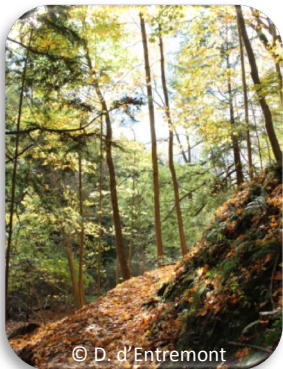




What is Conservation Action Planning?

- Conservation Action Planning (CAP) is an effective and efficient way to conserve many species and habitats at the same time.
- CAPs in Carolinian Canada focus on Biodiversity Hotspots – areas of high concentration of species and habitat diversity, and often home to many rare species.
- Local groups work together to develop and implement a plan, with common goals and strategies.

Hamilton-Burlington 7E-3 Natural Heritage



- The Hamilton – Burlington 7E-3 Conservation Action Plan (HBCAP) area covers approximately 21,000 ha (210 km²) of lands at the western tip of Lake Ontario. It includes the waters and wetlands of Hamilton Harbour, Cootes Paradise, as well as the portions of the cities of Hamilton and Burlington found within Ecodistrict 7E-3. The area supports plants and animals characteristic of the Carolinian Life Zone, many of which are provincially, nationally and globally rare.



- The area now called Hamilton was first occupied by the Iroquois Confederacy of Five (later Six) Nations. It was during the period of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 that the first Europeans settled in the area. In the second half of the 1800s, Hamilton became a city known for its heavy industry, a hotbed of working-class activism. Today, health care has outstripped heavy industry as the largest employer.



- Although the region has undergone intensive urban and industrial development, the Hamilton – Burlington CAP area contains some of the most extensive, diverse and highest quality natural areas in the Golden Horseshoe, Canada's most densely-populated region. At least 34 federally- and provincially-designated Species at Risk (SAR) have been recorded in the CAP area within the past 30 years, with several others having occurred historically. The area has among the highest percentages of forest cover in Ecoregion 7E, and includes one of the largest coastal wetlands on Lake Ontario.

- The HBCAP was completed in 2010.

Conservation Targets:

1. Coastal Wetlands
2. Niagara Escarpment / Deciduous Forests – North
3. Deciduous Forests – South of Harbour
4. Inland Wetland and Aquatic Communities
5. Prairies, Savannahs, Dry Oak Woodlands
6. Successional Thickets and Fields
7. Sand Dunes



Major Impacts:

Perception, Values, Lack of Awareness; Residential & Commercial Development ; Trails; Invasive Non-native Species; Roads & Railroads; St. Lawrence Seaway Water Level Regulation; Shoreline Alteration; Municipal Waste-water Household and Feral Pets; Residential Encroachment on Buffer/Transition Zone; Invasive Species in Wetlands and Aquatic Communities; Fire Suppression and Natural Succession; Impervious Surfaces; Artificial Light

Conservation Objectives & Strategic Actions



1. Increase natural cover of all conservation target types through restoration by, using existing eco-linkage and natural heritage system mapping, including utility and riparian corridors.

Actions: Compile mapping, identify key sites for restoration, implement projects, establish local seed bank for future activities.

2. Establish functional ecological linkages between existing core natural areas using existing eco-linkage and natural heritage system mapping (including utility and riparian corridors).

Actions: Compile data, produce maps and publish document identifying key sites, develop land securement strategy, secure key sites, develop stewardship plans, incorporate needs of Species at Risk into existing management plans.



Conservation Objectives & Strategic Actions

3. Reduce road mortality at important sites using methods supported by existing research.

Actions: Complete inventory and mapping of road crossing and mortality hotspots for birds, mammals and herpetofauna, develop best management practices for road development, incorporate eco-passages for new and existing roads.



4. Landowners within or adjacent to natural areas receive stewardship packages.

Actions: Develop and gather existing landowner stewardship guides/documents that address key threats to habitats and species at risk, hold workshops related to Species at Risk and habitat stewardship,



5. Adopt existing effective approaches to education and outreach with nurseries and garden centres regarding invasive and problematic species.

Actions: Develop appropriate outreach strategy, identify local nurseries and garden centres in the CAP, deliver outreach materials.



