



**Grand River Conservation Authority
Agenda - General Meeting**

Friday, September 22, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership
GRCA Administration Centre
Zoom Virtual Meeting

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Certification of Quorum	
3. Chair's Remarks	
4. Review of Agenda	
THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as circulated.	
5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings	1
THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of August 25, 2023 be approved as circulated.	
7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes	
8. Hearing of Delegations	
9. Presentations	
a. GRCA Permitting and Hearing Process - Beth Brown, Manager of Planning and Engineering Services	
10. Correspondence	
11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws	
12. Reports:	
a. GM-09-23-68 - Progress Report #6 - Ontario Regulation 687/21	
Report to follow.	

b.	GM-09-23-66 - Update on Regulatory Deliverables - Ontario Regulation 686/21	6
	THAT Report Number GM-09-23-66 – Update on Regulatory Deliverables – Ontario Regulation 686/21 be received as information.	
c.	GM-09-23-67 - Banking and Investment Policy	10
	THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve the Banking and Investment Policy dated September 22, 2023.	
d.	GM-09-23-69 - Cash and Investment Status	29
	THAT Report Number GM-09-23-69 Cash and Investment Status – August 2023 be received as information.	
e.	GM-09-23-70 - Financial Summary	31
	THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending August 31, 2023 be approved.	
f.	GM-09-23-62 - Elora Quarry and Grand River Conservation Area Membership Pass Update	52
	THAT Report Number GM-09-23-62 - Elora Quarry and Grand River Conservation Area Membership Pass Update be received as information.	
g.	GM-09-23-63 - ERO No. 019-4706: Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications	54
	THAT Report Number GM-08-23-63 – ERO No. 019-4706: Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications be received as information.	
h.	GM-09-23-65 - Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan Consulting Contract	57
	THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the proposal from Hatch Ltd. to carry out engineering consulting services to complete the Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan up to the amount of \$197,240 excluding HST;	
	AND THAT an overall project budget of \$216,964 be approved for this project.	
i.	GM-09-23-71 - Current Watershed Conditions	60
	THAT Report Number GM-09-23-71 – Current Watershed Conditions as of September 11, 2023 be received as information.	
j.	GM-09-23-64 - Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan	72
	THAT Report Number GM-08-23-58 – Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan be received as information.	

13. **Committee of the Whole**
14. **General Business**
15. **3rd Reading of By-Laws**

16. Other Business

17. Closed Meeting

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): proposed or pending acquisition or disposition.

- a. Minutes of the previous closed session
- b. Proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land - Township of Centre Wellington

18. Next Meeting - October 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

Regrets only to:

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2200



Grand River Conservation Authority Minutes - General Membership Meeting

Date: August 25, 2023
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Hybrid Meeting of the General Membership

Members Present Bruce Banbury, Christine Billings, Gino Caputo, John Challinor II, Ken Yee Chew, Doug Craig, Mike Devine, Jim Erb, Susan Foxton, Guy Gardhouse, Gord Greavette, Lisa Hern, Colleen James, Daniel Lawrence, Dave Miller, Sandy Shantz, Rob Shirton, Jerry Smith, Shawn Watters, Chris White, Kari Williams, Alex Wilson, Pam Wolf

Regrets Brian Coleman, Kevin Davis, Natasha Salonen

Staff Samantha Lawson, Karen Armstrong, Beth Brown, Krista Bunn, Brandon Heyer, Janet Ivey, Katelyn Lynch, Sonja Radoja, Lisa Stocco, Jacqueline Delange, Nathan Munn, Eowyn Spencer, Vahid Taleban

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Certification of Quorum

The Secretary-Treasurer certified quorum with more than half of the Members present. A total of 23 Members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Members and made the following remarks:

- Chair White and Samantha Lawson attended the AMO conference in London, Ontario earlier this week. Many Board members were also in attendance on behalf of their respective municipalities. Thank you to Vice-chair Mayor Sue Foxton and the Township of North Dumfries for facilitating a briefing note prepared by GRCA staff for the Hon. Minister Graydon Smith. The briefing note relates to the Board Composition Committee's request to discuss the Order-in-Council for the current composition of the GRCA Board.
- Staff are organizing a bus tour for Board members for Thursday, September 28. Tour stops will include the Shand Dam, Elora Gorge, and Guelph Lake.
- Jacqueline Delange, GRCA Accounting Assistant, has been named to the CPA's national honour roll for the May 2023 Common Final Examination, ranking among the top 1% of successful writers across the nation. The National CFE Honour Roll recognizes writers whose performance in the exam demonstrated academic excellence and exceptional abilities. Congratulations Jacqueline!

4. Review of Agenda

23-116

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Lisa Hern

THAT the agenda for the General Membership Meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

23-117

Moved By Jerry Smith

Seconded By Gord Greavette

THAT the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 23, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Carried

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

8. Hearing of Delegations

There were no Delegations.

9. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

10. Correspondence

23-118

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Shawn Watters

THAT Correspondence from the Region of Halton regarding the 2024 budget direction, and from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation regarding Greenbelt removals be received as information.

Carried

11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws

None.

12. Reports:

12.a Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee - August 16, 2023

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-119

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By Christine Billings

THAT the minutes of the Ad-hoc Conservation Authorities Act Regulations Committee Meeting of August 16, 2023 be received as information.

Carried

12.b GM-08-23-60 - Cash and Investment Status

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-120

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Gino Caputo

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-60 Cash and Investment Status – July 2023 be received as information

Carried

A.Wilson joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

12.c GM-08-23-62 - Financial Summary

- D.Miller asked for clarification about the revenues under nursery and woodlot management, and whether it included seedling sales. S.Radoja confirmed that is correct.

23-121

Moved By Lisa Hern

Seconded By Rob Shirton

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending July 31, 2023 be approved.

Carried

K.Chew joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

12.d GM-08-23-56 - 2023 and 2024 Tree Nursery Plan and Tree Planting Fees

- K.Armstrong shared with the Board that an error had been made in the originally approved 2023 Tree Planting Fees, which has been corrected in the updated schedule.
- D.Miller asked if this is a self-sustaining program, and S.Radoja responded that historically it has relied on levy funding. With the new budget framework being implemented in 2024, the program will rely on surplus allocation from other program areas and noted that timber sales revenues are allocated to the forestry reserve which may be used for this program.
- J.Challinor inquired about billing errors due to the incorrect fees for 2023. K.Armstrong confirmed that the error was made in the fee schedule that was posted online only where some indicated zero dollar amounts and that landowners were provided with accurate information and billed accordingly.
- S.Shantz noted concern over the differential but given that landowners were given correct information her concerns were alleviated.

23-122

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT the 2023 GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 – Tree Nursery be approved retroactive to January 1, 2023 as amended;

AND THAT the 2024 GRCA Fee Policy: Fee Schedule 4 - Tree Nursery and Tree Planting Fees be approved and implemented effective January 1, 2024.

Carried

12.e GM-08-23-55 - Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines Regulation

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-123

Moved By Gord Greavette

Seconded By Susan Foxton

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-55 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

Carried

12.f GM-08-23-59 - ERO Posting 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement

There were no comments or questions regarding this item.

23-124

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Guy Gardhouse

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-59 – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument – Natural Heritage Policies Update be received as information.

Carried

12.g GM-08-23-57 - Canadian Heritage River - 30th Anniversary Report

- S.Lawson highlighted that the Grand River was designated as a Heritage River 30 years ago by Parks Canada. This year, the anniversary report will highlight First Nations communities in the watershed. The GRCA is applying for funding available through the designation program.

23-125

Moved By Mike Devine

Seconded By Bruce Banbury

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-57 – Canadian Heritage River – 30th Anniversary Report be received as information.

Carried

12.h GM-08-23-61 - Current Watershed Conditions

- S.Shantz asked about the reservoir levels and their storage capacity if the watershed gets more rain. K.Lynch responded, noting that most are currently at the upper rule curve but remain lower than the highest level in June. The level supports flow augmentation and flood control, and with the robust network of gauges to monitor levels and flows, there are no concerns with capacity at this time.
- D.Lawrence inquired if there has been a change in recent years to flood management, and K.Lynch noted that the operational rule curves have not changed, but that this year rainfall patterns were steady with lower or localized intensity of storm systems.

23-126

Moved By Pam Wolf

Seconded By Gino Caputo

THAT Report Number GM-06-23-61 – Current Watershed Conditions as of August 15, 2023 be received as information.

Carried

13. Committee of the Whole

Not required.

14. General Business

There was no General Business.

15. 3rd Reading of By-Laws

None.

16. Other Business

None.

17. Closed Meeting

23-127

Moved By John Challinor II

Seconded By Sandy Shantz

THAT the General Membership enter a closed meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act section 239(2)* for the following purpose(s): personal matters about one or more identifiable individuals.

Carried

23-130

Moved By Susan Foxton

Seconded By David Miller

THAT the General Membership return to open session.

Carried

17.a Minutes of the previous closed session

Moved By Sandy Shantz

Seconded By David Miller

THAT the Minutes of the previous closed session be approved.

Carried

17.b Personal matter about one or more identifiable individuals

Resolutions 23-128 and 23-129 were passed in closed session in accordance with *the Municipal Act section 239(6)*.

18. Next Meetings

General Membership Meeting - September 22, 2023

GRCA Board Tour - September 28, 2023

R.Shirton inquired about treetop trekking and if the GRCA has any locations that may be suitable for such an activity. The Chair noted that staff can consider the inquiry and report back.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

23-131

Moved By Ken Yee Chew

Seconded By Daniel Lawrence

THAT the General Membership Meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-66

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Update on Regulatory Deliverables- Ontario Regulation 686/21

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-09-23-66 – Update on Regulatory Deliverables – Ontario Regulation 686/21 be received as information.

Summary:

Not applicable.

Report:

Under *Ontario Regulation 686/21- Mandatory Programs and Services*, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is required to complete six regulatory deliverables by December 31, 2024. These regulatory deliverables support the mandatory programs and services and include:

- development and implementation of an Ice Management Plan
- development and implementation of an Operational Plan(s) (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure)
- development and implementation of an Asset Management Plan (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure)
- Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy
- Conservation Area Strategy
- Land Inventory

Conservation Authority Plans Update

Ice Management Plan

Ice Management is a mandatory program and service the GRCA can provide within its jurisdiction if it is determined that ice management is required to reduce the risk associated with natural hazards. The Regulation stipulates that the program must include the development and implementation of an Ice Management Plan. This plan must include how ice within the Authority's jurisdiction may increase the risk of natural hazards and the steps that are necessary to mitigate these risks, including identifying equipment and resources needed to carry out these steps. This plan should be updated on a frequency as determined by the Authority.

This deliverable will provide GRCA with an opportunity to formalize current ice management practices within the watershed. Specifically, this Plan will identify the roles of the Authority in ice management activities, identify areas prone to ice jam flooding, how ice jams and other issues related to ice management can create increased risk to natural hazards if not managed properly and identify recommendations for structural and/or operational measures to mitigate the associated flood risks.

Progress to-date includes identification of the project team, background data collection, review of GRCA's ice management program and identification of key ice jam flood events to characterize ice jams within the Grand River watershed. Areas prone to ice jams within the GRCA watershed have also been documented.

A gap analysis will be completed, and the project team will review the need to characterize and analyze past ice jam flood events to benefit the GRCA ice management program.

During this process, staff will also consult with specific municipalities impacted by ice jams to determine any additional resources or monitoring equipment required for the program.

Operational Plan(s)

Operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of any water control infrastructure, where the purpose of this infrastructure is to mitigate risk to life and damage to property resulting from flooding or to assist in flow augmentation and erosions control infrastructure, is a mandatory program and service. The Regulation stipulates that an operation plan must be developed and implemented for water control/flow augmentation and erosion control infrastructure.

In 2004, the GRCA Board approved the Reservoir Operations Policy. Staff will review the policy and complete any additional analysis and/or updates on current/future climate changes.

Operations and Maintenance Manuals for the water control infrastructure have been developed and updated on an as-needed basis. The Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance (OMS) manuals for the seven multi-purpose dams will also be updated in 2023-2024.

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Plan

An asset management plan is also required to support the mandatory programs and services for flood control, low flow augmentation and erosion control infrastructure. This includes infrastructure the GRCA owns and/or operates through an agreement with a landowner.

The plan will include the identification, location and specifications of eight dams, six dike and floodwall systems, a condition assessment of the major components of the infrastructure, current maintenance practices/processes and systems and a review of the maintenance program to identify any modifications/updates that would be required to meet organizational goals. The plan will also document the GRCA's water control infrastructure asset management strategy and the associated funding needs, including major maintenance, large capital for individual dams and dikes, and outline recommended work.

Staff have completed a baseline inventory of dam components for the asset management plan. In order to complete the Plan within the required timelines and to utilize expertise outside of the GRCA related to life cycle analysis, cost-effective infrastructure management strategies, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to complete the Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan has been issued and will be awarded at the September 22, 2023 Board meeting.

It is anticipated that the consultant will complete the Asset Management Plan by summer/fall 2024.

Conservation Authority Strategies Update

Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario. The regulation also requires Conservation Authorities to prepare a Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy (RMS) with a number of required components. This strategy will provide the watershed context and rationale for GRCA's programs and services (categories 1, 2 and 3) and identify priorities and future directions.

The Strategy may include both category 2 and category 3 programs and services provided by the CA, where the agreement which provides for the delivery of these programs or services permits the inclusion of these programs or services in the Strategy.

The GRCA's draft category 2 Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) includes a clause permitting category 2 programs and services in the RMS and it is expected that the Strategy will

also capture key category 3 programs and services. This means that the guiding principles, objectives and description of GRCA's programs and summaries will be inclusive of all GRCA programs.

The RMS will assess Category 1 programs (only) for regulatory compliance and make recommendations and provide cost estimates to address any issues or mitigate risks that limit the effectiveness of the programs.

Currently, the guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of GRCA's programs and services have been drafted and are under review by staff. These were informed by GRCA's Strategic Plan and other resource management plans and strategies (e.g., water management plan). A review of GRCA's mandatory programs for regulatory compliance, issues and risks, and potential actions is underway, along with a summary of watershed issues. These programs include those related to natural hazards, land management, drinking water source protection, and delivery of provincial surface water and groundwater monitoring networks.

Public consultation is also a requirement for the development of the RMS. The GRCA considers senior municipal water management staff to be primary stakeholders for the RMS. First Nations may be key stakeholders if they identify an interest. The primary objective of stakeholder consultation is to provide information. A secondary objective is to collect feedback on potential issues, risks, gaps in programs to inform potential future directions or priorities (for consideration by the GRCA Board). The primary objective of public consultation will be to provide information. The main mechanisms for engaging the public will be 1) posting the draft RMS on GRCA's website, 2) one or more virtual webinars to present information on the RMS and answer questions about GRCA's programs and services. Public consultation for the RMS will not be delivered in conjunction with the Conservation Areas Strategy, as it's expected the scope/level of interest will differ substantively.

Conservation Area Strategy

Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the mandatory components of the Conservation and Management of Lands program and service. The regulation requires each conservation authority to prepare a Conservation Area Strategy. The objective of the Strategy is to ensure the GRCA has a documented and current set of objectives to inform decision-making related to the land they own or control. As part of the regulatory requirements, the Conservation Area Strategy will also inform the mandatory GRCA Land Inventory, through establishing land use categories for the lands it owns and/or controls.

The predominate focus to date has been on the development and finalization of the mandatory Land Inventory which summarizes details of all of GRCA's land holdings.

A staff working group has been established with individuals who have expertise in land management. Group meetings have been undertaken to gain input from staff across the Land Management Division to identify the objectives of the strategy, gaps in the current land management program and input on future measures.

Based on gained feedback, objectives statements have been drafted and short summaries are currently being developed to support the concepts of the objectives.

Public consultation is also a requirement for the development of this strategy. Staff are still working on determining the appropriate approach to engage key stakeholders and the public in this process.

Land Inventory

Ontario Regulation 686/21 requires that each conservation authority is required to prepare a land inventory, which outlines required information for every parcel of land owned or controlled by the Authority. The regulation sets out the minimum elements of the land inventory. The Land

Inventory is directly linked to the Mandatory Conservation Area Strategy, as land use categories established in the Strategy will be applied to each parcel of land in the Land Inventory.

Unlike the Conservation Area or Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, the Land Inventory has no regulatory requirements to be posted publicly or shared with the province.

The GRCA is in the process of finalizing the Land Inventory. The inventory details information on the parcel acquisition, location, categorization, GRCA projects, etc. The GRCA owns 497 parcels throughout the watershed. This inventory will be a great addition to support the management of GRCA's land holdings and provides an easy-to-use reference document for all GRCA-owned and managed properties.

Financial Implications:

To assist with the deliverables related to GRCA Lands, a temporary position was put in place to project manage the Conservation Area Strategy and Land Inventory. Additional temporary support has also been provided to the Water Infrastructure Department to increase capacity for technical assistance and management for the various Plans required.

Funding for consulting work, specifically for developing the Asset Management Plan for Natural Hazard Infrastructure, will be supported by the Lands Sale Reserve.

At this time, it is not anticipated that additional funding will be required for external studies. Should the need arise, the Transition Reserve and/or the Land Sale Reserve would provide the necessary funding.

Other Department Considerations:

The Water Infrastructure, Water Resources, Conservation Lands and Corporate Services departments were consulted in preparation for this report.

Submitted by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-67

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Banking and Investment Policy

Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve the Banking and Investment Policy dated September 22, 2023.

Summary:

Not applicable.

Report:

The Conservation Authorities Act does not provide any specific guidelines for investing money held by a Conservation Authority. In 1994, however, the Ministry of Natural Resources provided direction that Conservation Authorities should invest in accordance with the Municipal Act and Regulations under that Act. Following that clarification, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) approved a Banking and Investment Policy in the late 1990s and has followed it since that time. In 1997, Ontario Regulation 438/97 was enacted under the Municipal Act to prescribe eligible municipal investments and provided further direction for Conservation Authorities. The GRCA's policy has traditionally been slightly more restrictive/conservative than the Regulations because GRCA's investments are either short-term in nature or related to reserves, which often have an outside interest (the Province of Ontario), thus increasing the importance of preservation of capital.

The Banking and Investment Policy, attached as Appendix 1, was last updated on January 22, 2016. The current update includes updated references to the current legislation and some minor housekeeping changes, all of which are shown highlighted with track changes. Staff do not recommend changing Financial Institutions for daily banking at this time, because the current bank (CIBC) has a presence in most of the communities where the Conservation Areas operate. This allows regular deposits of cash as required and electronic transfers to the GRCA's main bank. Surveys have been carried out at various times to ensure competitive service charges, fees, etc. and this will be undertaken again in 2024. Investments can be made through GRCA's investment manager with any financial institution, so investments are not limited to the bank that is used for daily banking needs.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/ Secretary Treasurer



Grand River Conservation Authority Banking and Investment Policy

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1) Legislation

The Conservation Authorities Act does not specifically outline banking and investment policies for Conservation Authorities. In 1994, however, a ruling by Ministry of Natural Resources stated that Conservation Authorities must follow the guidelines for municipalities as outlined in the Municipal Act. Following are relevant Sections of the Municipal Act 2001:

418 (1) A municipality may invest in prescribed securities, in accordance with the prescribed rules, money that it does not require immediately including,

(a) money in a sinking, retirement or reserve fund;

(b) money raised or received for the payment of a debt of the municipality or interest on the debt; and

(c) proceeds from the sale, loan or investment of any debentures. 2001, c. 25, s. 418 (1).

~~**418. (1) A municipality may invest in prescribed securities, in accordance with the prescribed rules, money that it does not require immediately including,**~~

~~**(a) money in a sinking, retirement or reserve fund;**~~

~~**(b) money raised or received for the payment of a debt of the municipality or interest on the debt; and**~~

~~(c) proceeds from the sale, loan or investment of any debentures. 2001, c. 25, s. 418 (1). 418. (6) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,~~

~~(a) prescribing rules for the purpose of subsection (1);~~

~~(b) prescribing and defining securities or classes of them for the purpose of subsection (1);~~

~~(b.1) prescribing and defining financial instruments and agreements that municipalities may issue or enter into for or in relation to investments under subsection (1);~~

~~(c) providing that a municipality does not have power to invest in securities or classes of securities specified in the regulation. 2001, c. 25, s. 418 (6); 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 182~~

Grand River Conservation Authority will only make investments that fall within the applicable Regulation(s) at the time the investment is made. A copy of Ontario Regulation 438/97, which is currently in effect, is attached to this Policy, as information.

2) Banking

Selection of Institutions

As provided in the Municipal Act (see section 1), the Grand River Conservation Authority only deposits cash in banks that are listed in Schedule I, II or III to the Bank Act (Canada). The head office requires a current account that is considered the “main account” and a US dollar account for settlement of US Accounts Payable. Due to the need to make frequent deposits of cash generated at outside locations, an account is required for each Conservation Area, at a bank in close proximity to the area.

The main account and US dollar account are selected by a “request for quotation” from a minimum of three qualified institutions. Staff review the proposals considering interest rates, service charges and general services offered, including presence in the communities where GRCA conducts business, and recommend one institution to the General Membership. A Resolution of the General Membership is required in order to enter into a banking contract with the preferred institution.

Where possible, the Conservation Areas use the same institution for their deposits. If this is not possible due to service considerations or proximity to the Conservation Area, a different institution may be selected.

Signing Authority

Signing Authority for all Bank Accounts of the Grand River Conservation Authority will be in accordance with the current Grand River Conservation Authority Bylaws.

Purchase Cards

Purchase cards may be issued in accordance with the GRCA Human Resource Policies – Section 11. Purchasing Policy (included in the HR Policy – Section 11.2 Use of Purchase cards as approved by the general membership. ~~to Superintendents to allow them to purchase low value supplies without arranging credit with the supplier.~~ Such cards will be subject to daily and monthly limits, that may be adjusted from time-to-time, in consideration of GRCA’s Purchasing Policy. Purchases are restricted to supplies and materials. Each month, the bank sends copies of the statements to Accounting and the cardholder. The cardholder matches all original vouchers to the statement, indicates the accounts to charge, obtains appropriate approval, ~~approves the statement~~ and forwards to Accounting to be booked.

3) Investments

Investment Objectives

APPENDIX 1

The objectives of the Grand River Conservation Authority's investment activities are to provide high yields at minimal risk, with reasonable liquidity to meet forecasted cash requirements. High yields are ensured by shopping for competitive returns when placing funds in investments, and maximizing returns by investing for longer terms where appropriate possible. Risk is minimized by maintaining a degree of diversification and investing in only safe alternatives allowed under the Municipal Act. The appropriate degree of liquidity is established by preparing cash flow forecasts as necessary and matching investment periods to the need for cash.

Eligible Investments

Grand River Conservation Authority's portfolio is limited to the following:

- Investments directly guaranteed by the Government of Canada
- Investments directly guaranteed by any province or territory of Canada,
- Investments directly guaranteed by any bank (that is listed in Schedule I, II or III to the Bank Act (Canada), subject to a minimum DBRS rating of AA low for Bonds, and R1 mid for money market instruments.
- Investments directly guaranteed by any trust corporation or loan corporation (that is registered under the Loan and Trust Corporations Act), subject to a minimum DBRS rating of AA low for Bonds, and R1 mid for money market instruments.
- ONE - The Public Sector Group of Funds
- Promissory notes of a municipalities that lie at least in part, in the Grand River Watershed, or other conservation authorities (established under the Conservation Authorities Act), subject to approval by way of a Resolution of the General Membership,

Diversification

Three "Investment Categories" have been defined. They are:

- 1) Banks, Trust Companies and Funds
- 2) Government Guaranteed Bonds
- 3) Other

In the interests of minimizing risk and maintaining reasonable liquidity, at least 75% of the invested funds will be placed with institutions that fall under categories 1 and 2. A maximum of 25% of the invested funds may be placed in category 3 (other).

Placing funds in Investments

The services of investment brokers are used for the day-to-day placing of investments and the safekeeping of investment certificates. A Resolution of the General Membership is required to appoint a brokerage firm to provide these services. A brokerage firm related to the Grand River Conservation Authority's bank may be used, if approved by such Resolution of the General Membership.

The Finance Section will request competitive market quotes when placing funds with a particular type of institution, and choose the investment which best meets the objectives of the Authority. Staff may direct the investment broker to gather this market information as part of the service they provide to the Authority.

Purchases of Investments are initiated by the Senior Accountant and must be approved by the Manager of Corporate Services. Funds are generally placed with the broker in advance, and invested by them upon direction from the Senior Accountant. Receipts are required to support all purchase transactions, and are filed in the Finance Section. Monthly statements from the broker are checked for accuracy and also filed in the Finance Section with the month's receipts.

4) Reporting

Cash and Investment Status Report

Each month, a Cash ~~and Investment~~ Status Report is provided to the General Membership. This report will list the most recent month-end balances of all investments including bank accounts. It will also include the date invested, the maturity date, the rate of interest being earned and the forecasted investment income for the current year.

Appendix 1 – Ontario Regulation 438/97

Municipal Act, 2001

ONTARIO REGULATION 438/97

formerly under Municipal Act

ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS, RELATED FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS AND PRUDENT INVESTMENT

Consolidation Period: From March 1, 2022 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

Last amendment: 106/22.

Legislative History: 248/01, 265/02, 399/02, 655/05, 607/06, 39/07, 292/09, 52/11, 373/11, 74/16, 43/18, 106/22, CTR 12 AU 22 - 1.

**PART I
ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS AND FORWARD RATE AGREEMENTS**

Investment under s. 418 of the Act

1. (1) This Part applies in respect of investments by a municipality under section 418 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 2.

(2) A municipality does not have the power to invest under section 418 of the Act in a security other than a security prescribed under this Part. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 2.

