

# Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan



**Lake Simcoe Region**  
conservation authority

2015

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Executive Summary.....	v
Background.....	v
Consultation .....	v
Vision, Mission and Goals.....	vi
Management Plan Direction .....	vii
Business Plan Direction .....	vii
Authority Resolution .....	x
Section I: Background Report .....	11
Introduction.....	11
Site Location and Brief Description .....	12
Geology .....	14
Human History and Settlement.....	14
Climate .....	18
Soils .....	18
Hydrology .....	20
Ecosystems .....	23
Wildlife .....	26
Development and Infrastructure .....	27
Outdoor Environmental Education .....	31
Programming and Public Use .....	31
Landscape Influences .....	33
Section II: Development of the Revised Plan.....	36
Introduction.....	36
LSRCA Visioning Exercise - 2003.....	37

User Survey - 2004 .....	39
Public Workshop - 2004 .....	40
Ryerson University Student Project - 2005 .....	43
Steering Committee – 2007 .....	43
Public Workshop - 2008 .....	44
User Questionnaire - 2008 .....	46
Public Workshop - 2009 .....	48
Steering Committee – 2013 .....	49
LSRCA Project Team - 2013 .....	50
LSRCA Visioning – 2013 .....	50
Vision, Mission and Goals .....	52
Implementation Report - 2014 .....	52
Public Consultation - 2014 .....	54
Public Workshops .....	55
User Survey .....	57
Staff Consultation - 2014 .....	58
Needs Assessment – 2014 .....	61
Future Evaluation and Review of Management Plans .....	62
Section III: Management Plan .....	64
Introduction .....	64
Vision, Mission and Goals .....	64
Permitted Uses .....	65
Boundary Management .....	67
Water Resources Management .....	68
Vegetation and Wildlife Management .....	68
Infrastructure Management .....	70
Conservation Area Facilities .....	71
Program Delivery Facilities .....	71

Roads and Parking Lots.....	73
Trails.....	74
Picnic Areas, Tables and Benches.....	75
Group Camping.....	76
Bark Park Off-leash Area.....	76
Discovery Play Garden.....	77
Communication and Marketing.....	77
User Fees.....	77
Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee.....	78
Outdoor Environmental Education.....	79
Programming.....	79
Cross Departmental Collaboration.....	80
Section IV: Business Plan.....	82
Introduction.....	82
Historic Revenues.....	84
Municipal Partner Contributions.....	85
User Fees.....	85
Volunteers and Donations.....	86
Budget Projection.....	86
Projected Revenues.....	86
Special Capital.....	87
General Levy.....	87
User Fees.....	87
Program Fees.....	87
Volunteers and Donations.....	87
In-Kind Contributions.....	88
Additional Potential Revenue Sources (Grants).....	88
Historic Expenses.....	90

Projected Expenses .....	92
Administration .....	92
Programming .....	92
Amenities .....	92
Environment .....	92
Implementation Schedule .....	94
2015 .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2016 .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2017 .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2018 .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2019 .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
References .....	110
Appendix 1. Detailed projected expenses to achieve Management Plan objectives .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Appendix 2. Detailed projected revenues to achieve Management Plan objectives.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## Executive Summary

The Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management plan provides direction for the future management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

The Management Plan has been written in four sections: a **Background Report** section which summarizes information on the natural and cultural heritage of the property and its current levels of development and public use; a **Development of the Revised Plan** section which describes the consultation and plan development process as well as outlining the process for future plan review; a **Management Plan** section which identifies long- and short-term goals for the management of the property; and a **Business Plan** section which provides a description and schedule of implementation priorities, coupled with projections of revenues and expenses over a five-year period.

## Background

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is an approximately 300 ha property in the municipalities of Bradford West Gwillimbury and East Gwillimbury, in the West Holland River watershed. Much of the property is relatively inaccessible wetland habitat and public use tends to be restricted to the main tract, accessible from Line 9 of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The main tract includes upland and ravine forests, conifer plantations, and a section of Scanlon Creek. It also includes over 10 km of hiking trails, the Discovery Play Garden, Bark Park off-leash dog area, arboretum, conservation area facilities and program delivery facilities.

The property first came into public ownership in 1962 as the Bradford Conservation Area. Its first management plan, developed in 1967, provided a vision for the property as a multi-purpose recreation and conservation facility. In 1979, the Master Plan was revised to refocus the property to one which provided an example of proper resource management techniques while providing for educational and recreational uses. Since this time, the property evolved based on changes in the organization and users, leading to new management challenges and opportunities. The Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan was created in 2009 with consideration for these changes and was developed with a goal to provide opportunities for nature-based education and recreation while also providing an example of proper land and water stewardship.

## Consultation

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Consultation has played an important role in the review of the Management Plan. It provided users, stakeholders and staff with an opportunity to reflect on how they value the conservation area today, the changes they've seen over time as well as to share their thoughts and ideas for how the conservation area should be managed in the future.

Formal consultation throughout the Management Plan review process has included public and stakeholder workshops at the conservation area, a user survey and roundtable discussions with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) staff.

In 2013, a Steering Committee was struck to provide direction throughout the Management Plan review and update process. The committee met periodically to review findings in the 2009 Management Plan Implementation Report and input received from the public and staff, to examine the costs and benefits associated with proposed management direction and to provide recommendations for the final Management Plan. The Steering Committee was supported by a staff Project Team with representation from various departments within LSRCA.

### **Vision, Mission and Goals**

Several visioning sessions were conducted in the early stages of the Management Plan review process. These sessions engaged LSRCA's Executive Management Team, Steering Committee and staff Project Team. Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is one of LSRCA's largest and most visited conservation areas. As such, it was determined that it should have a new and exciting vision and mission for the future. In addition, seven goals were identified to help solidify management direction for the conservation area and assist with the development of a revised Management Plan.

Vision:

***Scanlon Creek – A Destination for Natural Inspiration***

Mission:

***Scanlon Creek – Demonstrating leadership in the conservation of the natural environment and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.***

Goals:

1. To promote and demonstrate sustainability.
2. To inspire and empower the community through environmental education.



3. To protect, restore and enhance ecosystem function.
4. To provide opportunities for healthy, active living.
5. To sustain a balance between public use and the conservation of nature.
6. To ensure sustainable resources to support operations.
7. To utilize existing infrastructure to accommodate growth in the organization.

## **Management Plan Direction**

Further to the goals described above, the Management Plan provides the long-term direction for management of the conservation area. It is developed based on the constraints and capabilities of the property, consultation with the public, stakeholders and LSRCA staff and the implementation review of the previous management plan.

More specifically, the Management Plan provides direction for:

- Enforcement of rules and regulations.
- Boundary management and the marking of boundaries.
- Involvement with development on adjacent properties.
- Securing additional land.
- Land and water stewardship.
- Infrastructure management including repairs, upgrades, replacements or the addition of new infrastructure (buildings, permanent structures, roads, trails, benches and other amenities).
- Improved communication.
- User fee rates, collection and reinvestment into the property.
- Supporting the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee.
- Program delivery (outdoor environmental education, public and external partner programs).
- Internal collaboration to implement projects and programs at the conservation area.

## **Business Plan Direction**

The Business plan identifies implementation priorities and provides a schedule for the period of 2015 - 2019, coupled with projections of revenues and expenses. Listed below are projects and programs which will support the Management Plan goals identified in the Business Plan as implementation priorities. Preliminary projections for the cost to implement these projects and programs total approximately \$1.6M over five years, and also identify a need for approximately 1.5 additional full time equivalents (FTEs). In order to successfully implement these projects and programs, LSRCA will need to pursue new funding sources and in-kind support. Funding may

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include municipal partner contributions, government and non-government funding, donations, sponsorships and volunteer support.

Implementation priorities for the period of 2015 – 2019:

<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a comprehensive communication plan</li> <li>Review parking and permit fee schedule</li> <li>Install automated pay and display stations</li> <li>Increase enforcement of user fees, off-leash dogs and other regulations</li> <li>Develop an emergency response plan</li> <li>Install exterior emergency phone at the gatehouse and beach house</li> <li>Install exterior lighting at Operations Centre</li> <li>Purchase a new mower</li> <li>Install dual sorter waste receptacles with lids</li> <li>Install solar powered motion sensor lights in vault toilet facilities</li> <li>Delineate picnic sites</li> <li>Assess arboretum and install or remove trees as required</li> <li>Design and install species labels at Arboretum</li> <li>Build and install mini-amphitheatre at Discovery Play Garden</li> <li>Install signage with emergency response contact information</li> <li>Install signage at newly delineated picnic sites</li> <li>Create property map identifying locations of pavilion and picnic sites</li> <li>Replace trail map at Head of Trails kiosk</li> <li>Install trail map holders at Head of Trails, gatehouse and pay and display stations</li> <li>Continue building accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden</li> <li>Assess trails and assign technical skill level and appropriate uses</li> <li>Design and begin construction of boardwalk</li> <li>Build accessible parking near Discovery Play Garden</li> <li>Develop a citizen scientist monitoring program</li> <li>Complete creek restoration and dam bypass project</li> <li>Initiate semiannual cross departmental meetings</li> <li>Initiate annual implementation tracking</li> </ul>
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire weekend gatehouse staff for May to October</li> <li>Purchase a new tractor and grading disc</li> <li>Install accessible pit privy at north pavilion</li> <li>Install native plant garden at Discovery Play Garden</li> <li>Design and install interpretive signage for natural and historical features</li> <li>Install kiosk at gatehouse</li> <li>Complete accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden</li> <li>Complete construction of boardwalk</li> </ul>

	<p>Close and restore areas where trails are no longer used</p> <p>Review and update trail way finding signage</p> <p>Build area for vehicles to pull over near gatehouse</p> <p>Under plant trees and shrubs along the entrance drive</p> <p>Continue ecological restoration work around the creek and wetland</p> <p>Install low impact development (LID) landscape features at Operations Centre</p>
<b>2017</b>	<p>Install nature based obstacle course at Discovery Play Garden</p> <p>Relocate public entrance and small dog area to the south end of Bark Park</p> <p>Install new bridge to cross creek near dam</p> <p>Pave entrance drive to gatehouse</p> <p>Build public road and parking at south end of Bark Park</p> <p>Complete one restoration project annually as identified in the Subwatershed Stewardship Plan</p>
<b>2018</b>	<p>Review and update trail map and guide</p>
<b>2019</b>	<p>Initiate five-year review of Management Plan</p> <p>Install a mini-pavilion or shade structure near Head of Trails</p>

## Conservation Authority Resolution

### *Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan*

At LSRCA Board of Directors Meeting No. BOD-02-15 held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: D. Kerwin

Seconded by: A. Eek

BOD-021-15 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 04-15-BOD regarding the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan be received; and FURTHER THAT the Management Plan and associated Business Plan be approved; and FURTHER THAT Conservation Authority staff continue to pursue funding and in-kind support to implement the recommendations of the Management Plan.**  
CARRIED

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## Section I: Background Report

### Introduction

Since 1951, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has provided a leadership role in the protection and restoration of the environmental health of the Lake Simcoe watershed. LSRCA is mandated under the provincial *Conservation Authorities Act* to “establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.”

In order to meet this mandate, the Conservation Authority works with government, non-profit and community partners to support a number of programs including watershed-level analysis, modelling and planning; forestry and private land stewardship programs; and a system of conservation areas.

Conservation areas have represented a significant resource for residents in the watershed and beyond and have enhanced the open space and outdoor recreation opportunities offered by local municipalities. The protection of these lands as well as the access for public use is seen as one of the most important contributions that LSRCA makes to the communities it serves. As the watershed continues to urbanize, the role of conservation areas and other natural areas in the landscape will become even more critical.

To date, LSRCA has acquired over 1500 hectares of conservation lands with the financial support of Regional and local municipalities, the province, private donations, and other conservation organizations. These lands include significant natural areas such as valleys, forests, and wetlands which provide a range of benefits to the public, from strict natural heritage protection, to more intensive recreational and educational facilities such as those provided at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

At approximately 300 ha, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is one of the largest conservation areas in LSRCA’s jurisdiction and has been enjoyed by the public since 1963 for its educational programs, natural environment, trails, and other recreational features. Over the years, changes in staffing levels, infrastructure and recreational features as well as increasing population, changing demographics, shifts in public expectations and additions to the property base have led to new challenges and opportunities in managing this conservation area.

The purpose of a conservation area management plan is to establish long- and short-term goals, and to develop strategies by which the goals can be achieved. They should be flexible enough to address unforeseen issues which may arise in the future and should be integrated with the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan as well as the landscape within which the property is situated.

Successful management planning requires a full understanding and appreciation of the site's natural history features, usage levels and patterns, and the constraints influencing the use of the area. This background report provides a summary of the history and evolution in management and associated human and wildlife use of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area since acquisition. This reference document will act as a baseline of information for future conservation area management and can be used in subsequent stages of the Management Plan review.

### **Site Location and Brief Description**

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is situated in lots 16 to 22 Concession IX and lot 18 Concession X of the Township of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Simcoe County and lot 125 Concession I of the Township of East Gwillimbury, Regional Municipality of York (Figure 1). The area is approximately 4 km north of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and is within 60 km of the City of Toronto.

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area consists of five tracts. Most public use of the property occurs on the main tract, which can be accessed from Line 9. This tract contains upland and ravine forests, a portion of Scanlon Creek, over 10 km of hiking trails, picnic areas and pavilions, group camping areas, the Prof. E.A. Smith Natural Resources Outdoor Education Centre (now home to LSRCA's Stewardship, Forestry and Environmental Education teams and also referred to as the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre), a day-use Nature Centre, the field services workshop and storage buildings, Discovery Play Garden and the Bark Park, off-leash dog area. Directly north of Line 10 is former farmland that has been the focus of reforestation and habitat stewardship projects since acquisition. To the east of the railway track lie the nature reserve portions of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Primarily wetland in nature, these parcels range from cattail marsh to deciduous swamp and have no visitor use facilities developed on them.

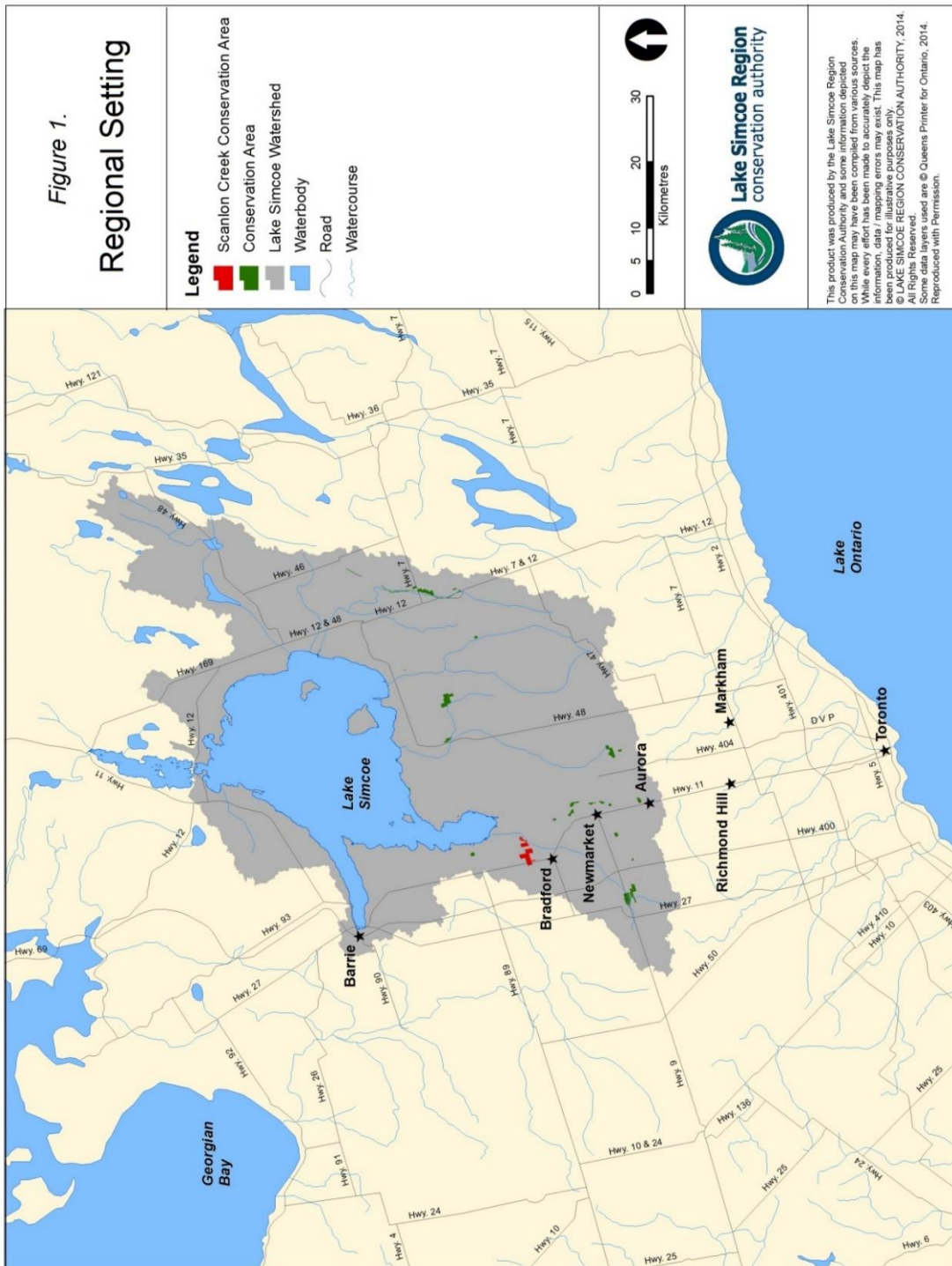


Figure 1: Scanlon Creek Conservation Area's regional setting

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## Geology<sup>1</sup>

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area lies within the Lake Simcoe basin physiographic region. This area is thought to be part of the valley of the ancient Laurentian River. Before the Wisconsinan glaciation, southern Ontario had very different topography, including rivers as precursors to the present day Great Lakes. The Laurentian River, one of the largest of these, drained through the area which contains present day Lake Michigan and Georgian Bay before crossing York Region to present day Lake Ontario, eventually draining into the precursor of the St Lawrence River.

Although the advance of the glaciers during the ice age obliterated the river, its valley provided a naturally low relief in the landscape, which the advancing glaciers tended to follow. The relatively soft substrate in this pre-glacial river valley also provided ideal conditions for the pooling of the melting ice water, eventually developing into the proglacial Lakes Algonquin and Iroquois, and the present day Great Lakes and Lake Simcoe.

The Lake Simcoe basin physiographic region was part of the area flooded by Lake Algonquin. The floor of this valley is now dominated by lacustrine sands, silts and clays. Glacial melt waters cut deep spillways throughout this basin, including the valley through which Scanlon Creek flows.

## Human History and Settlement<sup>2</sup>

The Lake Simcoe basin, including the Holland River, has long played an important role in the culture and economy of native and European people living in Ontario. The Hurons, though centred on Georgian Bay, had villages along the west side of Lake Simcoe, including Cook's Bay. These villages were sustained by agriculture and needed to be relocated periodically as soil nutrients became depleted. Archaeological evidence suggests that at least one such village was located on Line 11 of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The Holland River was also an important travel corridor for natives hunting and trading between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario. The 'carrying place' trail which extended between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario took advantage of the Holland River between Cook's Bay and

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Deane (1950) and Chapman and Putnam (1966)

<sup>2</sup> Based on Miles and Co. (1878), Trigger (1976) and Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association (2005)



the Oak Ridges Moraine. In addition, Holland Marsh was likely a congregation point for native hunters during waterfowl migrations.

The wildlife, particularly beaver, inhabiting the area attracted the attention of Iroquois hunters to the south. As they tried to expand their territory north of Lake Ontario to expand their fur trading empire, they came into conflict with the resident Hurons. This area became one of the fronts in the Iroquois-Huron wars of the 1600s, evidence of which has been found within Bradford West Gwillimbury somewhat to the west of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

In 1818, a treaty for these lands was signed between the Chippewas and the government of Upper Canada. The area was surveyed in 1819 and settlers began moving in that year, with additional immigrants arriving in the early 1820s. The property, which is currently Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, was settled in 1824 by the Scanlon family who immigrated to the area from Ireland.

These properties started to come into LSRCA possession starting in 1963 as the 'Bradford Conservation Area' with the acquisition of 39 hectares of farmland from Lewis Coombs (Figure 2). This was expanded with the purchase of additional upland area as well as the Scanlon Creek valley from the Scanlon, Brown and Lee families in 1965 and 1966. Additional acquisitions from Samuel Lee in 1971 and Olive Lee in 1975 incorporated wetland habitat into the property. The wetland component was expanded again in 1980 with the purchase of approximately 150 acres of marsh from Allan Studholme. The most recent addition to the conservation area was the Collings tract which was acquired in 2006 in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

In 1967, a Master Development Plan was created for the area, then known as the Bradford Conservation Area, to direct the Holland Valley Conservation Authority in meeting their vision of the property as a multi-purpose recreation and conservation facility. This plan proposed the development of a fairly extensive system of trails with associated parking lots and picnic facilities, reforestation of part of the property, the development of the reservoir and camping facilities, as well as the development of crop demonstration sites and equestrian facilities on the abandoned farmland<sup>3</sup>. This Master Plan also recommended changing the name of the property to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area to better reflect the social history of the site.

