



10.0

Context for the Stewardship Plan

10.1 History of the Land

Trent University is located at the periphery of the City of Peterborough located in the Kawarthas, an area known for its scenic natural setting, with deep forests, open fields, plentiful waters and wilderness areas that make this region a draw for nature lovers. The Trent lands are situated in the rolling terrain of the Peterborough Drumlin Field. The Otonabee River, a key feature in the City, is called Odoonabii-ziibi in the Anishnaabemowin language which translates into “the river that beats like a heart” and is in reference to the bubbling and boiling water of the rapids along the river.

First Nations speak of *time immemorial* to describe their presence on the lands and waters of their traditional territory. Evidence of populations in Ontario date back to the Archaic Period (8000 BCE - 950 BCE). The place, now known as the City of Peterborough, is also called Nogojiwanong: The Place at the Foot of the Rapids. The Trent lands are located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

According to the Elders, the Michi Saagiig have always existed in this territory. They would often travel either seasonally or for a number of seasons to lands and waters where game, food and medicines were plentiful. In the 1860s, the Michi Saagiig, with allied Anishnaabeg communities, embarked on a campaign to reclaim their land within the Trent Valley watershed from the Mohawk, who had aligned with the English during the conflicts between the French and English during the Fur Trade.

The relationship between the Indigenous communities and European traders was initially beneficial to both groups. However, by the 1790s, the natural wildlife resources within the region had become depleted due to the attempts to accommodate the desire for commodities within the European market.

European influence on the natural heritage of the area was likely in the years before the 1800s when the fur-trade was rampant, followed by European settlers who moved north from Lake Ontario to colonize the area and rapidly cleared forest for agriculture and lumber production. Much of the area was active farmland until 50-100 years ago, and a large portion of the Trent lands remain in active agriculture. A detailed account of the history of succession of the Symons Campus is provided in the Phase 1 Background Report: Understanding the Land (2020).

Natural heritage within the landscape of the Symons Campus has been influenced and shaped by an anthropogenic history of land management, clearing and agriculture. Some features on the landscape persisted due to unsuitability for agricultural production (e.g., wetlands) or as a resource (e.g., woodlands for timber and firewood). This history is evident in the many features and vegetation communities at various stages of succession that characterize the Symons Campus. Regardless of this history, the Symons Campus continues to offer diverse habitats with opportunities to support a range of species in those features that persisted and those that have more recently developed on the landscape.

One of Trent University's most significant assets is its approximately 1,440 acres (583 hectares) of land that make up the Symons Campus, portions of which are composed of the Core Campus, the Nature Areas, and the lands that comprise the balance of the campus.

10.2 Evolution of the Nature Areas

The Symons Campus includes natural areas (woodlands, wetlands, etc.) that have been long been valued by the University for their natural heritage values and functions, and education, research, and recreational opportunities.



In 1989, the Board of Governors created the Trent Nature Areas as a way to recognize these values and to protect these areas from development. A committee was formed to advise the Senate on the use and management (stewardship) of these lands. However, no formal plan or budget was put in place at the time.



The 1995 Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee annual report (Jones 1995) reported on numerous deficiencies and issues facing the Nature Areas.



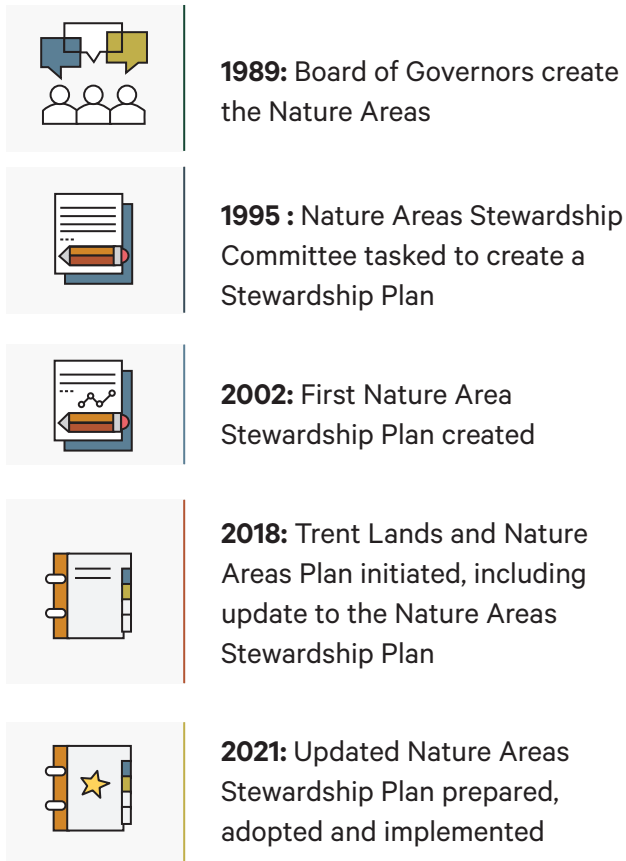
To better manage these lands, the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee was tasked with preparing a Stewardship Plan for the Nature Area, ultimately resulting in the preparation of the 2002 Stewardship Plan. The Board of Governor's Special Resolution III.4 (which has since been updated and is listed as II.4: Property and Land Use) recognizes the ecological values of the lands, and requires the Board to manage Nature Areas in accordance with Guidelines for the Use and Stewardship of the Nature Areas.



