

Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting was held via video conference on Wednesday November 10, 2021, pursuant to section C.12 of the TRCA's Board of Directors Administrative By-Law. The Vice-Chair, Andy Wickens, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

PRESENT

Bowers, Thomas	Member
Burnett, Neil	Member
Calvin, Elizabeth	Member
Dasko, Stephen (<i>out: 7:10 p.m.</i>)	Member
Gomez, Orlando	Member
Kelleher, Maria	Member
Laing, David	Member
Lockridge, Karen	Member
Mallet, Lisette	Member
Malowany, Mick	Member
Mattos, Mike (<i>in: 7:08 - 7:27 p.m.</i>)(<i>in: 7:41 - 7:46 p.m.</i>)	Member
McDowell, Madeleine	Member
McGlynn, Chris	Member
Parsons, Blayre	Member
Pickles, David	Member
Rendon, Ruth (<i>in: 6:50 p.m.</i>)	Member
Richardson, Cameron	Member
Wickens, Andy	Vice-Chair

REGRETS

Drake, Jennifer	Chair
Anvari, Alireza	Member
Bream, Margaret	Member
Broadbent, Heather	Member
Dies, Joanne	Member
Dyce, Dave	Member
Felix, Rui	Member
Groves, Annette	Member
Innis, Jennifer	Member
Keenan, Rosemary	Member
Miller, Learie	Member
Ngan, Amory	Member
Nonnekes, Joanne	Member
O'Connor, Kevin	Member
Olivieri, Sara	Member
Presutti, Michael	Member
Vrana, Andrew	Member
Wright, Doug	Member

The Vice-Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

RES.#R16/21 -

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Moved by:

Neil Burnett

Seconded by:

Mick Malowany

THAT the Minutes of Meeting held on September 22, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

RES.#R17/21 -

2022 REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEETING SCHEDULE

Approval of the Regional Watershed Alliance meeting schedule for 2022.

Moved by: David Pickles
Seconded by: Elizabeth Calvin

THAT the following 2022 meeting schedule be approved:

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

CARRIED

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

As some members of the Regional Watershed Alliance participate in various boards and committees, staff have proposed the following meeting dates after consulting committee and council calendars for local and regional municipalities. The final RWA meeting date will occur before the end of the membership term on November 14, 2022.

All meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. Due to the current outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), because no TRCA facility can currently accommodate meetings while ensuring proper physical distancing measures, it is currently expected that meetings will be held virtually pursuant to section C.12 of the TRCA's Board of Directors Administrative By-Law. If the outbreak is resolved or TRCA is able to identify a safe method of conducting in-person meetings, while following all local public health recommendations, meetings may resume at TRCA's Head Office at 101 Exchange Avenue, which is a central location for all watersheds.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 6 – Tell the story of the Toronto region

Report prepared by: Daniel Ruberto, extension 6445

Emails: daniel.ruberto@trca.ca

For Information contact: Daniel Ruberto, extension 6445

Emails: daniel.ruberto@trca.ca

Date: November 1, 2021

RES.#R18/21 -

EXTENSION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE TERM

Proposed extension of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) term of appointment for watershed residents, sector experts, and municipal representatives until November 14, 2021 to align with the terms of municipal councils.

Moved by: Madeleine McDowell
Seconded by: Cameron Richardson

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff are working on aligning advisory board terms with the municipal Terms of Council to streamline appointments process;

AND WHEREAS TRCA Board of Directors appointments to the RWA were extended to November 14, 2022, or until successors are appointed at the February 26, 2021 TRCA Board of Directors meeting (RES.#A13/21);

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the member appointments for watershed residents and sector experts to the RWA be extended until November 14, 2022, or until their successors are appointed;

THAT TRCA staff be directed to request extension of municipal representative terms or appointment or appointments of new municipal representatives for a one year term ending on November 14, 2022, or until their successors are appointed;

AND FURTHER THAT the proposed update to the RWA Terms of Reference be approved.
CARRIED

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The RWA is an advisory board to TRCA's Board of Directors, established in 2017 with a mandate to provide input on TRCA initiatives and advise the Board of Directors on matters of community interest. RWA is comprised of approximately 45 voting members, which includes up to five (5) TRCA Board of Directors, twenty (20) watershed residents, up to ten (10) sector experts and organizations, up to eight (8) municipal representatives, up to one (1) provincial, and up to one (1) federal representative.

According to the RWA Terms of Reference, members are appointed for a 2-year period with a possibility of re-appointment. At the February 13, 2019 RWA meeting, members were re-appointed for the second term which is expiring at the end of 2021, which was received at the March 29, 2019 Board of Directors meeting (RES.#A40/19). To improve efficiency of the re-appointment process in the future, TRCA staff are working on aligning the RWA membership term timeline with the municipal Term of Council timeline, which concludes on November 14, 2022.

Therefore, in order to transition to a membership timeline that aligns with the municipal Term of Council, TRCA staff propose to extend membership terms on the RWA members by one (1) year to November 14, 2022.

TRCA staff discussed extension of appointments with RWA members. While most members expressed interest in extending their term, some members were not able to extend their term. TRCA staff will seek appointments for vacant positions as appropriate. A fulsome recruitment for

the new two-year term will be conducted following the October 24, 2022 municipal elections in accordance with TRCA's *Public Appointments* policy.

The updated RWA Terms of Reference includes a minor revision to section 4.6 allowing the Clerk to reduce quorum by the number of vacant positions, if recruitment for any vacant positions is no longer feasible. This ensures the preservation of quorum and that valuable RWA input on TRCA programs and projects continue to be provided to TRCA staff.

Meetings will continue to be held approximately four times per year from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA staff will update the RWA Terms of Reference on the TRCA website and seek appointments for vacant positions as required. TRCA staff will also confirm extension of municipal representative appointments with the respective municipalities. Furthermore, TRCA staff will undergo a review of the appointments process and RWA Terms of Reference that is anticipated to be completed by the end of the extended term.

Report prepared by: Daniel Ruberto, extension 6445

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Date: October 19, 2021

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Revised Regional Watershed Alliance Terms of Reference

Regional Watershed Alliance Terms of Reference

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is considered an advisory board of TRCA.

1. Background

Since the 1980s, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA, also known as the Authority) watershed and waterfront committees and task forces have been instrumental in supporting the development and implementation of TRCA's watershed management activities. The *Rouge Comprehensive Basin Management Strategy* (1988), was TRCA's first initiative supported by a citizen based "public committee." The 1989 *Greenspace Strategy* committed to a program of watershed strategy development for each of TRCA's watersheds in cooperation with a public advisory committee for each watershed. Between 1980s and 2010s, the Duffins-Carruthers Watershed Resource Group, Rouge Park Alliance, Don Watershed Regeneration Council, Humber Watershed Alliance and Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition have played a significant role in building community stewardship capacity to help TRCA deliver on priorities of watersheds and waterfront. Watershed and waterfront residents and stakeholders are also engaged through Conservation Lands stewardship committees and integrated/multi- objective or sector-based programs such as Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans (SNAP) and Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone (PPG).

TRCA's *2013-2022 Strategic Plan* highlights regional sustainability challenges of increasing scope and scale - such as preparing for the impacts of climate change, transitioning to a low carbon economy, managing urbanization and growth pressures. The Plan also calls for regional engagement of a broad cross-section of the population at both local and regional scales within TRCA's jurisdiction. As such, in 2015, upon the completion of the existing terms for the Don, Humber and Etobicoke-Mimico watershed committees, the Authority directed staff to update TRCA's community-focused engagement model in light of new trends and opportunities in civic engagement and to facilitate the implementation of the *Strategic Plan*.

At the June 23, 2017 Authority Meeting #5/17, Authority adopted the Community Engagement Strategy along with a new citizen governance model. The citizen governance model includes the Regional Watershed Alliance and its subcommittees: the Youth Council and RWA Working Groups. An Indigenous Liaison Committee to the Board of Directors has also been approved as part of the proposed governance model (Figure 1). The RWA is a formal advisory board of TRCA which reports to the Board of Directors on regular basis. Terms of Reference for the RWA were adopted at the October 27, 2017 Authority Meeting #8/17 (RES.#A178/17).

2. Mission and Mandate

Mission: Create healthy watersheds and waterfront that achieve The Living City Vision of sustainable communities, regional biodiversity and healthy rivers and shorelines through advocacy, knowledge sharing and collective action.

Mandate: Reporting to the Board of Directors (Figure 1) and working closely with Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, the RWA is an advisory

board to TRCA with the purpose of:

<i>Advocacy:</i>	Advocacy for awareness, policy innovation and action within members' sectors, communities and jurisdictions on regional and local environmental and sustainability issues.
<i>Advisory:</i>	Input on TRCA initiatives, act as a sounding board to TRCA staff, and advise the Board of Directors on matters of community interest.
<i>Collective Action:</i>	Priority setting and collective investment in key sustainability and environmental issues for cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral actions. Support and leadership to the development of platform and campaigns to bring actors and stakeholders together to drive solutions through collective action and resource sharing.
<i>Reporting:</i>	Reporting on collective outcomes on regional sustainability to the public, TRCA municipal partners and stakeholders. Reporting to the Board of Directors on its work.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Regional Watershed Alliance shall:

- 3.1. Adhere to the basic principles of sound ecosystem management and sustainability that recognizes the interrelationships between cultural heritage, physical characteristics, biological conditions and economic needs, and the integration of conservation, restoration, social and economic activities necessary for the health of the watersheds;
- 3.2. Forge partnerships and collaborations that build our collective capacity to advance the goals of TRCA's *Strategic Plan: Building The Living City 2013-2022* and TRCA *Strategic Plan – Five Year Update*, and provide a platform for collective action on cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral priorities;
- 3.3. Work with staff in setting regional and local priorities that help advance TRCA's and its municipal partners' objectives of sustainable communities, recommendations of TRCA's *2017 Community Engagement Strategy*, watershed plans, watershed report cards and *The Living City Report Card*;
- 3.4. Advocate on regional and local environmental policy issues through discussion papers, briefs and comments etc. and providing advice and comments to staff and the Board of Directors on relevant programs and policies impacting TRCA watersheds and communities. Examples include: TRCA's *Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy*; *Sustainable Near-urban Agriculture Policy*; watershed plans; *TRCA Trails Strategy*; and *TRCA Greenspace Strategy*;
- 3.5. Implement the recommendations of the *Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan* as they pertain to the TRCA waterfront and watersheds;

- 3.6. Work collaboratively with TRCA staff and partners to develop state of the watershed reports and *The Living City Report Card* which will address jurisdiction-wide sustainability issues;
- 3.7. Through watershed forums, events and on-line engagement, provide a forum for watershed communication by maintaining and enhancing contacts within the community. Mobilize and empower networks of local communities to build capacity and influence people's behavior;
- 3.8. Act as a resource to TRCA, TRCA's municipal partners and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation by providing advice on matters of community interest;
- 3.9. Work with TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation to identify priorities, seek new partnerships, public sector investment and other sources of funding;
- 3.10. Where appropriate, and when specifically requested, with input from staff, serve as a spokesperson for media and government relations on community-led initiatives related to the work of RWA members;
- 3.11. Establish subcommittees/working groups as needed, such as the Youth Council and other RWA Working Groups;
- 3.12. Seek political support at all levels of government;
- 3.13. Collaborate with other conservation authorities, municipalities, environmental non-government organizations (ENGO) and groups on opportunities that transcend TRCA jurisdictional boundaries;
- 3.14. Maximize the collective impact of TRCA and other environmental and sustainability champions in the region through resource and data sharing, measuring, and reporting on regional priorities; and
- 3.15. Report to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

4. *Structure*

Supported by TRCA staff, the RWA has a Chair, Vice-Chair, and is comprised of approximately 45 voting members.

4.1 Membership

4.1.1 Voting Members

The RWA members are recruited based on a diverse skill set, sector and community specific expertise, network connections, demonstrated leadership, experience, and knowledge of the watersheds within TRCA's jurisdiction.

- **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** (up to five voting representatives, Ex-officio)
 - Preferably one representative from each of TRCA's appointing member municipalities from the Board of Directors or interested members.

- **Watershed Residents** (up to 20 voting representatives)
 - Up to 20 watershed residents selected from across TRCA's nine watersheds and waterfront, aiming to have equal geographical and demographic representation.
- **Sector Experts and Organizations** (up to 10 voting representatives)
 - Up to 10 members from non-government, think-tanks, business and special interest groups, representing diverse sectors including youth and Indigenous groups.
- **Municipal Representatives** (up to eight voting representatives, Ex-officio)
 - Representatives of municipalities within TRCA's jurisdiction. These representatives could be political representatives representing the municipality or an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) representative.
- **Provincial Representative** (up to one voting representative, Ex-officio)
 - Up to one political representative or senior staff from the Province of Ontario.
- **Federal Representative** (up to one voting representative, Ex-officio)
 - Up to one local political representative or senior staff from the Government of Canada.

4.1.2 Non-Voting Experts

In addition to voting members, one to two non-voting experts with extensive experience in public sector or subject matter expertise can be invited to join to the RWA. These experts could be former TRCA or other conservation authority (CA) staff and are not required to be a resident of TRCA's watersheds. Senior municipal staff liaison may also be invited to join.

4.1.3 Guests

The Regional Watershed Alliance meetings are open to the public. Municipal or other agency staff may be invited as guests to offer presentations or participate in discussions on relevant issues. Guests will not have voting privileges nor be eligible for travel expenses to and from meetings.

4.1.4 Chair or Vice-Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the RWA will be elected from amongst its members for a two-year term, following TRCA Administrative By-law election procedure. It is a responsibility of a nominated Member to ensure their eligibility for the entire term.

The RWA Chair and Vice-Chair will provide leadership in building a shared vision and commitment for moving forward with the Regional Watershed Alliance's mission, mandate and responsibilities.

The Chair will have the following additional responsibilities:

- Presiding over RWA meetings, setting the agenda and generally ensuring the effectiveness of meetings; and
- Recruiting new members to the RWA when openings arise.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will perform the above functions.

4.2 Appointment Process

4.2.1 Board of Directors Representatives

Board Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors as Ex-officio voting representatives.

4.2.2 Watershed Residents

Applications from watershed residents will be solicited through direct recruitment, announcements in newsletters, local newspapers, web sites, volunteer networks, and through various social media platforms. A committee of TRCA staff and/or board members will select the RWA resident members through the application process using a set of criteria to ensure suitability and eligibility.

4.2.3 Sector Experts and Organizations

Select organizations and agencies will be requested by TRCA to appoint a representative.

4.2.4 Municipal Representatives

Formal request for appointment of municipal representatives will be made to municipal councils. These representatives will be Ex-officio members.

4.2.5 Provincial and Federal Representatives

Federal and provincial representatives (member of Parliament or staff) with specific interest in TRCA's work and jurisdiction may be invited to participate as Ex-officio members.

4.3 Term of Appointment

RWA Members will be appointed for a revolving two-year term with a possible extension of up to two more years. This will allow for a staggered replacement process maintaining a balance between new and experienced members. The membership will be reviewed on an annual basis. Members, excluding Ex-officio members, unable to fulfill their commitments may be replaced as per the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.

4.4 Meetings

Members are required to attend quarterly evening meetings of the Regional Watershed Alliance and an annual Watershed Forum. An agenda will be circulated in advance of meetings.

The Chair will have the discretion to call additional meetings, if required. Some meetings

may be held during regular work hours depending on the preference and availability of members and staff or via conference call or online meetings.

4.5 Reporting

The RWA is considered an advisory board of TRCA. The RWA will report to the Board of Directors on membership, projects and progress through their meeting minutes or seek Board of Directors approval as necessary on specific initiatives.

The RWA is not a formal commenting body regarding review and approval of planning applications or permits.

4.6 Quorum and Governance

A quorum will consist of voting members in numbers greater than or equal to one-third of the total number of voting members on the RWA.

Should a member resign or be removed from the RWA, quorum provisions, until the vacancy is filled, will be reduced by the number of vacant positions, as determined by the Clerk.

Consensus-based decision making will be the preferred procedure. Formal decisions will be based on a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote fails.

4.7 Rules of Conduct

The RWA will adhere to the Board of Directors Administrative By-law as adopted by Resolution #A141/18 & Resolution #A142/18 at Authority Meeting #7/18, held on September 28, 2018, and as amended periodically or superseded by any bylaws enacted as per the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Other policies and legislation may be applicable in regard to code of conduct, conflict of interest and policies on volunteers.

4.8 TRCA Staff Support

The RWA will be supported by a team of staff from Government and Community Relations Business Unit including:

- Government and Community Relationship Specialists;
- Projects Managers;
- Administrative Support Staff;
- Other TRCA Staff, including the Clerk's Office, as required.

Staff will provide the following support functions:

- Coordination of RWA meetings;
- Administrative and financial support;
- Strategic guidance on alignment of RWA work plan priorities with other strategic opportunities;
- Coordination of work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation;
- Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation support for management of any funds collectively raised by the RWA or any of its subcommittees that support the implementation of their work plans; and
- TRCA technical expertise on projects and initiatives of the Regional Watershed Alliance and its subcommittees.

4.9 Funding

Funding will be available for projects and activities of the RWA based on approved work plans and available TRCA budget. Members are encouraged to assist in securing other resources and partnerships for Regional Watershed Alliance projects and activities, whenever possible through collective public investment opportunities. In-kind or other support for the projects and activities of the Alliance are welcome from businesses, industries, government agencies, private foundations, educational institutions and others in accordance with TRCA policies. In-kind or other support will be coordinated with the assistance of Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, where appropriate.

5. *Compensation For Regional Watershed Alliance Members*

At official RWA meetings, as well as RWA Working Groups, members will be eligible for travel expenses, according to TRCA Administrative By-law, where these are not covered by their agency or other source. Members shall not receive a per diem or honorarium for attendance at meetings and functions.

6. *Regional Watershed Alliance Working Groups*

The RWA Working Groups are formed as deemed appropriate by the RWA. These working groups may solicit local community representatives or experts to participate as needed. Mandate of these working groups can be watershed-wide or specifically focused around projects such as watershed plans. The RWA Working Groups will report to the RWA. The supporting TRCA staff will coordinate regular reports to the RWA on the activities of these groups.

Items pertaining to the working groups will be a standing item on the agenda of RWA meetings.

7. *Youth Council*

The Youth Council will be comprised of community youth champions, existing youth group representatives and new recruits. The Youth Council reports to the Regional Watershed Alliance.

7.1 *Mission:* Build healthy communities through improved connection to greenspace and nature.

7.2 *Mandate:* Reporting to the Regional Watershed Alliance (Figure 1) and working closely with TRCA and the RWA, the Youth Council will establish as a subcommittee to the RWA with the purpose of:

- Building Capacity and Engaging Youth - provide youth across the Toronto region with learning opportunities;
- Building a Youth Network/Strengthening Existing Networks - create/enhance a broad network of youth in the region who are interested in environmental and sustainability issues;
- Identifying Youth Perspectives - develop an understanding of youth opinion around current environmental issues and understand/investigate how these might be incorporated in the work of TRCA and its partners; and
 - Creating fun opportunities for Youth - provide entertaining and engaging learning

opportunities.

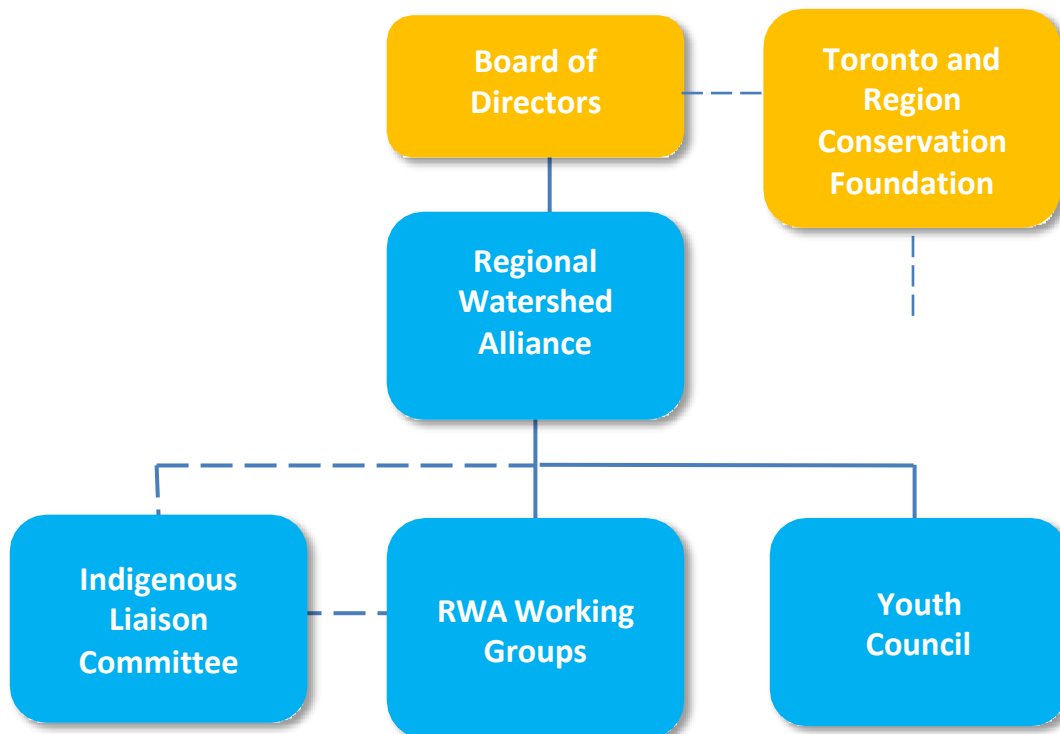
8. Indigenous Liaison Committee

The Indigenous Liaison Committee will be comprised of members and experts from different Indigenous communities in TRCA's jurisdiction. They will liaise on Indigenous interests and help build stronger relationships between TRCA and the larger Indigenous population in the jurisdiction. This Committee will advise the Board of Directors and staff on matters of community interest and liaise with the Regional Watershed Alliance on mission-driven collective projects. The Committee will not have a reporting relationship with the Regional Watershed Alliance or the Board of Directors.

The member(s) of this Committee may have membership on the Regional Watershed Alliance. This Committee will have opportunities to work with the Watershed/Waterfront Working Groups and Youth Council. TRCA staff and relevant stakeholders will collaborate on the development of a Terms of Reference for this Committee.

The formation of this Indigenous Liaison Committee will be put on hold until further recommendation from the province through updates to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as stated in RES.#002/17 at meeting #1/17 of the RWA on November 15, 2017.

Figure 1: TRCA Citizen Governance Model



DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The Vice-Chair inquired about how many vacancies are anticipated going forward. Staff responded that most RWA members agreed to extend their term, however there are a few members that did not elect to extend their terms. If there are vacancies, staff will seek to re-appointments where possible, for example, in the case of municipal representatives where staff will contact respective municipalities to re-appoint a new RWA member.

RES.#R19/21 -**FUNDING AND GRANTS PROGRAM****In-Year Program Update**

To provide an in-year update to the Regional Watershed Alliance on the Funding and Grants program and to highlight the success rate as of August 13, 2021.

Moved by: David Pickles
Seconded by: Maria Kelleher

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report highlighting the in-year Funding and Grants program update for 2021, be received.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants program within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance business unit provides timely and seamless support for all TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) funding and grant applications. This program provides opportunities for TRCA programs and services to diversify their revenue streams through additional support provided through the centralized funding and grants team. The funding and grants team also assists in strengthening the leadership and collaboration among all divisions to ensure consensus in the prioritization and strategic positioning of all new funding opportunities.