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<sup>3</sup> Canadian Mitchell Associates (1967)

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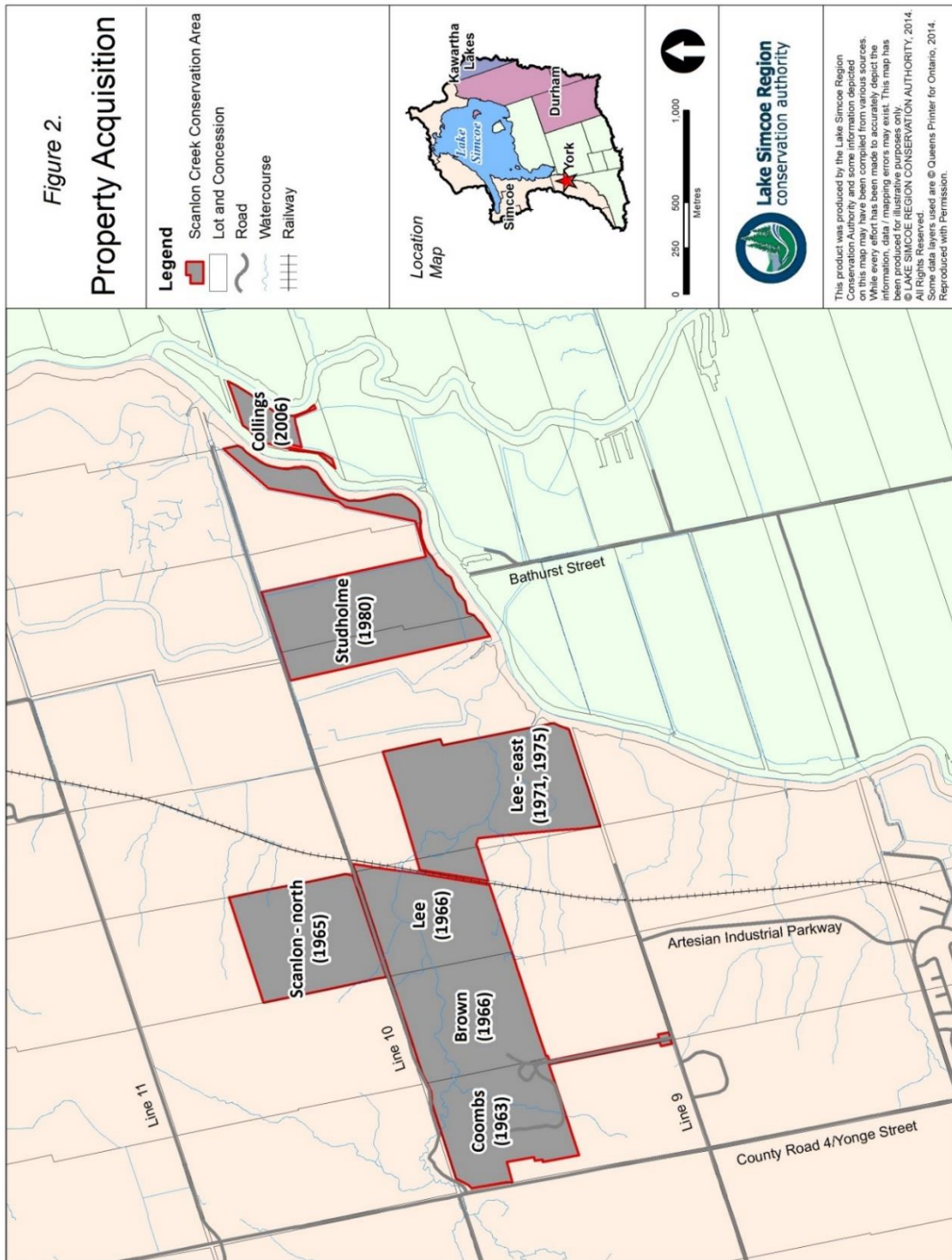
In 1979, the Master Plan was revised to refocus the property to one which provided “an example of proper resource management techniques while providing for educational and recreational uses”. Management changes identified by this plan included the reforestation of the farmland, and expansion and improvement of the existing trail system, construction of a platform at the reservoir, and emphasis on supporting the Education Centre and the acquisition of additional adjacent natural areas<sup>4</sup>.

Since then, the property evolved based on changes in the organization and users of the property. As such, new challenges and opportunities arose in managing the conservation area. The Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan was created in 2009, with consideration for these changes, and was developed with the goal that Scanlon Creek Conservation Area be managed to provide an example of proper land and water stewardship. Opportunities for nature-based education and recreation will be provided while maintaining a balance between public use and the conservation of nature<sup>5</sup>. The Business Plan component of the 2009 Management Plan provided a schedule of implementation priorities and responsibilities over a five-year period, including completing a review of the Management Plan in 2013 to ensure that it continues to reflect current site conditions and public uses, and addresses current management challenges.

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<sup>4</sup> South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (1979)

<sup>5</sup> LSRCA (2009b)



**Figure 2: Scanlon Creek Conservation Area property acquisition history**

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## Climate

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is in the Simcoe and Kawartha Lakes climatic region<sup>6</sup>. Over the past thirty years, precipitation in Bradford has averaged 816 mm per year, of which an average of 691 mm has been rainfall. Average annual temperature over this period has been 7.0°C, with average minimums of -10.9 °C in January and average maximums of 26.3°C in July<sup>7</sup>.

Climate change projections suggest that by mid-century this region may experience an increase in annual average annual temperatures of 2-3°C in the summers and 3-4°C in the winters. Over the next thirty years, the annual amount of precipitation is expected to decrease by as much as 10%.<sup>8</sup>.

## Soils

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area includes a mix of well- and poorly drained soils<sup>9</sup> (Figure 3). The open wetland areas immediately adjacent to the Holland River are underlain by organic soil. This low-lying area has almost always been saturated with water since the last glacial event, allowing organic debris to accumulate rather than decompose. This partially decomposed organic matter increases the water holding capacity of the soil and has allowed the development of the Holland Marsh.

Immediately east of the railway tracks, the Lee tract is a heavily forested parcel and lies in a depressional area where Granby sandy loam has accumulated. Granby sandy loam is composed of a layer of porous soil less than one metre deep over a layer of clay. This layering of soil textures in a flat region such as this tends to promote a perched water table, allowing the development of swamp conditions.

Bordering these low-lying areas are proglacial beaches and shore cliffs. The ridge near the railway track is an example of such a beach ridge. The topography in this area is moderately sloping, except where Scanlon Creek has cut a deep valley in the landscape. These upland portions of the conservation area tend to be underlain by Bondhead loam soils. The drainage is typically good and the soil is porous and slightly stony. This relatively fertile and easy to work soil allowed this area to be farmed prior to acquisition.

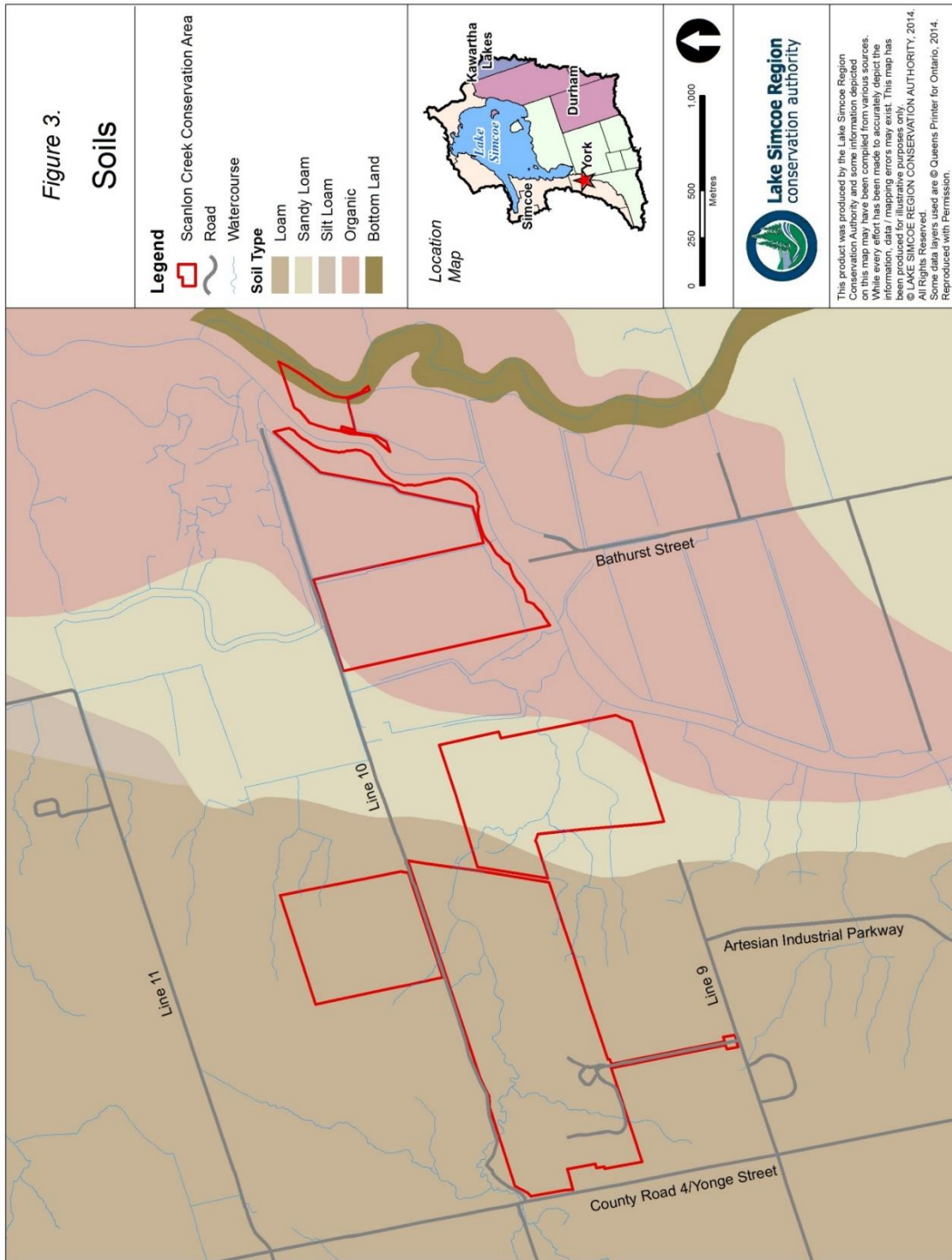
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<sup>6</sup> Brown et al. (1981)

<sup>7</sup> Based on Environment Canada's Canadian Climate Normals database (2013)

<sup>8</sup> Colombo et al. (2007)

<sup>9</sup> Hoffman et al. (1962)



**Figure 3: Soils at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area**

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## Hydrology

Scanlon Creek runs west to east through the main tract of the conservation area. Drainage in this parcel is via overland flow on the steep slopes, groundwater flow, and a few small tributaries that feed the creek (Figure 4). Although the volume of water in this creek is often low, particularly in the summer, in the early days of settlement there was enough flow in this system to support a grist mill and six sawmills. Although all traces of these mills are now gone, a stone from the grist mill remains on display near the Operations Centre (Education Centre).

Scanlon Creek drains into the West Holland River just outside of the conservation area's eastern boundary. The flat and poorly drained conditions at the junction of the east and west branches of the Holland River have allowed the development of the Holland Marsh, an extensive wetland that once covered much of this area. The easternmost portions of the conservation area still remain as marsh habitat, driven by the poorly drained soil in the area.

In 1970, the Authority constructed an earthen berm and concrete spillway at one of the historic dam sites to allow the development of a 4 hectare reservoir with a beach for fishing and swimming. By 1979, the water quality became a concern in this reservoir<sup>10</sup>, with conditions generally getting worse over the years<sup>11</sup>. A combination of point- and non-point sources of pollution upstream in the watershed caused the creek to often exceed provincial guidelines for nitrogen, phosphorus, biological oxygen demand and *E. coli*. Water quality concerns came to a head in the late 1990s with a report from a visitor that a pet had gotten sick after drinking the water. In 2003, these ongoing concerns with water quality led the Conservation Authority to permanently close the beach to swimming<sup>12</sup>. The online nature of the reservoir had also degraded fish habitat by fragmenting migration corridors and increasing water temperature.

In 2009, LSRCA completed the Scanlon Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Plan with an objective to improve water quality and quantity in Scanlon Creek by implementing restoration opportunities in its subwatershed. A total of 88 aquatic Best Management Practices (BMPs) were identified for the Scanlon Creek subwatershed through the first phase of the Lake Simcoe Basin Best Management Inventory<sup>13</sup>. BMPs are stewardship practices that can be implemented through environmental projects to improve groundwater and surface water quality and

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<sup>10</sup> South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (1979)

<sup>11</sup> Based on LSRCA internal reports and discussions with staff

<sup>12</sup> LSRCA (2011)

<sup>13</sup> LSRCA (2009a)



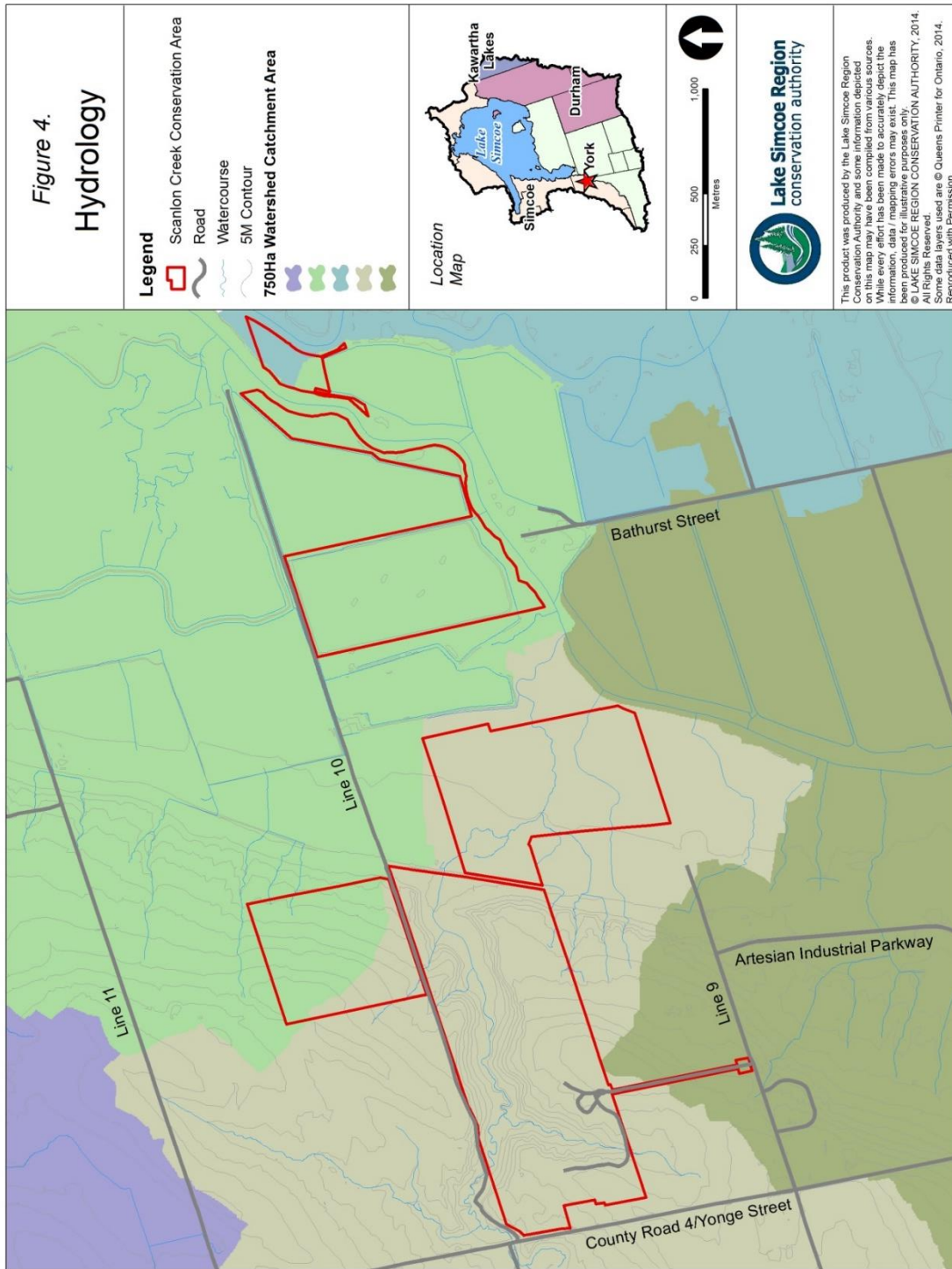
quantity and enhance aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat. If implemented, the identified BMPs in the Scanlon Creek subwatershed could reduce temperature in the creek, the rate of sediment, nutrient and bacteria inputs to the creek, and improve connectivity within the drainage network for migrating and dispersing fishes. Of the 88 identified sites, 13 were located within Scanlon Creek Conservation Area with potential restoration opportunities that include addressing culverts, sediment accumulation, streambank erosion, footbridges, failed channel hardening, and impervious surface runoff.

In 2011, LSRCA completed a Class Environmental Assessment for the Scanlon Creek Reservoir to identify alternative solutions to improve the chemical and physical components of fish habitat, while maintaining or enhancing recreational and educational values in the conservation area. The assessment process was used as a vehicle for reviewing and evaluating stewardship options for this system and it was found that the preferred alternatives would involve i) removing the existing dam on Scanlon Creek; (ii) re-establishing a free-flowing creek channel; (iii) establishing adjacent wetland habitat in the newly exposed area; and, (iv) environmental monitoring of the construction process<sup>14</sup>. Shortly after the Environmental Assessment was completed, water was removed from the reservoir by way of the emergency bypass pipe located on the north side of the dam and a new stream channel established naturally through the bed where the reservoir previously existed. The first 100 m of newly established stream channel was naturalized using bioengineering techniques. This included installing live willow stakes and native potted shrubs along the slope of the creek's banks to further assist in stabilization. Work to naturalize the remainder of the new creek channel has continued through 2014 and completion of this work is anticipated for 2015.

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<sup>14</sup> LSRCA (2011)





**Figure 4: Hydrology for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area**

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## Ecosystems<sup>15</sup>

Ecosystems at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area include a mix of forest, wetland, open aquatic and manicured areas; existing as a result of variations in topography and underlying soil conditions, management history, and natural processes such as succession and competition (Figure 5).

The valley bottom associated with Scanlon Creek supports white cedar-dominated forests. These forests can include a mix of yellow birch and white ash as subdominants. Along the sides of the ravine, forests tend to be dominated by eastern hemlock and sugar maple with American beech, white birch, white cedar, ironwood, white ash, and basswood.

Since the cessation of farming on this land, the upland portions of the property have become reforested, through both active restoration and natural succession. Extensive second growth deciduous forest, composed of sugar maple, white ash, red oak, American beech, hemlock and bitternut hickory, and plantations consisting of mixes of red pine, white pine, white spruce, and others provide a mix of forest habitat to the property.

Some younger forests on the property are still in early stages of succession. These communities tend to be dominated by white ash and include species such as hawthorn, apple, staghorn sumac and European buckthorn. Small old-field communities dominated by goldenrods, asters, and non-native grasses are scattered throughout the property, the largest of which is in the Scanlon north tract. As well, a few open manicured areas are associated with the picnic areas, pavilions, education facilities, and group camping sites.

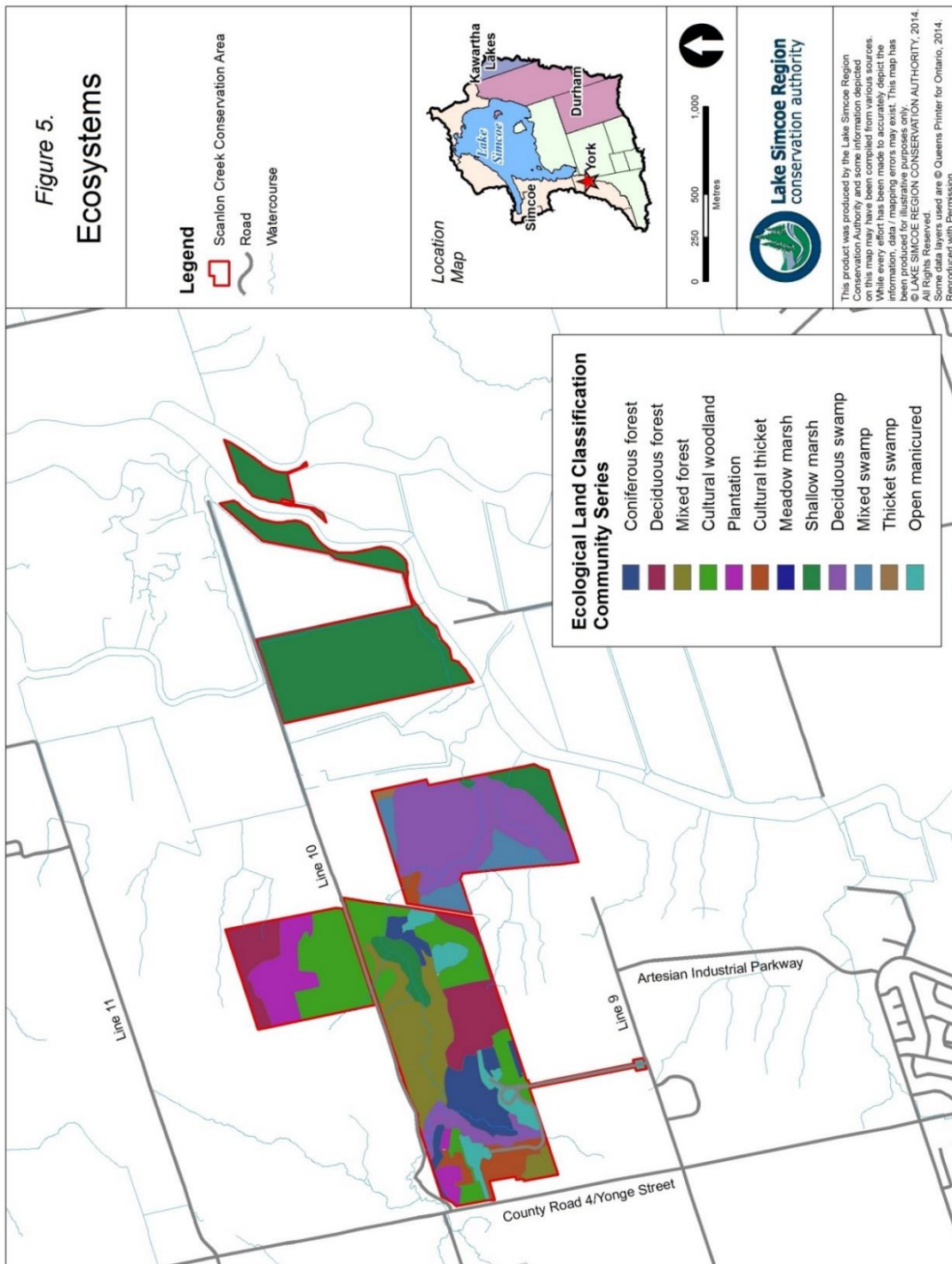
The easternmost portion of the conservation area lies within Holland Marsh, a large wetland feature that has been identified both as provincially significant wetland and provincially significant area of natural and scientific interest. Closest to the river, the habitat is dominated by cattail communities, sometimes interspersed by patches of shrubs. Further away from the river, where the land gets a bit higher and soil slightly more porous, swamps composed of black ash, red maple, sugar maple and white cedar become dominant.

