Boulder. The boulder is considered one of the largest known glacial erratics in North America, estimated to be 2.3 billion years old. The Bleasdell Boulder, also known as the Glen Miller Rock, was studied by Reverend William Bleasdell in the 1800s who wrote of the rock in scientific journals and brought it to the attention of geologists across Canada. The boulder measures 13.4 metres long, 7.3 metres wide and 6.7 metres high (44' x 24' x 22').

#### 4.1.1 Acquisition Details

- Donated to LTC by Paul and Maria Heissler in 2005.  
*Note: The Heislars purchased the property in 1997 with the intent of making the 'Boulder' accessible to the public. They founded the Bleasdell Boulder Preservation Corporation to ensure the preservation of the site for future generations. The group worked hard to establish trails, parking areas, and interpretive signage, prior to donating the property to the Conservation Authority for protection and management.*

#### 4.1.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- 1 km trail loop from parking lot to the boulder
- 400 metre trail connection runs from the boulder to the Lower Trent Trail.

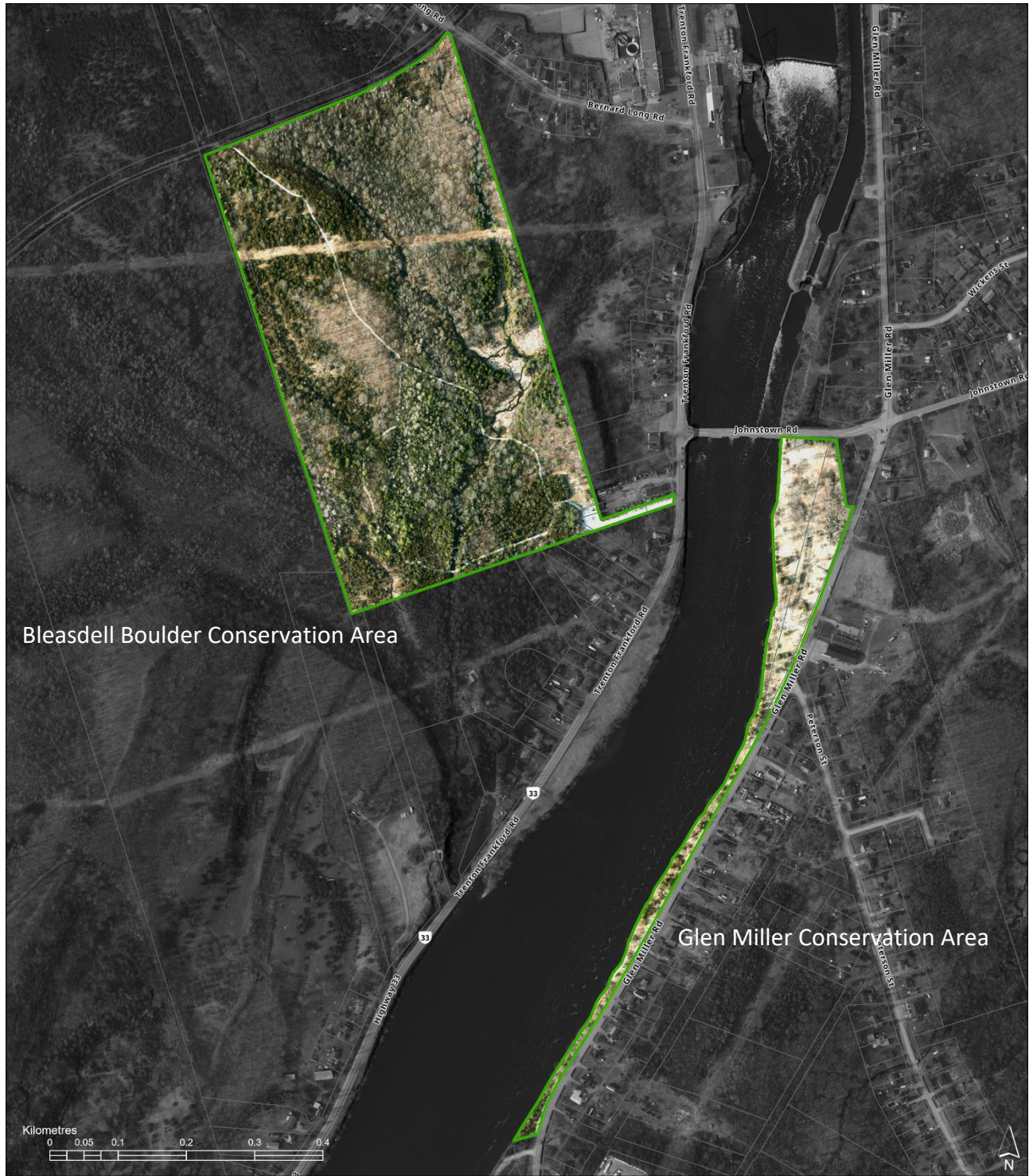
- Hiking, picnicking, birding, fishing, geocaching, nature appreciation, education and research
- Parking
- Information kiosk/signage
- Picnic table, benches

#### **4.1.3 Restoration Works**

- Majority of property maintained in natural state
- Invasive species control

#### **4.1.4 Restoration Priorities**

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Invasive species monitoring and management as required



Map 2: Bleasdel Boulder and Glen Miller Conservation Areas

#### 4.1.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Property was donated to LTC/provides conservation benefits



- No road frontage on maintained road
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Rural”
- Some floodplain land
- Mostly unevaluated wetland
- Mostly within Intake Protection Zone (IPZ-2) for Trenton
- 66 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.1.6 **Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services**

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain, wetland
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Youth Education:* Hikes are sometimes conducted by LTC or other organizations
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Educational opportunities for visitors

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.1.7 **Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails**

- Trail on the property is linked with the Lower Trent Trail, a 17-kilometre rail trail running from Trenton to Glen Ross
- Near the Trent River

#### 4.1.8 **Linkage to Natural Heritage System**

- Near Batawa Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Near the Trent River

#### 4.1.9 **Additional Information Sources**

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area: Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)



## 4.2 Glen Miller Conservation Area

Glen Miller Conservation Area is about 9.3 acres and is in Sidney Ward of the City of Quinte West, at 443 Glen Miller Road (Map 2).

This Conservation Area is a long, narrow strip of shoreline along the Trent River. It is grassed with a few trees. There is some remnant savanna habitat on the property. The small pockets of limestone savanna found along the Trent River represent a remnant of a once common habitat in the Trent Valley. While savanna is most often found on deep sandy soils, at Glen Miller, the savanna is situated on very shallow limestone soils. The primary tree species within this unique habitat are burr oak and shagbark hickory. The Trans Canada Pipeline traverses the property.

### 4.2.1 Acquisition Details

- Approximately 6 acres leased from Parks Canada since 1969 - 5-year renewable term and requires payment of a nominal fee.
- An additional 3.3 acres of adjacent land was purchased from Ontario Hydro in 1984.

### 4.2.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Access to the Trent River
- Picnicking, boat-launching, and fishing,
- Short walking paths
- Two accessible picnic shelters, a dock, a boat launch, seasonal washroom
- Parking

### 4.2.3 Restoration Works

- Invasive species control
- Savanna restoration (planting of Burr Oaks)

### 4.2.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants
  - Cut and/or treat red cedar, common buckthorn, wild parsnip and other aggressive plants encroaching the bur oak savanna community
- Increase plant diversity to restore river side savanna community
  - Plant additional woody savanna vegetation including bur oak, fragrant sumac, American hazel, New jersey tea, etc.

### 4.2.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Building envelope restrictions – long, narrow property between Trent River and road
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection”
- Approximately 50% is in the floodplain of the Trent River
- Within LTC regulated area of the Trent River
- Entirely within Intake Protection Zone (IPZ-2) for Trenton
- Part of the property is leased from Parks Canada
- Savanna restoration projects have been undertaken
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.2.6 **Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services**

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Youth Education:* Educational opportunities for students
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Educational opportunities for visitors

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.2.7 **Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails**

- Adjacent to the Trent-Severn Waterway. While not a trail in the traditional sense, it is a recreational boating corridor extending from Georgian Bay to the Bay of Quinte and beyond. Parks Canada owns several public properties adjacent to the river system
- Near Lower Trent Trail

#### 4.2.8 **Linkage to Natural Heritage System**

- Adjacent to the Trent River
- Near Batawa Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

#### 4.2.9 **Additional Information Sources**

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Glen Miller Conservation Area: Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)

### 4.3 Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area

Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area is located in the Municipality of Brighton and Cramahe Township. The entrance is at 1331 Pinewood School Road. It is LTC's largest Conservation Area at 441 acres in size (Map 3).

The Conservation Area has a diversified habitat, including globally significant remnant prairie and oak savanna; a portion of a provincially significant wetland; and mature mixed forest. There is also an established bluebird population. Approximately two kilometres of Cold Creek meanders through the property, along with a smaller tributary called Little Cold Creek. Both are productive trout streams (brown trout and speckled trout) and a popular destination for people who enjoy fishing.

The dominant landform is the Codrington Esker, which forms the northern boundary of the property. The vegetation cover includes mature maple-beech forest through to cedar, hemlock and old pastures.

