

2021

Conservation Close to Home

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE
CANADIAN CONSERVED AREAS NETWORK





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National Steering Committee - The National Steering Committee (NSC) is led by co-chairs currently from Environment and Climate Change Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada, and by British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, on behalf of the provinces and territories.

The NSC includes representatives from provincial, territorial, federal, and local governments with land management and biodiversity conservation responsibilities, and representatives from the Assembly of First Nations and the Métis National Council.

Local Government Advisory Group (LGAG) - LGAG consists of professional representatives of municipal and regional governments across Canada that were invited to comment on how local protected areas might contribute to Canada Target 1. The group put together a series of recommendations for consideration by the Pathway to Canada Target 1 NSC. The recommendations fundamentally recognize the opportunity Canada now has to set the stage to not only reach Canada's commitment to the Aichi Targets by 2020 but also establish the relationships necessary to go beyond those targets. Without the support of local and Indigenous governments, Canada will remain

without the governance arrangements needed to accelerate the establishment of protected areas and connect them across the country. This publication addresses, in part, some of the recommendations of LGAG.

Local Government Engagement Task Team (LGETT) - The LGETT was a subcommittee of the NSC that supported the LGAG in providing recommendations for the NSC. The LGETT provided secretariat support, including inviting the members of the LGAG, hosting LGAG meetings, and providing orientation, agendas, and minutes. The LGETT included representatives from the NSC and the province of Ontario.

ICLEI Canada - Conservation Close to Home was authored by ICLEI Canada (www.icleicanada.org) for Environment and Climate Change Canada on behalf of the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative. ICLEI is a non-profit association of local governments committed to sustainability.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CPCAD

Canadian Protected and Conserved Area Database

ECCC

Environment and Climate Change Canada

ICLEI

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, rebranded as ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

IPCA

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

IUCN

International Union for Conservation of Nature

OECM

Other effective area-based conservation measure

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

Local governments across Canada are demonstrating leadership in area-based conservation to the benefit of their residents. But the benefits of this work go far beyond municipal boundaries.

Conservation Close to Home explores how local government conservation efforts can help achieve Canada's national biodiversity goals and international commitments, and examines the benefits of local conservation areas for local governments and their constituents.

This publication provides contextual information on area-based conservation and the importance of biodiversity preservation, with a local government focus. Three local government case studies reflect the general process taken to recognize sites as part of Canada's national conservation network, the types of sites included, the partnerships involved, the major challenges or barriers observed through the process, and recommendations for overcoming these challenges.

There is a general concern that local government natural area sites are underreported in Canada's national database of protected and conserved areas. A main focus of this publication is therefore to equip local governments with the knowledge and tools to facilitate recognition and reporting of conservation areas on municipal land. Key actions

that can be taken by local governments to foster biodiversity conservation are outlined, with a focus on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into existing planning frameworks and municipal service delivery. The many benefits of local government involvement in Canada's national network of protected and conserved areas are also outlined throughout this resource. These benefits include national recognition of local sites, improvements in community health and wellbeing, and provision of some protection against the impacts of climate change.

Public opinion research on conservation [\(link\)](#) reveals that Canadians place high importance on protecting the environment, with over 93% of respondents agreeing that protected areas are necessary.¹ Over 80% of Canadians support federal conservation goals and want the government to invest in commitments.¹ Urban areas are home to rich cultural and biological diversity and, when adequately protected, can contribute to achieving Canada's conservation goals.

Overview of Biodiversity Issue

Earth's ecosystems are experiencing unprecedented changes, with a global trend of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.^{2,3} The World Economic Forum has ranked biodiversity loss and climate change as two of the top global economic threats for 2021.⁴

The main drivers of these changes are habitat loss and fragmentation (e.g., changes in land use to support human development), direct exploitation, climate change, and pollution.^{2,5} Over 75% of the Earth's surface has been substantially altered, which is significant when considering habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation are the main causes of species extinctions.² In just a few centuries, humans have accelerated the rate of species extinction by three orders of magnitude.⁶ It is now estimated that approximately 1 million species face extinction globally.² Some scientists suggest that we have already overshot the Earth's ability to maintain biosphere integrity.⁷


The Canadian species index is used to measure the average change in Canadian vertebrate species' populations. This indicator shows a national average decline of 4% in the population size of monitored vertebrate species, with mammal and fish species showing the most dramatic declines, at 42% and 21%, respectively.⁸ Biodiversity loss is occurring at different rates across Canada's ecosystems, habitat, species, and genes. At the ecosystem level, grassland ecosystems are the most affected.⁹

Biodiversity loss is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity given the dependence of humans on healthy ecosystems.² Yet, in as little as 50 years, over two-thirds of ecosystem services (including biodiversity) have been degraded.^{2,9} Preserving

biodiversity is arguably the most critical imperative facing humanity; diversity underpins all life systems and is critical to our survival.¹⁰

Ecosystem services—the benefits and services provided to human societies by natural areas—provide the basis for human existence, including health and wellbeing.⁹ Biodiversity is a supporting service and provides the basis for all ecosystem services (provisioning, regulatory, cultural).¹¹ In addition, biodiversity plays another critical role—redundancy—meaning that it provides a backup system in terms of ecosystem function and structure, thereby enhancing resilience to future shocks and stressors.^{3,10} Although redundancy is a valuable feature, it is important to remember that species cannot be replaced by substituting one species for another.

Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are key tools for addressing biodiversity loss at global, national, and local scales.^{2,5,12} Area-based conservation directly targets the drivers of biodiversity loss (i.e., habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation) by prioritizing land- and sea-use that supports conservation over other development opportunities.¹⁰



Nature provides many benefits to human societies, and there is increasing evidence supporting the link between protected areas and human health.^{13, 14, 15} Nature contributes to our physical, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing by reconnecting us to the natural world, re-igniting feelings of awe and wonder, and stimulating empathy and love receptors in our brains.^{13, 14, 16} As we now see with the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated an existing malady of disconnection within society, natural areas have proven to be essential areas of refuge for those seeking connection. Protected areas provide environmental benefits (improved environmental conditions/provision of ecosystem services), a source of medicine, and direct health benefits, all of which are essential to human health and wellbeing.^{13, 14, 15}

Protected areas are important contributors to human health and wellbeing across the country, but are especially important in urban environments, given that 70% of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2050, combined with the accelerated environmental degradation in urban areas.¹⁴ There is also evidence that supports the link between habitat encroachment and enhanced transmission of zoonotic diseases (e.g., COVID-19).¹⁷ Land use changes following urbanization is one of the seven drivers of zoonotic disease emergence, as indicated in a recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *The Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission*.¹⁷ Research shows that out of all natural area governance regimes, PAs maintain the highest level of ecosystem health, services, and benefits, speaking to the important role these areas play in mitigating the combined impacts of biodiversity loss and global zoonotic diseases.

THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR AREA-BASED CONSERVATION:

1. Safeguarding species and ecosystems
2. Delivering ecosystem services
3. Maintaining our life support system (subset of 2).¹²



SIFTON BOG DRONE SHOT // STEVE SAUDER, UTRCA

Area-based Conservation and Biodiversity

Conservation strategies fall into two basic categories: in-situ and ex-situ. Area-based conservation is an example of in-situ conservation, which is the practice of protecting ecosystems, natural habitats, and endangered species within their natural habitat areas or ranges.¹⁸

Ex-situ conservation involves the practice of protecting endangered species (subspecies, cultivars, genes) outside of their natural habitat area or range (i.e., gene banks, botanical gardens, arboreta).¹⁸ Not all in-situ conservation measures are reflective of area-based conservation; for example, protecting a few remaining individuals of an at-risk tree species within its original habitat would be considered in-situ, but it is species-based rather than area-based conservation.