6. Ensure ongoing collaboration among CAP partners to implement identified strategies and actions.

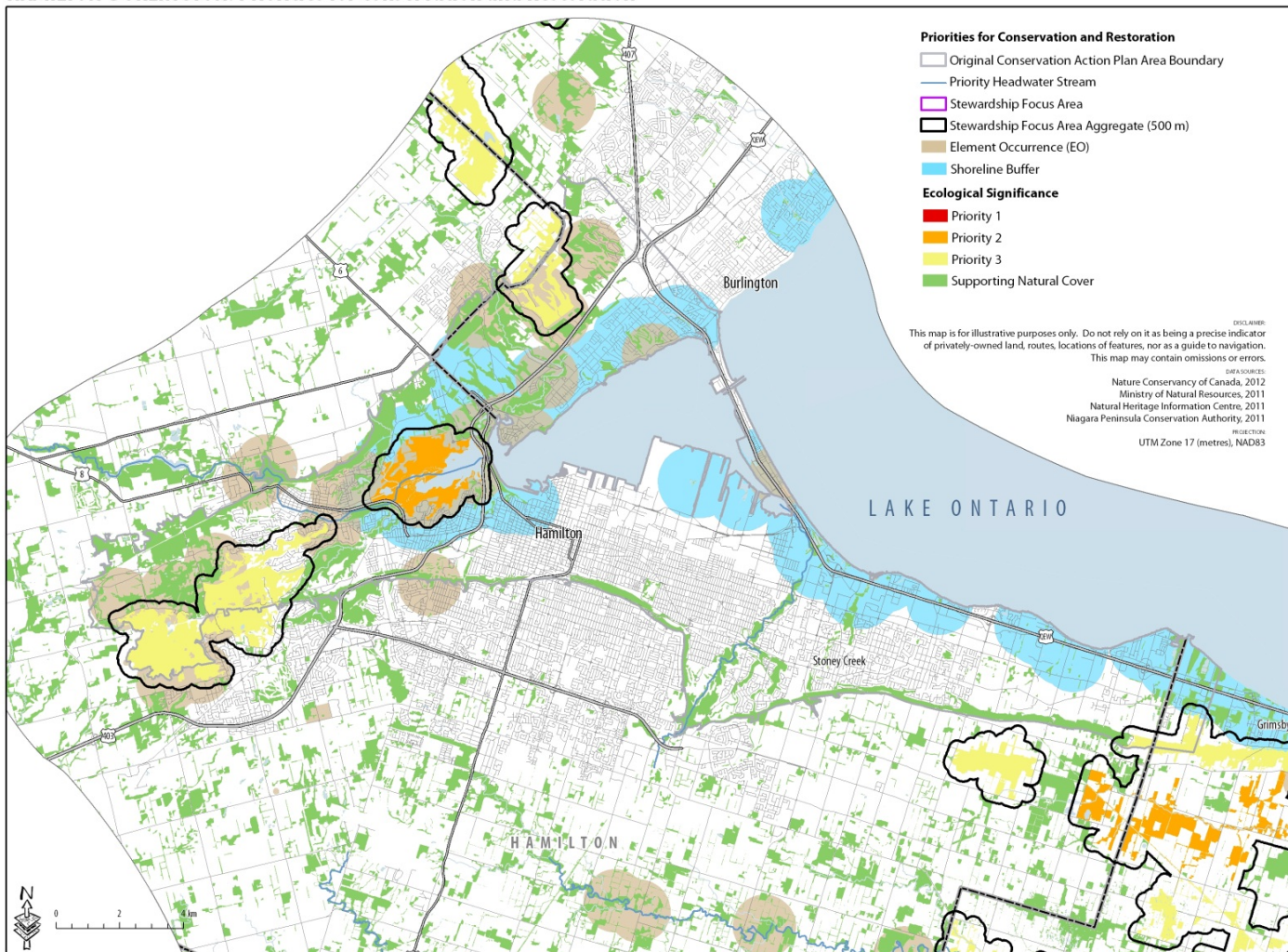
Actions: Hold annual meetings and workshops with all CAP teams, relevant recovery team representatives and other key conservation partners.

7. Private lands owned by corporations within the CAP area to have conservation or restoration programs in place.

Actions: Develop strategies for engaging corporate partners in CAP implementation, identify key corporate partners in conservation projects and key corporate landowners, implement appropriate conservation and recovery efforts on corporate lands.



HAMILTON-BURLINGTON: Priorities for Conservation and Restoration



Partners

Bay Area Restoration Council
 Bird Studies Canada
 Bruce Trail Conservancy
 Carolinian Canada Coalition
 City of Burlington
 Conservation Halton
 Cootes to Escarpment Park System
 Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Hamilton Conservation Authority
 Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program
 Hamilton Naturalists' Club
 Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 ReLeaf Hamilton
 Royal Botanical Gardens
 Tallgrass Ontario



For more information about Conservation Action Planning and how you can be involved please visit www.carolinian.org

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