#### 4.3.1 Acquisition Details

- Formed from the acquisition and subsequent amalgamation of two separate parcels of land
- LTC purchased lands from the Frank E. Goodrich family in 1971
- Adjoining land was purchased from the Loomis family in 1973
- An additional adjacent parcel of land (11.7 acres) was purchased in 1996





Map 3: Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area

#### 4.3.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- 12.5 kilometres of trails
- Hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking

- Wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, photography, fishing, education and research
- Excellent vantage points are located at the top of the Esker and Northview Trails
- Education Centre
- Picnic shelters, ski shelters, picnic tables, a permanent vault privy, bridges, low boardwalks and numerous benches on the trail system

### 4.3.3 Restoration Works

- Majority of property maintained in natural state
- Prairie restoration including prescribed burns, planting of Indian Grass, Big Blue Stem, Little Blue Stem, Wild lupine
- Tree planting
- Invasive species removal

### 4.3.4 Restoration Priorities

- Revitalize planted prairie site with a controlled burn
  - Since the last burn occurred in 2010, there is a need for a controlled burn over two years, to burn half the site each year to reduce accumulated dry vegetation material and to remove encroaching undesirable woody vegetation
  - If funding for burns cannot be secured, mow the area and remove cut material
- Gradually enlarge established tall grass polygons by controlling encroachment of woody vegetation
  - Cut and treat aggressive woody vegetation, both native (i.e. staghorn sumac, red cedar, large toothed aspen) and non-native (i.e. Tartarian honeysuckle, black locust) species
- Control invasive plants before they become a problem
  - Dig up, cut and treat dog strangling vine, common buckthorn, black locust and other serious invasive plants growing in the surrounding area
- Expand on established planted polygons of tall grasses and wildflowers by planting more area
  - Each year, collect seed in the fall and store for later use and/or propagate
  - Direct sow seed in bare ground spots made by scuffing with boots, spot solarizing, or by scraping large swaths of turf
  - Plant seedlings throughout entire site
  - Plant New Jersey tea from seeds collected locally, as well as other propagated suitable tall grass prairie and savanna species
- Build connections either physical or genetic with remnant self-sustaining tall grass populations in the Lower Trent watershed region
  - With permission, occasionally collect seed from existing tall grass population growing on private lands along Pinewood School Road and sow at GLCA
  - Approach neighbouring landowners about allowing for tall grass prairie habitat on their lands to create a physical link with GLCA

- Sow seed collected from remnant populations at Sager CA to increase genetic diversity
- Enlarge site to 5.0 hectares by removing red and white pine in adjacent plantations
- Conduct grassland bird surveys focusing on Species At Risk such as eastern meadowlark, bobolink, common nighthawk, grasshopper sparrow, etc.
- Complete full flora and fauna inventory

#### 4.3.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection/Open Space” in the Municipality of Brighton portion and “Environmental Conservation/Open Space” in the Cramahe Township portion
- Significant amount of floodplain occurs along Cold Creek and its tributary
- Approximately 1/3 of property is provincially significant wetland
- 285 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- 140 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Several restoration projects
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.3.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### Mandatory programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain, wetland, snow course survey location
- *Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program:* One of the program wells is located on the property.
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### Non-mandatory programs:

- *Youth Education:* Education Center located on property
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Special Events and Hikes are conducted here by LTC or other organizations educational opportunities for visitors
- *Local Water Monitoring:* Benthic Invertebrate sampling site; Baseflow sampling site; Temperature Logger site



Program Funding Sources: Capital Reserve, municipal agreements and self-generated revenue

#### 4.3.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- No nearby trails or public lands

#### 4.3.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Cold Creek runs through property
- Partially within Cold Creek Significant Natural Area (Brownell & Blaney, 1995), which extends beyond property
- Partially within Cold Creek Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW), which extends beyond property
- Within Rice Lake Plains region

#### 4.3.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area Master Plan (1995)

### 4.4 Haldimand Conservation Area

Haldimand Conservation Area is located in the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand along Wicklow Beach Road (Map 4). This 4.6 acre site provides a view of Lake Ontario and access to a municipally owned cobble beach.

The area is mainly wooded with a small amount of open field adjacent to the road and parking area. The wooded area contains wetland (treed swamp) with a mixture of white cedar and ash interspersed with willow and dogwood thickets. Some poplar, aspen, and maple make up the other trees on the property.

It is a scenic area and is used as a stop-over point for tourists along the Lake Ontario shoreline.





Map 4: Haldimand Conservation Area

#### 4.4.1 Acquisition Details

- Donated to LTC by the municipality in 1974 for the cost of the survey

#### 4.4.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- View and access to Lake Ontario
- No facilities aside from a small parking area

#### 4.4.3 Restoration Works

- Large portion of property maintained in natural state

#### 4.4.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

#### 4.4.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Property was donated to LTC/provides conservation benefits
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Rural/Provincially Significant Wetland”
- Within regulated area for Lake Ontario dynamic beach hazard
- Almost entirely wetland/approximately 50% is Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)
- 2.0 acres of the property is managed under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.4.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

**Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* Regulated area for Lake Ontario dynamic beach hazard
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

#### 4.4.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Wicklow Beach Boat Launch (Municipal)
- Adjacent to Great Lakes Waterfront Trail

#### 4.4.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Near Lake Ontario
- Partially within Wicklow Gravel Pit PSW, which extends beyond property
- Near Wicklow Beach Wetland Significant Natural Area (Brownell, 1993)

#### 4.4.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Haldimand Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)

### 4.5 Kings Mill Conservation Area

Kings Mill Conservation Area is located in the Township of Stirling-Rawdon at 1119 Wellmans Road. It is 81 acres in size (Map 5).

The Conservation Area is situated on Squires Creek at the site of a former grist mill and dam. The property is comprised of wetlands, bush, and farmland. The Mill is still standing but is closed to the public. The dam was reconstructed in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited in 1990 to re-establish the wetland upstream.

#### 4.5.1 Acquisition Details

- Acquired in 1970 to preserve a structure of historical significance and to manage the natural habitat
- A donation of an additional 17.52 acres was received in 2001

#### 4.5.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Nature appreciation, picnicking
- Attractive historic site
- Opportunities for painting and photography
- Water access for limited canoeing and fishing
- Two picnic tables are available for public use but there are no other facilities
- Parking





Map 5: Kings Mill Conservation Area

#### 4.5.3 Restoration Works

- Majority of property maintained in natural state
- Ducks Unlimited Dam constructed on property

- Tree planting

#### 4.5.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

#### 4.5.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Building envelope restrictions due to floodplain/wetland and adjacent slope
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Community Facility/Environmental Protection”
- Mostly floodplain, open water and wetland
- 13 acres managed under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- 64 acres managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Area susceptible to karst
- Some restoration projects
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.5.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### Mandatory programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain, wetland, Water Survey of Canada gauge station location; rain gauge location
- *Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network*: 1 program well
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### Non-mandatory programs:

- *Local Water Monitoring*: Benthic Invertebrate sampling site; LTC water quality sampling site

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.5.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance Trail

#### 4.5.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Adjacent to Hoards Creek Flats Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)

#### 4.5.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Kings Mill Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)

### 4.6 Proctor Park Conservation Area

Proctor Park Conservation Area is an 85 acre property located in the Municipality of Brighton at 80 Young Street (Map 6).

The Conservation Area consists of an open area in the south and is wooded on the remainder of the property. This includes a mature maple beech hardwood forest and a mature cedar swamp. The topography is flat to rolling, with two small ravines. Glacial features include the Iroquois shoreline and beach. Butler (Proctor) Creek traverses the property. Ongoing efforts to naturalize the open area have occurred in recent years.

The Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) operates both the Proctor House Museum and the Simpson Barn Theatre on the property. SOHO leases land from the Conservation Authority for its purposes.

#### 4.6.1 Acquisition Details

- Donated to LTC in 1970 by the Proctor family, a prominent Brighton family.
- A 1.48 acre parcel was added to the property through a private donation in 2020.

#### 4.6.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- 2.5 kilometres of wooded trail
- Hiking, fishing, nature appreciation, photography, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and tobogganing
- Picnic shelter with picnic tables and seasonal outhouses
- Parking





Map 6: Proctor Park Conservation Area

### 4.6.3 Restoration Works



- Majority of property maintained in natural state
- Naturalization projects
- Several tree/shrub planting projects
- Invasive species control

#### 4.6.4 Restoration Priorities

- Removal of hazard Ash trees
- Invasive species control
- Reforestation to replace dead Ash trees
- Complete full flora and fauna inventory

#### 4.6.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Property was donated to LTC/provides conservation benefits

Additionally:

- Zoned “Open Space”
- Partially floodplain lands
- Partially unevaluated wetland
- Restoration work ongoing in open areas
- 70 acres managed under Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Used for Cultural heritage purposes (2.5 acres leased to SOHO – Save Our Heritage Organization)
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.6.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain; snow course survey location
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Local Water Monitoring:* Temperature Logger site

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.6.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Presqu'île Provincial Park
- Near Great Lakes Waterfront Trail
- Near Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) Lands
- Adjacent to Municipality of Brighton trail

#### 4.6.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Near Spring Valley Significant Natural Area (Brownell & Blaney, 1996)
- Near Cankerville Swamp wetland

#### 4.6.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Proctor Park Conservation Area Master Plan (1999)

### 4.7 Sager Conservation Area

Sager Conservation Area is a 47 acre parcel located in Sidney Ward of the City of Quinte West. It can be accessed at 30 Golf Course Road (Map 7).

Sager Conservation Area is part of a glacial feature known as Oak Lake Island; this is a series of large drumlins that formed an island in glacial Lake Iroquois. The drumlin in the conservation area is one of the highest points of land in the area.

#### 4.7.1 Acquisition Details

- Purchased by LTC in 1971 from the Sager family



Map 7: Sager Conservation Area

#### 4.7.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- 30 foot high lookout tower on the drumlin, which provides an excellent point from which to view the surrounding countryside which is typical of the area

- Interpretive signage is located on top of the tower
- 600 metre trail loop, which includes a 200 metre trail to the tower and 97 steps
- Hiking, nature appreciation, photography
- Bench and picnic table near the tower
- Picnic shelter with two picnic tables near the parking lot, along with an information kiosk and a permanent vault privy
- Parking

#### 4.7.3 Restoration Works

- Tree planting on slope of drumlin in northwest corner
- Prairie restoration (tree removal and invasive species removal)

#### 4.7.4 Restoration Priorities

- Gradually enlarge existing remnant prairie-savanna populations by reversing encroachment of woody vegetation, including plantations
  - Cut and fell several plantation trees adjacent to remnant populations to allow more sunlight to reach the ground
  - Cut and treat with herbicide aggressive woody vegetation, both native (i.e. Staghorn sumac, red cedar, riverbank grapevine, large toothed aspen) and non-native (i.e. Tartarian honeysuckle) species
- Control invasive plants before they become a problem
  - Dig up, cut and treat dog strangling vine, common buckthorn and other serious invasive plants growing in the surrounding area
- Collect seeds and propagate plants to enlarge remnant populations and support efforts at other restoration sites
  - Complete full flora and faunal inventory of the communities
  - Collect native wildflower and grass seeds from remnant populations
  - Direct sow and propagate stock from seeds to plant in opened-up areas
  - Use seed to support restoration efforts at other prairie-savanna sites especially Goodrich-Loomis CA.
- Determine presence/absence of the endangered Mottled Dusky-wing butterfly, if absent determine feasibility of reintroducing a viable population
  - Invite Mottled Dusky-wing researcher to conduct surveys, and/or complete own surveys
  - Determine abundance of New Jersey Tea, Mottled-dusky wing host plants at Sager CA and neighbouring properties

#### 4.7.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Open Space”
- Entirely Located within Earth Science and Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Areas (ANSIs)
- 47 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Some restoration projects
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.7.6 **Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services**

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* snow course survey location
- *Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program:* One of the program wells is located on the property.
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Youth Education:* Educational opportunities for visiting youth groups
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Educational opportunities for visitors

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements, self-generated revenue

#### 4.7.7 **Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails**

- None nearby

#### 4.7.8 **Linkage to Natural Heritage System**

- Entirely within Sager Sand Barrens and Forest Complex ANSI, which extends beyond property
- Entirely within Oak Lake Island Shorelines ANSI, which extends beyond property
- Near Oak Lake Slope ANSI

#### 4.7.9 **Additional Information Sources**

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Sager Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)



## 4.8 Seymour Conservation Area

Seymour Conservation Area is 197 acres in size. Located in Seymour Ward of the Municipality of Trent Hills, the property can be accessed through 5754 County Road 30 (Map 8).