Protected areas and OECMs are the backbone of area-based conservation and are effective strategies in protecting biodiversity.¹² It is important that

area-based conservation goals consider the need for extensive conservation networks that include connectivity between protected areas protection of endangered species, and unfragmented natural areas.¹² There are many co-benefits of using area-based conservation to achieve biodiversity goals, making protected areas and OECMs important not only in conserving biodiversity, but also in improving human health and wellbeing, ensuring the continued provision of ecosystem services, providing a source of food and medicine, and reducing the impacts of climate change.^{19, 20}

Definition of Protected Areas and Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures

All federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions in Canada* recognize and accept International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) definition of a protected area, which is as follows:

A PROTECTED AREA IS:

"A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."^{20, 21}

Further reflection on the IUCN and Convention on Biological Diversity definitions of protected areas, which excluded other types of conserved areas, led to a broadening of the types of areas considered as contributing to biodiversity and conservation goals to include OECMs.²² The recognition of OECMs within Canada's network of protected and other conserved areas aids in achieving inclusive conservation along with supporting other values that are critical to human health and wellbeing.²¹ All federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions in Canada* recognize and accept the following definition of OECM:

AN OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURE IS:

"A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values."²⁰

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) can have important conservation outcomes. IPCAs that meet the definition of protected area or OECM may also count towards Canada's area-based conservation targets. Although there is no formal definition of an IPCA, pan-Canadian guidance on IPCAs suggests the following:

AN INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREA INCLUDES:

"Lands and waters where Indigenous Peoples have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems. Culture and language are the heart and soul of an IPCA."²⁰

*Quebec is not tied to this report. Quebec has taken note of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada, but has not adhered to them because, by virtue of its responsibilities, it develops its own instruments to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets. Quebec sets its own conservation priorities and timelines on its territory and collaborates with the federal government and the provinces and territories when deemed necessary. Quebec does not participate in the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative, but it contributes to the pan-Canadian effort by achieving an identical target for the creation of protected areas on its territory and its inland water by 2020.

Introduction to Area-based Conservation within the Context of Canada's Biodiversity Goals

There are 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, of which Canada is one, for the period 2011-2020.^{20, 23} Canada Target 1 is one of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada and is based on Aichi Target 11, which states:

"By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of marine and coastal areas of Canada are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based measures."²⁴

A focus on Target 1 is primarily due to the recognition of the key role played by protected areas and OECMs not only in achieving Canada's near-term biodiversity goals, but also in aiding in the development and implementation of conservation strategies that safeguard Canada's natural areas and biodiversity over the long term. The Pathway to Canada Target 1 is an initiative that has developed a "collective plan to build representative networks of protected and conserved areas throughout Canada that will serve as the cornerstone of biodiversity and nature conservation for generations."²⁰

If effectively managed and governed, protected and conserved areas offer promising potential to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, without adequate protection (i.e., from development), these areas may not provide sufficient conservation benefit.²² The degree to which protected and conserved areas can be

used as indicators for biodiversity targets is fully dependent on the location and design of protected areas as well as on effective management within the protected area.^{22, 25} Thus, the approach developed through the Pathway to Canada Target 1 focuses on: "1. Protecting the right amount of habitat to support viable populations of all species; 2. Protecting the right areas so protected and conserved areas can function as a representative ecological network, not simply as 'islands of green', and 3. Managing the areas in the right way—a way that looks for cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries and respects natural boundaries where possible."²⁰ These focus areas also represent the key challenges in developing a representative network of protected and conserved areas across Canada, which can be addressed through "the creation and recognition of Protected Areas, IPCAs, and OECMs."²⁰

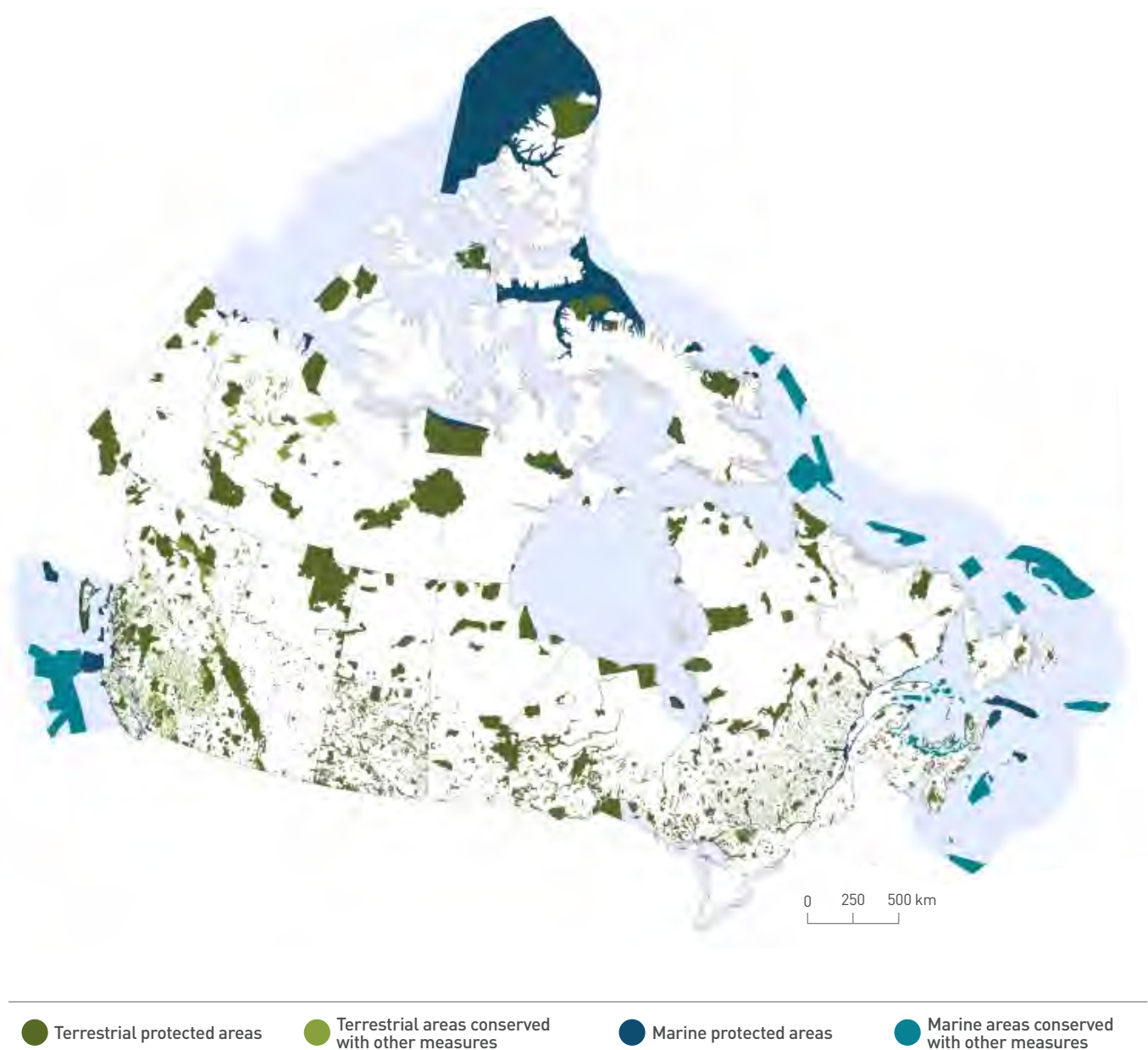
CANADA'S FUTURE CONSERVATION GOALS

In 2020, the Canadian federal government announced a mandate to conserve 25% of Canada's land and 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30% by 2030.

