

## 18.3 Developing Nature Area Management Plans

The Trent Nature Areas are a vital part of the University's commitment to preserving and honouring the natural world and represent a major component of the UGN. The Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (Part III of the TLNAP) provides guidance for the stewardship of the 11 Nature Areas by presenting an updated vision, goals and management categories.

Implementation of the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan will be achieved through Nature Area Management Plans, prepared for each Nature Area. A Nature Area Management Plan may include multiple Nature Areas where there is a function (e.g., ecological) connection and management would be best achieved by considering them together. To support preparation of these plans, a preliminary Terms of Reference is provided in Appendix B.

Where possible, the Nature Area Management Plans will be informed by the System-Level Plan. These plans represent the primary implementation tool for management/stewardship of the Nature Areas. The Nature Area Management Plan will provide direction on how the Nature Area will protect and/or conserve important natural heritage and cultural features, support research and education opportunities, and sustain recreation through the application of the framework described in the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan (Part III of the TLNAP).

The Nature Area Management Plans will integrate Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), combined with western science, to develop a holistic view of the natural system and its functions. The Nature Area Management Plan should integrate:

- » The preparation of site-specific ITK studies that assess the impacts of the management plan on the ITK values and cultural assets of a Nature Area;
- » 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);
- » The preparation of an ITK action plan that identifies actions that may benefit the land, water, flora, and fauna.

## 18.4 Guidance for Modifying the Trent Nature Area Boundaries

The intent and direction given through the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan is to preserve the Nature Areas as a significant part of the Symons campus, and to protect the important natural heritage features within them. The extensive engagement and study conducted as part of the TLNAP was designed to consider a large body of available information to update the Nature Area boundaries.

As a management tool, the boundaries of the Nature Areas may continue to be refined over time to reflect site-specific studies and opportunities that support the goals of the Nature Areas. Where boundaries are not determined by roadways, feature limits (e.g., woodland, wetland) often form logical opportunities for delineation of boundaries. These boundaries are depicted as approximate in the Nature Areas Stewardship Plan and will be staked and confirmed upon completion of environmental studies and evaluation of feature significance, usually in conjunction with a site-specific study process associated with Nature Area Management Plans and/or land use planning for adjacent lands. During these studies, there may be situations where the boundaries are increased to reflect or capture:

- » A confirmed significant feature in accordance with policy or legislation. For example: Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks confirmed habitat for Species at Risk protected under the Endangered Species Act that is contiguous to a current Nature Area.
- » Unique or exemplar landforms that are not represented within the Nature Areas at the time of proposal and warrant extension of an existing Nature Area to include.

- » Planned opportunities to create habitat through restoration and enhancement areas approved and completed by the University that occur adjacent to and were implemented with the purpose of extending an existing Nature Area.
- » Cultural areas of importance to the University or the Michi Saagiig that are considered compatible with and would be well served through inclusion within the Nature Area(s) to ensure their long-term protection.

It is important to note that features, areas, and functions do and will continue to exist within and outside of the Nature Areas. All features, areas, and function will be treated in accordance with applicable legislation, policy and regulation to ensure good land planning and stewardship practices. The list above provides general guidance, but is not exhaustive and cannot presume all potential conditions that may occur.

Boundary changes that reduce the Nature Areas on the Symons campus are to be avoided, and should only be considered by the Board of Governors where it is demonstrated that such changes are unavoidable or avoidance is not feasible (e.g., as determined through an Environmental Assessment, or due to roadway safety). Where encroachments occur, they must be accompanied by a mitigation and compensation plan.

### Roles and Responsibilities

A number of administrative bodies will be involved to varying degrees in the review and approval of any boundary modifications to the Trent Nature Areas, including the:

**Board of Governors:** Trent's Board of Governors is the approval authority that will make the ultimate decisions with respect to changes to the Nature Area boundaries.

**Finance and Property Committee:** It is the responsibility of the Finance and Property Committee to review and recommend changes to the Board of Governors for approval.

**Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee:** As an advisory committee with members knowledgeable in ecology and natural heritage, the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee serves as an important resource to Senior Administration for reviewing proposed changes to boundaries of the Nature Areas. Where relevant, proposals for boundary revisions are to be brought to the committee for input and advice.