Eligible investments

2. The following are prescribed, for the purposes of subsection 418 (1) of the Act, as securities that a municipality may invest in:

1. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by,
 - i. Canada or a province or territory of Canada,
 - ii. an agency of Canada or a province or territory of Canada,
 - iii. a country other than Canada,
 - iv. a municipality in Canada including the municipality making the investment,
 - iv.1 the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation,
 - v. a school board or similar entity in Canada,
 - v.1 a university in Ontario that is authorized to engage in an activity described in section 3 of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*,
 - v.2 a college established under the *Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002*,
 - vi. a local board as defined in the *Municipal Affairs Act* (but not including a school board or a municipality) or a conservation authority established under the *Conservation Authorities Act*,
 - vi.1 a board of a public hospital within the meaning of the *Public Hospitals Act*,
 - vi.2 a non-profit housing corporation incorporated under section 13 of the *Housing Development Act*,
 - vi.3 a local housing corporation as defined in section 24 of the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, or
 - vii. the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia.
2. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness of a corporation if,

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- i. the bond, debenture or other evidence of indebtedness is secured by the assignment, to a trustee, as defined in the *Trustee Act*, of payments that Canada or a province or territory of Canada has agreed to make or is required to make under a federal, provincial or territorial statute, and
 - ii. the payments referred to in subparagraph i are sufficient to meet the amounts payable under the bond, debenture or other evidence of indebtedness, including the amounts payable at maturity.
3. Deposit receipts, deposit notes, certificates of deposit or investment, acceptances or similar instruments the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid no later than two years after the day the investment was made, if the receipt, note, certificate or instrument was issued, guaranteed or endorsed by,
 - i. a bank listed in Schedule I, II or III to the *Bank Act* (Canada),
 - ii. a loan corporation or trust corporation registered under the *Loan and Trust Corporations Act*, or
 - iii. a credit union or central to which the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020* applies.
- 3.1 Deposit receipts, deposit notes, certificates of deposit or investment, acceptances or similar instruments the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid more than two years after the day the investment was made, if the receipt, note, certificate or instrument was issued, guaranteed or endorsed by,
 - i. a bank listed in Schedule I, II or III to the *Bank Act* (Canada), or
 - ii. a loan corporation or trust corporation registered under the *Loan and Trust Corporations Act*.
 - iii. REVOKED: O. Reg. 43/18, s. 3 (1).
4. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid no later than two years after the day the investment was made if issued or guaranteed by an institution listed in paragraph 3.1.
- 4.1 Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid more than two years after the day the investment was made if issued or guaranteed by an institution listed in paragraph 3.1.
- 4.2 Deposit receipts, deposit notes, certificates of deposit or investment, acceptances or similar instruments, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid more than two years after the day the investment was made if the receipt, note, certificate or instrument was issued, guaranteed or endorsed by a credit union or central to which the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020* applies.
- 4.3 Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by a credit union or central to which the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020* applies.
5. Short term securities, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid no later than three days after the day the investment was made, that are issued by,
 - i. a university in Ontario that is authorized to engage in an activity described in section 3 of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*,
 - ii. a college established under the *Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002*, or
 - iii. a board of a public hospital within the meaning of the *Public Hospitals Act*.
6. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes, other evidence of indebtedness or other securities issued or guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- 6.1. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by a supranational financial institution or a supranational governmental organization, other than the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
7. Securities that are arrangements for the sale of assets that entitle the purchaser to an undivided beneficial interest in a pool of assets.
- 7.1 Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued by a corporation that is incorporated under the laws of Canada or a province of Canada, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid more than five years after the date on which the municipality makes the investment.
- 7.2 Bonds, debentures, promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued by a corporation that is incorporated under the laws of Canada or a province of Canada, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest shall be fully repaid more than one year and no later than five years after the date on which the municipality makes the investment.

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8. Negotiable promissory notes or commercial paper, other than securities referred to in paragraph 7, maturing one year or less from the date of issue, if that note or commercial paper has been issued by a corporation that is incorporated under the laws of Canada or a province of Canada.
- 8.1 Shares issued by a corporation that is incorporated under the laws of Canada or a province of Canada.
9. Bonds, debentures, promissory notes and other evidences of indebtedness of a corporation incorporated under section 142 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*.
10. Any security if the municipality acquires the security as a gift in a will or as a donation not made for a charitable purpose.
11. REVOKED: O. Reg. 43/18, s. 3 (5).
12. Shares of a corporation if,
 - i. the corporation has a debt payable to the municipality,
 - ii. under a court order, the corporation has received protection from its creditors,
 - iii. the acquisition of the shares in lieu of the debt is authorized by the court order, and
 - iv. the treasurer of the municipality is of the opinion that the debt will be uncollectable by the municipality unless the debt is converted to shares under the court order. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 2; O. Reg. 265/02, s. 1; O. Reg. 399/02, s. 2; O. Reg. 655/05, s. 2; O. Reg. 607/06, s. 1; O. Reg. 39/07, s. 1; O. Reg. 373/11, s. 1; O. Reg. 74/16, s. 1, 2; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 3; O. Reg. 106/22, s. 1.

Eligible investments, continued

2.1 A security is prescribed for the purposes of subsection 418 (1) of the Act as a security that a municipality may invest in if,

- (a) the municipality invested in the security before January 12, 2009; and
- (b) the terms of the municipality's continued investment in the security have been changed pursuant to the Plan Implementation Order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice dated January 12, 2009 (Court file number 08-CL-7440) and titled "In the matter of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36 as amended and in the matter of a plan of compromise and arrangement involving Metcalfe & Mansfield Alternative Investments II Corp. et al". O. Reg. 292/09, s. 1.

Ratings, financial indicators

3. (1) A municipality shall not invest in a security under subparagraph 1 iii, v.1, v.2, vi.1, vi.2 or vi.3 or paragraph 4 of section 2 unless the bond, debenture, promissory note or evidence of indebtedness is rated,

- (a) REVOKED: O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (1).
- (b) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "AA(low)" or higher;
- (b.1) by Fitch Ratings as "AA-" or higher;
- (c) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Aa3" or higher; or
- (d) by Standard and Poor's as "AA-" or higher. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 3 (1); O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (1); O. Reg. 399/02, s. 3 (1); O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (1, 2); O. Reg. 607/06, s. 2; O. Reg. 39/07, s. 2; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (1).

(2) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 3.1 or 4.1 of section 2 unless the bond, debenture, promissory note or evidence of indebtedness is rated,

- (a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "A(low)" or higher;
- (b) by Fitch Ratings as "A-" or higher;
- (c) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "A3" or higher; or
- (d) by Standard and Poor's as "A-" or higher. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2).

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(2.0.1) If a municipality's total investments in securities under subparagraph 3 iii and paragraph 4.2 of section 2 have, in the opinion of the treasurer, a value in excess of \$250,000, the municipality shall not invest in any additional security under paragraph 4.2 of section 2 unless the credit union or central that issues, guarantees or endorses the security provides, within 30 days before the day the investment is made,

(a) audited financial statements indicating that the financial indicators mentioned in subsection (2.0.2) are met by the credit union or central; or

(b) certification in writing that all of the financial indicators mentioned in subsection (2.0.2) are met by the credit union or central. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (1).

(2.0.2) For the purposes of subsection (2.0.1), the financial indicators to be met by the credit union or central are the following:

1. Positive retained earnings in its audited financial statements for its most recently completed fiscal year.
2. Regulatory capital of at least the percentage of its total assets set out in subsection (2.0.3) as of the date of the latest audited financial statements, calculated in accordance with the regulations made under the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020*.
3. Regulatory capital of at least the percentage of its total risk weighted assets set out in subsection (2.0.4) as of the date of the latest audited financial statements, calculated in accordance with the regulations made under the *Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, 2020*.
4. Positive net income in its audited financial statements for three of its five most recently completed fiscal years. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (2-4).

(2.0.3) The percentage mentioned in paragraph 2 of subsection (2.0.2) is the percentage obtained by adding one percent to the minimum percentage set out in paragraph 1 of subsection 20 (1) of Ontario Regulation 105/22 (General). O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (5).

(2.0.4) The percentage mentioned in paragraph 3 of subsection (2.0.2) is the percentage obtained by adding one percent to the minimum percentage set out in paragraph 2 of subsection 20 (1) of Ontario Regulation 105/22 (General). O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (6).

(2.0.5) A municipality shall not invest in securities under paragraph 4.3 of section 2 unless the credit union or central that issues or guarantees the security satisfies the conditions set out in subsection (2.0.1). O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (2); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (7).

(2.1) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 6.1 of section 2 unless the security is rated,

- (a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "AAA";
- (b) by Fitch Ratings as "AAA";
- (c) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Aaa"; or
- (d) by Standard and Poor's as "AAA". O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (4).

(3) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 7 of section 2 that matures more than one year from the date of issue unless the security is rated,

- (a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "AAA";
- (a.1) by Fitch Ratings as "AAA";
- (b) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Aaa"; or
- (c) by Standard and Poor's as "AAA". O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2); O. Reg. 399/02, s. 3 (2); O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (5); O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (3).

(4) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 7 of section 2 that matures one year or less from the date of issue unless the security is rated,

- (a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "R-1(high)";
- (a.1) by Fitch Ratings as "F1+";
- (b) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Prime-1"; or

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(c) by Standard and Poor's as "A-1+". O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2); O. Reg. 399/02, s. 3 (3); O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (6); O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (4).

(4.1) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 7.1 or 7.2 of section 2 unless the security is rated,

(a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "A(low)" or higher;

(b) by Fitch Ratings as "A-" or higher;

(c) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "A3" or higher; or

(d) by Standard and Poor's as "A-" or higher. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (5).

(4.2) REVOKED: O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (5).

(5) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 8 of section 2 unless the promissory note or commercial paper is rated,

(a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "R-1(mid)" or higher;

(a.1) by Fitch Ratings as "F1+";

(b) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Prime-1"; or

(c) by Standard and Poor's as "A-1+". O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2); O. Reg. 399/02, s. 3 (4); O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (8).

(6) If an investment made under subparagraph 1 iii, v.1, v.2, vi.1, vi.2 or vi.3 of section 2 or paragraph 3.1, 4, 4.1, 6.1, 7, 7.1, 7.2 or 8 of section 2 falls below the standard required by this section, the municipality shall create a plan, including expected timelines, for selling the investment and shall sell the investment in accordance with the plan. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (6).

(6.1) Subsection (6) does not apply with respect to an investment made by a municipality under paragraph 7 of section 2 on a day before the day this subsection comes into force. O. Reg. 292/09, s. 2 (3).

(6.1.1) If a municipality's total investments in securities under subparagraph 3 iii and paragraph 4.2 of section 2 have, in the opinion of the treasurer, a value in excess of the limit mentioned in subsection (2.0.1) of this section and one of the following circumstances applies, the municipality shall create a plan, including expected timelines, for selling investments made under paragraph 4.2 of section 2 in excess of that limit and shall sell the investments in accordance with the plan:

1. The financial indicators mentioned in subsection (2.0.2) are not met.

2. The credit union or central fails to provide audited financial statements or a certification as mentioned in subsection (2.0.1). O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (7); O. Reg. 106/22, s. 2 (8).

(6.1.2) For the purposes of determining the value of investments under subsection (6.1.1), the value of all investments under subparagraph 3 iii of section 2 shall be counted as part of the total first, followed by the value of all investments made under paragraph 4.2 of section 2. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (7).

(6.1.3) If one of the circumstances in paragraph 1 or 2 of subsection (6.1.1) applies, the municipality shall create a plan, including expected timelines, for selling investments made under paragraph 4.3 of section 2 and shall sell the investments in accordance with the plan. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (7).

(7) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 9 of section 2 unless, at the time the investment is made and as long as it continues, the investment ranks, at a minimum, concurrently and equally in respect of payment of principal and interest with all unsecured debt of the corporation. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2).

(8) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 9 of section 2 unless, at the time the investment is made, the total amount of the municipality's investment in debt of any corporation incorporated under section 142 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* that would result after the proposed investment is made does not exceed the total amount of investment in debt, including any interest accrued on such debt, of the municipality in such a corporation that existed on the day before the day the proposed investment is to be made. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2).

(9) Any investment made under paragraph 9 of section 2, including any refinancing, renewal or replacement thereof, may not be held for longer than a total of 10 years from the date such investment is made. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 2 (2).

(10) Subsections (7), (8) and (9) do not prevent a municipality from holding or disposing of a security described in paragraph 9 of section 2 issued by a corporation incorporated under section 142 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*, if the municipality acquired the security through a transfer by-law or otherwise under that Act. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 3 (9).

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(11) If a municipality acquires a security under paragraph 10 of section 2 that is not otherwise prescribed under this Part, the municipality shall create a plan, including expected timelines, for selling the investment and shall sell the investment in accordance with the plan. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 4 (8).

(12) REVOKED: O. Reg. 292/09, s. 2 (4).

Investment limit

4. (1) A municipality shall not invest more than 25 per cent of the total amount in all sinking and retirement funds in respect of debentures of the municipality, as estimated by its treasurer on the date of the investment, in short-term debt issued or guaranteed by the municipality. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 4 (1).

(2) In this section,

“short-term debt” means any debt, the terms of which provide that the principal and interest of the debt shall be fully repaid no later than 364 days after the debt is incurred. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 4 (2).

Conditions

4.1 (1) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 7 of section 2 or in a promissory note or commercial paper under paragraph 8 of section 2 unless, on the date that the investment is made,

- (a) the municipality itself is rated, or all of the municipality’s long-term debt obligations are rated,
 - (i) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as “AA(low)” or higher,
 - (i.1) by Fitch Ratings as “AA-” or higher,
 - (ii) by Moody’s Investors Services Inc. as “Aa3” or higher, or
 - (iii) by Standard and Poor’s as “AA-” or higher; or
- (b) the municipality has entered into an agreement with the Local Authority Services and the CHUMS Financing Corporation to act together as the municipality’s agent for the investment in that security, promissory note or commercial paper. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 3; O. Reg. 399/02, s. 4; O. Reg. 655/05, s. 4 (1, 2); O. Reg. 43/18, s. 5 (1).

(1.1) A municipality shall not invest in a security under paragraph 7.1 or 8.1 of section 2 unless, on the date the investment is made, the municipality has entered into an agreement with the Local Authority Services and the CHUMS Financing Corporation to act together as the municipality’s agent for the investment in the security. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 4 (3); O. Reg. 43/18, s. 5 (2).

(1.2) Subsection (1.1) does not apply to investments in securities by the City of Ottawa if all of the following requirements are satisfied:

1. Only the proceeds of the sale by the City of its securities in a corporation incorporated under section 142 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* are used to make the investments.
2. The investments are made in a professionally-managed fund.
3. The terms of the investments provide that,
 - i. where the investment is in debt instruments, the principal must be repaid no earlier than seven years after the date on which the City makes the investment, and
 - ii. where the investment is in shares, an amount equal to the principal amount of the investment cannot be withdrawn from the fund for at least seven years after the date on which the City makes the investment.
4. The City establishes and uses a separate reserve fund for the investments.
5. Subject to paragraph 6, the money in the reserve fund, including any returns on the investments or proceeds from their disposition, are used to pay capital costs of the City and for no other purpose.
6. The City may borrow money from the reserve fund but must repay it plus interest. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 4 (3).

(2) The investment made under clause (1) (b) or described in subsection (1.1), as the case may be, must be made in the One Investment Program of the Local Authority Services and the CHUMS Financing Corporation with,

- (a) another municipality;
- (b) a public hospital;

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- (c) a university in Ontario that is authorized to engage in an activity described in section 3 of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*;
- (d) a college established under the *Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002*;
- (d.1) a foundation established by a college mentioned in clause (d) whose purposes include receiving and maintaining a fund or funds for the benefit of the college;
- (e) a school board;
- (f) any agent of an institution listed in clauses (a) to (e);
- (g) Local Authority Services;
- (h) CHUMS Financing Corporation;
- (i) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; or
- (j) Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 3; O. Reg. 655/05, s. 4 (4); O. Reg. 607/06, s. 3; O. Reg. 292/09, s. 3; O. Reg. 52/11, s. 1; O. Reg. 74/16, s. 1, 3; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 5 (3-5).

School purposes

5. A municipality shall not invest in a security issued or guaranteed by a school board or similar entity unless,

- (a) the money raised by issuing the security is to be used for school purposes; and
- (b) REVOKED: O. Reg. 248/01, s. 1.

O. Reg. 438/97, s. 5; O. Reg. 248/01, s. 1.

Canadian dollars

6. (1) Subject to subsection (3), a municipality shall not invest in a security that is expressed or payable in any currency other than Canadian dollars. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 6 (1).

(2) Subsection (1) does not prevent a municipality from continuing an investment, made before this Regulation comes into force, that is expressed and payable in the currency of the United States of America or the United Kingdom. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 6 (2).

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of securities listed in paragraphs 3, 3.1 and 4.2 of section 2, which may also be expressed or payable in the currency of the United States of America. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 6 (2).

Statement of policies and goals

7. (1) Before a municipality invests in a security prescribed under this Part, the council of the municipality shall, if it has not already done so, adopt a statement of the municipality's investment policies and goals. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 7; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 7.

(2) In preparing the statement of the municipality's investment policies and goals under subsection (1), the council of the municipality shall consider,

- (a) the municipality's risk tolerance and the preservation of its capital;
- (b) the municipality's need for a diversified portfolio of investments; and
- (c) obtaining legal advice and financial advice with respect to the proposed investments. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 4.

(3) REVOKED: O. Reg. 655/05, s. 5.

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(4) In preparing the statement of the municipality's investment policies and goals under subsection (1) for investments made under paragraph 9 of section 2, the council of the municipality shall consider its plans for the investment and how the proposed investment would affect the interest of municipal taxpayers. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 4.

Investment report

8. (1) If a municipality has an investment in a security prescribed under this Part, the council of the municipality shall require the treasurer of the municipality to prepare and provide to the council, each year or more frequently as specified by the council, an investment report. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 8 (1); O. Reg. 43/18, s. 7.

(2) The investment report referred to in subsection (1) shall contain,

- (a) a statement about the performance of the portfolio of investments of the municipality during the period covered by the report;
- (b) a description of the estimated proportion of the total investments of a municipality that are invested in its own long-term and short-term securities to the total investment of the municipality and a description of the change, if any, in that estimated proportion since the previous year's report;
- (c) a statement by the treasurer as to whether or not, in his or her opinion, all investments are consistent with the investment policies and goals adopted by the municipality;
- (d) a record of the date of each transaction in or disposal of its own securities, including a statement of the purchase and sale price of each security; and
- (e) such other information that the council may require or that, in the opinion of the treasurer, should be included. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 8 (2); O. Reg. 655/05, s. 6.

(2.1) The investment report referred to in subsection (1) shall contain a statement by the treasurer as to whether any of the following investments fall below the standard required for that investment during the period covered by the report:

- 1. An investment described in subparagraph 1 iii, v.1, v.2, vi.1, vi.2 or vi.3 of section 2.
- 2. An investment described in paragraph 3.1, 4, 4.1, 6.1, 7, 7.1, 7.2 or 8 of section 2.
- 3. An investment described in subsection 9 (1). O. Reg. 292/09, s. 4; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 8 (1).

(2.2) The investment report referred to in subsection (1) shall contain a statement by the treasurer as to whether any investments under paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of section 2 are affected by the circumstances set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection 3 (6.1.1) during the period covered by the report. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 8 (2).

(3) Upon disposition of any investment made under paragraph 9 of section 2, the council of the municipality shall require the treasurer of the municipality to prepare and provide to the council a report detailing the proposed use of funds realized in the disposition. O. Reg. 265/02, s. 5.

Inconsistencies, treasurer's duty

8.1 If an investment made by the municipality is, in the treasurer's opinion, not consistent with the investment policies and goals adopted by the municipality, the treasurer shall report the inconsistency to the council of the municipality within 30 days after becoming aware of it. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 7.

Investments pre March 6, 1997

9. (1) Despite this Part, an investment by a municipality in bonds, debentures or other indebtedness of a corporation made before March 6, 1997 may be continued if the bond, debenture or other indebtedness is rated,

- (a) REVOKED: O. Reg. 265/02, s. 6.
- (b) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "AA(low)" or higher;
- (b.1) by Fitch Ratings as "AA-" or higher;
- (c) by Moody's Investors Services Inc. as "Aa3" or higher; or
- (d) by Standard and Poor's as "AA-" or higher. O. Reg. 438/97, s. 9 (1); O. Reg. 265/02, s. 6; O. Reg. 399/02, s. 5; O. Reg. 655/05, s. 8; O. Reg. 43/18, s. 7.

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(1.1) REVOKED: O. Reg. 43/18, s. 9 (1).

(2) If the rating of an investment continued under subsection (1) falls below the standard required by that subsection, the municipality shall create a plan, including expected timelines, for selling the investment and shall sell the investment in accordance with the plan. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 9 (2).

FORWARD RATE AGREEMENTS

Forward rate agreements

10. (1) A municipality that enters into an agreement to make an investment on a future date in a security prescribed by section 2 may enter one or more forward rate agreements with a bank listed in Schedule I, II or III to the *Bank Act* (Canada) in order to minimize the cost or risk associated with the investment because of fluctuations in interest rates. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(2) A forward rate agreement shall provide for the following matters:

1. Specifying a forward amount, which is the principal amount of the investment or that portion of the principal amount to which the agreement relates.
2. Specifying a settlement day, which is a specified future date.
3. Specifying a forward rate of interest, which is a notional rate of interest applicable on the settlement day.
4. Specifying a reference rate of interest, which is the market rate of interest payable on a specified future date on an acceptance issued by a bank listed in Schedule I, II or III to the *Bank Act* (Canada).
5. Requiring a settlement payment to be payable on the settlement day if the forward rate and the reference rate of interest are different. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(3) A municipality shall not enter a forward rate agreement if the forward amount described in paragraph 1 of subsection (2) for the investment whose cost or risk the agreement is intended to minimize, when added to all forward amounts under other forward rate agreements, if any, relating to the same investment, would exceed the total amount of the principal of the investment. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(4) A municipality shall not enter a forward rate agreement unless the settlement day under the agreement is within 12 months of the day on which the agreement is executed. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(5) A municipality shall not enter a forward rate agreement if the settlement payment described in paragraph 5 of subsection (2) exceeds the difference between the amount of interest that would be payable on the forward amount calculated at the forward rate of interest for the period for which the investment was made and the amount that would be payable calculated at the reference rate of interest. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(6) A municipality shall not enter a forward rate agreement except with a bank listed in Schedule I, II or III to the *Bank Act* (Canada) and only if the bank's long-term debt obligations on the day the agreement is entered are rated,

- (a) by Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited as "A(high)" or higher;
- (b) by Fitch Ratings as "A+" or higher;
- (c) by Moody's Investors Service Inc. as "A1" or higher; or
- (d) by Standard and Poor's as "A+" or higher. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

Statement of policies and goals

11. (1) Before a municipality passes a by-law authorizing a forward rate agreement, the council of the municipality shall adopt a statement of policies and goals relating to the use of forward rate agreements. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

(2) The council of the municipality shall consider the following matters when preparing the statement of policies and goals:

1. The types of investments for which forward rate agreements are appropriate.
2. The fixed costs and estimated costs to the municipality resulting from the use of such agreements.
3. A detailed estimate of the expected results of using such agreements.
4. The financial and other risks to the municipality that would exist with, and without, the use of such agreements.

APPENDIX 1

5. Risk control measures relating to such agreements, such as,
 - i. credit exposure limits based on credit ratings and on the degree of regulatory oversight and the regulatory capital of the other party to the agreement,
 - ii. standard agreements, and
 - iii. ongoing monitoring with respect to the agreements. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

Report to council

12. (1) If a municipality has any subsisting forward rate agreements in a fiscal year, the treasurer of the municipality shall prepare and present to the municipal council once in that fiscal year, or more frequently if the council so desires, a detailed report on all of those agreements. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

- (2) The report must contain the following information and documents:
 1. A statement about the status of the forward rate agreements during the period of the report, including a comparison of the expected and actual results of using the agreements.
 2. A statement by the treasurer indicating whether, in his or her opinion, all of the forward rate agreements entered during the period of the report are consistent with the municipality's statement of policies and goals relating to the use of forward rate agreements.
 3. Such other information as the council may require.
 4. Such other information as the treasurer considers appropriate to include in the report. O. Reg. 655/05, s. 9.

PART II PRUDENT INVESTMENT

Definitions

13. In this Part,

"Investment Board" means a municipal service board that is established under section 196 of the Act by a municipality for the purposes of this Part and includes, for the purposes of paragraph 3 of section 15, subsection 17 (3) and sections 21 and 23, the Toronto Investment Board; ("commission des placements")

"Joint Investment Board" means a municipal service board that is established under section 202 of the Act by two or more municipalities for the purposes of this Part; ("commission mixte des placements")

"Toronto Investment Board" means the board of the City of Toronto described in subsection 46 (2) of Ontario Regulation 610/06 (Financial Activities) made under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. ("Commission des placements de Toronto") O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Application

14. This Part applies in respect of investments by a municipality under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Requirements under s. 418.1 (3) of the Act

15. A municipality must satisfy one of the following requirements on the day referred to in subsection 418.1 (3) of the Act in order to pass a by-law for the purposes of that subsection:

1. The municipality must have, in the opinion of its treasurer, at least,
 - i. \$100,000,000 in money and investments that it does not require immediately, or
 - ii. \$50,000,000 in net financial assets, as indicated in Schedule 70 of the most recent Financial Information Return supplied to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by the municipality under the Act and posted on the Ministry's website on the day the municipality passes the by-law under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act.
2. The municipality must have entered into an agreement to establish and invest through a Joint Investment Board with one or more other municipalities, and all of the municipalities must have, in the opinion of each of their treasurers, a combined total of at least \$100,000,000 in money and investments that the municipalities do not require immediately.