This Conservation Area consists almost entirely of woodland. A meandering stream flows through the southwest corner, and a swamp runs from north to south through the centre of the property. The Conservation Area is a limestone plain (western half) covered with varying soil depths, including a provincially significant oak alvar savanna habitat. A drumlin, composed of glacial till, lies to the east. An old quarry is situated on the site. There are also a series of pair ponds for waterfowl.

### 4.8.1 Acquisition Details

- Purchased in 1973 for the purpose of preserving a natural setting in the face of urban development

### 4.8.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- 3.25 kilometres of trail
- Hiking, cross-country skiing
- Picnicking, nature appreciation
- Two picnic shelters with picnic tables and one permanent vault privy
- Parking

### 4.8.3 Restoration Works

- Majority of property maintained in natural state
- Oak Alvar Savanna Restoration (including prescribed burns and planting)
- Ducks Unlimited Pair Ponds
- Tree planting





Map 8: Seymour Conservation Area

#### 4.8.4 Restoration Priorities

- Control aggressive or invasive plants

- Cut and/or treat red cedar, common buckthorn and other aggressive plants encroaching the bur oak savanna community
- Collect and propagate savanna species to sow/plant back at the site or elsewhere as appropriate
  - woody species seed of bur oak, red oak, shagbark hickory
  - wildflower species
  - grass species i.e. established side oats gramma
- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Removal of Hazard Ash Trees

#### 4.8.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmentally Sensitive/Environmental Protection/Rural”
- Some wetland on property
- Some floodplain lands
- 195 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Oak Alvar Savanna Restoration projects in open areas
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.8.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain, snow course survey location
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Youth Education:* Educational opportunities for visiting youth groups
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Educational opportunities for visitors

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.8.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Ferris Provincial Park
- Near Ranney Gorge Suspension Bridge

- Near TransCanada Trail: Campbellford

#### **4.8.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System**

- Near the Trent River

#### **4.8.9 Additional Information Sources**

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Seymour Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan (2017)

### **4.9 Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area**

The Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area is a long narrow strip of land along the west side of the Trent River in Trenton (City of Quinte West) (Map 9). The 37 acre Greenbelt is made up of lands owned by LTC, the City of Quinte West and Parks Canada, with 5 acres owned by LTC.

Remnants of a provincially significant oak savanna plant community are located at the north end of the property.

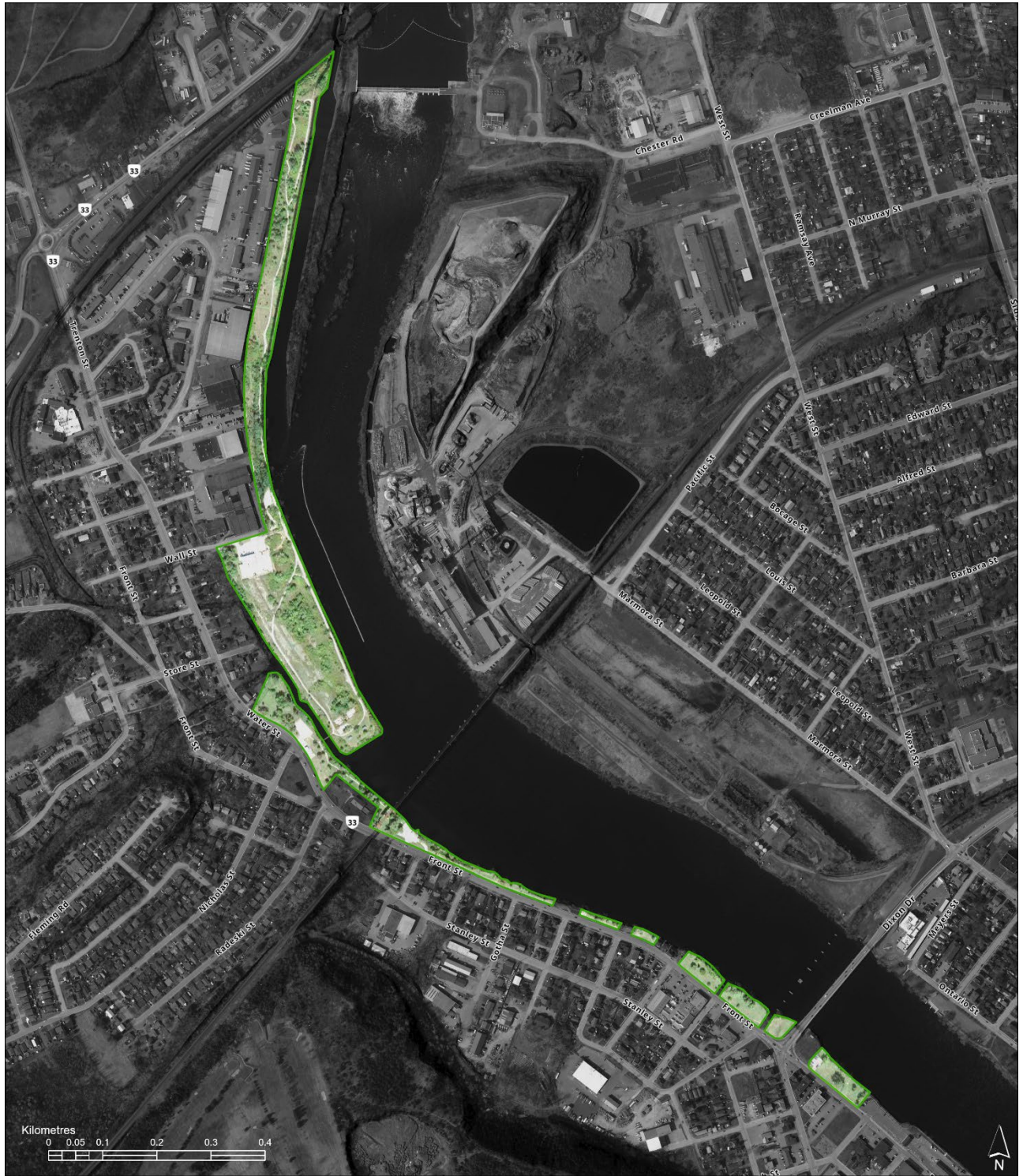
#### **4.9.1 Acquisition Details**

- Trenton Greenbelt project was initially established in 1972 as a joint effort by LTC and the City of Trenton for the purpose of rehabilitating the west bank of the Trent River
- LTC has purchased properties along the river from private landowners
- The City has transferred several parcels of land, including road allowances to LTC to become part of the Conservation Area
- Two railway easements are leased from CNR and CPR.

#### **4.9.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities**

- 2.25 kilometres of trail along river (Jack Lange Memorial Walkway)
- Walking, picnicking, public access to the water in downtown Trenton
- Walking, hiking, cycling, fishing and wildlife viewing
- Two picnic shelters, several picnic tables and benches
- Boat launch provides access to the Trent River and the Bay of Quinte





Map 9: Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area

### 4.9.3 Restoration Works

- Savanna/meadow restoration projects (including prescribed burns)
- Shoreline naturalization
- Tree planting

### 4.9.4 Restoration Priorities

- Control aggressive or invasive plants
  - Dig up, cut and/or treat dog strangling vine, common buckthorn, grey dogwood, staghorn sumac, black locust and other aggressive plants growing in the surrounding area
- Collect, propagate savanna species to sow/plant back at the site or elsewhere as appropriate
  - woody species seed of bur oak, red oak, shagbark hickory, American hazel
  - wildflower species
  - tall grass species
- Complete full flora and fauna inventory of the community

### 4.9.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Building envelope limitations - most of Greenbelt is narrow, with minimal land between the road setback and the Trent River floodplain

Additionally:

- The property is zoned “Open Space/ Environmental Protection/Downtown Commercial”
- Partially within Trent River floodplain (along shoreline)
- Mostly in regulated area of the Trent River
- Some sections are owned by City of Quinte West and some are leased from other parties
- Several Oak Savanna restoration projects and shoreline restoration projects have been undertaken
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

### 4.9.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

#### Mandatory programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Youth Education: Educational opportunities for visiting youth groups*
- *Community Outreach and Stewardship: Educational opportunities for visitors*

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### **4.9.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails**

- Lower Trent Trail starts just north of the Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area (no direct link currently, without following roads)
- Adjacent to the Trent-Severn Waterway. While not a trail in the traditional sense, it is a recreational boating corridor extending from Georgian Bay to the Bay of Quinte and beyond. Parks Canada owns several public properties adjacent to the river system and there are also nearby trail systems.
- Near Great Lakes Waterfront Trail

#### **4.9.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System**

- Adjacent to the Trent River

#### **4.9.9 Additional Information Sources**

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan (2015)

### **4.10 Warkworth Conservation Area**

Warkworth Conservation Area is a 2.8 acres property located at 25 Northumberland County Road 29 in the village of Warkworth (Municipality of Trent Hills, Percy Ward) (Map 10).

Burnley Creek (also known as Mill Creek) flows through the property. The Warkworth Dam is located at the east end of the property, forming a pond upstream. The dam and pond are the focal points of the property. Much of the Conservation Area is in the regional floodplain. On the south side of the pond, the floodplain lands are maintained as parkland (mown grass). To the north of the pond is an upland area that is sparsely wooded.





