

# Conservation Area

## Other Category Areas

Ecological Reserve



Cultural Area



Regenerative Agricultural Area



## What are the priorities?



Natural Heritage & Landforms



Biodiversity & Ecological Services



Nature Based Learning



ITK



Wellbeing & Recreation

## What are Conservation Areas?

The Conservation Area category is intended to provide a balance between natural heritage and other goals (e.g., recreation, teaching) for the Nature Areas. This does not indicate or imply that the lands managed under this category are available for human use without restriction, or at a consistent or specified level of intensity. Determinations of uses (e.g., trails) and how much use is appropriate are made on a site-specific basis. Lands in this category are predominantly or will be returned to a predominantly natural state / condition. This management category recognizes the function of a network of natural heritage features within the Symons Campus, but also provides focus on nature appreciation, teaching, and sustainable recreation. The primary management objective is to maintain or enhance the quality of the Nature Area while promoting recreation and education. Generally, this category will include features or areas that are more tolerant to some level of human activity. The area must be suitable for some level of recreational uses (non-motorized, passive) and / or nature appreciation activities. The amount or intensity of uses (e.g., density of trails, types of uses) are assessed and established through the management plan for an individual Nature Area. Policy based feature protections are recognized and will be upheld (e.g., no negative impact per the PPS).

### 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.

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.

Encourage use of the Nature Areas for academic research, teaching, outdoor education and (passive, non-motorized) recreation that is consistent with the policies and intent set out in this Plan.

Promote Indigenous Traditional Knowledge sharing and teaching, ceremonies, nature interpretation.

Understand and promote physical and psychological benefits and opportunities presented by the Nature Areas.

Encourage and enable positive interactions between the public and the University through shared experience in and stewardship of the Nature Areas.

Provide low impact structures (e.g., open air teaching shelter) or amenities consistent with the uses and policies of this Stewardship Plan and to further the goals of the Nature Areas.

Enhance the reputation of Trent University as an institution of higher learning and as an institution.

### Summary of Features or Functions:

- Significant features (provincially or regionally);
- Other natural heritage features / areas;
- Semi-natural or naturalizing features and areas;
- Restoration areas (current or planned); and
- Buffers to natural heritage features as established through land use planning activities (e.g., through an Environmental Impact Study). This management category recognizes the function of a network of natural heritage features within the Symons Campus, but also provides focus on nature appreciation, teaching, and sustainable recreation. The primary management objective is to maintain or enhance the quality of the Nature Area while promoting recreation and education.

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

Academic research and teaching will be allowed and at a generally increased intensity in comparison with Ecological Reserves (e.g., increased footprint, equipment, frequency, etc.). However, all activities remain subject to approval by the University.

**Dogs**

Dogs may be permitted in some conservation areas through the creation of a management plan that determines suitability of this use, and a plan to ensure safety for other users and the natural environment. With respect to dog use, areas within the Conservation Area category may be identified as follows:

- Dogs permitted – Leash optional
- Dogs permitted – Leash mandatory
- Dogs not permitted

Clear signage should be installed at public access points describing applicable dog use policies and markers at trail intersections or other appropriate junctures to delineate where allowable use changes. Where dog use is not permitted, signage should be posted to inform users of the ecological impacts of dogs (in order to discourage use, where applicable) with direction to dog-friendly alternative areas (e.g., a map). Enforcement efforts should be considered with assistance from appropriate authorities, if required.

**Recreation**

Low-intensity, non-motorized, day use recreational activities will be generally permissible with appropriate siting and trail network design. Activities are to occur on-trail unless specifically approved by The University in advance (e.g., an orienteering event).

**General Management**

Structures and amenities within Conservation Area category areas are generally limited to basic services such as small parking areas (for use of the Nature Areas only), teaching shelters (e.g., open air shelter), benches, toilets, signage, and trail networks. The construction of new low impact structures and amenity areas will be considered based appropriate siting process(es) to ensure consistency with policies and that impacts do not jeopardize the form and function of natural heritage features. Siting of any proposed structure or amenity must be done in consideration of site conditions, sensitivities, avoidance or where avoidance is not possible minimization and mitigation of potential negative impacts (e.g., through design, compensation, etc.). Any proposed activity must be undertaken in accordance with applicable laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act 2007), regulations (e.g., Ontario Regulation 167/06 Otonabee Region Conservation Authority: Regulation of development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses), and policies (e.g., Provincial Policy Statement, City of Peterborough Official Plan).