

The Kawarthas...Naturally Connected

Our Vision

“A landscape that supports the needs of people and nature, while preserving the unique character of the Kawarthas “

Background

The Kawartha region is vast. There are many different demands on the land and our valuable natural resources are limited. A diverse group of local organizations is collaborating on a plan for a landscape that supports the needs of local people and the natural environment, while ensuring we make most efficient use of our resources.

Functioning ecosystems provide all of us with essential services and countless benefits daily - clean air, clean water, protection against flooding, pollination, recreation, etc. The economic value of these services amounts to millions of dollars annually, but their contribution to our quality of life is priceless.

We are combining our strengths, expertise and assets to design of a “natural heritage system” for our region.

What is a Natural Heritage System?

A natural heritage system is made up of natural areas and features that are interconnected on the landscape. The system can include lands that have been restored or that have the potential to be restored.

Using the best available science and information, we are considering the local environmental, social, cultural and economic values to determine the components of a natural heritage system. The final products will help all of us better understand and ensure the health of our natural environment.

The Benefits of a Natural Heritage System

A natural heritage system can help to ensure that key natural areas and features remain on the landscape, for our health and enjoyment and that of future generations. The natural heritage system can be a useful tool to help individuals, organizations and communities make informed and coordinated decisions about:

- stewardship activities
- land restoration
- conservation land purchases
- land use planning decisions

- research projects

Collaboration is Key

The diverse group of partners participating include:

- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Development Advisory Committee
- City of Peterborough
- Clear/Stoney/White Lakeplan Environment Council
- County of Peterborough
- Kawartha Conservation
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
- Parks Canada - Trent Severn Waterway
- Trent University
- Victoria Stewardship Council

It is important that a diversity of perspectives and interests are represented to ensure that, as much as possible, the natural heritage system identified reflects the interests and needs of the whole of the community.

Respecting the Rights of Landowners

A natural heritage system does not dictate the actions of landowners on their property - it is not legislation. It can however provide useful information to individuals and organizations to help them steward their natural areas and features strategically and efficiently

An Opportunity to Get Involved

A natural heritage system has many potential applications. The groups listed above can provide more information about natural heritage systems and what you can do to help maintain a healthy natural environment.

For more information about “*The Kawarthas...Naturally Connected*”, contact either:

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