Map 10: Warkworth Conservation Area

#### 4.10.1 Acquisition Details

- Township of Percy donated approximately 6.75 acres of land to LTC in 1971
- An additional property (approximately 0.6 acres) was donated by Arthur Wartman in 1972

- In 1981, the Conservation Authority turned over 0.43 acres of Conservation Area land that is outside of the floodplain to the Township, in exchange for an 8 acre parcel of floodplain lands located further downstream (see Section 5.10)
- In 2010, the 4.07 acre portion of the property that is located on the west side of Old Hastings Road was transferred back to the Municipality

#### 4.10.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- There are no facilities on the property
- Nature interpretation, photography and picnicking

#### 4.10.3 Restoration Works

- Shoreline restoration projects

#### 4.10.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants
- Maintain/enhance shoreline restoration project

#### 4.10.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Building envelope restrictions – almost entirely located in the floodplain

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection”
- Some restoration projects
- Offers passive recreation opportunities

#### 4.10.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### **Mandatory programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain, flood control, and dam operations
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g. signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

##### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Community Outreach and Stewardship:* Educational opportunities for visitors

Program Funding Sources: Municipal, through agreements

#### 4.10.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Millennium Trail in Warkworth
- Near Oak Ridges Moraine Trail

#### 4.10.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Near Burnley Creek Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)
- Within Rice Lake Plains region

#### 4.10.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Warkworth Conservation Area Master Plan (2011)

## 5 ***DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF LTC MANAGEMENT AREAS***

### Natural Habitat Areas

#### 5.1 **Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area**

Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area is a 114 acre property located in the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, adjacent to 11754 County Road 29 (Map 11).

The property is on the eastern part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is a source area for a cold-water stream flowing into Burnley Creek and contains numerous springs and seepage areas. The upland portions of the area are dominated by sugar maple, and the wetlands are mostly seepy, mixed, conifer-dominated swamps, with some good open beaver pond and beaver meadow habitats also present. Most of the area is recovering from being logged in the 1980s/1990s, however, a small area of mature white cedar-black ash-yellow birch-hemlock swamp remains.

There are no trails or facilities on the property.





Map 11: Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area

### 5.1.1 Acquisition Details

- Donated to Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) by Jane Hardacre and then transferred to LTC in 2002

- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) facilitated the transfer of the property and covered all costs
- A landholding agreement was signed between NCC and LTC and a Management Plan for the property was prepared in cooperation with NCC

### 5.1.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but are open to the public
- Wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, education and research
- No parking

### 5.1.3 Restoration Works

- Left in natural state
- Tree planting, including Butternut
- Invasive species control (garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine)

### 5.1.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

### 5.1.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Donated and has conservation benefits
- No access to the property as the road frontage is entirely wetland/inundated
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Oak Ridges Moraine Core/Oak Ridges Moraine Environmental /Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Review”
- Partially Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and unevaluated wetland
- 114 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Some restoration projects

### 5.1.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

**Mandatory Programs:**

- Natural Hazard Management Program: floodplain, wetland



- Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation; natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.1.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Oak Ridges Moraine Trail
- Near Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area
- Near Peter’s Woods Provincial Park
- Near NCC properties
- Near Northumberland County Forest

### 5.1.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine
- Located in Burnley Creek PSW, which extends beyond property
- Located in Alderville Woods Significant Natural Area (Brownell & Blaney, 1996), which extends beyond property
- Near Burnley Creek Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Located within a very large node of natural areas near Alderville which contains the Burnley-Carmel Headwater (Brownell & Blaney, 1995) and the Northumberland County Forest Significant Natural Areas (Brownell & Blaney, 1996)
- Within Rice Lake Plains region

### 5.1.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Conservation Management Plan Alderville Woods – Hardacre Property (2004)

## 5.2 Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area

Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area is located at 424 Barnum House Road in Grafton (Township of Alnwick/Haldimand). The property is 48 acres in size (Map 12).

Much of the property is within the floodplain of Barnum House Creek which runs the length of the area. A flow regulation weir, built by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1977, is located at the

branching of the stream. The northern section of the property is densely wooded, while the central region consists of mixed scrubland.



Map 12: Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area

### 5.2.1 Acquisition Details

- Deeded to LTC in 1978 from the Ministry of Natural Resources
- An additional 3 acres was acquired from the Ministry of Government Services in 1980.

### 5.2.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, education and research, and fishing
- Parking is available for several vehicles on the west side of Barnum House Road

### 5.2.3 Restoration Works

- No major restoration; left in natural state

### 5.2.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

### 5.2.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Agricultural/Rural/Environmentally Sensitive Area”
- Significant portion is floodplain
- All 48 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

### 5.2.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

#### **Mandatory Programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation; natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

#### **Non-mandatory programs:**

- *Local Water Monitoring:* Baseflow sampling site, Temperature logger site

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.2.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Great Lakes Waterfront Trail

### 5.2.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Near Grafton Undulating Woods Significant Natural Area (Brownell, 1993)

### 5.2.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2017)

## 5.3 Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area

Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area is located in the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, adjacent to 12223 County Road 29. The property size is 117 acres (Map 13).

Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area includes diverse forest habitat with a tributary of Burnley Creek dividing the property into two portions. It is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine and contains a provincially significant wetland and the headwaters of Burnley Creek (a cold-water stream). Most of the property is covered with shrub swamps, mixed forest swamps, and coniferous forest swamps. A small portion at the southeast corner of the property is a dry-fresh mixed forest. Since the property is mostly wetland, and there is limited access, the property has extremely low human disturbance.

The Natural Habitat Area is home to approximately 90 bird species, some of which are federally, provincially, and regionally rare. Three species of reptiles and eight species of amphibians have been observed on the property and due to the amount of wetland habitat there is a strong likelihood there are more species present.

### 5.3.1 Acquisition Details

- Donated to LTC in 2006, under the Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program

### 5.3.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, education and research
- No parking





Map 13: Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area

### 5.3.3 Restoration Works

- No restoration work/left in natural state



### 5.3.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete updated full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

### 5.3.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Donated through Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program which has requirements for recipients to protect the property perpetuity including maintenance of the biodiversity and environmental heritage
- Access is limited for development, road frontage is floodplain/wetland
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned "Oak Ridges Moraine Core/Oak Ridges Moraine Environmental"
- Significant portion is floodplain and wetland (including Provincially Significant Wetland)
- Almost entirely within Burnley Creek Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Entire 117 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

### 5.3.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

#### Mandatory Programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain, wetland
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation; natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.3.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Oak Ridges Moraine Trail
- Near Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area
- Near Peter's Woods Provincial Park
- Adjacent to Nature Conservancy of Canada property
- Near Northumberland County Forest

### 5.3.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Partially within Burnley (Mill) Creek Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), which extends beyond property
- Almost entirely within Burnley Creek ANSI, which extends beyond property

- On the Oak Ridges Moraine
- Located within a very large node of natural areas which contain the Burnley-Carmel Headwater (Brownell & Blaney, 1995) and the Northumberland County Forest Significant Natural Areas (Brownell & Blaney, 1996)
- Within Rice Lake Plains region

### 5.3.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2011)

## 5.4 Douglas Springs Natural Habitat Area

Douglas Springs Natural Habitat Area is a 15 acre property located on Slab Street in the Municipality of Centre Hastings (Map 14).

The property has a large spring, providing a major source of water for the east branch of Rawdon Creek. The concern for both the quality and quantity of the water supply to Rawdon Creek by the Township of Stirling-Rawdon and the Municipality of Centre Hastings led to the acquisition of the property.

### 5.4.1 Acquisition Details

- Purchased in 2002 with funding from the Municipality of Centre Hastings and the Township of Stirling-Rawdon

### 5.4.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Nature appreciation, education and research, and fishing
- Parking is available on the property for a few vehicles off of Slab Street.



Map 14: Douglas Spring Natural Habitat Area

### 5.4.3 Restoration Works

- No major restoration; left in natural state

#### 5.4.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

#### 5.4.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection/Rural”
- Approximately 50% floodplain/wetland
- Purchased for protection of headwater area
- Area susceptible to karst

#### 5.4.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

##### Mandatory Programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain, wetland, karst
- *Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program*: One of the program wells is located on the property
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation; natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

#### 5.4.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance trail

#### 5.4.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Within Moreland Lake Complex Significant Natural Area (Brownell & Blaney, 1995), which extends beyond property
- Near Moreland Lake Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)
- Near White Snake Lakes PSW

#### 5.4.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Douglas Spring Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2017)



## 5.5 Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area

Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area is located in the Municipality of Trent Hills (Seymour Twp) and City of Quinte West (Murray Ward) (Map 15). The Keating component is located on and adjacent to the eastern portion of Wilson Island along the Trent River, just to the west of Stirling. The Hoards component is adjacent to the mouth of Hoards Creek and has a portion on the central portion of Wilson Island. The property is 766 acres in size.

A large portion of the property is wetland and is part of the Wilson Island East Provincially Significant Wetland. There are also upland forests, agricultural fields, and abandoned pastures. A portion of the property is still leased for agricultural purposes.

### 5.5.1 Acquisition Details

- Purchased in three parcels in 1971, 1975 and 1976.

### 5.5.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Hiking, picnicking, nature appreciation, and education and research
- Small areas leased for agriculture
- Small parking area (not on LTC property) that provides access to the Trent River and the Hoards section of the Natural Habitat Area (located adjacent to the western bridge onto Wilson Island off of 1st Line East Road)
- No designated parking at the Keating section of the property

### 5.5.3 Restoration Works

- Several tree planting projects undertaken in various locations on abandoned farmland
- Fencing to prevent ATV access to sensitive lands
- Species at Risk Inventory
- Significant portion left in natural state



Map 15: Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area

#### 5.5.4 Restoration Priorities

- Control aggressive or invasive plants

- Cut and/or treat red cedar, common buckthorn, and other aggressive plants encroaching planted areas
- Collect, propagate savanna species to sow/plant back at the site or elsewhere as appropriate
  - Woody species seed of bur oak, red oak, shagbark hickory
  - Wildflower species
  - Tall grass species
- Follow recommendations in the 2010 Species at Risk Management Plan including
  - Further survey work for Least Bittern, King Rail and turtles species
  - Regular monitoring of invasive species
  - Continued planting of old fields with native species to provide a wetland buffer
- Encourage best management practices and regenerative agriculture on leased agricultural lands

### 5.5.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Building envelope restrictions - almost entirely in floodplain of Trent River
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Rural/Provincially Significant Wetland” in City of Quinte West portion and “Environmental Protection/Environmentally Sensitive” in the Municipality of Trent Hills portion
- Mostly Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)
- 600 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- 236 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Some restoration projects

### 5.5.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

#### Mandatory Programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain, wetland
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g., fencing, signage, patrolling); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.5.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Adjacent to the Trent-Severn Waterway (a recreational boating corridor extending from Georgian Bay to the Bay of Quinte and beyond; Parks Canada owns several public properties adjacent to the river system)

- Near Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance
- Near Lower Trent Trail
- Near Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area and provincially owned crown lands in the Murray Marsh

### 5.5.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Within the Wilson Island East PSW, which extends beyond property
- On the Trent River

### 5.5.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2017)

## 5.6 Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area

Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area is LTC's largest property at 1632 acres. It is located in the Municipality of Brighton (former Township of Brighton) along Goodfellow Road (Map 16).

