

Cultural Area

Other Category Areas

Ecological Reserve



Conservation Area



Regenerative Agricultural Area



What are the priorities?



Natural Heritage & Landforms



Biodiversity & Ecological Services



Nature Based Learning



ITK



Wellbeing & Recreation

What are Cultural Areas?

Cultural Areas identify lands whose importance within the Nature Areas is primarily driven by cultural values or considerations. These areas are primarily managed for their cultural importance with consideration given to ecologically supportive or compatible approaches to management. These areas may or may not consist of natural vegetation cover. Policy based feature protections are recognized and will be upheld (e.g., no negative impact per the PPS). Evidence of cultural history and transition of land from formerly cleared and agricultural uses to a return to natural areas remains evident throughout the Nature Areas (e.g., fence rows, remains of buildings, etc.) These small traces often do not warrant a management category, but their presence and value to teaching at the University should be recognized and may inform interpretive signage and trails to allow continued access to these features, as appropriate.

Goals supported include:

Recognize and protect important Indigenous values within the Nature Areas.

Encourage use of the Nature Areas for academic research, teaching, outdoor education and (passive, non-motorized) recreation.

Promote Indigenous Traditional Knowledge sharing and teaching, ceremonies, nature interpretation.

Understand and promote physical and psychological benefits and opportunities presented by the Nature Areas.

Foster understanding, appreciation, and shared responsibility for the natural environment.

Encourage and enable positive interactions between the public and the University through shared experience in and stewardship of the Nature Areas.

Provide low impact structures (e.g., open air teaching shelter) or amenities consistent with the uses and policies of this Stewardship Plan and to further the goals of the Nature Areas.

Enhance the reputation of Trent University as an institution.

Summary of Features or Functions:

- Indigenous traditional or cultural sites and areas;
- Areas of archaeological significance;
- Teaching / gathering areas;
- Educational / interpretive areas and facilities; and
- Pollinator, medicinal or education gardens.

Category-Specific Direction:**Teaching, Research and Outdoor Education**

Academic research and teaching will generally be allowed in consideration of cultural values for which the area is identified, where appropriate; however, remains subject to approval by the University.

**Recreation**

Low-intensity, non-motorized, day use recreational activities will be generally permissible with appropriate siting and trail network design.

**Dogs**

Dogs may be permitted in some cultural areas through the creation of a management plan that determines suitability of this use, and a plan to ensure safety for other users and the natural environment. With respect to dog use, options are identified as follows:

- Dogs permitted – Leash optional
- Dogs permitted – Leash mandatory
- Dogs not permitted

Clear signage should be installed at public access points describing applicable dog use policies and markers at trail intersections or other appropriate junctures to delineate where allowable use changes. Where dog use is not permitted, signage should be posted to inform users of the ecological impacts of dogs (in order to discourage use, where applicable) with direction to dog-friendly alternative areas (e.g., a map). Enforcement efforts should be considered with assistance from appropriate authorities, if required.

**General Management**

Sites with high cultural value will be protected or managed to support the value for which they have been identified. This can include public exclusions from sites that contain especially rare, valuable, fragile, or dangerous artifacts, trails or paths to encourage exploration, ongoing management of vegetation to protect or enhance the cultural site / value, and / or signage to inform and educate.

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge sharing and teaching, ceremonies, and nature interpretation are promoted across all categories. If and where appropriate, Cultural Area sites may be identified to facilitate establishment of a site for Indigenous use and teaching (e.g., medicinal garden). For sites with high indigenous cultural value, engagement with the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council and the Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons will help inform decisions around access and use.

Structures or amenities are generally limited to basic services such as small parking areas (for Nature Area use only), teaching shelters (e.g., open air shelter), benches, toilets, signage, and trail networks. The construction of new low impact structures and amenity areas will be considered based appropriate siting process(es) to ensure consistency with policies and that impacts do not jeopardize the form and function of natural heritage features. Siting of any proposed structure or amenity must be done in consideration of site conditions, sensitivities, avoidance or where avoidance is not possible minimization and mitigation of potential negative impacts (e.g., through design, compensation, etc.). Any proposed activity must be undertaken in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.