



1.3 Study Purpose

The Framework Plan is a high level, adaptive plan that provides **general direction for the long-term evolution of the Symons Campus**. It builds from an understanding of the campus today; the natural heritage assets, as well as campus and community needs and aspirations. The Plan demonstrates how and where Trent meets its own commitment to maintain 60 per cent of its lands as Nature Areas and green spaces, and identifies suitable areas to locate new campus and community infrastructure. It presents a guiding vision and clear principles to inform implementation as funding becomes available to pursue identified projects and priorities.

The TLNAP (2021) will assist the University to achieve its vision of a resilient and inspiring campus community, thoughtfully integrating the natural and built environments with vibrant spaces to learn, innovate, be active, and live.

The Trent lands are a precious asset the University seeks to steward, develop, and preserve in ways that support the long-term resilience of Trent, our local, national, and international communities, and the environment around us. The University is committed to maintaining 60 per cent of its lands as Nature Areas and green spaces, and to ensuring land uses meet academic and campus needs, as well as advance the environmental, social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of our communities.

The TLNAP presents an opportunity for Trent University to prepare a framework for its continued evolution at the interface between research, learning, and community. The University is well-positioned to be a leader in this field. Trent must balance its needs as an evolving institution with its responsibility as caretaker for a valuable ecosystem, as it respects and responds to the voices of the Indigenous Community, works to meet critical campus and community needs, and seeks responsible sources of long-term income to remain a vibrant and innovative small university.

1.4 Study Process

The TLNAP (2021) has been executed in three phases, as detailed below.

Phase 1 – Understanding the Land

The focus of Phase 1 was to develop a base understanding of the current natural, cultural, and archaeological features and functions that exist within the campus lands, such as the location, type, and status of wetlands and woodlands, species, and areas of significance to First Nations. The documentation of natural and cultural features of significance has enabled a review of the Nature Areas classifications, boundaries, and uses. Results have informed priorities for remediation, identified areas for enhancement and protection, and provided context and considerations for land uses adjacent to the Nature Areas and significant features. Community engagement activities throughout Phase 1 informed this deep understanding of the lands.

Phase 2 – Campus Vision

Phase 2 began with an exploration of the campus and community needs that could or must be accommodated on Trent lands, ways to enrich the campus, and the principles that will guide decisions around land use. Input into this phase included public engagement session and pop-ups, an online survey, meetings with stakeholder groups, planning and environmental tables, Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee, Michi Saagiig Consultation Liaisons, and the Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council.

Phase 3 – Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan

The draft TLNAP and framework plan were prepared to consider the input gathered on the land use priorities and aspirations of campus and community during

Phase 2, with the recommendations arising from the natural heritage, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, and archaeological studies from Phase 1. A draft TLNAP was released for public review in October 2020, and was widely circulated to ensure that the final Plan is representative of the key themes and priorities of the University and its communities.

The overall goal is to achieve a synergistic relationship between ecology, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, cultural heritage, and sustainable land use. This final phase considered the dynamic relationships between urban and natural through a coordinated approach that will contribute to the stewardship, development, and preservation of the Trent University Symons Campus.

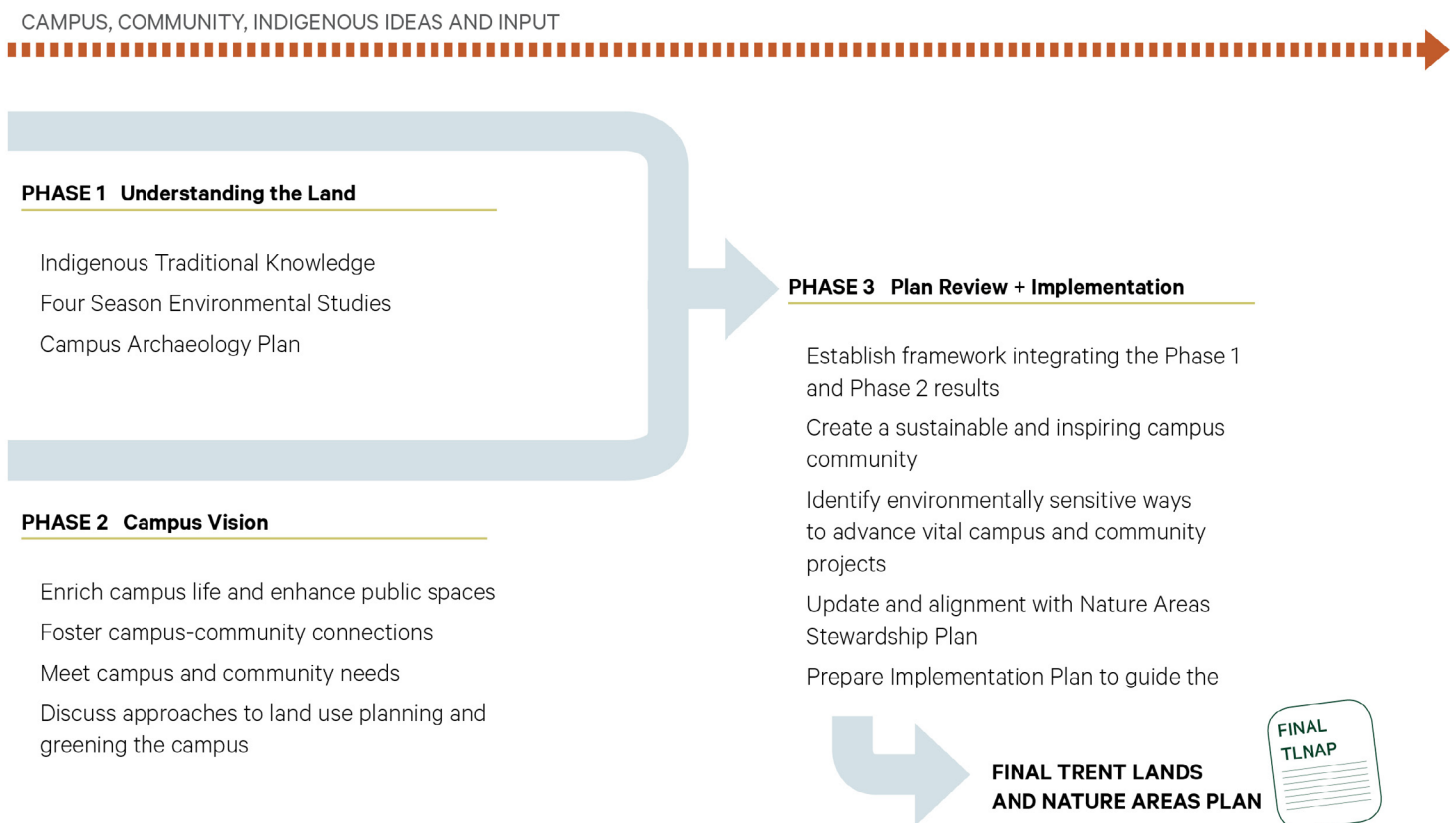


Figure 1: Study Process