The Natural Habitat Area is situated in the Murray Marsh, which is the largest and most complete tract of undisturbed marsh and swamp forest remaining in southeastern Ontario. A variety of land types make up this wetland comprised of marsh, thicket and treed swamp, upland forest ridges, open water, and 27 drumlins of various sizes. Encompassing approximately 10,000 acres, Murray Marsh is classified as a provincially significant wetland and is of regional significance for wildlife. The marsh provides nesting and feeding sites for over 100 bird species. Numerous migrating waterfowl species use the marsh as a nesting and feeding area. A diverse array of vegetation can be found in the wetland - approximately 300 plant species and over 85 types of trees and shrubs.

This marsh is the only major flood water storage for the Trent River system south of Campbellford. It serves as a giant filtration system for nutrients, improving the water quality in the Trent River. Almost 50 percent of Murray Marsh is protected through the combined ownership of LTC and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.





Map 16: Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area

### 5.6.1 Acquisition Details

- LTC acquired several properties in the Murray Marsh in 1986 and 1987

- Financial assistance was received from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Wildlife Habitat Canada to purchase the properties
- In 1989, an additional 590 acres was purchased from Charlie Puddephatt.

### 5.6.2 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, photography,
- Education and research
- Hunting by permit
- Trapping (with written permission)
- Some areas leased for agriculture (cropping, apiculture)

### 5.6.3 Restoration Works

- Mainly left in natural state
- Buffer planting between agricultural fields and wetland

### 5.6.4 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants
- Ongoing maintenance and potential expansion of wetland buffers
- Create grassland bird habitat in the old field on Ames Island
- Encourage best management practices and regenerative agriculture on leased agricultural lands

### 5.6.5 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Road access is within 100 year floodplain and is poorly maintained
- No municipal water or wastewater services

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection/ Rural”
- Almost entirely within floodplain of Trent River
- Almost entirely Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)
- 1307 acres is managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Some restoration projects

## 5.6.6 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

### Mandatory Programs:

- *Natural Hazard Management Program*: floodplain, wetland
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas*: Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g. signage, patrolling); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

## 5.6.7 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Near the Trent-Severn Waterway (a recreational boating corridor extending from Georgian Bay to the Bay of Quinte and beyond; Parks Canada owns several public properties adjacent to the river system)
- Adjacent and near provincially owned crown lands in the Murray Marsh
- Near Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area

## 5.6.8 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Within Murray Marsh PSW, which extends beyond property
- Within Murray Marsh Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), which extends beyond property
- Near Codrington East Ravine Significant Natural Area (Brownell & Blaney, 1996)
- On the Trent River

## 5.6.9 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2014)

## 5.7 Trenton Escarpment Natural Habitat Area

### 5.7.1 Description

The Trenton Escarpment Natural Habitat Area is a 19 acres property located in Trenton (City of Quinte West), adjacent to Hanna Park (Map 17).

The Natural Habitat Area is heavily wooded, with a swamp centrally located within the property. An intermittent stream flows through the area most of the year. Passive recreational







### 5.7.2 Acquisition Details

- Purchased land which was unsuitable for development from Sunrise Park Development in 1977 to allow for storm and flood water runoff within the City of Trenton
- The Ministry of Natural Resources provided 50% of the cost (\$62,500)

### 5.7.3 Facilities and Visitor Opportunities

- Not promoted as recreational use area
- No maintained trails or facilities but open to the public
- Nature appreciation
- Education and research
- Preferred access is through Hanna Park (road frontage exists along Parkside Drive on top of the escarpment)

### 5.7.4 Restoration Works

- No restoration; left in natural state

### 5.7.5 Restoration Priorities

- Complete full flora and fauna inventory
- Control aggressive or invasive plants

### 5.7.6 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No suitable road frontage/access
- Building envelope restrictions - acquired from Sunrise Park Development in 1977 to allow for storm and flood water runoff within the City of Trenton

Additionally:

- Zoned “Open Space)/Environmental Protection”
- Mostly unevaluated wetland
- 19 acres is managed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

### 5.7.7 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

#### **Mandatory Programs:**

- *Natural Hazard Management Program:* floodplain, wetland
- *Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas:* Management and maintenance of LTC owned and controlled lands in support of passive recreation (e.g. signage, patrolling, trail maintenance); natural heritage rehabilitation/restoration

Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.7.8 Proximity to Other Public Lands/Trails

- Adjacent to Hannah Park (City of Quinte West parkland)
- Near Great Lakes Waterfront Trail
- Near Bay of Quinte

### 5.7.9 Linkage to Natural Heritage System

- Hydrologic linkage with wetland at base of escarpment that connects with Dead Creek Provincial Significant Wetland

### 5.7.10 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- Trenton Escarpment Natural Habitat Area Management Plan (2017)

## Public Safety Lands

### 5.8 Barry Heights/Mayhew Creek (Murray Ward, Quinte West)

LTC purchased a 0.94 acre property to gain access for the flood control project at Barry Heights. It is located in the City of Quinte West (Murray Ward).

The Barry Heights Flood Reduction Channel was built between 1981 and 1983 to prevent further flooding of Barry Heights Subdivision due to inadequate drainage. Flooding in the Barry Heights Subdivision resulted in damage to residential properties and contaminating ground water wells.

This channel is inspected by LTC staff regularly and occasionally requires cleaning out of sediment and debris. The last cleanout occurred in August 2014.

#### 5.8.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Must be maintained to allow for future access to the flood control works for maintenance purposes

#### 5.8.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Natural Hazards– Flood and Erosion Control Structures  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

#### 5.8.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)

- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan
- LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual (2024)

## 5.9 Frankford Pipe (Frankford Ward, Quinte West)

LTC owns a pipe (flume) along Cold Creek in Frankford (City of Quinte West). It was purchased to complete an ice-jamming and flood control project in Frankford. The property size is only 0.23 acres.

Formerly there was a mill on Mill Street in downtown Frankford. As part of the flood control works completed in 1982 for Cold Creek in Frankford, the mill pond was drained, the dam removed, berms around the former pond were increased in height and a spillway to the Trent River was constructed. The flume that used to supply the water from the upstream side of the dam to the mill was left in place to provide bank stabilization and erosion control measures around the last bend of Cold Creek. LTC owns this small portion of land where the pipe is located. There are no records of any structural assessments of the pipe or the hydro-geomorphologic impacts over time.

The pipe forms an integral part of the stream bank, helping to maintain bank stability. It is inspected for visible structural damage, shifting or noticeable erosion around it.

### 5.9.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Must be maintained for its natural hazard protection purpose.

### 5.9.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Natural Hazards – Flood and Erosion Control Structures  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.9.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan
- LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual (2024)

## 5.10 Mill Creek Floodplain

This 8 acre property encompasses floodplain lands of Mill Creek in the village of Warkworth (Municipality of Trent Hills, Percy Ward).

The property was obtained through a land trade between the municipality and LTC in 1981. The municipality received a portion of the Warkworth Conservation Area lands that is outside of the floodplain, while LTC received this block of floodplain lands located further to the south-east.

### 5.10.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- located within the floodplain
- Insufficient Road Frontage

Additionally:

- Zoned “Environmental Protection”
- 8 acres managed under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

### 5.10.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Natural Hazards – floodplain  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.10.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan

## 5.11 Trout Creek Property (Campbellford Ward, Trent Hills)

LTC purchased 0.5 acres of land along Trout Creek in Trent Hills (Campbellford Ward), to enable access to for completion and maintenance of the Trout Creek Flood Control Channel, which was completed in 1986.

The construction of the channel included a concrete block retaining wall system along Inkerman Street and a widening of the creek and bank stabilization on the north side of the stream. LTC owns the property at the very east end of the channel where the stream turns southward. The majority of the creek bank on the LTC property does not have the concrete retaining wall. The property owned by LTC includes the bed of the creek from Inkerman Street to the Balaclava Street Bridge.

This channel is inspected by LTC staff regularly. Maintenance and repair work has been completed since construction. Occasionally the creek requires clean out but not typically in the section owned by LTC. The last clean out of the creek between Simpson and Pellisier Streets was in 2018.

### 5.11.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Must be maintained to enable access to the creek/channel for maintenance work

### 5.11.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Natural Hazards – Flood and Erosion Control Structures  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy



### 5.11.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan
- LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual (2024)

## 5.12 Warkworth Flood Wall

The Warkworth Flood Wall property is 0.51 acres and is located adjacent to Warkworth Conservation Area (Municipality of Trent Hills, Percy Ward).

The concrete floodwall was constructed downstream of the Warkworth dam in the early 1980s. The flood wall protected over 50 homes from the 100-year flood hazard.

### 5.12.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- Must be maintained for its natural hazard protection purpose.

### 5.12.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Natural Hazards – Flood and Erosion Control Structures  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 5.12.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Lands Inventory (2024)
- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan
- LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual (2024)

## 6 ***DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF LTC ADMINISTRATION AREAS***

### 6.1 Administration Office

LTC's Administration Office is located at 714 Murray Street, just south of Wooler, in the City of Quinte West (Murray Ward). The office is located on 1.4 acres of land.

The grounds do not have any public recreational facilities. However, wildflower gardens have been planted on the property near the building, to naturalize the property and as public education tool. A rain garden was installed as a demonstration project.

The property was acquired in 2004 through a land swap with the City of Quinte West (the City acquired the old LTC Administration Office at 441 Front Street in Trenton). The City retained ownership of a public works yard adjacent to the LTC Administration Office on Murray Street.

### 6.1.1 Development Potential

No potential for further development on this property (See Appendix A):

- No municipal water or wastewater services

### 6.1.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Enabling Services  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 6.1.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan

## 6.2 Workshop

The LTC Workshop is located at 39 Wall Street in Trenton (City of Quinte West). The Workshop was built on a 2.4 acre parcel of the Trenton Greenbelt in 1988 to house the Conservation Lands staff and equipment.

### 6.2.1 Development Potential

No potential for development on this property (See Appendix A):

- The workshop is located on the Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area (see Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area for restrictions)

### 6.2.2 Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

- **Mandatory Programs:** Enabling Services  
Program Funding Sources: Category 1 Municipal Levy

### 6.2.3 Additional Information Sources

- LTC Capital Asset Management Plan

## 7 LAND SECUREMENT POLICY

LTC does not actively seek out properties to purchase but will consider securement of lands located within its jurisdiction, on a parcel-by-parcel basis, to increase its Conservation Lands base and contribute to its vision, goals, and objectives.

