



Appendix A

The System-Level Plan: A Preliminary Terms of Reference

A. The System-Level Plan: A Preliminary Terms of Reference

The System-Level Plan will provide direction that considers existing form and function, and identifies opportunities that support the system through the three components of the UGN: Natural Features and Areas, Ecologically Supportive Features and Areas, and Hydrologically Supportive Features and Areas. The System-Level Plan should pay specific focus to the opportunities that the Nature Areas present, as the largest component of the UGN. The Nature Areas play a significant role in the care for and stewardship of the Symons Campus lands.

Task 1

Existing Conditions Review and Assessment

Through a desktop assessment, undertake a review of vegetation community mapping available for the Symons Campus and update if / as required to reflect existing conditions. A targeted screening-level site review may be required to confirm or refine vegetation community mapping. Vegetation mapping shall be completed in accordance with current Ecological Land Classifications for Ontario.

Complete an assessment of natural cover to inform targets and opportunities (i.e., percent cover of habitat types). Document any substantive changes to natural cover over base mapping provided.

Task 2

Target Setting for the UGN

Informed by Task 1 and relevant guidance documents and studies (e.g., How Much Habitat is Enough by Environment Canada, Species at Risk Recovery Strategies, etc.), develop system-level targets for the UGN. Targets may be set to support maintaining,

enhancing, and/or striving for a net benefit or regenerative outcomes for the system. Targets are to be identified for each component of the UGN: Natural Features and Areas, Ecologically Supportive Features and Areas, and Hydrologically Supportive Features and Areas. It is important that these targets focus on the Nature Areas as key components of the UGN and that the targets provide guidance for the preparation of individual Nature Area Management Plans. Section 18.2 of Part IV of the TLNAP provides some direction for the target setting process and should be used to guide and inform this task.

Task 3

Identification of Key Opportunities, Gaps, and Actions

Based on targets and existing conditions (Tasks 1 and 2) and in consideration of priorities and actions identified in the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (Part III of the TLNAP), identify gaps and opportunities for the UGN, with specific focus on the Nature Areas and providing guidance for the preparation of individual Management Plans. Through this task, prepare a 'long-list' of stewardship actions that will assist in filling gaps, capitalizing on opportunities, and supporting Trent in striving to achieve its targets.

Specific consideration is to be given to leveraging existing research, reports, and opportunities presented by the academic programs at Trent such as student engagement in projects, monitoring, etc., and faculty knowledge and experience. Indigenous Traditional Knowledge should be combined with western science to develop a holistic view of the natural system and its functions.

The System-Level Plan should integrate:

- » Findings from the Archaeological Master Plan and a culturally-appropriate management approach in consultation with the Michi Saagiig Consultation Officers and Trent Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council;
- » Updates to baseline ITK data, as needed, to keep information current (to be determined by Trent University and advised by the Trent Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers Council); and
- » The preparation of an ITK action plan that identifies actions that may benefit the land, water, flora, and fauna.

Task 4

Identification of Stewardship Priorities and Potential Partnerships

This task will assess actions and opportunities identified in Task 3 to identify stewardship priorities. This assessment should use a multi-factor assessment in prioritization. Assessment criteria should include, but are not limited to:

- » Alignment with actions and priorities identified in the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan
- » Anticipated ecosystem benefit achieved through the targets and action(s)
- » Alignment with and opportunities for learning and/or research
- » Emerging or anticipated impacts
- » Location
- » Cost

For priority actions, individuals and groups who are responsible for, or whose support is needed for implementation. For effective coordination and resourcing, institutional partners / agencies and potential implementation partners should be identified to help facilitate planning and implementation of stewardship actions.

Task 5

Guidelines for Data Management and Future Reporting

This first System-Level Plan is to provide a recommended approach for tracking and managing stewardship information (e.g., projects undertaken, outcomes, etc.), guidance for future reporting (scope and content) and a recommended reporting schedule. Consideration should be given to streamlined and cost-effective approaches.

Task 6

Consultation and Engagement

Engagement with the following groups will be undertaken at key points in preparing the System-Level Plan, where relevant:

- » Institutional Partners / Agencies
- » Michi Saagiig First Nations
- » Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee
- » Faculty, staff and Students
- » Implementation Partners
- » Community experts and groups

Refer to Section 17 for additional information on some of these groups and the role of the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Task 7

System-Level Plan Report

Work completed in Tasks 1 through 6 will be documented in the System-Level Plan Report.