APPENDIX 1

3. The municipality must have entered into an agreement with the following parties to invest through an Investment Board or a Joint Investment Board that was established by another municipality or municipalities before the day the municipality passes the by-law:
 - i. The Investment Board or Joint Investment Board, as the case may be.
 - ii. Any other municipalities investing through the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board on the day the municipality passes the by-law. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Limitation, school board securities

16. A municipality shall not invest money in a security issued or guaranteed by a school board or similar entity in Canada unless the money raised by issuing the security is to be used for school purposes. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Investments only through Investment Board or Joint Investment Board

17. (1) A municipality that satisfies the requirement set out in paragraph 1 of section 15 may invest money only by having an Investment Board that meets the following criteria do so on its behalf:

1. The Investment Board has been established by the municipality.
2. The Investment Board has been given the control and management of the municipality's investments by the municipality delegating to the Investment Board,
 - i. the municipality's powers to make the investments, and
 - ii. the municipality's duties under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(2) A municipality that satisfies the requirement set out in paragraph 2 of section 15 may invest money only by having a Joint Investment Board that satisfies the following criteria do so on its behalf:

1. The Joint Investment Board is the subject of an agreement referred to in paragraph 2 of section 15.
2. The Joint Investment Board has been given the control and management of the municipality's investments, together with that of all the other municipalities that are party to the agreement referred to under paragraph 2 of section 15, by each municipality delegating to the Joint Investment Board,
 - i. the municipality's powers to make the investments, and
 - ii. the municipality's duties under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(3) A municipality that satisfies the requirement under paragraph 3 of section 15 may invest money only by having an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board, as the case may be, that satisfies the following criteria do so on its behalf:

1. The Investment Board or Joint Investment Board is the subject of an agreement referred to in paragraph 3 of section 15.
2. The Investment Board or Joint Investment Board has been given the control and management of the municipality's investments by the municipality delegating to the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board,
 - i. the municipality's powers to make the investments, and
 - ii. the municipality's duties under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(4) The following persons may not be appointed as members of the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board:

1. An officer or employee of any municipality for which it invests.
2. A member of council of any municipality for which it invests. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to any treasurer of a municipality for which the board invests provided that treasurers do not make up more than one quarter of the members. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10; CTR 12 AU 22 - 1.

Investment policy

18. (1) The council of a municipality shall adopt and maintain an investment policy in relation to investing under this Part. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(2) The investment policy shall include requirements with respect to the following:

1. The municipality's objectives for return on investment and risk tolerance.

APPENDIX 1

2. The municipality's need for liquidity including, for greater certainty, the municipality's anticipated needs for funds for planned projects and the municipality's needs to have funds available for unanticipated contingencies. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(3) The investment policy may include other requirements with respect to investment matters that council considers to be in the interests of the municipality. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(4) At least annually, the council shall review the investment policy and update it, as necessary, as a result of the review. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Investment plan

19. (1) An Investment Board or Joint Investment Board shall adopt and maintain an investment plan in respect of all municipalities that have delegated to it,

- (a) the municipality's powers to make investments; and
- (b) the municipality's duties under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(2) The investment plan shall deal with how the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board will invest each municipality's money and set out the Board's projections of the proportions of each municipality's portfolio of investments to be invested at the end of the year in each type of security selected by the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board and may include other requirements. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(3) At least annually, following each council's review of the investment policy under subsection 18 (4), the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board shall review the investment plan and update it, as necessary, as a result of the reviews. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Investment report

20. (1) An Investment Board or Joint Investment Board shall prepare and provide to the council of each municipality referred to in subsection 19 (1), each year or more frequently as specified by the council, an investment report. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

- (2) The investment report shall contain,
- (a) a statement about the performance of the municipality's portfolio of investments during the period covered by the report;
 - (b) a statement by the treasurer of the municipality as to whether or not, in the opinion of the treasurer, all investments are consistent with the municipality's investment policy under section 18 and the investment plan for the municipality under section 19; and
 - (c) such other information that the council may require or that, in the opinion of the treasurer, should be included. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Inconsistencies, treasurer's duty

21. If an investment made by an Investment Board or a Joint Investment Board is, in the opinion of the municipality's treasurer, not consistent with the municipality's investment policy under section 18 and the investment plan for the municipality under section 19 of this Regulation or section 48.1 of Ontario Regulation 610/06 (Financial Activities) made under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, as the case may be, the treasurer shall report the inconsistency to the council within 30 days after becoming aware of it. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Agents of the Investment Board

22. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board may authorize an agent to exercise any of the board's functions to the same extent that a prudent investor, acting in accordance with ordinary investment practice, would authorize an agent to exercise any investment function. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(2) An Investment Board or Joint Investment Board may not authorize an agent under subsection (1) unless a written agreement between the board and the agent is in effect and the agreement includes,

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- (a) a requirement that the agent comply with the requirements included in the investment policy or policies under section 18 and with the investment plan under section 19; and
- (b) a requirement that the agent report to the board at regular stated intervals. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(3) An Investment Board or Joint Investment Board shall exercise prudence in selecting an agent, in establishing the terms of the agent's authority and in monitoring the agent's performance to ensure compliance with those terms. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), prudence in monitoring an agent's performance includes,

- (a) reviewing the agent's reports;
- (b) regularly reviewing the agreement between the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board and the agent and how it is being put into effect, including assessing whether the requirement described in clause (2) (a) is being complied with;
- (c) considering whether directions should be provided to the agent or whether the agent's appointment should be revoked; and
- (d) providing directions to the agent or revoking the appointment if the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board considers it appropriate to do so. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(5) This section does not prevent the investment, by the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board, in mutual funds, pooled funds or segregated funds under variable insurance contracts, and the manager of such a fund is not an agent for the purpose of this section. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Withdrawal from investment arrangement

23. A municipality may withdraw from investing through an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board that the municipality has not established if all of the following conditions are met:

1. All the municipalities investing through the board agree to the withdrawal.
2. The municipality has done one of the following:
 - i. Entered into an agreement with another municipality that has established an Investment Board, that Investment Board and any other municipalities investing through that Investment Board, to invest through that Investment Board.
 - ii. Entered into an agreement with the municipalities that have established a Joint Investment Board, that Joint Investment Board and any other municipalities investing through that Joint Investment Board, to invest through that Joint Investment Board.
 - iii. Established an Investment Board on its own or established a Joint Investment Board with one or more other municipalities.
3. The municipality has given the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board through which it will be investing the control and management of the municipality's investments by delegating to the board,
 - i. the municipality's powers to make the investments, and
 - ii. the municipality's duties under section 418.1 of the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Application of Part, withdrawal or dissolution

24. (1) This section applies if a municipality establishes an Investment Board or a Joint Investment Board,

- (a) in order to meet the condition set out in subparagraph 2 iii of section 23 with respect to withdrawing from investing; or
- (b) in order to meet a condition set out in Ontario Regulation 42/18 (Dissolution of and Prescribed Changes to Investment Board or Joint Investment Board) made under the Act. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(2) The municipality must satisfy the requirement set out in paragraph 1 or 2 of section 15 at the time of establishing the board and the reference in subparagraph 1 ii of section 15 to "the day the municipality passes the by-law under subsection

APPENDIX 1

418.1 (2) of the Act” is deemed for the purposes of this section to be a reference to “the day the Investment Board is established”. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(3) Subsections 17 (1) and (2) apply to the municipality. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(4) Sections 16 and 18 to 22 apply with respect to the investment of money by the Investment Board or Joint Investment Board. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Transitional matters, what may be done in advance

25. For greater certainty, before a municipality passes a by-law under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act and before the effective date of the by-law,

- (a) the municipality may establish an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board and appoint the members;
- (b) the municipality may enter into an agreement described in paragraph 2 or 3 of section 15;
- (c) the municipality may adopt an investment policy under section 18;
- (d) an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board may adopt an investment plan under section 19; and
- (e) an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board may authorize an agent under section 22. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Transitional matters, s. 418.1 of the Act

26. (1) No municipality shall pass a by-law under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act until January 1, 2019. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

- (2) Despite the passing of a by-law by a municipality under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act,
 - (a) section 8 of this Regulation continues to apply to the municipality for the purposes of reporting in respect of any period up to and including the effective date of the by-law; and
 - (b) section 20 of this Regulation applies to an Investment Board or Joint Investment Board for the purposes of reporting in respect of any period following the effective date of the by-law. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.
- (3) Despite the passing of a by-law by a municipality under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act,
 - (a) section 8.1 of this Regulation continues to apply with respect to investments made on or before the effective date of the by-law; and
 - (b) section 21 of this Regulation applies with respect to investments made following the effective date of the by-law. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

(4) Despite the passing of a by-law by a municipality under subsection 418.1 (2) of the Act, reports shall be made by the treasurer under subsection 12 (1) of this Regulation until reports have been made covering the periods up to and including the period ending on the effective date of the by-law. O. Reg. 43/18, s. 10.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-69

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Cash and Investment Status – August 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-09-23-69 Cash and Investment Status – August 2023 be received as information.

Summary:

The cash position including Notes Receivable of the Grand River Conservation Authority as at August 31, 2023 was \$59,425,675 with outstanding cheques written in the amount of \$297,281.

Report:

See attached.

Financial Implications:

Interest rates, etc. are shown on the report.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

Carol Anne Johnston
Senior Accountant

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

**Grand River Conservation Authority
Cash and Investments Status Report
August 31, 2023**

BANK ACCOUNTS	Location	Type	Amount	Interest Rate
	CIBC	Current Account	10,901,725	5.40%
	RBC	Current Account	231,583	nil
	Wood Gundy	Current Account	0	nil
	CIBC - SPP Holding	Current Account	703,348	5.40%
	TOTAL CASH - CURRENT ACCOUNT		11,836,656	

INVESTMENTS	Date Invested	Location	Type	Amount	Face Value Interest Rate	Yield Rate	Date of Maturity	2023 Total Interest Earned/ Accrued
		CIBC Renaissance	High Interest Savings Account	7,578,786	4.55%	4.55%	not applicable	238,896
		CIBC High Interest	High Interest Savings Account	4,333,845	4.55%	4.55%	not applicable	116,109
		One Investment Savings	High Interest Savings Account	4,566,032	5.365%	5.365%	not applicable	233,596
	October 23, 2019	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	2,010,000	2.800%	2.78%	September 6, 2024	55,625
	January 16, 2020	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	3,000,000	2.597%	2.45%	September 6, 2024	73,383
	September 15, 2021	Cdn Western Bank	Bond	1,500,000	2.597%	1.21%	September 6, 2024	18,537
	September 23, 2021	Province of Ontario	Bond	2,300,000	1.230%	1.23%	December 2, 2026	27,156
	September 23, 2021	ManuLife Financial	Bond	2,000,000	2.237%	1.34%	May 12, 2030, call date 2025	37,326
	December 8, 2021	Province of B.C.	Bond	2,050,356	1.180%	1.18%	December 18, 2023	22,978
	December 14, 2022	Royal Bank	Bond	2,000,000	2.333%	4.87%	December 5, 2023	87,901
	December 14, 2022	National Bank	Bond	4,054,000	2.983%	4.84%	March 4, 2024	190,857
	December 14, 2022	CIBC	Bond	4,100,000	3.300%	4.36%	May 26, 2025	174,281
	December 14, 2022	Bank of Montreal	Bond	4,096,000	2.700%	4.59%	September 11, 2024	182,053
	June 28, 2023	CIBC	Non-Redeemable GIC	4,000,000	5.250%	5.25%	June 28, 2024	107,014
		TOTAL INVESTMENTS		47,589,019				\$1,565,711

TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS **\$59,425,675**

* Reserve Balance at December 31st, 2022 33,621,402

Investment By Institution

	% of Total Portfolio
C.I.B.C.	42%
Royal Bank	4%
Bank of Montreal	9%
National Bank	9%
Cdn Western Bank	14%
ManuLife Financial Bank	4%
One Investment Program	10%
Province of B.C.	4%
Province of Ontario	5%
	100%

* Reserve balances are reviewed annually by the Board in November.

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-70

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Financial Summary for the Period Ending August 31, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT the Financial Summary for the period ending August 31, 2023 be approved.

Summary:

The Financial Statements include the 2023 *actual* year-to-date income and expenditures. The budget approved at the February 24, 2023 General Meeting is included in the *Budget* column. The *Current Forecast* column indicates an estimate of income and expenditures for the whole year. At this time a net surplus of \$435,000 at year-end is anticipated.

Report:

The Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2023 are attached.

- A. Municipal Funding increased by \$40,000
 - Watershed Resources – Planning and Environment special project funding increased for a state of the watershed report on Randall and Breslau drains.
- B. Federal Funding increased by \$10,000
 - Watershed Resources – Planning and Environment special project funding increased for municipal drain studies.
- C. Self-Generated Revenue increased by \$420,000
 - Forestry revenue increased by \$20,000 as a result of increased tree planting activity.
 - Conservation Area revenue increased by \$400,000 due to revised projection of annual fee revenue.
- D. Operating Expenses increased by \$20,000
 - Forestry tree planting contractor expenses increased as a result of increased pricing and volume of tree planting activity.
- E. Special Project Expenses increased by \$50,000
 - Watershed Resources – Planning and Environment special project expenses increased for work on a state of the watershed report for Randall and Breslau drains, municipal drain classification, and fish sampling.
- F. Funding from Reserves decreased by \$100,000
 - Transfer from Conservation Area reserve decreased by \$100,000 as a result of the increase in forecast revenue.
- G. Funding to Reserves increased by \$300,000
 - Transfer to Conservation Area reserve increased by \$300,000 as a result of the increase in forecast revenue.

Financial Implications:

The activity summarized will result in a \$435,000 surplus as at December 31, 2023.

Other Department Considerations:

The management committee and appropriate supervisory staff receive monthly financial reports and advise the finance department of applicable forecast adjustments.

Prepared by:

Kayleigh Keighan
Financial Controller

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

**GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FORECAST**

General Membership - September 22, 2023

FORECAST - July 31, 2023 - NET RESULT	\$435,000
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CHANGES - AUGUST 2023

Sch 1	Water Resources-Planning & Environment	\$40,000	Municipal Funding Increase - Special Project	\$0
		\$10,000	Federal Funding Increase - Special Project	
		(\$40,000)	Special Project Expense Increase - Subwatershed Update (RoW)	
		(\$10,000)	Special Project Expense Increase - Drain Studies (DFO)	
Sch 5	Forestry	\$20,000	Self Generated - Tree Planting Revenue Increase	\$0
		(\$20,000)	Other Operating Expense Increase	
Sch 13	Conservation Areas	\$400,000	Conservation Area Revenue Increase (\$10.6M to \$11M)	\$0
		(\$100,000)	Transfer from Conservation Area Reserve Decrease	
		(\$300,000)	Transfer to Conservation Area Reserve Increase	

FORECAST - August 31, 2023 - NET RESULT	\$435,000
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GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

SCHEDULE		Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
<u>REVENUE</u>							
<u>Municipal</u>							
General Municipal Levy (Operating)	various	11,580,000	12,018,000	8,011,999	12,018,000	12,018,000	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)	various	950,000	950,000	633,333	950,000	950,000	-
Special Municipal Levy	various	99,593	130,000	305	130,000	130,000	-
Other	various	536,972	800,000	1,216,823	800,000	840,000	40,000
		13,166,565	13,898,000	9,862,460	13,898,000	13,938,000	40,000
<u>Government Grants</u>							
NDMNRF Transfer Payments	various	449,688	449,688	449,688	449,688	449,688	-
Source Protection Program-Provincial	various	569,995	640,000	330,810	602,000	602,000	-
Other Provincial	various	688,888	982,500	926,006	982,500	982,500	-
Federal	various	431,024	190,000	283,116	190,000	200,000	10,000
		2,139,595	2,262,188	1,989,620	2,224,188	2,234,188	10,000
<u>Self Generated</u>							
User Fees and Sales							
<i>Enquiries and Permits</i>	4	591,330	590,000	400,197	550,000	550,000	-
<i>Plan Input and Review</i>	4	598,852	554,000	337,695	494,000	494,000	-
<i>Consulting</i>	4	-	-	3,726	-	-	-
<i>Nursery and Woodlot Management</i>	5	636,389	415,000	547,783	650,000	650,000	-
<i>Conservation Lands Income</i>	10	65,050	71,000	15,054	71,000	71,000	-
<i>Conservation Areas User Fees</i>	13	11,232,460	10,000,000	10,216,717	10,600,000	11,000,000	400,000
<i>Nature Centres and Camps</i>	8	519,747	500,000	354,366	609,000	609,000	-
<i>Merchandising and Sales</i>	8	872	-	-	-	-	-
Property Rentals	11	2,910,172	3,006,000	2,312,726	3,006,000	3,006,000	-
Hydro Generation	12	589,334	580,000	456,454	580,000	580,000	-
Land Sales	10	15,196,404	-	-	-	-	-
Grand River Conservation Foundation	various	435,141	552,000	72,266	602,000	602,000	-
Donations	various	23,473	135,000	56,935	135,000	135,000	-
Landowner Contributions	5	163,602	180,000	187,851	180,000	200,000	20,000
Investment Income	14	866,001	1,350,000	832,294	1,350,000	1,350,000	-
Miscellaneous Income	various	27,822	35,000	11,110	35,000	35,000	-
Total Self-Generated Revenue		33,856,649	17,968,000	15,805,174	18,862,000	19,282,000	420,000
TOTAL REVENUE		49,162,809	34,128,188	27,657,254	34,984,188	35,454,188	470,000

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

		Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
EXPENSES							
OPERATING							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	1,979,753	2,373,900	1,478,737	2,187,900	2,187,900	-
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	774,798	923,000	684,616	787,000	787,000	-
Water Control Structures	3	1,667,314	1,944,200	1,195,768	1,944,200	1,944,200	-
Resource Planning	4	2,229,262	2,574,200	1,442,750	2,574,200	2,574,200	-
Forestry & Conservation Land Property Taxes	5	1,327,936	1,402,500	1,152,525	1,482,500	1,502,500	20,000
Conservation Services	6	449,256	605,700	336,400	570,700	570,700	-
Communications & Foundation	7	406,064	597,500	293,046	495,500	495,500	-
Environmental Education	8	817,034	810,100	786,033	1,048,100	1,048,100	-
Corporate Services	9	4,048,436	3,890,790	2,538,817	3,857,790	3,857,790	-
Conservation Lands	10	2,100,710	2,613,600	1,769,016	2,527,600	2,527,600	-
Property Rentals	11	1,257,435	1,665,200	753,378	1,603,200	1,603,200	-
Hydro Production	12	250,261	95,500	49,130	95,500	95,500	-
Conservation Areas	13	8,144,188	8,500,000	6,529,114	8,700,000	8,700,000	-
Miscellaneous	14	19,233	-	37,908	-	-	-
Information Systems	16	1,171,003	1,557,000	857,269	1,367,000	1,367,000	-
Motor Pool	16	1,001,110	939,000	624,066	950,000	950,000	-
Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP)	16	(2,172,113)	(2,496,000)	(1,481,335)	(2,317,000)	(2,317,000)	-
Total OPERATING Expenses		25,471,680	27,996,190	19,047,238	27,874,190	27,894,190	20,000
CAPITAL							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	56,922	110,000	24,766	110,000	110,000	-
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	188,310	190,000	119,066	190,000	190,000	-
Water Control Structures	3	1,347,653	1,500,000	356,442	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Conservation Areas	13	934,152	2,000,000	1,664,914	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
Information Systems	16	154,773	170,000	62,873	170,000	170,000	-
Motor Pool	16	615,925	850,000	569,322	850,000	850,000	-
Less: Internal Charges (IS & MP)	16	(390,588)	(241,000)	(1,195,609)	(420,000)	(420,000)	-
Total Capital Expenses		2,907,147	4,579,000	1,601,774	4,400,000	4,400,000	-
SPECIAL							
Water Resources Planning & Environment	1	127,969	210,000	116,264	210,000	260,000	50,000
Flood Forecasting and Warning	2	341,735	90,000	61,599	90,000	90,000	-
Forestry	5	52,653	100,000	45,026	100,000	100,000	-
Conservation Services	6	757,372	1,090,000	668,368	1,090,000	1,090,000	-
Environmental Education	8	26,600	500,000	2,103	500,000	500,000	-
Conservation Land Purchases/Land Sale Expe	10	17,660	-	3,637	-	-	-
Conservation Lands	10	229,921	-	76	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	14	27,323	35,000	24,747	35,000	35,000	-
Source Protection Program	15	569,995	640,000	330,810	602,000	602,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECTS Expenses		2,151,228	2,665,000	1,252,630	2,627,000	2,677,000	50,000
Total Expenses		30,530,055	35,240,190	21,901,642	34,901,190	34,971,190	70,000
Gross Surplus		18,632,754	(1,112,002)	5,755,612	82,998	482,998	400,000
Prior Year Surplus Carryforward		567,177	562,502	-	562,502	562,502	-
Total Funding FROM Reserves (Funding)		3,377,001	4,653,000	-	4,083,000	3,983,000	(100,000)
Total Funding TO Reserves		(22,014,431)	(4,103,500)	-	(4,293,500)	(4,593,500)	(300,000)
NET SURPLUS		562,502	-	5,755,612	435,000	435,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 1 - Water Resources - Planning and Environment
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	1,455,879	1,706,500	956,177	1,566,500	1,566,500	-
Administration Expenses	251,304	268,300	260,905	268,300	268,300	-
Insurance	166,978	234,000	188,062	188,000	188,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	105,592	165,100	73,593	165,100	165,100	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,979,753	2,373,900	1,478,737	2,187,900	2,187,900	-
Instrumentation	52,343	60,000	23,642	60,000	60,000	-
Water Quality Monitoring Equipment	4,579	50,000	1,124	50,000	50,000	-
Total CAPITAL Expenditures	56,922	110,000	24,766	110,000	110,000	-
Waste Water Optimization Program	59,858	130,000	77,724	130,000	130,000	-
Grand River Water Management Plan	-	-	146	-	-	-
Randall and Breslau Drains Report	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Drain Studies-DFO	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Upper Blair Drainage	68,111	80,000	38,394	80,000	80,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	127,969	210,000	116,264	210,000	260,000	50,000
Transition Reserve	110,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	110,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	2,274,644	2,693,900	1,619,767	2,507,900	2,557,900	50,000
<u>Funding</u>						
Municipal						
General Municipal Levy (Operating)	2,179,900	2,286,400	1,524,267	2,286,400	2,286,400	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)	35,000	35,000	23,333	35,000	35,000	-
Special Levy	99,593	130,000	305	130,000	130,000	-
Municipal Other	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Government Grants						
Other Provincial	64,548	167,500	451,757	167,500	167,500	-
Federal	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Funding From Reserves						
Gauges	-	75,000	-	75,000	75,000	-
TOTAL FUNDING	2,379,041	2,693,900	1,999,662	2,693,900	2,743,900	50,000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	104,397	-	379,895	186,000	186,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 2 - Flood Forecasting and Warning
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	439,764	579,000	368,316	443,000	443,000	-
Administration Expenses	235,412	236,000	219,432	236,000	236,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	99,622	108,000	96,868	108,000	108,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	774,798	923,000	684,616	787,000	787,000	-
Hardware	166,241	88,000	97,855	88,000	88,000	-
Stream Gauges	22,069	102,000	21,211	102,000	102,000	-
Total CAPITAL Expenditures	188,310	190,000	119,066	190,000	190,000	-
Floodplain Mapping Projects	341,735	90,000	61,599	90,000	90,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	341,735	90,000	61,599	90,000	90,000	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	45,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	1,349,843	1,203,000	865,281	1,067,000	1,067,000	-

Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	678,662	698,662	465,775	698,662	698,662	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)	165,000	165,000	110,000	165,000	165,000	-

Government Grants

MNRF Transfer Payments	164,338	164,338	164,338	164,338	164,338	-
Other Provincial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal	170,868	45,000	25,684	45,000	45,000	-

Funding From Reserves

Floodplain Mapping Projects & Gauges	170,867	70,000	-	70,000	70,000	-
Water Management Operating	-	60,000	-	60,000	60,000	-

TOTAL REVENUE	1,349,735	1,203,000	765,797	1,203,000	1,203,000	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(108)	-	(99,484)	136,000	136,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 3 - Water Control Structures
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	1,181,410	1,399,500	839,427	1,399,500	1,399,500	-
Administration Expenses	20,257	29,200	23,353	29,200	29,200	-
Property Taxes	160,648	170,700	35,521	170,700	170,700	-
Other Operating Expenses	304,999	344,800	297,467	344,800	344,800	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,667,314	1,944,200	1,195,768	1,944,200	1,944,200	-
Total CAPITAL Expenditures	1,347,653	1,500,000	356,442	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	187,000	-		-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	3,201,967	3,444,200	1,552,210	3,444,200	3,444,200	-

Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	1,537,350	1,588,850	1,059,233	1,588,850	1,588,850	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)	750,000	750,000	500,000	750,000	750,000	-

Government Grants

MNRF Transfer Payment	285,350	285,350	285,350	285,350	285,350	-
Provincial	585,229	700,000	367,353	700,000	700,000	-
Federal	44,509	-	-	-	-	-

Funding From Reserves

Water Control Structures	-	120,000	-	120,000	120,000	-
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TOTAL REVENUE AND FUNDING FROM RESERVES	3,202,438	3,444,200	2,211,936	3,444,200	3,444,200	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	471	-	659,726	-	-	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 4 - Resource Planning
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	1,987,108	2,297,000	1,196,730	2,197,000	2,197,000	-
Administration Expenses	223,619	222,500	216,530	222,500	222,500	-
Other Operating Expenses	18,535	54,700	29,490	154,700	154,700	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	2,229,262	2,574,200	1,442,750	2,574,200	2,574,200	-
Personnel Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Planning Enforcement/Transition	155,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	155,000	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	2,384,262	2,574,200	1,442,750	2,574,200	2,574,200	-
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Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	1,307,200	1,385,200	923,467	1,385,200	1,385,200	-
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Government Grants