Land securement includes obtaining from a willing landowner, interest in land title for conservation purposes through land bequest, land trading, donation, and fee simple purchase, as well as other means of holding rights on land such as leasing, restrictive covenants, and easements.

When protecting environmentally significant lands, the preferred tool is holding title to land. Use of these other land securement tools will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors.

## 7.1 Land Securement Criteria

The quality of future secured lands is as important as the amount of land secured by LTC. A property considered for securement must meet one of the following five primary criteria:

1. Oak Ridges Moraine property designated under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as Natural Core Area or Natural Linkage Area.
2. Lands near or adjacent to existing LTC land holdings or other secured public natural areas.
3. Land identified with public outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g. linkage to existing Conservation Authority trails).
4. Lands with natural features or vegetation communities not currently represented in LTC current land holdings.
5. Previously identified for securement (through a Master Plan, Management Plan, or other Strategy/Plan/Priority List developed by the Conservation Authority or in conjunction with partners).

***In addition to meeting one of the above primary criteria, the property must meet at least one of the following secondary criteria:***

- Significant Wildlife Habitat
- Provincially/Regionally Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI - Earth or Life Science)
- Provincially/Regionally Significant Wetland
- Environmentally Significant Area or Significant Features and Vegetation Community
- Woodlands, Fish Habitat, Valleylands
- Species at Risk and Habitat of Species at Risk
- Natural Area Linkages/Corridors
- Significant Water Resources (e.g. headwaters, floodplain, significant recharge/discharge areas, riparian lands)
- Hazard Lands (floodplain, erosion sensitive, dynamic beaches, valleylands)
- Improves access to existing LTC property

Other criteria that should be considered when evaluating lands for securement include:

- Parcels of adequate size to protect the feature and support/contribute to the natural heritage system and its many functions in the watershed.
- Areas where development pressure and urgency of securement is high
- Candidate site for habitat restoration

## 7.2 Costs

While there are many benefits to ownership of Conservation Lands, there are also associated costs:

- Securement costs (e.g. appraisal, purchase price, surveys, legal fees, etc.)
- Property development costs (e.g. fencing, trails, signage, etc.)
- Ongoing maintenance costs (e.g. taxes, insurance, grass mowing, etc.)
- Potential management issues (e.g. trespassing, invasive species, accessibility, etc.)

To minimize costs, LTC will partner to acquire lands, where possible and appropriate, with municipalities or other agencies including, but not limited to, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, land trust organizations, etc. Such partnerships will require specific agreements and be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to partnerships, there is potential to cover costs through programs such as the Ecological Gifts Program and other federal and provincial funding programs that are available from time to time.

A “Land Securement Evaluation Form” is provided in Appendix B to assist with evaluating the conservation qualities of the property, identifying any other assets on the property, and estimating the short-term and long-term costs of securement. This form should be completed for potential securements (including donations, easements, and securement through partnerships) that meet the criteria outlined above.

Following completion of the “Land Securement Evaluation Form”, staff will prepare a report for potential acquisitions that warrant Board of Directors consideration. The report will consider both the benefits and the short-term/long-term costs for Board decision making purposes.

## 7.3 Other Requirements

- A proposal to acquire a property must be supported by an appraisal by an accredited appraiser.
- Legal council must be provided by any partnering agency to represent their concerns with respect to the land securement process.
- Prior to finalizing any property acquisition, a Registered Plan of Survey must be obtained from a registered Ontario Land Surveyor.



## 8 LAND DISPOSAL POLICY

LTC will consider disposing of any of its properties that do not contribute to its conservation objectives. Disposal may also be considered for any lands that have significant management or liability issues.

The lands disposal process will include:

- Identification of any legal requirements/restrictions on the disposal of the land.
- Review of requirements, restrictions, and proposed method of disposal with LTC Board of Directors.
- Public notification and/or public meetings, where appropriate, of intent to dispose of lands.
- Board of Directors decision.

If the decision is to proceed:

- Survey property, if required.

If the Province provided a grant under section 39 of the CA Act with respect to a given property, disposal (to sell, lease or otherwise dispose) of the lands must follow the procedures set out by the Province under Section 21(2) of this Act.

A summary of this process includes:

1. Provide a written notice of the proposed disposition to the Minister at least 90 days before the disposition.
2. The written notice to the Minister is not required if:
  - the disposition is for provincial or municipal infrastructure and utility purposes;
  - the province, the provincial agency, board or commission affected by the disposition or the municipal government, agency, board or commission affected by the disposition has approved it; and
  - the authority informs the Minister of the disposition.
3. Posting a notice and consulting with the public for a minimum of 45 days for any properties that include:
  - areas of natural and scientific interest or wetlands as defined in section 1 of the [Conservation Land Act](#);
  - the habitat of threatened or endangered species;
  - natural hazard lands (as per subsection 1 (1) of [Ontario Regulation 686/21](#))
4. Describe how the comments received during the public consultation, if any, were considered by the Conservation Authority prior to the disposition, and provide this in the notice to the Minister (under item 1 above).

It should be noted that the Minister may, within 90 days after receiving the notice, direct the Conservation Authority to apply a specified share of the proceeds of the disposition to support

programs and services provided by the Conservation Authority under section 21.1 of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#).

## 9 GUIDELINES FOR LANDS MANAGEMENT

LTC's lands are divided into three broad categories: Conservation Areas, Management Areas, and Administration Areas. Management Areas are subdivided into Natural Habitat Areas and Public Safety Lands.

### 9.1 Conservation Areas

As noted in Section 5, LTC owns ten (10) Conservation Areas. Conservation Areas are natural areas with facilities such as trails, picnic tables/shelters, and washrooms. All of the properties provide for natural heritage protection, while some play a role in natural hazards management. They are open to the public and provide opportunities for passive recreation. LTC's Conservation Areas are also ideal places to provide environmental education and promote conservation awareness.

#### **Management Guidelines:**

Conservation Areas are to be maintained in a manner that respects the natural environment. Public use is promoted on Conservation Areas.

#### **Permitted Uses:**

- hiking
- cross-country skiing
- snowshoeing
- cycling
- picnicking
- nature appreciation
- education and research
- fishing
- special events hosted by LTC or others via a rental permit
- large group events compatible with the existing uses of the Conservation Area, including low impact sporting events, where appropriate (user fees apply)
- selling, serving, consuming alcohol, with a permit (Goodrich-Loomis and Proctor Park only)
- grandfathered management activities

#### **Prohibited Activities:**

Prohibited activities are outlined [O. Reg. 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas](#) established under the CA Act.

These include, but are not limited to:

- hunting and trapping
- motorized vehicles

- open fires
- overnight camping
- dogs off leash
- horses

**Signage:**

Signage has/will be installed, as required, at Conservation Areas, as per the Conservation Lands Signage Program report (2017) noted above, for the following purposes:

- identify property and provide directions (road signs)
- welcome visitors to the property (entrance signs).
- dam safety
- identify property boundaries, where practical
- provide general information about the property which may include a map, rules and regulations, notices, event posters, and donation box (entrance kiosk)
- provide information about the trails (trail head kiosk)
- education and interpretative signage
- recognize significant partners that contributed to the acquisition/management of the property
- address safety concerns/provide warnings (e.g. toxic species, ticks, spraying of herbicides, potentially dangerous activities such as bee farming)

**Promotion:**

The features and facilities of LTC’s Conservation Areas are promoted through various means including the LTC website, brochures, through social media, and in publications.

**9.2 Management Areas: Natural Habitat Areas**

LTC owns and maintains seven (7) Natural Habitat Areas. They are generally large tracts of land that remain in their natural state. They have no maintained trails or facilities but are open to the public. They are intended to be low use areas. These are large areas with significant natural features. Long-term protection of such natural areas is required to ensure healthy watersheds, and for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

**Management Guidelines:**

LTC’s Natural Habitat Areas are to remain in a natural state.

Limited facilities may be permitted on a Natural Habitat Area to support the permitted uses (e.g. parking lot, water access).

**Permitted Uses:**

- nature appreciation
- education and research
- fishing
- grandfathered management activities

**Prohibited Activities:**

Prohibited activities are outlined in the [O. Reg. 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas](#). These include, but are not limited to:

- hunting and trapping (unless permitted through an approved Management Plan)
- motorized vehicles
- open fires
- selling, serving, consuming alcohol
- overnight camping
- dogs off leash
- horses

**Signage:**

A Conservation Lands Signage Policy is under development for implementation beginning in 2024. The policy will standardize signage and direct future signage requirements.

Signage has/will be installed, as required, at Natural Habitat Areas for the following purposes:

- to identify property ownership/property boundaries
- to recognize significant partners that contributed to the acquisition/management of the property
- to identify prohibited uses
- to provide warnings for out of the ordinary high risk conditions, as deemed necessary

**Promotion:**

Natural Habitat Areas are included in communication products/media to create awareness of the conservation value these areas provide (e.g. general brochures, website).

Natural Habitat Areas are generally not promoted for public use.

### 9.3 Management Areas: Public Safety Lands

Public Safety Lands are Conservation Authority owned lands that provide flood and/or erosion protection, but are not meant for public use. LTC owns four (4) such properties. Taxes and maintenance costs are minimal.

**Management Guidelines:**

All Public Safety Lands should remain in LTC ownership due to their flood/erosion protection roles.

Public Safety Lands are not promoted as they are not for public use.

Some signage is permitted to recognize land ownership or safety concerns.



## 9.4 Administration Areas

LTC's two (2) administration areas (the Administration Office and Workshop) house LTC's staff and equipment. There are considerable upkeep and costs with these properties, the building and asset inventory.

### **Management Guidelines:**

Undertake regular maintenance to maintain safety and prevent the need for major/costly building repairs.

## 9.5 Master/Management Plan Priorities

A master/management plan will be prepared for Conservation Lands when significant changes in management are proposed, or to address public concerns. They will also be prepared for all new properties acquired by LTC.

### Management Plans

Management Plans provide the framework to ensure that the ecological integrity and biological diversity of Natural Habitat Areas is maintained in the long-term.

Management Plans will be prepared, as required, to:

- guide naturalization and wildlife habitat enhancement
- identify maintenance requirements
- identify the potential for educational/recreational activities (canoe routes, wetland interpretation guides) and possible re-classification to a Conservation Area
- identify permitted uses and prohibited uses

LTC will consult with agencies, adjacent landowners, and any other groups that have an interest in the management of the property during development of Management Plans.

### Master Plans

Master Plans provide the framework for the development/redevelopment of Conservation Areas and may include proposals for naturalization and/or facility development.