RATIONALE

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the status of funding applications submitted as of August 13, 2021, which are organized based on their current status of approved, under review, and declined grants. The attachment is current as of August 13, 2021.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 9 – Measure performance

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Between January 2021 and August 13, 2021, the Funding and Grants program has facilitated a total of 48 grant submissions with a total in-year request of \$12.1M. The additional revenues and support generated through the funding and grants program help to provide projects and programs with an increasingly sustainable business model by reducing reliance on partner municipality funding.

TRCA currently has approximately \$7.4M in grant applications under review with various funding programs following grant applications that were submitted in the current fiscal year. Throughout 2021 to date, TRCA received notice that \$3.7M has been awarded through the Funding and Grants program, and that \$8.3M has been declined.

Table 1: In-Year Grant Program Update

Grant Status	# of Grants	Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)
Under Review Grants	19	\$7,376

Awarded Grants	30	\$3,741
Declined Grants	13	\$8,306

In addition to the funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the current fiscal year, TRCA continues to manage grants and funding that have been successful in previous fiscal years and were still active in 2021. TRCA has budgeted a total of \$21.0M in revenues for 2021, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

As of August 13, 2021, TRCA had earned 21% of the budgeted grant revenue for 2021. The percentage of revenue earned appears low as a result of the timing of invoicing for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). TRCA staff are working closely with program officers throughout this process and will continue to report on the status of these projects. Additionally, COVID-19 restrictions have delayed implementation of the Administrative Head Office Building project and thus payments from Natural Resources Canada for TRCA's GCWood grant have been deferred.

The following section highlights some of the major projects and programs that make up the budgeted total for each revenue category:

Federal

Toronto Region Ravine Erosion Management and Hazard Mitigation Project and Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project – With funding from the Government of Canada's DMAF program, these projects continue to be implemented to address erosion issues within TRCA's jurisdiction. The projects address erosion along ravine systems in the Region of Peel, York Region and the City of Toronto, as well as maintaining and restoring TRCA's extensive network of shoreline erosion control structures over the next 7 years.

The Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project (NYGEP) – With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, NYGEP supports newcomer youth interested in careers in the environmental sector by providing access to experiential learning opportunities and job skills training. Despite challenges posed by restrictions to in-person learning, staff have mobilized virtual alternatives to ensure NYGEP's continuous and successful implementation.

TRCA's New Administrative Office Building – With funding from Natural Resources Canada's Green Construction through Wood (GCWood) Program, TRCA is constructing a new mass timber head office building which promises to be one of the most energy-efficient office buildings in North America once completed.

Provincial

Professional Access Into Employment (PAIE) Program – With a funding extension from the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, the PAIE Program will continue to help internationally trained environmental engineers, geoscientists, planners, ecologists and green building specialists to obtain commensurate employment in Ontario into Fall 2021. A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry to further extend PAIE implementation until 2024.

Municipal

Toronto Tree Cover Project – The Toronto Tree Cover Project has engaged communities throughout Toronto in support of the development and expansion of native tree cover on commercial, industrial and institutional lands throughout the city for over three years.

Non-Government

The Meadoway – With funding from the Weston Family Foundation, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and City of Toronto, detailed design work is currently being completed for The Meadoway trail network, as well as extensive meadow restoration and outreach and education programs to engage and inform members of the surrounding community.

The funding and grants program continues to support the establishment and success of sustainable business models through collaboration with partners and the pursuit of diversified revenue streams which directs additional resources towards key initiatives.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Various aspects of the Funding and Grants Program continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Funding and Grants team will continue to work closely with TRCA's funding partners to ensure that grant application submissions and reporting are submitted in a timely manner, despite delays and implementation changes caused by public health restrictions. The Funding and Grants team will also continue to work with TRCA's partners to adjust to our shared circumstances.

The *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)* has re-opened and will be accepting applications to its small-scale stream (projects with budgets between \$1M and \$20M) and large-scale stream (projects with budgets greater than \$20M). The Funding and Grants team is exploring this new intake by collaborating with TRCA staff and municipal partners to identify eligible projects, secure matching dollars and develop strong funding proposals. DMAF already provides significant support for TRCA's core natural hazard programs, and the Funding and Grants team anticipates a concerted effort to extend this support through collaborative applications – including both partner-led and TRCA-led initiatives.

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Date: October 20, 2020

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: 2021 In-Year Grant Program Update

Attachment 1: Year-End Grant Program Update

Funding Body	Funding Program/Stream	Project Title	Project Status	Approved / Requested Amount (\$000's)
Grants Under Review				
City of Toronto	Community Planting and Stewardship Grant	Toronto Tree Cover Project	Under Review	100
Environment and Climate Change Canada	EcoAction	The Meadoway: Education and Community Restoration	Under Review	100
Environment and Climate Change Canada	EcoAction	Working with Local Communities to Improve Freshwater Management	Under Review	100
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund	Durham Climate Change Solutions	Under Review	167
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund	The Meadoway Restoration	Under Review	1,348
Employment and Social Development Canada	Enabling Accessibility Fund	Nashville Conservation Reserve Accessible Trail and Parking Area	Under Review	504
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario	Canada Community Revitalization Fund	The Improvement of Albion Hills Conservation Park Washrooms	Under Review	360
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario	Canada Community Revitalization Fund	The Retrofit of Altona Forest Recreational Trails	Under Review	198
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario	Canada Community Revitalization Fund	The Construction of Town of Caledon Bolton Camp Site Entrance	Under Review	750
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario	Canada Community Revitalization Fund	The Construction of York Region Multi-Use Trail	Under Review	236
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario	Canada Community Revitalization Fund	The Retrofit of Petticoat Creek Workshop and Administration Centre	Under Review	615
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Program	Identifying Local Factors and Sources Affecting Stream Chloride Concentrations in the Toronto Region	Under Review	40
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Program	High-resolution Temporal Chloride Patterns and Contributions from Urbanized Watersheds	Under Review	73
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Program	Rural Clean Water Program	Under Review	40
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture	Reconnect Festival and Event Program	Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival	Under Review	151
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development	Ontario Bridge Training Program	Providing Access into Employment (PAIE)	Under Review	2,225
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Species at Risk Stewardship Program	Improving Monarch Habitat in the Meadoway through Outreach and Education	Under Review	50
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Species at Risk Stewardship Program	Tommy Thompson Park Phragmites Management	Under Review	150
Public Health Agency of Canada	Intersectoral Action Fund	Growing Healthy Towers: Transformative Partners for a Healthy Built Environment	Under Review	169
Subtotal - Under Review Grants				\$ 7,376
Awarded Grants				
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Jefferson, Jordan and Jayfield Parks	Awarded	200
Employment and Social Development Canada	Canada Summer Jobs	TRCA Canada Summer Jobs 2021	Awarded	775
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Great Lakes Protection Initiative	Evaluating Fisheries in the Toronto and Region Area of Concern using Acoustic Telemetry	Awarded	107
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Great Lakes Protection Initiative	Rat's Spit Restoration Project	Awarded	73
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Great Lakes Protection Initiative	Wildlife Habitat Restoration in the Central Toronto Waterfront	Awarded	203
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Habitat Stewardship Program (Terrestrial)	Claireville Conservation Area Wetland Connectivity Project	Awarded	21
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Habitat Stewardship Program (Terrestrial)	The Meadoway: Pollinator Habitat for Monarchs	Awarded	75
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Habitat Stewardship Program (Terrestrial)	The 4M Project: Supporting Monarchs, Migration, Milkweed and Monitoring through Outreach	Awarded	66
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Asian Carp Monitoring Program	TRCA Asian Carp Monitoring Program	Awarded	102
Food Banks Canada	Emergency Food Security Fund	Food Service Provision for Vulnerable Communities	Awarded	16
Forest Ontario	Grassland Stewardship Initiative	The Meadoway: Meadow Restoration Project	Awarded	40
Heritage Canada	Celebrate Canada	Land as Teacher Gathering	Awarded	20
Heritage Canada	Young Canada Works	Archaeology Field Staff	Awarded	17
Infrastructure Canada	Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)	Carruthers Creek Wetland	Awarded	500
Infrastructure Canada	National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	TRCA Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update	Awarded	415
Infrastructure Canada	National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Jurisdictional Spills Assessment - Flood Plain Mapping Extension	Awarded	136
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Local Action Fund	Toronto Inner Harbour Floatables Strategy	Awarded	61
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Program	Rural Clean Water Program	Awarded	40
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Great Lakes Program	Ajax Storm Sewer Phosphorous Monitoring	Awarded	21
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture	Reconnect Festival and Event Program	Magical Christmas Forest at Kortright	Awarded	57
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI)	TRCA Projects	Awarded	589
Ontario Active School Travel	Ontario Active School Travel Fund	OAST Brampton	Awarded	29
Ontario Active School Travel	Ontario Active School Travel Fund	OAST Caledon	Awarded	29
Project Learning Tree	Green Jobs	TRCA Green Jobs	Awarded	24
Region of Peel	Social Service Relief Funding	Food Service Provision for Vulnerable Communities	Awarded	68
TC Energy	Build Strong Fund	Nashville Conservation Reserve Management Program	Awarded	5
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant	Active Transportation Programming in Mississauga Schools	Awarded	10
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant	Girls Can Too: Building an Environment for Change	Awarded	7
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant	The Monarch Way Project	Awarded	14
Tree Canada	National Greening Program	Brock South Tree Planting	Awarded	21
Subtotal - Awarded Grants				\$ 3,741
Declined Grants				
Bell Canada	Let's Talk Community Fund	Let's Walk: Forest Therapy in the GTA	Declined	14
Community Foundations of Canada	Canada Healthy Communities Initiative	Improved Community Access to Waterfront Programming at Lake St. George	Declined	203
Community Foundations of Canada	Canada Healthy Communities Initiative	Responding to COVID through Green Infrastructure Revitalization	Declined	250

Environment and Climate Change Canada	Environmental Damages Fund	Climate Change Champions	Declined	4,158
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Climate Action and Awareness Fund	Building Climate Leadership in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods	Declined	2,976
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation	Resilient Greenbelt Fund	Planting a Future Forest at Brock South	Declined	136
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation	Resilient Greenbelt Fund	Etobicoke Creek Valley Community Restoration Project	Declined	41
Hydro One	Hydro One Community Fund	Creating a Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhood through Community Intersection Improvement	Declined	24
Infrastructure Canada	National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	Etobicoke Creek Hydrology Update and Stormwater Management Criteria Assessment	Declined	150
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility	Inclusive Community Grant	Gifted Seniors Community Sharing Project	Declined	60
Toronto Atmospheric Fund	Toronto Atmospheric Fund	Evaluation of Low-Carbon Building Energy Technologies	Declined	244
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Stamp Initiative	Phragmites Management at Tommy Thompson Park	Declined	40
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Community Conservation Action Program	Girls Can Too: Tommy Thompson Park	Declined	10
Subtotal Declined Grants				\$ 8,306

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Staff provided an overview of the funding and grants program and highlighted their efforts to continuously monitor any funding and grants opportunities. Members inquired about declined projects and the process to determine why funding requests were declined. Staff cited the use of internal declined notice SOPs, where staff contact the funding program officer and send them a survey to determine why the application was denied and whether there are any improvements to make in future applications. In the last year or two, an abundance of applications for funding was a common reason for declined funding. Staff will continue to apply for funding and grants.

Members asked whether the TRCA has shovel-ready projects ready to be approved, that may improve the likelihood of successful funding applications. Staff responded that shovel-ready projects are often included in the TRCA's Unfunded Priorities list. Sometimes projects on this list were included in funding applications. Staff also highlighted various federal government funding opportunities and ongoing discussions with the federal government following the 2021 federal election. Details on these funding opportunities have not been released.

RES.#R20/21 -

TRCA's HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND ROAD ECOLOGY INITIATIVES

Bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice

To inform the Regional Watershed Alliance regarding the results of TRCA's habitat connectivity, wildlife movement, and road ecology applied research initiatives and their applications in various TRCA operations, including land use and infrastructure planning processes.

Moved by: Ruth Rendon
Seconded by: Elizabeth Calvin

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff has completed several applied research and monitoring initiatives since 2015 to advance the local scientific knowledge of habitat connectivity, wildlife movement, impacts of road networks, and effectiveness of mitigation measures;

AND WHEREAS the completed initiatives have informed various watershed planning, restoration, ecosystem and land management, climate adaptation, and land use and infrastructure planning processes, including implementation of TRCA's *Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors* (2015);

AND WHEREAS TRCA staff has collaborated with several researchers from academic institutions and partner municipalities to complete these initiatives and use them to inform decision making;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report and presentation on TRCA's habitat connectivity, wildlife movement, and road ecology initiatives be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance members advise how they wish to be engaged about progress made on these projects and their applications.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Road networks are an important part of modern society. They allow for people and goods movements, enabling important social and economic activities. However, roads can also have impacts on ecological systems that are essential for overall ecosystem health and community well-being. For example, the location and design of roads can negatively influence ecosystems by (i) reducing habitat connectivity (increasing fragmentation) thereby restricting access by wildlife to necessary resources and (ii) by increasing road mortality. These impacts can lead to substantial degradation of habitat quality and cumulative negative impacts on long-term population persistence of wildlife unless these effects are mitigated.

In TRCA's watersheds, more than one third of the natural cover that provides habitat and connectivity corridor function is located within valley and stream corridors. Road crossings at these locations can have substantial impacts on these functions and appropriate management and mitigation measures can have substantial benefit to the overall ecosystem and biodiversity of the Greater Toronto Area bio region. Recognizing this, TRCA's Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors (the Guideline) developed in 2015 outlines guidance on addressing the adverse impacts of road crossings on natural heritage functions and highlights the need for regional and field level data to inform the infrastructure planning process. Though the Guideline

focuses on the valley and stream corridors, the principles of habitat, connectivity, road ecology and mitigation measures can be applied more broadly to the entire landscape as well.

The importance of habitat connectivity is strongly underscored in the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) as well as in our partner municipalities Official Plans. Likewise, TRCA's Living City Policies, Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy (2007), updated Natural Heritage System (2021-draft), Integrated Restoration Prioritization planning (2016), and various watershed plans including Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan (2020) and Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan (in progress) highlight the importance of this work. These documents recognize how critical habitat connectivity is in achieving the broader goals and objectives related to natural heritage, biodiversity, and watershed health and reference the information provided by TRCA's habitat connectivity and road ecology initiatives.

RATIONALE

Recognizing the importance of habitat connectivity and wildlife movement in achieving the natural heritage goals of TRCA's and its municipal partners, TRCA staff has undertaken a series of applied research and monitoring initiatives, with support from our municipal partners. This has been accomplished in collaboration with various researchers and practitioners from academic institutions, partner municipalities, and non-profit organizations. These initiatives are intended to advance our understanding of habitat connectivity priorities and wildlife movement across our watersheds, evaluate the extent of impacts of road network on connectivity, facilitate implementation of appropriate mitigation, and monitor their effectiveness over the long term to achieve natural heritage objectives.

Broadly, TRCA's habitat connectivity and road ecology initiatives can be classified into four focus areas including:

- i. **Identifying strategic habitat connectivity areas** across TRCA's watersheds using ecological models to inform proactive planning
- ii. **Identifying hotspots for road mortality** and wildlife movement on select road segments using field surveys to inform road planning and design
- iii. **Identifying priority crossing structures** (bridges and culverts) on the road for mitigation and/or replacement using models and field data to improve habitat connectivity for fish and wildlife
- iv. **Pilot studies at two select sites to understand species specific details** on movement pattern and identify specific needs for enhancing habitat and connectivity

The following section will describe each of the four focal areas in more detail.

(i) Identifying strategic habitat connectivity areas

- Preliminary assessment tool for assessing natural heritage functions within valley and stream corridors in TRCA's Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors (TRCA 2015; Page 47) (Figure 1a in Attachment 1). It provides a watershed scale assessment of terrestrial and aquatic natural heritage functions within valley corridors. This contains a high-level mapping tool that was developed using desktop analysis of existing data to highlight valley and stream corridors that are predicted to be of high, medium, or low natural heritage/ecological function priority in the consideration of siting and design of crossings within TRCA's jurisdiction.
- Priority areas for regional connectivity among TRCA's high quality habitat patches across TRCA jurisdiction (TRCA 2015) (Figure 1b in Attachment 1). High regional connectivity areas in the map reflects areas that are critical for connecting all high-quality habitat across TRCA's watersheds for terrestrial wildlife. Regional connectivity

is necessary for wildlife as corridors allow wildlife to move among habitat patches to establish new or expanded home ranges, if necessary. These movements, also called dispersal movements, often occur over larger geographic space, longer time scales, and may be infrequent but are critical for long-term population persistence.

Maintaining connectivity helps wildlife to adapt to the changing conditions in their habitat including those related to land use and climate change.

- Priority areas for local connectivity among forest habitat patches and forests and wetland habitat patches across TRCA's jurisdiction (TRCA 2015) (Figure 1c and 1d in Attachment 1) reflect areas that are important for wildlife moving in search of food, a mate, and appropriate seasonal refuge. These often occur within species' home ranges and over shorter time scales. When roads cross these local connectivity priority areas, they are likely to create barriers and/or result in road mortality due to vehicular traffic. This results in wildlife population decline and eventual extirpation unless appropriate mitigation actions are undertaken.
- Priority stream reaches important for fish habitat and stream connectivity were identified for parts of TRCA's jurisdiction where barrier data was available (TRCA 2015) and updated more recently for Etobicoke Creek watershed as part of the work completed for the Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan (TRCA 2021) (Figure 1e in Attachment 1). This work uses a modelling approach that calculates Dendritic Connectivity Index (DCI) based on the stream reach length and barrier data. DCI summarizes the overall connectivity for fish passage in the entire stream network. It ranks stream reaches into very high, high, moderate, and low priority for improving habitat connectivity for fish passage. Very high and high indicates stream reaches that are highly fragmented.
- Priority Reach Contributing Areas (RCA) for improving fish habitat and aquatic barrier removal (Etobicoke and Mimico Creek) (Figure 1f in Attachment 1) were assessed based on the amount of impervious area within the 125-ha drainage line RCA, also called Directly Connected Impervious Surface Cover/Area (DCIA; TRCA 2019). The higher quality RCA contains high amount of pervious surface, which is assumed to have lower level of impacts on instream habitat. Removing barriers in-stream within these priority RCAs will contribute to improving the higher quality fish habitat by increasing its connectivity.

(ii) Identifying hotspots for road mortality and wildlife movement on select road segments

TRCA continues to study the impacts of roads on habitat and wildlife movement at both the jurisdiction-scale and site-scale to help plan mitigation measures through various planning processes (e.g. watershed planning, development and infrastructure planning). As part of our road ecology initiative, TRCA completed a two-year field study (2018-2019) that included collecting road ecology data at six sites in Peel and York Region that were identified as habitat connectivity priority areas through TRCA's Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors (TRCA 2015). The broader goal of this work is to help

- estimate potential impacts of roads on habitat connectivity and wildlife movement,
- recommend appropriate mitigation measures, and
- monitor long-term effectiveness of the implemented mitigation through a before-after study.

This work demonstrates the benefits of integration of habitat connectivity models and desktop analysis (described in previous section) with site level field survey data on wildlife-vehicle collision (WVC) to inform the road planning and design process. The six study sites in Peel and York Region include The Gore Road, Mountainview Road, Airport Road, Goreway Drive, Teston Road and Stouffville Road (Figure 2 in Attachment 1). These sites represent select high and medium priority crossings for habitat connectivity in the natural heritage section of TRCA's Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors (TRCA 2015) that were also identified in the regional transportation master plans as undergoing construction within the next 10 years.

Table 1 shows the results of the road ecology surveys showing WVCs at all six sites. It shows that there is significant road mortality occurring at these sites and mitigation is necessary to protect local populations of wildlife. Overall, 8,778 WVCs were documented in this study in 2018 and 2019.

Table 1: Summary of four road ecology survey sites with the number of road mortality

Site	Total area surveyed (sq. m)	Total number of surveys	Total number of road mortality
the Gore Road	48,005	79	2,664
Airport Road (between Mayfield and Healey)	7,000	76	265
Mountainview Road (between Old Baseline and The Grange)	16,162	80	2,542
Goreway Drive (between Queen St East and Castlemore)	13,060	77	1,095
Stouffville Road (between Bayview Ave and Leslie St)	8,857	56	340
Teston Road	12,642	76	1,872

Figure 3 in Attachment 1 showcases the distribution of different taxonomic groups in these six sites combined. Frogs and toads accounted for a disproportionately large number of WVCs representing 89% of all WVCs. Species-specific data also suggested that populations of two species at risk, Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) and common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*), along with 23 other fauna species of regional concern in the jurisdiction (ranked L1-L3) are being negatively affected through WVC-related injuries and mortality.

Altogether, using the WVC data collected in 2018 and 2019, we estimate that over 1.16 million WVCs occur in a single season (April 5-November 5) along major roads in the rural area of the jurisdiction. This number is staggering and highlights the importance of avoiding the negative effects of roads through proper planning to avoid natural features prior to construction and mitigating impacts during/post-construction if avoiding natural features is not possible.

Figure 4 in Attachment 1 showcases the same data being used to identify hotspots for WVCs at the study sites. The hotspot maps indicate the approximate location where mitigation measure like wildlife passage may be located. Further field assessment during infrastructure planning and design phases should be undertaken to guide specific mitigation measures. These detailed site assessments can also help determine whether additional best management practices, such as wildlife fencing should be applied.

(iii) Identifying priority crossing structures (bridges and culverts) on the road for mitigation

Implementing mitigation measures to improve habitat connectivity, facilitate wildlife movement, and reduce WVCs can be often very challenging given the resources required to understand the ecological needs and to locate, plan, and design mitigation measures. By undertaking the identification of priority road crossings, TRCA has highlighted the opportunity for our municipal partners to address appropriate wildlife crossings as they undertake major roadworks, which can help our partners be more strategic and efficient in allocating resources for maximum benefit.

Habitat connectivity priorities for terrestrial wildlife were combined with terrestrial wildlife passability of existing crossing structures assessed at the field level to identify the priority road crossing structures for mitigation and/or replacement to improve wildlife passage. This analysis was completed only in those areas where all the required data are available (Caledon for wildlife passage). The identification of crossing priorities for the Caledon area can be expanded jurisdiction wide to inform where crossings can provide the greatest benefit to terrestrial wildlife.

Results of the prioritization class for all 388 structures in Caledon are shown in Table 2 and Figure 5 in Attachment 1.

Table 2: Summary of the priority road crossings for mitigation and/or replacement for improving terrestrial habitat connectivity in Caledon

<i>Priority Road Crossings for Mitigation and/or Replacement</i>	<i>Number of Crossings</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Very High	8	Road crossing structures that are in all priority areas for habitat connectivity and are completely unpassable for all wildlife
High	25	Road crossing structures that are in at least one of the priority areas for habitat connectivity and are completely unpassable for all wildlife
Moderate	107	Road crossing structures that are in all priority areas for habitat connectivity and are partially passable for some wildlife
Moderate Low	74	Road crossing structures that are at least one of the priority areas for habitat connectivity and are partially passable for some wildlife
Low	167	Assumed completely passable or not within the predicted high priority areas for terrestrial habitat connectivity
Unclassified	7	Passability information was inconclusive due to lack of sufficient data
<i>Total</i>	<i>388</i>	

(iv) Pilot studies at two select sites to understand species specific details on movement pattern

Stouffville Road

Stouffville Road between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street (Figure 6 in Attachment 1) in the City of Richmond Hill is nestled within an urbanizing setting with conservation lands (Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve) and rural parcels of land to its north and private low-density residential areas to its south. This section of Stouffville Road intersects a highly functioning habitat mosaic with more than 101 species of flora, 55 terrestrial fauna

(including 37 TRCA's regional and urban Species of Concern), and 4 fishes in its immediate vicinity (within 1 km buffer) including the federally and provincially listed endangered species Jefferson Salamander.