Other Provincial	-	-	3,134	-	-	-
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Self Generated

Solicitor Enquiry Fees	81,155	90,000	50,227	80,000	80,000	-
Permit Fees	510,175	500,000	349,970	470,000	470,000	-
Plan Review Fees	598,852	554,000	337,695	494,000	494,000	-
Consulting	-	-	3,726	-	-	-

Funding from Reserves

Water Management Operating	-	45,000	-	45,000	45,000	-
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TOTAL REVENUE	2,497,382	2,574,200	1,668,219	2,474,200	2,474,200	-
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Net Surplus/(Deficit)	113,120	-	225,469	(100,000)	(100,000)	-
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GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 5 - Forestry & Conservation Lands Property Taxes
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
How much does it cost, and who pays for it?						
<u>Expenditures and Funding to Reserves</u>						
Compensation and Benefits	492,827	553,000	357,810	553,000	553,000	-
Administration Expenses	48,990	54,300	49,525	54,300	54,300	-
Property Taxes	185,993	183,200	96,670	183,200	183,200	-
Other Operating Expenses	600,126	612,000	648,520	692,000	712,000	20,000
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,327,936	1,402,500	1,152,525	1,482,500	1,502,500	20,000
Ecological Restoration	52,653	100,000	45,026	100,000	100,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	52,653	100,000	45,026	100,000	100,000	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	70,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	1,450,589	1,502,500	1,197,551	1,582,500	1,602,500	20,000
<u>Funding</u>						
Municipal						
General Municipal Levy (Operating)	773,500	795,500	530,333	795,500	795,500	-
Municipal Other	1,903	-	-	-	-	-
Government Grants						
Provincial	906	-	-	-	-	-
Self Generated						
Nursery	499,790	400,000	377,376	480,000	480,000	-
Landowner Contributions (Tree Planting)	163,602	180,000	187,851	180,000	200,000	20,000
Donations - Foundation	44,025	27,000	-	27,000	27,000	-
Donations - Other	23,473	100,000	10,556	100,000	100,000	-
Funding From Reserves						
Forestry	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,507,199	1,502,500	1,106,116	1,582,500	1,602,500	20,000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	56,610	-	(91,435)	-	-	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 6 - Conservation Services
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	420,643	497,500	279,293	462,500	462,500	-
Administration Expenses	27,828	86,200	52,844	86,200	86,200	-
Other Operating Expenses	785	22,000	4,263	22,000	22,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	449,256	605,700	336,400	570,700	570,700	-
RWQP Grants	532,595	800,000	431,712	800,000	800,000	-
Brant/Brantford Childrens Water Festival	-	35,000	33,897	35,000	35,000	-
Haldimand Childrens Water Festival	-	25,000	19,733	25,000	25,000	-
Species at Risk	69,695	70,000	48,923	70,000	70,000	-
Precision Agriculture-OMAFRA	27,057	-	-	-	-	-
Profit Mapping-OMAFRA	3,925	85,000	66,649	85,000	85,000	-
Great Lakes Protection Initiative	114,731	-	-	-	-	-
Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative	928	-	1,395	-	-	-
Nature Smart Climate Solutions	8,441	75,000	66,059	75,000	75,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	757,372	1,090,000	668,368	1,090,000	1,090,000	-
Watershed Restoration	87,000	-	-	35,000	35,000	-
Transition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	87,000	-	-	35,000	35,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	1,293,628	1,695,700	1,004,768	1,695,700	1,695,700	-
Funding						
Municipal						
General Municipal Levy (Operating)	555,200	574,700	383,133	574,700	574,700	-
Municipal Other	532,594	800,000	1,216,823	800,000	800,000	-
Government Grants						
Other Provincial	31,910	115,000	91,389	115,000	115,000	-
Federal	192,868	145,000	253,129	145,000	145,000	-
Self Generated						
Donations - Foundation	-	25,000	28,618	25,000	25,000	-
Donations - Other	-	35,000	46,379	35,000	35,000	-
Funding From Reserves						
Cambridge Desiltation Pond	663	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE	1,313,235	1,695,700	2,019,471	1,695,700	1,695,700	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	19,607	-	1,014,703	-	-	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 7 - Communications
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	360,523	512,000	228,688	400,000	400,000	-
Administration Expenses	45,541	62,000	49,867	62,000	62,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	-	23,500	14,491	33,500	33,500	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	406,064	597,500	293,046	495,500	495,500	-
Transition	110,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	110,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	516,064	597,500	293,046	495,500	495,500	-

Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	577,500	597,500	398,333	597,500	597,500	-
TOTAL REVENUE	577,500	597,500	398,333	597,500	597,500	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	61,436	-	105,287	102,000	102,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 8 - Environmental Education
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation & Benefits	545,422	574,500	462,899	674,500	674,500	-
Administration Expenses	42,654	57,000	49,032	57,000	57,000	-
Insurance	19,095	21,000	21,078	21,000	21,000	-
Property Taxes	10,629	14,000	8,140	14,000	14,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	199,234	143,600	244,884	281,600	281,600	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	817,034	810,100	786,033	1,048,100	1,048,100	-
Guelph Lake Nature Centre	26,600	500,000	2,103	500,000	500,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	26,600	500,000	2,103	500,000	500,000	-
Guelph Lake Nature Centre	35,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	35,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	878,634	1,310,100	788,136	1,548,100	1,548,100	-

Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	284,600	310,100	206,733	310,100	310,100	-
Municipal - Other	225	-	-	-	-	-

Self Generated

Donations - Foundation	73,559	500,000	22,487	550,000	550,000	-
Nature Centre Revenue - Schools	518,256	500,000	345,494	600,000	600,000	-
Nature Centre Revenue - Community	1,491	-	8,872	9,000	9,000	-
Merchandise Revenue	872	-	-	-	-	-
			-			

Funding from Reserves

Nature Centres Reserve	-	-	-	9,000	9,000	-
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TOTAL REVENUE	879,003	1,310,100	583,586	1,478,100	1,478,100	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	369	-	(204,550)	(70,000)	(70,000)	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 9 - Corporate Services
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	2,095,636	2,133,000	1,468,284	2,133,000	2,133,000	-
Administration Expenses	299,600	424,000	271,482	424,000	424,000	-
Insurance	115,301	157,000	124,418	124,000	124,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	1,594,682	1,246,790	696,604	1,246,790	1,246,790	-
LESS: Recovery of Corporate Services Expenses	(56,783)	(70,000)	(21,971)	(70,000)	(70,000)	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	4,048,436	3,890,790	2,538,817	3,857,790	3,857,790	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	4,048,436	3,890,790	2,538,817	3,857,790	3,857,790	-

Funding

Municipal

General Municipal Levy (Operating)	3,686,088	3,781,089	2,520,725	3,781,089	3,781,089	-
General Municipal Levy (Capital)						
Municipal - Other	450	-	-	-	-	-

Self Generated

Donations - Foundation	-	-	1,511	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	975	-	-	-	-	-

Funding From Reserves

Personnel	245,000	65,000	-	65,000	65,000	-
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TOTAL REVENUE	3,932,513	3,846,089	2,522,236	3,846,089	3,846,089	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(115,923)	(44,701)	(16,581)	(11,701)	(11,701)	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 10 - Conservation Lands
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	1,228,809	1,540,000	928,196	1,480,000	1,480,000	-
Administration Expenses	131,634	152,600	123,728	152,600	152,600	-
Insurance	259,313	315,000	289,845	289,000	289,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	480,954	606,000	427,247	606,000	606,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	2,100,710	2,613,600	1,769,016	2,527,600	2,527,600	-
Land Purchases/Land Sale Expenses	17,660	-	3,637	-	-	-
Trails - Capital Maintenance	229,921	-	76	-	-	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	247,581	-	3,713	-	-	-
Forestry/Master Plans/Transition	227,000	-	-	155,000	155,000	-
Land Sale Proceeds	15,196,404	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	15,423,404	-	-	155,000	155,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	17,771,695	2,613,600	1,772,729	2,682,600	2,682,600	-

Funding

Government Grants

Federal	-	-	4,303	-	-	-
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Self Generated

Luther Miscellaneous Income	39,941	46,000	6,612	46,000	46,000	-
Other Areas Income	25,109	25,000	8,442	25,000	25,000	-
Timber Sales	136,599	15,000	170,407	170,000	170,000	-
Land Sale Proceeds	15,196,404	-	-	-	-	-
Donations - Foundation	252,052	-	7,918	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Other	-	-	6,772	-	-	-

Funding From Reserves

Land	17,660	-	-	-	-	-
Transition	-	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-
Gravel	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE	15,667,765	187,000	204,454	342,000	342,000	-

Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,103,930)	(2,426,600)	(1,568,275)	(2,340,600)	(2,340,600)	-
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GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 11 - Property Rentals
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	648,325	731,000	346,396	679,000	679,000	-
Administration Expenses	70,867	74,500	73,774	74,500	74,500	-
Insurance	31,638	45,000	34,930	35,000	35,000	-
Property Taxes	114,396	113,000	21,079	113,000	113,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	392,209	701,700	277,199	701,700	701,700	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,257,435	1,665,200	753,378	1,603,200	1,603,200	-
Cottage Lot Program-Belwood	90,000	-	-	-	-	-
Cottage Lot Program-Conestogo	84,000	-	-	-	-	-
Demolitions/R&M Savings	15,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	189,000	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	1,446,435	1,665,200	753,378	1,603,200	1,603,200	-

Funding

Municipal

Municipal - Other	225	-	-	-	-	-
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Self Generated

Belwood	1,012,251	1,040,000	883,682	1,040,000	1,040,000	-
Conestogo	1,216,899	1,245,000	1,033,355	1,245,000	1,245,000	-
Agricultural	211,781	250,000	113,510	250,000	250,000	-
Residential	111,545	110,000	70,946	110,000	110,000	-
Miscellaneous	357,696	361,000	211,233	361,000	361,000	-

Funding FROM Reserves

Wells/Septic/Demolitions (Land Sale Proceeds)	-	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-
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TOTAL REVENUE	2,910,397	3,106,000	2,312,726	3,106,000	3,106,000	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,463,962	1,440,800	1,559,348	1,502,800	1,502,800	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 12 - Hydro Production
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	64,119	70,000	43,144	70,000	70,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	186,142	25,500	5,986	25,500	25,500	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	250,261	95,500	49,130	95,500	95,500	-
General Capital/Land Sale Proceeds	20,000	116,500	-	116,500	116,500	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	20,000	116,500	-	116,500	116,500	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	270,261	212,000	49,130	212,000	212,000	-

Revenue

Self Generated

Hydro Production-Belwood	308,967	265,000	238,703	265,000	265,000	-
Hydro Production-Conestogo	243,994	260,000	193,432	260,000	260,000	-
Hydro Production-Guelph	21,991	40,000	14,121	40,000	40,000	-
Hydro Production-Elora	14,382	15,000	10,198	15,000	15,000	-

Funding from Reserves

General Capital/Land Sale Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	589,334	580,000	456,454	580,000	580,000	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	319,073	368,000	407,324	368,000	368,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 13 - Conservation Areas
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	4,548,675	4,675,000	3,690,736	4,675,000	4,675,000	-
Administration Expenses	203,238	210,000	194,244	210,000	210,000	-
Property Tax	53,928	65,000	23,008	65,000	65,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	3,338,347	3,550,000	2,621,126	3,750,000	3,750,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	8,144,188	8,500,000	6,529,114	8,700,000	8,700,000	-
Total CAPITAL Expenditures	934,152	2,000,000	1,664,914	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
Conservation Area Reserve	2,225,000	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	2,225,000	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	11,303,340	10,500,000	8,194,028	10,700,000	11,000,000	300,000

Funding

Municipal

Municipal - Other	1,575	-	-	-	-	-
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Government Grants

Provincial	6,295	-	-	-	-	-
Federal	22,779	-	-	-	-	-

Self Generated

Brant	1,298,167	1,100,000	1,186,160	1,200,000	1,240,000	40,000
Byng Island	1,089,216	1,000,000	1,122,557	1,080,000	1,150,000	70,000
Belwood Lake	414,213	400,000	352,196	400,000	400,000	-
Conestogo Lake	593,983	550,000	575,074	590,000	590,000	-
Elora Gorge	2,109,841	2,000,000	1,909,130	2,090,000	2,170,000	80,000
Elora Quarry	470,106	450,000	427,709	450,000	450,000	-
Guelph Lake	1,514,151	1,300,000	1,395,516	1,390,000	1,500,000	110,000
Laurel Creek	779,960	650,000	649,796	690,000	690,000	-
Pinehurst Lake	996,047	850,000	915,165	910,000	920,000	10,000
Rockwood	1,463,392	1,250,000	1,214,285	1,320,000	1,410,000	90,000
Shade's Mills	503,384	450,000	469,129	480,000	480,000	-
Total Fee Revenue	11,232,460	10,000,000	10,216,717	10,600,000	11,000,000	400,000

Donations-Foundation	38,182	-	10,200	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	2,136	-	-	-	-	-

Funding From Reserves

Conservation Area Reserve	-	500,000	-	100,000	-	(100,000)
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TOTAL REVENUE	11,303,427	10,500,000	10,226,917	10,700,000	11,000,000	300,000
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Net Surplus/(Deficit)	87	-	2,032,889	-	-	-
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GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 14 - Miscellaneous
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures and Funding to Reserves

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Other Miscellaneous	19,233	-	37,908	-	-	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	19,233	-	37,908	-	-	-
Mill Creek Rangers	27,323	35,000	24,747	35,000	35,000	-
Total SPECIAL PROJECT Expenditures	27,323	35,000	24,747	35,000	35,000	-
Interest Income	671,942	1,250,000	-	1,250,000	1,250,000	-
PST Refund/Insurance Proceeds	115,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total FUNDING to RESERVES	786,942	1,250,000	-	1,250,000	1,250,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDING TO RESERVES	833,498	1,285,000	62,655	1,285,000	1,285,000	-

Funding

Government Grants

Provincial	-	-	12,373	-	-	-
Self Generated						
Interest Income-Operating	-	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-
Interest Income-Reserves	866,001	1,250,000	832,294	1,250,000	1,250,000	-
Miscellaneous	16,327	35,000	87	35,000	35,000	-
Grand River Conservation Foundation	27,323	-	1,532	-	-	-

TOTAL REVENUE	909,651	1,385,000	846,286	1,385,000	1,385,000	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	76,153	100,000	783,631	100,000	100,000	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 15 - Source Protection Program
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Compensation and Benefits	464,091	490,000	279,625	452,000	452,000	-
Administration Expenses	34,071	50,000	21,110	50,000	50,000	-
Other Operating Expenses	71,833	90,000	30,075	90,000	90,000	-
Water Budget - Technical Studies	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	569,995	640,000	330,810	602,000	602,000	-

Funding

Government Grants

Provincial	569,995	640,000	330,810	602,000	602,000	-
TOTAL FUNDING	569,995	640,000	330,810	602,000	602,000	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Schedule 16 - Information Systems and Motor Pool
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING August 31, 2023

How much does it cost, and who pays for it?

Expenditures

	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	Actual YTD	Previous Forecast	Current Forecast	Forecast Change
Information Systems						
Compensation and Benefits	951,835	1,290,000	677,448	1,100,000	1,100,000	-
Administrative Expenses	9,390	25,500	4,046	25,500	25,500	-
Software and Hardware Maintenance	159,972	187,500	141,007	187,500	187,500	-
Supplies and Services	49,806	54,000	34,768	54,000	54,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,171,003	1,557,000	857,269	1,367,000	1,367,000	-
Capital Expenses	154,773	170,000	62,873	170,000	170,000	-
LESS Internal Charges	(1,285,600)	(1,437,000)	(1,409,333)	(1,437,000)	(1,437,000)	-
NET Unallocated Expenses	40,176	290,000	(489,191)	100,000	100,000	-
Motor Pool						
Compensation and Benefits	295,344	312,000	185,487	312,000	312,000	-
Administrative Expenses	16,327	26,000	17,605	26,000	26,000	-
Insurance	57,356	50,600	61,458	61,600	61,600	-
Motor Pool Building and Grounds Maintenance	7,061	10,400	5,269	10,400	10,400	-
Equipment, Repairs and Supplies	340,377	286,000	207,840	286,000	286,000	-
Fuel	284,645	254,000	146,407	254,000	254,000	-
Total OPERATING Expenditures	1,001,110	939,000	624,066	950,000	950,000	-
Capital Expenses	615,925	850,000	569,322	850,000	850,000	-
LESS Internal Charges	(1,277,101)	(1,300,000)	(1,267,611)	(1,300,000)	(1,300,000)	-
NET Unallocated Expenses	339,934	489,000	(74,223)	500,000	500,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	380,110	779,000	(563,414)	600,000	600,000	-

Funding

Self Generated						
Miscellaneous	8,384	-	4,251	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	8,384	-	4,251	-	-	-
Gross Surplus (Deficit)	(371,726)	(779,000)	567,665	(600,000)	(600,000)	-
Funding From Reserves	2,942,811	3,516,000	-	3,337,000	3,337,000	-
Funding to Reserves	(2,571,085)	(2,737,000)	-	(2,737,000)	(2,737,000)	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	567,665	-	-	-

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-62

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Elora Quarry and Grand River Conservation Area Membership Pass Update

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-09-23-62 - Elora Quarry and Grand River Conservation Area Membership Pass Update be received as information.

Summary:

As follow-up to [GM-06-23-49](#), staff were asked to report back to the General membership a solution that would permit Grand River Conservation Area membership pass holders to have some access to the Elora Quarry.

Additional background information that provides context about how and why capacity measures were determined at the Elora Quarry were shared with the General Membership in the following reports: [GM-12-17-124](#), [GM-12-18-119](#), [GM-11-19-109](#), and [GM-11-21-83](#).

A pilot project of a weekday Quarry experience will be available for GRCA membership pass holders starting in June 2024. The GRCA's Information Services and Technology (IS&T) department developed a solution to reconfigure the online Elora Quarry day use reservation system to be able to accommodate GRCA membership cards.

All access to the Elora Quarry is through advance reservations, and membership pass holders would be required to follow the same process and present a confirmation of reservation at the point of entry. Membership pass holders would also be required to pay the additional parking fee of \$15.00 should a parking spot be required.

Report:

Capacity at the quarry is based on many factors; two of the most limiting are the availability of on-site parking and capacity at the beach. While the parking area can accommodate between 125- 175 cars, the beach has a maximum capacity of between 300-350 people. Other GRCA properties base capacity solely on parking spots. The Quarry is much smaller in size and amenities than other GRCA conservation areas and a heavy concentration of patrons can negatively impact both the user experience at the beach and the natural features.

Currently, between 300 and 350 day pass reservations are made per time slot, (two time slots per day) from early June until Labour Day. The weekend is the busiest time at the Elora Quarry, and when there is the most demand. In July and August 2023, the weekend afternoon bookings reached capacity. The morning session bookings occasionally had limited capacity.

To balance maximizing revenue with allowing membership pass holder access, staff are recommending a weekday reservation program to GRCA Conservation Area membership pass holders as a pilot project.

Membership holders would be required to follow the same process as day users, making a reservation online and getting an access code in return. Parking is an additional fee at the Quarry and would not be covered by the membership pass should a parking space be required.

A cap on the number of spaces available to membership users would be limited to a minimum of 10% to a maximum of 15 % of the total available reservations.

The GRCA IS&T department developed the in-house online Quarry sales program in 2021 and has now developed a modification to incorporate membership card admissions on a pilot program basis to ensure functionality and to assess potential impacts on revenue.

To communicate the launch of an Elora Quarry pilot program to accept GRCA membership pass holders, the pilot program will be announced on the GRCA's website on the webpage for the Elora Quarry. GRCA conservation area membership passes can be renewed at any time during the calendar year and users may not be aware of the change to the program until the spring of 2024. Similarly, the library loaner program of Grand River Conservation Area membership passes that is supported by the Grand River Conservation Foundation will also require an update to reflect that the Elora Quarry be included as a pilot program in 2024.

The factors to determine the continuation of the pilot program would be the impact on overall operations, technical challenges, statistical information related to GRCA membership pass holder use, feedback from the current day use customers, feedback from GRCA conservation area membership pass holders, and feedback from staff.

Financial Implications:

This pilot program is being structured to minimize impacts on Elora Quarry online sales revenue. Reprogramming of the online reservation software will be completed in-house by current GRCA staff so no incremental costs will be incurred.

Prepared by:

Pam Walther-Mabee
Manager of Conservation Lands

Sonja Radoja
Manager of Corporate Services

Approved by:

Karen Armstrong
Deputy CAO/ Secretary Treasurer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-63

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: ERO No. 019-4706: Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-63 – ERO No. 019-4706: Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications be received as information.

Summary:

On July 4, 2023 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) titled 'Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications'. This proposal is seeking feedback on updates to technical guidance to support flood hazard identification and mapping by municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.

GRCA staff participated in two provincial technical teams and were involved in the preparation of source documents used as a basis in development of the proposed technical bulletin.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) supports and will continue to uphold policies and technical guidelines that support implementation of the natural hazard policies in Ontario.

The GRCA supports the proposed updates to technical guidelines to support flood hazard identification and mapping by municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.

Report:

On July 4, 2023 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) titled 'Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications'. This proposal is seeking feedback on updates to technical guidelines to support flood hazard identification and mapping by municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) supports and will continue to uphold policies and technical guidelines that support implementation of the natural hazard policies in Ontario. Over the past few years, the GRCA has adapted the River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit technical guidelines prepared by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in 2002 for flood hazard mapping projects and has contributed to development of Technical Guidelines for Flood Hazard Mapping prepared by Environmental Water Resources Group Ltd (EWRG) in collaboration with other conservation authorities in 2017. The proposed technical guidelines provide recommendations on survey and mapping procedures and standards for flood hazard mapping and would replace Appendix J of the existing River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit technical guidelines.

The GRCA supports the proposed updates to technical guidelines to support flood hazard identification and mapping by municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.

Comments provided to inform the Conservation Ontario response on the proposed Technical Bulletin – Flooding Hazards: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications:

1. Section 1.2.1 - Figure 1-1: Recommended geospatial data components and workflow for flood hazard mapping. It appears that the final outcome for flood hazard map is limited to land use planning and regulation. It is suggested to add other applications of flood hazard mapping including development of municipal emergency response plans, development of dam emergency response plans and flood forecasting and warning.

2. Section 3.3 Data Quality and Accuracy Recommendations: It is stated that :

“In Ontario, municipalities have a responsibility to identify areas subject to natural hazards and to develop management plans to limit exposure to public health and safety risks. It is up to the individual municipality to determine how best to achieve this requirement. Conservation authorities may also **elect** to map flooding hazards to identify areas where development is regulated under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, to support administration of their permitting role.”

GRCA recommends that the wording be revised to “Conservation authorities are responsible for mapping the regulated area associated with floodplains where a permit for development and other activities is required.” to be consistent with other newly introduced guidelines such as ERO Posting #019-2927 – Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario. Under section 2.3.2-Mapping of areas where development or other activities are prohibited it is stated that:

“Under section 21.1 of the Act, conservation authorities would be **required** to create maps of areas within their jurisdiction generally depicting where a permit is required for development and other activities and make these maps publicly available at the head office of the authority and in any other manner consistent with conservation authority policy. In some cases, regulated areas will still need to be confirmed based on the technical description as set out in the regulation, which is what officially determines the areas where permits are required. It would also be required that if the conservation authority makes significant changes to this mapping based on new information or technology, or changes in watershed conditions (i.e., beyond any minor modifications or corrections or adjustments made regarding site specific applications) that result in an enlargement of the area depicting where the permitting requirements apply, the authority shall provide notice to the public in an appropriate manner, as set out in a policy adopted by the authority, and consider public comments in making any decisions regarding the proposed mapping changes.”

3. Section 3.3.2 Recommended Accuracy Classes and Cell Sizes. Discussions and recommendations have been provided for raster products; however rasters are not the only form topography can be used for modeling. Some discussion on TINs (Triangular Irregular Networks) would be useful too.
4. Recommendations for survey of hydraulic structures are provided in the document, specifically under section 3.4. It is recommended to identify the need for two sets of topography data (DEMs) under section 3.5 Data Processing and Derivative Products, specifically for large systems with significant hydraulic structures. It is best to develop one set of “pre-processing DEM/DTM” which is appropriately hydroenforced and has all hydraulic structures (Bridges – Culverts and dams) removed which can be used for proper hydrology and hydraulic model development and one set of “post-processing DEM/DTM” with all bridge decks, Culvert Tops and Dam Crests incorporated into the dataset which can be used for flood hazard mapping.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

GRCA staff in Engineering and Information Systems were consulted in preparing these comments.

Prepared by:

Vahid Taleban
Senior Engineer Flood Management

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-65

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan Consulting Contract

Recommendation:

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept the proposal from Hatch Ltd. to carry out engineering consulting services to complete the Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan up to the amount of \$197,240 excluding HST.

AND THAT an overall project budget of \$216,964 be approved for this project.

Summary:

Not applicable

Report:

Under *Ontario Regulation 686/21- Mandatory Programs and Services*, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is required to complete an asset management plan to support the mandatory programs and services for flood control, low flow augmentation and erosion control infrastructure.

An asset management plan will be prepared for eight (8) flood control and/or flow augmentation dams (including 7 large dams), and six dike and floodwall systems. This includes completing condition assessments for the eight (8) dams. To complete the plan within the required timelines, and to utilize expertise outside of the GRCA, an external consultant will be engaged.

The plan will provide clear documentation and support for the decision-making process for prioritizing maintenance and managing the water control infrastructure assets. The plan will assist the GRCA in deciding when and how much will be required to invest in existing water control infrastructure assets to maintain the required level of service.

