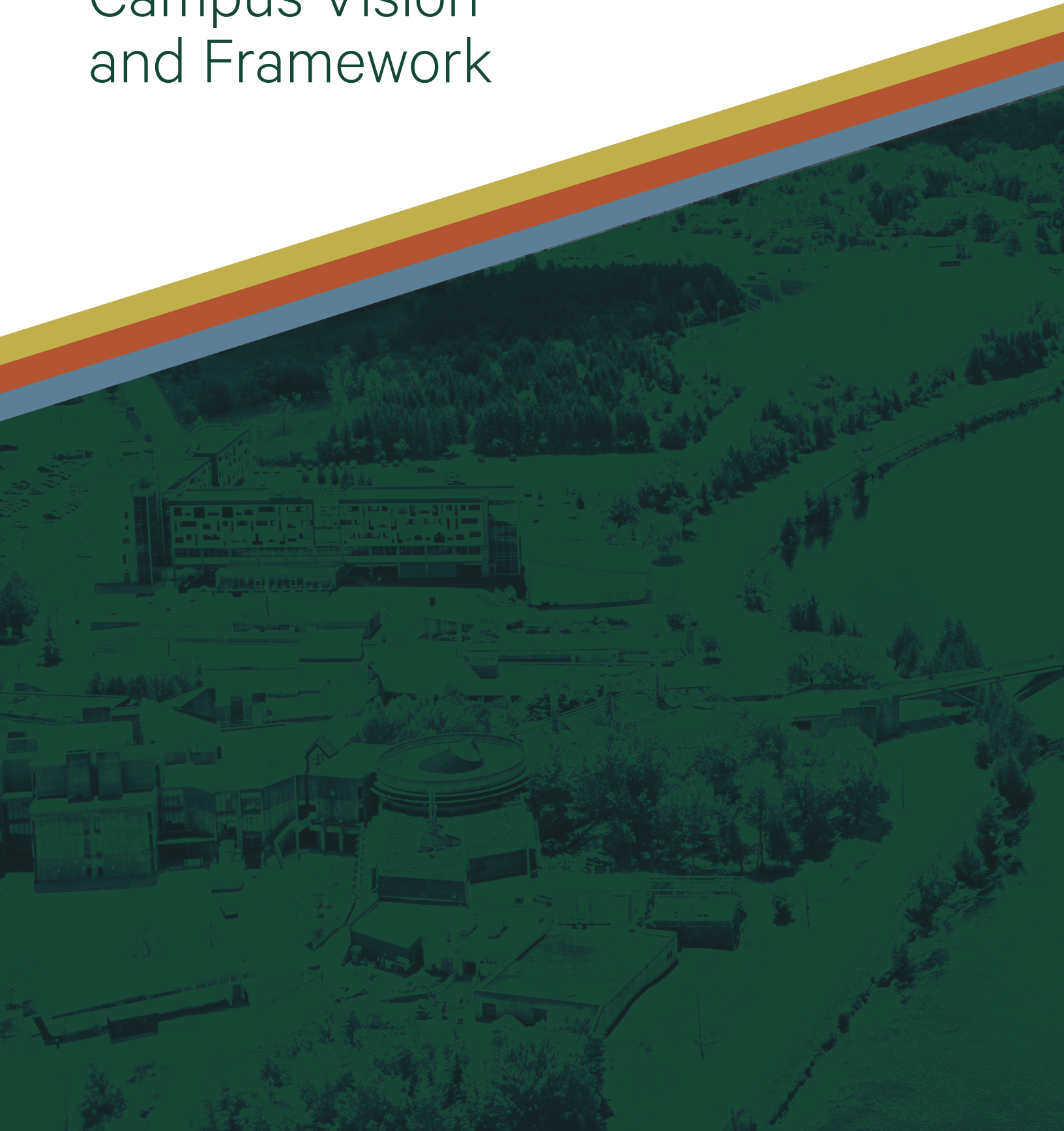# PART II

Campus Vision and Framework

3.0
Vision and Guiding Principles

The Trent Symons Campus lands are a precious asset, rich in natural and cultural heritage, vital to the resilience of Trent and our communities. Our vision is to create an inspiring, sustainable, and complete community to learn, live, innovate, and be active.