Habitat connectivity models identified this as the high priority area for both regional and local connectivity (as described in section i) and road ecology survey data (described in section ii above) indicates that this section of Stouffville Road is a hotspot for road mortality and thus a priority for wildlife movement and connectivity management for TRCA species of concern including Jefferson Salamanders (JESA).

As such, TRCA has been conducting an in-depth study to expand our understanding to identify where and when the JESA populations are using habitat and moving to and from to inform specific mitigation measures. This includes studies to understand where JESA overwinter to inform broader habitat and connectivity management using cutting edge technologies like laser-triggered camera traps (Figure 6a in Attachment 1), pitfall traps and pit tags (Figure 6b in Attachment 1), ground penetrating radar (Figure 6c in Attachment 1) and eDNA testing. This project is being completed in close collaboration with various partners including University of Guelph, NRSI, York Region, and City of Richmond Hill.

The data generated have provided proactive information to York Region to assist in the detailed design phase of this road project, and to help streamline the planning process and make efficient use of the available resources. York Region staff has engaged TRCA staff in initial discussions to provide preliminary input as the Region advances forward in the detailed design process, as well as to put in place other mitigation measures such as seasonal (spring and fall) road closures in 2021 (Figure 6d in Attachment 1).

Heart Lake Road

Heart Lake Rd in the City of Brampton bisects a series of provincially significant wetlands where there was very high road mortality for turtles in particular. Most turtle species in the province are listed as species at risk. Turtles are one of the most vulnerable group of wildlife in TRCA jurisdiction in terms of road ecology. Female turtles frequently nest on the gravel edges of roads and as such are injured and killed by vehicles. If they do nest successfully, often their hatchlings are killed when they emerge from the roadside nest. Given that turtles have delayed sexual maturity, the loss of females from populations is a significant concern for local populations.

Multi-year volunteer monitoring has indicated that turtle road mortality is substantial in this location. Further studies have revealed that TRCA and York University documented a significant male sex bias in Midland painted turtles at this location of 21:4. This indicates that the road may be a strong factor in in sex-specific road mortality where nesting females are more vulnerable to collisions.

Based on the road mortality data and concerns around the impacts to the turtle population the City of Brampton has installed three mitigation structures along the road and TRCA partnered to create a turtle nesting structure to discourage turtles from crossing the road (Figure 7 in Attachment 1).

TRCA has partnered with the City to monitor the three installed ecopassages: one wildlife tunnel (2 m closed foot box culvert) and 2 ACO tunnels (Figure 8a and b in Attachment 1) to evaluate its effectiveness in improving habitat connectivity for turtle populations as well as other species. The laser triggered cameras have been installed at these ecopassages

during peak migration movement season to document the number and type of species using the structures (Figure 8c in Attachment 1). Lastly, TRCA, in partnership with York University, has also pit tagged the turtle population to understand the turtle movement pattern across this wetland complex to inform road mitigation measure as well as land management (Figure 8d in Attachment 1).

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

FINANCIAL DETAILS

This work is funded through capital funding from the Regional Municipalities of Peel, York, Durham, and Toronto. In addition, staff successfully secured additional funding through other sources such as research granting organizations (Canadian Water Network, Mitacs Inc.) and Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk to supplement the municipal capital funds.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

TRCA will continue to support our municipal partners, research partners, and TRCA's own operations by advancing the science, policy, and practice of incorporating road ecology principles to improve habitat connectivity and wildlife movement within our watersheds. TRCA will continue work with our partners to share the data, knowledge, and expertise to plan and design mitigation measures as requested. TRCA will continue towards completing detailed review of projects and share the knowledge gathered more fully with our partners to improve habitat connectivity and road ecology outcomes in TRCA's jurisdiction.

The RWA can provide guidance and facilitate this by:

- Identifying opportunities (including funding) to expand road ecology projects
- Identifying priority work in your organization and/or community
- Advocating as an organizational and/or community champion
- Joining us in the field so that we can share our knowledge and experience

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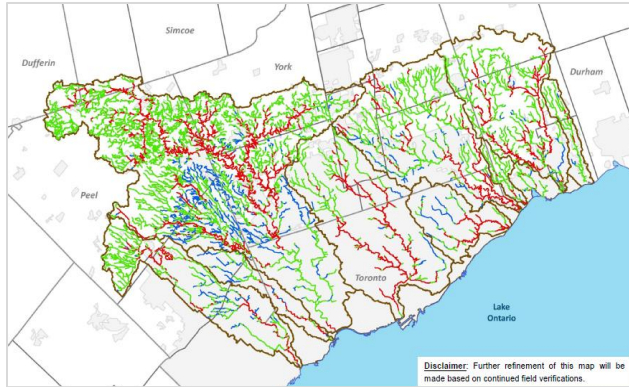
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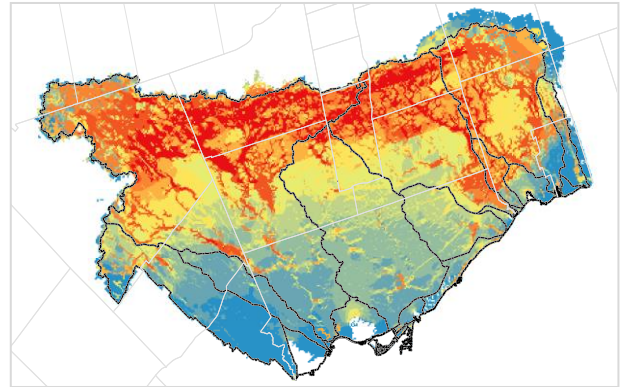
Attachment 1: Figures

Attachment 2: Habitat Connectivity, Wildlife Movement, & Road Ecology Presentation

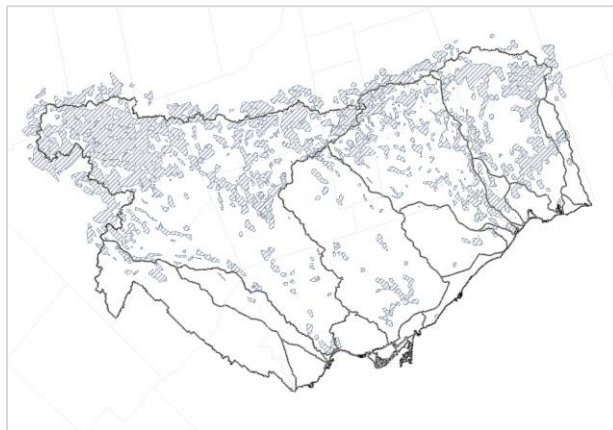
Attachment 1: Figures



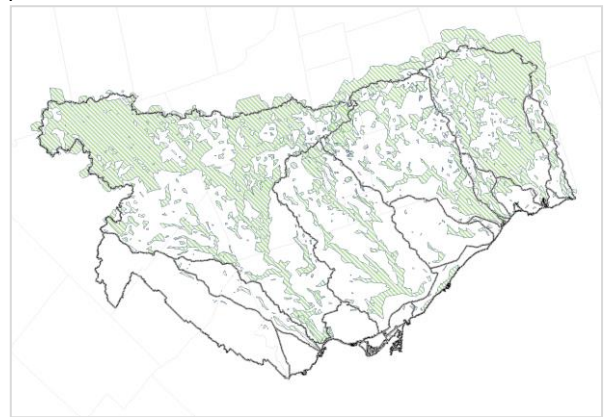
a. Preliminary tool for assessing natural heritage functions in TRCA Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridor.



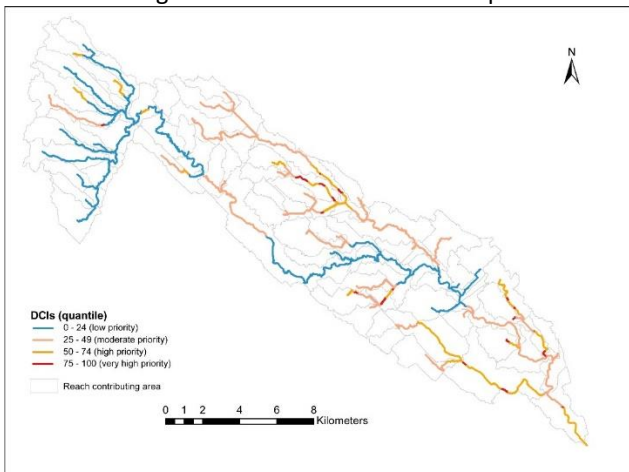
b. Regional connectivity map across TRCA's watersheds. High priority areas (red and orange) indicate critical corridor areas for linkages among all high-quality habitat patches



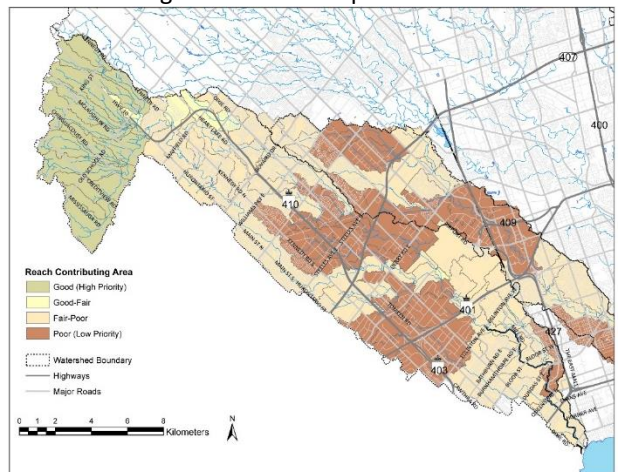
c. Local connectivity map across TRCA's watersheds for wildlife moving between wetland and forest patches



d. Local connectivity map across TRCA's watersheds for wildlife moving between forest patches.



e. Aquatic connectivity map showing stream reaches that are high (red), medium (orange), and low (blue) priority for barrier mitigation.



f. Habitat quality map of reach contributing areas for stream reaches

Figure 1: Strategic habitat connectivity areas across TRCA's watershed using ecological modeling approaches, where data is available.

Attachment 1: Figures

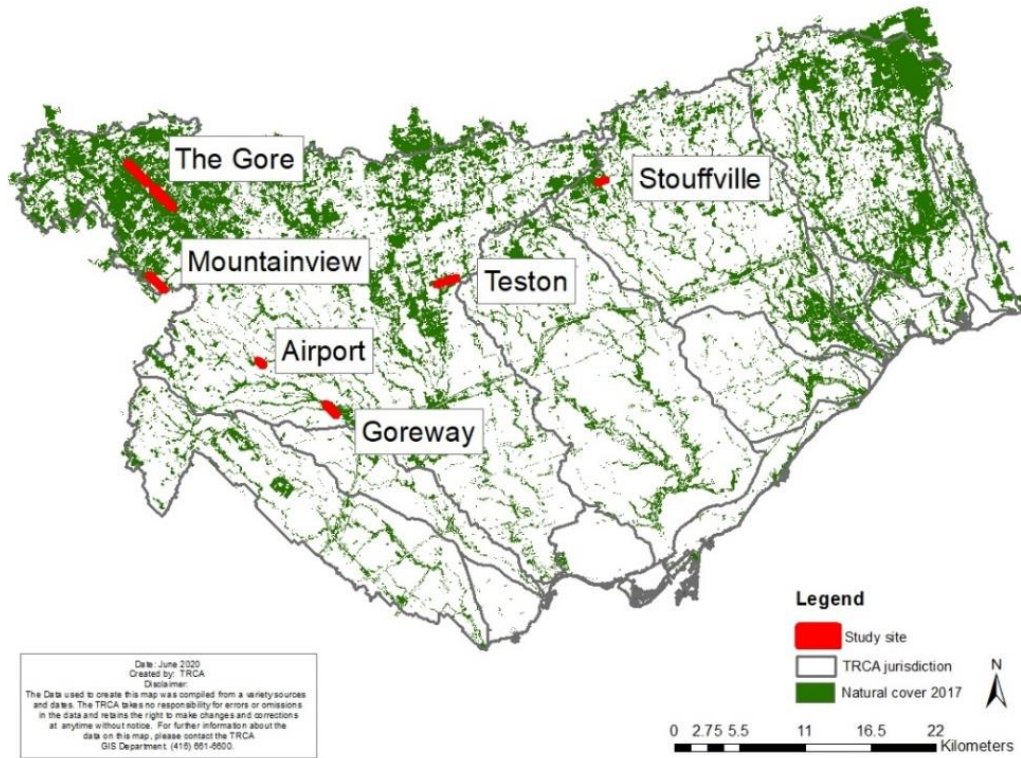


Figure 2. Locations of road ecology study sites surveyed in 2018 and 2019 in Peel and York Region within the TRCA jurisdiction.

Attachment 1: Figures

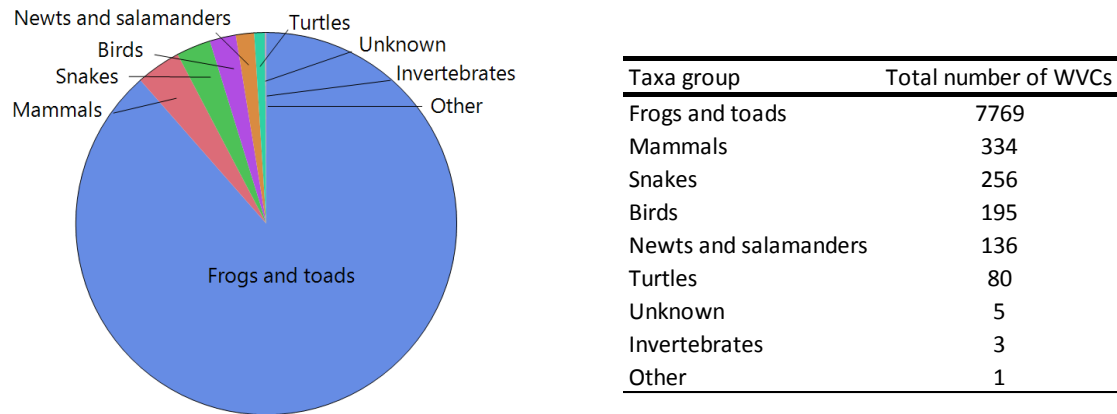


Figure 3. Total number of wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) by taxa group in 2018 and 2019 at all study sites combined.

Attachment 1: Figures



a. Gore Road (North)



b. Airport Road (between Mayfield and Healey)



c. Mountainview Road (between Old Baseline and The Grange)



d. Goreway Drive (between Queen St E and Castlemore).



e. Stouffville Road



f. Teston Road West (top) and East (bottom)

Figure 4: Hotspots for road mortality and wildlife movement at six sites in Peel and York Region

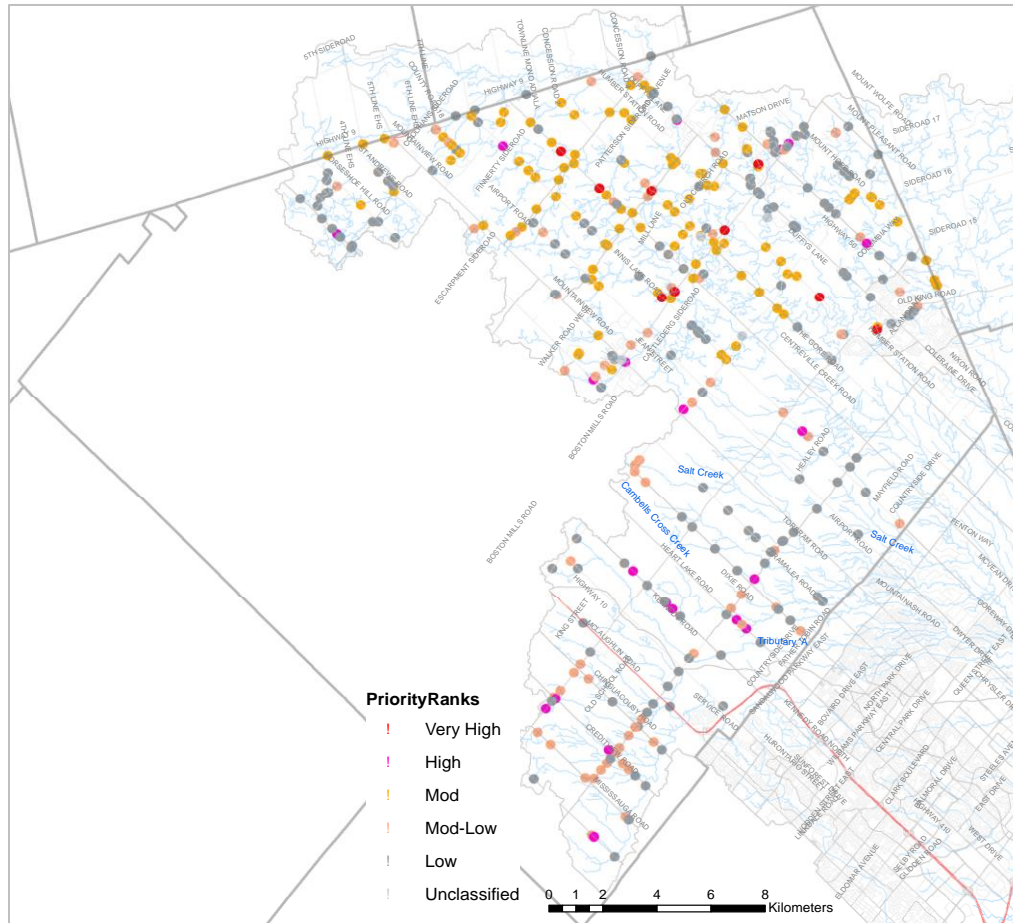
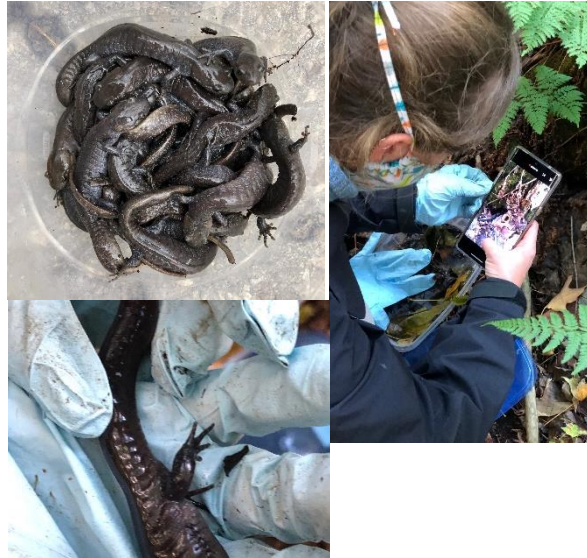


Figure 5. Locations of the road crossing structures and their priority level for mitigation and / or replacement to improve wildlife passage across the Town of Caledon in TRCA jurisdiction

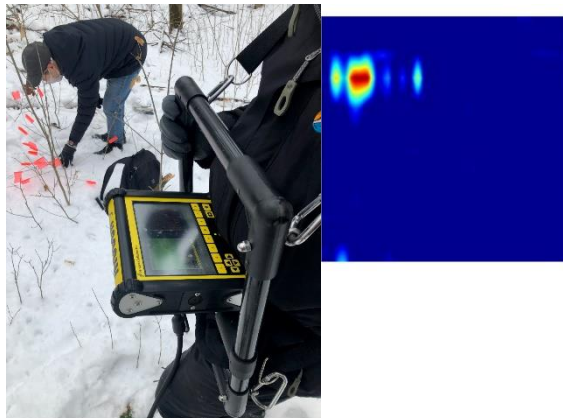
Attachment 1: Figures



a. Jefferson Salamander (top) and short tailed weasel (bottom) passing by laser triggered camera



b. Jefferson Salamander in pit fall trap, surgical implant of VIE tags, and release after surgery



c. Ground penetrating radar and the resulting imagery showing Jefferson Salamander below ground habitat



d. York Region seasonal road closure for species migration

Figure 6: Types of applied research and applications at Stouffville Road to improve habitat connectivity and wildlife movement

Attachment 1: Figures



Figure 7: Heart Lake Road mitigation measures locations

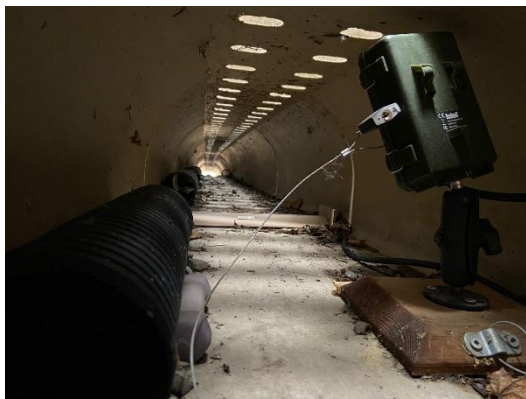
Attachment 1: Figures



a. Box culvert



b. ACO tunnel



c. Trail cameras in the ecopassages



d. Turtle pit tagging for movement pattern monitoring

Figure 8: Heart Lake Road mitigation measures

Habitat Connectivity, Wildlife Movement, & Road Ecology

Bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice

Presented by:

Namrata Shrestha, Ph.D.