Snapshot: Current Protected and Other Conserved Areas in Canada

- TOTAL national terrestrial in Canada: 12.5% (1,249,891 km²) (as of December 2020)
 - o Protected area 11.7%; OECM 0.8%
- TOTAL national marine in Canada: 13.8% (794,658 km²) (as of December 2020)
 - o Protected area 8.9%; OECM 4.9%

FIGURE 1. Map showing protected and conserved areas across Canada, 2019 (NOTE: Map to be updated shortly)



Importance of Local Government Sites in Achieving Biodiversity Goals

Achieving Canada's biodiversity goals requires an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach, whereby all levels of government, industry, private business, and the public sector will need to work collectively toward shared goals.⁵ Given the scale of human impacts and the extent of protection needed in achieving Canada's biodiversity goals, it is essential for protected and conserved areas to exist within developed landscapes alongside non-built environments.¹⁰

"Protected places, species, and spaces must exist everywhere; they are not out there, but must be part of human life everywhere."

– Dale, Anne in *Edging Forward: Sustainable Community Development*

Local governments are often located near biodiversity hotspots and thus play a critical role in ensuring the protection of biodiversity within those areas. Further, natural and semi-natural areas within urban boundaries offer important opportunities for the improvement of habitat connectivity, the provision of ecosystem services, and the protection of remaining key habitat and species within the urban landscape. Local governments have significant control over

land use planning within municipal boundaries. Given these key points, local governments have a unique opportunity to contribute to the quality of an existing (and growing) national network of protected and conserved areas by enhancing connectivity, ecosystem service provision, ecological representation (often a wide array of ecosystem habitats fall within municipal jurisdiction) and stewardship or protection of Key Biodiversity Areas.²⁶

ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY:

Protected and conserved areas, though critical to conserving biodiversity, are not sufficient in isolation. These areas need to be ecologically connected to other protected and/or natural areas across landscapes via habitat corridors.²⁷ Ecological connectivity refers to the "unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life of Earth."²⁸

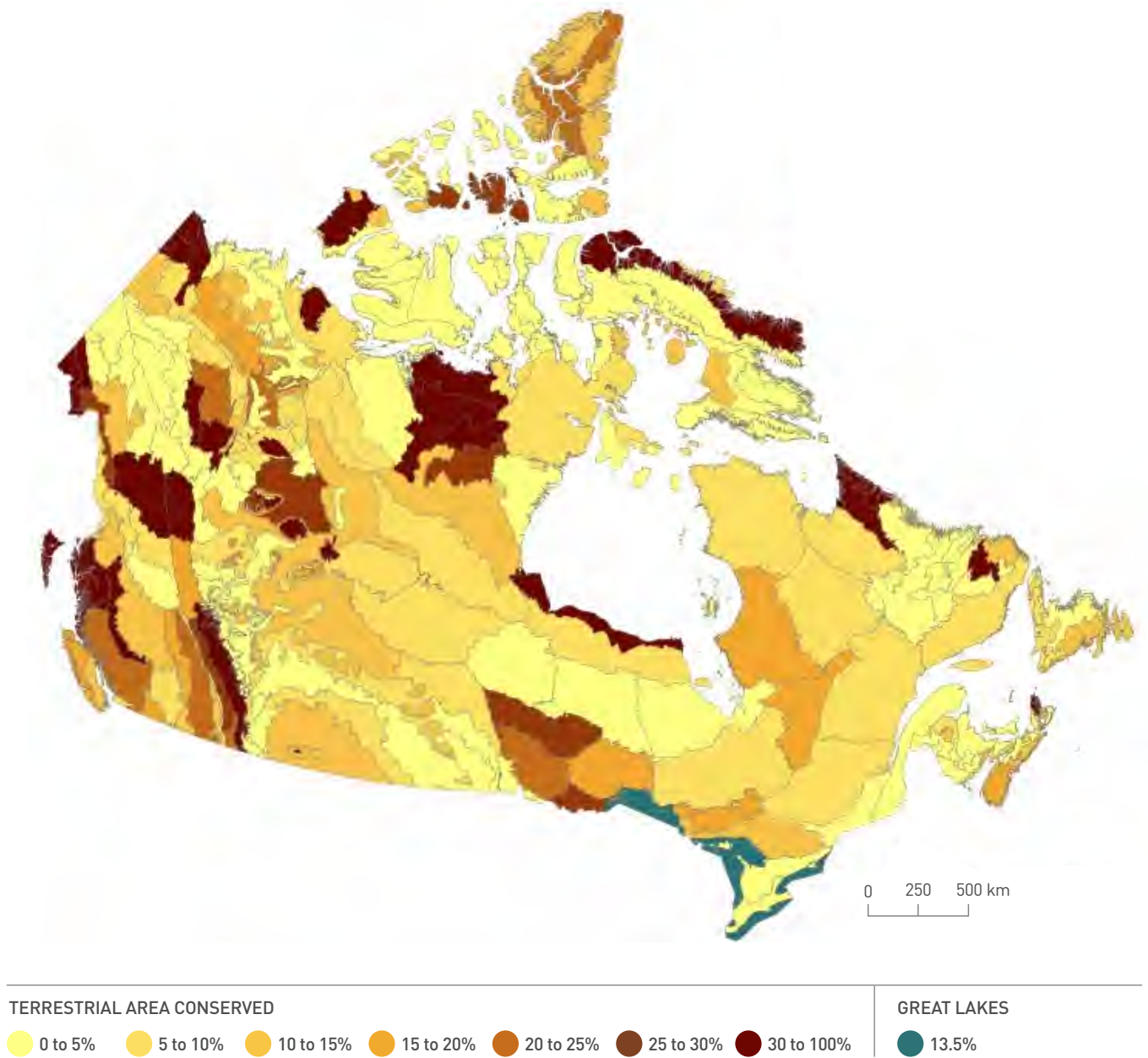
ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION:

Protected and conserved areas networks need to be reflective of the ecological diversity across Canada. There are 18 ecozones and 215 terrestrial ecoregions recognized in Canada.⁸ In the municipal context, it is more likely that local governments will have an ability to improve representivity of habitats (i.e., wetlands)

as opposed to ecozones or ecoregions (given the typical size of these areas). In 2018, the Pathway National Advisory Panel recommended that ecological representation be evaluated at the ecoregion level.

The Pathway developed the Canadian Terrestrial Ecological Framework (CTEF) to support national reporting on ecological representation under the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative. The map below highlights the proportion of area conserved by ecoregion in Canada (as of 2019).

FIGURE 2. Proportion of area conserved, by ecoregion, Canada, 2019



KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS:

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are areas that are important for the functioning of the entire ecosystem.