The Consultant hired to prepare the asset management plan will be required to:

- Describe the required levels of service for each water control structure.
- Document the GRCA's risk management strategy with respect to dam and dike safety management.
- Update the existing inventory of dam and dike components to be included in the asset management plan.
- Complete condition assessments for eight (8) dams (7 large dams and 1 flow augmentation dam), including the expected service life and estimated remaining life, replacement value, and risk and consequences of failure.
- Develop a template to monitor the asset management plan for future modifications and improvement.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) outlining the tasks described above was publicly advertised on the Biddingo electronic procurement website. There were 23 registered document takers and four proposals received. The proposal costs are summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1: Request for Proposal Results

Consultant	Cost (HST excluded)
GHD Limited	\$140,399
Stantec Consulting Ltd.	\$143,611
KGS Group	\$199,982
Hatch Ltd.	\$197,240

A committee consisting of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Manager of Water Infrastructure, Infrastructure Engineer and Engineering Project Advisor participated in the proposal evaluations. The proposals were evaluated using weighted criteria including:

- Qualifications and experience of the firm, project manager, and team (25%)
- Understanding, approach and methods to providing the service, including detailed work plan (30%)
- Commitment to the timelines provided by the GRCA and ability to complete the project within the required timeline (25%)
- Detailed budget including a time/task matrix indicating costs and allocated hours for individual team members (20%)

The ranked order of the evaluation are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposal Evaluation Results

Rank	Company
1	Hatch Ltd.
2	Stantec Consulting Ltd.
3	KGS Group
4	GHD Limited

The Selection Committee recommends retaining Hatch Ltd for the project. Strengths of the Hatch proposal include a team of experienced dam industry professionals who have demonstrated their expertise in working with the GRCA's dams and similar structures nationwide. The Hatch proposal outlines a thorough understanding of the needs of this plan and an appropriate level of effort. The proposal evaluation team is confident that the resulting asset management plan will effectively support the GRCA's dam safety management program. Hatch's proposed approach and experienced project team members will be important in the critical project component of preparing dam condition assessments

The Project budget detailed in Table 3 below includes a 10% contingency of \$19,724 for potential additional project team meetings, additional analysis and/or tasks to be undertaken by Hatch Ltd. as deemed necessary.

Table 2: Project Budget

Consultant Contract	\$197,240
Contingency (10% of Consultant Contract)	\$19,724
Total Project Budget	\$216,964

Financial Implications:

The Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan is anticipated to have a total budget of \$216,964. Funds will be drawn from the Land Sale Reserve.

Other Department Considerations:

Staff from the Water Infrastructure Department will lead project management and technical input. Staff from Conservation Area Operations, Accounting and Information Systems will support the completion of the Water Control Structures Asset Management Plan.

Prepared by:

Katelyn Lynch
Manager of Water Infrastructure

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-71

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Current Watershed Conditions as of September 11, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-09-23-71 – Current Watershed Conditions as of September 11, 2023 be received as information.

Summary:

August was a wet month with slightly cooler than average temperatures. The month started with average temperatures and above normal rainfall. The temperatures across the watershed remained slightly cooler than the long-term average throughout the month with no days above 30 degrees Celsius. The above normal precipitation continued throughout the month resulting in a slightly cooler than normal monthly temperature with above normal rainfall. Rainfall in August exceeded 100% of the long-term average at all climate stations in the watershed with stations ranging from 101% to 157%.

Groundwater levels at select locations are showing signs of recovery from the all-time low levels experienced throughout most of 2022. The Low Water Response Team met on September 6, 2023 to discuss removing the watershed from Level 1 conditions. The result of the meeting was to place the watershed back to normal conditions the week of September 11, 2023.

Lake Erie continues to be above the long-term average, and between the levels in 2021 and 2022. The long-term forecast over the next three months is for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

Report:

Precipitation

The watershed received significant rainfall in the latter half of June and through July and August. Precipitation over the first two weeks of September has varied across the watershed between 12% and 64% of the long-term averages for the first half of the month as shown in Table 1. This is largely attributed to the localized nature of summer thunderstorms which result in high intensity events occurring in portions of the watershed.

Trends in precipitation, Table 2, show that over the short-term the watershed has experienced more rainfall than normal with between 101% to 157% of the rainfall typical for August occurring across the watershed. Over the mid-term, the watershed has recovered from dry conditions in 2022 with above normal precipitation at all locations. Over the long term, the precipitation levels appear to have returned to normal long-term averages. A visual representation of these trends for the Shand climate station is provided in Figure 1.

Table 1: Current monthly precipitation for climate stations across the watershed up to September 11, 2023 including the long term average precipitation for half of September.

Climate Station	Current Month Precipitation (millimeters)	Long Term Average Precipitation (millimeters)	Percentage of Long Term Average Percent (%)
Shand	17.4	42.9	41%
Conestogo	17.2	45.5	38%
Guelph	18.2	41.5	44%
Luther	10.4	47.8	22%
Woolwich	21.6	33.9	64%
Laurel	15.4	47.5	32%
Shades	10.1	43.3	23%
Brantford	4.5	38.5	12%

Table 2: Precipitation trends as a percentage (%) of the long-term average over the last 18 months

Climate Station	Last Month	Last 3 Months	Last 6 Months	Last 12 Months	Last 18 Months
Shand	126%	134%	124%	103%	97%
Conestogo	118%	141%	127%	103%	101%
Guelph	131%	139%	129%	103%	98%
Luther	119%	143%	132%	114%	104%
Woolwich	101%	141%	126%	102%	94%
Laurel	121%	120%	115%	95%	85%
Shades	157%	156%	140%	108%	95%
Brantford	124%	134%	132%	111%	99%

Air Temperatures

August was a cooler month for temperatures across the watershed. Warmer temperatures at the beginning of the month and cooler temperatures over the last two weeks of the month resulted in a monthly temperature consistent with the long-term average at the Shand Dam climate station. The average temperature across the watershed during the month of August was 1.1 degrees below the long-term average. At the Shand Dam climate station, daily maximum temperatures exceeded 25 degrees Celsius for 6 days during the month of August and daily averages ranged between 11.8 to 21.5 degrees Celsius with an average daily temperature of 18.1 degrees Celsius.

The first half of September was warmer than August with temperatures peaking in the low thirties across the watershed in the first week of September. The average temperature at the Shand Dam climate station over the first two weeks of September was 19.1 degrees Celsius which is 2.4 degrees warmer than the long-term average for the first half of the month of September.

A visual representation of these trends for the Shand climate station is provided in Figure 2.

Lake Erie Water Levels

During August, the average lake level was approximately 0.30 meters above the long-term average. Levels remained elevated during the first half of September and are approximately 0.36 meters above the long-term average. The forecast for Lake Erie is for lake levels to continue to remain above the long-term average over the summer and fall months following regular seasonal patterns. Figure 3 shows the range of water levels that are expected over the next six months as well as the observed water levels over the last three years.

Reservoir Conditions

. The large reservoirs are within their normal operating levels with the exception of Luther Dam. The Luther Dam reservoir has been above the upper rule curve throughout July and August due to the relatively high inflows resulting from above-normal precipitation this year. Reservoir operations will be made to drawdown the Luther reservoir to the fall flood control targets. The Conestogo reservoir will be drawn down more than normal over the month of September to allow for regular maintenance on the gates. Flows through the watershed continue to be above the flow augmentation targets.

Reservoirs will be used to manage flows during fall rain events over the next couple of months as well as to augment the flows above the low flow targets as needed. The amount of flood storage available will be balanced with the amount of runoff expected from precipitation. Year to date reservoir levels and operating rule curves are shown in Figures 4 and 5 for the four largest reservoirs.

The reservoirs have been used for augmentation to meet low flow targets between summer thunderstorms. Approximately 30% to 70% of the flows in the Grand River through Kitchener and approximately 10% to 30% of the flows in the Grand River through Brantford having been augmented from the reservoirs during periods without rainfall during the month of August (ref. Figure 6). On the Speed River approximately 10% to 30% of the water downstream of Guelph has been augmented from reservoir discharges during the month of August (ref. Figure 7). The first two weeks of September have seen an increase in the augmentation on the Speed River up to approximately 70% of the water downstream of Guelph has been augmented from reservoir discharges.

Blue-green algae blooms were observed in the Woolwich and Belwood reservoirs on August 28th. Warning signs have been posted at both areas advising visitors to avoid contact with blue-green algae when it is present. Downstream drinking water intakes, the MECP and local public health units have been notified and will be updated, if conditions change.

Groundwater

Groundwater levels in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and Grand River Conservation Authority monitoring wells across the watershed were analyzed to the end of June and are shown in Figure 8 as previously presented in Report Number GM-08-23-61 and provided again for reference. Select monitoring wells have been assessed to the end of August and are shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10.

Water levels in monitoring wells were low going into the summer with historic lows observed at several wells within the watershed in 2022. As of the last watershed wide sampling, water levels in monitoring wells had improved slightly due to moderate precipitation in June. Significant precipitation in July and August is anticipated to have improved groundwater conditions back to normal ranges across the watershed. The targeted sampling of select monitoring wells in the watershed shows signs of recovery in the central and southern portion of the watershed at wells in Burford and Cambridge.

Long Range Forecast

Environment and Climate Change Canada is forecasting average probability of near normal precipitation (low confidence) and moderate probability of above normal temperatures (moderate confidence) over the next 3 months.

Low Water Response

The Low Water Response Team met to discuss the potential of returning the watershed from a Level 1 condition to a normal condition on Wednesday September 6, 2023. The result of the meeting was to remove the watershed from the Level 1 low water condition the week of September 11, 2023. An updated Low Water Conditions Report is being prepared to return the watershed to normal conditions for September 13, 2023.

A Low Water Conditions Report was prepared September 6, 2023 which summarized that due to significant rainfall through July and August the precipitation and streamflow indicators show that the watershed has returned to a normal range. The groundwater network analyzed at targeted monitoring wells has been assessed to the end of August with results showing signs of recovery sufficient remove the watershed from the Level 1 condition.

Flood Preparedness

Reservoir conditions are being monitored closely and staff continue to hold weekly meetings as part of planning initiatives, dam operations and flood emergency preparedness.

The Annual Ontario Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop will be held in-person on September 18 and 19. The workshop will cover a range of topics related to flood forecasting and warning. Staff from GRCA help organize the workshop along with other members on the provincial flood forecasting and warning committee.

Training sessions on the flood program and emergency management are being conducted frequently for new staff and for staff in new roles.

Staff are receiving invitations to participate in emergency planning exercises later this fall. Participation in these emergency preparedness exercises is an important opportunity to explain the flood warning system to emergency response staff and improve overall preparedness for flood emergencies.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable

Prepared by:

Michael Penney, P. Eng.
Water Resources Engineer

Katelyn Lynch, P. Eng
Manager of Water Infrastructure

Approved by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Figures:

Figure 1: Shand Dam Monthly Precipitation 2019 to September 11, 2023

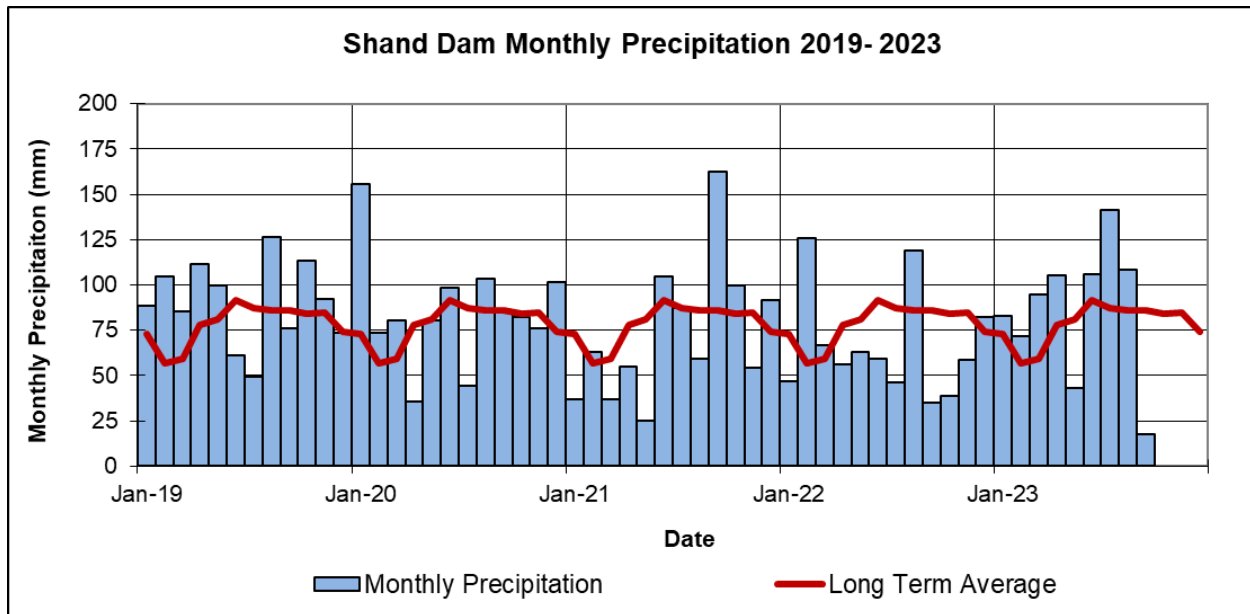


Figure 2: Monthly Average Air Temperatures at Shand Dam from 2019 to August 15, 2023

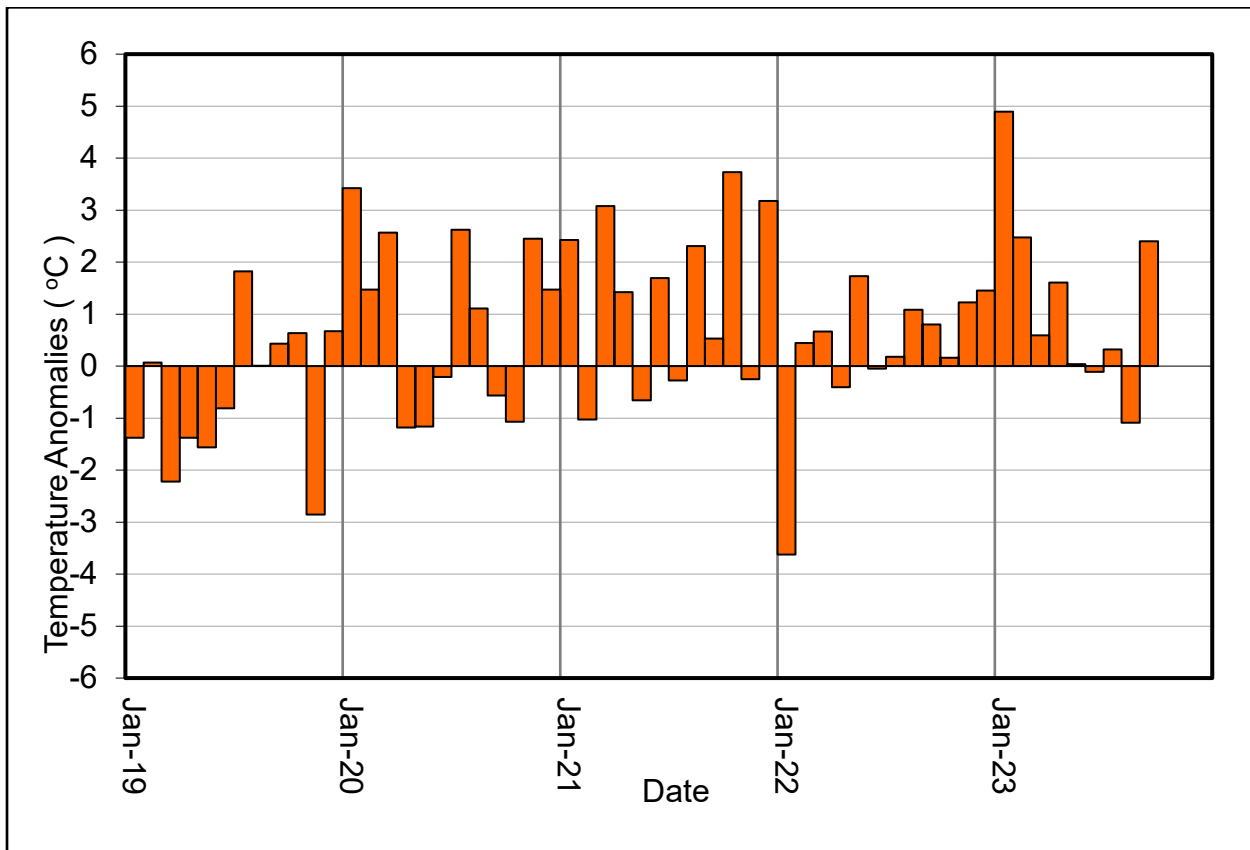


Figure 3: Water levels for Lake Erie at Port Colborne

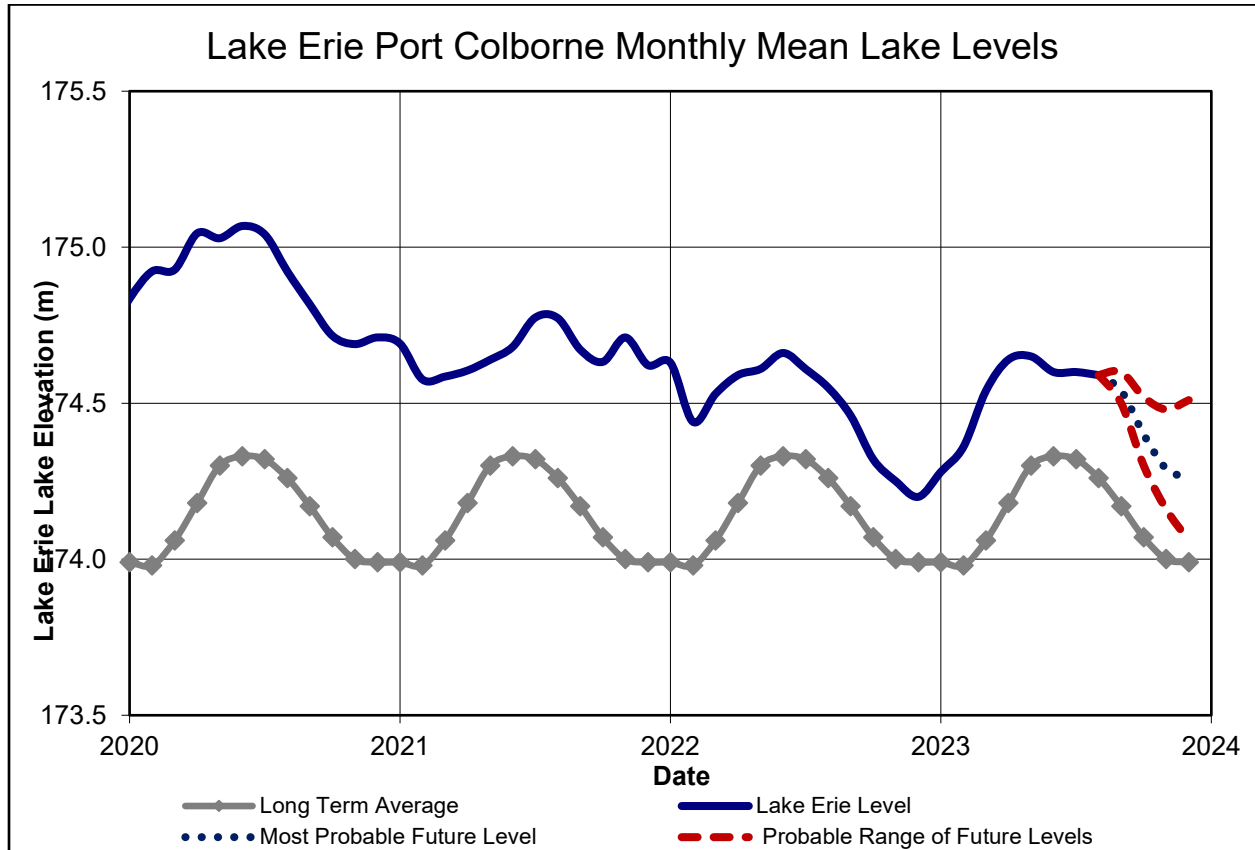


Figure 4: Shand and Conestogo Reservoir Elevation Plots for 2023

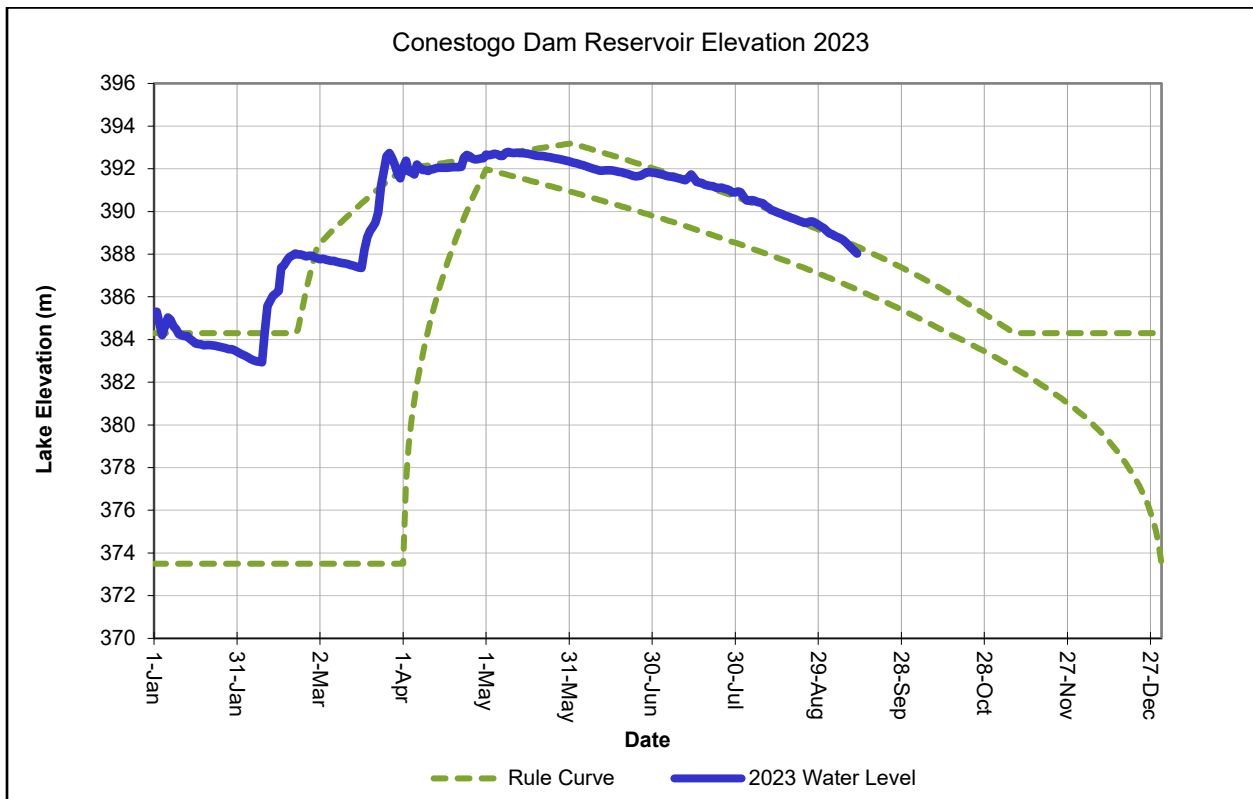
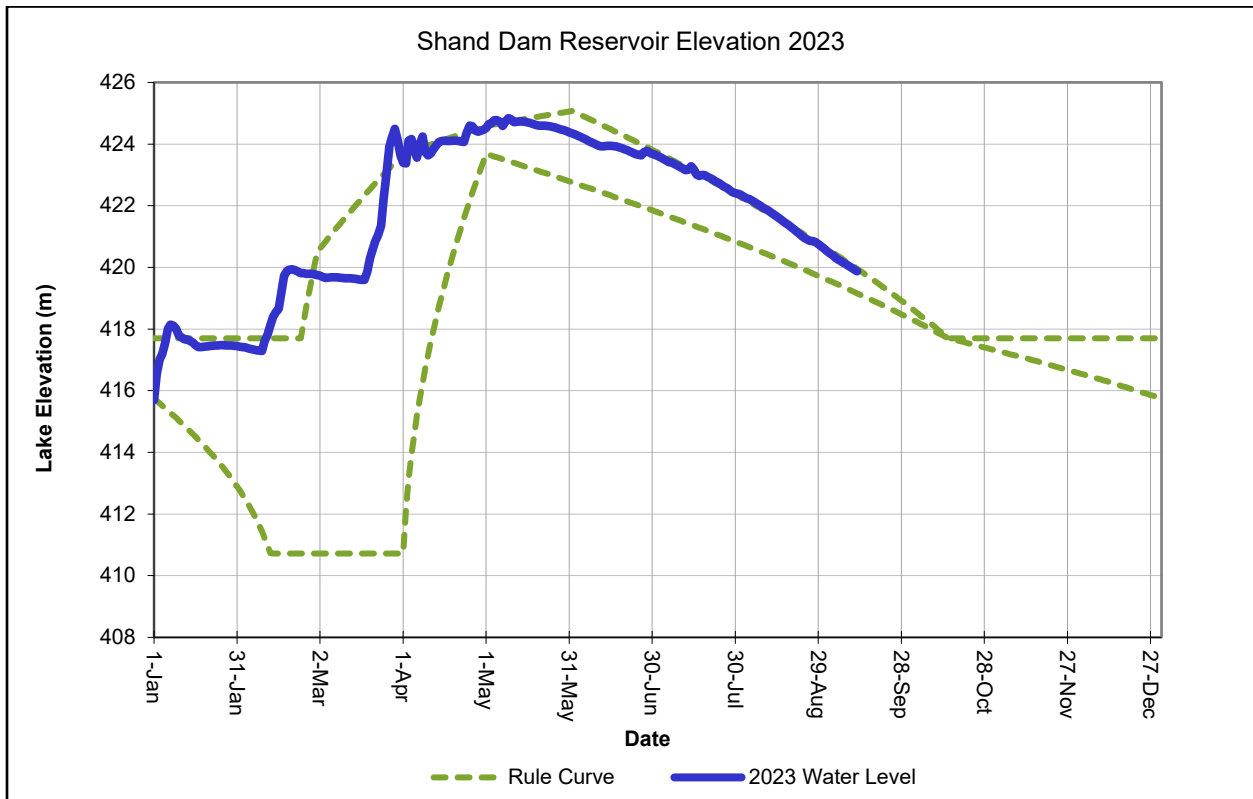