Senior Manager

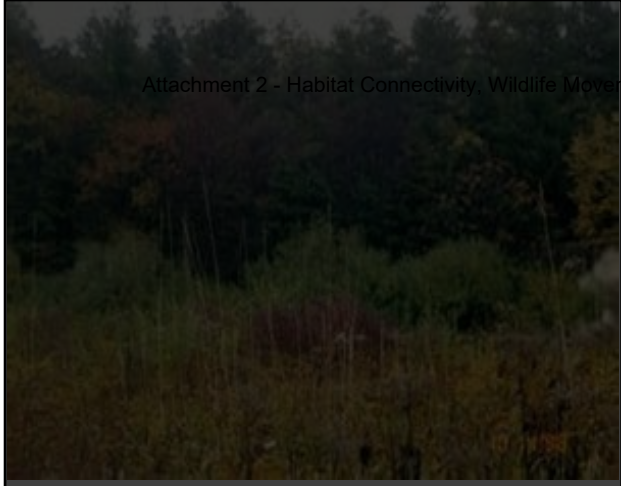
Watershed Planning and Reporting

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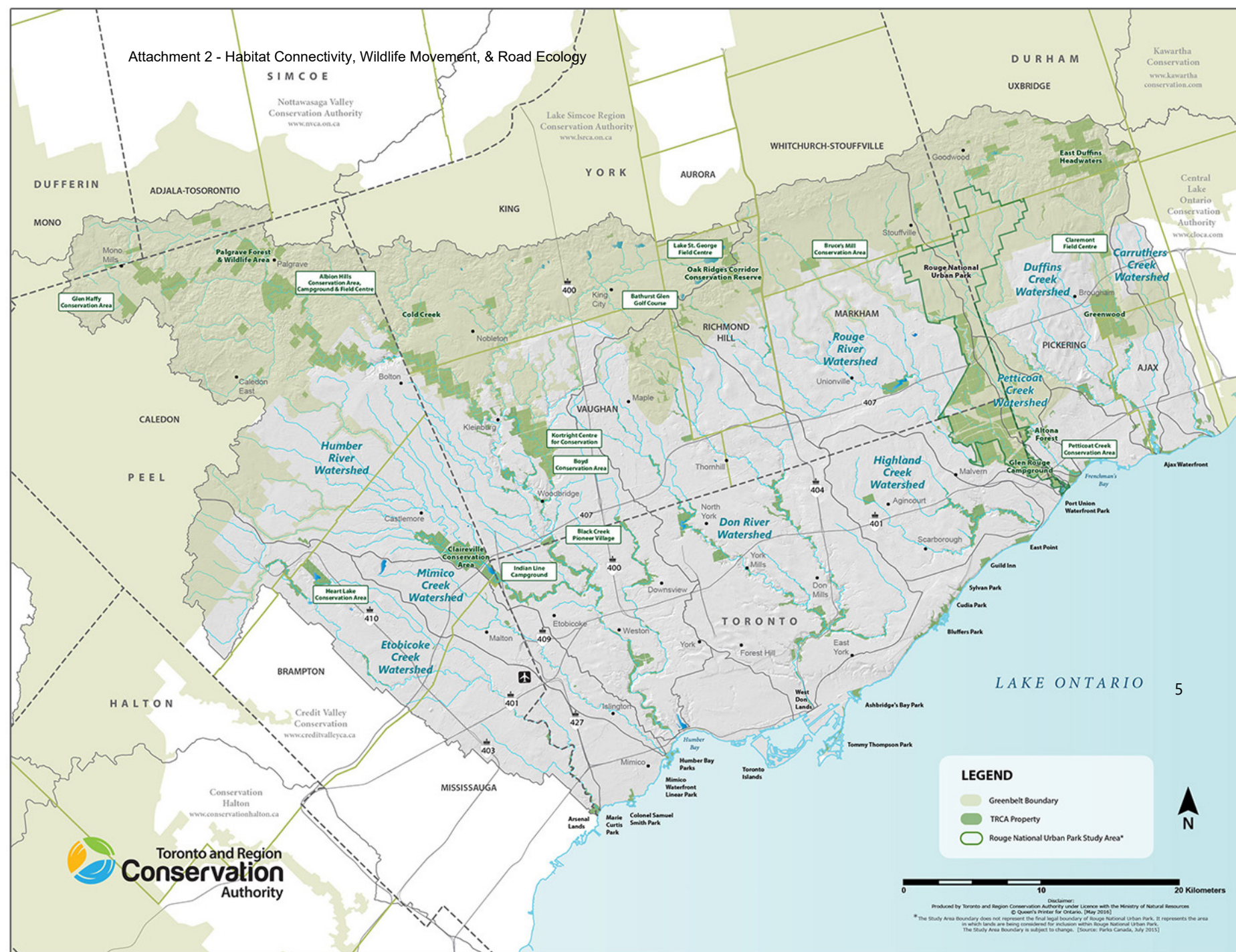
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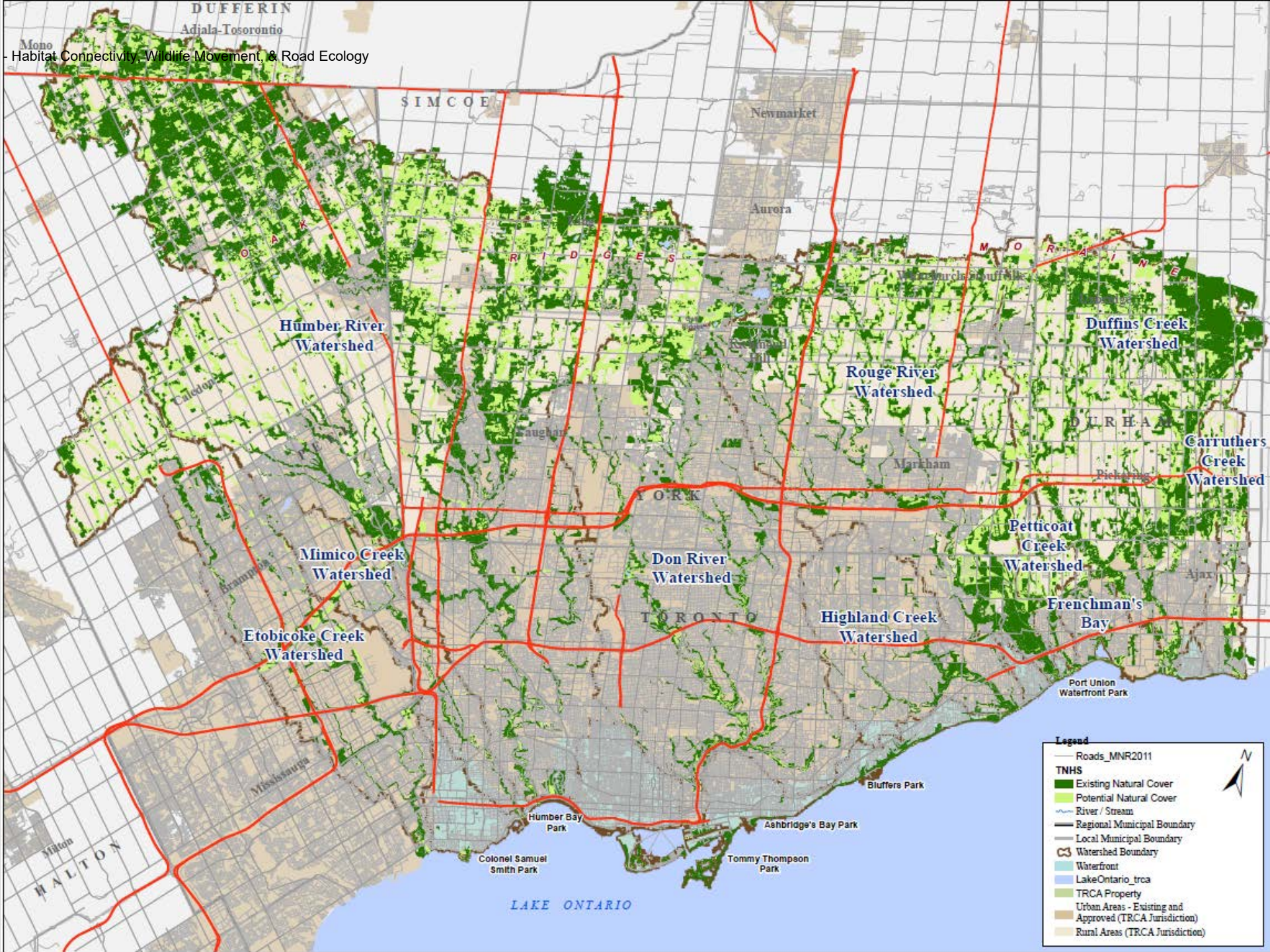
1. Context
2. TRCA initiatives overview
3. Moving forward

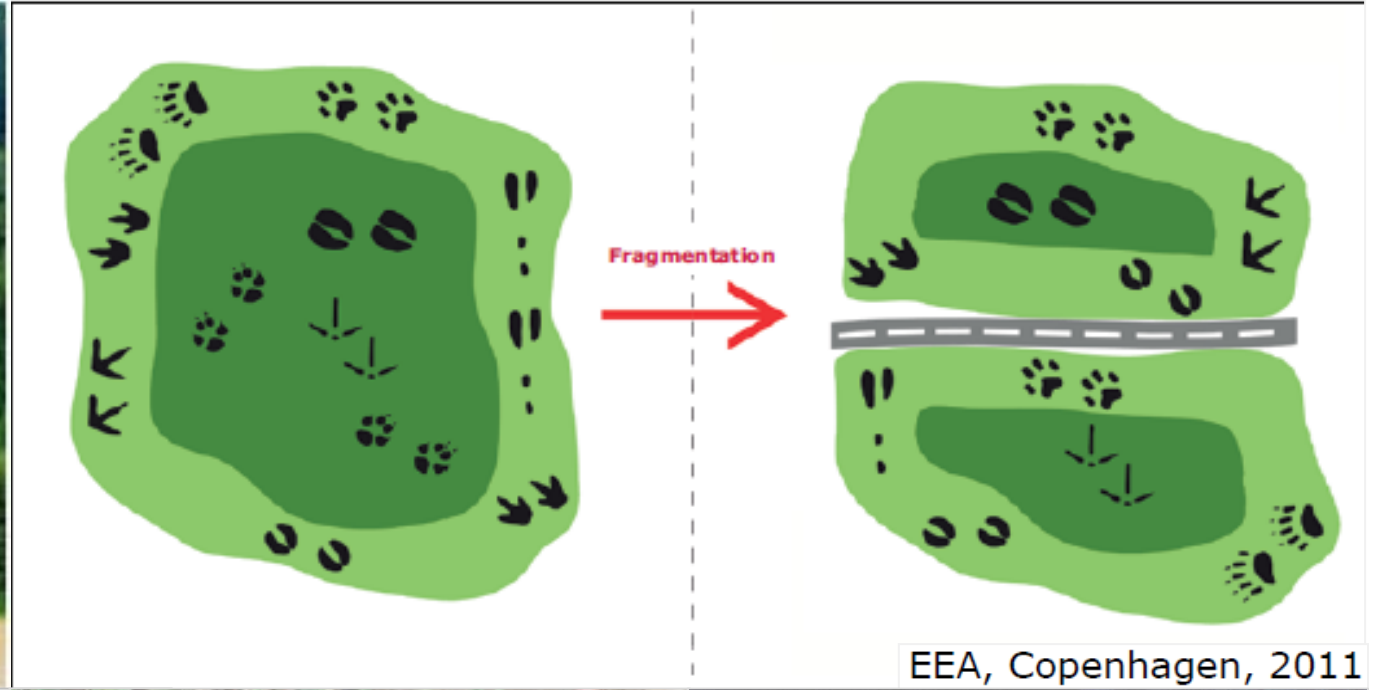
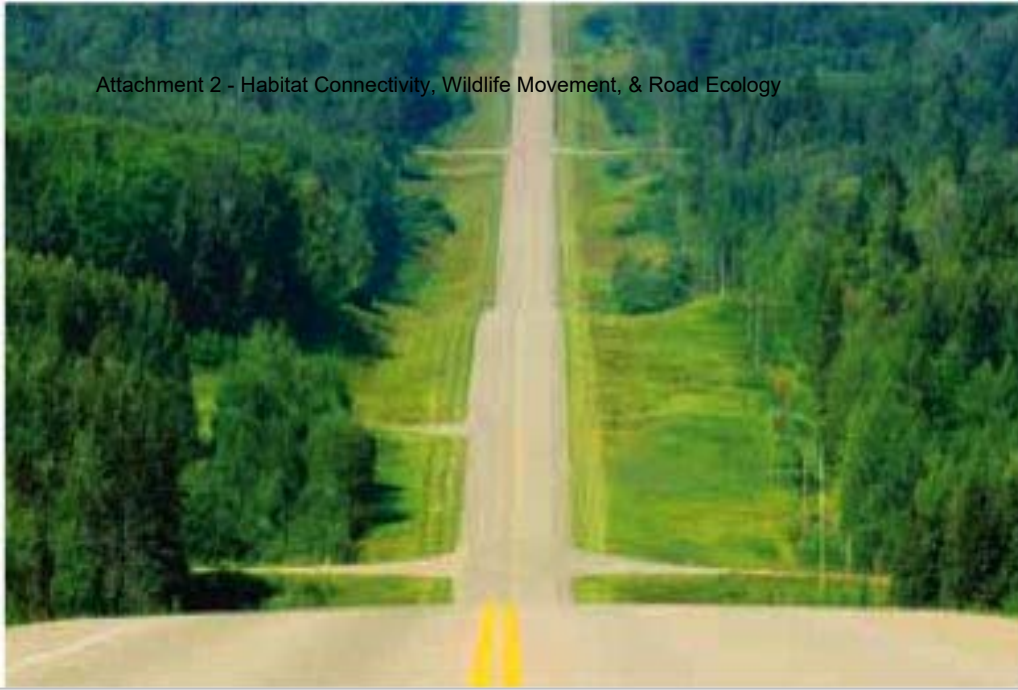
Urban Ecosystems



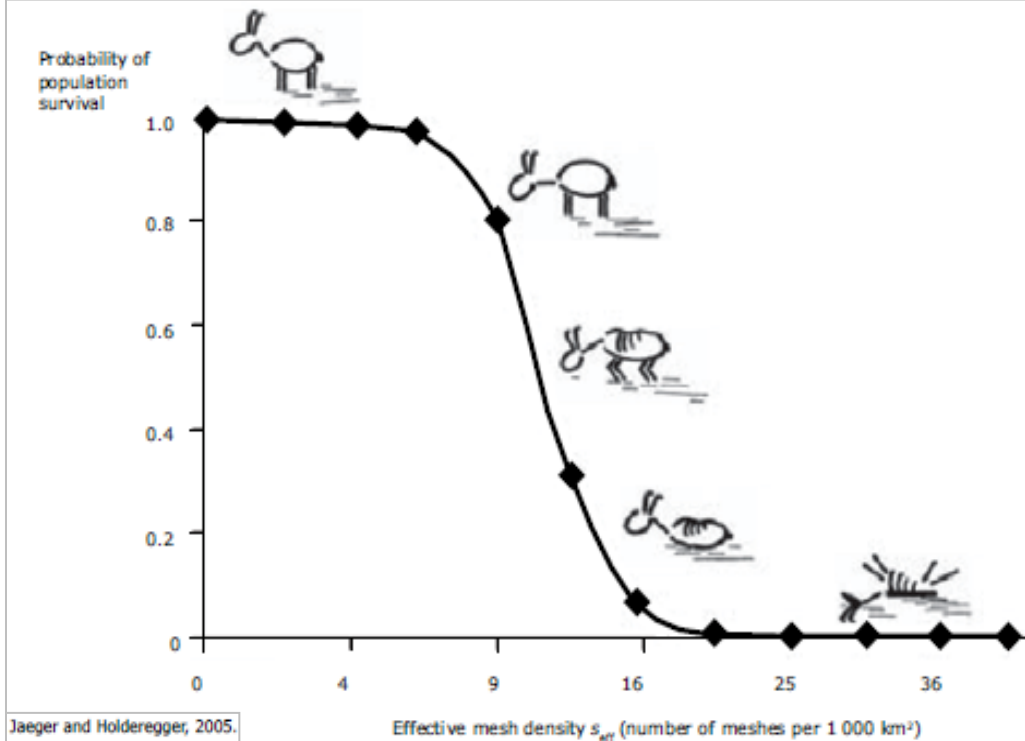
Attachment 2 - Habitat Connectivity, Wildlife Movement, & Road Ecology







EEA, Copenhagen, 2011



Science, Planning & Design



Science, Planning & Design

(urban & near-urban)

Where? When? How?

TRCA'S INITIATIVES OVERVIEW

TRCA Habitat Connectivity and Road Ecology Initiatives

Overarching Goal

- Estimate the impacts of road network on habitat connectivity and wildlife movement,
- Facilitate policy and practice to strategically enhance habitat connectivity, and
- Monitor long term effectiveness of mitigation measures to enable adaptive management.

TRCA Habitat Connectivity and Road Ecology Initiatives

Overarching Goal

- Estimate the impacts of road network on habitat connectivity and wildlife movement,
- Facilitate policy and practice to strategically enhance habitat connectivity, and
- Monitor long term effectiveness of mitigation measures to enable adaptive management.

Objectives

- Identify strategic habitat connectivity areas
- Identify priority crossing structures on the road for mitigation
- Road ecology surveys and site level hotspot analysis
- Deep dive pilot studies on species specific movement patterns and mitigation effectiveness

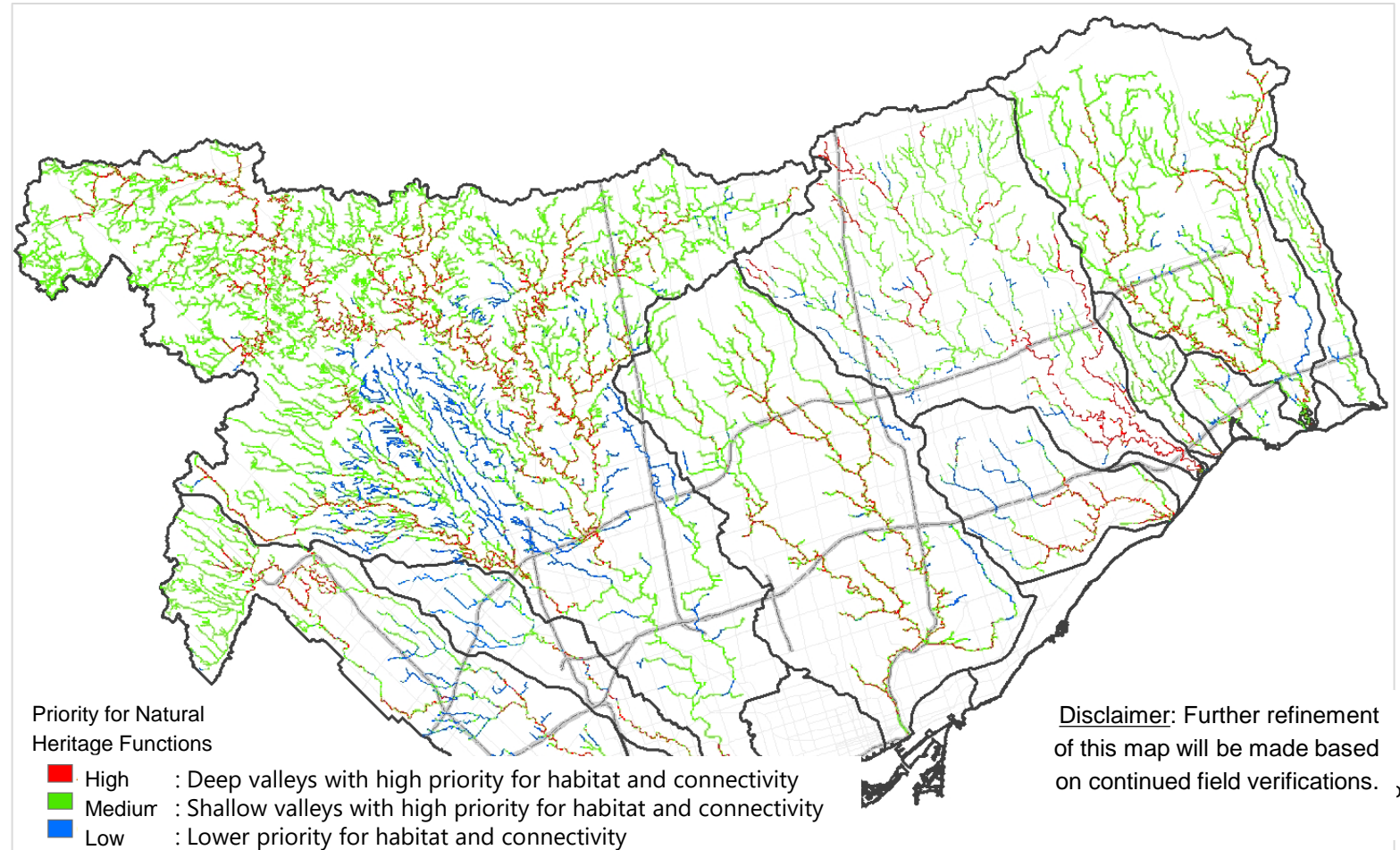
1. STRATEGIC AREAS FOR HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

a. TRCA Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors



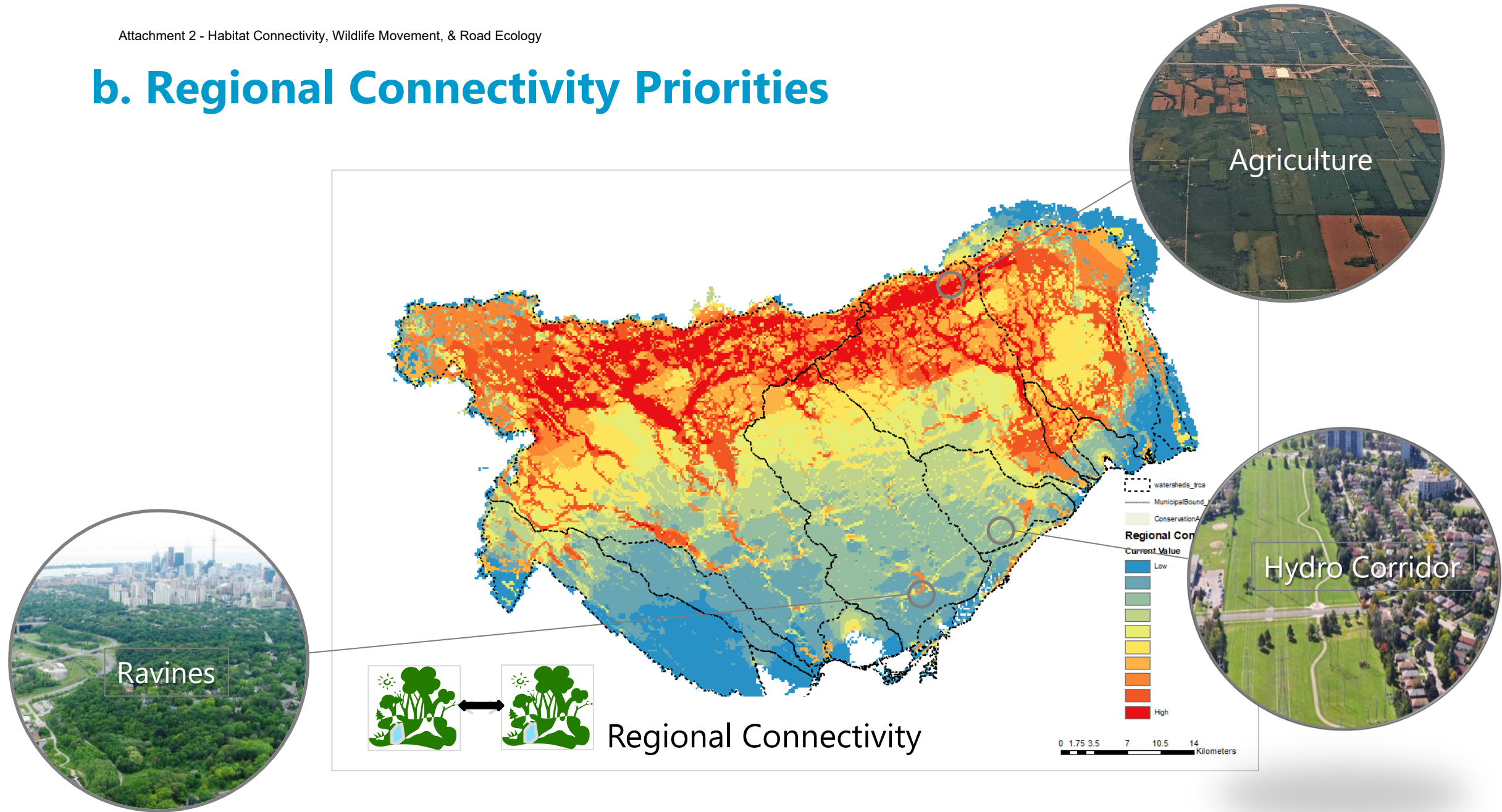
Crossings Guideline for Valley and Stream Corridors