An area may be a KBA for a variety of reasons, including that it is home to threatened or endangered species, or it may be an important area for species during migration or reproduction (e.g., Monarch habitat, Caribou calving grounds). In Canada, potential KBAs are in the process of being identified, mainly through the work of the Canadian KBA Coalition. There are currently 201 KBAs in progress across the country – progress on evaluating and identifying KBAs can be seen in real time by viewing the online [Dashboard](#).[†]

Given the many reasons for protecting urban biodiversity, there are key actions that local governments can take in order to foster and enhance biodiversity protection within municipal boundaries. In order to mainstream biodiversity protection, many biodiversity considerations can be integrated into existing municipal service delivery. Local action mechanisms that can be taken by local governments include:

- **URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN:** Integrate principles of connectivity and enhanced ecological connections into urban planning. Locally appropriate and/or native tree species can support these principles and provide additional benefits to protected spaces. Sites that qualify can be recognized as OECMS, while other habitat features may support biodiversity outcomes through improved connectivity between green areas throughout a city. Urban planning can also focus on increased outdoor recreation areas and green spaces, which both enhance the aesthetics of a community and provide benefits to protected natural areas within the city.
 - o The City of Surrey's [Biodiversity Conservation Strategy \(BCS\)](#) provides a great example of this in action. The goal of Surrey's BCS is to "preserve, protect, and enhance Surrey's biodiversity in the long term."²⁹
 - o Learn more: [Biodiversity conservation in Surrey \(website\)](#)³⁰
- **REGULATION AND POLICY:** Establish policy mechanisms (e.g., incentives, bylaws) that enforce biodiversity protection.
 - o Again using the [City of Surrey's BCS](#) as an example, the policy recommendations from the BCS build on and have been integrated into existing city policies, including the Official Community Plan, the Sustainability Charter, Climate Adaptation Strategy, and Parks Recreation and Strategic Plan.
 - o Under British Columbia's Local Government Act, the city has many regulatory tools it may use to promote biodiversity conservation, including the ability to protect and acquire lands through parkland dedication or other mechanisms.
- **LEADERSHIP AND AWARENESS:** Leverage existing relationships with the community to influence and encourage community-wide responses to biodiversity loss.
 - o The City of Surrey is a leader on implementing local biodiversity actions.
- **COMMUNITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND SERVICE DELIVERY:** Provide services and programming that offer civic engagement opportunities for the community to protect biodiversity.
 - o The City of Surrey is engaging with local residents, businesses, city staff and visitors to become involved in citizen science, which helps connect citizens to the importance of biodiversity preservation while also helping to build collective knowledge of local biodiversity so that trends can be monitored over time.



CAP TOURMENTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA // CHRISTINE LEPAGE

- **OPERATIONS AND WORKFORCE:** Act as leaders in environmental protection through effective and appropriate management of city assets, resources, and staff (e.g., effective management of natural areas, building greening [green roofs, native plants], staff training opportunities).

Natural and semi-natural areas within municipal jurisdictions offer important ecological, social, and economic benefits to citizens and local governments. Green spaces play a critical role in local adaptation to climate change by buffering the impacts of extreme weather events (resulting in cost savings), offer places of refuge to those seeking connection, improve human health and wellbeing, provide ecosystem services (such as flood control

and clean water), and serve as a backdrop through which to pursue recreation and tourism activities.^{13, 14, 19, 31} Local governments are uniquely poised to significantly bolster conservation efforts nationwide, with many municipalities across the country already engaged in area-based conservation measures aimed at protecting biodiversity and the many other co-benefits provided by natural areas.

“In cooperation with other levels of government and local partners, Canada’s municipal governments reflect the priorities of everyday Canadians, every day. Protected areas in cities contribute significantly to the health and quality of life of a large number of Canadians, and to fostering an interest for biodiversity protection in future generations. Local driving forces are a considerable asset towards reaching our collective sustainability and biodiversity protection goals.”

– Mike Walton, PhD, Senior Manager, Regional Parks, Victoria, B.C.²⁰

[†]Note: this dashboard excludes KBAs that have been identified for birds (currently known as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas [IBAs]). Birds Canada is reassessing all IBAs using KBA criteria and is developing the Canadian KBA database, which will soon house information and data for all KBAs (i.e., KBAs identified for all qualifying taxa and ecosystems).



EARLY SPRING SWAMP WITH SERVICEBERRY SHRUBS IN BLOOM // CATHY QUINLAN, UTRCA

Municipal Involvement in Canada's Area-based Conservation Targets

Municipal protected areas are integral to achieving Canada's biodiversity goals, yet they are largely underrepresented in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Area Database (CPCAD), the national database where protected and conserved areas are tracked.

With a purpose of developing a better understanding of the possibilities for municipal involvement in Canada Target 1, ICLEI Canada conducted a series of surveys in 2017/2018. They revealed that, out of 97 local government respondents, 52% of participating municipalities are involved in efforts or activities towards Canada Target 1. Area-based biodiversity conservation is being delivered by local governments through a wide range of tools and mechanisms. Mapping is the most common information tool being used by local governments (89%), followed by general area-based conservation practices (82%). Other municipalities are leveraging partnerships (73%) and developing policy solutions (70%). Municipalities are also engaged in plan development, public education, monitoring programs, regulatory activities, and the development of biodiversity strategies.

Of the 97 local government respondents, 23 medium and large population centres have developed biodiversity conservation strategies and 42 have biodiversity objectives integrated into municipal planning documents. The most common biodiversity concerns that have been mainstreamed into broader planning frameworks included environmentally significant areas, watershed management and health, and green space conservation. The most common programs at the municipal level include invasive species management, community garden enhancement and development, and enhancement of the urban forest through tree planting programs and initiatives. Generally, the surveys revealed a significant and growing interest in and potential for provincial and federal governments to engage local governments in collaborative action towards area-based conservation targets.

Local Government Reporting of Protected and Conserved Areas in Canada

It is widely felt that there is great potential in better representing local government sites in the national catalogue of protected and conserved areas. It is clear that barriers exist and that the value of reporting is not clearly understood.

Knowledge of Canada's area-based conservation targets and of the potential of including municipal lands within the national network of protected and conserved areas is generally lacking among operational staff working within municipal parks departments. Additional barriers include institutional rigidity (focus on more conventional land management), lack of environmental/ecological roles embedded within operational departments, and the challenge of adequately conserving biodiversity at local sites due to competing land uses and surrounding pressures (thus not qualifying for recognition as a protected area or OECM).

Despite the identified challenges to local government involvement in Canada's area-based conservation targets, there are many benefits to including municipal lands in the national network. In conducting the interviews for the case studies of local governments that have been reported to CPCAD, the following benefits were identified:

- Provides recognition of local government sites on a national and global scale, raising the profile of the local government's work.
- Reinforces the connection between local conservation efforts and priorities at the provincial, territorial, national, and international level.
- Reinforces how local governments can operationalize global biodiversity goals.
- Offers an opportunity to recognize the strong policies, protections, and management in place at the local level, and to have environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) and other locally conserved areas, recognized officially as protected areas and/or OECMs.
- Enhances local knowledge of and respect for the degree of protection of local protected areas.
- Builds collaboration between local government and other local conservation organizations, helping to strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones.
- Helps identify gaps in data collection and management of conserved areas and improves record keeping.
- Ensures the local government is well-positioned to seek future support and resources for its conservation activities.