Several watershed rare species, including the sedges *Carex bromoides* and *Carex woodii* can be found here, as can the provincially protected butternut tree (Endangered).

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<sup>15</sup> Based on LSRCA (2008)

Throughout the property, and generally associated with forest edges and trails, a number of non-native invasive species such as garlic mustard, dog strangling vine, European buckthorn, and tartarian honeysuckle can be found.



**Figure 5: Ecosystems at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area by Ecological Land Classification Community Series**

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## Wildlife<sup>16</sup>

The size of the property and diversity of ecosystems within its boundaries provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Small forests in the upland areas of the conservation area provide habitat for species such as northern cardinals, American robins, song sparrows, black-capped chickadees, gray catbirds, yellow warblers, blue jays, pine warblers, spring peepers, wood frogs, gray treefrogs, American toads, and blue-spotted salamander.

The ravine along Scanlon Creek, and the adjacent large deciduous forests provide habitat for ovenbirds, pileated woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches, winter wrens, red-eyed vireos, eastern wood pewees, great-crested flycatchers, black-throated green warblers, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

Open grassy or shrubby areas support breeding bird communities dominated by willow flycatchers, field sparrows, European starlings, chipping sparrows and brown-headed cowbirds.

The mix of swamp and marsh within the Holland Marsh wetland complex creates habitat for northern waterthrushes, veery, rose-breasted grosbeaks, red-winged blackbirds, mallards, Canada geese, American bitterns, common yellowthroats, yellow warblers, northern leopard frogs, green frogs and bull frogs. It also provides habitat for migratory waterfowl such as bufflehead and green-winged teal.

Throughout much of the property, mammals which are typical of natural areas in rural landscapes, including deer, raccoons, red fox, coyotes, Virginia opossums, and porcupine, can also be found. The nature reserve tracts are particularly important habitat for species such as deer, ruffed grouse, and wild turkey which are relatively sensitive to the presence of people and dogs.

Scanlon Creek is considered a coldwater system and provides habitat for the sensitive mottled sculpin. Historically, the creek and reservoir also held largemouth bass, white suckers, yellow perch, and northern pike, as well as stocked rainbow trout<sup>17</sup>. Before the installation of the water control structure, Scanlon Creek had annual spawning runs of suckers<sup>18</sup>. Now that the

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<sup>16</sup> Based on LSRCA (2008)

<sup>17</sup> South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (1979); Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (1986)

<sup>18</sup> Canadian Mitchell Associates Ltd. (1967)

reservoir has been drained, it is anticipated that these species may return once the creek has been fully restored to a connected free flowing aquatic system.

Quite a few watershed rare species can be found, throughout this range of habitat types, including black tern, yellow rail, American bittern, red-bellied woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, black-throated green warbler and sharp-shinned hawk.

## **Development and Infrastructure**

Infrastructure at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is primarily limited to facilities that support non-consumptive day-use, limited overnight camping, and that support the operations of the educational programs.

The main entrance to the conservation area is an unpaved gravel road accessed from Line 9. Visitors to the Bark Park and off-leash dog area, may access the property from County Road 4 (Yonge Street), where additional parking is provided closer to the Bark Park facility. Additional access to the northern picnic area is provided from Line 10 (Figure 6). The Scanlon tract, north of Line 10, is not available for public use but does house a weather station at its southern end which is owned and maintained by Environment Canada.

Approximately 5 km of internal gravel roads in the conservation area provide access to the picnic pavilions, Bark Park, Discovery Play Garden, Scanlon Creek and hiking trails. These roads are available to users during the summer but in the off-season, access is limited to the main roads and the remainder of the conservation area can be accessed by foot. A mix of gravel and grassed parking lots are provided at the picnic pavilions, Bark Park, Discovery Play Garden, education facilities and Head of Trails.

Approximately 10 km of trails, split into 4 trail loops (Kingfisher, Chickadee, Evergreen and Sugar Maple), wind through the main tract of the conservation area. The trails have a natural surface for most of their length but sections consist of limestone crushings, boardwalks and bridges. The trail system links the various parts of the conservation area and provides a range of recreational opportunities, from walking along fairly short flat trails, to hiking longer, more challenging trails.

To support the use of swimming and picnicking at the reservoir in the past, the Authority built a changing station known as the beach house and imported sand to create a beach. Since the closure of the reservoir for swimming, the beach has become overgrown and the Beach House has remained unused.



Picnic tables and benches are dispersed throughout the conservation area. A picnic pavilion was built on the bluffs south of the old beach area and provides a panoramic view of the upper reaches of the Holland River. The picnic area adjacent to Line 10 consists of an open grass area with tables, a picnic shelter, and a large parking area.

A group camping area near the southern pavilion provides a relatively rustic place for youth groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to enjoy overnight activities. However, changes to the *Safe Drinking Water Act* prompted LSRCA to decommission the drinking water service to these sites.

The Operations Centre (Education Centre) was built in 1978 to provide conservation education to area school children, and named after Professor E.A. Smith, a life-long conservationist and long-term member of the Board of the Holland Valley Conservation Authority. Originally built to accommodate 40 students, the building was expanded in the early 1990s to provide room for 60 students and their teachers. Facilities in the building included dormitories, a library and nature room, laboratory, classrooms, kitchen, and dining facilities. When the overnight programming ceased, the building remained relatively unused for several years. Since 2013, certain areas of the building have been converted to offices and meeting space to accommodate a growing LSRCA staff complement.

In the early 1990s, an additional facility, the day-use Nature Centre, was built. This facility has two classrooms as well as washrooms to support day-use by school groups or other organizations. The day-use Nature Centre continues to serve roughly 4000 students from local school boards annually.

The farm buildings on the original Coombes farm were acquired with the property and were the basis of the current workshop, maintenance and storage facilities. In addition, the Coombes family farmhouse was used as housing for the conservation area Superintendent for a number of years. When that position ceased to exist, the Authority rented the house as a residential unit. More recently, however, as water quality and quantity in the well has declined and drinking water regulations have become stricter, the house has remained unused.

The permanent buildings on site are serviced with hydro and telephone. An attempt has been made to blend these services with the natural setting by burying cables and the judicious placing of hydro transformers. A comprehensive water treatment system has been installed to service the Operations Centre (Education Centre) and the Nature Centre in accordance with Provincial water quality regulations.



In 2010, an off-leash dog area, the Bark Park, was added to the property to help curb issues associated with off-leash dogs. It encompasses a fenced area that totals about three acres and includes both an area for large and small dogs. The addition of the Bark Park was a result of feedback received from public users of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. There was a desire to have an area designated for dogs to be off-leash, where they could enjoy running free and interacting with other dogs without negatively impacting other users at the conservation area. The creation of the Bark Park has reduced the occurrence of dog feces along trails and has also created a more positive experience for visitors.

The Discovery Play Garden, a nature inspired children's play area, approximately one acre in size, was added to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in 2011. It includes several elements that are intended to encourage creative play and stimulate the imagination. Some of the key features include a hill slide, sandbox, wacky posts, musical instruments and the big rock. Additions to the Discovery Play Garden have been made since its official opening and include a drawing board and log fort. Further future additions are anticipated as need and interest dictates. The Discovery Play Garden is located near the southern picnic pavilion where it is enjoyed by families either visiting for the day or participating in group events.

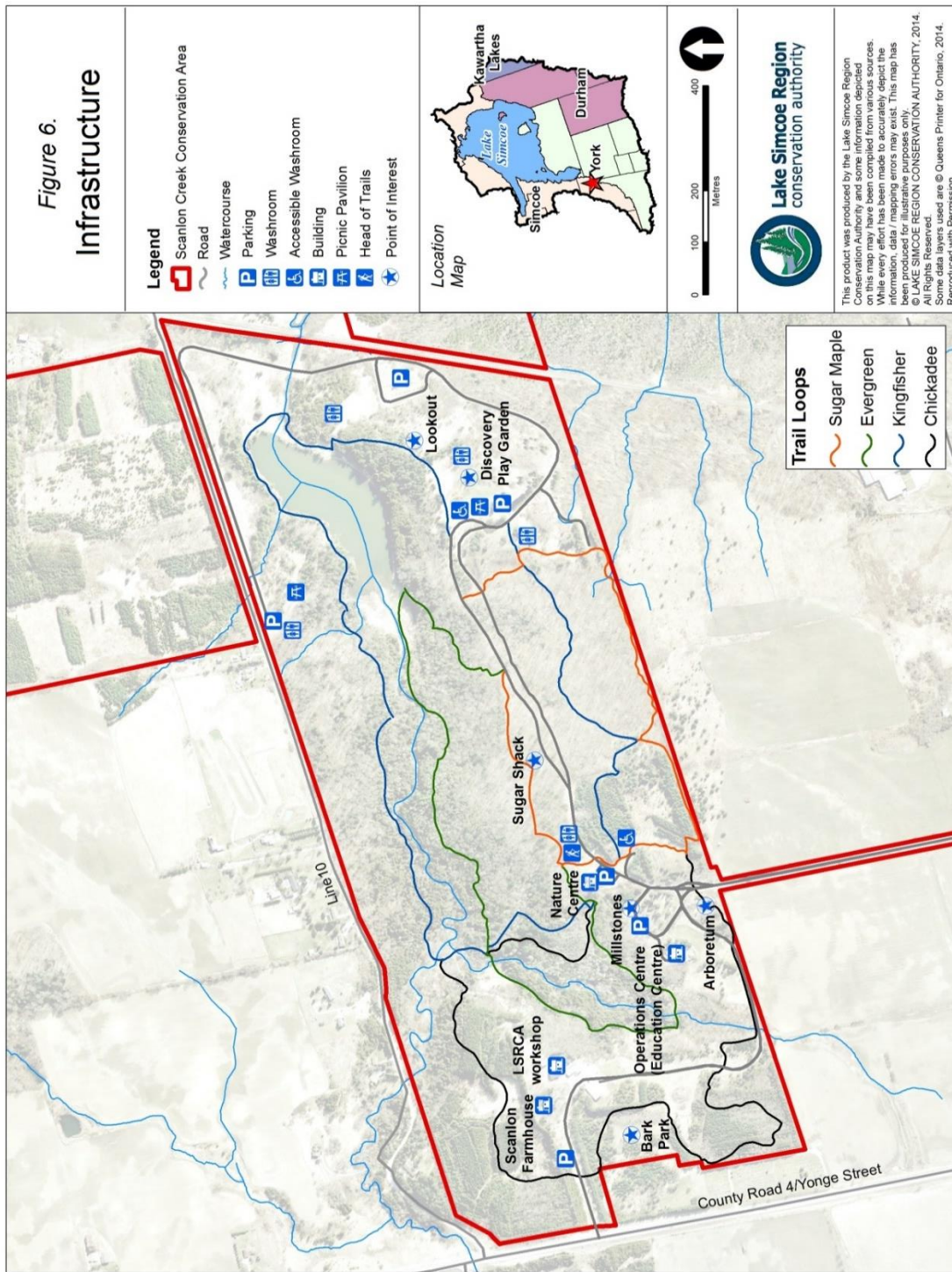


Figure 6: Infrastructure at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

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## Outdoor Environmental Education

Established in 1978, the Scanlon Creek Outdoor Environmental Education Program has a strong tradition and legacy within LSRCA and the outdoor education sector as a whole. Programming began with the opening of the Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre in partnership with the York Region Boards of Education. Students and teachers, generally from grades 6 through 8, experienced a truly unique and immersive education experience that extended over two to three days, including overnight programming and accommodations. In the early 1990s, outdoor environmental education programming at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area was expanded through the addition of day-programs, delivered at the Nature Centre. This expansion provided capacity for the participation of schools both within and beyond York Region and, most importantly, allowed LSRCA to engage students of all grades and ages.

Since its origins, nearly four decades ago, LSRCA's Outdoor Environmental Education Program at Scanlon Creek experienced a major operational shift. Beginning with the 2011/12 school year, LSRCA repositioned its Scanlon Creek outdoor environmental education program to focus solely on day-visits. This was a significant first step towards achieving a revitalized education program that ensures the continuation of relevant, high-quality programs that meet the needs of communities across the Lake Simcoe watershed. Today's programming is based solely at the Nature Centre with an additional building, the beach house, used in program operations to store equipment and provide a staging area for aquatic programs. Education programming occurs daily March through June and September through November and operates on a fee for service basis, including contracted service and sponsorship program arrangements. LSRCA's partner, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF), provides important support through its annual donation to the program.

Through its education programs, LSRCA strives to raise awareness, impart knowledge, create understanding, and appreciation. These are the foundations that inspire and support positive action. LSRCA's Outdoor Environmental Education Program at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area plays a significant and important role.

## Programming and Public Use

The Friends of Scanlon Creek is a volunteer committee of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF) which was initiated in 2012. They are a dedicated group of local community members who volunteer their time to improving the user experience at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. They provide a range of services which include delivering a public nature program, coordinating community events and organizing fundraising and volunteer events to

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help maintain the property. Program content varies from learning how to identify birds and capture nature photos to walking the trails in the dark and listening for owls. Public programming through the Friends has engaged numerous local and neighboring community members and continues to expand based on interest and the availability of program facilitators.

According to past user surveys conducted at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, individual users of the conservation area generally fall into one of two categories<sup>19</sup>. The first category includes visitors from the Bradford area, who tend to be long-term users of the site. They typically visit regularly throughout the year, including both weekdays and weekends. Their primary recreational use of the property is hiking, nature appreciation or dog walking. Many of these users walk or bike to the site. The second category includes visitors who come from more than 30 km away, typically visit on weekends and limit their visits to the summer months. These users picnic, and enjoy the trails; however, many of these visitors that were surveyed were first time users of the conservation area.

Despite these differences in origin and time of use, users range from young families with children to seniors who come to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area for a combination of picnicking, hiking, and nature appreciation. Other activities that users participate in less frequently include biking, running, bird watching, photography and community events<sup>20</sup>. In addition to individual users, approximately 25% of the visitors to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area come for group events. These groups tend to use the camping and picnic pavilions between April and October.

Campers using Scanlon Creek Conservation Area tend to be youth groups (predominantly Guides and Scouts) coming from Bradford, Newmarket, or other surrounding communities. Users of the picnic pavilions tend to be church or other community groups coming from these communities as well as more distant areas such as North York, Toronto, and Orillia.

In the past, the reservoir was the main draw to the property as people came to swim, picnic, or fish. Since the closure of the swimming facilities, however, this visitor group has decreased and local trail users have become the largest user group.

Although hunting has never been permitted in the conservation area, the Holland Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area, which is located immediately to the north of the conservation area, is

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<sup>19</sup> LSRCA (2004), Sharma (2007) and LSRCA (2012)

<sup>20</sup> LSRCA (2014a)

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heavily used for waterfowl hunting. Primary access for the wildlife management area is from Line 10. The Studholme tract, which is on the south side of the road, often experiences spillover from the Provincial wildlife area.

## Landscape Influences

No protected area can effectively be managed without an understanding of the influences of the property on the surrounding landscape and vice-versa.

The Lee east, Studholme and Collings tracts (Figure 2) are designated Protected Countryside by the Provincial Greenbelt Plan (2005) and are within the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System. A portion of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area also lies partially within the Holland Marsh which has been recognized for its ecological significance in a number of studies<sup>21</sup>. This large wetland complex provides habitat for a number of fish, waterfowl, and colonial water birds, including some provincially rare species. It also acts as a filter, reducing contaminant levels in the Holland River before it enters Lake Simcoe, as well as adding to the character and farm economy of the area.

One of the major recreational uses of the marsh is during the fall migratory game bird season. Hunters using this area include a mix of local residents and people traveling north from Toronto. Although hunting is prohibited in the conservation area, some of the people coming to hunt in the Holland Marsh Wildlife Management Area hunt in the Studholme tract as well. Associated with this non-sanctioned use are the creation of unofficial trails through the marsh and the deposition of garbage and shotgun shells.

One of the most obvious impacts the surrounding landscape has is on water quality in Scanlon Creek. The conservation area is at the downstream end of a 20 km<sup>2</sup> subwatershed. Water quality has long been a concern in the creek<sup>22</sup>, but over the years it has degraded to the point that the reservoir had to be closed to swimming. Water quality concerns in the creek include high levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, suspended sediments, and *E. coli*. Although at least some of these contaminants come from a suspected point source of pollutants upstream, the relative lack of forest cover along the Scanlon Creek suggest that non-point source pollutants may be a factor as well. Regulations and plans under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* provide additional mechanisms for addressing some of the suspected point- and non-point-source pollution in the

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<sup>21</sup> E.g., Ecologistics Ltd (1982), Power et al. (1984) and Hanna (1984)

<sup>22</sup> South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (1979)

Scanlon Creek watershed. Impacts from within the property, including dog feces, no doubt also contribute to poor water quality. The impacts of the contaminants are exacerbated by the relatively low flow in the creek throughout much of the year, driven by a lack of storage capacity in the upper reaches of the watershed.

In the future, the impacts of the surrounding landscape on the conservation area can only be expected to increase. The Bradford area has been designated as one of Ontario's Places to Grow<sup>23</sup> and both Bradford West Gwillimbury and East Gwillimbury expect to experience a significant increase in population over the next 20 years. Along with a growing population, significant development in the area can also be expected. The urban area of Bradford will eventually expand to abut the southern boundary of the conservation area on the east side of the main entrance drive (Figure 7). This land is currently used for agricultural purposes. Along with the expansion of urban area, a transportation link between highway 400 and highway 404, known as the Bradford Bypass, is planned for future construction just south of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Additionally, in 2009, Bradford West Gwillimbury acquired a 97 acre parcel of land west of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area at the southwest corner of Line 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> Sideroad<sup>24</sup>. The land was donated to the municipality to provide active and passive recreation opportunities and is known as Henderson Community Park. It is anticipated that the development of this park will be phased in over the next 20 years.