Master Plans will be prepared, as required, to:

- identify potential for new or improved facilities
- assess trails
- guide naturalization and wildlife habitat enhancement
- identify maintenance requirements
- identify the potential for educational/recreational activities
- identify areas for conservation demonstration sites
- identify permitted uses and prohibited uses

LTC will consult with the public, agencies, and any groups that have an interest in the

development/management of the property during the planning phase. Public consultation for Master Plan development will be broader than for Management Plans.

In the absence of an approved master/management plan, a Conservation Area/Natural Habitat Area Backgrounder and Management Plan will be produced. These in-house reports will provide background information on the property and direction to staff on future management and maintenance needs and will be updated on an ongoing basis. Master and management plans will be updated when capacity (staffing and financial) is available.

### Public Safety Areas

1. Maintenance/operations for Public Safety Areas are included in the LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual (2024) prepared for the Natural Hazards Management Program.

## 9.6 Invasive Species Control

Invasive species control is desirable but can be labour intensive, costly and, in some cases, futile. LTC will:

- Ensure staff are knowledgeable about current best management practices.
- Monitor for invasive species, on LTC properties, as part of its regular maintenance program.
- Educate the public about invasive species (e.g. signage, notices on properties, websites).
- Undertake spot control for small patches (pulls or, under some conditions, herbicide use).
- Support and host special events on its properties to eradicate/control invasive species, where practical (e.g. garlic mustard pulls).
- Use bio-controls, where available (e.g. release of insects).
- Continue to partner with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for an Invasive Species Outreach Summer Technician.
- Document presence of invasive species on LTC lands and any actions taken.

## 9.7 Use of Herbicides

Use of herbicides will be minimized on Conservation Lands, but may be used in the following circumstances:

- For health and safety reasons to control toxic species (e.g., poison ivy, giant hogweed, wild parsnip). Only those areas where the public is apt to come into contact with a toxic species (e.g. trails, around kiosks, access points, etc.) will be sprayed. This will be completed on an as needed basis.
- To control invasive species, where warranted.
- For site preparation for habitat restoration projects, where other site preparation techniques (e.g. burns, soil solarization) are not feasible.

Herbicides will be applied by a licensed applicator.

Any areas sprayed with herbicide will be posted to advise the public.

## 9.8 Prescribed Burns

Historically, fire played an important role in maintaining now globally rare prairie and oak savanna habitats. Prescribed burns are an important tool for the restoration and maintenance of these habitats as they stimulate native grasses and wildflowers. LTC has several properties which contain prairie and oak savanna habitats, and conducts prescribed burns as needed to help preserve their integrity.

## 9.9 Partnership Opportunities

### Land Securement

LTC will work with its partners (e.g. Rice Lake Plains Partnership, neighbouring Conservation Authorities, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Hastings-Prince Edward Land Trust, Northumberland Land Trust) on any future initiatives to develop a comprehensive Natural Heritage Land Securement Plan/Strategy. This strategy would map out high priority lands for securement and identify the partner(s) in the best position to secure/manage the property.

### Ecotourism Opportunities

LTC will consider entering partnerships with the private sector to provide ecotourism opportunities on Conservation Lands. Any such proposal will be carefully considered on a number of factors including, but not limited to:

- Impact on the natural environment
- Impact on existing activities
  - Neighbourhood
  - Public perception
  - Liability
  - Cost/benefit assessment

## 10 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As outlined in the regulation, conservation authorities are required to ensure stakeholders, and the public are consulted during the preparation of the Conservation Areas and Lands Strategy in “a manner that the authority considers advisable”. To meet this requirement staff held two engagement periods, a stakeholder engagement period from May 29 to June 21, 2024 and a public engagement period from July 12 to September 6, 2024. During the public engagement period staff completed the following:

- Posted the draft strategy and supporting information on the website.
- Contacted stakeholders and partners via direct e-mail to inform them of the strategy and opportunity to review and provide input.
- Utilized LTC E-news and social media platforms to direct the public to the draft document.
- Developed a survey to guide input to the strategy.
- The survey was available on the website.
- Distributed the survey via direct email and on social media.

The following provides a summary of the input received through the public survey:

### **Land Acquisition and Management**

- **Pace of Acquisition:** Concerns regarding the slow pace of land acquisition by LTC.
- **Land Securement Criteria:** Benefits to include hazard lands in the primary criteria given the emphasis the provincial government has put on natural hazard management for CA's. A focus on abutting properties adjacent to protected lands needs to be emphasized.

### **Community Engagement and Involvement**

- **Volunteer Participation:** Suggestions for LTC more actively involve volunteers in establishing new habitat restoration projects, rather than focusing solely on maintenance and invasive species removal.
- **Educational Opportunities:** A call for enhanced outdoor education programs and public engagement, emphasizing direct involvement in restoration efforts and community learning.
- **Recognition of Indigenous Land:** Advocacy for the installation of signs that acknowledge the significance of Indigenous land and traditions.

### **Environmental Stewardship and Restoration**

- **Restoration Efforts:** A strong emphasis on the importance of tree planting and prairie grassland restoration, with suggestions for community training and involvement.
- **Conservation Lands as Demonstration Area:** Highlighting the significance of lands managed by the LTC for both preserving ecosystems and supporting recreational activities.
- **Waterfront Cleanup:** A call for cleaning up waterfront areas to enhance visual appeal and deter encampments.

### **Funding and Financial Strategies**

- **Parking Fees:** Opposition to implementing paid parking at conservation areas, with suggestions for alternative fundraising methods.
- **Community Access:** Belief that recreational access should remain free, as closed gates can negatively impact community engagement.
- **Economic Growth Potential:** Emphasizing the need to improve the aesthetic appeal of the riverfront to attract visitors and benefit the community.
- **Property Tax Relief:** Assess the viability of including properties that are fully taxed or within the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) in the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP).

### **Infrastructure and Accessibility**

- **Improvements Needed:** Recommendations for infrastructure upgrades, such as spaced boulders for kayakers at Keating-Hoards and replacing the out-of-service bridge in Goodrich Loomis.
- **Collaboration with Local Businesses:** Suggestions for partnerships with local businesses along the conservation area's shoreline to enhance access and services.

### **Principles**

Below are the guiding principles established to provide the framework for decision-making regarding the Conservation Lands program. The following table details how respondents ranked each principle:



Principles	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
LTC lands should be managed in a manner that values respects and enhances the natural heritage of the region		1		2	14
Management actions and promoted activities on LTC land holdings should be compatible with healthy watershed, respectful of the unique character of the lands, and sustainable in environmental, physical and economic terms			1	3	13
All current LTC land holdings and any future securements should contribute to LTC's vision of "Healthy Watershed for Healthy Communities"		1		4	12
Outdoor recreation opportunities should be affordable, education and accessible, where appropriate			3	4	10
Partnerships are a valued means of protecting natural areas and establishing trail networks throughout the watershed			2	4	11
Public input regarding the Conservation Lands program is valued		1	1	5	10

### Restoration and Stewardship

To meet the Strategic Plan's goals and ensure that the Conservation Lands contribute to a healthy watershed and healthy communities, LTC must direct efforts to stewardship and restoration. Respondents were asked to identify the top 5 stewardship and restoration actions LTC should focus on. The following are the results:

Action	Number of Responses
Monitor for invasive species and undertake management as feasible	12
Specific habitats/ecosystems (ie Prairie-Savanna habitat restoration at Goodrich-Loomis, Sager, Seymour, Glen Miller and Trenton Greenbelt conservation Areas	10
Survey and monitor potential threats to property ecosystems	9
Establish demonstration sites to engage and educate the local community in restoration efforts	7
Monitor for invasive species and undertake management as feasible	6
Complete Ecological Land Classification for all LTC lands	6
Inventory Species at Risk and their habitats	6

Maintenance and expansion of wetland buffers, creation of grassland bird habitat in the old field on Ames Island in Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area	6
Participation in the seed strategy/cooperative with Rice Lake Plains Partnership including establishment of a seed orchard	5
Encourage regenerative agriculture on leased agricultural lands (Murray Marsh/Keating Hoards)	4
Enhance volunteer opportunities starting with trail steward program	4
Thinning of pine plantations to allow for more diverse regeneration	3
Research potential carbon offsetting programs that would pay to manage LTC forested lands	3

### Management Priorities

To meet the Strategic Plan's goals and ensure that the Conservation Lands contribute to a healthy watershed and healthy communities, LTC must prioritize management actions within available resources. Respondents were asked to identify the top 3 management priorities that LTC should work on:

Management Priority	Number of Responses
Natural resource protection and restoration	15
Complete biological inventories (ie ELC, Species at Risk, Invasive Species)	8
Acquisition of additional conservation lands	8
Environmental/conservation education	6
Enforcement of conservation land rules and regulations	5
Infrastructure improvements	4
Outdoor recreation enhancements	3

### Benefits of LTC Conservation Lands

LTC's properties contribute to healthy communities and individuals in many different ways. The following table details how respondents ranked each:

Benefits of Conservation Lands	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Conservation Lands play a role in maintaining environmental and watershed health			1	2	14
Conservation Lands play a role in maintaining physical health			2	4	11
Conservation Lands play a role in maintaining mental health		1		3	13

## Land Securement

Respondents were asked whether LTC should continue to acquire lands for protection:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Do you think LTC should continue to protect key greenspace through land acquisition			2	5	10

The following table details the responses to the primary criteria set out in Land Securement Evaluation:

Primary Criteria for Land Securement	Yes	No
Oak Ridges Moraine property designated under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as Natural Core Area or Natural Linkage Area	11	6
Lands near or adjacent to existing Lower Trent Conservation land holdings or other secured public natural areas	14	3
Land identified with public outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g. linkage to existing conservation authority trails)	10	7
Lands with natural features or vegetation communities not currently represented in LTC current land holdings	10	7
Previously identified for securement (through a Master Plan, Management Plan, or other Strategy/Plan/Priority list developed by the conservation authority or in conjunction with partners)	12	5
Secondary Criteria for Land Securement		
Significant Wildlife Habitat	13	4
Provincially/Regionally Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest	12	5
Provincially/Regionally Significant Wetland	10	7
Previously identified for securement (through a Master Plan, Management Plan, or other Strategy/Plan/Priority	5	12

list developed by the conservation authority or in conjunction with partners)		
Environmentally Significant Area or Significant Features and Vegetation Community	10	7
Woodlands, Fish Habitat, Valleylands	12	5
Species at Risk and Habitat of Species at Risk	12	5
Natural Areas/Linkages/Corridors	10	7
Significant Water Resources (e.g. headwaters, floodplain, significant recharge/discharge areas, riparian lands)	14	3
Hazard Lands (floodplain, erosion sensitive, dynamic beaches valleylands)	6	11
Parcels of adequate size to protect the feature and support/contribute to the natural heritage system and its many functions in the watershed	12	5
Development pressure and urgency of securement is high	9	8
Candidate site for habitat restoration	11	6