September 2015

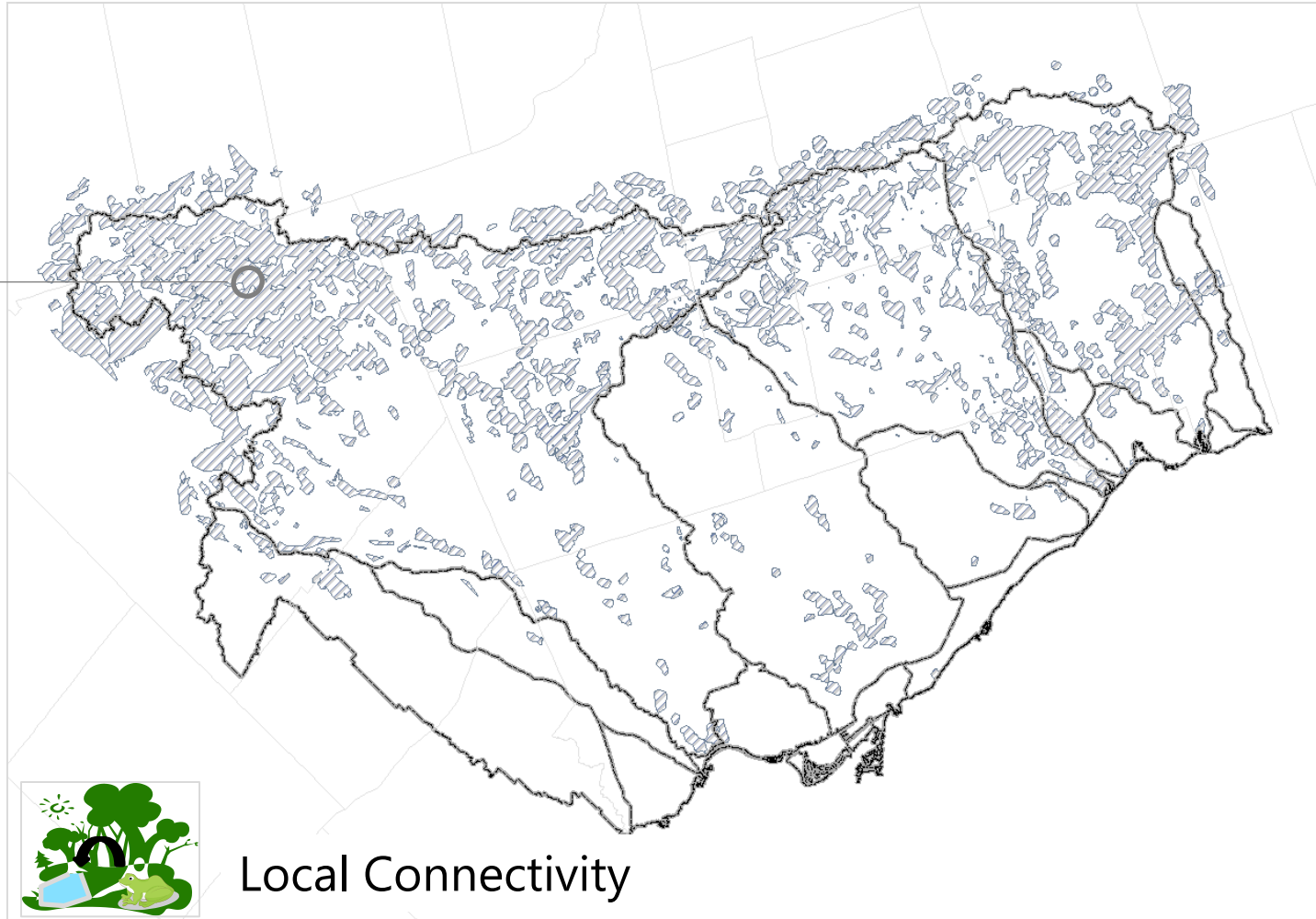
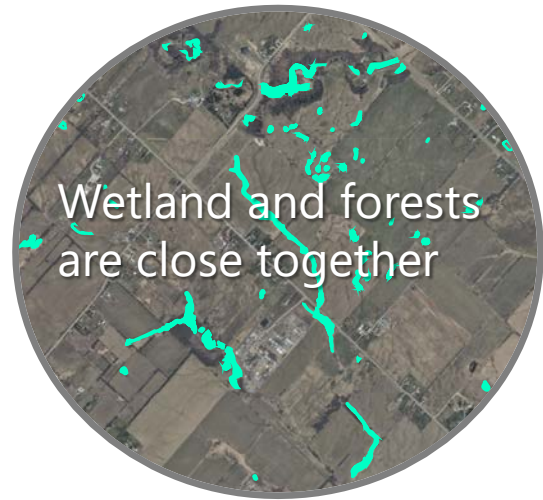


Preliminary assessment tool for natural heritage functions

b. Regional Connectivity Priorities



c. Local Connectivity

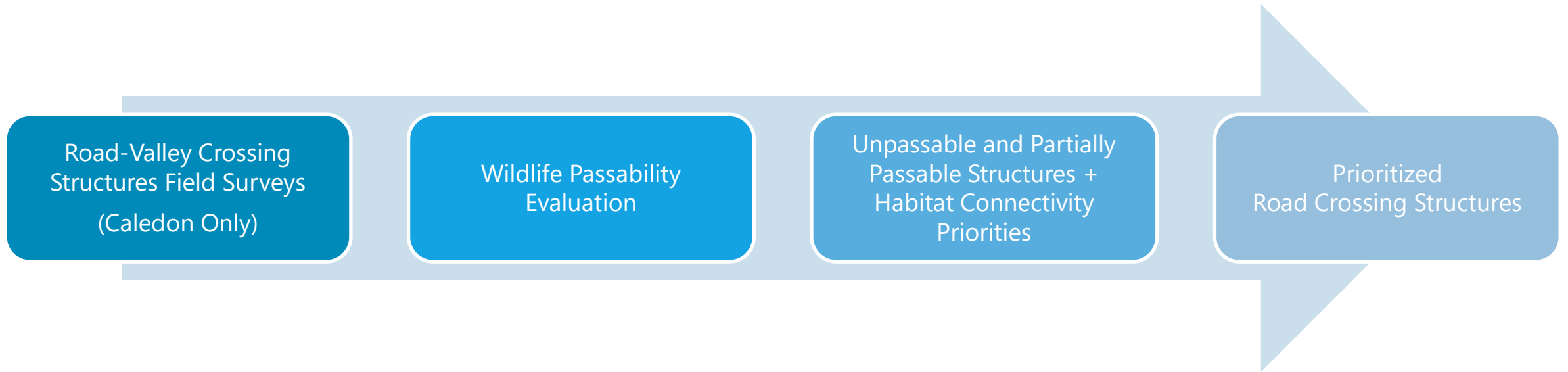


Used these data to inform various watershed planning, land use and infrastructure planning, and restoration initiatives.

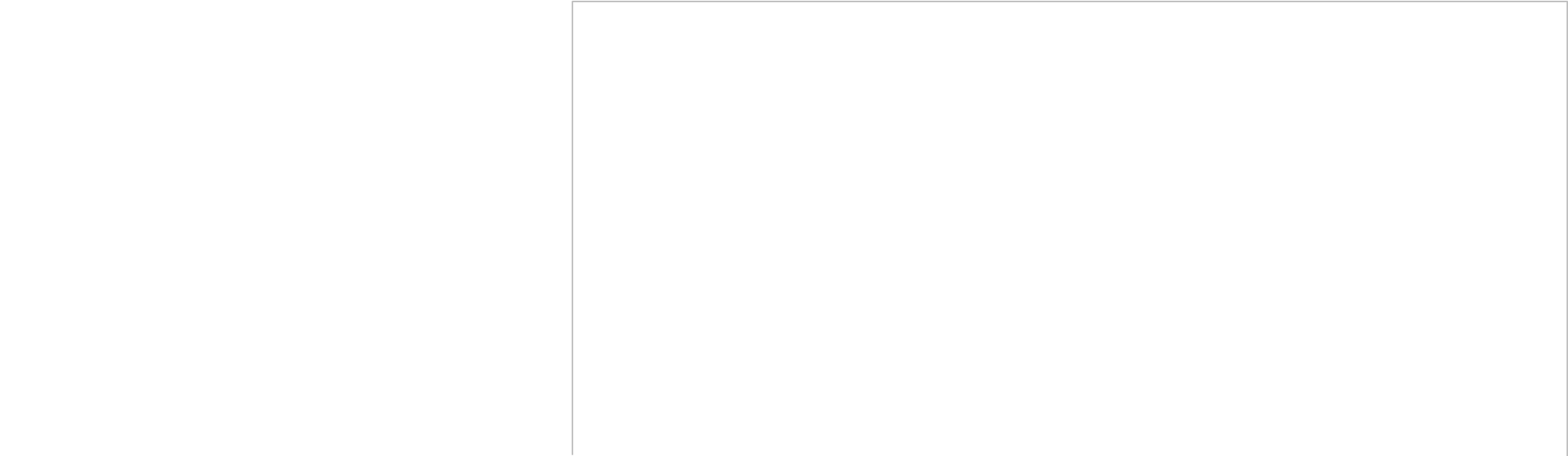
Other modelling analysis completed for other groups of species

2. PRIORITY CROSSING STRUCTURES FOR MITIGATION

Priority Road Crossing Structures for Wildlife Passage



Priority Road Crossing Structures for Wildlife Passage



Row #	Very High Priority Structure Locations
1	The Gore Road (between Finnerty and Coolihans)*
	The Gore Road (between Patterson and Finnerty)*
2	Humber Station Road (just north of Patterson)
3	Centreville Creek Rd (just north of Old Church)
4	Old Church Rd (between Centreville and The Gore)
5	Old Church Rd (between Humber Station and Duffys Lane)
6	Duffys Lane (just north of Emil Kolb Parkway)
7	Palmer Circle (just north of Walton Drive – not a regional road)
8	Deer Valley Drive (north of Bambi Trail – not a regional road)

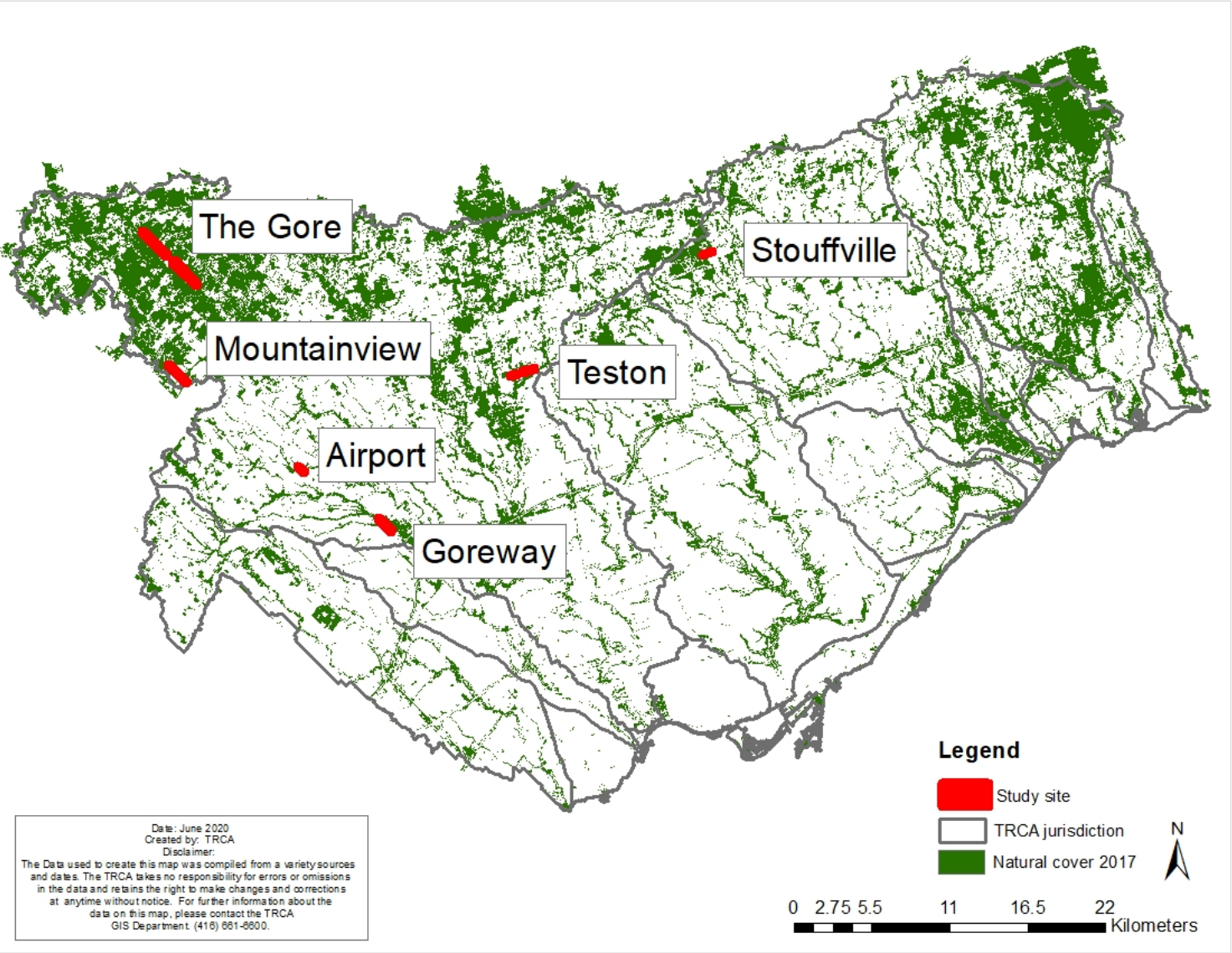
Provided this data to Peel Capital Works staff in partnership with CVC (2021)

* Road construction capital project (2022, 29065, 12-4085); Site-level road mortality and hot spot data exist.

3. ROAD ECOLOGY SURVEYS AND HOTSPOT ANALYSIS

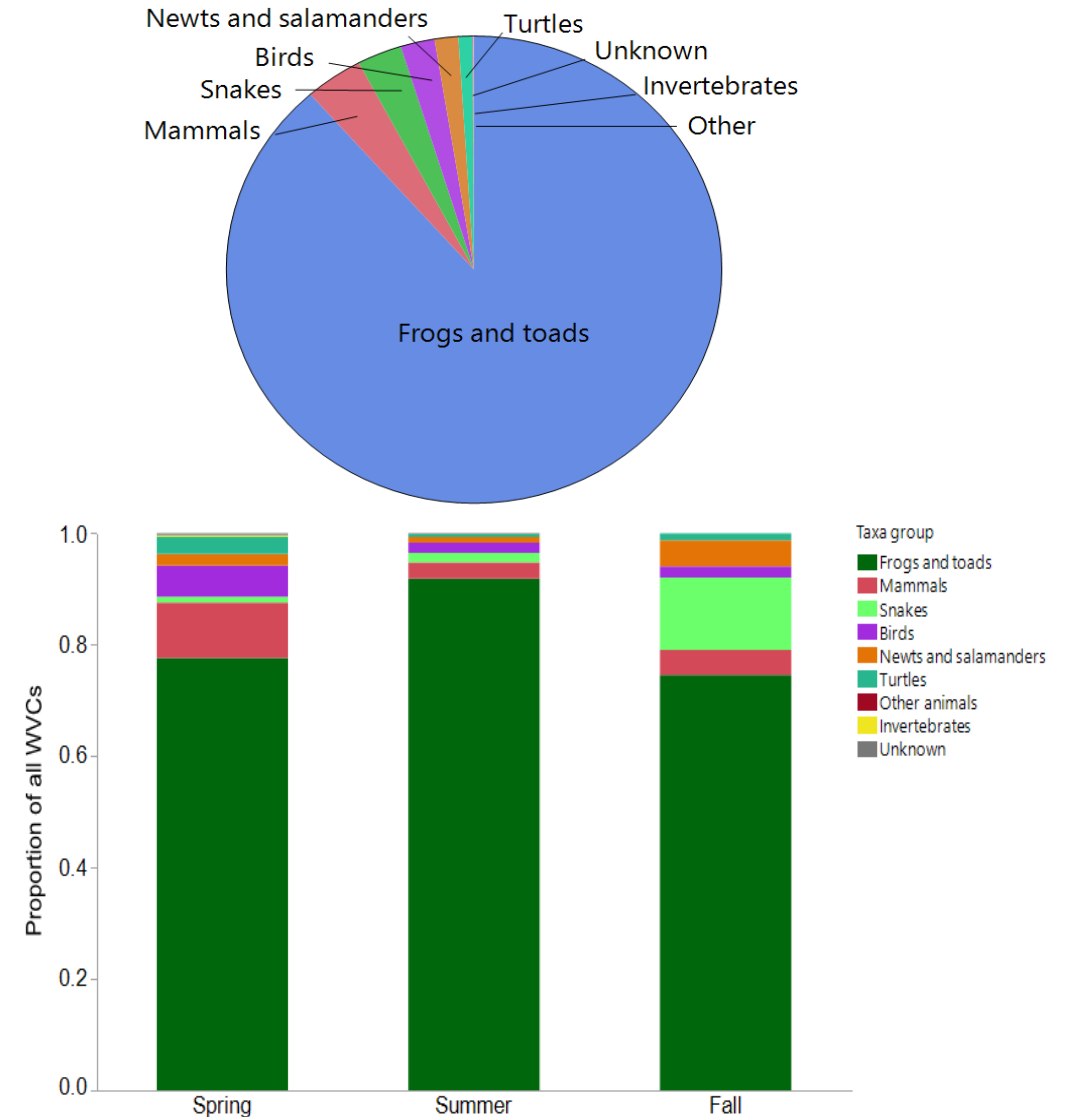
Road Ecology Surveys and Hotspot Analysis

Six sites in Peel and York Region



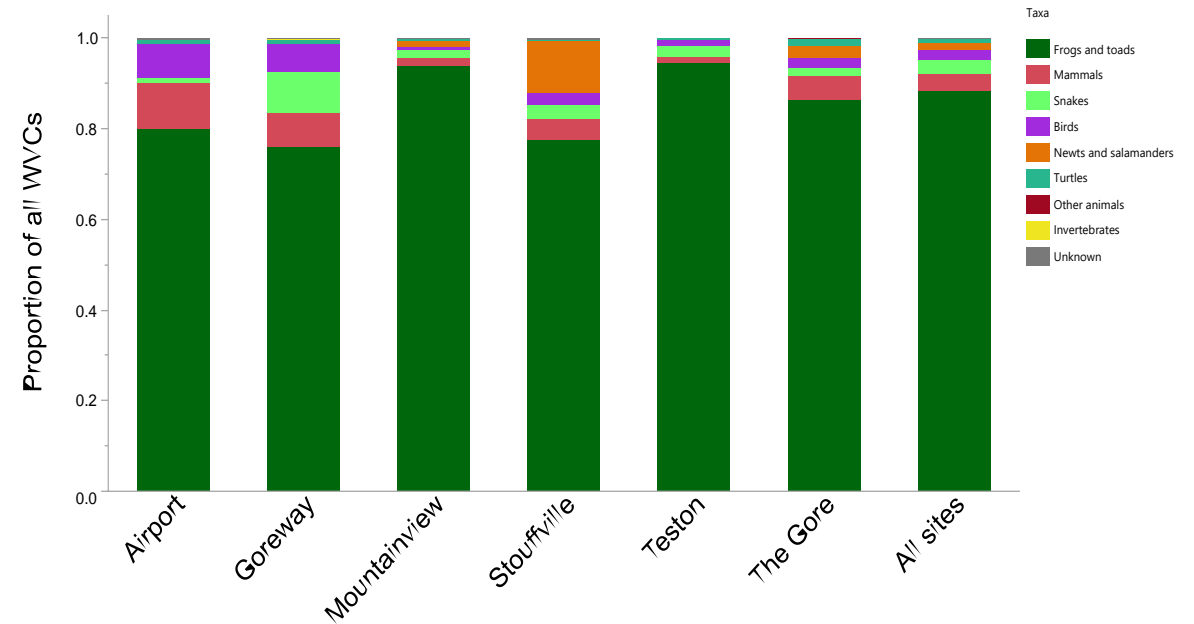
Road Ecology Surveys and Hotspot Analysis

- Frogs and toads represented 89% of all WVCs
- 54% of all WVCs were species of regional concern
- Seasonal variation in species being impacted
- ~1.2 million WVCs on rural roads in one season



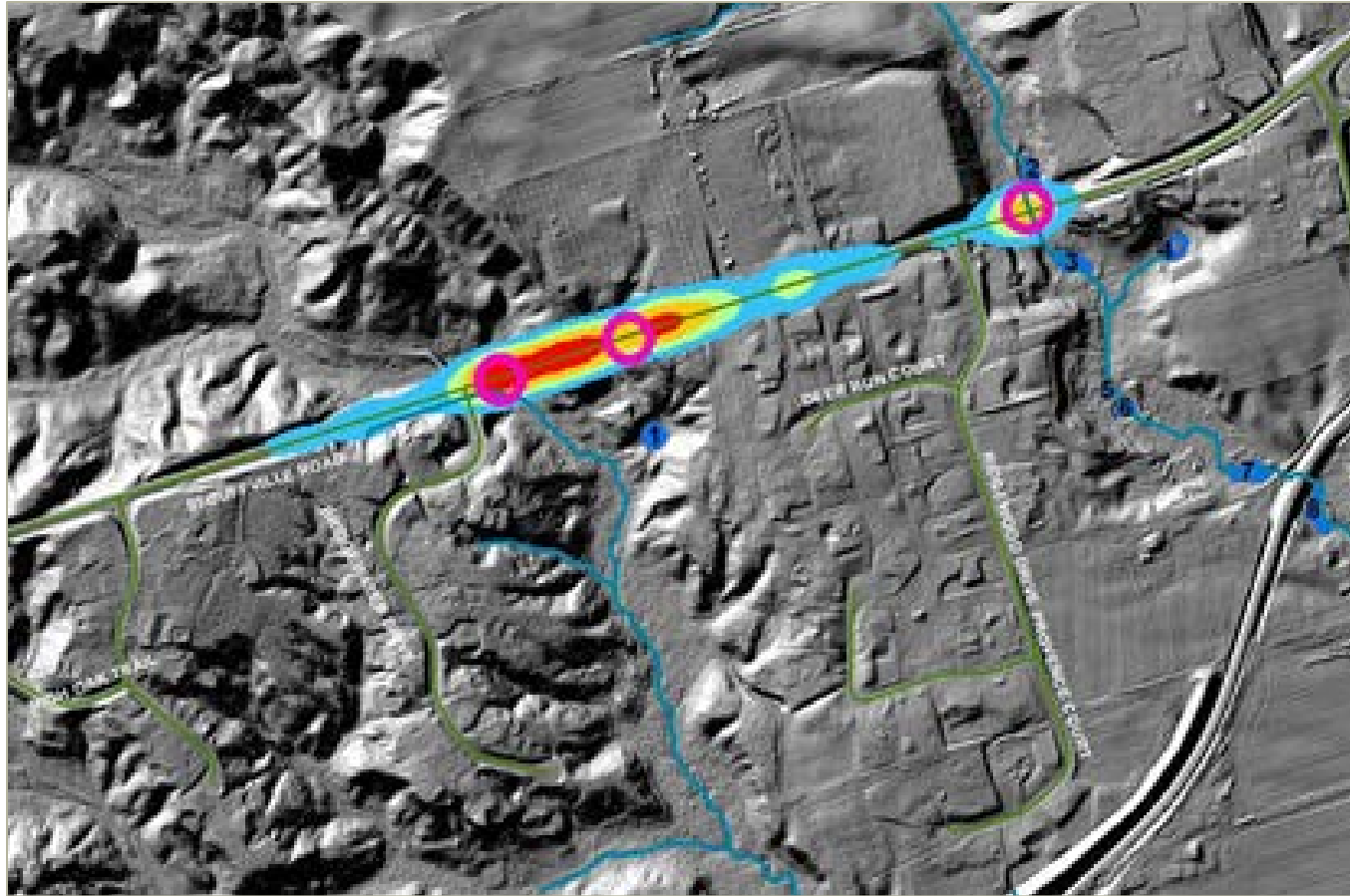
Road Ecology Surveys and Hotspot Analysis

