



- ▶ **Natural area(s)** are self-sustaining, natural vegetation communities. This can include individual features or a complex of wetlands, woodlands, etc. which occur contiguously.
- ▶ **The Nature Area(s)** are a Trent-specific land management type. Nature Areas can include, and are predominantly composed of, natural areas, but may also include other land cover types where they align with the overall goals of the Nature Area.

9.0 Introduction

The Trent Nature Areas are a vital part of the University's commitment to preserving and honouring the natural world around us. Appreciated for their aesthetic and natural qualities, the 11 Trent Nature Areas advance Trent University's leadership in environmental education, offer learning on the land, and afford the campus and community the opportunity to view wildlife, interact with nature, and enjoy passive recreation.

The Nature Areas are well used and are highly valued as places for people to interact with and enjoy these natural spaces. They also represent an important opportunity to conserve and maintain natural spaces within the City.

In 1989 the Trent Board of Governors recognized these areas for their natural heritage values and functions; the education, research, and recreational opportunities they offer; and identified these lands to be protected from development. The Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee was formed to advise administration and the Senate on the use and management of these lands for educational and research purposes, and the Board affirmed its role in managing these lands for the intended purposes.

Environmental stewardship is the recognition of a shared responsibility to apply practices and actions that maintain environmental and ecological functions and services (e.g., air, water, biodiversity) provided by the land for the long term. A Stewardship Plan provides focus and direction for activities and actions that assist in achieving the goals of environmental stewardship and includes 'living' elements that continue to evolve and be updated based on changing conditions, new data, implementation experience, and needs. Stewardship plans can be prepared at a range of scales for use by decision-makers (e.g., municipalities), organizations or industries (e.g., Trent University, dairy farmers), or community groups (e.g., community volunteer groups, student groups).

The University Green Network (UGN) presented in the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan (TLNAP) presents a broader approach to stewardship of the lands across Trent University. It considers the value and interaction of a range of areas including natural heritage features, constructed natural features (e.g., pollinator or medicinal gardens), and other open spaces (e.g., manicured fields) and their contributions to the environment. Stewardship of the Nature Areas represents a focused element of this broader objective for good stewardship of the land.

The Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (NASP) comprises three main components:

Framework Plan

The Stewardship Plan, as part of the broader Framework Plan, provides direction for the preparation of ‘living’ documents which will reside outside of, but be linked to, the TLNAP. It outlines management categories and policies applicable across the Nature Areas and sets expectations; it presents priorities and opportunities identified through the TLNAP process as initial direction for stewardship across the Nature Areas.



Who will use this: Trent University and (if applicable) consultants hired to prepare component plans.

System-Level Plan

Systems-based thinking will inform stewardship and decision-making for the Nature Areas and more broadly, the Symons Campus. The system-level plan considers the nature Areas as key tools for management of the University Green Network and as a combined resource. It is intended to be a living document providing goals, system-level priorities and a summary of ongoing implementation and actions taken as a form of ‘stewardship report card’.



Who will use this: Trent University, the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee, the Trent community, and (if applicable) consultants hired to prepare Nature Area Management Plans or update the system-level plan.

Nature Area Management Plans

Management plans are to be prepared for each Nature Area. These plans will apply the categories and policies of the framework plan based on site-specific conditions, identify restoration and enhancement opportunities appropriate to the Nature Area and in the context of system-level goals. The Nature Area management plans will contain specific ‘bite-sized’ actions and activities to attract funding and implement the details of the Plan with flexibility to adapt to available resources (funding, people, materials, etc.).



Who will use this: Trent University, the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee, users of the Nature Areas, and University staff or stewardship groups supporting stewardship actions.

The following abbreviations are used:

UGN	University Green Network
TLNAP	Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan
NASP	Nature Areas Stewardship Plan

Figure 29: The Symons Campus Boundary