### Education and Outreach Activities on Conservation Lands

LTC's Conservation Lands provide an opportunity for education and outreach to the local community. The following are the types of opportunities respondents would like to see LTC focus on:

Education and Outreach Opportunities on Conservation Lands	Number of Responses	
"How to" Workshops	11	
Guided Hikes	10	
Outdoor Education	10	
Family focused activity days	8	
Volunteer days	6	
Demonstration sites	3	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Would you be willing to pay to participate in these opportunities	13	4

### Signage

LTC is developing a signage plan. The following table details the types of signage survey respondents think LTC should prioritise:

Signage	Yes	No
Directional and trail signage	11	6
Signage related to health and safety consideration (e.g. ticks, noxious plants)	7	10
Interpretive signage	10	7
Updated trail maps	13	4
Boundary signage	5	12

### Additional Questions

In recent years there has been discussion regarding paid parking to raise revenues for maintenance of LTC Conservation Lands and whether permitted hunting should continue at Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area. The following summarizes the responses to those questions:

	Yes	No
Would you be willing to pay a parking fee to support our efforts to enhance our conservation areas	8	8
Hunting is a permitted activity through an LTC issued annual permit at Murray Marsh Natural Habitat area. Would you like to see this activity continue?	12	4

## 11 PERIODIC REVIEW

This document should be reviewed every four years. This will permit the Conservation Authority to document any changes in its Conservation Lands and Areas objectives and management priorities. It will also give an opportunity for every Board of Directors (appointed every four years) to review, update and approve the Conservation Lands and Areas Strategy. Ongoing/annual review of the Strategy by staff will facilitate the four-year review.

Stakeholders and the public should be consulted during these periodic reviews, in a manner that aligns with the degree of revisions and meets any regulatory requirements.



## 12 RESOURCES

1. Brownell, V and C.S. Blaney. 1995. Lower Trent Region Natural Areas Volume 1. A Biological Inventory and Evaluation of 20 Natural Areas in the Lower Trent Region
2. Brownell, V and C.S. Blaney. 1996. Lower Trent Region Natural Areas Volume 2. A Biological Inventory and Evaluation of 23 Natural Areas in the Lower Trent Region. Volume 3
3. Brownell, V. 1993. Waterfront Natural Areas Part II. A Biological Inventory and Evaluation of 28 Natural Areas along the Lake Ontario Water Front from Newcastle to Trenton
4. Conservation Ontario. 2022. Guidance on the Conservation Authority Mandatory Conservation Area Strategy
5. Lower Trent Conservation. 2020. Capital Asset Management Plan
6. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
7. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area: Backgrounder and Management Plan
8. Lower Trent Conservation. 2011. Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
9. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Douglas Spring Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
10. Lower Trent Conservation. 2024. LTC Flood and Erosion Control Structures Operation and Maintenance Manual
11. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Glen Miller Conservation Area: Backgrounder and Management Plan
12. Lower Trent Conservation. 1995. Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area Master Plan
13. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Haldimand Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan
14. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
15. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Kings Mill Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan
16. Lower Trent Conservation. 2024. Lands Inventory
17. Lower Trent Conservation. 2014. Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
18. Lower Trent Conservation. 1999. Proctor Park Conservation Area Master Plan
19. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Sager Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan
20. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Seymour Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan
21. Lower Trent Conservation. 2018. Strategic Plan
22. Lower Trent Conservation. 2017. Trenton Escarpment Natural Habitat Area Management Plan
23. Lower Trent Conservation. 2015. Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area Backgrounder and Management Plan
24. Lower Trent Conservation. 2011. Warkworth Conservation Area Master Plan
25. Nature Conservancy of Canada. 2004. Conservation Management Plan Alderville Woods – Hardacre Property

26. [Province of Ontario. 2016. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11](#)
27. [Province of Ontario. 2023. Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27](#)
28. [Province of Ontario. 2021. Conservation Land Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.28.](#)
29. [Province of Ontario. 2023. Conservation Authorities Act: Ontario Regulation 686/21 – Mandatory Programs and Services](#)

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Development Potential Screening Criteria**

### **DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL SCREENING CRITERIA**

As part of developing the Conservation Lands and Areas Strategy, LTC reviewed its land holdings to determine if there was any potential for development. The following screening criteria were developed and applied.

If any property meets ONE of the following criteria, it is considered not developable.

**1. Donated, conservation benefits:**

Properties gifted to LTC to protect and maintain; property still provides conservation/environmental value (e.g., floodplains, wetland, watercourses, natural habitat, environmental designations, etc.)

**2. Access Restrictions:**

Properties with no road frontage or where the road frontage has access restrictions (floodplain or wetland)

**3. Building Envelope Restrictions:**

No building envelope outside of floodplain, wetland or lands with restoration projects. One property was acquired to allow for stormwater runoff

**4. No municipal services:**

No municipal water or waste water services available

**5. Public Safety Lands:**

Property is classified as Public Safety Lands – provides flood protection or erosion control

**6. Administration:**

Lands with buildings used by LTC for administrative purposes

	Donated, Conservation Benefits	Access restrictions	Building Envelope Restrictions	No municipal services	Public Safety Lands	Admin
Bleasdell Boulder	x	x		x		
Glen Miller			x	x		
Goodrich Loomis				x		
Haldimand	x			x		
Kings Mill			x	x		
Proctor Park	x					
Sager				x		
Seymour				x		
Trenton Greenbelt			x			
Warkworth	x		x			
Alderville Woods	x	x		x		
Barnum House Creek				x		
Burnley Creek	x	x		x		
Douglas Springs				x		
Keating-Hoards			x	x		
Murray Marsh		x		x		
Trenton Escarpment		x	x			
Barry Heights					x	
Cold Creek					x	
Trout Creek					x	
Warkworth Flood Channel					x	
Mill Creek Floodplain					x	
Admin Office						x
Workshop						x

In addition to the limiting factors set out above, there are several other development limitations that occur on LTC properties. Many of these factors add to the conservation value of the property, while making it unattractive for development.

Properties with the following attributes are considered to have low development potential. Having multiple limiting factors significantly impacts a property's development potential.

- Environmental Protection/Environmental Control or similar zone
- Riverine property with limited area outside of floodplain
- Floodplain on significant portions of property
- Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) or other wetland on significant portions of property
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) on significant portion of property

- Significant portions of property managed under Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
- Significant amount of property managed under Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)
- Offers passive recreation opportunities
- Portions of land leased from others
- Intake protection zone or wellhead protection area on property
- Within LTC regulated area
- Area susceptible to karst
- Restoration projects
- Cultural value
- Purchased for specific environmental benefit (e.g., headwater protection, storm water runoff)



## ***APPENDIX B***

### ***Land Securement Evaluation Form***

#### **LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION - LAND SECUREMENT EVALUATION FORM**

Date

Completed by

Reviewed by

#### **1. Landowner**

Name

Mailing Address

Telephone

#### **2. Agent for landowner (if applicable)**

Name

Mailing Address

Telephone

#### **3. Property Description**

Property Address

Municipality

Lot

Concession

911

Roll Number

Size

GPS Coordinates

Attach map

## Details/Comments

### 4. Conservation Considerations

The property must meet one of the five primary criteria below to be considered for acquisition.

Primary Criteria	Yes	No
Oak Ridges Moraine property designated under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as Natural Core Area or Natural Linkage Area		
Lands near or adjacent to existing Lower Trent Conservation land holdings or other secured public natural areas.		
Land identified with public outdoor recreation opportunities (e.g. linkage to existing Conservation Authority trails)		
Lands with natural features or vegetation communities not currently represented in LTC current land holdings		
Previously identified for securement (through a Master Plan, Management Plan, or other Strategy/Plan/Priority List developed by the Conservation Authority or in conjunction with partners)		
<b>Details/Comments</b>		

If the property meets one of the primary criteria, it must meet at least one of the following secondary criteria.

Secondary Criteria	Yes	No
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Significant Wildlife Habitat

Provincially/Regionally Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI - Earth or Life Science)

Provincially/Regionally Significant Wetland

Environmentally Significant Area or Significant Features and Vegetation Community

Woodlands, Fish Habitat, Valleylands

Species at Risk and Habitat of Species at Risk

Natural Area Linkages/Corridors

Significant Water Resources (e.g. headwaters, floodplain, significant recharge/discharge areas, riparian lands)

Hazard Lands (floodplain, erosion sensitive, dynamic beaches, valleylands)

Improves access to existing Lower Trent Conservation property

**Details/Comments**

If the property meets the tests above, consideration should also be given to the following criteria.

**Other criteria**

**Yes**

**No**

Parcels of adequate size to protect the feature and support/contribute to the natural heritage system and its many functions in the watershed.

Development pressure and urgency of securement is high

Candidate site for habitat restoration

**Details/Comments**

**5. Financial Considerations**

**a. Securement Costs**

**Acquisition Cost Estimate**

**Estimated Cost**

Land appraisal fee  
 Purchase price  
 Legal fees  
 Survey cost  
 Partnership arrangements  
 Staff resources  
 Easement costs, if applicable  
 Other

**TOTAL**

**Details/Comments**

**b. Property Development Costs**

<b>Property Development Costs</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Preparation of Management/Master Plan	
Fencing	
Existing infrastructure that needs removed	
Trail development	
Signage needs	
Partnership arrangements	
Future capital needs	
Other	

**TOTAL**

**Details/Comments**

**c. Ongoing Maintenance Costs**

<b>Ongoing Maintenance</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Property taxes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility for tax incentive programs (CLTIP, MFTIP)</li> </ul>	

Insurance  
 Easement costs, if applicable  
 Grass mowing  
 Winter maintenance  
 Litter, tree removal, etc.  
 Invasive species management  
 Other

**TOTAL (annually)**

**Details/Comments**

**d. Beneficial Property Assets**

<b>Beneficial Property Assets</b>	<b>Estimated Revenue</b>
Surplus lands that can be severed and sold	
Existing infrastructure that adds value	
Partnership arrangements	
Ongoing revenue opportunity	
Other	

**TOTAL**

**Details/Comments**

**e. Potential Management Issues**

<b>Potential Management Issues</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Evidence of ongoing trespassing		
Presence of invasive species		
Significant degradation/environmental damage		
Significant numbers of neighbouring properties		



Lack of accessibility

Other management issues

**Details/Comments**

## **6. Overall Analysis**

## **7. Staff Recommendation**