Figure 5: Guelph and Luther Reservoir Elevation Charts for 2023

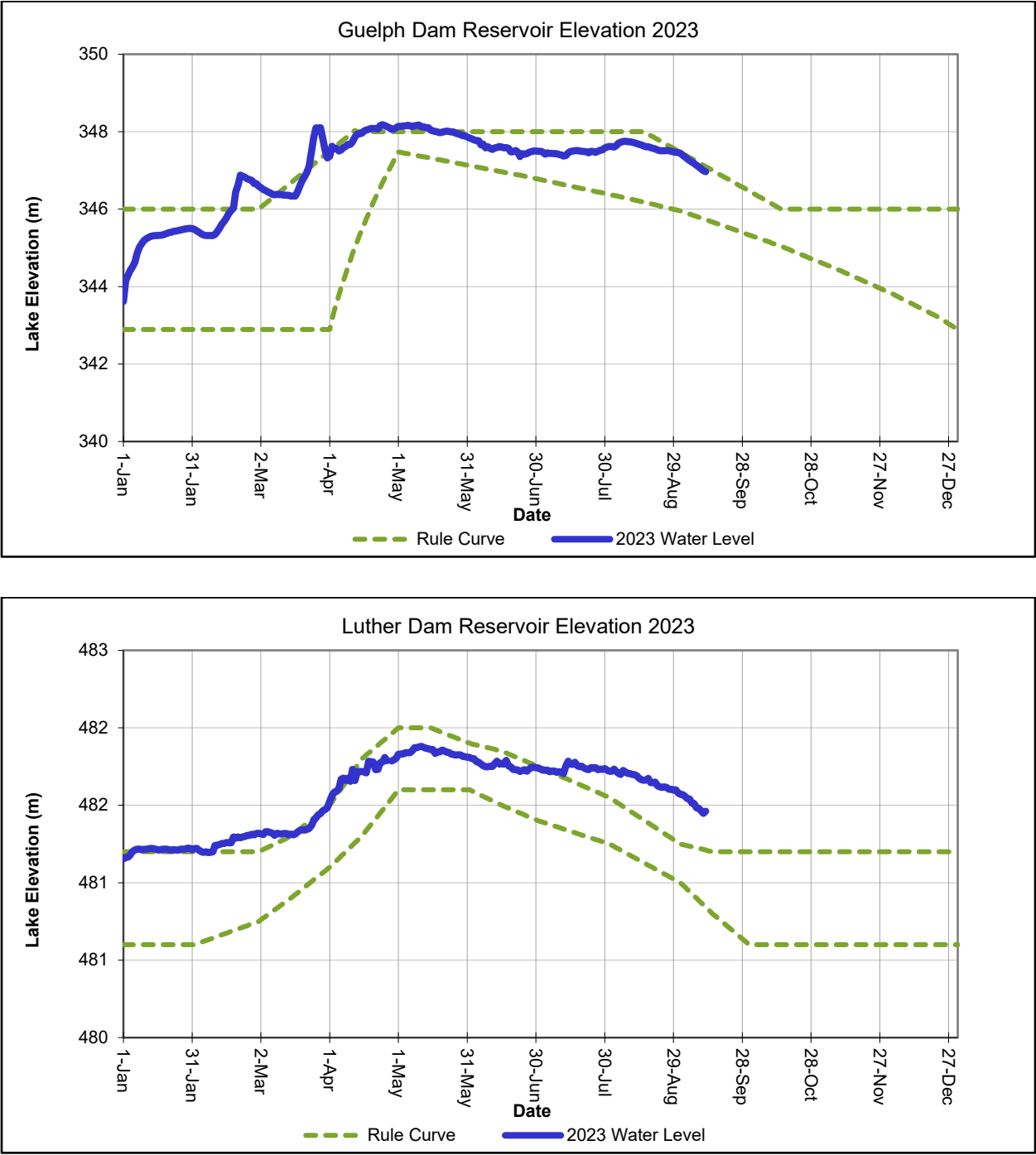


Figure 6: Grand River augmentation Chart showing percent augmentation at Doon, Galt and Brantford for 2022

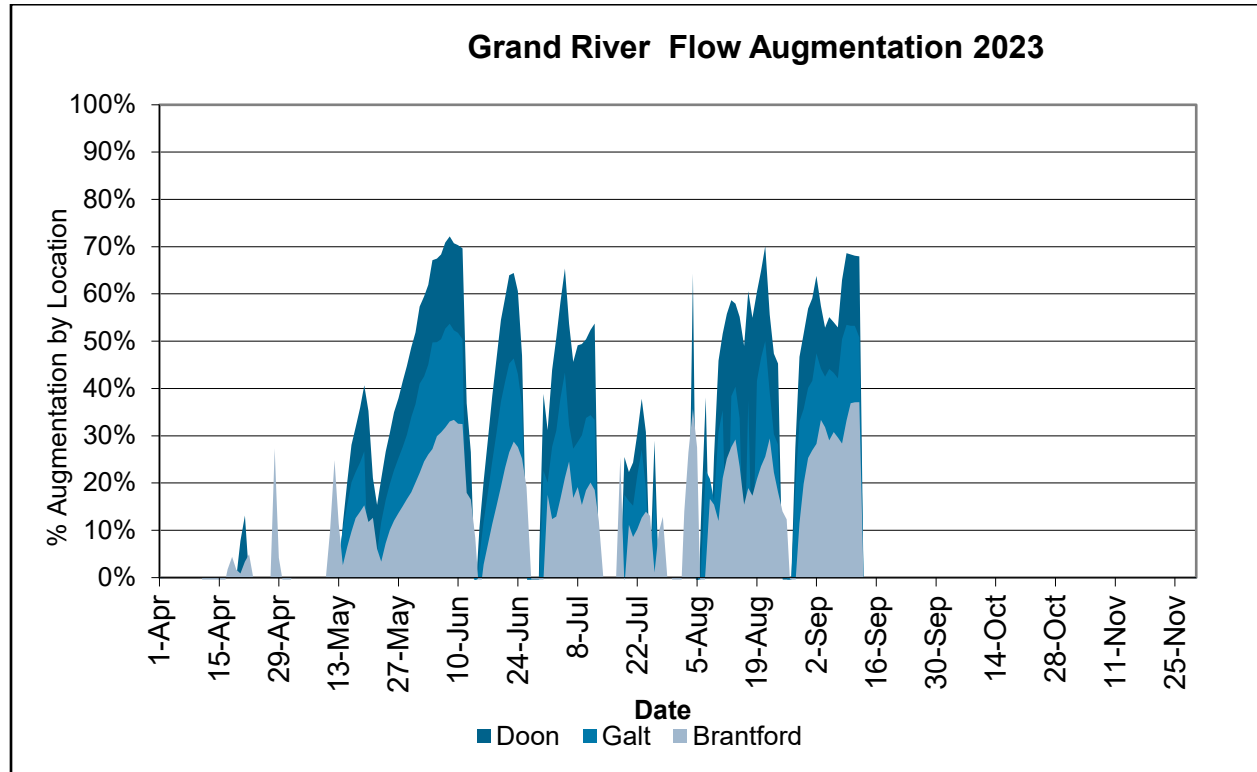


Figure 7: Speed River Flow Augmentation for 2023

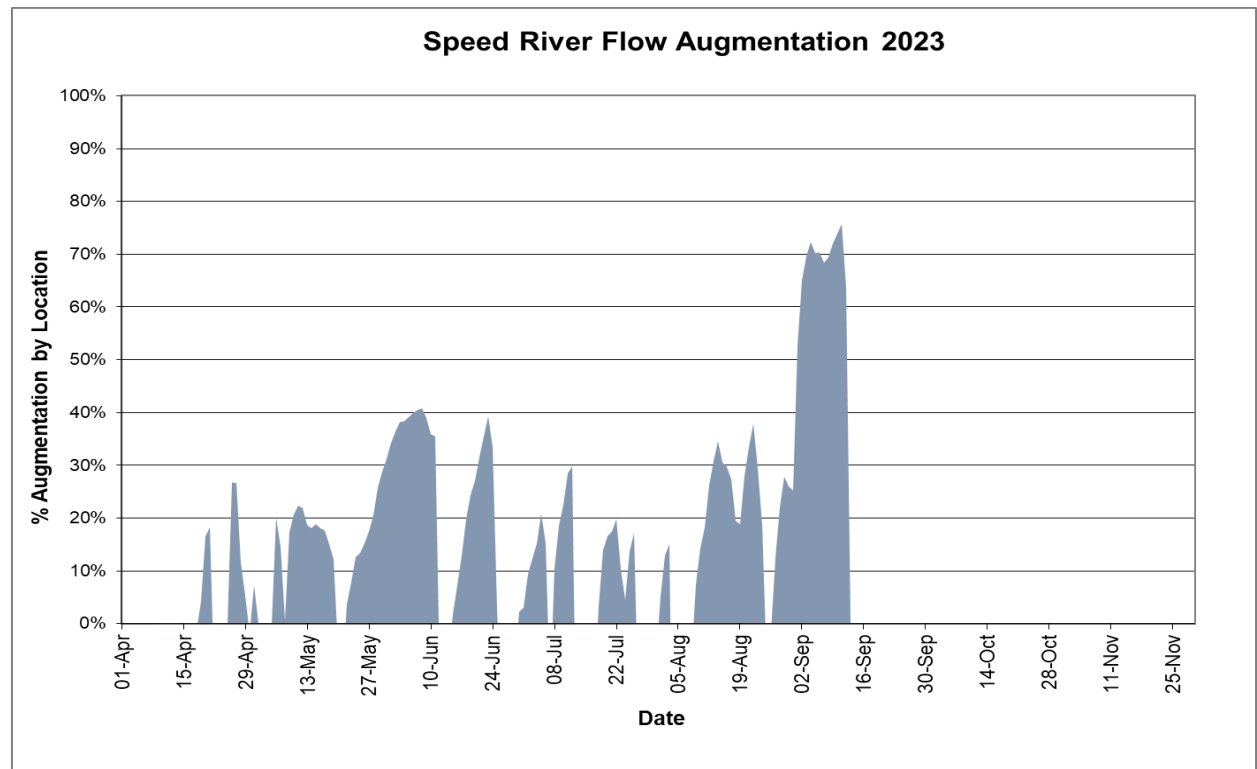


Figure 8: Groundwater Conditions as of June 2023

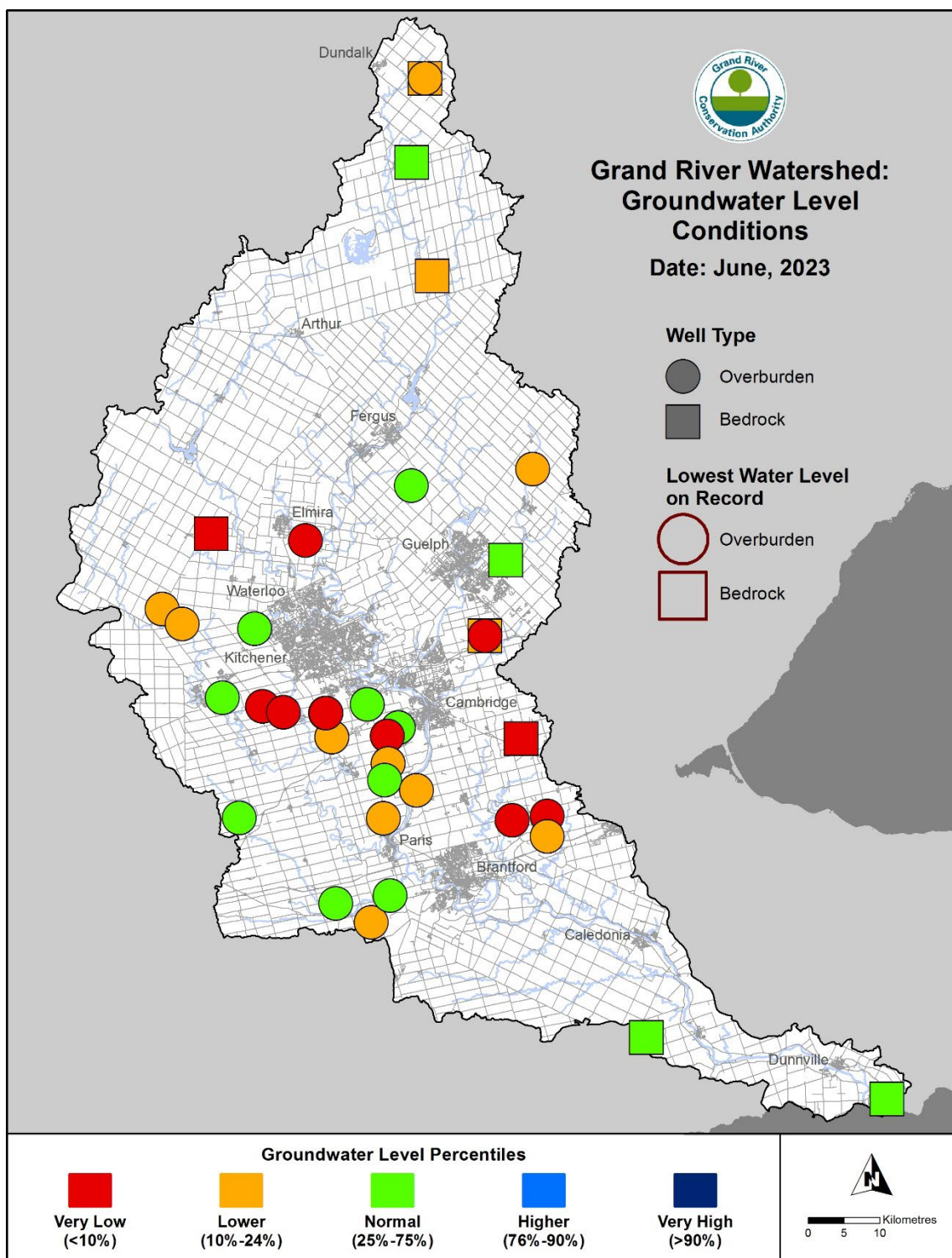


Figure 9: Groundwater Conditions at Select Monitoring Wells as of July 2023

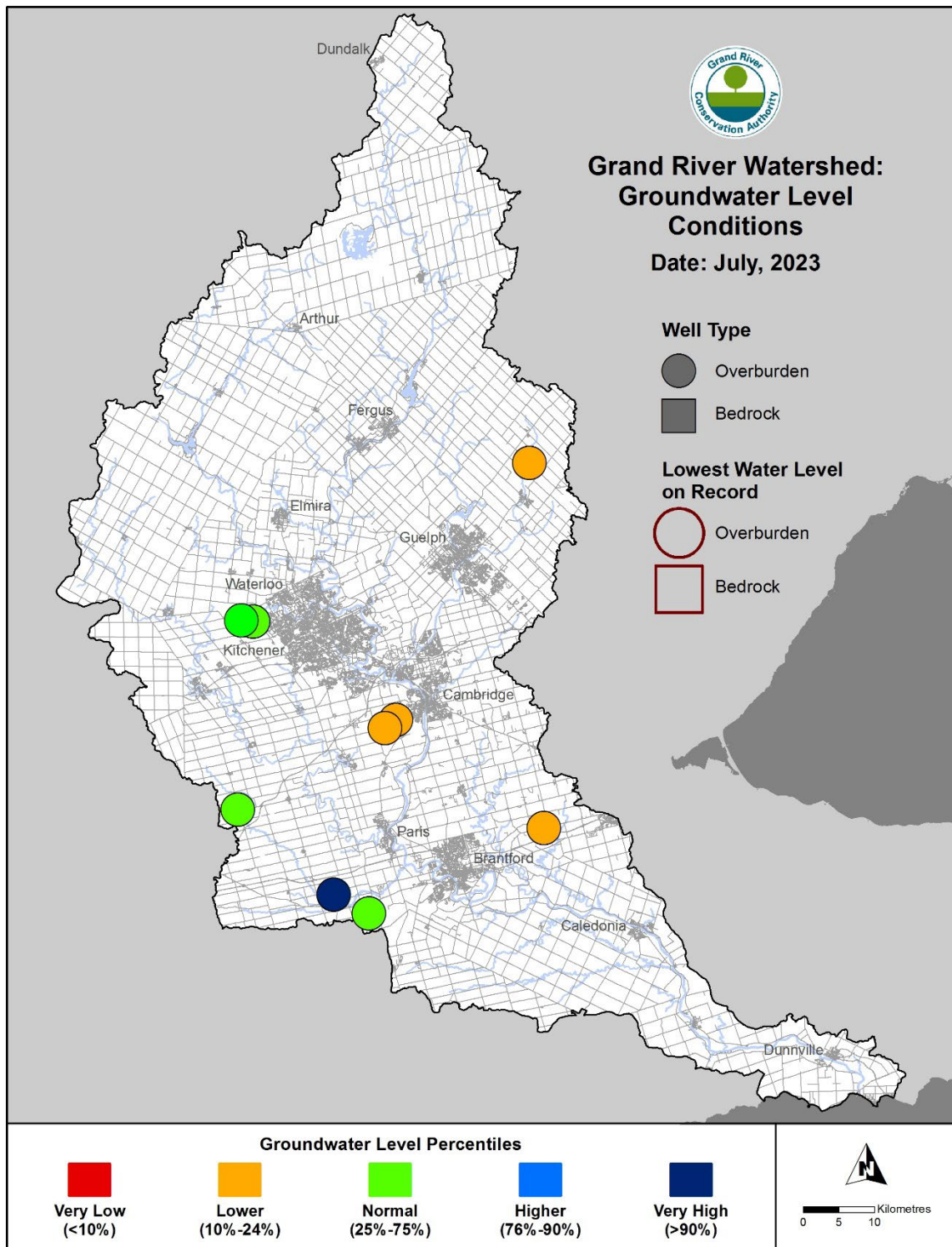
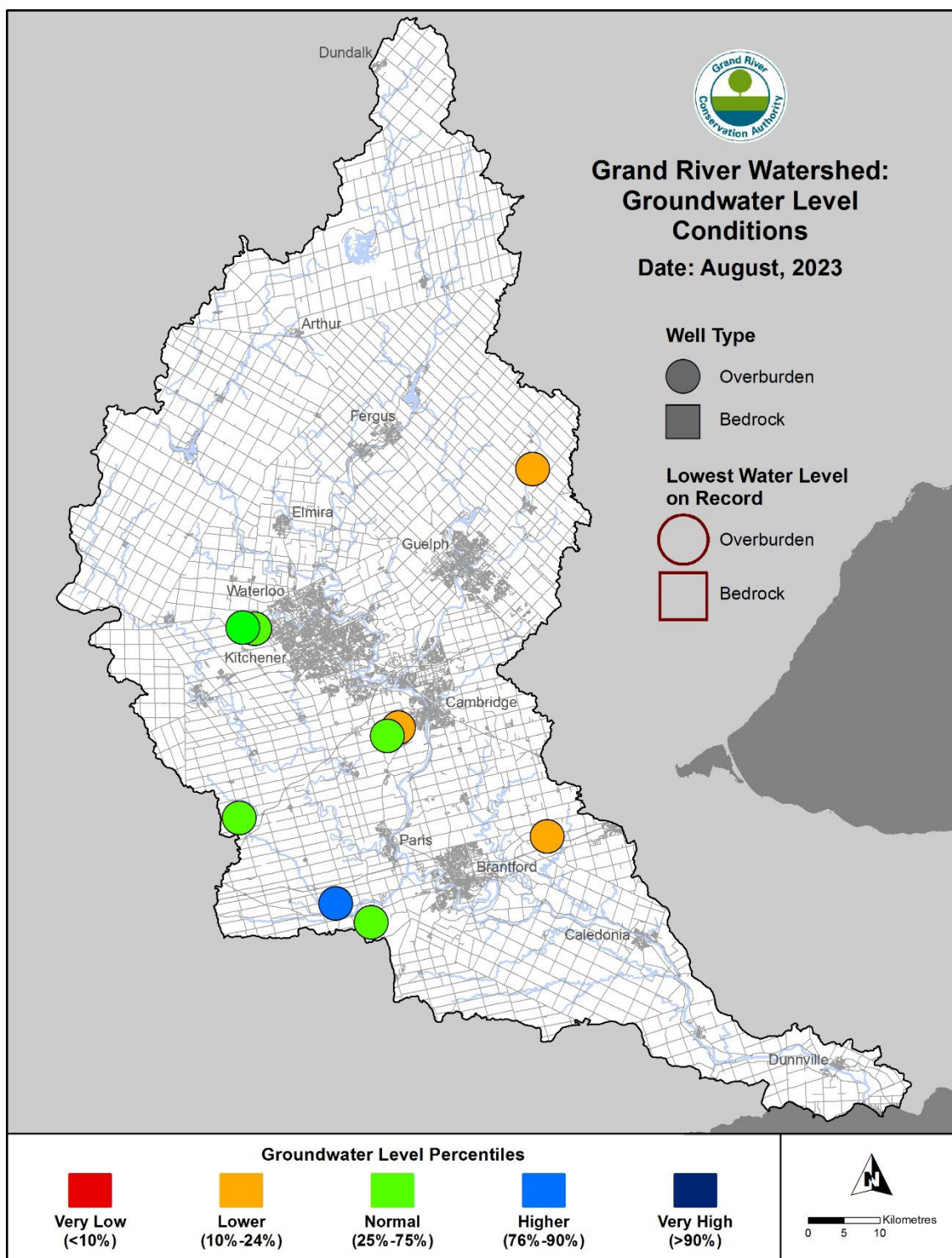


Figure 10: Groundwater Conditions at Select Monitoring Wells as of August 2023



Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-09-23-64

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-08-23-58 – Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan be received as information.

Summary:

A Draft Management Plan for GRCA's Niska Land Holdings (Niska) was released for public comment on May 11, 2023. Public comments were received over a 45 day period which ended on June 25, 2023. Three land management recommendations were included in the draft plan. The main objectives behind the recommendations focus on opportunities for community use and conservation of Niska's natural areas through partnerships with the City of Guelph or other third parties and opportunities to declare lands as surplus, where appropriate.

Report:

The Niska Land Holdings consists of four parcels of land; three are located within the City of Guelph, and one is in the Township of Puslinch (see Appendix A – Niska Map). The properties comprise 64.75 hectares (160 acres) of forests, wetlands, meadows and agricultural fields. The lands are located at the confluence of Hanlon Creek and the Speed River, adjacent to Niska Road.

The Draft Management Plan summarizes Niska's history and natural heritage characterization and proposes several land management recommendations. Niska contains approximately 47.5 hectares (117 acres) of forest and open woodland, 2 hectares (5 acres) of marsh, 3 hectares (7.5 acres) of meadow and 12.5 hectares (31 acres) of agricultural fields. Hanlon Creek, a cold-water stream, crosses the property and flows into the Speed River. A significant portion of the properties' natural areas, 32 hectares (79 acres), are part of the Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. Virtually all of the land holdings' natural areas within the City of Guelph are designated as Significant Natural Areas in the City's Official Plan. There are two agricultural fields within Niska: Agricultural Field A - 4.75 hectare (11.7 acres) field, which is part of the larger parcel north of Niska Road and, Agricultural Field B - a 7.7 hectare (19 acres) field on the 8 hectare (20 acre) parcel south of Niska Road. Both fields have been in agricultural use for more than 70 years.

In 1971, a report titled Review of Planning for the Grand River Watershed recommended that the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) acquire lands for a potential Hespeler Reservoir. In 1971, the GRCA purchased 17.4 hectares (43 acres) of land on Niska Road in Guelph. The GRCA purchased an additional 47 hectares (116 acres) in 1977 from the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF). In 1977, the GRCA entered into a commercial lease with the Niska Wildlife Foundation (NWF) to manage and operate the Kortright Waterfowl Park. The NWF was a charitable non-profit corporation formed by interested citizens that took over the operation of the waterfowl park in 1976 when the OWRF could no longer afford to operate it. In 2014, the GRCA terminated the commercial lease with the NWF and took possession of the lands in 2015. In 2016, the GRCA demolished six (6) buildings and removed yard debris, waste,

fencing, pens and shelters. No trespassing signs were erected around the properties to ensure that the public was aware that the properties were and remain closed to the public. Additional clean-up of the lands is required.

In late 2013, the City of Guelph received a Notice of Appeal for the City of Guelph Official Plan Amendment No. 48. Included in this Notice of Appeal was the re-designation from Open Space to Low Density Residential and Medium Density Residential of the 8 hectare (20 acre) agricultural parcel south of Niska Road ('Agricultural Field B' – Appendix A Niska Map). On March 14, 2018, the appeal was withdrawn due to Minutes of Settlement (MOS) between Dr. Hugh Whiteley, the Corporation of the City of Guelph and the GRCA. The MOS provided for enhanced public notification regarding the pending management plan for the entire 65 hectares (160 acres) of GRCA lands and any subsequent land management decisions related to the 8 hectare parcel covered under the appeal.

In January 2018, the GRCA Board passed a Motion (No.18-03) directing staff to complete a management plan for the entire Niska Land Holdings prior to any of those lands being declared surplus. The Niska Land Holdings Draft Management Plan and Appendices were made available to the public on May 11, 2023. Public comments were received over a 45 day period, which ended on June 25, 2023. The draft Plan was circulated to representatives of Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. A summary and full copies of comments received from First Nations and the public are found in Appendices D and E. Some minor changes were made to the draft management plan following the comments received. An updated version, with track changes, is found in Appendix B.