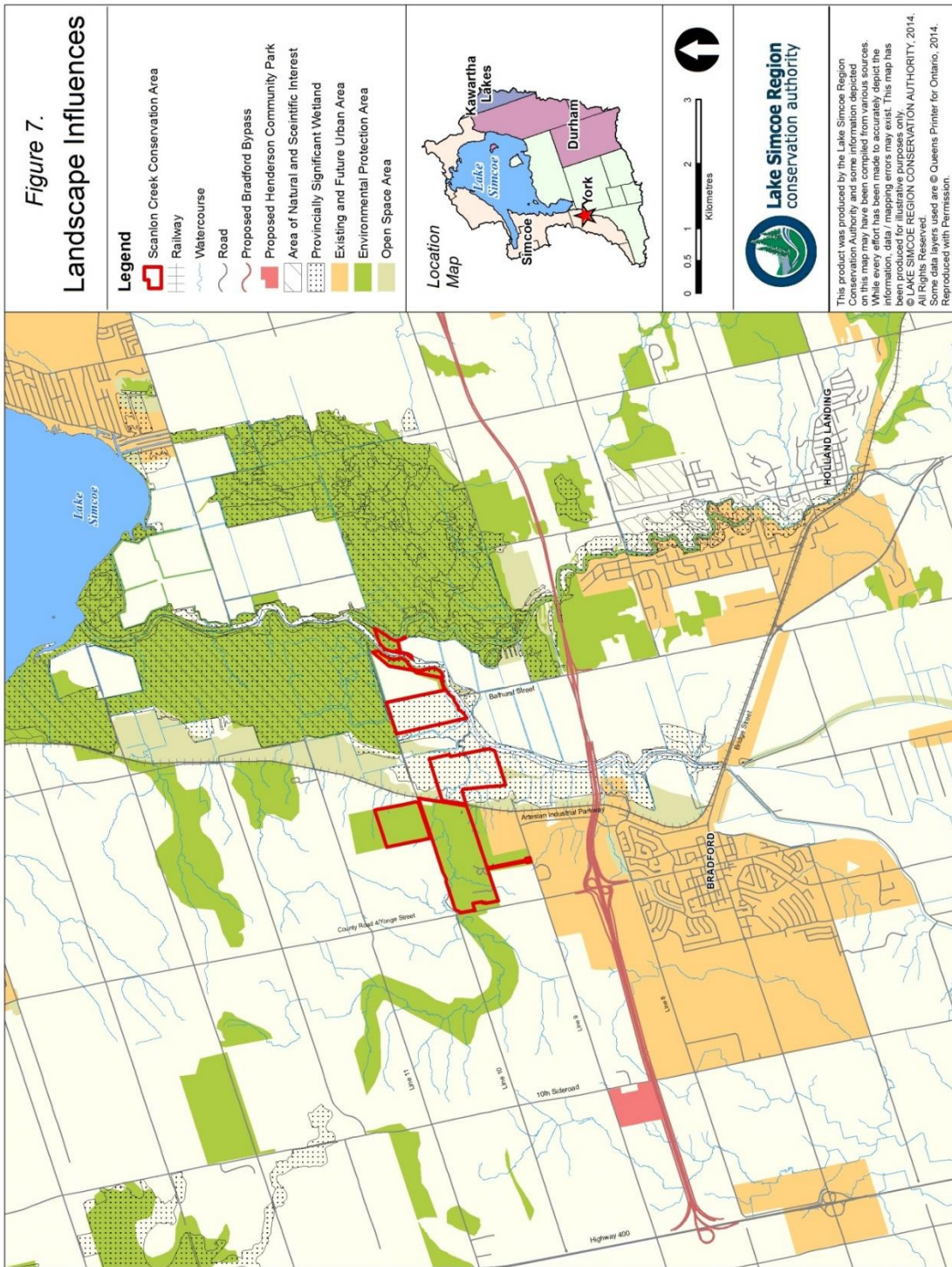
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<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (2006)

<sup>24</sup> Bradford West Gwillimbury (2014)

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**Figure 7: Landscape influences on Scanlon Creek Conservation Area**

## Section II: Development of the Revised Plan

### Introduction

The first Management Plan for the then Bradford Conservation Area was developed in 1967. The plan provided direction for the Holland Valley Conservation Authority to develop the property as a multi-purpose recreation and conservation facility. The South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority revised the management in 1979 to provide focus for the now Scanlon Creek Conservation Area as an example of proper resource management techniques while providing educational and recreational uses.

Since that time, various attempts were made to revise and update the operation of this conservation area but, despite several concepts being developed, and some implemented, no formal review of the Conservation Area Management Plan was undertaken until 2003.

In 2003, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) began a more systematic approach to Management Plan review, including workshops with LSRCA staff, conservation area users, and a survey sent to the residents of Bradford in their community newspaper. In 2007, expanded support from LSRCA's municipal partners allowed the Authority to hire a full time Conservation Lands Planner to facilitate this project.

Since 2004, consultation with conservation area users has been an important part of the Management Plan review process. It provides users with an opportunity to reflect on how they value the conservation area today, the changes they have seen over time as well as to share their thoughts and ideas for how the conservation area should be managed in the future. Most importantly, consultation is a vehicle for gathering the information necessary to ensure that the conservation area is managed in a way that balances the needs of the community with preservation of the natural environment.

Public consultation, as well as focused consultation with LSRCA technical, education and field services staff; major funding partners; and stakeholder groups assisted with the development of a revised Management Plan which was completed in 2009. Similar to previous Management Plans, it was developed with a goal to manage the property to provide an example of proper land and water stewardship while also providing opportunities for nature-based education and recreation, ensuring that a balance between public use and the conservation of nature is maintained.



The 2009 Management Plan was written in two parts: a Management Plan which provided the long- and short-term goals for management of the property and a Business Plan which provided a schedule of implementation priorities over a five-year period. The final task identified in the Business Plan was to review and update the Management Plan in 2013. As such, a review of the Management Plan was initiated to reevaluate the ecological integrity of the property, management effectiveness over the previous five years, current financial situation and to determine the continued relevance of goals and objectives for the property. An Implementation Report was completed to assess the effectiveness of the Business Plan by determining the extent to which objectives were met, the financial investment that was required and the amount of staff time invested in completing the priorities identified in the Business Plan<sup>25</sup>. Along with the many accomplishments identified in this report, there were also some barriers and challenges to successfully implementing all of the projects and programs identified in the Business Plan. These challenges have been considered as part of the Management Plan review and based on experience and an understanding of these challenges; a planned approach has been taken to overcome them.

The following is a summary of activities that have taken place since 2003, all of which have provided invaluable information utilized in the review and update of the 2009 Management Plan as well as the updated 2014 Management Plan.

### **LSRCA Visioning Exercise - 2003**

In 2003, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) management team conducted an internal visioning exercise which included an assessment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats present at Scanlon Creek.

#### **Strengths**

- Land base / size
- Trails
- Existing partnerships – school board staff
- Varied natural features
- Location
- Road access Education program is generally mission based
- Well known

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<sup>25</sup> LSRCA (2014b)

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- History
- Community support / partnerships
- Basis for innovative financing
- Best example of cost recovery
- Self-supporting
- Successful
- Positive client satisfaction
- Facilities are established
- High profile
- Year round operation
- Diversity
- Huge untapped potential

### Opportunities

- Expanded public education (Nature Centre)
- Expanded partnerships – colleges, universities
- Pond restoration – remove the dam
- Demonstration projects – increase public consultation / participation
- Home of festivals – displays – drawing card, educational / interpretive signs
- Weekend programs / workshops
- Watershed – based learning facility – public – seminars
- Centre for Mission based education, volunteerism (work experience)
- Expanded partnerships (road)
- Encouraging user groups to develop opportunities
- Invite outside groups/ rental income
- Innovative financing

### Weaknesses

- Under used
  - Beach
  - Proximity to town (vandalism, party spot, illegal access)
  - Poor / old signage
  - Age deteriorating facilities
  - Lack of recent capital investment
  - Facilities not energy efficient
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- Lack of drinking water
- Conflicting user groups
- Poor road conditions
- No communications plan (mission-based)
- Lack of programming dollars
- Public programming
- No public transportation
- Poor water quality / quantity
- Weak partnerships
- Few volunteers
- Limited staff resources
- No current master plan / vision
- Does not demonstrate good stewardship
- \$10 000 of wells to be capped –liability
- No routine maintenance program
- Junk – surplus

### Threats

- Uncontrolled access
- Bradford bypass
- Water taking / upstream pollution
- Lack of maintenance numbers
- Aging workforce
- Knowledge is not documented
- Long term educational funding
- Water quantity
- West Nile
- Public apathy
- Another round of budget cuts “economic stability” stable funding
- Public outcry/ backlash

### User Survey - 2004

In 2004, LSRCA created a survey for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area users, available at the gate and through the Bradford Times newspaper. A total of 78 people responded to the survey.

The majority of the respondents visited Scanlon Creek Conservation Area regularly (either daily, weekly, or monthly) with almost half of the visits taking place in the afternoon. Although summer was the most popular time to visit, nearly half of those polled visited the conservation area year-round. Almost 85% of the respondents lived within 20 kilometers of the conservation area and many wanted to see greater community involvement in conservation area management.

Nearly 90% of those polled identified the conservation area's trail system as the site's most enjoyable feature and listed passive recreation activities as their primary reason for visiting the area. When asked what improvements or additional facilities could be added to enhance visitor experiences, respondents requested improved trail maintenance; groomed cross country ski trails; more picnic tables, benches, foot bridges and interpretive signs; fully serviced washrooms; a children's play area; nature-themed public educational programs; and biking trails. Improved water quality in the creek and reservoir also ranked high among those surveyed, to enhance wildlife habitat and fishing and swimming opportunities on site. A few people also suggested acquiring adjacent lands and establishing a buffer strip to protect Scanlon Creek Conservation Area from the negative impacts of future development.

The majority of respondents indicated that the conservation area was adequately maintained, but there were a number of people who expressed concerns over the state of the site's roads, washrooms, trails and beach front. Concerns were also voiced regarding pet waste. Requests were made for updated signs showing where the user is on the trail map, as well as information on trail lengths and difficulty levels. Visitors would also welcome signs promoting visitor etiquette (e.g. no litter, please scoop pet waste, etc.) and environmental stewardship.

When considering future revenue generating strategies to offset operating costs, 60% of the survey respondents said that they favored a per car fee, 44% said they would support an annual pass for members and 40% were open to a per car fee - depending on price. Participants encouraged the Conservation Authority to explore partnering opportunities with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, as well as community fundraising initiatives to help offset the cost to users.

### **Public Workshop - 2004**

Following the 2004 user survey, a workshop was held at the Professor E.A. Smith Educational Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in October 2004. Approximately 30 people attended, who were divided into three focus groups to solicit their thoughts on site

maintenance and enhancement, resolving conflicting uses and developing a 10-year vision for the conservation area. Their comments and suggestions were later organized by theme.

#### Trails:

- Summer mowing and brushing trails to keep trails open year round
- Pack winter trails after heavy snow falls
- Improvement of wet areas on north trail e.g. adding limestone material
- Signage noting distances along trails
- Put up new up-to-date signs at head of trails
- Keep them natural, do not pave them
- Ask sponsors to fund site maintenance
- Perhaps businesses would be interested in leasing trails - and then charge skiers for specific trail use
- It would be great if there was a walking/cycling path linking Bradford to Scanlon Creek

#### Health/safety:

- Park security issues e.g. bush parties at north end, break in at Nature Centre parking lot
- Garbage in park and left by anglers at the reservoir – add more garbage cans

#### Dog walkers:

- Need to encourage them to be responsible for their pets and to pick up their pet's waste
- Enforcement doesn't work
- Improved signage promoting dog clean-up
- Put article/adds in paper
- Consider separate (off-leash) area off of the Line 10
- Do not exclude any user groups
- Separate trails for hikers, cyclists, skiers, and dog walkers - woodchips to dry trails for hikers interfere with bike gears, walkers punch holes into ski trails and many people are frightened of loose dogs

#### Revenue:

- Need to come up with ways to generate revenue

- Nobody at gate, nobody asking for membership - 20 people doesn't warrant staffed gatehouse Consider passive recreation vs. festivals (although, some nature-related events like "Hike Day Ontario/Fall Colours Hike would be welcome)
- Yearly Memberships - by the car load
- Adopt an Acre/Blue Jay/Fish program to provide another opportunity for giving financial support
- Perhaps a portion of municipal taxes could be directed to Scanlon
- Whatever visitation fees might be established, Scanlon Creek must remain accessible to all watershed residents - including those with little/fixed incomes
- Clean water to swim in and/or fish in – should be considered if dam is removed

#### Natural heritage features:

- More wildlife - enhanced habitat - purchase more land and naturalize it
- Is Scanlon part of a "green belt"? could it be part of a link to Bradford West Gwillimbury?
- Purchase lands to link to Ducks Unlimited Sanctuary

#### Connecting people with nature: Land & Animals

- Offer weekend programs for the general public e.g. themes like bird banding, edible wildlife, etc.
- Establish a kids club
- Adopt an "open-air living zoo" concept where people can safely interact with the animals e.g. a chickadee feeding station where the birds will feed out of your hand, construct blinds to view wildlife
- Provide more natural history information (bring in native animals as teaching tools)
- Turn the Nature Centre into a year-round visitor's centre with a speaker's series, weekend/week night public programmes, a small tuck shop, and volunteer program e.g. Friends of Scanlon
- Establish a Scanlon Explorers Series... with monthly meetings/activities for different age groups and interests e.g. junior naturalists, wildlife gardeners, music in the park, video club, trail crew, etc.
- Outdoor children's play area/exploratory stations e.g. like those at the Royal Botanical Gardens
- Increase general awareness across the watershed, focusing on Bradford
- Establish regular column promoting each season's treasures i.e. pollywogs, trilliums, migrating birds

- Offer retreats
- Publicity: “Scanlon Corner” column in Bradford Times with Corporate Sponsor
- Volunteer Opportunities - student community - People offering to assist with maintenance

Other:

- Improve road maintenance e.g. main driveway
- Explore possibility of composting toilets for park use to get around potable water issue

### **Ryerson University Student Project - 2005**

In 2005, Urban Planning students at Ryerson University submitted a visioning document to LSRCA as part of a class project. This document included an assessment and recommendation of existing and anticipated challenges facing the conservation area, including external pressures, usership, and internal evolution.

Some of the recommendations they provided to address these issues included:

- Providing input to subdivision design
- Developing a series of nature walks and interpretive programs
- Improving branding and marketing
- Developing an off-leash area
- Improving signage
- Undertaking work to rehabilitate the reservoir

### **Steering Committee – 2007**

In December 2007, the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan Steering Committee was struck to provide direction to the development of the 2009 Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan. This committee met periodically to review input received from the public and from LSRCA staff, to examine the costs and benefits associated with potential management directions, and to provide recommendations on the final Management Plan.

The steering committee consisted of:

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Board representative – Councillor John McCallum;
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Chief Administrative Officer – Gayle Wood;



- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Town Manager / Chief Administrative Officer – Jay Currier;
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, Past-President – Debby Beatty;
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, Executive Director – Kimberley MacKenzie

The Committee was supported by the following LSRCA staff:

- Director of Conservation Lands – Brian Kemp;
- Conservation Lands Planner – Bill Thompson;
- Conservation Lands Administrative Assistant – Wanda Black

### Public Workshop - 2008

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 a second public workshop was held at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre to re-engage the public in the plan review process, and to determine if public perception had altered significantly since 2004. After advertising in local papers, in the conservation area, and sending written invitations to neighbouring landowners and past participants to public consultation efforts, approximately 50 people attended the workshop, most of whom had not participated in previous consultation. Participants were asked to share the values of the conservation area they view as being valuable as well as the issues that if addressed could improve users' experience as well as potential actions to resolve issues. Their values of the conservation area were organized by theme. For the issues that were identified, workshop participants were also asked to prioritize issues by assigning points (5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest) to each issue which were then tallied to determine a priority score (Table 1).

#### Nature Appreciation and Education

- It's a place you can feel part of nature
- Experiential education
- Continuing education on nature, it's a seed to grow learning about being land stewards
- The York Simcoe Naturalist Club used to meet here, owls were banded here
- The facilities to support Scouts, Guides, etc.
- A place to showcase the preservation of our natural heritage

#### Aesthetics

- Peace and quiet, solitude
- Can reconnect to nature and our roots
- Hearing the sounds of nature
- Peace and quiet, serenity
- Stress reduction
- An oasis among urban sprawl
- Undeveloped
- No commercialization, no gift shop
- Unpaved roads and trails (it feels like an escape)
- The pond and dam

- Keeping kids in touch with our heritage

**Diversity**

- Different atmosphere in different parts of park
- Diversity of flora and fauna, variety of habitats
- Beavers in the pond
- Swans and geese on the pond

**Recreation and accessibility**

- It's a natural place to be physically active
- Proximity, it's wildness close to home
- It's open year round, and accessible in winter
- A good dog place
- The variety of terrain
- Diverse recreational opportunities (hiking, running, bird watching, photography, star gazing, fishing, camping, BBQs)
- It's inexpensive
- No mandatory user fees
- It's well maintained
- Safe and accessible trails

**Nature conservation**

- Good balance between use and natural habitat
- Management philosophy of leaving nature alone
- Like the 'untouched' feeling of the park
- The unused 'nature reserve' portion
- The preservation of the natural ecosystem

**Friendly, safe place**

- A good place to develop community spirit
- Families feel comfortable and safe here
- Safe walking trails
- People are generally quiet and care for the property

**Table 1:** Issues and corresponding priority scores based on points assigned by participants at the 2008 public workshop

Issue	Priority Score
<b>Water quality</b>	<b>84</b>
Upstream pollution	17
Deterioration of lake and beach	15
<b>Trails</b>	<b>39</b>
Wheelchair accessibility	13
Organize volunteers	13
Trails too wet in spring and fall	10
Leave gates open longer	6

Overgrown trails on north side of lake	6
Close gate to make more pedestrian friendly	4
Pet waste	1
<b>Programming</b>	<b>30</b>
Organize volunteers	13
Need to attract more young people	12
Look for delivery partners	11
Fees	9
Adult education	8
Promote “lights out” and other events	2
<b>Amenities</b>	<b>8</b>
Sledding hill	23
Fence line needs repair	3
Composting toilets	3
Washroom facilities	2
Energy	15
Energy efficient fixtures	10
<b>Signage</b>	<b>4</b>

Other issues which came up during the discussion, but were not ranked as a priority by attendees were:

- More guided tours
- More public ‘fun’ days, seasonal activities
- Seminars, movies for the community (on wildlife found at Scanlon)
- More programs for younger kids
- Promote family BBQs
- Take part in Winterfest weekend
- Establish a solar energy demonstration site
- Improve energy efficiency of lighting
- Advertise the park more
- Become more proactive about bringing people in
- Recognize there’s a fine line between marketing and use levels
- Leave some trails a little bit overgrown
- Garbage on the trails, not enough bins
- Head of trails sign needs to be repaired
- Need to expand nature signage on the trails
- Snowmobiles and ATVs are using the north parcel
- Too many false starts in Management Planning in the past – the process has no credibility

## User Questionnaire - 2008

In July 2008, an additional questionnaire was mailed to the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area mailing list, and provided on the LSRCA website to collect detailed information about specific management options resulting from earlier consultation and discussions with the steering committee. Eighteen responses were received to this questionnaire.

Responses to questions regarding the acceptability of the behaviour of dogs and their owners reinforced anecdotal information received by LSRCA staff over the years. Although dog walkers appeared to feel it is appropriate for dogs to be off-leash in the conservation area, a sizeable proportion of non-dog walkers felt strongly that it is not. Respondents to the survey indicated both disturbance to wildlife and disturbance to other users as problems associated with off-leash dogs. While some dog walkers recognized the importance of controlling their dogs, and put them on a leash as soon as they see or hear other people, some respondents reported being chased and jumped on while using the trails. The majority of the dog walkers responded positively to the suggestion of a designated off-leash area, some indicating that they may use it rather than walk their dogs on the trails.

When provided public programming options in the questionnaire, the greatest interest indicated was for wildlife identification workshops and nature hikes. Secondary to these nature-based interests were more social interests such as movie nights, BBQs and sleigh rides. Of lesser interest were hands on stewardship programs such as tree planting or birdhouse building. Some respondents however indicated that they would rather there weren't any organized events at the conservation area, concerned that increased numbers of users may interfere with their enjoyment of the trails. Interestingly, no respondents indicated an expectation of events being provided for free. Rather, they indicated a willingness to pay from \$5 - \$15 for events.

Most respondents did not feel there was a need for additional signage at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. However, they recognized that as long-term users they have become quite familiar with the property, and that new users might require improved trail maps indicating trail lengths, names, difficulty, etc. Several people did recommend however that we provide additional interpretive signage identifying the species of trees and wildflowers in the conservation area.

When asked what a fair access fee to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area might be, responses ranged from free to \$10, with \$5 being the most frequent response. Some argued that outdoor recreation is "an essential activity for health" and that access to the property should ideally be provided free of charge. Most recognized however that user fees are necessary and that simply further scaling back maintenance and services is unacceptable.

There seemed to be some level of agreement that the most equitable way to fund the conservation area is through a combination of per vehicle gate fees and annual passes. Private sector donations and sponsorships also ranked highly as an acceptable revenue generation tool. Some respondents recommended that residents of Bradford should have their fees subsidized and that non-residents should pay a higher fee, or that the cost of the conservation area be borne entirely by taxes.

The importance of the reservoir is one issue that the respondents were virtually unanimous on. Largely though, values seen at the reservoir are aesthetic rather than functional in nature. Thus the perceived value of the reservoir as a feature to sit beside ranked higher than its perceived value as wildlife habitat. The suggestion that LSRCA decommission the dam and convert the reservoir to a creek or wetland system, was not well received; in fact people seemed to prefer doing nothing to pursuing these options. More preferable were approaches that would maintain the pond feature, yet improve water quality and quantity, either through outreach to upstream landowners or applying Phoslock and allowing fish passage past the dam.

Over half of the respondents to the survey indicated an interest in joining a Friends organization. Projects respondents indicated an interest intended to be hands-on in nature, including participating in workdays or assisting with habitat stewardship projects.

### **Public Workshop - 2009**

In February 2009 a third public open house was held at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Management Plan. After advertising in local papers, in the conservation area, and sending written invitations to neighbouring landowners and past participants to public consultation efforts, approximately 20 people attended the workshop.

After a summary presentation about the conservation area and the draft Management Plan, participants divided themselves into one of three focus groups: Infrastructure and Trails, Water Quality or Programming. The following comments were received from participants and have been organized by theme.