In our care for and use of the land, Trent will demonstrate leadership in environmental education and stewardship, respect for Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, and thoughtful integration of the natural and built environment.

3.1 Guiding Principles

Four principles have been developed to guide the evolution of the Symons Campus in a manner that is consistent with the University vision and aspirations.

LEARNING AND DISCOVERY

The Trent lands are a place where learning and discovery will thrive by:

- Supporting and inspiring land-based learning on campus, across academic programs, and in partnership with the local community;

- Ensuring uses of the campus lands prioritize teaching and research partnerships, and provide experiential learning for students;

- Forming academic and research projects and initiatives to implement the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan; and

- Showcasing Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and the story of the land.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND INTEGRITY

Trent's conservation and land use approaches will enhance the local environment and demonstrate leadership in environmental and Indigenous education by:

- Maintaining 60 per cent of the Trent lands as a diverse network of Nature Areas and green spaces;

- Restoring degraded environmental features, improving habitat, and establishing green linkages and safe wildlife crossings considering western science and ITK;

- Implementing a net benefit, landscape-led, and systems-based approach to land planning to maintain ecological functions, sustain ecosystem services, support biodiversity, and mitigate climate change;

- Pursuing higher density targets, setting goals for sustainable design, and striving for innovative low impact development approaches to minimize and to the extent possible, avoid environmental impact of development; and

- Targeting land uses that meet more of the campus and surrounding community needs to reduce the carbon footprint and facilitate modal shifts in transportation.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND INNOVATION

The Trent lands will enhance the University's reputation and introduce sustainable funding sources by:

- Targeting land use initiatives that respond to critical issues facing local communities and society at large including housing, employment, climate change, and food security;

- Utilizing the University's assets efficiently (e.g. land use efficiency) to reduce overall cost and burden on existing infrastructure;

- Demonstrating best and emerging practices in land use, site planning, and development projects;

- Pursuing long term land lease revenue that reduces reliance on enrollment growth and government funding, contributing to enhanced research and learning opportunities; and

- Engaging and partnering with the campus, local, and Michi Saagiig communities on stewardship and land use planning initiatives.

SOCIAL RESILIENCE, COMMUNITY, AND INCLUSIVITY

The Trent lands will enhance belonging and wellbeing, and will provide inclusive social infrastructure by:

- Enriching and making the campus experience more accessible for recreation, socializing, and collaboration, during all seasons;

- Greening the campus core and introducing diverse and functional green spaces to connect people with nature, contributing to physical and mental wellbeing;

- Providing services, spaces, and amenities to bring the campus and community together;

- Improving walkability and fostering active transportation; and

- Integrating cultural heritage elements including Indigenous place names, public art, and signage to reflect Indigenous heritage and worldviews.

Trent Lands and
Nature Areas Plan

3.2 Anishnaabeg Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom): Guiding Principles

The commitment to meaningful engagement, collaboration, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is a core principle to Trent University's approach to making decisions with regards to the Trent lands and Nature Areas. Central to this Plan are these key principles developed to incorporate the collective Anishnaabeg Nibwaakaawin (wisdom) of Michi Saagiig First Nations, Indigenous students, faculty, and staff.

Trent University, in collaboration with the Michi Saagiig and Indigenous Peoples, are committed to the following:

1. Collaboration and Reconciliation

- We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the territorial rights holders, the Michi Saagiig First Nations. This will be achieved through direct engagement of the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council, continued engagement of the Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons table, and ongoing inclusion in broader Indigenous engagement activities.

2. Ceremony and Cultural Protocols

- The Trent lands and Nature Areas are a place where Indigenous ceremony and cultural protocols are accessible and respected.

- We will begin our collaboration by acknowledging the land, water, and Mother Earth, and to seek the sanction and guidance of the Spirit World. These ceremonies will be led by Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers.

- Trent University acknowledges that there is much to learn from Indigenous peoples, including the inter-relationship between the land, the water, the concept of Spirit, and cultural understandings informed by Indigenous perspectives and worldview. We are committed to ongoing learning of these cultural ways.