The following are the three land management recommendations proposed in the Draft Management Plan:

Recommendation 1: Engage with the City of Guelph and other third parties to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement for parcels of land that can provide recreational or conservation opportunities.

There are suitable conditions at Niska for a recreational maintenance agreement. There are existing City recreational trails immediately adjacent to the properties, informal walking trails historically used by the public on the properties, and the GRCA has a strong working relationship with the City. The City and the GRCA currently have a maintenance agreement for GRCA lands at Preservation Park and other GRCA lands throughout the City. As per the Ontario Municipal Board 2018 Minutes of Settlement, if this management plan is approved, the GRCA and the City of Guelph will establish a joint working group, which shall include members of the public, to consider the implementation of a trails system at Niska. This trail system would be maintained and managed through a recreational maintenance agreement with the City.

Recommendation 2: Continue to advocate and promote partnership opportunities to manage and monitor the biodiversity and ecological systems within Niska.

Natural areas found at Niska, especially the Hanlon Creek and the Speed River provincially significant wetland, provide ecological values to the regional environment. These areas should be managed, where possible, using best practices to conserve and/or enhance those ecological values. Future projects and research may be completed by GRCA staff and/or in partnership with the City, academic researchers, or groups with the relevant expertise. Opportunities include, but are not limited to, naturalization plantings, invasive plant species control, water temperature monitoring, and measures to improve stream connectivity.

Recommendation 3: Dispose of the parcel of land south of Niska Road that is associated with the agricultural lease (Agricultural Field B). Identify other lands in the Niska Land Holdings that may be suitable for disposition.

GRCA staff routinely review land holdings to ensure they align with the mandate of the GRCA, mainly: flood control, protection of people and property, and conservation and management of ecologically sensitive lands. Lands that fall outside the scope of these objectives may be considered for disposition by the GRCA.

Through the management plan process, GRCA staff concluded that the 8-hectare agricultural field south of Niska Road (Agricultural Field B – parcel subject to March 2018 MOS) does not align with the mandate of the GRCA and meets the criteria for declaring the property surplus, including:

- the land was acquired for the Hespeler Reservoir flood control project, which was later removed as a project;
- the land does not contain any provincially significant wetlands;
- the land is not part of a Management or Agreement Forest; and
- the land does not contain any regulated features under Ontario Regulation 150/06

The disposition of land follows a separate process that requires approval of the GRCA Board and may also require that additional notification is provided to other agencies and the public. The management plan recommends that the GRCA proceed with its process for declaring the parcel of land above as surplus and disposing of the property.

During the course of preparing the draft management plan it was identified that there is another portion of land, specifically open areas north of Niska Road ('Agricultural Field A' – Appendix A Niska Map) that may meet the GRCA's criteria for declaring land surplus. However, there is more investigation that is required and all regulatory requirements would need to be met in order for the GRCA to declare any additional lands surplus.

Financial Implications:

No additional costs, beyond staff time and resources, were incurred in the preparation of the draft management plan.

Other Department Considerations:

Staff from the Land Management and Water Management Divisions along with staff from Strategic Communications have provided content and reviewed the Draft Management Plan and would be involved in the implementation of the plan's recommendations.

Prepared by:

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Supervisor of Natural Heritage





Ron Gasparetto
Manager Conservation Lands

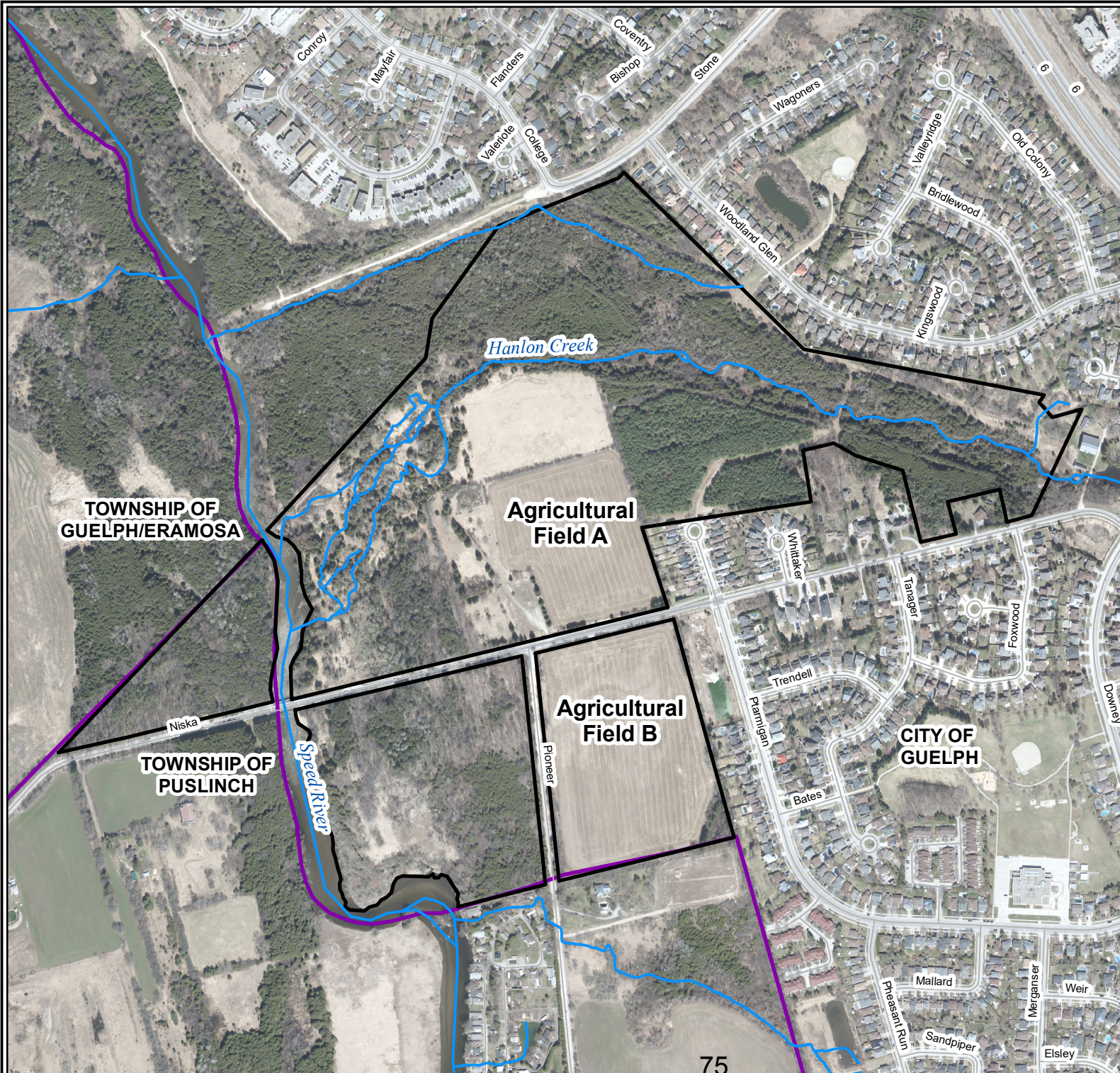
Approved by:

Samanthan Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

Niska Land Holdings Appendix A

Legend

-  ROADS
-  WATERCOURSE
-  NISKA PROPERTY
-  MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY



GRCA Disclaimer

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information contained herein is not a substitute for professional review or a site survey and is subject to change without notice. The Grand River Conservation Authority takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of the information contained on this map. Any interpretations or conclusions drawn from this map are the sole responsibility of the user.

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NISKA LAND HOLDINGS

2023 DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Section 1:

1.0 Introduction

The Niska Land Holdings (“Niska”) is privately owned and managed by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA). This plan provides an overview of the land and water resources of Niska, its use and stewardship, and makes recommendations to guide decision making for future management of the property.

Section 1 presents an introduction to Niska, including information on its location and regional context, acquisition history, management history, and the plan’s purpose, goals and objectives.

1.1 PROPERTY LOCATION

Niska is located in central southwestern Ontario, straddling the Township of Puslinch (Wellington County) and the western side of the City of Guelph (Figure 1). The land holdings are adjacent to a growing residential community with a strong connection to Niska [Portions](#). [Portions](#) of the land holdings are bisected by two roads, Niska Rd. and Pioneer Trail. Niska is approximately 65 hectares of forests, wetlands, meadows and agricultural fields and is the convergence of where Hanlon Creek flows into the Speed River. There are four separate parcels of land that make up Niska (Appendix A: Map 1.1).

1.1.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Regionally, Niska can be viewed within the context of both an urban and rural setting. Within the Speed River subwatershed, the City of Guelph, and the Hanlon Creek subwatershed, Niska is influenced by all of these regional areas.

Speed River Subwatershed Natural Heritage Characterization

Niska lies within the Speed River subwatershed and is greatly influenced by these subwatershed characteristics. In 2019, the GRCA completed the Speed River Subwatershed Natural Heritage Characterization (SRSNHC) (Grand River Conservation Authority, 2023). This report provides an overview of the natural heritage of the entire Speed River subwatershed, including physical characteristics, aquatic resources, terrestrial resources and a summary of the subwatershed’s natural heritage system.

The SRSNHC outlines how the Speed River subwatershed drains approximately 78,000 ha through 10 urban and rural municipalities within Wellington County, the Region of Waterloo, and Halton Region. The subwatershed comprises 3 distinct physiographic regions: the Guelph Drumlin Field, the Paris-Galt Moraine, and a small portion of the Orangeville Moraine toward the north end of the subwatershed. A significant portion of watercourses in the subwatershed are cold water fish habitat, including Hanlon Creek within Niska. The Speed River subwatershed has more wetland and woodland cover compared to other subwatersheds in the Grand River watershed.

Niska Land Holdings Location

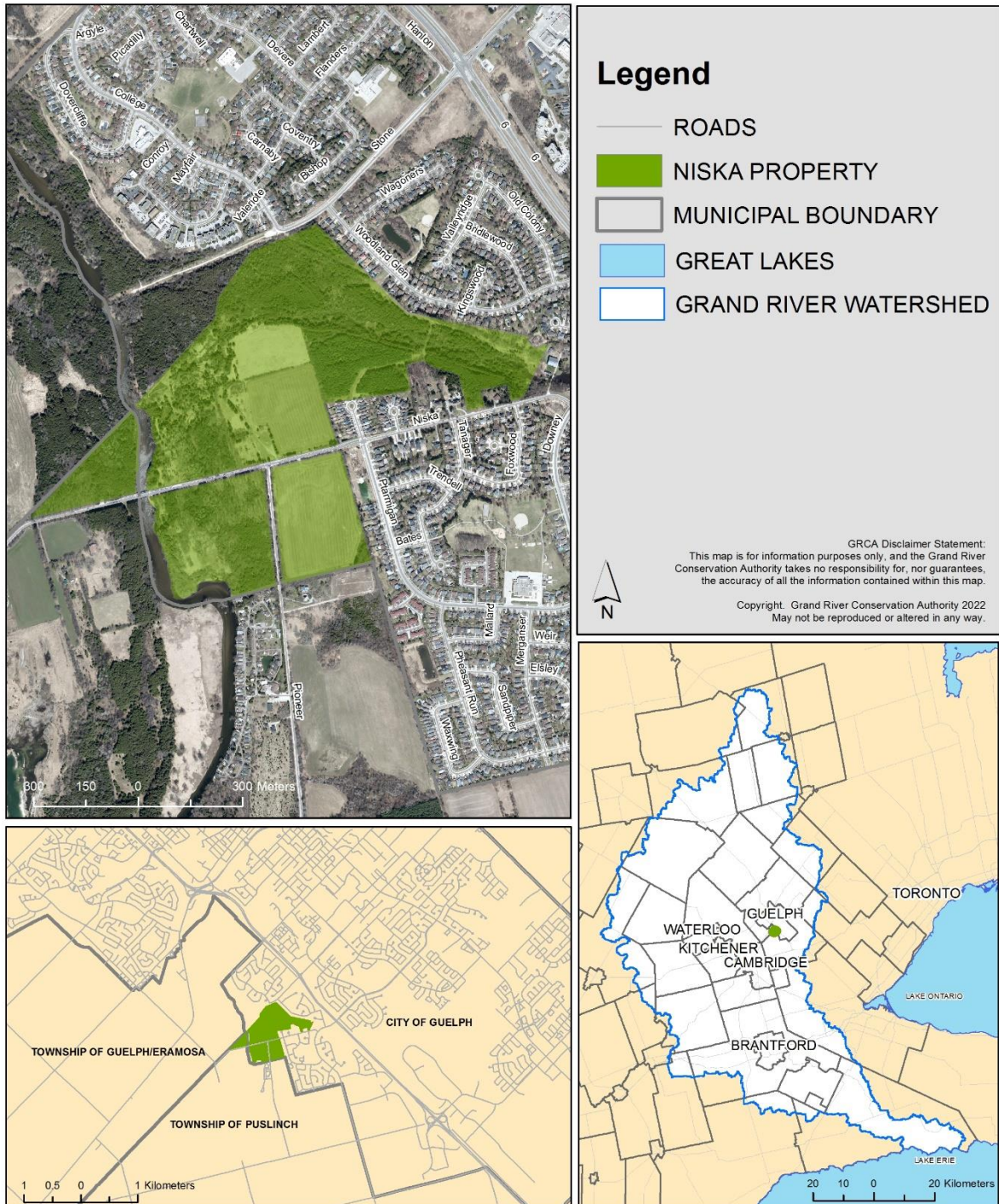


Figure 1 Location Map

Niska is part of this larger natural heritage system, and it benefits from its many characteristics including the following across the Speed River subwatershed.

- 1,039 km of stream, creek, and river habitat, of which 276 km is classified as cold water, 47 km is classified as cool water, 77 km is classified as warm water habitat, and 639 km as unclassified
- 13,526 ha total wetland cover, of which 12,207 ha is evaluated, and 12,103 ha is classified as being provincially significant
- 18,546 ha of forest, 2,155 ha of which is interior forest habitat
- 23 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (forest, wetland, grassland, agricultural areas) totaling 4,407 ha
- 50 provincially significant species, including 34 provincially-listed and 30 federally-listed species at risk

City of Guelph Natural Heritage System and Official Plan

Niska is included in the City of Guelph's Natural Heritage System (CGNHS). City land use policies and restrictions associated with the CGNHS that fall within Niska are outlined in the CGNHS.

The CGNHS is made up of a combination of natural heritage features and areas, including:

- Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest
- Significant wetlands and other wetlands;
- Significant woodlands and cultural woodlands;
- Significant valleylands;
- Significant wildlife habitats, including ecological linkages and habitats for significant species;
- Significant Habitat for provincially endangered and threatened species;
- Surface water features and fish habitat;
- Significant landform;
- Restoration areas; and
- Established buffers.

In the City of Guelph's Official Plan (February 2022 Consolidation) most natural areas within Niska are outlined in Schedule 2 Land Use Plan, as Significant Natural Areas. The agricultural field and the meadow north of Niska Road are designated as Open Space and Park and the agricultural field south of Niska Road is designated as Medium Density Residential and Low Density Greenfield Residential.

Hanlon Creek Subwatershed

Hanlon Creek Subwatershed drains 2,640 hectares of land within the City of Guelph and Wellington County (Appendix A: Map 1.2). The northern and westerly portions of the subwatershed are situated on a drumlin formation. The central part of the subwatershed is located on an outwash gravel plain as Hanlon Creek approaches the Speed River. Hanlon Creek flows into the Speed River approximately 180 m upstream of Niska Road in southwest Guelph.

There have been many studies on Hanlon Creek and its subwatershed. One of the first studies was the 1971 Hanlon Creek Ecological Study by the University of Guelph, which described then current and proposed trends in future development, and provided a scoped inventory of natural resources systems within the subwatershed boundary. A second study was the 1993 Hanlon Creek Watershed Plan by Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited & LGL Limited. This study was initiated by the City of Guelph to determine measures necessary to protect and enhance the valued natural resources of the subwatershed and to define the level of development which could proceed within the constraints established for its protection. The third notable study is the 2004 Hanlon Creek State of the Watershed Study by Planning & Engineering Initiatives Limited. This study was required by the City of Guelph to update monitoring information, define current trends, evaluate the effects of management strategies in the Hanlon Creek Watershed Plan, and recommend a five-year monitoring plan.

All these plans provide background information and recommendations for the health of Hanlon Creek and its subwatershed.

1.2 PROPERTY HISTORY

The history of Niska is presented in two different sections, Acquisition History and Management History.

1.2.1 ACQUISITION HISTORY

In 1971, through a report titled Review of Planning for the Grand River Watershed, it was recommended that the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) acquire lands to support the Hespeler Reservoir as a flood control project. In 1971, the GRCA purchased approximately 17.4 hectares of land on Niska Road in Guelph. Subsequent to that, in 1977, the GRCA purchased an additional 47 hectares from the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF) in support of the same project. The consolidated land holdings total 64.7 hectares and are referred to as the Niska Land Holdings in GRCA reports.

1.2.2 MANAGEMENT HISTORY

This section presents some land management moments in Niska's history.

- In 1952, Gordon Mack had the property designated as a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and permitted the property to be used for academic studies and research.
- In 1977, a commercial lease was signed between the GRCA and the Niska Wildlife Foundation (NWF). This lease was essentially unchanged from 1977 to 1994, with the exception of minor modifications (e.g. nominal rent increases).
- In 1987, the OWRF dissolved.
- On January 24, 1994, a new lease between the NWF and the GRCA was signed.
- In 2005, the NWF indicated that the property was closed to the public.
- In 2014, the GRCA terminated the commercial lease with the NWF and began the process of assessing and evaluation options for rehabilitating Niska.
- October 5, 2017, OPA 48 was approved with modifications by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), with the exception of a number of site-specific appeals and a policy appeal. A small portion of Niska was one of the site-specific appeals before the OMB.

- In January 26, 2018, the GRCA Board passed a Motion (No.18-03) directing staff to complete a management plan for the entire Niska Land Holdings prior to any of those lands being declared surplus.
- On March 14, 2018, the appeal pertaining to the eight hectares of Niska that was before the OMB was withdrawn as a result of Minutes of Settlement between Dr. Hugh Whiteley, the Corporation of the City of Guelph and the Grand River Conservation Authority. The Minutes of Settlement provide for an enhanced notification process, as the GRCA completes its management plan for Niska.

1.3 PLAN PURPOSE

The Niska Management Plan is being written as a directive of the Board of Directors of the GRCA as noted in the Ontario Municipal Board Minutes of Settlement between Dr. Hugh Whiteley and the Corporation of the City of Guelph and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

This includes a prescriptive process that integrates opportunities for public comments in the recommendation and decision-making processes of this plan. These opportunities include:

- The GRCA will release a draft of the Management Plan for at least 30 days before it holds a meeting to consider the plan. GRCA staff will collect public feedback during this time.
- The GRCA Board will receive written and oral comments in respect of the draft of the Management Plan and consider any resolutions it may find advisable in light of the public comments it receives. Recommendations will not be adopted at this meeting.
- The GRCA will provide 30 days' notice of any GRCA Board meeting to consider the adoption of the Management Plan, and that notice will clearly state that the Management Plan will be considered at that meeting.

This Management Plan must be completed before GRCA staff can declare any portion of Niska as surplus lands.

Section 2:

2.0 The GRCA and the Management Plan Process

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 2 discusses two topics: [a](#) brief overview of the GRCA, and a description of the framework used to develop the Niska Management Plan.

2.2 THE GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) was created in 1966, by merging the Grand River Conservation Commission and the Grand Valley Conservation Authority. The GRCA is a corporate body and private landowner, established to enable municipalities to jointly undertake water and other resources management on a watershed basis – for the benefit of all. The GRCA is the oldest water management agency in Canada and one of the oldest in the world. The GRCA is a member of Conservation Ontario, an organization representing all 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

A 26-member board of directors oversees the policies, programs and budgets of the GRCA. Municipalities appoint the members of the board. Many appointees are also municipal councilors while some are citizen appointees. In 2019, the GRCA board adopted mission, vision, and values statements (listed below).

VISION

“A healthy watershed where we live, work, play and prosper in balance with the natural environment.

MISSION

“We will work with local communities to reduce flood damage, provide access to outdoor spaces, share information about the natural environment, and make the watershed more resilient to climate change.”

VALUES

“Resilience, collaboration, innovation, courage, and respect.”

The GRCA’s Strategic Plan serves as a guide to enhance and build on GRCA’s programs and services. Protect life and minimize property damage from flooding and erosion.

The GRCA is governed by the Conservation Authorities Act and a variety of provincial regulations. In December 2020, Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, made a number of significant amendments to Conservation Authorities Act. These included new requirements for board composition, defining Conservation Authority mandatory programs and services, and changes to permitting and appeals processes.

Regulation 686/21 includes a requirement that Conservation Authorities prepare by December 31, 2024 a comprehensive land inventory including, among other information:

- whether or not a parcel of land or a portion of a parcel is suitable for the purposes of housing and housing infrastructure development;
- applicable municipal zoning;
- if the parcel of land or a portion of the parcel augments any natural heritage; and
- if the parcel or a portion of the parcel integrates with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails.

More recently, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23) received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. Several changes were made to the Conservations Authorities Act that are intended to support faster and less costly approvals, streamline conservation authority processes, and help make land suitable for housing available for development.

These changes will have an impact on the approach that the GRCA takes when considering lands to declare as surplus.

2.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

There are a number of key components included in most management plans. They include a general introduction and history of the property, a detailed inventory of anthropogenic and natural features located on the property, challenges and opportunity for the property, current management practices, suggested actions and accompanying budget, and finally a suggested implementation process and timeline for completion. Depending on the size and nature of the property this process may take several years. The process undertaken for the Niska Management Plan also specifically reflects the shared outcomes outlined in the Minutes of Settlement.

The following management plan process for Niska was conducted by GRCA staff:

1. gather existing relevant data, property records, research and documents related to the property, relevant sections from subwatershed plans, reports, and policies;
2. describe the property's physical and natural heritage attributes and geographic context, its history and land management practices, and its current use;
3. create and show in map form, physical and natural heritage attributes and land classifications;
4. make recommendations for opportunities for management of the property;
5. compile all of this information into an informative and readable management plan.

Section 3:

3.0 Natural Heritage Characterization

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 3 describes the natural heritage characteristics of Niska, including climate, physiography and surficial geology, hydrology and hydrogeology, soils, vegetation, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and associated land designations. Some information in Section 3 is the result of field work and surveys completed between 2018 and 2019 by GRCA staff. Field work and surveys included ecological land classification, breeding bird surveys, breeding amphibian surveys, wetland delineation, spawning surveys, plantation assessment, stream water temperature monitoring and incidental wildlife observations.

3.2 PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

The climate, physiography and surficial geology, soils, and hydrology and hydrogeology of Niska are outlined in section 3.2.

3.2.1 CLIMATE

Niska is characterized by a humid continental climate with large seasonal differences of warm and humid summers to cold or very cold winters. Situated within the Huron-South Slopes Climate Zone, the area receives high rainfall and snowfall as moisture, picked up by winds blowing over Lake Huron, condenses as snow or rain on morainic slopes and contributes to the annual precipitation. The Hanlon Creek subwatershed typically receives more precipitation in the spring and summer months, with the lowest amounts of precipitation in the winter.

Figure 2 and Table 1 provide climate data from the Region of Waterloo International Airport for the period 1981 to 2010, which is approximately 7.5 km west of Niska.

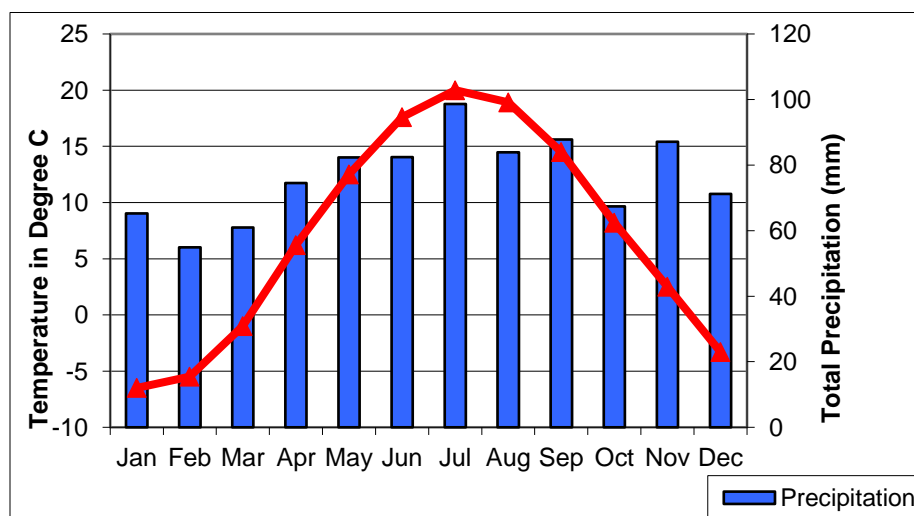


Figure 2 Monthly average temperature and precipitation data from the Region of Waterloo International Airport (Environment Canada, 2023).

Table 1 General Climate Summary from the Region of Waterloo International Airport (Environment Canada, 2023).