#### **The Reservoir**

- Remove dam to promote fish habitat
- If the pond were removed some people would stop coming to Scanlon Creek

#### **Friends of Scanlon Creek**

- High interest in getting involved in volunteer days to work on trails or fix buildings

### Marketing

- School newsletters
- Providing more public events
- Providing the trail guide to Welcome Wagon
- Putting an insert in local papers

### Trails

- Designate a ski trail loop
- Improve the boardwalk
- Provide numbered posts throughout the property with interpretive pamphlets people can pick up rather than a series of interpretive panels

### Public Events

- Interpretive days led by naturalists
- Family hikes
- An art program
- Artisans and craftsmen
- Races, music or movies in the park
- 'Scanlon Day' in Bradford
- Events for the various cultural groups in the Town (e.g. Portuguese day, Italian Day, Dutch Day)

- Friends group could be best started by networking with long term users and highly involved people within the community

### Access Fees

- Providing a pass to all residents of Bradford (similar to the pass for Willow Beach to all residents of Georgina)
- A low-cost season pass (\$36/yr), some people would pay that low amount as a 'donation', but might not buy a more expensive pass
- A tiered structure with stickers being provided for 'supporters of' or 'friends of' Scanlon Creek for an annual donation of \$50-\$100 These stickers should be made available at the gatehouse or Scanlon farmhouse
- 'Pay and display' per hour might be a more fair way to charge for access, rather than a flat rate per day

### Designated Off-leash Area

- Off-leash area good idea
- May need to be larger

## Steering Committee – 2013

In October 2013, a new Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan Steering Committee was struck to provide direction to the review and update of the 2009 Management Plan which has resulted in the current 2014 Management Plan. This committee met periodically to review findings in the 2009 Management Plan Implementation Report and input received from the public and from LSRCA staff, to examine the costs and benefits associated with potential management directions and to provide recommendations on the final Management Plan.

The Steering Committee consisted of:

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Board representative – Councillor Del Crake (Chair);
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, General Manager, Conservation Lands – Brian Kemp;
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Town Manager / Chief Administrative Officer – Jay Currier;
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, President – Debby Beatty;
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation, Executive Director – Cheryl Taylor
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Chair – Ken Vogan
- Simcoe County, Planner II – Dan Kingsbury
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Active transportation Committee Member – Chris Coburn

### **LSRCA Project Team - 2013**

A Project Team consisting of LSRCA staff members was also assembled to support the Steering Committee, assist with public consultation and represent their respective departments to ensure that the Management Plan is consistent with the organization’s goals and objectives.

The Project Team consists of:

- Land Management Technician – Kate Lillie (project lead);
- Senior Administrative Assistant, Conservation Lands – Wanda Black (project support)
- Coordinator, Conservation Areas, Facilities and Assets – John Brown
- Manager, Education – Kevin Brygidyr
- Environmental Project Coordinator – Brook Piotrowski
- Natural Heritage Ecologist – Shauna Fernandes

### **LSRCA Visioning – 2013**

In October and November 2013, several visioning sessions were conducted. These sessions engaged the LSRCA Executive Management Team (EMT) as well as the staff Project Team.

The visioning session conducted with EMT began with an overview of the common goals for the property that have remained consistent since 1967. These included goals that promote the conservation area as a multipurpose recreational property, demonstrate proper natural resource management, showcase watershed based environmental education and stewardship programs and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. The group acknowledged that Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is the “Jewel in the Crown” of LSRCA’s conservation areas. As



such, it was determined that it needed a new exciting vision for the future. As a result of this visioning session, the following draft vision and mission statements were proposed:

**Draft Vision Statement:**

Scanlon Creek – Natural Inspiration

**Draft Long Mission Statement:**

We see Scanlon Creek Conservation Area as the “Jewel in the Crown” of Lake Simcoe watershed public lands....

...where people from the watershed and beyond can learn about the importance of land, water and air through outdoor environmental education.

...where 700 acres of public space offers an environment for active healthy living – healthy communities and happy people.

...where the well-being of diverse life forms is promoted – fish, wildlife, plants and human beings.

...where we protect, conserve and manage our natural environment for future generations.

...where the life giving nature of rivers and Lake Simcoe is promoted and protected.

...where new and exciting initiatives and technologies for enhancing our environment are showcased.

...where citizens, government, business, agricultural interests and stakeholders can all play a leadership role by working together to protect our environment for present and future generations.

A second visioning session was conducted with members of the staff Project Team in order to refine the Vision and Mission statements as well as to propose goals which would solidify the management direction for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The following draft goals for the management of Scanlon Creek were developed at this visioning session:

**Draft Goals**

1. Promote environmental sustainability through innovation.

2. Inspire and empower the community through environmental education.
3. Protect, restore and enhance ecosystem function.
4. Provide opportunities for active healthy living.
5. Sustain a balance between public use and the conservation of nature.
6. Attain and manage operational resources strategically.

### Vision, Mission and Goals

Following the visioning sessions, additional dialogue with EMT, the Project Team and the Steering Committee finalized the Vision, Mission and Goals for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. They were adopted on February 28, 2014 by the Board of Directors of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority as presented in Staff Report No: 10-14-BOD

#### Final Vision Statement

*Scanlon Creek – A Destination for Natural Inspiration*

#### Final Mission Statement

*Scanlon Creek – Demonstrating leadership in the conservation of the natural environment and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature*

#### Final Goals

1. To promote and demonstrate sustainability.
2. To inspire and empower the community through environmental education.
3. To protect, restore and enhance ecosystem function.
4. To provide opportunities for healthy active living.
5. To sustain a balance between public use and the conservation of nature.
6. To ensure sustainable resources to support operations.
7. To utilize existing infrastructure to accommodate growth in the organization.

### Implementation Report<sup>26</sup> - 2014

In April 2014, an Implementation Report was completed for the 2009 Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan. An essential component in the review and update of any

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<sup>26</sup> LSRCA (2014b)

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conservation area Management Plan is to determine its continued relevance to the conservation area operations. The Implementation Report evaluated the Business Plan with a focus on the implementation schedule from 2009-2013. Understanding which projects and programs were completed successfully and which had barriers to success informed the development of the current Management Plan and accompanying 2015-2019 Business Plan.

The Implementation Report provided 12 recommendations to assist with overcoming the challenges and barriers encountered over the past five years. These were adopted on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 by the Board of Directors of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority as presented in Staff Report No: 43-14-BOD. Based on experience and an understanding of challenges, a planned approach can be taken to overcome them. The 12 recommendations below provide direction which will support successful implementation of several projects and programs included in the 2015-2019 Business Plan.

**Recommendation 1:** Commitment from LSRCA's five municipal growth partners, York Region, Durham Region, Barrie, Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury, should be pursued to support capital investments necessary for the repair, replacement and enhancement of the Operations Centre (Education Centre), ensuring that the building is able to support LSRCA programming and operations.

**Recommendation 2:** Commitment from the LSRCA, LSCF, and Bradford West Gwillimbury should be pursued to support capital investments necessary to implement the renovations required for the farmhouse.

**Recommendation 3:** New and alternate funding opportunities, such as grants, awards and sponsorships that would support programs and projects at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, should be identified and pursued.

**Recommendation 4:** Opportunities for alternative uses of existing buildings at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be explored to ensure that they are utilized to their full potential. This should include consideration for potential revenue sources to help offset the cost of operation and maintenance.

**Recommendation 5:** User fees and permit fees for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be revisited during the review and update of the Management Plan to ensure that they are equitable and fair.

**Recommendation 6:** Alternative methods for user fee collection and enforcement at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be considered to provide a convenient method of payment for users and to ensure that fees are collected.

**Recommendation 7:** A review of existing school-oriented programming offered at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be completed and new opportunities to expand education programming should be explored based on the needs of existing and potential clients.

**Recommendation 8:** Opportunities to support and expand current public-oriented program availability at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be explored through communication and collaboration between LSRCA, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek.

**Recommendation 9:** A comprehensive marketing and communication strategy to promote Scanlon Creek Conservation Area should be developed, including consideration for programming, facilities, recreation and volunteer opportunities.

**Recommendation 10:** An investigation for potential uses should be completed for the Operations Centre (Education Centre) and farmhouse to identify how they can best be utilized to support LSRCA operations as well as to determine the extent of renovations required to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for the function they will serve.

**Recommendation 11:** Recommendations that are provided through the Facility Enhancement Study should be considered through the update to the Management Plan as they relate to the Nature Centre, beach house and the development of an outdoor classroom.

**Recommendation 12:** A system should be developed to assist with tracking time and expenses associated with the Business plan and implementation schedule to ensure that information is recorded consistently and accurately.

### **Public Consultation<sup>27</sup> - 2014**

Consultation with conservation area users and stakeholder groups is an important part of the Management Plan review process. In 2014, consultation included a series of two workshops as well as a user survey. The main objectives for this public consultation were:

- To learn about who the users or user groups are.

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<sup>27</sup> LSRCA (2014a)

- To determine how service-delivery can be improved (facilities and programs).
- To better understand user satisfaction and/or dissatisfaction.
- To make a case for continuing or discontinuing specific service delivery elements.
- To measure the success of past management decisions.
- To inform future management decisions.

A communication plan was developed to assist with promoting and engaging conservation area users and stakeholder groups with the Management Plan review and update. Promotion and communication for public consultation utilized media channels, web based advertising, direct mail and email, posters and other promotional material as well as word of mouth and circulation through external networks. A dedicated webpage, [www.LSRCA.on.ca/PlanScanlon](http://www.LSRCA.on.ca/PlanScanlon), was launched to provide a central location where information and documents related to the Management Plan review and update could be posted and made available to the public.

### Public Workshops

In the winter of 2014, two workshops were conducted to engage conservation area users and stakeholder groups. The first workshop was held in February with the Friends of Scanlon Creek at the Operations Centre (Education Centre) and engaged 8 participants. A second workshop was held in March with members of the general public at the Nature Centre and engaged 3 participants. Both workshops followed a similar format which began with introductions and a presentation on the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. This was followed by a dot-mocracy activity which explored why the conservation area is a valued community resource and another activity which involved some brainstorming and discussion to identify the projects and programs which had worked well in the past and new ideas for the future. The results from both workshops were combined and are displayed below. Table 2 shows the tallied scores assigned to the different values that the conservation area provides for its users.

**Table 2:** Results of the dot-mocracy exercise where 16 participants were each given 15 points to allocate to the different values based on why they feel Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is a valued community resource.

Value	Description	Score
<b>Nature Conservation</b>	A place where there is a balance between recreation and the natural environment.	<b>43</b>
<b>Natural Setting</b>	Where people can escape from the hustle and bustle of “city life” and enjoy a tranquil, non-commercialized place.	<b>41</b>
<b>Nature Appreciation</b>	Where people can connect with and learn about nature hands on.	<b>28</b>

<b>Biodiversity</b>	A place with a diversity of habitats, flora and fauna, adding variety to visitor experience.	<b>28</b>
<b>Nature Preservation</b>	A place where the priority is preserving the natural environment.	<b>21</b>
<b>Recreation</b>	A place where people can engage in outdoor recreation.	<b>18</b>
<b>Education</b>	Where schools and their students can participate in outdoor environment education.	<b>13</b>
<b>Accessibility</b>	Where people of all abilities feel included and are able to enjoy the property's features.	<b>13</b>
<b>History</b>	A place where the cultural and natural heritage is recognized and valued.	<b>12</b>
<b>Family</b>	A place where family is brought together.	<b>12</b>
<b>Community</b>	A safe comfortable place where people can gather and connect with each other.	<b>11</b>

The second workshop activity, involved brainstorming and discussion and explored existing and potential new projects and programs for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Using post-it notes, workshop participants shared their thoughts, indicating which projects and programs should stop, which could be improved and which could be added in the future. Each post-it note idea was discussed and sorted into one of five different categories: Administration, Natural Features, Trails, Programming and Amenities. Nearly one hundred different thoughts or ideas were brought forward through this exercise with some of the keys ones listed here.

#### Administration

- Improve directional signage
- Review user fees
- Enforce conservation area policies
- Engage the community

#### Natural Features

- Expand monitoring program
- Continue restoration efforts

#### Amenities

- Add accessible features
- Add interpretive features
- Use environmentally friendly designs for facility improvements

#### Trails

- Create trails for a variety of activities with different levels of difficulty
- Offer brochure for self-guided hikes
- Continue trail improvements

#### Programming

- Offer a variety of public programs, including volunteer opportunities
- Continue school-based programs
- Emphasize the connection between nature and health

## User Survey

A Scanlon Creek Conservation Area user survey was launched in February and remained open for two months. The survey was available in both hardcopy format and an online format. It was developed with the intention of gathering specific information about demographics, conservation area uses, customer service, user experience, user motivation, outcomes and opportunities to improve. In total, 141 users responded to the survey. Below is some of the key information gathered through this survey.

### Who's visiting Scanlon Creek Conservation Area?

62% of survey respondents are residents of Bradford

52% are couples with one or more children

37% learned about Scanlon Creek Conservation Area through friends or family

50% have been visiting for 10+ years

### Top five reasons why people visit Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

1. To enjoy nature and scenery
2. To get some exercise
3. To spend time with family and friends
4. To engage in recreational activities
5. To rest and relax

### Top five activities that users want available at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

1. Hiking
2. Picnicking
3. Dog walking
4. Running
5. Photography

### The three things people enjoy the most about Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

1. Trails
2. Natural setting
3. Amenities

### The three things people enjoy the least about Scanlon Creek Conservation Area



1. User fees
2. Off-leash dogs and pet waste
3. The pond is gone

**The aspects of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area that matter the most for users**

- Reasonable parking and visitor fees
- Useful visitor guides and trail maps available
- Well designed and maintained trails
- Clear information about rules and visitor safety
- Native wildlife sightings

**The aspects of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area that users are least satisfied with**

- Interpretive signage
- Reasonable parking and visitor fees
- Access to clean washroom facilities
- Useful visitor guides and trail maps available
- Native wildlife sightings

**Top three things that users want added or changed at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area**

1. Lower or no user fees
2. Expand trails with interpretive features
3. Maintain and enhance natural features

**Staff Consultation - 2014**

In April 2014, a series of three roundtable discussions were coordinated with a cross section of staff from each department within LSRCA to discuss the future management direction for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. In total, 20 staff members participated in the discussions and represented a range of position levels within the organization. Participants were asked to consider the projects, programs or service delivery that they are involved with at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area and if there have been challenges associated with their role related to the property and how service is delivered. They were also asked to consider the user experience and how it could be improved based on their own observations.

An overview of the Management Plan and the review and update process was provided for participants. They were then asked to write their top three concerns or recommendations on post-it notes. These were sorted into subcategories and discussed as a group so that there was

an opportunity to build on to each post-it note idea. The subcategories and key recommendations that resulted from this activity are provided below.

### **Financial Sustainability**

- Continue work with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation.
- Develop a long-term financial and business plan for the property.
- Organize staff build days to tackle larger projects on the property.
- Use staff and volunteer support to assist with property maintenance.

### **Facilities and Amenities**

- The LSRCA staff complement is expanding. There are advantages and disadvantages to using the Operations Centre (Education Centre) as a satellite office. A decision should be made soon that will provide clear direction as to where and how a satellite office should be established.
- Create an office proposal for the Operations Centre (Education Centre).
- Expand the recycling program on the property. Provide more waste receptacles.
- Upgrade arboretum.
- Continue adding to the Discovery Play Garden - include a native or community garden.
- Repurpose or remove the beach house.
- Restore the Scanlon farmhouse.
- Provide a location for community based events – Centre for Innovation.
- Improve roads and parking areas.
- The conservation area appears out of date compared to other conservation areas.
- Provide a water feature such as a splash pad.
- Operations Centre (Education Centre) as training centre for technical/professional development.
- Provide rental space for community groups.
- Delineate user space – public vs. education.
- Provide space for a Farmer's Market.

### **Trails**

- Some trails are steep and require maintenance.
- Install more benches and rest areas.
- Improve trail signage, add check points and provide mini maps along the way.
- Develop self-guided hikes with informative information (could use QR codes).
- Install interpretive signage.
- Designate trails for different activities – biking, hiking, etc.
- Ensure dog poo bags are readily available.

### **Environment and Monitoring**

- Develop and implement long term ecological monitoring (aquatic and terrestrial).

- Engage volunteers in monitoring efforts. Create a centralized location for data input.
- Promote monitoring with signage at locations with updated data.
- Consider a long-term restoration plan to address future changes and climate change.
- Plant canker resistant butternuts to supplement naturally occurring population that is declining.
- Manage cow parsnip that is close to the trails.
- Under plant shrubs along the entrance road to mitigate the pending loss of ash trees due to emerald ash borer.
- Rehabilitate the area where hybrid poplars once grew but have since declined or fallen.
- Increase enforcement presence.

### **Communication**

- Improve internal directional signage and include signage to promote upcoming events.
- Provide more information about picnic pavilions for visitors.
- Replace the entrance sign with something more visible that is more welcoming.
- Increase public education and promotion of the conservation area and what it offers - use TV and radio.
- Provide brochure or paper copy maps on site.
- Update the website or create a dedicated page to Scanlon Creek.
- Highlight places of historical significance on the property.
- Distribute promotional material at public events.
- Develop a brand for Scanlon Creek.
- Promote LSRCA watershed wide initiatives on a bulletin board or sign.

### **Visitor and Parking Fees**

- Have a person in the gatehouse collecting fees and providing maps.
- Help users understand why fees are required.
- Implement a different system for user fee collection.
- Have a set schedule fee for permitting – consider including some parking with it.
- Post permit fees on the website.

### **Education and Engagement**

- Create demonstration sites to showcase environmental projects, restoration, Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, etc. -the conservation area should be a demonstration of conservation action.
- Host a Scanlon Watershed Day that would involve full organization collaboration.
- Organize seasonal festivals linked to environmental education.
- Diversify public programming.
- Identify ways that the education program can contribute to data collection.
- Update education programs – develop a new look and purchase new equipment.
- Coordinate bee keeping at the farmhouse.

## Needs Assessment – 2014

Based on information gathered from the Background Report, Management Plan Implementation Report - 2014 as well as through consultation with the public, staff and Steering Committee, more than 60 specific management issues were identified. These ranged from a need to increase enforcement of conservation area policies to pursuing opportunities that would improve communication with existing and potential users. The Project Team then reviewed each issue individually and assigned a priority score based on five stress/impact categories as defined in Table 3. The scores for each management issue were then used to prioritize the issues to be addressed according to their total impact.

**Table 3:** Categories of stress or impact used to score and prioritize management issues identified at the conservation area

Categories of stress/impact	Definition
<b>Internal - LSRCA</b>	Issue has a direct impact on LSRCA as an organization and may impact business processes, staff, services, etc.
<b>Health &amp; Safety/Liability</b>	Issue has a direct impact on health and safety for anyone using the property (staff, users, volunteers, students, clients, etc.) or there is some degree of risk associated with the issue that would make LSRCA liable for any damages incurred as a result of the issue not being mitigated or managed properly.
<b>Environment</b>	Issue has a direct impact on the natural environment or ecology of the property and/or surrounding areas.
<b>Economic/Financial</b>	Issue has a direct financial impact on LSRCA, Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF) or users.
<b>Social/Public</b>	Issue has a direct impact on the users and their experience or on the community at large.

Once management issues were prioritized, an investigation into what was currently being done to mitigate impacts from each issue was completed. This included documenting any observations as well as identifying gaps which if addressed would resolve some or all impacts resulting from each issue. Based on this information, possible solutions or opportunities to make improvements were proposed for addressing issues. While each possible solution would provide some level of mitigation or benefit, they would each also involve some level of action or investment. To better understand the required investment and expected outcome of each proposed solution, the proposed solutions were run through a cost-benefit analysis. In order to

measure the overall benefit of each proposed solution; scope, impact, persistence and synergy were scored. The scope measured how broadly a solution would mitigate an issue across the property; impact measured the effectiveness of the solution; persistence measured how long the results would last; and synergy measured the ability of a proposed solution to address more than one issue. The overall cost for each proposed solution was measured by scoring the associated dollar cost, the amount of staff time required, the cost to the environment, and the number of years that it would take to implement. The tallied scores for overall benefit and overall cost were compared and the proposed solutions that had the greatest benefits relative to the costs associated with implementation were given preference.

The calculated process of prioritizing management issues at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area and measuring the cost and benefit of proposed solutions for mitigating impacts of these issues has facilitated informed decision making for the effective and efficient management of the conservation area. The results of the needs assessment have been integral to the Management Plan review and the preferred solutions have been included as actions in the Business Plan section of this Management Plan.

### **Future Evaluation and Review of Management Plans**

The current Management Plan includes two parts: a Management Plan which provides long-term goals for the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area and a Business Plan which provides short-term goals as well as a description and schedule of implementation priorities, coupled with projections of revenues and expenses over a five-year period. At the end of each five-year operational period, both the Management Plan and the Business Plan will be evaluated to determine their continued relevance to conservation area operations. If it is determined that either of these plans is outdated, they will be reviewed and updated. LSRCA may also opt to update the Management Plan and / or Business Plan outside of the five-year review period if necessary. Plan evaluation will include an assessment of the property's ecological integrity, management effectiveness, financial situation, as well as a review of the relevance of stated goals and objectives.

LSRCA will continue to collect monitoring data on the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. This will include aquatic resource monitoring sites, invasive species inventories, breeding bird and other wildlife inventories, and data required for forest Management Plan updates. This will be supplemented by data on changes in infrastructure and user levels to determine how management of the conservation area and

development in the local landscape has impacted the ecological integrity of the conservation area.

Management effectiveness of the conservation area will be evaluated by assessing to what extent the goals of the Management Plan have been met, the adequacy of staffing resources and infrastructure, and to what extent expected outcomes (e.g. increases in visitor use, advancement of LSRCA mandate) were achieved. This assessment will include surveys of the users of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, as well as interviews with core staff.

The Business Plan evaluation will include an assessment of real revenues and expenses over the five-year operational period, and a comparison to projected revenues and expenses. This evaluation will be used to refine the Business Plan for the succeeding five-year period.