In 2018, Trent embarked on the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan (TLNAP) project to provide a framework for the management of its land resources on the Symons Campus, which includes the Nature Areas.



The TLNAP presents a platform through which a framework plan for the stewardship of the Nature Areas could also be prepared, adopted, and implemented. This updated Stewardship Plan is presented in this report.

Figure 30: Timeline of the Nature Areas

Visionary Approach and Ongoing Commitment

At the time the Nature Areas were created, the legislative and policy landscape did not afford the same protections that are in place today. The Nature Areas were a visionary and tangible way through which Trent could act as a land steward, protecting the features and areas that presented such high levels of value in terms of their ecological function or as representative elements of the landscape of Trent and Peterborough.

While legislation and policies associated with natural heritage are substantively different today (providing protections, etc.), the Nature Areas continue to be a relevant land use planning and management tool demonstrating Trent's commitment to the natural environment within the Symons Campus. Natural heritage protection takes place at a variety of levels. Provincial and municipal policies and regulations (e.g., via Conservation Authorities) are applicable across the Symons Campus (i.e. both within and outside of the Nature Areas). Protected and regulated features and functions are defined and managed in accordance with these directives as a minimum condition. The Nature Areas are an internal Trent classification which goes beyond external policies to encompass many of the protected features present on the Symons Campus, but also include areas that are not expressly restricted by external policy. All levels of protection will be applied in the management of the Trent lands and Nature Areas, accounting for areas of overlap with external policy-based protections, and providing opportunities for preservation that extend beyond the City's Natural Heritage System in a way that honours Trent's commitment to the stewardship and care for the land.

The Nature Areas provide an opportunity to manage portions of the Campus as part of a broader shift towards a systems-based approach to natural heritage management within the Symons Campus and support Trent’s ongoing commitment to land stewardship and the natural environment.



2002 Stewardship Plan

trentu.ca/trentlandsplan/sites/trentu.ca.trentlandsplan/files/documents/draftStewardshipPlanforTUNatureAreas2002.pdf

In 2002, The Stewardship Plan for Trent University Nature Areas was published to provide direction for the wise use and stewardship of the Nature Areas. Generally, this plan described a mission statement and goals for stewardship of the lands, provided characterization, policies, classification and zoning, and management and operational guidelines for the Nature Areas. The 2002 Plan provides a history and conditions of the Nature Areas and continues to be a valuable resource. Potential and continuing initiatives, as well as key recommendations for the active stewardship of the Nature Areas, were also identified.

Stewardship of the Nature Areas has continued through the ongoing work of the facilities staff at the University. The Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee and the 2002 Plan have been consulted to inform works and guidance provided by the committee.

Updating the Stewardship Plan

Trent has made it a priority to update the Stewardship Plan as part of the TLNAP process to create a consolidated and comprehensive framework plan for management of Trent’s lands across the Symons Campus. The passage of time has also resulted in changes to available information and methods that should inform the current land use planning process, which can be addressed through the updated plan.