- Broader pattern is similar
- Each site may be different for mitigation measures
- Hotspot analysis help identify location of mitigation measures
- Data has been shared with municipal staff



4. DEEP DIVE INTO WILDLIFE MOVEMENT & MITIGATION

Stouffville Road



Hotspot locations overlaid with the existing culverts (pink circle)



Camera Traps



Pit Fall Traps

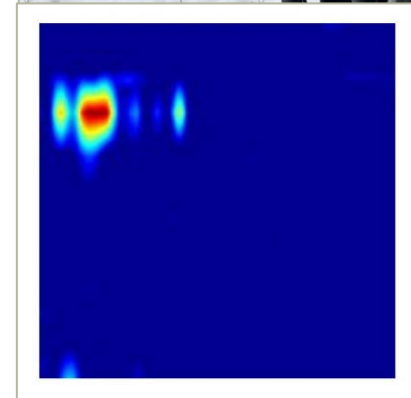
Stouffville Road



Camera Traps
(movement pattern & timing)



Pitfall trap and VIE Tagging
(movement pattern & locations)



Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
(overwintering habitat)

Stouffville Road

Intermittent Overnight Road Closures

Stouffville Road, Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street
April 5 - 12, 2021 - 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Endangered Species Migration – Jefferson Salamander



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

International Conference On

Ecology & Transportation

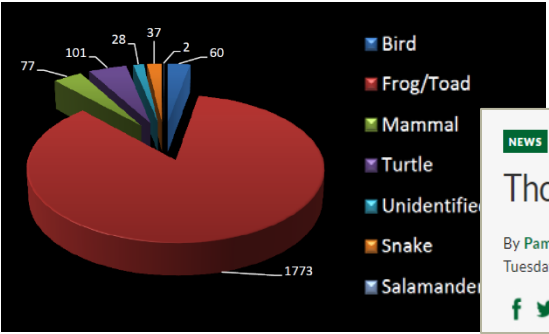
"Transforming Transportation Ecology in the Global Village"

2021 Virtual Conference

September 22 - 29, 2021



Heart Lake Road



Thousands dying on Heart Lake Road every year

By Pam Douglas Brampton Guardian
Tuesday, October 8, 2013



Heart Lake Road



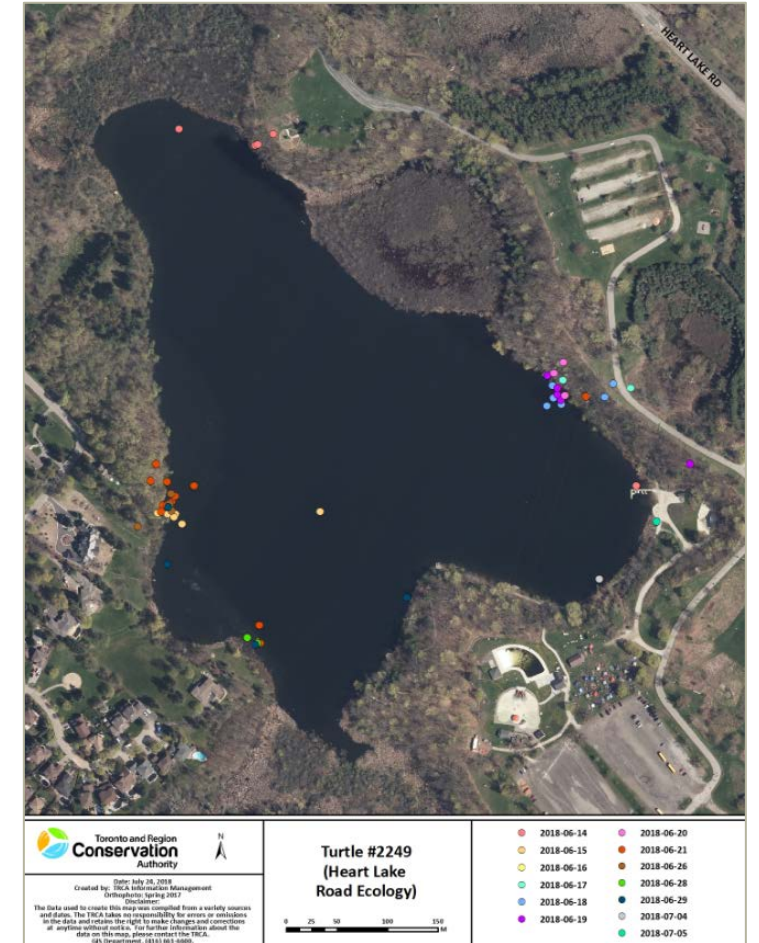
Heart Lake Road



Camera Traps in eco-passages
(movement pattern &
mitigation effectiveness)



Pitfall trap and Tagging
(movement pattern &
population estimates)




Tracking turtle movement
(movement pattern)

Heart Lake Road


THE TURTLES OF THE HEART LAKE WETLAND COMPLEX

LOTS OF TURTLES!




194

Midland painted turtles



126


Snapping turtles



1

Northern Map turtle


First sighting for Peel Region in 30+ years



1

Eastern Musk turtle

First sighting for Peel Region in 50+ years




11

exotic Red-eared sliders


Pet releases

ROAD SIDE NESTING




- Turtles nest along the road
- Nesting is dangerous to females
- Heart Lake road is dangerous to turtles


WHAT CAN WE DO?




Keep turtles away from the road with fencing and underground passages



Build nesting structures away from the road



Keep monitoring road mortality and nest sites



Have turtles in mind when developing the area

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Brampton turtle population study reveals ‘gem’ in Heart Lake wetlands

By Sabrina Gamrot Brampton Guardian
Mon., Dec. 2, 2019 | 2 min. read



An aerial photograph of the Heart Lake wetlands area. The image shows a mix of water bodies, marshland, and some developed areas with buildings and roads. A red star is placed on the right side of the image, near a road intersection, indicating a specific location of interest.

A close-up photograph of a turtle on a paved road. The turtle is facing the camera, and its head and front legs are visible. The road surface is dark and appears to be asphalt.

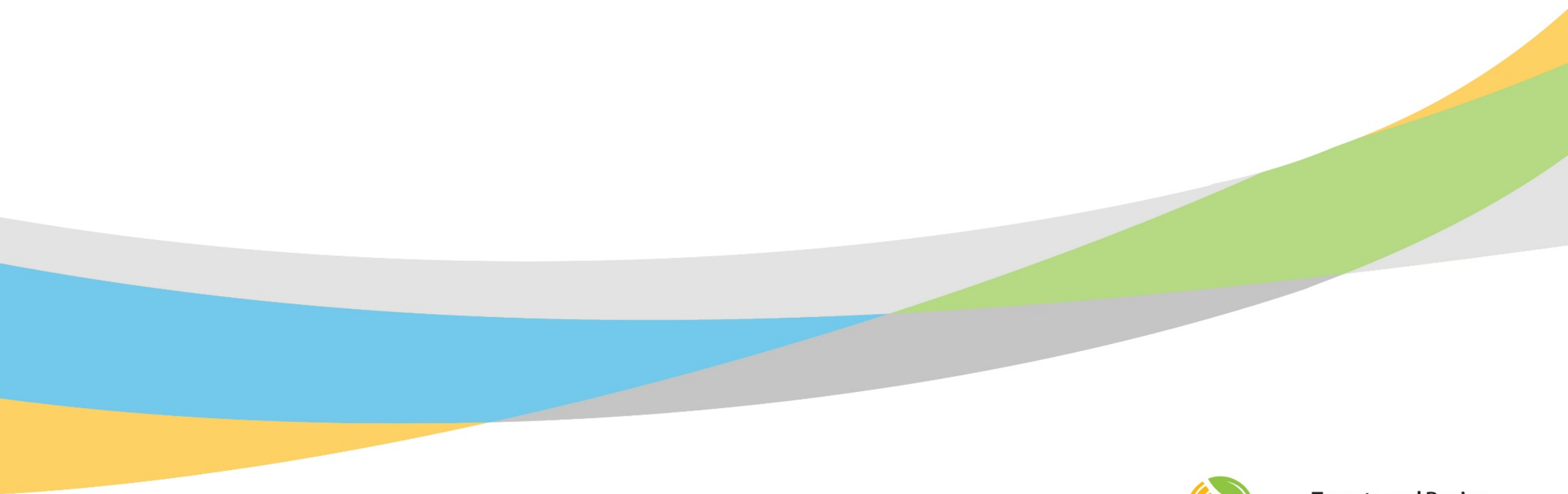
Monitor effectiveness of mitigation measures installed



MOVING FORWARD...

Moving Forward

- Continue to share data and expertise to facilitate initiatives that improve habitat connectivity
- Continue to work with partner municipalities to inform mitigation planning, design, and maintenance
- Complete existing studies and identify opportunities to include new sites to guide transportation planning and design as well as ecosystem management projects
- How can RWA help?
 - Identify priority work in your organization and/or community
 - Advocate as an organizational and / or community champion
 - Help identify opportunities (including funding) to expand road ecology projects
 - Join us in field so that we can share our knowledge and experience



DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Members inquired whether there was any standard or obligation to provide these mitigation measures. Staff explained that if the area is within the valley and stream corridors, the guidelines will be applied. Some projects go through the EA planning process that cover mitigation of any impacts. If the project lies outside of the valley and stream corridors in TRCA's jurisdiction, TRCA plays an advisory role. The guidelines are included in the municipal land use and infrastructure planning processes, where TRCA also works with partner municipalities to inform the approach. Staff are also discussions with municipal partners to incorporate work in transportation planning processes.

Members asked if this work has an impact on building new roadways. Staff emphasized the different tools in the toolkit that may be applied to building new roadways. The mapping is focused on where the needs are and where disruptions may occur based on data of known habitats. Staff use this information to guide the EA or preliminary planning discussions. Proponents often approach the TRCA proactively to address any impacts. Members also emphasized the municipal green standard that was developed to mitigate the impact of new roadways on habitat corridors.

RES.#R21/21 -

**FINALIZED PHASE 1 REGULATIONS UNDER THE CONSERVATION
AUTHORITIES ACT, ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY OF ONTARIO
POSTING (ERO #019-2986)**

Overview of the recently released Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) finalized Phase 1 Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and next steps.

Moved by: David Laing
Seconded by: Lisette Mallet

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT this overview of the recently issued Phase 1 Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

On May 13, 2021, MECP posted on the ERO a "REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities" for a 45-day public commenting period ending June 27, 2021. A staff report and preliminary analysis of the ERO posting was received by the Board of Directors at their meeting on May 28, 2021. At the Board of Directors Meeting held on June 25, 2021, Resolution #A142/21 was approved as follows regarding TRCA's draft comments to the ERO:

WHEREAS on May 13, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a 'REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities' for public comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO);

AND WHEREAS THE ERO imposes a June 27, 2021 deadline for submission of comments on this Phase 1 of the MECP's regulatory proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) draft comments to ERO #019-2986 be received and that any comments from the Board of Directors inform TRCA's final submission to the ERO;

AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk and Manager, Policy, so advise TRCA's partner municipalities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), and Conservation Ontario.

On October 7, 2021, MECP posted the Notice of Decision and Phase 1 regulations on the ERO. The notice includes a summary of how the 444 comments received through the ERO consultation process informed MECP's decision. Since January, TRCA has been a valued member of the Province's Conservation Authority Working Group and has appreciated the opportunity to provide insight to the Province to help inform aspects of the regulations.

The first phase of these regulations aligns with TRCA's support of the provincial requirement for three types of programs and services that conservation authorities provide: (1) legislated as mandatory by the Province, (2) requested by partner municipalities, and (3) other programs and services that the conservation authority determines are advisable to further the purposes of the

Act. The purpose of the Act is to "provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario".

Through engagement with our partner municipalities on non-mandatory programs and services ((2) and (3) above), TRCA is at the forefront of meeting the new regulatory requirements, as we continue to establish comprehensive, updated Memorandums of Understanding, and to refine existing municipal-CA agreements, where required. Based on feedback received from our municipal and agency partners to date, TRCA does not anticipate any changes to its self-sustaining programs and services that benefit our watersheds and the close to 5 million residents and diverse stakeholders within our jurisdiction. Since the outset of this process, TRCA has been supportive of agreements to ensure transparency and accountability with our stakeholders and funding partners.

The following sections of this report provide a high-level overview of the new regulations, however, for specific details, accuracy and legal purposes, the most current version of the Conservation Authorities Act and associated Phase 1 regulations published on e-Laws: Ontario Regulation 686/21; Ontario Regulation 687/21 and Ontario Regulation 688/21, should be referenced.

Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services

This regulation, (refer to Attachment 1), prescribes the mandatory programs and services conservation authorities (CAs) are required to provide and comes into effect on January 1, 2022. These programs and services may be funded by provincial grants and/or conservation authority self-generated revenue (e.g., user fees) and otherwise through the municipal levy. CAs can levy participating municipalities to fund budgeted (revenue) shortfalls. The regulation sets out six mandatory program and service categories.

1. Programs and Services Related to the Risks of Natural Hazards

Each CA will be required to implement a program or service to help manage the risk posed by the natural hazards within their jurisdiction, including flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, hazardous lands, and hazardous sites as defined in the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and low water or drought conditions as part of Ontario's Low Water Response. Programs and services shall be designed to:

- identify natural hazards;
- assess risks associated with natural hazards including impacts of climate change;
- manage risks associated with natural hazards; and
- promote public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards and areas that are important to the management of natural hazards including wetlands, river or stream valleys, areas adjacent to the Great Lakes shoreline and unstable soils and bedrock.

Managing risks associated with natural hazards may include prevention, protection, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

The scope of mandatory programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards in O. Reg. 686/21 generally aligns with current TRCA programs and services for this category including:

- the collection, provision and management of information (e.g., delineation and mapping of natural hazards, undertaking technical studies, etc.)
- the development of and consultation on plans and policies to support programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards

- functions and responsibilities related to flood forecasting and warning
- the operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of infrastructure owned or managed by TRCA (e.g., water control, erosion control)
- functions and responsibilities as a public body under the *Planning Act* or to act on behalf of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (i.e., represent the provincial interest) to ensure decisions under the Act are consistent with natural hazard policies in provincial policy statements and plans; provide technical input into and participate in the provincial review of Special Policy Areas, and to independently appeal decisions related to prescribed natural hazards to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) when appropriate to ensure that the provincial interest is met
- review proposals under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act* and *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* for the purpose of commenting on the risks related to natural hazards
- duties, functions and responsibilities to administer and enforce Section 28, 28.0.1 and 30.1 of the Act and regulations made under Section 28 (regulatory permitting responsibilities)

The regulation requires CAs to complete by December 31, 2024, the development and implementation of: 1) an ice management plan, if determined necessary within its area of jurisdiction; 2) infrastructure operational plan(s) and 3) infrastructure asset management plan(s). TRCA has no concerns with these requirements or timing of deliverables and will provide further details in future reporting to the Board. In terms of ice management in TRCA's jurisdiction, our focus is on the technical advisory elements of ice management and response, while our municipal partners operationalize the response (e.g., responsible for standby equipment). TRCA's flood forecasting and warning program references ice jam-based flooding and includes a river ice monitoring program. TRCA has infrastructure operational and asset management plans either in place, or in the process of being developed.

2. Programs and Services Related to the Management of Conservation Authority Lands

Each CA will be required to implement the mandatory programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title, within their jurisdiction. This includes:

- preparing a conservation area strategy by December 31, 2024, per the parameters set out in the regulation
- compiling a land inventory by December 31, 2024
- programs and services to maintain facilities, trails or other amenities that support public access and recreational activities in conservation areas in a self-directed nature without CA staffing or programming (e.g., hiking)
- programs and services to secure a CA's interests in its lands to prevent unlawful entry and protect the CA from exposure to liability
- carrying out programs and services to conserve, protect, rehabilitate, establish and manage natural heritage
- administering the Minister's regulations made under section 29 of the Act (governing the rules of conduct on land owned by CAs, including permits and enforcement activities).

The scope of activities related to the conservation and management of conservation authority land as set out in the regulation generally align with current TRCA programs and services. It is indicated in the notice of decision on the ERO that as a result of extensive support received

through the consultation process, MECP included low maintenance, passive recreation activities. Staff will report back on further details and a work plan to prepare a conservation area strategy and land inventory within the prescribed timelines, as TRCA staff anticipate that the biggest challenge will be finding additional municipal funding to cover these mandatory costs. TRCA comments related to the section 29 regulation (enforcement on CA-owned lands) are provided in a separate section below.

3. Other Programs and Services Prescribed in the Regulation

Each CA will be required to provide:

- programs and services to continue implementing the provincial stream monitoring program and provincial groundwater monitoring program related to water quality and groundwater quantity monitoring
- programs and services to support the CA's function and responsibilities related to the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategy by December 31, 2024, including a summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources the CA relies on within its area of jurisdiction or in specific watersheds that directly informs and supports the effective delivery of mandatory programs and services.

As noted in TRCA's submission to the ERO posting, the value and addition of a watershed-based resource management strategy is a very positive outcome of the Ministry's process and aligns with the collaborative work of CAs, partner municipalities and stakeholders, as stated in the Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan, to focus and deliver on the CA "core mandate of protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards and conserving natural resources." In future reporting, further detail will be provided regarding the requirements of the regulation and work plan to meet the December 31, 2024 deadline for completion of the strategy. It should be noted that the TRCA Watershed and Ecosystem Reporting Hub released earlier this year, identifies current conditions and explains the importance of different environmental indicators for understanding watershed and ecosystem health within the watersheds and waterfront in TRCA's jurisdiction.

4. Source Protection Authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006

CAs will be required to continue implementing its responsibilities as source protection authorities under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006. The scope of mandatory programs and services related to source protection appears to be consistent with the current responsibilities of the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority for the Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Region.

5. Programs and Services Related to Conservation Authority Responsibilities Under an Act Prescribed by Regulation

This category recognizes the role of North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority as prescribed in regulation to enforce the provisions related to sewage systems under the *Building Code Act*. As such, this category is not applicable to TRCA.

6. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority duties, functions, and responsibilities under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 – Not applicable to TRCA.

Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act

This regulation, (refer to Attachment 2), sets out the process, requirements and timelines for CAs to prepare transition plans and enter into agreements with their participating municipalities

for the use of municipal funding to finance in whole, or in part, the non-mandatory programs and services to be delivered on behalf of, and at the request of a municipality, or that the authority has determined are advisable to further the purpose of the Act. The following is a summary of the key elements of the regulation:

- The development of a Transition Plan, which includes a timeline for the CA to meet the requirements for the first and second phases of the transition period (see below). The Transition Plan must be sent to all participating municipalities in the CA's area of jurisdiction and to MECP by **December 31, 2021**. The Transition Plan must also be published on the CA's website or be made available to the public by such other means as the CA considers advisable.
- The first phase of the transition period, which includes preparing an inventory of CA programs and services and circulating the inventory to all participating municipalities in the CA's area of jurisdiction, as well as any other municipality that the CA has entered into, or intends to enter into, an agreement with. The first phase of the transition period must be completed by **February 28, 2022**, but changes can be made to the inventory after that date in response to municipal feedback. The inventory will be categorized as Category 1- mandatory programs and services; Category 2 – municipal programs and services; and Category 3 – other programs and services.
- The second phase of the transition period includes CA consultation with municipalities on the inventory outlined above, CAs taking the necessary steps to enter into MOUs and SLAs with municipalities, and the submission of six progress reports to MECP on specified dates providing an update on the MOU development process and associated discussions with partner municipalities. Requirements for the agreement themselves, including term length and other conditions, are also outlined. The deadline for completion of the second phase of the transition period, which includes the execution of MOUs and SLAs with participating municipalities for Category 2 and Category 3 programs and services, is **January 1, 2024**.

A more detailed staff report with a Transition Plan for the review, comment and approval will be coming forward in November, in advance of the Province's December 31, 2021 deadline. As TRCA has already developed a draft template MOU, SLA and Letter Agreement, and as TRCA staff currently provide quarterly reports to the Board of Directors on the progress of developing agreements with partner municipalities, it is anticipated that TRCA will meet or exceed the requirements of the regulation. While the regulation has set a deadline of January 1, 2024 for the execution of agreements, it is recommended that municipalities continue to work with TRCA to advance drafts of MOUs and SLAs and execute in Q1/Q2 of 2022 to ensure timely implementation of MOU/SLA benefits and in recognition of municipal timelines.

Ontario Regulation 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas

This regulation, (refer to Attachment 3), consolidates all the current individual CA 'Conservation Area' regulations made under section 29 of the Act into one Minister's regulation that regulates the public use of CA owned lands that are not under management agreement. The regulation essentially maintains current business practice with no significant updates, such as the modernization of compliance tools. The timeline for this regulation to come into force is to be determined; it is anticipated to come into force at the same time the amendment to Section 29 of the Act is proclaimed, as well as the remaining amendments that have yet to come into force, including the enforcement and compliance provisions under Section 30.4 (stop work orders) of the CA Act are proclaimed.

The administration of the section 29 regulation is a mandatory program and service related to the management of land owned by CAs. Throughout the review of the CA Act, TRCA requested the Province to enhance the section 29 regulatory enforcement and compliance provisions to be consistent with the protections afforded under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act* to adequately protect or 16,860 ha, (owned and managed), public landholdings. TRCA's ERO submission to the Phase 1 Regulatory Proposals provided detailed examples of enforcement provisions needed to improve compliance, ensure public and CA officer safety, and effectively deter undesirable activities and behaviour on TRCA landholdings.

In light of the above, and notwithstanding the decision summary acknowledgment in the ERO notice of decision, TRCA will continue to reiterate its recommendation that the Ministry convene a working group with staff from the Province, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)/municipalities, CAs and enforcement agencies to identify a long term, sustainable strategy that will enable CAs to fulfill their obligations to monitoring and enforcement action on CA-owned or managed lands where applicable, as established under section 29 of the CA Act.

Regulation to Require "Community" Advisory Boards

As per the decision notice on the ERO, the Ministry did not proceed with the regulation that would have required CAs to establish a community advisory board, as many CAs across Ontario already have a diverse range of advisory boards and CAs can continue to include additional members, including from Indigenous communities, where there is interest. Further, where there is not an existing advisory board, CAs will continue to have the ability to establish one where they consider it appropriate and useful.