The results of these evaluations will be provided to a Steering Committee made up of either the major partners contributing to the management of the conservation area, or a sub-committee of the LSRCA Board of Directors (BOD), to determine plan review needs. If the committee determines that the goals, objectives, challenges or infrastructure needs have changed substantially, one or both parts of the plan will be reviewed. Major revisions to the Management Plan, including those that address complex issues, would further restrict public use of the property, or would require substantial investments in infrastructure will include broad-based public consultation and approval of the plan by the LSRCA BOD. Amendments to resolve less complicated issues may be made without broad-based public consultation, but would be subject to the LSRCA BOD approval. Updates to the Business Plan to identify, prioritize, and resource implementation needs for the successive five-year operational period will not require public consultation.

## Section III: Management Plan

### Introduction

This Management Plan provides the basis and long-term direction for the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. It is based on an identification of the constraints and capabilities provided by the property (Section I), extensive public and internal consultation (Section II), and a thorough review of the implementation of the previous Management Plan (Section II).

### Vision, Mission and Goals

A new vision, mission and goals were established for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in 2014 to guide the review and update of the Management Plan. The vision and mission statements communicate the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)'s intentions for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, convey longer term direction for property management and motivate the organization and its staff as well as users and stakeholders to realize an attractive and inspiring future for the conservation area. The goals set more immediate direction for the conservation area over the next five years. They were developed keeping the limitations of the property and resources in mind and identify the planned objectives that the Management Plan aims to achieve.

Vision:

***Scanlon Creek – A Destination for Natural Inspiration***

Mission:

***Scanlon Creek – Demonstrating leadership in the conservation of the natural environment and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.***

Goals:

1. To promote and demonstrate sustainability.
2. To inspire and empower the community through environmental education.
3. To protect, restore and enhance ecosystem function.
4. To provide opportunities for healthy active living.
5. To sustain a balance between public use and the conservation of nature.
6. To ensure sustainable resources to support operations.



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7. To utilize existing infrastructure to accommodate growth in the organization.

### Permitted Uses

Permitted uses in Scanlon Creek Conservation Area are defined by Provincial Regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (see Box 1). In many cases, conflicts between users are a result of the contravention of one or more of these regulations.

LSRCA will better enforce regulations in Scanlon Creek Conservation Area with an increased presence of LSRCA staff, including enforcement staff, in the conservation area, and through expanded partnerships with the South Simcoe Police Service and municipal bylaw enforcement officers. Increased enforcement will be coupled with improved communication to ensure that regulations are clearly understood by conservation area users.

One of the most frequent violations of the permitted uses, and most common sources of conflict between users, is associated with the requirement to keep dogs leashed while on the property, with the exception of the designated off-leash area. Although Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is extremely popular with dog walkers, comments received through public consultation indicate that off-leash dogs and dog waste along the trails is an important issue to be addressed in the Management Plan<sup>28</sup>.

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area also experiences non-permitted uses in the form of hunting, particularly in the more remote sections of the property. LSRCA will clearly sign the Studholme, Collings, Lee east and Scanlon north tracts (Figure 2) as 'no hunting' and will increase enforcement during hunting season in these areas.

There are occasional occurrences of unauthorized use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, particularly in the Scanlon north and Lee east tracts, which has caused rutting and compaction of soil and the destruction of vegetation. LSRCA will clearly sign these properties as 'no motorized vehicles' and fence these tracts as necessary.

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<sup>28</sup> LSRCA (2014a)

**Box 1. Permitted uses at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.**

Permitted uses of LSRCA's conservation areas are defined by Provincial Regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act (O. Reg 112/90)*\*.

The following uses of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area are prohibited

- defacing, removing or damaging any property;
- cutting, removing, injuring or destroying a plant, tree, shrub, flower or other growing thing;
- removing or destroying any soil or rock;
- littering;
- bringing an animal into the conservation area which is not on a leash, makes excessive noise, or disturbs other people;
- horseback riding, except in areas where designated;
- being abusive, insulting or threatening or making excessive noise or disturbing other persons.

The following uses are permitted by permit only:

- hunting or trapping;
- possessing or igniting fireworks;
- camping;
- making an excavation;
- possessing, shooting, discharging or using a spring gun, air gun, firearm, slingshot or any archery equipment;
- erecting, painting or affixing a sign or notice;
- selling or offering for sale an article or service;
- fund raising;
- advertising or carrying on a business or enterprise;
- conducting a public performance of any kind, or bringing equipment for public entertainment into the Conservation Area;
- conducting a public meeting or doing anything that is likely to cause persons to congregate;
- using a boat;
- starting or maintaining a fire;
- bringing any animal other than a cat or dog into the conservation area;
- operating an all-terrain vehicle, an off-road vehicle or a motorized snow vehicle
- remaining in the conservation area after the posted times.

\* This table is a summary of rules only. For further detail refer to the full regulation; available online at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

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## Boundary Management

LSRCA will retain surveys of all the boundaries of the conservation area on file, and will ensure that all boundaries are clearly marked. LSRCA will inspect boundaries biannually for encroachments. As necessary, LSRCA will implement a program to resolve and remediate impacts from boundary encroachments in partnership with the conservation area's neighbours. This program may include community education, individual notices, site visits, and community clean up days where necessary.

As a designated Place to Grow, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is expected to nearly double in population over the next 20 years<sup>29</sup>. To accommodate this growth, development may include an increase in industrial or residential units immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the conservation area, east of the main access road. As this land becomes developed, LSRCA will lobby the Town to implement building setbacks from the conservation area (per Section 4.4.7 of the Town's Official Plan) and will ensure that adequate fencing exists along the property boundary to prevent uncontrolled access to the conservation area.

If the adjacent property is developed as a residential subdivision, LSRCA may develop programming directed at new residents, such as backyard naturalization, introduction to bird watching and trail stewardship. Social events such as community BBQs or clean up days may also be provided.

LSRCA will also work to promote constructive relations with conservation area neighbours. This may include involving them in relevant aspects of planning and management, providing them with trail guides and a complimentary annual pass when they move to the area, inviting them to join the Friends of Scanlon Creek volunteer committee or establishing a fund dedicated to cross-boundary stewardship projects.

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area is located within one of LSRCA's priority securement areas<sup>30</sup>, and as such may see its property base expand. LSRCA will continue to pursue land securement opportunities in the Holland Marsh wetland complex, particularly those adjacent to or near Scanlon Creek Conservation Area or the Holland Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. Priority will be given to those lands that are within a significant natural heritage feature and are thus eligible for tax exemption.

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<sup>29</sup> As described in MPIR (2006) office consolidation, June 2013

<sup>30</sup> LSRCA (2006)

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Securement of land may be through a number of mechanisms, including purchase, donation, conservation easement, bequest or combination of the above. All securement initiatives will be on a willing buyer - willing seller condition, and conditional upon available funding, with value to be determined by fair market appraisal.

## **Water Resources Management**

The natural setting at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area offers a diversity of ecosystems for users to discover. Managing these natural resources wisely now ensures that they will be available for future generations to enjoy. The Scanlon Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Plan (2009) identifies opportunities for stewardship actions to improve water quality and quantity in Scanlon Creek. A total of 88 aquatic Best Management Practices (BMPs) were identified for the Scanlon Creek subwatershed through the first phase of the Lake Simcoe Basin Best Management Inventory<sup>31</sup>. These BMPs include the removal of barriers and restoration opportunities to address culverts, sediment accumulation, streambank erosion, failed channel hardening and impervious surface runoff<sup>32</sup>. Of the 88 BMPs, 13 of them are located on the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area property, including the removal of the dam.

LSRCA will continue to implement BMPs at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area and will work with landowners to implement BMPs on private property within the subwatershed. In addition, LSRCA will continue to take advantage of the education and stewardship values of the fisheries and water quality improvement projects. This may include the development of new trails, bridges or boardwalks as well as informational and interpretive signage.

LSRCA will continue to monitor the aquatic health of the subwatershed. Wherever possible, aquatic monitoring efforts at sites located on the main tract of the conservation area will be highlighted through programming or interpretive signage initiatives. Emphasis will be placed on local aquatic ecology and opportunities to make connections between the environment and healthy living should be pursued.

## **Vegetation and Wildlife Management**

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<sup>31</sup> LSRCA (2009a)

<sup>32</sup> LSRCA (2009c)

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Some of the most significant wildlife and habitat values in the conservation area exist in the more remote and relatively inaccessible parcels<sup>33</sup>. The Studholme, Collings, and Lee east tracts will continue to be managed as nature reserves. Although, use of and access to these tracts will not be prohibited, no trails or formal access points will be provided. Fencing and signage may be erected as necessary to prevent unauthorized use of these tracts.

The Scanlon north tract may continue to be the focus of forest restoration and management efforts as resources permit. Although this tract may be the site of additional infrastructure in the future, no development will be permitted without an assessment of potential impacts on existing natural heritage values. Currently, a weather station owned and maintained by Environment Canada is located on this tract.

Forest management at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area will include the removal of hazard trees as per the Hazard Tree Management Strategy<sup>34</sup>, as well as management to promote the conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous or mixed forests, and to reduce the overall contrast between forest compartments on this property. Specific direction regarding forest management is provided by a Forest Management Plan (2007 – 2016), which identifies the appropriate silvicultural techniques to manage the property for recreation and wildlife habitat. Updates to that Forest Management Plan as well as the development of any strategies related to natural environment management shall be consistent with the mission and goals for the property as identified in this conservation area Management Plan.

As the Operations Centre (Education Centre) has become the permanent location for Watershed Stewardship, Forestry and Education staff, the area around the building will be groomed to ensure a welcoming appearance for both staff and external visitors to the facility. This will include regular mowing and landscaping. LSRCA will also increase the stewardship interpretive values at the conservation area. This may include enhanced interpretation of existing stewardship efforts, including forest and wetland management, as well as the development and interpretation of new stewardship demonstrations. These demonstrations may include Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, alternative reforestation techniques, or other wildlife habitat or water quality enhancement projects, pending resources and appropriate site conditions.

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<sup>33</sup> LSRCA (2008)

<sup>34</sup> LSRCA (2009d)

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The arboretum near the gatehouse will be upgraded and improved, including the re-establishment of an interpretive trail, replacement of labels for trees as necessary, the creation of a new interpretive guide book or brochure and development of a butterfly/pollinator garden. Additional tree specimens may be included in the arboretum, with preference given to native species, as appropriate. Additional interpretive signage indicating the relative values of native and non-native species, wildlife habitat and forestry values and silviculture of the various species may also be included to enhance the value of this feature as a stewardship demonstration.

Only native species or those acceptable to the area will be planted for forestry or wildlife habitat on the property. Priority will also be given to native species when selecting plants for landscape or ornamental purposes. With shifts in local climate anticipated for the future, an effort will be made to select species that will be hardy and tolerant of predicted changes to weather patterns. LSRCA will also manage the property to control the spread of non-native invasive species. Management will include regular monitoring for the introduction and spread of existing non-native invasive species. Any aggressive invasive species<sup>35</sup> occurring in small numbers will be controlled using recommendations based on the best available science. Direction for control of widespread aggressive invasive species will be provided under an approved Forest Management Plan. Where necessary, LSRCA will coordinate volunteer work days to control aggressive invasive plant species. LSRCA may also control the spread of poison ivy where necessary, using recommendations based on the best available science.

When conflicts between wildlife and the users or facilities of the conservation area occur, priority will be given to wildlife use of the property. This may, in extreme cases, include the re-routing of trails. However, when other resolutions are not available, the humane removal of nuisance wildlife such as beaver may be permitted when necessary to protect infrastructure such as trails or bridges.

### **Infrastructure Management**

LSRCA may develop additional infrastructure at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area to support the goals and objectives described in this Management Plan. Priority for development may be given to areas currently in grassland or shrub habitat. Any developments would be subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, regulations under the

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<sup>35</sup> As defined by Urban Forest Associates Inc. (2002)

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*Conservation Authorities Act* and other relevant legislation, and would be subject to a site assessment to mitigate detrimental impacts on the values of the conservation area. All new infrastructure will be designed and constructed using sustainable design or Low Impact Development (LID) techniques where applicable and will also be designed and constructed to meet the standards of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.

### Conservation Area Facilities

The two existing picnic pavilions will be repaired and upgraded as necessary to support their continued use. Repairs may include repairing the roofs and floors, and replacing BBQs and fire pits. Moreover, small shade shelters or mini pavilions may be erected at appropriate locations on the property, as need dictates and as resources allow, providing additional sheltered picnic locations for smaller groups.

LSRCA will maintain public washroom facilities at the picnic pavilions, Nature Centre and group campsites. When replacement becomes necessary, LSRCA will replace these structures with low maintenance and/or composting facilities.

If at some point in the future municipal services become available to the conservation area, LSRCA will provide potable water at picnic pavilions and campsites. At such time, flush washroom facilities may be constructed near the south picnic pavilion.

### Program Delivery Facilities

Several buildings exist on the property that support staff in the delivery of services and programs. These buildings include the Operations Centre (formerly known as the Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre), workshop facilities, storage buildings, Nature Centre, beach house, and farmhouse.

The Scanlon Creek Operations Centre (Education Centre) consists of a two-storey building (including basement) and is approximately 16,500 square feet (1,533 square metres) in size. The original portion of the building was constructed in 1978 and an addition was constructed in the late-1990's. The building was used as a residential outdoor education facility until 2011 and has been in a transition phase to an Operations Centre since 2013. Approximately 18 staff members are now working out of the renovated portions of the building. While further assessments need to be completed, the intent is to utilize the building into the future as an operations centre for education, watershed stewardship, forestry, land management and potentially science and research. Renovations may include additional office space, meeting



rooms, storage facilities and an expanded laboratory. Further assessments will be completed on the building's mechanical systems (heating, ventilation, plumbing, etc.) to ensure future renovations include innovative approaches to create an energy and water efficient building.

The Nature Centre consists of two classrooms, with washrooms and resource storage space. It is a configuration of three, temporary portable structures, surplus by the York Region District School Board in the late 1980's. Its lifespan and functionality are of significant concern. An additional building, the beach house, was decommissioned for public use/access a number of years ago. It is currently used in outdoor education operations to store equipment and provide a staging area for aquatic programs.

In 2014, the expertise and services of an architectural consulting firm, Brook McIlroy, were retained to complete an Education Facility Enhancement Study (FES). The scope of work was focused on the Nature Centre and the beach house. The purpose was:

1. to assess the state of the existing facilities from a structural/mechanical, locational and operational perspective;
2. to identify opportunities to increase the quality of the student learning experience;
3. to identify opportunities to increase service delivery capacity; and
4. to synthesize findings into recommendations, supported by preliminary cost estimates.

The findings and recommendations provide valuable information for the short- and long-term planning of outdoor and environmental education at Scanlon Creek and along with advice received from the LSRCA Board of Directors (BOD), will be incorporated into the next phase of strategic and operational planning of the education program.

The existing workshop and storage facilities at the conservation area are located at the west side of the main tract and are accessed from both the main entrance off of Line 9 as well as from an entrance from County Road 4/Yonge Street. These facilities encompass several buildings, including a garage, workshop and several storage buildings. The workshop would benefit from an upgrade to existing office space contained within it. This would include upgrading washroom facilities, heat and telecommunications infrastructure as well as work station and meeting space. Any renovations will be determined based on the needs of the buildings' tenants and will be completed in compliance with the Building Code. The storage buildings near the workshop will be maintained or replaced as necessary. Barn #2 and the paint shed are both showing signs of wear which may be beyond repair and would warrant replacement. Any replacement storage buildings will be designed to suit existing and anticipated future storage needs.

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The original farmhouse (circa 1860's) of the Mark Scanlon family is located near the workshop and storage buildings. This house is currently vacant but presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate how the heritage of this historic home can be protected, while incorporating new technologies in energy efficiency and Low Impact Development (LID). As resources allow, the farmhouse will be renovated to suit current or future tenants. Ideally, this house would serve as a community resource while also housing groups such as the Conservation Foundation or the Friends of Scanlon Committee.

### Roads and Parking Lots

The entrance to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area from Line 9 will be the primary public access point into the property. The entrance from County Road 4/Yonge Street will be for staff access with the exception of scheduled public access to the farmhouse. Interior roads for staff vehicle access will be signed and gated. Access and parking for the Bark Park will be relocated to the south side of the off-leash area where it will be connected to the interior road network. This will ensure that public vehicles accessing the property will be required to pass the gate house where key visitor information is available.

Access roads in the conservation area will be re-graded or top-dressed semi-annually. As necessary, LSRCA may apply dust reduction compound to roads to prevent erosion. LSRCA may also introduce traffic calming mechanisms to the roads if necessary. Should road conditions degrade, LSRCA may choose to pave access roads to minimize the time and resources required to maintain them. Preference would be given to using LID techniques for paving where possible.

Gravel parking lots will be re-graded or top-dressed as required. Each gravel parking lot will include signed accessible parking spaces, maintained to a standard consistent with standards outlined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. Grass parking lots will remain as overflow parking and will be mown on an as-needed basis.

LSRCA will examine ways of improving energy efficiency of the lighting in the parking lots. This may include putting timers or motion detectors on existing light standards or replacing existing light standards with solar-powered lights.

Signs will be erected at junctions in the road network clearly directing visitors to the Head of Trails, picnic pavilions, Operations Centre, Nature Centre, Discovery Play Garden and Bark Park.

Snow will be removed from the main entrance road up to the gate at the Nature Centre and from the entrance to the Bark Park. Snow will also be removed from parking lots and walkways at the Nature Centre, Operations Centre (Education Centre), Bark Park, workshop and

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farmhouse as necessary. To maintain safe roads and walkways, sand and salt may be applied in a responsible manner as appropriate.

## Trails

Trails at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area will be designed, constructed and maintained to meet the guidelines of sustainable and universally accessible trails<sup>36</sup>. Universally accessible trails are not necessarily 'barrier free'; rather they represent a trail system that meets the range of abilities and interests of the widest possible cross section of users. LSRCA will endeavour to provide this range of challenges and opportunities by providing a variety of trails – ranging from accessible, to multi-use, to remote recreational trails.

Accessible trails will be designed, constructed and maintained to a standard in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* so that users with mobility restrictions, such as those reliant on wheelchairs or walkers, can make use of them. Accessible trails will be inspected monthly for trail condition and barriers such as washouts, hazard trees, and downed woody debris.

Multi-use trails will be classified as easy, intermediate or advanced and will be designed, constructed and maintained so that they meet the needs and interests of the majority of hikers, bikers, skiers and dog walkers while minimizing impacts on habitat and ecosystems. Trails classified as easy will be free of trip hazards or other natural obstacles and will be maintained to a minimum width of 2 m, cleared to a minimum height of 3 m, with a firm and stable surface, built up with aggregate where necessary. Intermediate trails may include exposed roots, rocks or other natural obstacles and will be maintained to a minimum width of 1.5 m, cleared to a minimum height of 2.5 m with a natural surface and built up with aggregate or woodchips where necessary. Steep areas on easy or intermediate trails may be managed by incorporating a switchback, providing stairs or retained as a technical feature. They will be inspected biannually for trail condition and barriers such as washouts, hazard trees and downed woody debris. Advanced trails may be more remote in nature and will be maintained to a minimum width of 0.5 m, cleared to a height of 2.5 m. These trails will have a natural surface and may include exposed roots, rocks or other natural obstacles. Steep areas along these trails will be designed to provide a challenge to users while reducing soil erosion. They will be inspected

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<sup>36</sup> As defined by the Trails for all Ontarians Collaborative (2006)

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biannually for trail condition and barriers such as washouts, hazard trees, and downed woody debris, and will be mown if necessary.

Existing trails will be upgraded as necessary to reduce sedimentation or erosion into the watercourse or wetlands. Upgrades may include re-grading trails, topdressing with wood chips, limestone, corduroy or boardwalks, or replacing culverts with footbridges.

Scanlon Creek Conservation Area's trail system will be inspected biannually for the development of unofficial trails, or for trail segments which expose trail users to safety risks. If trail closures become necessary to protect natural heritage values or visitor safety, LSRCA will erect temporary barriers and post signage identifying the purpose for the closure.

LSRCA will install interpretive features such as signs along trails in strategic locations to highlight historical or natural heritage features that are visible from the trail, as well as information on the history, ecology, management, and restoration of the property. Certain trails may also include the development of additional recreational infrastructure such as bridges, boardwalks, or scenic overlooks to maximize exposure to, and visual impact of, significant natural heritage features while minimizing recreational impacts.

LSRCA will work with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to improve the connection of non-motorized recreational trails between the conservation area and the Town. Access to the conservation area from future residential developments adjacent to the property may also be provided along designated trails.

A Head of Trails kiosk will be maintained near the Nature Centre parking lot. This kiosk will include a trail map indicating trail lengths and difficulty, notice board of coming events, rules and regulations of the conservation area, and interpretive material suited for a central location. Signage along the accessible and multi-use trails will be provided to notify users of which trail they are on, their position relative to access points and other trails, and geographic (i.e. UTM) location. Additional signage will be placed at the head of accessible trails that indicates the length of trail, surface type, minimum trail width and maximum running slope and cross slope.

Simcoe County emergency response personnel will be given copies of trail maps of the conservation area, clearly indicating access points and drivable portions of trails, locations of trail signs as described above, as well as copies of all gate keys and contact information for key LSRCA staff.

### Picnic Areas, Tables and Benches

Several designated picnic areas exist within the conservation area. LSRCA will continue to maintain these areas as such and will delineate and sign them accordingly. LSRCA will provide picnic tables at the picnic pavilions, Nature Centre, Operations Centre (Education Centre), Discovery Play Garden, Bark Park, near the beach house and in picnic areas. Picnic tables will be either permanently affixed to a concrete slab and constructed of metal with a wooden top and benches, or moveable and constructed of 2"x6" lumber. LSRCA will ensure that at least 25% of picnic tables are barrier free.