Qualifying Factors for Inclusion in CPCAD

The Pathway to Canada Target 1 website provides information and support for local governments looking to include their lands in the Canadian protected and conserved area database (CPCAD) and to contribute to Canada’s biodiversity targets.

The CPCAD contains the most up-to-date spatial and attribute data on marine and terrestrial protected areas and OECMs in Canada. It is compiled and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Data are provided by federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions, who retain responsibility and ownership for their data.

The decision support tool helps proponents to determine whether conservation areas meet the criteria contained in the definitions of protected area or OECM and clarifies the key differences and commonalities between protected areas and OECMs. Key ways the decision support tool can help local governments to include their sites for consideration in Canada’s national network include:

- Ensure new sites meet criteria during the planning phase;
- Screen existing sites not currently being counted in CPCAD;
- Identify gaps in candidate sites that could be addressed to enable sites to qualify.

Concise and quality data helps to streamline the screening process and to better inform future conservation decisions. Data must clearly show how the site does (or does not) meet each of the nine criteria. In order to be recognized, sites must meet the intended effect of all nine criteria (see Tables 1 and 2). The below provides a summary of the key principles and attributes of protected areas and OECMs.

TABLE 1: STANDARDS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS and OECMS	
CRITERIA:	INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION
GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE	Demarcates the area to facilitate the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
EFFECTIVE MEANS – 1	Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed.
EFFECTIVE MEANS – 2	
LONG TERM	The area is permanently protected or conserved and not easily reversed.
TIMING	Biodiversity is protected or conserved year-round.

TABLE 2: STANDARDS THAT FURTHER DEFINE AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS and OECMS

CRITERIA:	INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION
SCOPE OF OBJECTIVES	Objectives have sufficient scope to result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
PRIMACY OF OBJECTIVES	Objectives are such that they result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
GOVERNING AUTHORITIES	The in-situ conservation of biodiversity is not jeopardized by relevant governing authorities.
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	Biodiversity is conserved in-situ.

COMMON PRINCIPLES AND ATTRIBUTES OF PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

- Have clearly defined geographical boundaries.
- Achieve the effective, long-term in-situ conservation of biodiversity.
- Long-term – which means the intent is to protect lands into perpetuity.

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS

- Protected areas – primary purpose is the protection of biodiversity.
- OECMs – managed in ways that result in the protection of biodiversity.
- **Key note:** OECMs are no less effective than protected areas as the biodiversity outcomes are comparable.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The [Pathway website](#) contains the following documents:

- Introduction to the Decision Support Tool (short PowerPoint presentation)
- Pathway to Target 1 – Decision Support Tool (.pdf document)
- Decision Support Tool Screening Template for Protected Areas and OECMs (.doc)
- Case Studies and Additional Accounting Resources

If you require assistance to complete a screening of a potential protected area or OECM using the decision support tool, please contact ec.ERcataloguePW.ec@canada.ca.

If you have completed a screening for an area that you would like to propose be considered for inclusion in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, please send the completed Decision Support Tool Screening Template for Protected Areas and OECMs to ec.ERcataloguePW.ec@canada.ca. Regional contact information can be found on the [Pathway website](#). If additional assistance is required in finding the right contact, please contact the above email address.



TRILLIUMS FLOWERING IN DECIDUOUS FOREST NEXT TO A WORN TRAIL // CATHY QUINLAN, UTRCA

Process for Proposing an Area for Inclusion in CPCAD

The decision support tool screening template should be used in conjunction with the decision support tool and detailed interpretation guide in order to complete the following:

1. Connect with provincial/territorial contacts ([found here](#)) to help guide the process, or the Screening Task Team inbox ec.ERcataloguePW.ec@canada.ca. It is important for communication between all relevant governing authorities to occur early in the screening process. With the exception of federal land, this generally includes the province or territory and in the case of local governments will involve the landowner (if the owner is not the local government). Partnerships at the local level could also involve a land trust or Indigenous groups that hold constitutional land rights and title.
2. Use the decision support tool to help determine whether your lands may qualify as a protected area or OECM. Use the screening template to document all the information of your site and determine gaps/missing information.
3. Final applications will be sent to the Screening Task Team inbox (noted above).

There are multiple avenues through which municipalities can become engaged with Canada’s protected and conserved areas, including directly, through local partnerships, and/or through engagement with the province. Where applicable, it is recommended that local governments work with their provincial counterparts and any existing conservation partners they have through this process. The collaboration may look slightly different in each province/territory, but the steps bellow summarize the most common approach.

1. Provincial/territorial government provides the initial tools, reference materials and relevant examples, and is available as an ongoing resource (may be done through collaborative initiatives like the Pathway to Canada Target 1).
2. Municipality and relevant conservation partners complete initial draft assessments using the reference materials.
3. Provincial/territorial government reviews draft assessments and provides feedback for final version and the assessment outcome (including whether the site meets the standards to qualify as a protected area or OECM).
4. All parties sign off on the finalized assessment.
5. For qualifying areas, municipality and conservation partners work with the province/territory to prepare the spatial and attribute information data required to submit to CPCAD.
6. The province/territory provides a consent letter to submit qualifying properties to CPCAD for partners’ approval.
7. Partners sign and return the consent letter.
8. Province/territory includes the qualifying areas in its next submission to CPCAD.

The following are a few tips and insights from local government staff that have been through the screening process and have sites that are recognized, or that are in the process of being recognized, in CPCAD.

1. Recognize the importance of collaboration. Work with local conservation groups, land trusts, and other municipal departments, as necessary.
2. Engage ecologists or other specialists in the screening process – either on staff, or by engaging local experts.
3. Connect with peers in other jurisdictions that have already completed the screening process to gain their insights and recommendations.
4. Engage the various avenues of support, especially at the provincial and federal levels. Use the support provided by the Screening Task Team.
5. Consider a phased approach to manage capacity limitations and enhance the learning process – tackling lands with the most conservation value first, and then addressing more complicated parcels later.
6. Bundle sites with common attributes (i.e., ownership models, policies governing protection, management, etc.) for bulk screening and reporting.
7. Report to council to celebrate progress, acknowledge local conservation efforts, and fuel the next phases of reporting.

Frequently Asked Questions from Local Governments

The following Q&A addresses some of the questions land managers may have:

Q1: Does recognition by Canada Target 1 require any additional regulatory or policy restrictions on the properties?

A: No. Canada Target 1 (or subsequent post-2020 area-based conservation targets) does not layer additional restrictions onto properties. Assessments are based on the current management of the site. However, to be recognized, all criteria must be met, including the requirement that management regimes lead to conservation for the long term. If an unanticipated change to the policy environment, use or management of the property arises, the area should be re-assessed.

Q2: What are the benefits to land owners/managers of evaluating and reporting qualifying lands in CPCAD?

A: Land owners/managers will be recognized for their conservation practices. They will be contributing officially to provincial, territorial, national, and international biodiversity conservation targets and national and international efforts to curb wildlife declines and maintain healthy ecosystems, together with the benefits that they provide. Information is reported to provincial/territorial, national and international databases. This recognition could be beneficial to land owners or managers by contributing to “branding” and reinforcing community values regarding conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable land use, particularly in the context of climate change and global threats to biodiversity.

Along with recognition, some jurisdictions provide financial incentives that may be associated with participation with certain conservation efforts † (e.g., Nova Scotia lands can qualify for municipal tax exemptions, research investments, carbon credits, land management funds, etc.)