The objectives of the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan update are to:

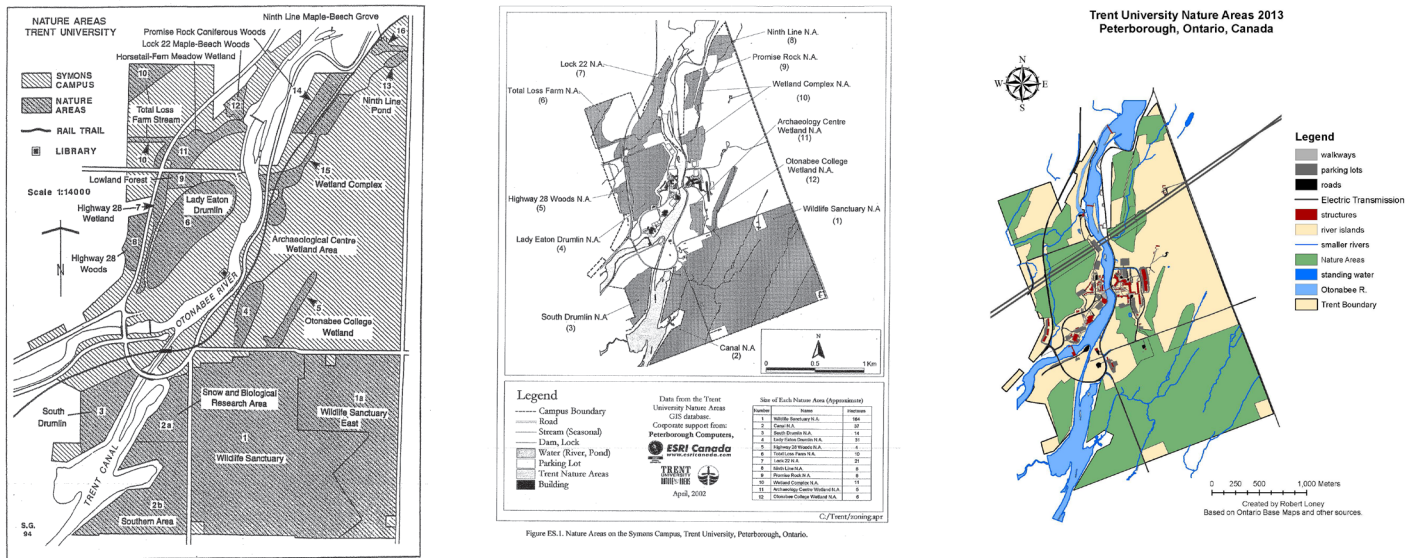
- Reaffirm Trent’s commitment to conserving important natural heritage features and functions within the Symons Campus through updated goals for the Nature Areas.
- Simplify and streamline the Stewardship Plan to facilitate implementation.
- Review the 2002 Stewardship Plan approach to classification and zoning and recommend updates or provide a revised approach.
- Revise the boundaries of the Nature Areas to reflect current conditions and feature limits, where appropriate.
- Confirm, refine or update management policies for the Nature Areas.
- Provide overarching guidelines for uses and activities within the Nature Areas (e.g., trails, research, teaching).

These objectives set out the key tasks and expected outcomes of the updated plan and are reflected in the Plan presented below.

Nature Area Boundaries

In 1989, a total of 17 Nature Areas were identified; over the course of their history, there have been some amalgamations and one change in ownership (**Table 3**) resulting in a total of 11 Nature Areas within the Trent Lands.

Table 3: Nature Areas Descriptions from 1989 to 2013



| Nature Areas Inception (1989) | Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (2002) | Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan (2013) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Wildlife Sanctuary NA | Wildlife Sanctuary NA | Wildlife Sanctuary NA |
| Wildlife Sanctuary East NA | | |
| Snow and Biological Research NA | Canal NA | Canal NA |
| South Drumlin NA | South Drumlin NA | South Drumlin NA |
| Lady Eaton Drumlin NA | Lady Eaton Drumlin NA | Lady Eaton Drumlin NA |
| Highway 28 Wetland NA | | |
| Lowland Forest NA | | |
| Highway 28 Woods NA | Highway 28 Woods NA | * |
| Total Loss Farm NA | Total Loss Farm NA | Total Loss Farm NA |
| Lock 22 Maple-Beech Woods NA | Lock 22 NA | Lock 22 NA |
| Horsetail-Fern Meadow Wetland NA | | |
| Ninth Line-Maple Beech NA | Ninth Line NA | Ninth Line NA |
| Ninth Line Pond NA | | |
| Promise Rock NA | Promise Rock NA | Promise Rock NA |
| Wetland Complex NA | Wetland Complex NA | Wetland Complex NA |
| Archaeology Centre Wetland NA | Archaeology Centre Wetland NA | Archaeology Centre Wetland NA |
| Otonabee College Wetland NA | Otonabee College Wetland NA | Otonabee College Wetland NA |

*Property was transferred to City of Peterborough in 2010, as protected Natural Areas and Corridors in the City's Official Plan.