TRCA currently has two active advisory boards: Partners in Project Green (PPG) and the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA). Each of these advisory boards have a comprehensive Terms of Reference, which are incorporated into TRCA's Administrative By-law. TRCA's Board of Directors also recently approved the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Natural Science and Education Committee and associated Terms of Reference.

Phase 2 Regulatory Proposals

In the coming months, MECP will be consulting on the second phase of regulatory proposals under the CA Act, including:

- details on municipal levy provisions related to mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services
- details on the proposed budget process
- classes of programs and services that the Minister would approve for the charging of user fees by conservation authorities

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Staff are engaged in this policy analysis work per the normal course of duty, with funding support

provided by TRCA's participating municipalities to account 120-12. No additional funding is proposed to support the policy analysis work associated with the preparation of these comments.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff are undertaking the following next steps:

- Advancing and protecting TRCA interests through Senior Leadership Team representatives' role on the Conservation Authority Working Group
- Future reports to the Board of Directors related to the deliverables set out in the Phase 1 Regulations (e.g., Transition Plan report in November 2021, etc.)
- Ongoing updates to the Board of Directors on work underway to update and achieve Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with partner municipalities
- Continuing to inform the Board of Directors on any new postings on the ERO or other provincial initiatives related to the CA Act regulations and any outcomes of engagements with the Province

Report prepared by Laurie Nelson, extension 5281

Emails: laurie.nelson@trca.ca

For Information contact: Laurie Nelson, extension 5281

Emails: laurie.nelson@trca.ca

Date: October 20, 2021

Attachments: 3

Attachment 1: Ontario Regulation 686/21, Mandatory Programs and Services

Attachment 2: Ontario Regulation 687/21, Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of The Act

Attachment 3: Ontario Regulation 688/21, Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas

Français

ONTARIO REGULATION 686/21
made under the
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT

Made: September 29, 2021
Filed: October 1, 2021
Published on e-Laws: October 4, 2021
Printed in *The Ontario Gazette*: October 16, 2021

MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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- [5.](#) Infrastructure
- [6.](#) Comment re applications, proposals
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[CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDS](#)

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[LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY](#)

- [15.](#) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

[AMENDMENT TO THIS REGULATION](#)

- [16.](#) Amendment to this Regulation

[COMMENCEMENT](#)

- [17.](#) Commencement

RISK OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Risk of certain natural hazards

1. (1) An authority shall provide the programs and services set out in sections 2 to 8 related to the following types of natural hazards:

- 1. Dynamic beach hazard.
- 2. Erosion hazard.
- 3. Flooding hazard.
- 4. Hazardous lands.
- 5. Hazardous sites.
- 6. Low water or drought conditions.

(2) The authority shall design the programs and services referred to in subsection (1) to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. Developing an awareness of the areas that are important for the management of the natural hazards referred to in subsection (1) that are within the authority's area of jurisdiction, including,
 - i. wetlands,
 - ii. river or stream valleys,

- iii. areas that are adjacent to or close to the shoreline of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System or to an inland lake and that may be affected by flooding, erosion or dynamic beach hazards, and
 - iv. unstable soils or bedrock.
2. Understanding the risks related to natural hazards referred to in subsection (1), including how these risks may be affected by climate change.
 3. Managing the risks related to natural hazards referred to in subsection (1), including preventing or mitigating those risks.
 4. Promoting public awareness of the risks related to natural hazards described in subsection (1).

(3) Where the authority considers it advisable to help ensure it complies with its obligation to provide the programs and services described in sections 2 to 8, the authority shall, to the extent it considers appropriate, ensure those programs and services include the following components:

1. The collection, provision and management of information enabling the authority to,
 - i. delineate and map areas of natural hazards within its area of jurisdiction,
 - ii. study surface water hydrology and hydraulics, including surface water flows and levels, and the related interactions between surface and ground water,
 - iii. study stream morphology,
 - iv. study the potential effects of climate change on natural hazards, and
 - v. study the management of natural hazards.
2. The development of plans and policies that will support the delivery of those programs and services.
3. Public awareness, education and outreach components related to the risk of natural hazards within the authority's area of jurisdiction.
4. Consultation on the development and provision of those programs and services.

(4) In this section, “dynamic beach hazard”, “erosion hazard”, “flooding hazard”, “hazardous sites”, “hazardous lands” and “wetland” have the same meaning as in the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*.

Flood forecasting and warning

2. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to support its functions and responsibilities related to flood forecasting and warning as set out in subsection (2).

(2) The authority's functions and responsibilities with respect to flood forecasting and warning mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:

1. Maintaining information on surface water hydrology and the areas within the authority's area of jurisdiction that are vulnerable to flooding events.
2. Developing operating procedures for flood forecasting and warning, including flood contingency procedures to ensure continuity of an authority's operations in respect of flood forecasting and warning.
3. Maintaining a stream flow monitoring network that, at a minimum, includes stream flow gauges available as part of the provincial-federal hydrometric network and, where the authority considers it advisable, includes additional local stream flow gauges.
4. Monitoring of weather and climate information, snow surveys and observed water levels and flows utilizing local, provincial and federal data sources.
5. Analysis of local surface water hydrologic conditions related to flood potential and risk, including flood forecasting, to understand and quantify the response and potential impacts within watersheds to specific events and conditions.
6. Communications to inform persons and bodies that the authority considers advisable of the potential or actual impact of flood events in a timely manner.
7. Provision of ongoing information and advice to persons and bodies mentioned in paragraph 6 to support,
 - i. emergency and flood operations during a flood event, and
 - ii. documentation of flood events.

Drought or low water response

3. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to support its functions and responsibilities to facilitate drought and low water forecasting and warning as set out in subsection (2).

(2) The authority's functions and responsibilities with respect to drought and low water forecasting and warning mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:

1. Maintaining information on surface water hydrology and the areas within the authority's area of jurisdiction that are vulnerable to drought or low water events.
2. Maintaining a stream flow monitoring network that, at a minimum, includes stream flow gauges available as part of the provincial-federal hydrometric network and, where the authority considers it advisable, includes additional local stream flow gauges.
3. Monitoring of weather and climate information, snow surveys and water levels and flows utilizing local, provincial and federal data sources.
4. Analysis of local surface water hydrologic conditions related to risk of drought and low water events.
5. Gathering information to determine when low water levels exist within the authority's area of jurisdiction and initiating and maintaining the appropriate response to confirmed low water levels in accordance with the document entitled Ontario Low Water Response, dated March 2010, and available on request from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.
6. Communications to inform persons or bodies that the authority considers advisable of the potential or actual impact of drought and low water events in a timely manner.
7. Provision of ongoing information and advice to persons and bodies mentioned in paragraph 6 to support,
 - i. emergency and drought or low water activities during a drought or low water event, and
 - ii. documentation of drought and low water events.

Ice management

4. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services for ice management within its area of jurisdiction, if the authority determines that ice management is necessary to reduce the risks associated with natural hazards referred to in subsection 1 (1).

(2) Programs or services provided under subsection (1) shall include the development and implementation of an ice management plan on or before December 31, 2024 that identifies,

- (a) how ice within the authority's area of jurisdiction may increase the risk of natural hazards; and
- (b) the steps that are necessary to mitigate these risks, including identifying equipment and resources needed to carry out these steps.

(3) An authority may update the ice management plan referred to in subsection (2) from time to time as the authority considers it advisable.

Infrastructure

5. (1) Subject to subsection (3), an authority shall provide programs and services that support the operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of the following types of infrastructure the authority owns or manages:

1. Any water control infrastructure, the purpose of which is to mitigate risks to life and damage to property resulting from flooding or to assist in flow augmentation.
2. Any erosion control infrastructure.

(2) Programs or services provided under subsection (1) shall include the following components:

1. The development and implementation of an operational plan on or before December 31, 2024.
2. The development and implementation of an asset management plan on or before December 31, 2024.
3. The undertaking of any technical or engineering studies necessary to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the infrastructure to which the program or service applies.

(3) If an authority enters into an agreement with an owner of infrastructure mentioned in paragraph 1 or 2 of subsection (1) to manage the infrastructure on the owner's behalf, the authority shall provide the programs and services to operate, maintain, repair and decommission the infrastructure only in accordance with its obligations under the agreement.

(4) An authority may update the plans mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection (2), from time to time, as the authority considers it advisable.

Comment re applications, proposals

6. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to enable the authority to review proposals made under an Act mentioned in subsection (2) for the purpose of commenting on the risks related to natural hazards arising from the proposal where the authority considers it advisable.

(2) The Acts referred to in subsection (1) are the following:

1. The *Aggregate Resources Act*.
2. The *Drainage Act*.
3. The *Environmental Assessment Act*.
4. The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*.

Plan review, comments

7. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to ensure the authority satisfies the functions and responsibilities set out in subsection (2), whether acting on behalf of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry or in its capacity as a public body under the *Planning Act*, for the purposes of helping to ensure that the decisions under that Act are,

- (a) consistent with the natural hazards policies in the policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*, but not including those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildland fire; and
- (b) where applicable, conform with any natural hazards policies included in a provincial plan as defined in section 1 of the *Planning Act*, but not including those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildland fire.

(2) The functions and responsibilities mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:

1. Reviewing applications or other matters under the *Planning Act* and, where the authority considers it advisable, providing comments, technical support or information to the responsible planning authority under that Act for the purposes set out in subsection (1).
2. When requested to by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, providing comments directly to the Ministry within the timeframes requested by the Ministry on applications or other matters under the *Planning Act*.
3. When requested to by a municipality or planning board, providing advice, technical support, training and any information the municipality or planning board requires for the purposes set out in subsection (1).
4. Apprising the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing of any applications or matters under the *Planning Act* where the authority is of the opinion that there is an application or other matter that should be brought to the attention of the Government of Ontario.
5. Providing technical input into and participating in provincial review of applications for approval of a “Special Policy Area” within the meaning of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*.
6. When requested to by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, providing support to the Ministry in appeals on applications or other matters under the *Planning Act* on behalf of the Province at the Ontario Land Tribunal for the purposes set out in subsection (1).
7. Undertaking an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal of a decision under the *Planning Act* as a public body in accordance with that Act if,
 - i. the appeal relates to a purpose described in subsection (1), and
 - ii. the authority considers it advisable.

Administering and enforcing the Act

8. An authority shall provide programs and services to ensure that the authority carries out its duties, functions and responsibilities to administer and enforce the following:

1. Section 28 of the Act.
2. The regulations made by the authority under section 28 of the Act.
3. Section 28.0.1 of the Act.
4. Section 30.1 of the Act.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDS

Required components

9. (1) Programs and services provided by an authority with respect to the conservation and management of lands under subparagraph 1 ii of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act shall include the following:

1. A conservation area strategy, prepared on or before December 31, 2024 for all lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title, that meets the requirements set out in section 10.
2. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 10 (1),
 - i. programs and services to secure the authority's interests in its lands that include measures for fencing, signage, patrolling and any other measures to prevent unlawful entry on the authority's land and to protect the authority from exposure to liability under the *Occupiers' Liability Act*,
 - ii. programs and services to maintain any facilities, trails or other amenities that support public access and recreational activities in conservation areas and that can be provided without the direct support or supervision of staff employed by the authority or by another person or body,
 - iii. programs and services to enable the authority, in its capacity as an owner of land, to make applications or comment on matters under the *Planning Act*,
 - iv. programs and services to conserve, protect, rehabilitate, establish, and manage natural heritage located within the lands owned or controlled by the authority,
 - v. programs and services to plant trees on lands owned or controlled by the authority, excluding commercial logging, and
 - vi. the development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions.
3. A land inventory, prepared on or before December 31, 2024, that meets the requirements set out in section 11.
4. Programs and services to ensure that the authority carries out its duties, functions and responsibilities to administer regulations made under section 29 of the Act.

(2) For greater certainty, programs and services with respect to the conservation and management of lands under subparagraph 1 ii of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act do not apply to any lands where the authority has no legal interest in the lands registered on title and the authority has entered into an agreement with another person or body to manage the lands on the person's or body's behalf.

Conservation area strategy

10. (1) A conservation area strategy referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following components:

1. Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.
2. Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.
3. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,
 - i. augment any natural heritage located within the authority's area of jurisdiction, and
 - ii. integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority's area of jurisdiction.
4. The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.
5. A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.

(2) The authority shall ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the conservation area strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.

(3) The authority shall ensure that the conservation area strategy is made public on the authority's website, or by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

Land inventory

11. (1) The land inventory referred to in paragraph 3 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following information for every parcel of land the authority owns or controls:

1. The location of the parcel.
2. The identification of any information the authority has in its possession in respect of the parcel, including any surveys, site plans or other maps.
3. When the authority acquired the parcel.

4. Whether the parcel was acquired using a grant made under section 39 of the Act.
5. Whether the parcel was acquired through an expropriation.
6. Whether the authority owns the parcel or has a registered legal interest in the parcel, including an easement.
7. Identification of the land use categories mentioned in paragraph 4 of subsection 10 (1) that apply to the parcel.
8. For the purpose of ensuring a program or service is not included as a mandatory program or service under subparagraph 2 ii or v of subsection 9 (1), identification of whether,
 - i. a recreational activity is provided on the parcel that requires the direct support or supervision of staff employed by the authority or by another person or body, or
 - ii. commercial logging is carried out on the parcel.
- (2) The land inventory shall include a process for the periodic review and updating of the inventory by the authority.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Required components

12. (1) An authority shall provide the following programs and services in accordance with paragraph 2 of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act:
 1. Programs and services to support the authority's functions and responsibilities related to the implementation and enhancement of the provincial groundwater monitoring program in accordance with subsection (2).
 2. Programs and services to support the authority's functions and responsibilities related to the implementation and enhancement of the provincial stream monitoring program in accordance with subsection (3).
 3. Programs and services to support the authority's functions and responsibilities related to the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management strategy on or before December 31, 2024, in accordance with subsection (4).
- (2) The authority shall perform the following functions and responsibilities with respect to supporting the implementation and enhancement of the Ministry's provincial groundwater monitoring program mentioned in paragraph 1 of subsection (1):
 1. Collecting groundwater samples from wells that are part of the groundwater monitoring program.
 2. Submitting samples and associated site information to a laboratory approved by the Ministry for analysis of parameters required by the groundwater monitoring program.
 3. Collecting in-field groundwater data and in-field weather data for submission to the Ministry from sites that are part of the groundwater monitoring program.
 4. Assessing and maintaining groundwater monitoring program sites and wells for safety and access.
 5. Complying with the Ministry's procedures if a sample exceeds a drinking water quality standard set out in Ontario Regulation 169/03 (Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards) made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.
 6. Deploying, removing, operating, calibrating and maintaining all equipment provided by the Ministry for the authority's use when carrying out its functions and responsibilities under the groundwater monitoring program.
 7. Carrying out administrative support for the process of procuring groundwater monitoring program equipment, equipment repair services, well repair services, well construction services and well decommissioning services.
 8. Cost sharing, with the Ministry, the construction or decommissioning of wells that are part of the groundwater monitoring program.
 9. Where a groundwater monitoring well that is part of the groundwater monitoring program is to be located on property not owned by the authority, establishing and maintaining an agreement with the owner of the property to ensure the authority has access to the well.
 10. Participating in meetings or training scheduled by the Ministry related to the groundwater monitoring program.
- (3) The authority shall satisfy the following functions and responsibilities with respect to supporting the implementation and enhancement of the provincial stream monitoring program mentioned in paragraph 2 of subsection (1):
 1. Collecting stream samples from sampling sites that are part of the stream monitoring program.
 2. Submitting samples and associated site information to a laboratory approved by the Ministry for analysis of parameters required by the stream monitoring program.
 3. Collecting in-field stream water data for submission to the Ministry from sites that are part of the stream monitoring program.

4. Assessing and maintaining stream monitoring program sites for safety and access.
 5. Deploying, removing, operating, calibrating and maintaining all equipment provided by the Ministry for the authority's use when carrying out its functions and responsibilities under the stream monitoring program.
 6. Participating in meetings or training scheduled by the Ministry related to the stream monitoring program.
- (4) The watershed-based resource management strategy referred to in paragraph 3 of subsection (1) shall include the following components:
1. Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of the programs and services that the authority is required to provide under section 21.1 of the Act.
 2. A summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources the authority relies on within its area of jurisdiction or in specific watersheds that directly informs and supports the delivery of programs and services under section 21.1 of the Act.
 3. A review of the authority's programs and services provided under section 21.1 of the Act for the purposes of,
 - i. determining if the programs and services comply with the regulations made under clause 40 (1) (b) of the Act,
 - ii. identifying and analyzing issues and risks that limit the effectiveness of the delivery of these programs and services, and
 - iii. identifying actions to address the issues and mitigate the risks identified by the review, and providing a cost estimate for the implementation of those actions.
 4. A process for the periodic review and updating of the watershed-based resource management strategy by the authority that includes procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.
- (5) Subject to subsections (6) and (7), a watershed-based resource management strategy may include programs and services provided by the authority under sections 21.1.1 and 21.1.2 of the Act.
- (6) If, in respect of programs and services the authority provides under subsection 21.1.1 (1) of the Act, a memorandum of understanding or other agreement is required, a watershed-based resource management strategy may not include those programs and services unless the memorandum of understanding or other agreement includes provisions that those programs and services be included in the strategy.
- (7) If, in respect of programs and services the authority provides under subsection 21.1.2 (1) of the Act, an agreement is required under subsection 21.1.2 (2), a watershed-based resource management strategy may not include those programs and services unless the agreement includes provisions that those programs and services be included in the strategy.
- (8) The authority shall ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the watershed-based resource management strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.
- (9) The authority shall ensure that the watershed-based resource management strategy is made public on the authority's website, or by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT, 2006

Required components

- 13.** (1) An authority shall provide the following programs and services under subparagraph 1 iii of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act:
1. Programs and services to ensure the authority carries out its duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the provisions of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, other than any duties, functions or responsibilities of the authority under Part IV of that Act where the authority has entered into a delegation agreement with a municipality to administer that Part, including the duties set out in subsection (2).
 2. Programs and services set out in subsection (3) intended to support the authority's ability to carry out its duties, functions and responsibilities under paragraph 1 of this subsection.
- (2) The duties, functions and responsibilities referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection (1) are the following:
1. The operation of the source protection committee that has been established for the authority's area or region under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.
 2. If the authority has been consolidated into a drinking water source protection region established by the Minister under section 6 of that Act, fulfilling its obligations under the agreement referred to in that section.
 3. The preparation of amendments to source protection plans in accordance with section 34 or 35 of that Act, as the case may be.
 4. Assisting in the review of source protection plans under section 36 of that Act.

5. If the authority is designated in a significant threat policy in a source protection plan as being responsible for implementing the policy, fulfilling its obligation to implement the policy in accordance with section 38 of that Act.
6. If the authority is designated in a source protection plan as being responsible for implementing a policy governing monitoring, complying with its obligation to conduct the monitoring program in accordance with section 45 of that Act.
7. The preparation of annual progress reports in accordance with section 46 of that Act.
8. Satisfying any roles and responsibilities assigned to the authority in a source protection plan if the authority is designated by a policy in the plan as the body responsible for implementing the policy, other than those policies referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6.

(3) The duties, functions and responsibilities referred to in paragraph 2 of subsection (1) are the following:

1. Responding to inquiries relating to,
 - i. the *Clean Water Act, 2006*,
 - ii. the source protection plan that applies to the authority's source protection area, and
 - iii. any of the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under that Act.
2. Conducting assessments to determine whether a source protection plan is up to date.
3. Assisting in the co-ordination and implementation of the source protection plan that applies to the authority's source protection area.
4. Where the authority considers it advisable, reviewing and commenting on any proposal made under another Act that is circulated to the authority for the purpose of determining,
 - i. whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat that is governed by the plan, or
 - ii. the proposal's potential impact on any drinking water sources protected by the plan.

(4) In this section,

“significant drinking water threat” and “significant threat policy” have the same meaning as in the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

PRESCRIBED ACT

Building Code Act, 1992

14. (1) The *Building Code Act, 1992* is prescribed for the purposes of subparagraph 1 iv of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act.

(2) If, under subsection 3.1 (1) of the *Building Code Act, 1992*, an authority is prescribed responsibility in the building code for the enforcement of provisions of that Act and the building code related to sewage systems in the municipalities and territory without municipal organization prescribed in the building code, the authority shall provide programs and services to ensure that the authority carries out its duties, functions and responsibilities to enforce those provisions and the building code in the geographic areas prescribed in the building code for that authority.

LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

15. In addition to any other programs and services it is required to provide under the Act and this Regulation, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority shall provide the following programs and services in respect of its duties, functions and responsibilities under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*:

1. Programs and services to ensure the authority complies with its duties under subsection 6 (9) of the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008* in respect of the decisions the authority makes related to permissions required under this Act.
2. If, under section 11 of the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*, the authority is identified in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan as being responsible for implementing a policy governing monitoring, programs and services for the purpose of complying with that obligation.
3. If the authority is identified in a strategic action policy in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, other than Policy 6.19-SA, as a body that is responsible for leading the implementation of the policy or collaborating with other bodies to implement the policy, programs and services to ensure the authority satisfies its functions and responsibilities set out in those policies.
4. For the purpose of supporting the programs and services referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3, programs and services to,
 - i. respond to inquiries related to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the authority's role under the Plan,
 - ii. assist in the co-ordination and implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan,

- iii. assist in the review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan under section 17 of the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*, and
- iv. review and comment on proposals made under other Acts that are circulated to the authority for the purpose of determining the proposal's impact on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe watershed.

AMENDMENT TO THIS REGULATION

Amendment to this Regulation

16. Section 8 of this Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:

Administering and enforcing the Act

8. An authority shall provide programs and services to ensure that the authority satisfies its duties, functions and responsibilities to administer and enforce the provisions of Parts VI and VII of the Act and any regulations made under those Parts.

COMMENCEMENT

Commencement

17. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), this Regulation comes into force on the later of January 1, 2022 and the day it is filed.

(2) Sections 9, 12, 13 and 14 come into force on the later of the day subsection 8 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020* comes into force, January 1, 2022 and the day this Regulation is filed.

(3) Section 16 comes into force on the later of the day subsection 15 (2) of Schedule 6 to the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020* comes into force and the day this Regulation is filed.

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ONTARIO REGULATION 687/21
made under the
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT

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**TRANSITION PLANS AND AGREEMENTS FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES UNDER
SECTION 21.1.2 OF THE ACT**

Definitions

1. In this Regulation,

“cost apportioning agreement” means an agreement between an authority and one or more participating municipalities in the authority’s area of jurisdiction that,

- (a) is required under subsection 21.1.2 (2) of the Act on and after the transition date, and
- (b) apportions capital costs referred to in section 25 of the Act and operating expenses referred to in section 27 of the Act that are associated with the provision of certain programs and services under section 21.1.2 of the Act to the participating municipalities; (“entente de répartition des coûts”)

“inventory” means an inventory prepared by an authority of the authority’s programs and services; (“inventaire”)

“transition date” means the day prescribed under subsection 2 (1); (“date de transition”)

“transition period” means the period that begins on the 60th day after the day this Regulation comes into force and ends on the transition date. (“période de transition”)

Transition date

2. (1) January 1, 2024 is prescribed for the purposes of subsections 21.1.2 (2), 21.1.4 (1), 25 (1.1) and 27 (1.1) of the Act, as the day an authority is required to enter into one or more cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities.