Lastly, screening provides an opportunity to work with a jurisdiction and to discuss existing and future benefits.⁶

Q3: Does our municipality need to own and manage the site in order to have it recognized?

A: In general, sites have multiple governing authorities. A municipality may be one of many partners involved in the ownership and management of a property. As long as all governing authorities agree to recognition, the site may be reported if it qualifies.

Q4: In addition to municipal lands, can private and Indigenous protected and conserved areas be recognized as contributing to national area-based conservation targets?

A: Yes. Reporting of municipal, private, and Indigenous protected and conserved areas is particularly encouraged as they are currently under-represented.

Q5: Do provincial governments provide any support to municipalities entering and moving through the screening process?

A: Yes, subject to availability of staff, provinces and territories may have designated contacts to provide advice and support to municipalities to work through the decision support tool and report qualifying areas. To find the contact in your jurisdiction, please see [conservation2020canada.ca/accounting](https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting) or email ec.ERcataloguepw.ec@canada.ca to be redirected to the appropriate contact.

Q6: Can lands not solely designated for protection be included?

A: Yes. While protected areas must be established for the purpose of nature conservation, OECMs do not have this requirement. OECMs may or may not have conservation of biodiversity objectives, but objectives must exist, and they must be consistent and not in conflict, whether intentionally or otherwise, with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity over the long-term. The decision support tool helps users to differentiate between protected areas and OECMs and to determine whether their lands meet the criteria to qualify as a protected area or OECM.

Q7: Are there requirements for continuous reporting beyond the preliminary screening process?

A: The recognition of a site as a protected area or OECM does not commit the land manager to any specific monitoring or reporting requirements. The Pathway decision support tool provides draft guidance on monitoring. If unexpected changes to the use, management or policies overseeing the property occur, it should be re-assessed to see if it still qualifies for reporting to CPCAD.

Q8: How does a municipality report changes to a site recognized as a protected area or OECM?

A: If unexpected changes to the policy environment, use or management of the site occur, the area should be re-assessed to determine if it still qualifies for reporting to CPCAD. Contact the provincial/territorial representative.

Additional FAQs can be found in the Land Manager FAQ document found in the Conservation Tools section of the [Pathway website](#).

‡ Financial incentives must be applied for through the specific application processes offered by respective jurisdictions separately from this screening and reporting process.

‡ The Pathway (2021). Land Manager FAQs. <https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/private-conservation>



SMALL WHITE FLOWERS HUG THE GROUND NEAR THE CREEK // BRANDON WILLIAMSON, UTRCA

Case Studies

London: Environmentally Significant Areas

In November 2019, the City of London, Ontario, had 740 hectares of land formally recognized as protected. The sites include 11 Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) from across London established between 1935 and 1971.

The ESAs also include 3 Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) complexes and 3 Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The ESAs are protected into perpetuity through public ownership and Federal, Provincial, and Municipal policies, acts, laws, and by-laws.

The sites include wetlands, woodlands, meadows, and valleylands, making up the largest, highest quality features of London's Natural Heritage System. There are species at risk, as well as regionally and locally rare species present including, but not limited to, bald eagle, bank swallow, snapping turtle, butternut, wood thrush, and eastern meadowlark.



LONDON'S ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS IN CPCAD

Year of Establishment – Name of Site

- 1935** – The Coves Environmentally Significant Area
- 2001** – Kains Woods Environmentally Significant Area
- 2007** – Kelly Stanton Environmentally Significant Area
- 1960** – Kilally Meadows Environmentally Significant Area
- 1992** – Lower Dingman Environmentally Significant Area
- 1983** – Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area
- 1978** – Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area
- 1960** – Pottersburg Valley Environmentally Significant Area
- 1977** – Sifton Bog Environmentally Significant Area
- 1982** – Warbler Woods Environmentally Significant Area
- 1971** – Westminster Ponds / Pond Mills Environmentally Significant Area

The ESAs support the community with valuable ecosystem goods and services, including providing residents with an opportunity to connect with nature. Many local naturalists use the sites for hiking and birding, sharing their experiences through social media, and citizen science. There are approximately 55 kilometres of managed trail, as well as a suite of permitted activities/uses, which are not in conflict with the conservation of biodiversity. Residents can engage in local stewardship through the Adopt-an-ESA program, supporting litter clean-up, exotic and invasive species removal, tree planting, and hazard reporting.

LOCAL LAND USE DECISION MAKING

The City of London owns the majority of the publicly owned ESA lands in London. Some of the ESAs in the floodplains are owned by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA). These lands fall under Scheme 43, a floodplain land acquisition program dating back to 1965 that provides for the ongoing management of lands owned by the UTRCA by the City of London.

The UTRCA is contracted by the City to manage over 750 hectares of publicly owned ESA land in London. The city has funded this contract since 2002 to

ensure UTRCA can provide hands-on management for protection of the ESAs consistent with city policies, guidelines, by-laws, and Conservation Master Plans.

UTRCA is one of 36 conservation authorities established by the province of Ontario in 1946 with a mandate focused on the management of natural resources on a watershed basis. The UTRCA covers the upper watershed of the Thames River, which totals over 3400 square kilometres.

RECOGNITION AS A CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA TARGET 1

It is a source of pride for London to be recognized as a leader in natural heritage protection. London is home to the first suite of municipal protected areas reported by Ontario and among the first from across Canada. It came to light that some environmental groups were not recognizing London's ESA lands as protected areas. Staff thought that publicly owned ESAs should be recognized alongside provincial and national parks. The fact that recognition would not involve any additional regulatory, monitoring or policy restrictions on the properties or for the adjacent land owners made the decision to report a relatively easy one.

The screening process was completed by city staff, with assistance from staff at UTRCA and support from Ontario Parks staff. The screening was completed over the course of August to November 2019. The City of London is in the unique position of having three ecologists on-staff to navigate the process. They drew information from the ESA Conservation Master Plans and other ESA reports by local ecological consultants who have provided the City with past support services.

NEXT STEPS

The City of London is always expanding its ESAs, through parkland dedication or purchasing new lands. It is expected that reporting new lands to CPCAD will become something the City revisits periodically, as their network of protected areas expands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.london.ca/esa to find out more about the City of London's ESAs

Visit www.thamesriver.on.ca to find out more about UTRCA

Visit www.conservation2020canada.ca/additional-accounting-resources to see London's Environmental Significant Areas among the many case studies, including the Decision Support Tool – Screening Criteria

Visit [Case Studies and Additional Accounting Resources on the Pathway website](#) to find out more.





ÎLES DE CONTRECOEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA // CHRISTINE LEPAGE

Saskatoon: Beaver Creek Conservation Areas and Saskatoon Natural Grasslands

Two sites in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, have been recently recognized as protected: Saskatoon Natural Grasslands and Beaver Creek Conservation Area.

SASKATOON NATURAL GRASSLANDS

The Saskatoon Natural Grasslands is a 14-hectare site of conserved native grassland within the City of Saskatoon, which is in Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. The grasslands represent a unique remnant fescue prairie ecosystem of grasses, plants, birds, animals, and insects. Nearly 200 species of plants, a variety of native birds and animals, and more than 25 species of butterflies can be found in the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands.

The area is part of an ancient river bed located to the northeast of Saskatoon known as the Northeast Swale. The swale is conserved because it provides an ecological corridor for many native, rare, and culturally significant species.