3. Traditional and Ceremonial Lands

- Trent University recognizes that the existing Traditional Area and Mnidoowag A'Kiing may not be adequate for certain ceremonial or cultural gatherings important for Indigenous students' learning and sense of belonging, and to welcome Indigenous communities to the campus. Trent University is committed to working with the Michi Saagiig, Trent Indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and willing Indigenous partners to explore locations and funding opportunities for additional Indigenous ceremonial, learning, and cultural spaces and facilities on Trent lands.

4. Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

- Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) is an important consideration in land use planning and decision making with regard to the Trent Lands Plan and Nature Areas Plan. ITK will be considered alongside western environmental science.

5. Indigenous Commemoration and Placemaking

- We are committed to explore opportunities to advance the concept of Indigenous placemaking, which *facilitates the design and creation of unique, iconic spaces for learning, teaching, exchange, and cultural and spiritual expression* (definition from the Indigenous Placemaking Council).

6. Environmental Collaboration

- Ensuring the health and vitality of the natural environment, specifically wetlands, and other areas of environmental and cultural heritage significance is an important consideration for Michi Saagiig First Nations and Trent University. Trent University is committed to ongoing involvement and collaboration with the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council and Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons table in developing ways to monitor and enhance the health of these areas.

Trent Lands and
Nature Areas Plan

3.3 Our Responsibility to Future Generations

The Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan must balance a variety of needs and growth pressures, whilst preserving the health of our ecosystems, economies, and communities for generation to come. To achieve this balance, it is critical to raise the bar to a paradigm in which we view ourselves as stewards and co-creators of a better future.

Within the context of a rapidly changing climate, Trent University has an opportunity to be a leader in fostering resilient and adaptable communities. As an institution of higher learning, the University may establish strategic partnerships to further research that can contribute to a greener, secure, and inclusive future.

> ⊗ **From an Indigenous Traditional Knowledge perspective, the UN declaration, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the following four aspirations can be derived:**

A good life
A holistic, systems-based approach, where campus and community needs are infused with natural systems, material flows, and movement of people.

Do no harm and seek net benefit
Our actions should extend beyond reducing harm to people, land, air, and water. We must give back to the earth, the flora, fauna, and people.

Inclusive and mindful of the collective
Our campus and communities should be meaningfully engaged to result in an inclusive community, integrating culture, equity, and wellbeing.

Responsible to future generations
Our footprint should be reduced, seeking efficient management of resources, and integrating sustainable food options for a resilient and adaptable campus.

THE GLOBAL PICTURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The UN has declared 17 priorities through an open, global process to be translated into practice. Trent University seeks to join this pivotal movement, through their balance and implementation.

1 *No poverty*	2 *Zero hunger*	3 *Good health and wellbeing*
4 *Quality education*	5 *Gender equality*	6 *Cleanwater and sanitation*
7 *Affordable and clean energy*	8 *Decent work and economic growth*	9 *Industry innovation and infrastructure*
10 *Reduced inequalities*	11 *Sustainable cities and communities*	12 *Responsible consumption and production*
13 *Climate action*	14 *Life below water*	15 *Life on land*
16 *Peace, justice, and strong institutions*	17 *Partnerships for the goals*	

Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan

WEB

Learn more about the SDGs online at:

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

To ensure this level of foresight is rooted in current and future explorations and University initiatives, the evolution of the Symons Campus should be driven by a holistic approach that builds upon an integrated, robust system. From this we can identify a number of system elements that can be integrated into any development that takes place on the Trent lands:

SDGs

WATER
STRATEGY

Operate within the water balance of the place and climate.

Source: North of 49 Photography

ECOLOGY
STRATEGY

Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of ecosystems for biodiversity gains.

CARBON
STRATEGY

Minimize energy-related carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

Source: Canada Green Building Council

ENERGY
STRATEGY

Reduce energy usage and support renewable sources.

SDGs

Source: Canadian Architect

PLACE
STRATEGY

Establish a strong relationship between culture and community.

Source: Getty Museum

HEALTH
STRATEGY

Optimize physical and psychological health and wellbeing.

MATERIALS
STRATEGY

Endorse products that are low in embodied carbon, recycled, and bio-based.

Source: Sarah Laskow

WASTE
STRATEGY

Increase waste diversion and conserve resources.

Trent Lands and
Nature Areas Plan

The Framework Plan and Structural Elements

Otonabee River · University Green Network · University Districts · Mobility and University Entrances