

Foreword

The completion of this plan comes at a seminal moment in the history of the University, the community, and the world around us. Economic stability, the environment, and reconciliation are primary concerns. Locally, housing, unemployment, and a lack of serviceable employment lands are top of the agenda. The pandemic has made these challenges more urgent and acute. Trent University as a leading academic institution, major landowner, and economic driver in the community has and will continue to play a significant role in our collective response to this context.

In 2017, Trent University was challenged to update the Symons Campus lands plan in a way that would enhance the learning environment, advance community needs and aspirations, build our financial sustainability, reflect our leadership in environmental and Indigenous studies, and strengthen our reputation. In response, we launched a collaborative process to bring together the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (2002), the Endowment Lands Plan (2006), and the Trent Lands Plan (2013) into one integrated stewardship and landuse planning framework.

Trent's Symons Campus is rich in natural assets. A primary goal of the campus framework plan is to conserve biological diversity, maintain ecological functions, and sustain ecosystem services across our approximately 1,440 acres (583 hectares). Trent remains committed to maintaining 60 percent of our lands as Nature Areas and green space, and to being an active caretaker for a valuable ecosystem. At the same time, a priority of the lands plan is to enable developments that meet urgent campus and community needs to proceed in appropriate locations and with high standards for environmental sensitivity. These projects will enhance the student experience, create new research, teaching and experiential learning opportunities, and bring the campus and community together. They will also create a sustainable source of income to enable Trent to remain a vibrant and innovative University.

The Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan has been an ambitious undertaking and has set new standards for campus planning. It began with field studies to document natural features and species, with a focus on involving students in data collection and the integration of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. A master campus archaeological study was completed with involvement

of local First Nations Consultation Liaisons and Monitors. An extensive engagement process has involved the campus, local and Indigenous communities using digital tools like Social Pinpoint and iNaturalist to enable people to record areas of interest and concern. We held open town halls, and multiple meetings with stakeholders, advisory groups, regulatory agencies, and partners to hear their perspectives. The Trent Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council have guided our efforts, engaged in ceremony, and advised on Indigenous interests and perspectives. We have studied precedents in landuse planning, campus developments, and environmental stewardship from around the world.

The resulting plan will serve as a framework for the continued evolution of the campus over the next few decades. While it lays out a compelling vision and clear intentions, it is not intended to be prescriptive, but to be adaptive and responsive to changing needs and opportunities. The Plan advances education on the environment, preserves our valued Nature Areas, and provides targeted actions for a healthy ecosystem. It will enable us to respond to housing pressures on our campus and in the community, and create employment opportunities for students and the region we serve. It will enrich the campus environment and create a greater connection between town and gown. And it will create a revenue stream for the University to invest in advancing our mission, which has never been more critical.

We invite you to review the Plan and join us to create a more resilient, inclusive, and green Trent.

Armand LaBarge Chair, Board of Governors
Leo Groarke President & Vice Chancellor
Julie Davis Vice President, External Relations & Advancement

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