(2) For greater certainty, entering into a cost apportioning agreement before the transition date,

- (a) demonstrates that the transition plan required under subsection 21.1.4 (1) of the Act has been successfully implemented so as to ensure the authority’s compliance with subsection 21.1.2 (2) of the Act; and
- (b) ensures that, on and after the transition date, the authority,
 - (i) is not prohibited by subsection 21.1.2 (2) of the Act from providing any program or service under section 21.1.2 of the Act that requires financing by one or more participating municipalities,
 - (ii) is not prevented by subsection 25 (1.1) of the Act from including any capital costs that are connected to a project related to a program or service under section 21.1.2 of the Act in the apportionment of capital costs of projects among the participating municipalities under section 25 of the Act, and
 - (iii) is not prevented by subsection 27 (1.1) of the Act from including any operating expenses that are related to a program or service under section 21.1.2 of the Act in the apportionment of annual operating expenses among the participating municipalities under section 27 of the Act.

Transition plans

3. Every authority shall, on or before December 31, 2021,

- (a) develop a transition plan that includes a timeline for the authority to meet the requirements for the first and second phases of the transition period, as set out in this Regulation;
- (b) send a copy of the transition plan to each participating municipality in the authority’s area of jurisdiction and to the Ministry; and
- (c) publish a copy of the transition plan on the authority’s website or make the transition plan available to the public by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

First and second phases of transition period requirements

4. Requirements for the first phase of the transition period must be met by February 28, 2022 and requirements for the second phase of the transition period must be met by the transition date.

First phase of transition period

5. (1) During the first phase of the transition period and no later than February 28, 2022, an authority shall,
- (a) prepare an inventory in accordance with paragraph 1 of subsection 21.1.4 (2) of the Act;
 - (b) circulate the inventory to all the participating municipalities in the authority's area of jurisdiction and, if the authority considers it advisable, to any other municipality with which the authority has entered into, or intends to enter into, a memorandum of understanding or other agreement;
 - (c) maintain a record of the municipalities referred to in clause (b) and the date upon which the inventory was circulated to each municipality; and
 - (d) provide the inventory and the record prepared under clause (c) to the Ministry.
- (2) The authority may make changes to the inventory after February 28, 2022 to address comments or other feedback submitted by a municipality referred to in clause (1) (b).
- (3) If changes are made to the inventory in accordance with subsection (2), the authority shall,
- (a) include the changed inventory in the next progress report required to be submitted to the Ministry under subsection 7 (2); and
 - (b) ensure that the progress report clearly describes the changes between the previous inventory and the changed inventory.

Inventory of programs and services

6. (1) An authority shall prepare an inventory to include in its transition plan in accordance with this section.
- (2) In preparing the inventory, the authority shall ensure that,
- (a) the inventory lists all the programs and services that the authority is providing as of February 28, 2022;
 - (b) the inventory lists all the programs and services described in subsection (7) that the authority intends to provide after February 28, 2022; and
 - (c) for each program or service listed in accordance with clause (a) or (b), the authority,
 - (i) estimates of the total annual cost of providing the program or service in the following manner and includes the estimate in the inventory:
 - (A) if the program or service has been provided by the authority for a period of five or more years, calculate the average annual cost of providing the program or service for five years,
 - (B) if the program or service has been provided by the authority for a period of less than five years, calculate the average annual cost of providing the program or service based on the period that the program was offered,
 - (C) if the program or service has not been provided by the authority but is intended to be provided after February 28, 2022, calculate the average annual cost of providing the program or service based on the authority's best assessment of what the costs will be and provide an explanation for the assessment, and
 - (D) if the authority is of the opinion that the average annual cost determined under sub-subclause (A) or (B) does not reflect the average annual cost to provide the program or service in the future, adjust the average annual cost and provide an explanation for this adjustment,
 - (ii) indicates the sources of funding available to cover the total annual cost estimated in subclause (i), including any municipal funding provided through municipal levy, provincial or federal funding, private funding or funding generated by the authority through user fees or otherwise, and
 - (iii) provides an estimate of the percentage of the total annual cost estimated in subclause (i) that each of the sources of funding referred to in subclause (ii) is expected to cover.
- (3) In the inventory, the authority shall classify all of the programs and services listed under clause (2) (a) according to the following categories of programs and services:
- 1. Category 1 programs and services - the mandatory programs and services provided under section 21.1 of the Act.
 - 2. Category 2 programs and services - the municipal programs and services provided under section 21.1.1 of the Act.
 - 3. Category 3 programs and services - the other programs and services provided under section 21.1.2 of the Act.
- (4) For each Category 1 program or service listed in the inventory under clause (2) (a), the authority shall,

- (a) indicate into which type of Category 1 programs and services it falls, based on the types of mandatory programs and services that are,
 - (i) described in paragraph 1 of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act,
 - (ii) prescribed by regulation under paragraph 2 of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act, and
 - (iii) described in subsection 21.1 (2) of the Act; and
 - (b) explain why, in the authority's opinion, each Category 1 program or service falls into the specified type of mandatory programs and services and, if the authority has concerns about how to classify certain programs and services, explain those concerns.
- (5) For each Category 2 program or service listed in the inventory under clause (2) (a), the authority shall include the following information:
- 1. The name of the municipality on behalf of which the program or service is provided.
 - 2. The date on which the authority and the municipality entered into a memorandum of understanding or another agreement with respect to the provision of the program or service.
- (6) For each Category 3 program or service listed in the inventory under clause (2) (a), the authority shall include the following information:
- 1. Whether or not the program or service was financed, in whole or in part, through municipal levies collected from participating municipalities.
 - 2. Whether or not the authority intends to seek to enter into a cost apportioning agreement with one or more participating municipalities to ensure all or part of the financing of the program or service after the transition date.
- (7) If an authority is aware on or before February 28, 2022 that it intends to provide a new Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 program or service after February 28, 2022, the authority shall,
- (a) include the proposed program or service in the inventory;
 - (b) in the case of a Category 2 program or service, indicate in the inventory that the authority intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding or another agreement under section 21.1.1 of the Act with the municipalities on behalf of which the program or service will be provided; and
 - (c) in the case of a Category 3 program or service, indicate in the inventory whether the authority intends to seek to enter into a cost apportioning agreement with one or more participating municipalities to ensure all or part of the financing of the proposed program or service after the transition date.

Second phase of transition period

7. (1) During the second phase of the transition period and no later than the transition date, an authority shall,
- (a) consult with the participating municipalities on the inventory in accordance with paragraph 2 of subsection 21.1.4 (2) of the Act;
 - (b) take the necessary steps to seek to enter into cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities on or before the transition date in accordance with paragraph 3 of subsection 21.1.4 (2) of the Act and section 8 of this Regulation; and
 - (c) submit to the Ministry six progress reports that contain the information set out in subsection (3).
- (2) The authority shall submit the progress reports described in clause (1) (c) to the Ministry on the following dates:
- 1. July 1, 2022.
 - 2. October 1, 2022.
 - 3. January 1, 2023.
 - 4. April 1, 2023.
 - 5. July 1, 2023.
 - 6. October 1, 2023.
- (3) Each progress report shall contain,
- (a) any comments or other feedback submitted by a municipality referred to in clause 5 (1) (b) regarding the inventory;
 - (b) a summary of any changes that the authority has made to the inventory to address comments or other feedback referred to in clause (a), including the changed inventory and a clear description of the changes between the previous inventory and the changed inventory;

- (c) an update on the progress of negotiations of cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities; and
- (d) an outline of any difficulties that the authority is experiencing that might affect the ability of the authority to conclude any cost apportioning agreements with one or more participating municipalities by the transition date.

Cost apportioning agreements

8. (1) An authority may enter into a cost apportioning agreement with one or more participating municipalities and the agreement may relate to one or more programs or services provided by the authority under section 21.1.2 of the Act.

(2) In accordance with paragraph 2 of subsection 21.1.2 (2) of the Act, a cost apportioning agreement must specify the termination date of the agreement and require that the agreement be reviewed by the parties to the agreement within at least six months, or such longer period as may be specified in the agreement, before the termination date, for the purpose of determining whether the agreement is to be renewed by the parties.

(3) If a cost apportioning agreement provides that the agreement terminates more than five years after the agreement is entered into, the agreement must also require that the parties to the agreement review the agreement every five years while the agreement is in effect, or at such earlier intervals as may be specified in the agreement.

(4) A cost apportioning agreement must include provisions relating to,

(a) the early termination of the agreement by any party to the agreement, including,

(i) how notice of early termination is to be provided by one party to the other parties, and

(ii) a requirement that notice of early termination is required to be given at least 30 days before the early termination date or such greater period of time before the early termination date as may be specified in the agreement; and

(b) the resolution of disputes that may arise between the parties while the agreement is in effect, including the establishment of an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for the settling of disputes outside the court system.

(5) A cost apportioning agreement is not effective unless it is approved by a resolution of the municipal council of each participating municipality that is a party to the agreement.

(6) An authority shall publish a copy of every cost apportioning agreement that it enters into on the authority's website and make the agreements available to the public by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

Final submissions due at end of transition period

9. Within 30 days after the transition date, the authority shall submit to the participating municipalities and to the Ministry,

(a) the final version of the inventory; and

(b) confirmation that the authority has entered into all necessary cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities.

Extension of transition date

10. (1) For the purposes of subsections 25 (1.3) and 27 (1.3) of the Act, an authority may be granted an extension of time beyond the transition date in the following circumstances:

1. The authority submits a request for the extension to the Ministry on or before October 1, 2023.

2. The request demonstrates that additional time is required for any of the following reasons:

i. The authority and one or more participating municipalities need time to conclude a cost apportioning agreement for a particular program or service that the authority intends to provide under section 21.1.2 of the Act after the transition date.

ii. The authority needs more time to wind down a particular program or service that was provided by the authority under section 21.1.2 of the Act before the transition date but that will no longer be provided after the transition date.

(2) The length of the extension shall be specified in the notice given by a person designated by the Minister under subsection 25 (1.3) or 27 (1.3) of the Act.

Commencement

11. This Regulation comes into force on the later of the day subsection 25 (1) of Schedule 6 to the *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)*, 2020 comes into force and the day this Regulation is filed.

Made by:
Pris par :

Le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs,

DAVID PICCINI
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Date made: September 21, 2021
Pris le : 21 septembre 2021

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ONTARIO REGULATION 688/21
made under the
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT

Made: September 8, 2021
Filed: October 1, 2021
Published on e-Laws: October 4, 2021
Printed in *The Ontario Gazette*: October 16, 2021

RULES OF CONDUCT IN CONSERVATION AREAS

Definitions

1. In this Regulation,

“all-terrain vehicle” means a self-propelled vehicle, other than a motor vehicle, a motorized snow vehicle, an off-road vehicle or a boat, that is intended to be driven,

- (a) on snow, on ice or on snow and ice, or
- (b) on land and water; (“véhicule hors-route”)

“boat” means a watercraft or other contrivance used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, but does not include an all-terrain vehicle; (“bateau”)

“camp-site” means a parcel of land in an area operated by an authority for the purpose of camping, that is identified by a camp-site number, post, marker or other suitable means; (“emplacement de camping”)

“conservation area” means the land owned by an authority; (“zone de protection de la nature”)

“domestic animal” means a horse, a dog or any other animal that is kept under human control either by habit or training and lives in association with human beings; (“animal domestique”)

“highway” means a highway as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act* or a highway whose use or intended use is restricted to permit holders; (“voie publique”)

“motorcycle” means a motorcycle as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act*; (“motocyclette”)

“motorized snow vehicle” means a motorized snow vehicle as defined in section 1 of the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*; (“motoneige”)

“motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act*, but does not include an all-terrain vehicle or an off-road vehicle; (“véhicule automobile”)

“officer” means a member of a municipal police force within an area under the jurisdiction of an authority, a member of the Ontario Provincial Police Force or an officer appointed by an authority under section 30.1 of the Act; (“agent”)

“off-road vehicle” means an off-road vehicle as defined in section 1 of the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*; (“véhicule tout-terrain”)

“power boat” means a boat that is propelled other than by sail or muscular power; (“bateau à moteur”)

“roadway” means a roadway as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act*; (“chaussée”)

“superintendent” means the person designated by an authority as being in charge of a conservation area. (“surintendant”)

Application

2. This Regulation does not apply to any conservation area that is operated or managed by a municipality or a person or group of persons under an agreement between the municipality, person or group of persons and an authority.

Permit issuance, etc.

3. (1) A permit required for any activity or purpose under this Regulation may be issued on behalf of an authority by the secretary-treasurer of the authority or another person appointed by the authority or the executive committee of the authority for that purpose.

(2) A permit issued under this Regulation is not transferable.

(3) A person who holds a permit issued under this Regulation shall produce the permit for inspection at the request of an officer.

Prohibited activities

- 4.** No person shall, in a conservation area,
- (a) deface, remove or damage any property;
 - (b) cut, remove, injure or destroy a plant, tree, shrub, flower or other growing thing;
 - (c) remove or destroy any soil or rock; or
 - (d) use discriminatory, harassing, abusive, insulting or threatening language or gestures, make excessive noise or disturb other persons.

Activities requiring a permit

- 5.** No person shall, in a conservation area, except under a permit issued by an authority,
- (a) kill, trap, pursue or disturb a wild bird, reptile or animal;
 - (b) possess or ignite fireworks;
 - (c) camp;
 - (d) make an excavation;
 - (e) possess, shoot, discharge or use a spring gun, air gun, firearm, slingshot or any archery equipment;
 - (f) erect, paint or affix a sign or notice;
 - (g) sell or offer for sale an article, thing or service;
 - (h) engage in fund raising;
 - (i) advertise or carry on a business or enterprise;
 - (j) conduct a public performance of any kind, or bring equipment for public entertainment into the conservation area;
 - (k) conduct a public meeting or do anything that is likely to cause persons to congregate; or
 - (l) remain in the conservation area after the posted times.

Entering and remaining in conservation area

- 6.** (1) No person shall enter or leave a conservation area, except at the locations designated by an authority.
- (2) Where an authority has designated a conservation area or any part of a conservation area as being closed during certain times, no person shall enter or remain in the conservation area or that part of it, as the case may be, during those times.

Litter

- 7.** (1) No person shall deposit litter in a conservation area except in a container designated for that purpose.
- (2) Every person using a camp-site or other site in a conservation area shall at all times maintain the site in a clean and sanitary condition and when vacating the site, shall restore the site as nearly as possible to its natural condition.

Swimming

- 8.** No person shall wade, bathe or swim in a conservation area, except during the times and in the areas designated by an authority.

Boating

- 9.** (1) No person shall use a boat in a conservation area, except in the areas designated by an authority.
- (2) No person shall operate a power boat in a conservation area, except under a permit issued by an authority and in the areas designated by the authority.

Fires

- 10.** (1) No person shall start or maintain a fire in a conservation area except in a fireplace or other location designated by an authority or under a permit issued by the authority.
- (2) No person who starts or maintains a fire in a conservation area shall leave the fire unattended or leave the site of the fire before it is completely extinguished.
- (3) No person shall start or maintain a fire in a conservation area if the superintendent has posted a notice indicating that there is a fire hazard in the conservation area.

Camping

- 11.** (1) No person shall,
- (a) occupy a camp-site, except under a permit issued by an authority; or

(b) occupy a camp-site, under a permit issued by an authority, after check-out time on the departure day set out in the permit.

(2) A person who occupies a camp-site under a permit issued by an authority shall, no later than the check-out time on the departure day set out in the permit, vacate the camp-site and remove all shelter equipment and other personal property from the camp-site.

(3) A camping permit, other than a group camping permit, authorizes the holder and five other persons, or a greater number of persons where they are a single family of one or more parents and their children, to occupy the camp-site designated in the permit.

(4) A group camping permit authorizes members of a religious, charitable, educational or other philanthropic organization to occupy the camp-site designated in the permit.

(5) A holder of a camping permit may park, on the camp-site designated in the permit,

(a) one motor vehicle other than a motorcycle; or

(b) no more than two motorcycles.

(6) No person shall, except with the permission of the superintendent, park a motor vehicle on a camp-site if, in so doing, the number of motor vehicles permitted by subsection (5) is exceeded.

(7) A holder of a camping permit may park a motor vehicle in a designated parking area with the superintendent's permission.

Day-use area permits

12. (1) No person shall,

(a) enter or remain in an area designated by an authority as a day-use permit area, except under a permit issued by the authority; or

(b) remain in an area designated by an authority as a day-use permit area after the check-out time on the departure day set out in the permit.

(2) A day-use area permit authorizes the holder and the other members of the holder's party to enter and remain in the day-use area set out in the permit until check-out time on the departure day set out in the permit and to park one motor vehicle, or no more than two motorcycles, in a designated parking area.

Domestic and other animals

13. (1) No person shall bring an animal, other than a dog or cat, into a conservation area except under a permit issued by an authority.

(2) No person who owns or controls a domestic animal shall, in a conservation area, permit the animal to,

(a) make excessive noise or disturb other persons;

(b) enter water designated for wading, bathing or swimming or be on the beach adjacent to that water;

(c) enter any waters adjacent to camp-sites where campers would obtain water for cooking or consumption;

(d) be at large;

(e) damage conservation area property or vegetation;

(f) chase or harass wild animals or birds; or

(g) injure, or attempt to injure, a person or other domestic animal.

(3) For the purposes of clause (2) (d), a domestic animal that is secured by a leash more than two metres long shall be considered to be at large.

(4) Despite clause (2) (d), a person may use or be accompanied by a dog that is not secured by a leash,

(a) while the dog is accompanying a person who is lawfully hunting or training within the meaning of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* if hunting or training is permitted in a conservation area and where a permit has been issued by an authority; or

(b) within an area designated by an authority in which dogs are allowed to be off-leash.

(5) Clauses (2) (b), (c) and (d) do not apply to a person who is a holder of a National Identity Card issued by the Canadian Institute for the Blind or equivalent proof of legal blindness or to any other person with a disability as defined in section 2 of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

(6) The person in control of a domestic animal shall immediately dispose of excrement from the animal in such manner and at such location that it will not cause a health hazard or public inconvenience.

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply to a person who is unable to immediately dispose of excrement because of a disability as defined in section 2 of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

(8) The person in charge of a domestic animal that is not secured shall capture and secure the animal at the request of an officer.

(9) No person shall ride or lead a horse, pony or similar animal in a conservation area, except on a highway or other area designated by an authority for that purpose, or leave a horse, pony or similar animal in a location where it is likely to cause danger or inconvenience to other persons.

Vehicles

14. (1) The following provisions of the *Highway Traffic Act* apply, with necessary modifications, to the operation of motor vehicles on highways in a conservation area:

1. Sections 133, 135, 136, 138 and 140.
2. Section 141.
3. Sections 142 and 143.
4. Subsections 144 (15) and (18).
5. Sections 147 to 150 and 153.
6. Clause 154 (1) (a).
7. Sections 156 to 160, 162, 165 and 167 to 173.
8. Subsections 175 (11) to (12.2).
9. Sections 177 to 180, 182, 184 and 188.

(2) No person shall, in a conservation area,

- (a) operate a motor vehicle or ride a bicycle, except on a roadway or other place designated by an authority;
- (b) operate a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20 kilometres per hour or the speed posted by an authority as the permitted maximum, whichever is higher;
- (c) park a motor vehicle, except in accordance with subsections 11 (5) to (7) or subsection 12 (2);
- (d) park a motor vehicle in a position that is likely to prevent the free or convenient movement of other vehicles;
- (e) leave a bicycle in a place likely to cause danger or inconvenience to other persons; or
- (f) operate a commercial vehicle, as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Highway Traffic Act*, except with the permission of the superintendent.

All-terrain, off-road or motorized snow vehicles

15. No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle, an off-road vehicle or a motorized snow vehicle in a conservation area, except,

- (a) under a permit issued by an authority and in a place designated by the authority for the operation, with permits, of all-terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles or motorized snow vehicles; or
- (b) in a place designated by an authority for the operation, without permits, of all-terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles or motorized snow vehicles.

Traffic directions

16. An officer may direct traffic in a conservation area, and every person shall obey a direction respecting traffic given by an officer.

Revocation of regulations

17. The following regulations, made under the Act, are revoked:

1. Regulation 98 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Ausable-Bayfield).
2. Regulation 99 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Cataraqui Region).
3. Regulation 100 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Catfish Creek).
4. Regulation 101 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Central Lake Ontario).
5. Regulation 102 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Credit Valley).
6. Regulation 103 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Crowe Valley).

7. Regulation 104 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Essex Region).
8. Regulation 105 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Ganaraska Region).
9. Regulation 106 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Grand River).
10. Regulation 107 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Grey Sauble).
11. Regulation 108 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Halton Region).
12. Regulation 109 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Hamilton Region).
13. Regulation 110 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Kawartha Region).
14. Regulation 111 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Kettle Creek).
15. Regulation 112 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Lake Simcoe Region).
16. Regulation 113 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Lakehead Region).
17. Regulation 114 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Long Point Region).
18. Regulation 115 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Lower Thames Valley).
19. Regulation 116 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Lower Trent Region).
20. Regulation 117 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Maitland Valley).
21. Regulation 118 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Mattagami Region).
22. Regulation 119 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Metropolitan Toronto and Region).
23. Regulation 120 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Mississippi Valley).
24. Regulation 121 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Moira River).
25. Regulation 122 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Napanee Region).
26. Regulation 123 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Niagara Peninsula).
27. Regulation 124 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Nickel District).
28. Regulation 125 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - North Bay-Mattawa).
29. Regulation 126 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - North Grey Region).
30. Regulation 127 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Nottawasaga Valley).
31. Regulation 128 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Otonabee Region).
32. Regulation 129 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Prince Edward Region).
33. Regulation 130 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Rideau Valley).
34. Regulation 131 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - St. Clair Region).
35. Regulation 132 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Sauble Valley).
36. Regulation 133 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Saugeen Valley).
37. Regulation 134 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Sault Ste. Marie Region).
38. Regulation 135 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - South Nation River).
39. Regulation 136 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Conservation Areas - Upper Thames River).

Commencement

18. This Regulation comes into force on the later of the day subsection 27 (1) of Schedule 4 to the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* comes into force and the day this Regulation is filed.

Made by:
Pris par :

Le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs,

DAVID PICCINI
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Date made: September 8, 2021
Pris le : 8 septembre 2021

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DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Staff provided an update on the Phase I regulations under the CA Act, particularly what constituted mandatory programs and services that conservation authorities are authorized to provide, which aligned with many programs and services that TRCA currently provides. The transition plan with Memorandums of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with municipalities was also provided. TRCA is already conducting detailed discussions with partner municipalities and will bring the transition plan to the November 19, 2021 TRCA Board of Directors meeting. TRCA is well-positioned on moving forward on transition plan and having agreements in place. Staff also mentioned that the regulation related to advisory boards was not pursued as most CAs have advisory boards in place.

In regard to water quality and monitoring, members acknowledged that was included in the list of mandatory programs and services, however, they noted there was no mention of addressing the decline of water quality. Staff acknowledged that the mandatory programs and services related to water quality is reflected by the inclusion of the current provincial water quality program. The list of mandatory programs also addresses source protection. Staff will continue to enhance these programs and further programs may fall under “other programs and services” category. If it is not covered by mandatory programs, staff continue to meet with municipal partners to address other priorities, such as within the detailed budgeting process.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION from Maria Kelleher, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m., on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Andy Wickens
Vice-Chair

/dr