Saskatoon Natural Grasslands is an urban park located adjacent to two schools and surrounded by a residential neighbourhood. Residents enjoy hiking at the site, and local teachers conduct outdoor education programs for elementary school children.

The site came to be protected in the 1990s after a local advocacy group created a campaign called 'Rescue the Fescue', calling on government to protect the site. At that time, the City of Saskatoon owned the site, at which point it was sold to Meewasin, which now oversees the management and maintenance of the site. Meewasin provides outdoor educational programming at the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands site and Beaver Creek Conservation Area (below).

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

The Beaver Creek Conservation area is a rural area established as a nature park in 1913. It is located just outside the City of Saskatoon, within Treaty Six Territory, Homeland of the Métis. The site has two parcels: the north parcel, a 53-hectare site purchased by the MVA for conservation purposes in the 1990s, and the south parcel, owned by the City of Saskatoon which hosts the Beaver Creek Interpretive Centre. At the time of publication, only the north parcel was included in CPCAD, though the south parcel may be considered at a future point.

Beaver Creek Conservation area is located where the South Saskatchewan River meets the Beaver Creek, containing a sheltered creek, river valley, and prairie habitat. The site hosts remnant sandhills prairie complexes which provide a rare habitat for grassland birds, wildflowers, and a home for numerous species at risk, including the sand-dune reliant smooth goosefoot, and the ground nesting common nighthawk, Sprague's pipit and bobolink. The name of the site references the many beavers that live there, playing an important role in keeping the creek habitat supportive of wildlife.

LOCAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Decisions regarding local conservation and management of lands are done through collaboration among the City of Saskatoon, the province, and the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA). The province has demonstrated a commitment to conservation of these lands in part through the creation of the MVA. The MVA is a non-profit organization, the board of which is appointed by the province of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon, and the University of Saskatchewan. The MVA receives recommendations from industry experts as a part of conservation, development, and education advisories. The name Meewasin derives from the Cree word for beautiful. The MVA is recognized worldwide for its leadership in conserving the natural resources of the 6,700 hectares of the Meewasin Valley.

The MVA was created to manage the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. The MVA's purpose, as described in their Valley-wide Resource Management Plan (RMP), is

“to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley with a balance between human use and conservation [...] for the benefit of present and future generations.” The MVA can acquire, hold, occupy, administer, and dispose of property as well as “co-ordinate or control the use, development, conservation, maintenance and improvement of public land in accordance with the development plan.”

In addition to its work via the MVA, the City of Saskatoon also has its **Green Infrastructure Strategy: Towards an Interconnected Green Network** with a vision to create a holistic green network that provides a sustainable habitat for people and nature. The strategy outlines numerous actions and initiatives to achieve the vision for a holistic green network. The Saskatoon Natural Grasslands was actually the founding site that resulted from early implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

RECOGNITION AS A CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA TARGET 1

The MVA was surprised to learn that Meewasin lands were not originally counted in protected areas reporting, given the scale of conservation and protection they have. This stimulated the MVA to take the initiative, reach out the Saskatchewan government and ECCC to start the screening process. In order to manage their efforts, the MVA is following a 3-tiered phased approach for reporting:

Tier 1 – sites that the MVA owns and manages

Tier 2 – sites that are owned by partners but managed by Meewasin
(e.g., University of Saskatchewan lands that have conservation value)

Tier 3 – river bank and other areas (difficult to define – multiple parcels, more complex)

The combined decision support tool screening template for the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands and the Beaver Creek Conservation Area was completed over the course of several months in cooperation with the province, the MVA and ECCC's Screening Task Team and was finalized in November 2020. At this point, the completed screening template was provided to the Provincial Protected Areas Working Group, who made the final recommendation to include the two sites in the province's submission to the CPCAD.

Completing the decision support tool screening template was a challenging exercise for MVA staff, involving the collection of archived information

about the sites that was difficult to access while staff were following stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the screening process was also seen as an informative exercise that will streamline the MVA's future reporting efforts, enabling staff to quickly identify potential future reporting challenges.

Collaboration on the reporting exercise was extremely important for both the MVA and the province. The province is developing its own guidance resources to help screen potential sites across Saskatchewan, and working with the specialists at the MVA helped them to scope and refine those resources.

NEXT STEPS

Reporting the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands and the Beaver Creek Conservation Area accomplished Tier 1 of the MVA's phased approach for reporting. With this accomplished, the MVA is now moving on to Tiers 2 and 3. These sites are somewhat more complicated, with multiple partners, difficult to define parcels, and different management structures. However, the MVA is committed to pursuing them and is confident that more of their managed lands will meet the screening criteria for Canada Target 1.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://meewasin.com/2019/09/17/saskatoon-natural-grasslands/> to find out more about the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands

Visit <https://meewasin.com/2019/04/11/beaver-creek-conservation-area-and-interpretive-centre/> to find out more information about the Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Visit the Province of Saskatchewan's Saskatoon Natural Grasslands page <https://www.ehcanadatravel.com/saskatchewan/saskatoon/parks-trails/922-saskatoon-natural-grasslands.html>

Visit the Natural areas inventory for the City of Saskatoon:
<https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Natural-Areas-Inventory-for-the-City-of-Saskatoon-2019-Final-Report-November-25-2019.pdf>

Visit the Beaver Creek site management plan:
<https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Beaver-Creek-Plan.pdf>

Amherst: Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area

The Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area is located on the 21-kilometre-wide Isthmus of Chignecto, which spans the border between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Town of Amherst is located near the west end of the isthmus. The word Chignecto derives from the Mi'kmaq name Siknikt, meaning drainage place, because the isthmus separates the waters of Chignecto Bay, a sub-basin of the Bay of Fundy, from those of Baie Verte, a sub-basin of the Northumberland Strait. Four national historic sites are situated on the isthmus: Fort Beauséjour-Fort Cumberland, Beaubassin, Fort Lawrence, and Fort Gaspereaux. Even earlier, this area was important for traditional trade routes and existed as a travel hub for the Mi'kmaq prior to the establishment of the European settlements and forts.

The area contains tidal marshes, tidal rivers, mud flats, inland freshwater marshes, coastal saltwater marshes, and mixed forest. Many rare

plant species can be found, such as Halberd-leaf tearthumb and lesser wintergreen, as well as over 220 species of birds. The isthmus is critical for connectivity for many species of plants and animals, as it is the only land bridge that connects Nova Scotia to the rest of North America. For example, the isthmus is vitally important for sustaining genetically diverse moose populations; New Brunswick has a thriving mainland moose population, but Nova Scotia's mainland moose population has diminished to the point that the species is endangered. The land bridge supports the migration of New Brunswick moose into Nova Scotia, thus strengthening the vitality and longevity of the Nova Scotia moose population through increased genetic diversity. This issue has gained a high profile via the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) "Moose Sex Project," which is raising money to help preserve Nova Scotia moose populations.

The original area, which was less than 1,000 hectares, was designated in 2008 under the Nova Scotia Parks and Protected Areas Plan, on lands owned by the Town of Amherst. The town requested this designation from the province to safeguard its sole source of drinking water, which comes from the groundwater recharge area within the isthmus. Since 2008, the Chignecto Isthmus wilderness area has been expanded threefold and now totals approximately 3,750 hectares, including town lands (which make up

zone 1 of the North Tyndal Protected Water Area), provincial Crown lands, as well as 18 properties secured by the NCC. The NCC works closely with the local Cumberland Wilderness Society.