Benches will be provided and maintained at strategic locations along the trails or near interpretive features. Benches will either be permanently affixed to a concrete slab and constructed of metal with a wooden top, or moveable and constructed entirely of wood.

### Group Camping

LSRCA will continue to provide group camping facilities in the main tract of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. These facilities will include an open grassy area for tents, washroom facilities and potable water as it becomes available in the conservation area. If interest dictates, an additional group camping facility may be developed in the Scanlon north tract of the conservation area to provide a more 'remote' camping experience for youth groups.

### Bark Park Off-leash Area

LSRCA will continue to provide the Bark Park, designated off-leash dog area, to allow users to let their pets run off-leash. The area will remain fenced with gated access to both the main areas as well as the small dog area. The fence and gates will be inspected biannually to ensure they remain intact. During periods of wetter weather, the Bark Park may be closed to the public to prevent excessive erosion of soil in the area. Prior to any closures, the public will be notified through appropriate media channels and signage in advance. Clear signage indicating the rules of the off-leash area and the rules regarding dogs in the rest of the conservation area will be posted near the entrance to the Bark Park.

Dogs will continue to be permitted in the remainder of the conservation area; however LSRCA staff and municipal bylaw enforcement officers will increase their presence in the conservation area to ensure that regulations regarding leash requirements and waste removal are observed. Signs reminding dog walkers of their responsibilities will be erected in all parking lots and at the designated off-leash area. Where such signs already exist, they will be repainted or replaced with new signage to remind users of these responsibilities. Baggies and garbage receptacles will be located in all parking lots and at the designated off-leash area.

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## Discovery Play Garden

LSRCA will maintain the Discovery Play Garden to provide safe, nature-based recreational opportunities for children and families using the picnic pavilion, nature trail or group camp ground. Unlike traditional playgrounds, The Discovery Play Garden incorporates elements of vegetation, landscape design, natural elements such as rocks and logs, in addition to play structures. The overall intent of the Discovery Play Garden is to promote a sense of wonder and discovery in children and engage them in interacting with the natural world around them.

LSRCA may enhance the Discovery Play Garden as interest dictates and as resources permit. The specific details of new elements or features will be designed and built with input from children, teenagers, educators, and interested community groups.

## Communication and Marketing

LSRCA will develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan for the property that will guide communication and marketing efforts, ensuring consistent, clear and effective messaging regarding Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The communication plan will provide a strategy to promote the property, highlighting natural features, amenities and programs. It will identify target audiences and the various tools and tactics that will be used to reach them such as community outreach, internal and external signage, webpage development, print material and social media. It will also include rebranding Scanlon Creek Conservation Area to better reflect the new vision for the property: Scanlon Creek – A Destination for Natural Inspiration.

Focus will be placed on marketing the conservation area to existing and new residents of southern Simcoe County and northern York Region. Particular effort will be made to reach out to new residents of Bradford, Sharon and Queensville in an effort to raise local awareness of the existence of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Marketing materials will be provided to area visitors, through partnerships with the local tourism industry and visitor information centres in York Region and Simcoe County.

## User Fees

LSRCA will require users accessing the property with a vehicle to purchase a parking pass. Fee prices for the pass will be set at a level commensurate with similar recreation areas elsewhere in the Golden Horseshoe and may be revised on an annual basis to ensure fair market value is being received. LSRCA will also provide an option to purchase an annual pass, allowing individuals to pre-pay for unlimited vehicle access during one calendar year. As necessary,

LSRCA will enforce 'no parking' regulations on the entrance road south of the gate and will work with municipal by-law officers to enforce 'no parking' along Line 10 and County Road 4/Yonge St.

Permit fees for use of the education facilities, campsites and picnic pavilions as well as commercial use of the property such as photography or film production will also be required. LSRCA will set the fees at a level commensurate with similar recreation areas elsewhere in the Golden Horseshoe. Fees may be revised on an annual basis to ensure fair market value is being received.

LSRCA may provide group memberships to community groups who assist in the development and management of the conservation area. LSRCA may also pursue options to provide memberships or coupons as marketing tools, or to provide bulk permits to interested municipalities in the watershed.

LSRCA will develop a donations and naming policy for its conservation areas. The policy will identify facilities and programs that will be eligible for naming recognition, donations required, and ways naming can be incorporated tastefully into a natural setting.

Any revenue generated at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area will be retained for use in this and other conservation areas in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Any surplus revenues from this property will be dedicated to other conservation areas which do not generate revenue, to a conservation area stabilization fund to support the area in years with decreased revenue, or will be used to support LSRCA's land securement program.

### **Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee**

LSRCA will continue to support the Friends of Scanlon Creek together with Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF). Support may include dedicating staff time as well as supplying resources for meetings, programs and events. The Friends Executive Committee is considered to be a subcommittee of the LSCF and operates in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Friends of Scanlon Creek<sup>37</sup>. The group is made up of a diverse group of local volunteers who are led by an elected Chair who also serves as the main point of contact with LSRCA and LSCF.

The Friends of Scanlon Creek will continue to organize workshops and events for the community in Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The Friends will also continue to generate

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<sup>37</sup> LSRCA,LSCF (2012)



support and raise funds for the maintenance and enhancement of the conservation area. Their efforts will support initiatives such as habitat stewardship and the addition of amenities to the property like boardwalks or play structures.

## Outdoor Environmental Education

LSRCA remains focused on developing and delivering top quality education programs that are sustainable into the future. This anticipates many important and exciting developments for the Outdoor Environmental Education Program at Scanlon Creek. Future developments will require time, investment and resource dedication. Key objectives are:

- to increase the quality of the student learning experience
- to increase service delivery capacity
- to expand program content (curriculum) and engagement (participant demographics)
- to strengthen financial performance

Central to these objectives is the need to *re-vitalize* and *re-vision* the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area facilities that support the education program – particularly, the Nature Centre facility and the beach house. The Nature Centre facility is a configuration of three, temporary portable structures surplussed by the York Region District School Board in the late 1980's. Its lifespan and functionality are of significant concern. The beach house was decommissioned for public use/access several years ago, but it is a solid, “built-to-last” structure.

Based on work completed in 2014 for LSRCA by the architectural consultant firm Brook McIlroy, within the next 5 years of the Scanlon Creek Management Plan, LSRCA hopes to realize:

1. The construction of a new, multi-functional Nature Centre facility in the vicinity of Line 10, an estimated \$3.7M investment.
2. The re-opening of a repurposed, beach house facility for general and education program use, an estimated \$280K investment.

These investments are critical to ensure that the strong tradition and legacy of LSRCA's Outdoor Environmental Education Program, established over the preceding four decades, continues at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. LSRCA's ability to realize these initiatives are dependent on many factors, all of which will be identified and addressed through more detailed education program business planning and will not form part of the conservation area Business Plan.

## Programming

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The Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee, with support from LSRCA and LSCF, will continue to provide nature-based public programs and community events on a seasonal basis to interested conservation area users. These may include guided hikes, nature themed workshops and community events such as “Family Fun Day”. They will also continue to coordinate fundraising events to support the maintenance and enhancement of the conservation area. Fundraising efforts may include coordinating events such as the “Run for the Trails” fundraiser which is geared towards raising funds for trail improvements. Public programs or events through the Friends of Scanlon Creek may be led and/or coordinated by members of the Committee, LSRCA staff, or by outside experts, and may be reliant on partnerships with organizations with complementary mandates. Public programs provided by the Friends of Scanlon Creek may have associated participant fees in order to ensure that programming is either revenue neutral or revenue positive.

Volunteer days to assist with the maintenance and enhancement of conservation area facilities and amenities will be coordinated as needed and as interest dictates by LSRCA in collaboration with the Friends of Scanlon Creek.

The relocation of LSRCA’s Stewardship and Forestry staff to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area may lead to the delivery of workshops or other forms of programming related to forestry or stewardship. Programs may include workshops, guided or self-guided tours, or volunteer opportunities to assist with ecological restoration initiatives. Additional stewardship demonstration projects may be established on the property to support these programs.

Programming may also be provided by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury or other organizations, to which the facilities at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area will be made available. Reduction in facility rental fees may be provided if the public programming delivered is consistent with the goals of the conservation area.

### **Cross Departmental Collaboration**

Several departments within LSRCA, as well as the LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek have a vested interest in Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The property provides a venue for outdoor environmental education, public programs and events; office, meeting and facility operations space for staff; and meeting and event space for community groups. The operation of several LSRCA departments as well as the delivery of programs through these departments is dependent on the proper management of this conservation area and associated infrastructure. LSRCA’s facility staff will continue to implement improvements to the facilities at the

conservation area in order to provide up-to-date amenities. On-going consultation will look into further opportunities for utilizing facilities on the property for program workshops, cross departmental meetings, and external working group and committee meetings.

To ensure the efficient and effective operation and management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, LSRCA is committed to internal and external communication and collaboration. LSRCA departments and others with a vested interest and/or area of expertise regarding management direction will be included in project teams or consulted with as needed. To assist with coordinating activities and communicating information related to the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, LSRCA will work with its municipal partners to secure funding in support of a Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Coordinator staff person.

## Section IV: Business Plan

### Introduction

The purpose of a conservation area Management Plan is to establish long- and short-term goals for the management of the property, and priorities for implementation. The Business Plan component is a description and schedule of implementation priorities and responsibilities, coupled with projections of revenues and expenses over a five-year period.

In addition to revenues and expenses, this Business Plan identifies potential funding sources and will provide guidance for LSRCA management in implementing the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan.

Priorities for initiating and investing in capital, projects, programs and plans for the period 2015 – 2019 are identified in Table 4. The financial investment required to implement the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan and the sources of revenue to support it are identified in Table 5. Several larger projects are planned for the period of 2015 - 2019 and encompass a significant portion of the projected expenses. These projects have been identified in Table 4 with an asterisk (\*). A detailed breakdown of projected expenses is provided in Appendix 1. and a detailed breakdown of projected revenues is provided in Appendix 2.

**Table 4:** Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan implementation priorities.

Year	Implementation Priorities
	<i>* denotes priorities that are projected to require a financial investment greater than \$30,000</i>
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a comprehensive communication plan</li> <li>Review parking and permit fee schedule</li> <li>Install automated pay and display stations</li> <li>Increase enforcement of user fees, off-leash dogs and other regulations</li> <li>Develop an emergency response plan</li> <li>Install exterior emergency phone at the gatehouse and beach house</li> <li>Install exterior lighting at Operations Centre (Education Centre)</li> <li>Purchase a new mower*</li> <li>Install dual sorter waste receptacles with lids</li> <li>Install solar powered motion sensor lights in vault toilet facilities</li> <li>Delineate picnic sites</li> <li>Assess arboretum and install or remove trees as required</li> </ul>

Design and install species labels at Arboretum  
 Build and install mini-amphitheatre at Discovery Play Garden  
 Install signage with emergency response contact information  
 Install signage at newly delineated picnic sites  
 Create property map identifying locations of pavilion and picnic sites  
 Replace trail map at Head of Trails kiosk  
 Install trail map holders at Head of Trails, gatehouse and pay and display stations  
 Continue building accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden\*  
 Assess trails and assign technical skill level and appropriate uses.  
 Design and begin construction of boardwalk\*  
 Build accessible parking near Discovery Play Garden  
 Develop a citizen scientist monitoring program  
 Complete creek restoration and dam bypass project\*  
 Initiate semiannual cross departmental meetings  
 Initiate annual implementation tracking

**2016** Hire weekend gatehouse staff for May to October  
 Purchase a new tractor and grading disc\*  
 Install accessible pit privy at north pavilion\*  
 Install native plant garden at Discovery Play Garden  
 Design and install interpretive signage for natural and historical features  
 Install kiosk at gatehouse  
 Complete accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden\*  
 Complete construction of boardwalk\*  
 Close and restore areas where trails are no longer used  
 Review and update trail way finding signage  
 Build area for vehicles to pull over near gatehouse  
 Under plant trees and shrubs along the entrance drive  
 Continue ecological restoration work around the creek and wetland  
 Install LID landscape features at Operations centre (Education Centre)

**2017** Install nature based obstacle course at Discovery Play Garden  
 Relocate public entrance and small dog area to the south end of Bark Park  
 Install new bridge to cross creek near dam\*  
 Pave entrance drive to gatehouse\*  
 Build public road and parking at south end of Bark Park\*

Complete one restoration project annually as identified in the Subwatershed Stewardship Plan

**2018** Review and update trail map and guide

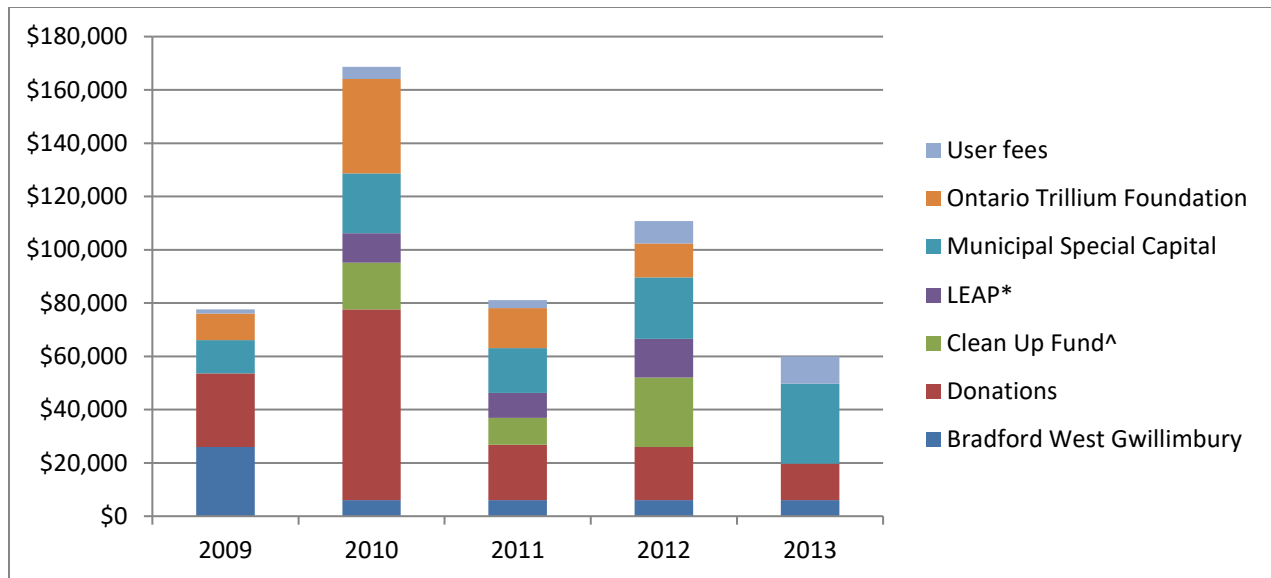
**2019** Initiate five-year review of Management Plan  
Install a mini-pavilion or shade structure near Head of Trails

**Table 5:** Revenues and expenses for materials and supplies required to implement the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan priorities.

<b>Revenues (cash)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
Special Capital	\$101,234	\$130,500	\$307,034	\$28,470	\$42,434	\$609,671
General Levy	\$6,122	\$7,912	\$8,039	\$9,171	\$8,306	\$39,550
User Fees	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Program Fees	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
Donations and/or Grants	\$724,875	\$219,875	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$963,250
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>\$839,231</b>	<b>\$365,287</b>	<b>\$328,573</b>	<b>\$50,640</b>	<b>\$63,740</b>	<b>\$1,647,471</b>
<b>Revenues (in-kind)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bradford West Gwillimbury	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
<b>Total in-kind</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$844,231</b>	<b>\$370,287</b>	<b>\$333,537</b>	<b>\$55,640</b>	<b>\$68,740</b>	<b>\$1,672,471</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administration	\$91,031	\$118,537	\$43,073	\$47,140	\$45,240	\$345,021
Programming	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
Amenities	\$231,200	\$231,750	\$283,000	\$1,000	\$16,000	\$762,950
Environment	\$520,000	\$18,000	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$554,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$844,231</b>	<b>\$370,287</b>	<b>\$333,537</b>	<b>\$55,640</b>	<b>\$68,740</b>	<b>\$1,672,471</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Historic Revenues

Revenues to support the development, operation and maintenance of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area have traditionally come from three major sources: municipal partner contributions, user fees and donations. More recently, grants and special funds such as the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund have also supported specific projects and programs on the property (Figure. 8). In addition, general levies from our municipal partners provide the critical base funding to employ staff and administration and also provide some support for projects and programs.



**Figure 8:** Revenue received to support capital investments, projects and programs at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area for the period of 2009-13. Note: revenue shown here excludes revenue received to support staff costs, such as general levy. \*Landowner Environmental Assistance Program. ^Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund.

### Municipal Partner Contributions

LSRCA's municipal partners provide a general levy and periodically provide 'special capital' funding to support staffing costs and the implementation of specific programs or projects that advance the Conservation Authority's mandate. In the past, special capital investments made at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area include investments in upgrades to buildings, trails, fences and other amenities on the property. Additional contributions from Bradford West Gwillimbury, both financial and in-kind, in 2008 were directed to support road upgrades and maintenance.

### User Fees

Fees charged to users of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area have always played a significant part in the conservation area's revenue stream. They include parking fees, permit fees and facility rental fees. In 2002 and earlier, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area had a staffed gatehouse with an attendant collecting fees, since that time there was a period where parking fees were removed entirely and only donations were requested. Revenue dropped significantly during this period, though, reservation fees for the group camp sites and picnic pavilions have remained in place throughout. In 2012, parking fees were reestablished and have been collected predominantly on an honour system, aside from special events where the gatehouse has been



staffed. Since 2012, revenue received through user fees, primarily parking fees, has increased, yet they are still less than what was collected in the past.

### Volunteers and Donations

The LSCF continues to play an essential role in fundraising to support various investments made at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Through various programs and events, the LSCF has worked with individuals and corporate and community groups to generate donations which are typically applied to specific projects and programs, such as memorial benches or trail development. In 2009, the Ontario Trillium Foundation provided funding to support the initiation of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee. This committee of local volunteers, while still relatively new, has already coordinated fundraising initiatives to support projects that will improve user experience.

### Budget Projection

The budget projection predicts a five-year financial outlook for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The model compares the conservation area's most consistent source of funds with projected one-time and recurring costs. It includes money that has already been secured through grants to support 2015 work related to the watershed stewardship creek restoration and dam bypass project. As depicted below in Table 6, Scanlon Creek Conservation Area's current budget cost projection suggests that staffing levels or full time equivalents (FTEs) and revenues generated on the property will fall well short of what would be necessary to implement the Management Plan. LSRCA will continue to make fiscally responsible management decisions for the conservation area and priorities identified in the Management Plan will only be implemented once the required resources have been secured.

**Table 6: Projected shortfall in funding and staffing to implement the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan**

Year Resource Type	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE
Revenues	\$563,000	2.00	\$43,000	2.00	\$43,000	2.00	\$43,000	2.00	\$43,000	2.00
Expenses	\$844,231	3.65	\$370,287	3.86	\$333,573	3.16	\$55,640	3.01	\$68,740	3.16
Balance	(\$281,231)	(1.65)	(\$327,287)	(1.86)	(\$290,573)	(1.16)	(\$12,640)	(1.01)	(\$25,740)	(1.16)

### Projected Revenues

To address the projected funding shortfall identified in this Business Plan, LSRCA will need to attract new sources of funding and in-kind support. Funding may include special capital, general levy, government and non-government funding programs, private sector sponsorships, donations and volunteer support.

### Special Capital

Special capital funding from LSRCA's partner municipalities, which is used to advance programs and projects, will remain an important part of the funding formula for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Special capital will be utilized to purchase new equipment, replace or upgrade built infrastructure such as storage facilities, the workshop, signs, picnic pavilions and washrooms, and in providing seed funding to attract matching funds from other agencies.

### General Levy

Funding from general levy received from LSRCA's municipal partners primarily supports operational administrative/overhead expenditures, including obligatory property management costs such as utilities. The general levy is not allocated to specific properties, such as Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, but rather towards managing the overhead related to conservation lands in general.

### User Fees

Revenue generated through parking and permit fees support management of the property which may include anything from grounds maintenance to infrastructure improvements. In 2016, when the gate house is scheduled to be staffed again, revenues should increase to reflect the collection of fees from all users. Projections for revenues from parking fees and permit fees for use of the picnic pavilions and group camp sites are predicted to grow proportional to the local population.

### Program Fees

To help offset the cost of delivering public programs, program fees may be collected as necessary and as deemed appropriate. Typically, program fees are collected per participant but may also be collected per family unit. Any revenue generated from public program fees will be used to support the delivery of future public programs.

### Volunteers and Donations

Volunteer days, coordinated by LSRCA in collaboration with the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee, have been focused on trail improvements, property maintenance and habitat restoration. LSRCA will continue to coordinate at least two volunteer days each year to engage the local community and achieve some of the goals outlined in this Management Plan.

The Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will continue to provide public programming and raise funds to implement projects at the conservation area. Their continued support will be integral to successfully implementing projects such as expanding the Discovery Play Garden and replacing the boardwalk through the wetland. As interest dictates and as time and resources permit, LSRCA will also partner with volunteers from corporate or community groups to implement projects on the property.

### In-Kind Contributions

The provision of in-kind contributions from external partners or stakeholders is of great assistance to the Conservation Authority and often eases financial pressure associated with the management of the conservation area. In-kind contributions may consist of services and/or materials. In the past, contributions have included consulting and design services as well as material and services to assist with property maintenance. Bradford West Gwillimbury has been and will continue to be an important partner in providing in-kind services. LSRCA will continue to build new and maintain existing relationships with partners or stakeholders to support implementation of the Management Plan.

