

# Ecological Reserve

## Other Category Areas

Conservation Area



Cultural Area



Regenerative Agricultural Area



## What are the priorities?



Natural Heritage & Landforms



Biodiversity & Ecological Services



Nature Based Learning



ITK



Wellbeing & Recreation

## What are Ecological Reserves?

Ecological Reserves are lands which are considered to be most sensitive to human use / impacts and / or those lands which are managed for the primary purpose of maintaining or enhancing the quality of their biophysical resources. Lands in this category are or should be returned to a natural state / condition.

This management category comprises the most important areas of natural heritage within the Symons Campus and should be managed in a way that limits or prohibits use with potential to negatively impact them. The main priority is for the preservation or enhancement of habitats, providing habitat for SAR, biodiversity, etc. The size of the Ecological Reserve should be sufficient to ensure that natural features can be protected and remain viable over the long-term. Influence of climate change should be considered in the identification and delineation of this category. While this category will include significant (per policy directives) features (e.g., significant woodlands) it is not required or implied that it necessarily capture them in their entirety. Some portions of significant features may be suitable for other categories (e.g., Conservation Areas) which allows for a balance of use to allow the Nature Area to meet the range of goals for of the Nature Areas. Policy protections for features are recognized and will be upheld (e.g., no negative impact per the PPS).

## Summary of Features or Functions:

- Significant features (provincially or regionally);
- Sensitive features, habitats or species (e.g., area sensitive birds, seepage areas);
- Features and / or habitats which currently support or have potential to support Species at Risk (SAR) (e.g., through restoration / enhancement);
- Representative habitats identified for preservation to protect biodiversity;
- Areas unique to the Symons Campus;
- The best example(s) of a biological or physical feature of interest with the Nature Areas; and
- Restoration and enhancement areas (existing or proposed).

## Goals supported include:

Protect and where possible, enhance important natural heritage features and functions, exemplar landform features and processes through a systems-based approach to management.

Encourage the appropriate use of the Nature Areas for academic research and teaching, in consultation with the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Recognize and protect important Indigenous values within the Nature Areas.

Acknowledge the role of the Nature Area in conserving biodiversity, providing ecological services in local adaptation to, and mitigation of climate change.

Bolster Trent University as an institution of higher learning and as an institution caring for nature, the environment, and Indigenous teachings and ways of knowing.

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

Academic research and teaching are permitted in areas identified in consultation with the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee. Considering the sensitive nature of some features encompassed within Ecological Reserves, limits with regards to areal and temporal extent, impact and use of equipment, number of people, etc., may apply.

**Recreation**

Recreation will be restricted or prohibited depending on feature sensitivity. This may require the closure of some existing trails, realignment of existing trails to less sensitive areas, restrictions on additional trail length, management of ad hoc trail development, and likewise management / restriction of public access. These limitations are in-line with the objectives specific to this management category in order to preserve biological form and function.

**Dogs**

Dogs (as well as other pets or domestic animals) are prohibited from Ecological Reserves. Signage should be considered at public access point(s) identifying the areas as ecologically sensitive and describing the ecological impacts of dogs to educate users and discourage inappropriate use. Signage should also provide direction to dog-friendly alternative areas. Enforcement efforts should be considered with assistance from appropriate authorities, if required.

Exceptions can be made for service animals that accompany those participating in teaching, learning and research activities.

**General Management**

New footprints for structures or amenities shall not be permitted.