## 16.2 Priorities and Actions

### Supporting Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern 1

PRIORITY NO.1

The Nature Areas provide habitat to a range of species including Species at Risk and other Species of Conservation Concern. In supporting the biodiversity target and goal(s), stewardship of the Nature Areas should focus on identifying, protecting and where possible, enhancing the presence or function of habitat for these vulnerable species.

QUICK ACTIONS

- Blanding's Turtle (Threatened Species)
  - Conduct surveys to assess presence of habitat suitability and presence of Blanding's Turtle – focus on the Wildlife Sanctuary, Canal, Otonabee College Wetland, and Archaeology Centre Wetland Nature Areas.
  - Map habitat for the species to inform land use planning, recreation planning (e.g., trail alignments), management plans and identify opportunities to protect or enhance the species and its habitat.
  - Install habitat enhancement measures (e.g., nesting mounds).
  - Install mitigation measures where risks to the species are identified (e.g., road mortality concerns along University Road between the Wildlife Sanctuary and Canal Nature Areas).
- Barn Swallow (Threatened Species)
  - Installation of artificial nesting structures in appropriate locations.
  - Create or conserve existing foraging habitats (meadow, grassland, wetland and aquatic habitats) which support prey species.
- Grassland Birds
  - Grassland birds are at risk through loss of habitat on the landscape. This includes Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark (Threatened Species).
  - Create grassland habitat of sufficient size to support these and other grassland species.

## Enhancement and Restoration 2

PRIORITY NO.2

Lands across the Symons Campus have a predominantly cultural history. This history is reflected in the current condition of natural features across the local landscape. In support of biodiversity and habitat diversity targets and goals, opportunities to enhance existing or restore former features and habitats within the Nature Areas offers a substantial opportunity for environmental stewardship.

QUICK ACTIONS

- Invasive Species Management
  - Map invasive species within the Nature Areas (e.g., Dog Strangling Vine, European Buckthorn, Phragmites (australis)).
  - Identify priorities for management (e.g., by species, severity, proximity to sensitive habitats).
  - Conduct removal / management activities.
  - Engage students and / or courses in conducting appropriate portions of this work.
- Declining Species - Ash
  - Ash are a declining species due to Emerald Ash borer. Through student research Ash density has been mapped across much of the Symons Campus (2015, updated 2016).
  - Use available research and mapping to identify priority areas for active management of the succession for areas of high Ash density or as potential areas for planned restoration activities (e.g., habitat creation).
- Wetland Restoration
  - Through the Trent University chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration a proposal has been prepared for the restoration of the Wetland Complex Nature Area. Opportunities to support this continued momentum should be explored.

## Recreation and Teaching 3

**PRIORITY NO.3**

The Nature Areas have, since their inception, served as an outdoor classroom and a place for members of the community (Trent and Peterborough) to have positive experience with and learn from the natural environment. This purpose is reflected in the updated goals for the Nature Areas. Through the updated NASP, there are opportunities to improve how people engage with the Nature Areas informed by appropriate environmental stewardship, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, and ecological best practices.

**QUICK ACTIONS**

- Trails
  - Map the formal and informal trail system(s) throughout and connecting (between and from campus / key access points) the Nature Areas
  - Prepare a Trails Plan at the systems-level as part of the System-Level Plan for the Nature Areas or as part of a broader Active Transportation / Trails Plan for Trent.
- Dogs
  - Identify candidate areas for use by dog owners: off-leash and on-leash opportunities and conduct work to select preferred locations.
  - Implement mitigation and management actions (e.g., signage – directional and/or informational, waste receptacles).
- Teaching and Research
  - Advertise the Nature Areas to faculty and students as a local natural classroom.
  - Work with faculty to identify research and monitoring activities that could be used in academic programming.
- Accessible Nature
  - Advertise the presence and benefits of the Nature Areas for mental and physical wellbeing.