### Additional Potential Revenue Sources (Grants)

LSRCA, in collaboration with the LSCF, will pursue project or program specific funding opportunities through government and non-government grants and funds as they apply to the implementation of priorities identified in this Management Plan. Several grants have already been secured for 2015 to support the watershed stewardship creek restoration and dam bypass project. Prior to submitting applications or proposals to various grant opportunities, anticipated administrative investment required to manage any grants received as well as any required matching funds will be considered and planned for accordingly.

### Landowner Environmental Assistance Program

The Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP) is a funding program administered by LSRCA to provide funding and technical assistance to landowners undertaking projects to improve water quality in Lake Simcoe. The implementation of Best Management Practices

(BMPs) identified in the Scanlon Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Plan would be eligible to receive up to 50% funding (to a maximum for each project) from LEAP.

### **Lake Simcoe South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-Up Fund**

The Lake Simcoe South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-Up Fund is a Federal funding program designed to provide financial and technical support to implement projects intended to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Lake Simcoe watershed as well as the adjacent drainage basins emptying into south-eastern Georgian Bay. Projects at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area that may be eligible for this funding include the Scanlon Creek restoration and dam bypass project including stream bank restoration and the creation of wetland habitat. The Fund can support up to two thirds of the total cost of these projects, including salaries, operating expenses, and professional services.

### **Department of Fisheries and Oceans Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program**

The Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program forms a key component of the Government of Canada's conservation agenda and aligns with the Government's commitment to better protect Canada's fisheries. The program aims to bring like-minded partners and their resources together with the common long-term goal of enhancing the sustainability and ongoing productivity of Canada's recreational fisheries. The program objective is to restore, rebuild and rehabilitate recreational fisheries habitat. The program can support many different types of restoration projects such as the Scanlon Creek restoration and dam bypass project as well as the BMP opportunities on the property.

### **Ontario Trillium Foundation**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation provides funding to community-based initiatives supporting the environment, arts and culture, human and social services and sports and recreation. Although neither Conservation Authorities nor municipalities are eligible, they may receive grants as part of a "collaborative" effort with community groups. Ontario Trillium Foundation will provide support up to \$375000 over five years through its 'community grants' program. Projects at the conservation area which may be eligible for this funding include trail upgrades, Discovery Play Garden expansion, water quality improvement projects as well as the coordination of nature-based programming.

### **Ministry of Health Promotion**

The Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's Healthy Communities Fund (HCF) program provides non-capital funding to support the development and delivery of integrated health promotion initiatives in communities across Ontario. Eligible projects must address two or more of the following health promotion priorities: healthy eating, injury prevention, mental health promotion, physical activity and substance and/or alcohol misuse prevention. Projects that may be eligible at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area would be related to program delivery that gets people out and active in nature.

### **Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants**

Walmart Canada and Evergreen have partnered to offer this national program, funding community based green initiatives. Grants are available to community groups and non-profit organizations working on community development and environmental initiatives. Projects such as enhancing the arboretum, creating a native plant garden or updating the trail guide and map may be eligible for funding if applied for through the LSCF or Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee.

### **TD Friends of the Environment Foundation**

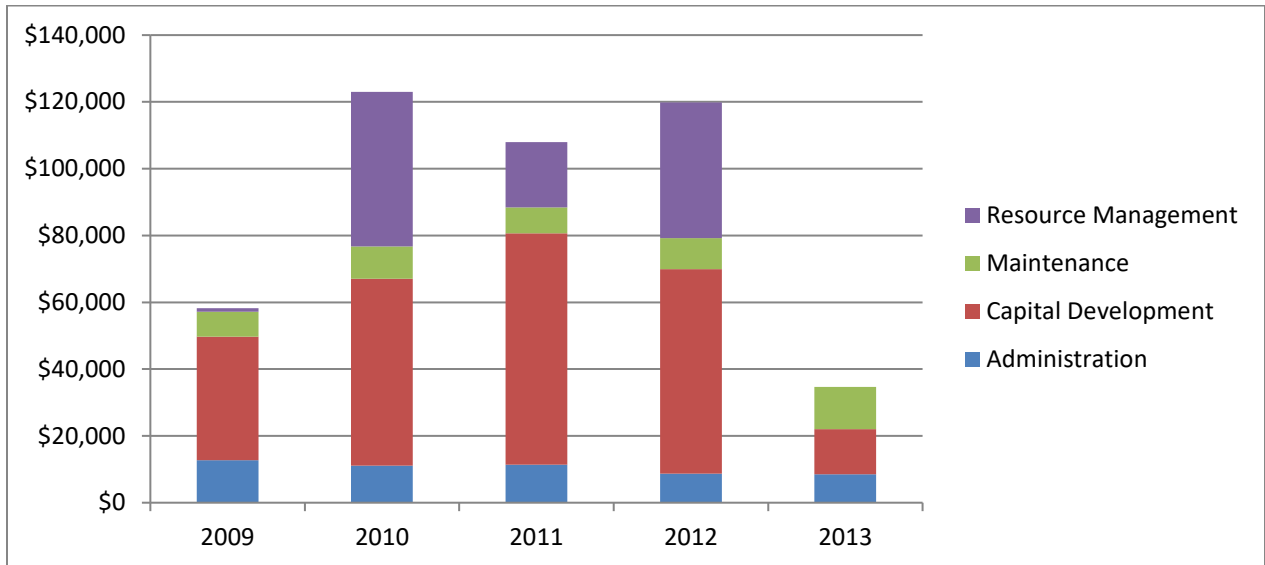
The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TDFEF) has funded local environmental projects across Canada for over 22 years. Eligible projects include environmental education, tree planting, energy conservation, urban naturalization, community gardening, habitat restoration and research. A variety of projects at Scanlon would be eligible such as interpretive signage, restoration projects or environmental monitoring programs.

### **Historic Expenses**

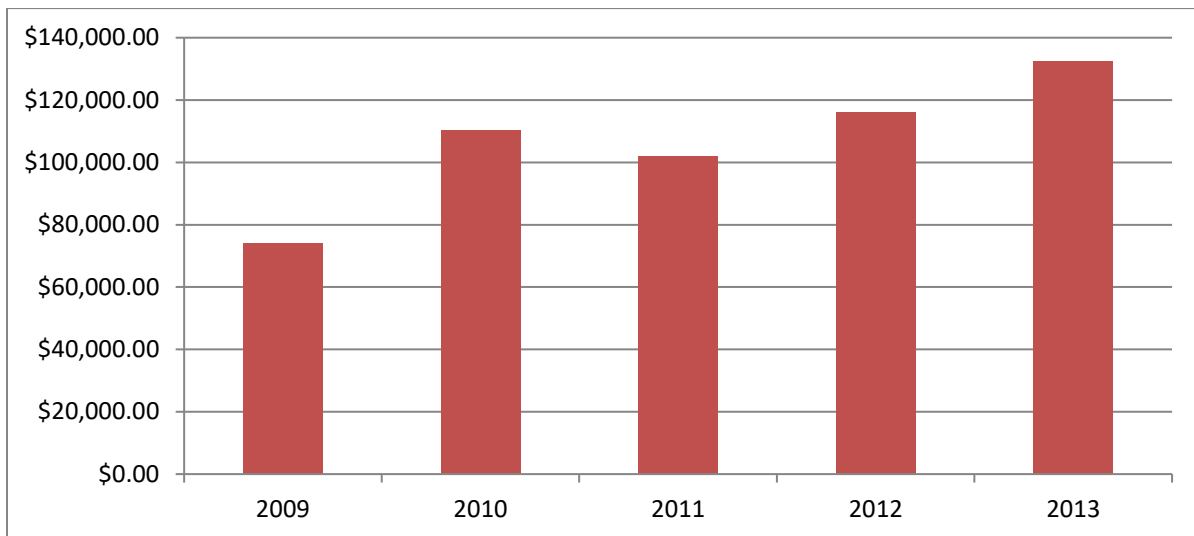
Expenses associated with the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area had previously been divided into four broad categories: Administration, Capital Development, Maintenance, and Resource Management.

Figure. 9 depicts the financial investment made to support the implementation of programs and projects identified in the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan (2009) in each of the four categories described above. The associated staffing investment is depicted in

Figure. 10 and has been calculated based on time spent and the associated hourly wages and benefits for each staff position<sup>38</sup>.



**Figure 9:** Total financial investment associated with the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, displayed by category, for the period of 2009-13



**Figure 10:** Staffing investment associated with the management of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area for the period of 2009-13.

<sup>38</sup> LSRCA (2014b)

## Projected Expenses

Throughout the review and update of this Management Plan, activities associated with the operation and maintenance of Scanlon Creek Conservation Area have been divided into four main categories, that differ slightly from the previous Management Plan: Administration, Programming, Amenities and Environment.

### Administration

The administration category continues to include the majority of activities that were encompassed by it in the past. These are comprised of the general administrative duties that support and enhance the operations of the conservation area, including communication and marketing, human resource management, budget formulation and tracking, and oversight of procurement and contracting activities. Additionally, maintenance activities required to meet property maintenance standards such as hazard tree management and snow removal have now been captured under this category. However, programming has been separated out into its own category to better isolate the operational expenses involved with the provision of public programs.

### Programming

LSRCA, together with the LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee, have expanded educational programming from its existing base of school-oriented programs to engage a broader cross-section of the community. Public programs at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area are predominantly coordinated by the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee. These include workshops, guided hikes, and community and fundraising events. In addition, LSRCA has engaged additional volunteers through Volunteer Day events to assist with the maintenance and enhancement of the conservation area.

### Amenities

The amenities category replaces the previous Capital Development category. It covers any improvements made to conservation area facilities, roads and other amenities such as the Discovery Play Garden, Bark Park, trails as well as the addition of new amenities. It does not however, include the regular maintenance of these features.

### Environment

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The environment category replaces the previous resource management category. Activities associated with the management of natural heritage features on the property fall under this category and include projects such as the creek restoration and dam by pass project as well as any restoration initiatives, forest management activities and ecological monitoring programs taking place at the conservation area.



## Implementation Schedule

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority staff will implement, as resources permit, the projects and programs identified in the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Management Plan as described below.

### 2015

#### Administration

##### Marketing

- Develop a comprehensive communication plan to promote the property and its features
- Communication & Education and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

##### Property Taxes

- Continue to pay municipal property taxes
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2409
- Funding source: special capital

##### Insurance and Utilities

- Continue to pay insurance and utilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$7122
- Funding source: special capital and general levy

##### User Fees

- Review the parking and permit fee schedule and revise if necessary
- Install automated pay and display stations
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$20000
- Funding source: special capital and user fees

##### Potential Revenue

- Seek additional funding through grants or awards
- Explore sponsorship opportunities for amenities
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

##### Enforcement

- Increase enforcement of user fees and off-leash dogs and other regulations
- Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: general levy

#### Health and Safety

- Develop an emergency response plan for the property
- Install exterior emergency phone at the gatehouse and boathouse
- Install exterior lighting at the Operations Centre (Education Centre)
- Corporate Services and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$3500
- Funding source: special capital

#### Property Maintenance

- Purchase new mower for property maintenance
- Install dual sorter waste receptacles with lids in parking areas
- Annual workload to maintain property in accordance with property maintenance standards
- Annual workload to maintain conservation area facilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$95500
- Funding source: special capital

#### Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation

- Initiate semiannual cross departmental meetings
- Initiate annual implementation tracking
- All LSRCA departments, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Friends Organization

- Support the operations of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### **Programming**

##### Public Programming

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Coordinate nature themed workshops and programs
- Coordinate community and fundraising events
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Conservation Lands and LSCF will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: program fees

#### **Amenities**

##### Conservation Area Facilities

- Install solar powered motion sensor lights in vault toilet facilities

- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$1000
- Funding source: special capital

#### Picnic Sites

- Clearly delineate picnic sites
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Arboretum

- Assess arboretum and determine which trees/shrubs should be included or excluded
- Remove trees as identified through assessment
- Install trees received from Scotch settlement arboretum
- Purchase and install trees/shrubs as identified through assessment
- Design and install individual species labels
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$5500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Discovery Play Garden

- Build a mini-amphitheater
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective.
- Estimated cost: \$2000  
Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Signage and Print Material

- Install signage with emergency response contact information at key locations
- Install signage at newly delineated picnic sites
- Create property map identifying location of pavilion and picnic sites
- Replace trail map sign at Head of Trails kiosk
- Install trail map holders at Gatehouse, Head of Trails and at pay and display stations
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2950
- Funding source: special capital

#### Trails

- Continue building accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden
- Assess trails, assign technical skill level and appropriate uses and determine which trails should be closed
- Design and begin construction of replacement boardwalk through wetland
- Monitor trail condition and upgrade as necessary, including culverts and bridges
- Conservation Lands and Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$214750
- Funding source: special capital and donations and/or grants

#### Roads and Parking

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- Build accessible parking near Discovery Play Garden
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: special capital

### **Environment**

#### **Invasive Species Management**

- Monitor the spread of terrestrial invasive species and initiate removal where necessary
- Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### **Ecological Monitoring**

- Monitor for the presence of amphibians
- Develop and oversee a citizen scientist monitoring program
- Conservation Lands, Watershed Management and Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### **Watershed Stewardship**

- Complete creek restoration and dam bypass project
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective.
- Estimated cost: \$520000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

## 2016

### Administration

#### Marketing

- Continue implementation of communication plan
- Communication & Education and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

#### Property Taxes

- Continue to pay municipal property taxes
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2482
- Funding source: general levy

#### Insurance and Utilities

- Continue to pay insurance and utilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$7335
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

#### User Fees

- Begin staffing the gate house on weekends from May to October
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Potential Revenue

- Seek additional funding through grants or awards
- Explore sponsorship opportunities for amenities
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Enforcement

- Continue enforcement of user fees and off-leash dogs and other regulations
- Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: general levy

#### Property Maintenance

- Purchase new tractor for property maintenance
- Purchase grading disc for property maintenance
- Install dual sorter waste receptacles with lids in parking areas
- Install accessible pit privy near north pavilion
- Annual workload to maintain property in accordance with property maintenance standards
- Annual workload to maintain conservation area facilities

- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$61220
- Funding source: special capital

#### Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation

- Complete annual implementation tracking
- Continue semiannual cross departmental meetings
- All LSRCA departments, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee

- Support the operations of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

### **Programming**

#### Public Programming

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Coordinate nature themed workshops and programs
- Coordinate community and fundraising events
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Conservation Lands and LSCF will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: program fees

### **Amenities**

#### Discovery Play Garden

- Install native plant garden
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$1000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Signage and Print Material

- Design and install interpretive signage for natural and historical heritage features
- Install kiosk at the Gatehouse
- Communication & Education, Watershed Management and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$12000
- Funding source: special capital and donations and/or grants

#### Trails

- Complete accessible trail near Discovery Play Garden
- Close and restore areas where trails are no longer used
- Complete construction of replacement boardwalk through wetland

- Review trail way finding signage and update as appropriate
- Monitor trail condition and upgrade as necessary, including culverts and bridges
- Conservation Lands and Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$216750
- Funding source: special capital and donations and/or grants

#### Roads and Parking

- Build area where vehicles can pull over near gate house to view kiosk
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: special capital

#### Environment

##### Invasive Species Management

- Monitor the spread of terrestrial invasive species and initiate removal where necessary
- Under plant trees and shrubs along entrance drive to mitigate EAB impact
- Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2500
- Funding source: special capital

##### Ecological Monitoring

- Monitor for the presence of amphibians
- Oversee the citizen scientist monitoring program
- Conservation Lands, Watershed Management and the Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

##### Watershed Stewardship

- Continue ecological restoration work around the creek and wetland
- Install LID landscape features at Operations Centre (Education Centre)
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$10000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

**2017****Administration**

## Marketing

- Continue implementation of communication plan
- Communication & Education and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

## Property Taxes

- Continue to pay municipal property taxes
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2556
- Funding source: general levy

## Insurance and Utilities

- Continue to pay insurance and utilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$7556
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

## User Fees

- Continue to staff the gate house on weekends from May to October
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

## Potential Revenue

- Seek additional funding through grants or awards
- Explore sponsorship opportunities for amenities
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

## Enforcement

- Continue enforcement of user fees and off-leash dogs and other regulations
- Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective.
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: general levy

## Property Maintenance

- Annual workload to maintain property in accordance with property maintenance standards
- Annual workload to maintain conservation area facilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$25462
- Funding source: special capital

Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation

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- Complete annual implementation tracking
- Continue semiannual cross departmental meetings
- All LSRCA departments, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee

- Support the operations of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

### **Programming**

#### Public Programming

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Coordinate nature themed workshops and programs
- Coordinate community and fundraising events
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Conservation Lands and LSCF will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: program fees

### **Amenities**

#### Discovery Play Garden

- Install nature based obstacle course
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Off-leash Bark Park

- Relocate public entrance and small dog area to south end of Bark Park
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$1500
- Funding source: special capital

#### Trails

- Install new bridge to cross creek near dam
- Monitor trail condition and upgrade as necessary, including culverts and bridges
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$101000
- Funding source: special capital

#### Roads and Parking

- Pave main entrance drive to gatehouse
- Build public road access and parking area at south side of Bark Park
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives

- Estimated cost: \$180000
- Funding source: special capital

### **Environment**

#### Invasive Species Management

- Monitor the spread of terrestrial invasive species and initiate removal where necessary
- Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Ecological Monitoring

- Monitor for the presence of amphibians
- Oversee the citizen scientist monitoring program
- Conservation Lands, Watershed Management and the Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Watershed Stewardship

- Complete one restoration project identified in Subwatershed Stewardship Plan  
Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

## 2018

### Administration

#### Marketing

- Continue implementation of communication plan
- Review and update trail map and guide
- Communications & Education and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives.
- Estimated cost: \$8000
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

#### Property Taxes

- Continue to pay municipal property taxes
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective.
- Estimated cost: \$2633
- Funding source: general levy

#### Insurance and Utilities

- Continue to pay insurance and utilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$7782
- Funding source: special capital and general levy

#### User Fees

- Continue to staff the gate house on weekends from May to October
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Potential Revenue

- Seek additional funding through grants or awards
- Explore sponsorship opportunities for amenities
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives.
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Enforcement

- Continue enforcement of user fees and off-leash dogs and other regulations
- Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: general levy

#### Property Maintenance

- Annual workload to maintain property in accordance with property maintenance standards
- Annual workload to maintain conservation area facilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$26226
- Funding source: special capital

#### Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation

- Complete annual implementation tracking
- Continue semiannual cross departmental meetings
- All LSRCA departments, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee

- Support the operations of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### **Programming**

##### Public Programming

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Coordinate nature themed workshops and programs
- Coordinate community and fundraising events
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Conservation Lands and LSCF will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: program fees

#### **Amenities**

##### Trails

- Monitor trail condition and upgrade as necessary, including culverts and bridges
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$1000
- Funding source: special capital

#### **Environment**

##### Invasive Species Management

- Monitor the spread of terrestrial invasive species and initiate removal where necessary
- Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

##### Ecological Monitoring

- Monitor for the presence of amphibians
- Oversee the citizen scientist monitoring program
- Conservation Lands, Watershed Management and the Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

#### Watershed Stewardship

- Complete one restoration project identified in Subwatershed Stewardship Plan
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

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## 2019

### Administration

#### Marketing

- Continue implementation of communication plan
- Communication & Education and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimate cost: \$5000
- Funding source: general levy and special capital

#### Property Taxes

- Continue to pay municipal property taxes
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimate cost: \$2712
- Funding source: general levy

#### Insurance and Utilities

- Continue to pay insurance and utilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$8016
- Funding source: special capital and general levy

#### User Fees

- Continue to staff the gate house on weekends from May to October
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Potential Revenue

- Seek additional funding through grants or awards
- Explore sponsorship opportunities for amenities
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Enforcement

- Continue enforcement of user fees and off-leash dogs and other regulations
- Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: general levy

#### Property Maintenance

- Annual workload to maintain property in accordance with property maintenance standards
- Annual workload to maintain conservation area facilities
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$27012
- Funding source: special capital

#### Management Plan Implementation and Evaluation

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- Continue semiannual cross departmental meetings
- Initiate five-year review of Management Plan
- All LSRCA departments, LSCF and the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee

- Support the operations of the Friends of Scanlon Creek Committee
- LSCF and Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

### **Programming**

#### Public Programming

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities
- Coordinate nature themed workshops and programs
- Coordinate community and fundraising events
- Friends of Scanlon Creek, Conservation Lands and LSCF will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$2000
- Funding source: program fees

### **Amenities**

#### Conservation Area Facilities

- Install a mini-pavilion or shade structure near the Head of Trails
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$15000
- Funding source: special capital

#### Trails

- Monitor trail condition and upgrade as necessary, including culverts and bridges
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$1000
- Funding source: special capital

### **Environment**

#### Invasive Species Management

- Monitor the spread of terrestrial invasive species and initiate removal where necessary
- Conservation Lands and Watershed Management will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$0

#### Ecological Monitoring

- Monitor for the presence of amphibians
- Oversee the citizen scientist monitoring program

- Conservation Lands, Watershed Management and the Friends of Scanlon Creek will be responsible for achieving these objectives
- Estimated cost: \$500
- Funding source: donations and/or grants

Watershed Stewardship

- Complete one restoration project identified in Subwatershed Stewardship Plan
- Conservation Lands will be responsible for achieving this objective
- Estimated cost: \$5000
- Funding source: donations and/or grants



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## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Detailed projected expenses to achieve Management Plan objectives**

**Appendix 2: Detailed projected revenues to achieve Management Plan objectives**

Note: To obtain a copy of these Appendices please contact LSRCA at 905-895-128