Appendix B

Nature Area Management Plans:
A Preliminary Terms of Reference

B. Nature Area Management Plans: A Preliminary Terms of Reference

Management plans will be prepared for each Nature Area. These will take direction from the System-Level Plan and the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan to direct how Nature Areas will be managed including: application of Management Categories, stewardship (e.g., restoration) opportunities, etc. A management plan may encompass more than one Nature Area where they are functionally connected and preparation of a single plan will best support their management and stewardship opportunities.

Task 1

Existing Conditions Review and Assessment

Through a combination of primary field work, student and faculty engagement, and secondary sources, document existing conditions within each Nature Area(s). This should include:

Vegetation community mapping using current Ecological Land Classification for Ontario, include:

- » Flora
- » Fauna
- » Trails (formal, informal, and general condition)
- » Current dog use and impacts
- » General condition (e.g., impacted areas)
- » Archaeological sites (review the Campus Master Archaeological Study)

Based on this review identify key management issues, sensitivities (e.g., feature or species), and complete an assessment of features using applicable guidance documents and policies.

Task 2

Setting Site-Specific Targets

Informed by an understanding of site-specific conditions developed in Task 1, the NASP (Section 16), and the System-Level Plan, develop targets, as appropriate for the Nature Area. Targets may be set to support maintaining, enhancing and/or striving for a net benefit or regenerative outcomes for the system. They may include educational signage, management of trails, and/or permissions for dog use, as appropriate.

Task 3

Applying Management Categories

Using work completed in Task 1 and 2, apply the management categories presented in Section 15 of the NASP to the Nature Area(s). Note that not all management categories may be appropriate for the Nature Area for which the Management Plan is being prepared.

Task 4

Direction for Nature Area Management

In consideration of the conditions and targets for the Nature Area, provide recommendations for appropriate use, identify potential sites for restoration, interpretation, or other uses compatible with the management category and which support the goals of the Nature Areas (Section 11 of the NASP). Through this task, identify a 'long-list' of potential short- and long-term opportunities and actions for stewardship of the Nature Area(s).

The Nature Area Management Plans will integrate Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), combined with western science, to develop a holistic view of the

Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan

natural system and its functions. The Nature Area Management Plan should integrate:

» The preparation of site-specific ITK studies that assess the impacts of the management plan on the ITK values and cultural assets of a Nature Area;

» Updates to baseline ITK data, as needed to keep information current (to be determined by Trent University and advised by the Trent Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council); and

» The preparation of an ITK action plan that identifies actions that may benefit the land, water, flora, and fauna.

Task 5

Identification of Stewardship Priorities

This task will assess actions and opportunities identified in Task 4 to identify stewardship priorities. This assessment will use a multi-factor assessment in prioritization. Assessment criteria should include, but are not limited to:

» Alignment with actions and priorities identified in the System-Level Plan;

» Anticipated benefit achieved through the action(s);

» Alignment with and opportunities for learning and/or research; and

» Cost.

Task 6

Implementation Plan

Prepare an implementation plan which provides recommendations for implementing the stewardship priorities identified in Task 5 and is to include potential partners. To the extent feasible, the implementation plan should include actionable items to support momentum in stewardship for the Nature Area(s). Effort should be made to identify opportunities for student and faculty engagement for plan implementation for active stewardship and as opportunities for learning on the land.

For priority actions, individuals and groups who are responsible for or whose support is needed for implementation should be identified and engaged. For effective coordination and resourcing, institutional partners / agencies and potential implementation partners should be also be identified to help facilitate planning and implementation of stewardship actions.

Task 7

Identification of Opportunities for Monitoring

Monitoring is an effective means of measuring changes over time (e.g., biodiversity), in assessing effectiveness of implemented measures, and in striving to achieve targets. Opportunities for monitoring for these purposes should be identified, including potential partners for monitoring. Monitoring opportunities should prioritize learning and research for students and faculty where possible.

Task 8

Consultation and Engagement

Consultation and engagement with the following groups will be undertaken at key points in preparing the Nature Area Management Plan, where relevant:

» Institutional Partners / Agencies
» Michi Saagiig First Nations
» Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee
» Implementation Partners
» Faculty and Students

Refer to Section 17 for additional information on some of these groups and the role of the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Task 9

Nature Area Management Plan Report

Work completed in Tasks 1 through 8 will be documented in the Nature Area Management Plan Report.

Trent Lands and
Nature Areas Plan