In addition to providing clean drinking water to citizens, the wilderness area is also a place for recreation. There are trails providing access for hiking, hunting, skiing, and all-terrain vehicles, in addition to campsites that are leased to Scouts Canada.

LAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The lands within the Nova Scotian side of the Chignecto Isthmus fall within the Municipality of Cumberland, the county surrounding the Town of Amherst. In the early 1990s the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of Cumberland developed an intermunicipal planning strategy and land-use by-law to oversee these lands. The intermunicipal planning strategy regulates land use within the North Tyndal Protected Water Area by ensuring any new development occurs only on sufficiently large lots so as to not impact cross-border connectivity issues.

With this plan in place, the North Tyndal Wellfield was developed, and the North Tyndal Protected Water Area was created. The wellfield was a \$7-million project, and the protection strategy ensured the groundwater source would be free from contamination for generations to come. The project was paid for over the course of 10 years, with 90%

covered by water rates and 10% covered by the Province of Nova Scotia. The Town of Amherst still has some of the lowest water rates in Canada due to the fact that no extra water treatment is required. The North Tyndal Protected Water Area was the first formalized protection effort on the isthmus, which led to the 2008 provincial designation as a protected wilderness area.

The Cumberland Municipal Planning strategy was updated in 2017 to include connectivity corridors between protected wilderness areas. These corridors are unusual among Canadian municipalities. Inspiration was drawn from the state of Vermont, where planning is geared towards not only protecting large blocks of land, but to ensure there are healthy connectivity corridors for species to move.

RECOGNITION UNDER CANADA TARGET 1

The Province of Nova Scotia initiated the process of having the Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area reported to CPCAD, working with Town of Amherst and NCC staff to complete the decision support tool screening template. All parties involved feel there is significant benefit to including their sites in Canada's national network.

The opportunity to learn from others to advance the work they are trying to do locally is highly valued. The partners also hope to access new sources of funding in support of expanding the blocks of protected land within the wilderness area designation in the future.

NEXT STEPS

The priority in the region is to secure more parcels of land to enhance connectivity corridors to allow wildlife to move more freely between protected areas. The town and the province have both secured funding from the Canada Nature Fund to support these efforts, and the NCC and Cumberland Wilderness Society continue to work to secure more small parcels of land.

As the designated wilderness area grows, more parcels will be reported to CPCAD. Some of the existing NCC conservation easements have not been reported, and one of the immediate next steps is therefore to run these sites through the screening process to see whether they qualify for CPCAD reporting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Chignecto National Wildlife Area Management Plan, 2018 <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/ap-pa/publication/pg-chignecto-mp/chignecto-nwa-management-plan.pdf>

Province of Nova Scotia website about the protected area https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_ChignectoIsthmus.asp

NCC's Chignecto Isthmus page <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/nova-scotia/featured-projects/Chignecto-Isthmus.html>

NCC's Moose Sex Project <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/new-brunswick/featured-projects/other-projects/help-moose-cross-the-chignecto.html>

Chignecto Isthmus Management Plan, National Historic Sites of Canada:
<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nb/beausejour/info/gestion-management-2018>

Visit [Case Studies and Additional Accounting Resources on the Pathway website](#) to find out more.



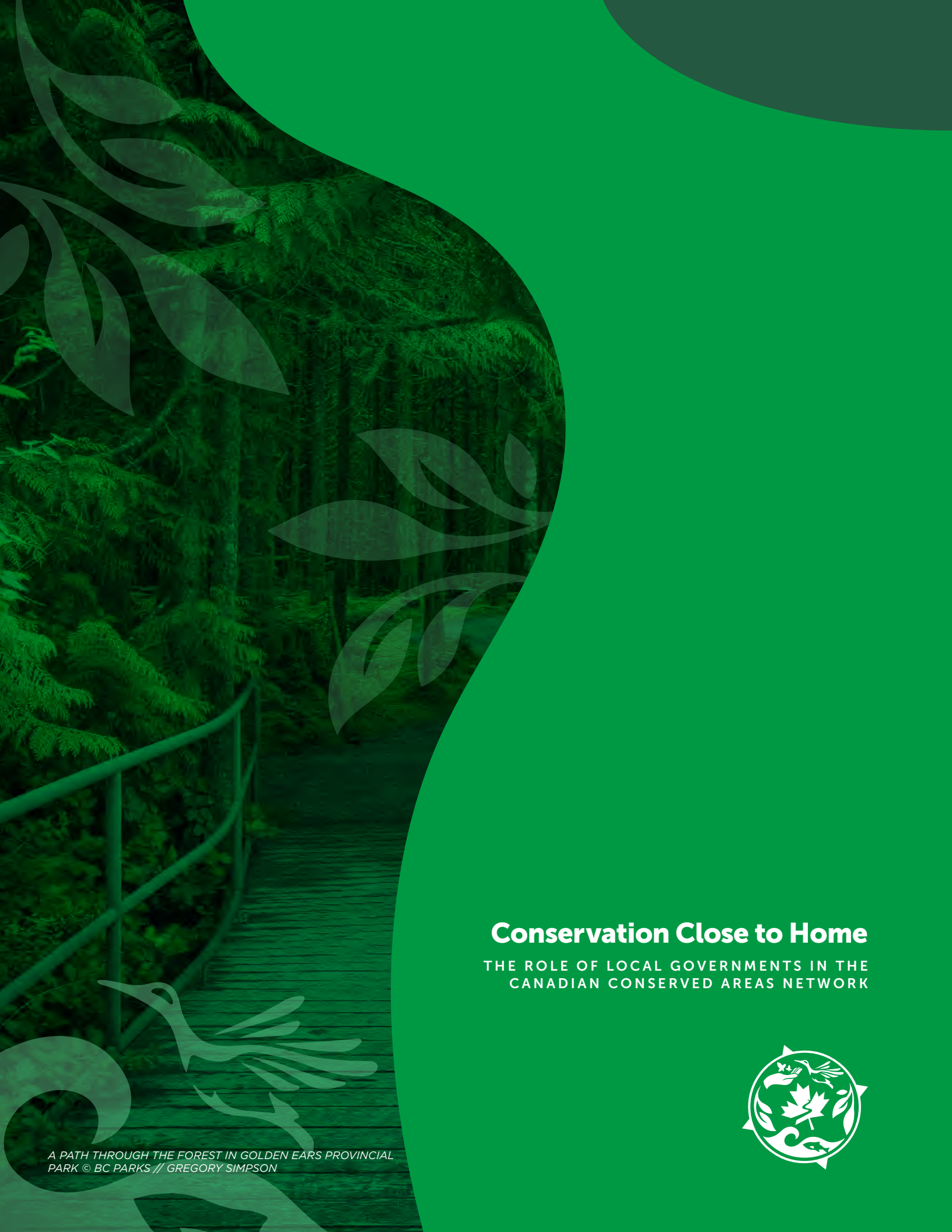


EARLY SPRING SWAMP WITH SERVICEBERRY SHRUBS IN BLOOM // CATHY QUINLAN, UTRCA

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Conservation Close to Home

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE
CANADIAN CONSERVED AREAS NETWORK



A PATH THROUGH THE FOREST IN GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL
PARK © BC PARKS // GREGORY SIMPSON