Temperature:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Daily Average (°C)	-6.5	-5.5	-1.0	6.2	12.5	17.6	20.0	18.9	14.5	8.2	2.5	-3.3	7.0
Daily Maximum (°C)	-2.6	-1.2	3.6	11.5	18.5	23.6	26.0	24.8	20.4	13.5	6.3	0.2	12.0
Daily Minimum (°C)	-10.3	-9.7	-5.6	0.8	6.4	11.5	14.0	12.9	8.6	2.9	-1.4	-6.8	2.0
Precipitation:													
Rainfall (mm)	28.7	29.7	36.8	68.0	81.8	82.4	98.6	83.9	87.8	66.1	75.0	38.0	776.8
Snowfall (cm)	43.7	30.3	26.5	7.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	13.0	37.3	159.7
Precipitation (mm)	65.2	54.9	61.0	74.5	82.3	82.4	98.6	83.9	87.8	67.4	87.1	71.2	916.5

3.2.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY AND SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

The Hanlon Creek subwatershed landscape was influenced by the repeated advancements and retreat of the Lake Ontario and Lake Huron Ice Lobes and depositional features associated with them. The dominant physiographic features for the Hanlon Creek subwatershed include the Guelph Drumlin Field and glacial spillways and till plains (Appendix A: Map 3.1).

Niska and the lower reach of Hanlon Creek are primarily situated within an old glacial spillway composed of sands, gravels and outwash deposits. Areas surrounding Niska include portions of the Guelph Drumlin Field. This feature contains broad, oval shaped hills with low slopes composed of stony tills fringed by gravel terraces (Appendix A: Map 3.2). The area's moderate permeability and infiltration of water contributes to base flow in the local watercourses. Overburden thickness, the layer of unconsolidated sediment between the ground surface and bedrock, is fairly uniform and generally less than 25 m thick throughout most of Niska.

3.2.3 SOILS

Soils across Niska consist of three soil types: Dumfries, Burford loam, and bottom land soils (Appendix A: Map 3.3). Parent materials of the Dumfries soil type include stoney and sandy loam tills. It is classed as Grey-Brown Podzolic, across the Ah horizon, yellowish brown across the Ae horizon, which becomes lighter in colour with depth and dark brown B horizon. Burford loam soil parent materials consist primarily of gravel.

Drainage characteristics of the soils in the area are divided into two groups: well drained and imperfectly drained. The majority of Niska is characterized by well drained soils which are associated with the Dumfries soil series. Portions of the property adjacent to the Speed River are imperfectly drained and associated with both the Dumfries and Burford soil series.

3.2.4 HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

Niska is an ecologically diverse landscape situated within the Speed River valley. The property is influenced by two watercourses and their associated floodplains – the larger Speed River, which is a tributary of the Grand River, and Hanlon Creek which is a smaller cold water tributary to the Speed River (Appendix A: Map 3.4).

The Speed River winds its way out of the City of Guelph and along the western edge of Niska before flowing into the Township of Puslinch. Regulated upstream by the Guelph Dam, the Speed River responds with lower peak flows and higher low flows than would occur in a

naturally flowing river. Summer low flows are kept above 1.7 m³/s in all but extreme drought years, whereas peak annual flows normally range from 20 to 60 m³/s. The average flow of the river is 6 m³/s. The Speed River through this reach is classified as a warm water river system.

Hanlon Creek, a cold water tributary of the Speed River, travels from east to west across the northern portion of Niska to its confluence with the larger river. Hanlon Creek is a permanently flowing cold water stream that can be characterized as a “C” type channel using the Rosgen Stream Classification system. Previous subwatershed studies have noted an increase in stream flow within Hanlon Creek between the Hanlon Park Expressway and the mouth of the creek, due to groundwater discharge and/or urban runoff.

Recharge of shallow groundwater flow in the overburden is from the infiltration of local precipitation. Major recharge areas include elevated landforms such as the Paris Moraine to the west of Niska and the upland areas along Gordon Street. Groundwater recharge within Niska is estimated to be between 100 to 200 mm/year throughout the spillway along Hanlon Creek, and greater than 200 mm/year within the gravel deposits located adjacent to the spillway to the southeast (Appendix A: Map 3.5). The areas with groundwater recharge greater than 200 mm/year are identified as areas with significant groundwater recharge. Figure 3 illustrates local recharge to the shallow groundwater system, and discharge into Hanlon Creek.

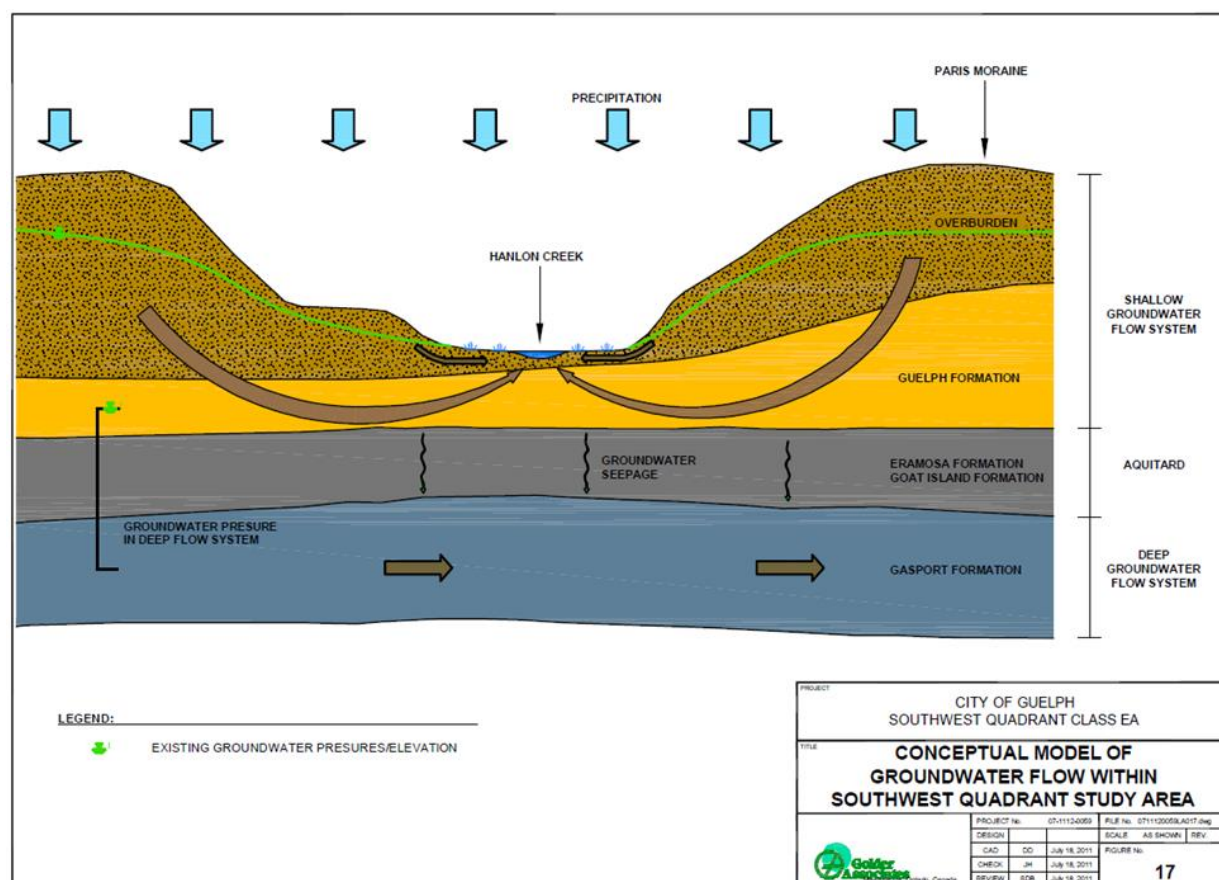


Figure 3 Conceptual Model of Groundwater Flow within the Hanlon Creek Subwatershed (Golder Associates, 2011)

Shallow groundwater flow within the upper bedrock (Guelph Formation) and overburden are shown on Figure 4 (Golder Associates, 2011). Generally, shallow groundwater flow is a subdued reflection of ground surface topography. Groundwater flow in the vicinity of Niska is

generally to the west towards the Speed River. Groundwater discharge can be inferred along the lower Hanlon Creek within Niska by the v-shaped groundwater elevation contour which intersects the creek.

Closely associated with the valleylands of the Speed River and Hanlon Creek are its floodplains and the Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. Almost 28 ha of Niska is located within regulatory floodplains of the Speed River and lower portions of Hanlon Creek. Wetlands are influenced by local surface water and groundwater hydrology, and Niska contains almost 32 ha of the Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland Complex. Section 3.3 of this report provides further information about wetland systems that are part of Niska.

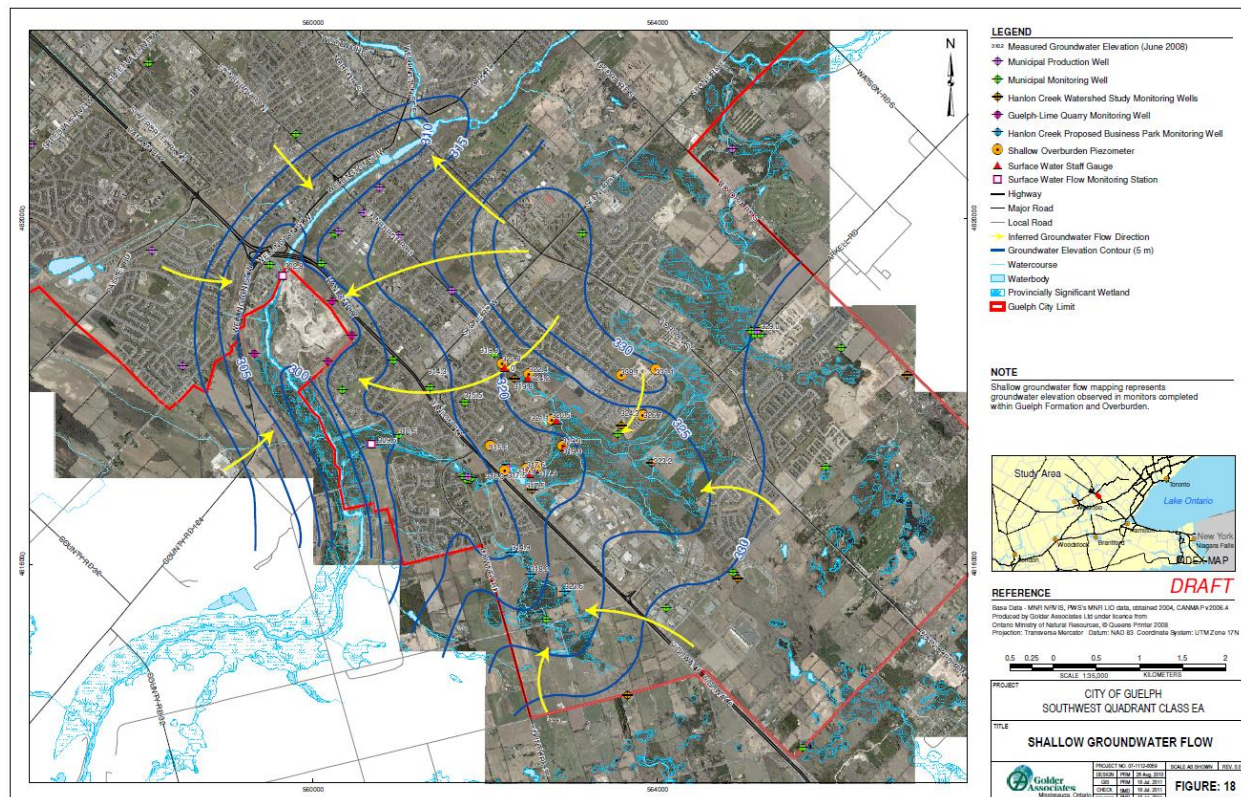


Figure 4 Shallow Groundwater Flow in the Guelph Formation and Overburden (Golder Associates, 2011)

Niska ~~falls is~~ within the ~~w~~Wellhead ~~p~~Protection ~~a~~Areas ~~B and C~~ of ~~the~~ City of Guelph's municipal drinking water supply ~~wells~~. ~~This means that policies in the Grand River Source Protection Plan apply to drinking water threat activities in these areas.~~ As a result, activities that could result in contamination or overuse of groundwater supplies should be avoided in any plans for future use. ~~The property is also subject to source protection plan policies.~~

Part of the property is also within an Issue Contributing Area (ICA) for Trichloroethylene (TCE); ~~which.~~ ~~This~~ means that TCE has been detected exceeding the provincial drinking water standard ~~within a municipal well within the ICA.~~ ~~The ICA includes a significant portion of the City of Guelph.~~ ~~There is no TCE contamination within Niska.~~

3.3 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

Section 3.3 is divided into two subsections, ecological land classification and significant wildlife habitat.

3.3.1 ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The Ecological Land Classification (ELC) System for Southern Ontario (Lee et al., 1998) is an integrated, ecological approach to land-unit description. An ELC identifies ecological patterns on the landscape and classifies those patterns into categories of vegetation units. The ELC protocol provides a standardized and consistent method for the identification, classification, and mapping of vegetation communities. Applying ELC methods to Niska provides an understanding of the various vegetation communities establishing throughout the property and informs future management decisions within and around those ecological communities.

The City of Guelph's Official Plan Amendment 42: Natural Heritage System (2014) identifies 10 community level ELC units within Niska. To further refine the ELC classifications, GRCA staff conducted vegetation surveys in accordance with the ELC protocol between the spring of 2018 and early summer 2019. The inventory identified 22 distinct vegetation communities, excluding the active farmlands. Brief descriptions of the major ecosites within these vegetation community classes are provided in Table 2. Supporting mapping can be viewed in Appendix A: Map 3.6. The full ELC vegetation inventory can be viewed in Appendix B.

A detailed botanical inventory was not completed at Niska. The ELC classifications and accompanying mapping reflect the dominant canopy species and soil types observed across the property.

It is important to note that vegetation communities along the property boundary extend beyond the property, contributing to the City of Guelph's and the Township of Puslinch's natural heritage systems.

Table 2 Niska Land Holdings ELC Communities

Ecosites	ELC Code	Vegetation Community	Ha
Meadow	MEGM3	Dry – Fresh Graminoid Meadow Ecosite	2.81
		TOTAL	2.81
Woodland	WOMM3	Dry – Fresh Mixed Woodland Ecosite	2.97
	WOMM3	Dry – Fresh Mixed Woodland Ecosite	2.37
		TOTAL	5.34
Mixed forest	FOMM7	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest Ecosite	1.12
	FOMM7-2	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	1.76
	FOMM4-3	Dry – Fresh White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	6.08
	FOMM7-2	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	0.94
	FOMM7-2	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	0.86
	FOM	Mixed Forest	0.19
	FOMM4-3	Dry – Fresh White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	1.11
	FOMM7-2	Fresh – Moist White Cedar – Hardwood Mixed Forest	2.03
		TOTAL	14.09
Coniferous Forest	FOCM2-2	Dry – Fresh White Cedar Coniferous Forest	0.56
	FOC	Coniferous Forest - White Spruce dominate	0.26
	FOCM2-2	Dry – Fresh White Cedar Coniferous Forest	0.33
	FOCM2-2	Dry – Fresh White Cedar Coniferous Forest	0.48
	FOCM2-2	Dry – Fresh White Cedar Coniferous Forest	1.16
		TOTAL	2.80
Naturalized Plantation	FOCM6-3	Dry – Fresh Scotch Pine Naturalized Coniferous Plantation	0.44
	FOCM6-1	Dry – Fresh White Pine Naturalized Coniferous Plantation	5.12
		TOTAL	5.56
Deciduous Forest	FODM4	Dry – Fresh Upland Deciduous Forest Ecosite	0.89
	FODM4-2	Dry – Fresh White Ash – Hardwood Deciduous Forest	1.41
		TOTAL	2.30
Open Water	SAS_1-3	Stonewort Submerged Shallow Aquatic (No longer present)	0.19
		TOTAL	0.00
Marsh	MASM2	Forb Mineral Shallow Marsh Ecosite	0.19
Meadow marsh	MAMM2	Forb Mineral Meadow Marsh Ecosite	1.49
	MAMO1-2	Cattail Graminoid Organic Meadow Marsh	0.14
		TOTAL	1.82
Shoreline	SHT	Treed Shoreline	1.80
		TOTAL	1.80
Deciduous Swamp	SWDM3-1	Red Maple Mineral Deciduous Swamp	1.45
Mixed Swamp	SWMO2-1	Red Maple – Conifer Organic Mixed Swamp	0.59
Coniferous Swamp	SWMM1-1	White Cedar – Hardwood Mineral Mixed Swamp	11.23
	SWMM1-1	White Cedar – Hardwood Mineral Mixed Swamp	0.83
	SWMO1-1	White Cedar – Hardwood Organic Mixed Swamp	0.78
	SWMO1-1	White Cedar – Hardwood Organic Mixed Swamp	0.50
		TOTAL	15.38
Agricultural	OAGM1	Annual Row Crops	4.75
	OAG	Open Agriculture	7.66
		TOTAL	12.41

Meadow

A large meadow is located north of the northern farm field. The meadow is dominated by cool season grasses with some herbaceous wildflowers including milkweed, aster species and goldenrod species. There are minimal successional trees and/or shrubs.

Woodland

Woodlands are semi-treed communities that have less than 60% tree cover. Niska supports two mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands containing interspersed meadow areas. The woodlands are dominated by both native and non-native tree species. Norway spruce, white cedar, white ash, cottonwood and several maple species including Manitoba maple and Freeman's, silver and sugar maples are found in these woodlands.

Mixed Forest

Niska's second largest ecological community is mixed forests. Mixed forests contain both conifer tree species at a 25% or greater cover and deciduous tree species at a 25% or greater cover. Niska's mixed forests are primarily dominated by eastern white cedar and include a mixture of deciduous species such as black ash, cherries, oaks, poplar species, and elms. The understory varies but common species include European buckthorn, elderberry, dogwoods, ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit and tansy ragwort.

Coniferous Forest

Five small coniferous forests add valuable habitat diversity to the landscape. Four of the forests are dominated by eastern white cedar with a dry to fresh soil moisture with some low-lying areas of seeps and poorly drained areas of pooling water. One coniferous forest is dominated by white spruce with a mix of eastern white cedar and European buckthorn. The eastern white cedar forest has very little understory vegetation.

Naturalized Plantation

The forested area in the eastern portion of the property, south of Hanlon Creek, was machine planted between 1987-1989. The western portion of this area was planted primarily in white pine with Norway spruce bordering the southern edge. According to planting plans the eastern strip near Hanlon Creek was also planted with white pine; however, naturally established white cedar dominates this area along with scattered Scots pine and spruce along the perimeter.

Planted trees in the white pine plantation now range from 10 to 30 cm in diameter with an average of 16 cm. The establishment of other trees and shrubs in the understory is low. Naturally establishing trees include black cherry, ash, Manitoba maple and elm species, as well as various non-native species including Tartarian honey suckle, white mulberry, European buckthorn, and glossy buckthorn.

The small pockets of Scots pine plantation near Niska Road have lower canopy cover due to Scots pine mortality and are further along in the conversion to a mixed forest community along with small open grass dominated areas. This plantation hosts a number of native and non-native species.

Deciduous Forest

Forests having 75% or greater deciduous tree canopy are classified as deciduous forests. The larger of the two deciduous forests, at 1.41 ha, is located west of the Speed River along Niska Road. The canopy is primarily composed of white ash trees along with trembling aspen, eastern white cedar, and white pine. Dominant species in the lower vegetation layers include European buckthorn and ash species, as well as jumpseed and wild ginger on the forest floor.

The smaller deciduous forest is located on the southwestern corner of Pioneer Trail and Niska Road. This vegetation community has a slightly higher elevation, is well-drained, and supports a forest dominated by sugar maple along with bur oak, black cherry, yellow birch and American beech. Although there are some invasive species present throughout the forest the ground layers remain populated with ecologically valuable species such as mayapple, bloodroot, and orange-fruited horse gentian.

Open Water/Shallow Aquatic

Niska had a number of artificial ponds throughout the bird sanctuary area formed by a series of weirs and flow diversions. Most of these ponds no longer hold water during the summer months. A larger pond located on Hanlon Creek near the confluence with the Speed River, was maintained by an earthen dam and stoplog control structure. Historical air photos show the pond being present in 1974.

In the fall of 2019, due to a breach in the earthen dam, the large pond was drawn down. The creek has carved a natural channel through the pond and the vegetation has established on the mudflats. This area is no longer open water and should be reclassified once the vegetation community is more established.

Shoreline Communities

A treed shoreline community is present along the Speed River south of Niska Road. This community contains invasive species, debris build up from flood events and variable shoreline composition formed by sediment deposition and scouring. This community is dominated by Manitoba maple and willow trees.

Swamps

Swamps represent the largest vegetation community on the property, covering 15.38 ha. Swamp communities can be dominated by hydrophytic shrub or tree species (> 25% cover) and are characterized by variable flooding regimes. Niska supports deciduous, mixed and coniferous swamps growing on both mineral and organic soils. Coniferous swamps, dominated by white cedar, make up 87% of Niska's swamp habitats. Deciduous swamps and mixed swamps comprise 9% and 4% respectively and are dominated by red and silver maple. These habitats support a variety of different micro habitats through both hydraulic regimes and decaying plant materials. Maintaining hydrologic connections and balance is fundamental to the health of these ecosystems.

Meadow Marsh

The meadow marshes within Niska are part of the Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland. Meadow marsh communities are typically dominated by plant species less tolerant of prolonged

flooding. Niska supports two uniquely different meadow marshes. The cattail graminoid organic marsh on the far northeastern end of the property is small at 0.14 ha, but it contains a high diversity of species including more than 5 different sedge species and the large yellow lady slipper orchid.

The forb dominated meadow marsh is 1.49 ha on the southwest side of Niska Road and surrounded by the Speed River shoreline and various swamp communities. Moisture levels within the meadow vary throughout the growing season but the habitat is dominated by a variety of herbaceous forbs including cattails, ferns, Joe-pye weed, mints and impatiens species, along with some species of grasses.

3.3.2 SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Significant Wildlife Habitats (SWH) are areas of ecologically important habitat for animals and plants that meet certain criteria to be considered significant. SWH is a natural heritage feature listed in the Provincial Policy Statement, which sets the rules for land use planning in Ontario. Provincial technical guides provide direction for identifying SWH; municipalities are responsible for identifying and designating SWH in municipal policy and development processes under the Planning Act. Site specific identification and confirmation of SWH often occurs through Environment Impact Studies (EISs) or Environmental Assessments (EAs) required as part of a development application.

For the purposes of the Niska Management Plan the identification of SWH and candidate SWH is being used primarily to evaluate potential natural heritage values of different portions of Niska and to inform current and future decision making as well as potential future restoration opportunities. Candidate SWH are areas where habitat criteria have been met for a specific type of SWH, but the target species are not yet confirmed and/or the area is not fully evaluated against the criteria for significance.

A review of background information and survey results were used to complete a preliminary screening for significant wildlife habitat at within Niska. Two types of SWH have been ~~identified~~designated. A deer yarding area was confirmed by the OMNRF in 1984 and updated in 2008. The section of the Speed River that flows past the Niska properties is classified as a Waterfowl Winter Concentration Area. GRCA staff have confirmed several seeps within the PSW and this would meet the criteria for the Seeps and Springs category of SWH.

In addition, a number of candidate SWH have been identified (based on the SWH Ecoregion 6E Criteria Schedule - MNR 2015). In most cases this identification was based on the fact that candidate habitat types (ELC Ecosites) are present at Niska, without a full evaluation of whether the species are present and/or the area meets the criteria for significance. Candidate SWH types include: waterfowl nesting area, raptor wintering area, bat maternity colonies, turtle wintering areas, turtle nesting areas, seeps and springs, amphibian breeding habitat (woodland), amphibian breeding habitat (wetland), terrestrial crayfish, and special concern and rare wildlife species.

3.4 AQUATIC RESOURCES

Section 3.4 is presented in two subsections, fish & fish habitat, and water temperature.

Aquatic resources within Niska are primarily tied to Hanlon Creek, and field work by the GRCA was therefore conducted only within Hanlon Creek. The Hanlon Creek is an urban stream that provides important cold water fish habitat to a variety of fish species including a resident brook trout population. Warmer water temperatures are limiting factors to fish habitat in the lower portions of Hanlon Creek and are the result of weirs and small dams, the presence of on-line ponds, flow diversions, wider stream cross-sections and less tree canopy.

3.4.1 FISH & FISH HABITAT

Hanlon Creek flows through Niska to its confluence with the Speed River. Although altered through a series of weirs and flow diversions, the main channel remains permanently flowing. Bankfull width ranges from 2.20 m to 9.50 m and bankfull depth ranges from 0.05 m to 0.60 m. Wetted width of the creek averaged 4.85 m and maximum water depth is 0.60 m. Instream substrates are approximately 22% silt, 22% gravel, 23% sand, 31% cobble, and 2% boulders. Instream cover range from 5% to 40% due to the presence of woody debris, boulders, undercut banks and submerged aquatic vegetation. Watercress, an aquatic plant and good indicator of groundwater, is present along the creek margins in several locations and some ponds. Riparian vegetation cover overhanging the creek ranges between 5% within meadow areas and 80% within cedar forests.

In previous studies, such as the Hanlon Creek Watershed Study (1993) and the Hanlon Creek State-of-the-Watershed Study (2004), brook trout were not found downstream of the Hanlon Expressway. In August 2015, during electrofishing surveys by the GRCA and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, brook trout were captured for the first time in reaches of lower Hanlon Creek both above and below the flow split within Niska. A total of 13 species were confirmed across all sampling events. The following fish species were identified in Hanlon Creek within Niska: brook stickleback, brook trout, brown bullhead, creek chub, fathead minnow, hornyhead chub, Johnny darter, longnose dace, mottled sculpin, pumpkinseed, western blacknose dace and white sucker. Detailed electrofishing results are provided in Appendix D.

The reach of Hanlon Creek on Niska likely provides spawning and rearing habitat for several species of the resident fish community depending on the suitability of habitat. In late 2018, brook trout spawning surveys were conducted along the lower reaches of Hanlon Creek in November and December. No trout spawning areas were observed at that time. However, during a site visit to the property on November 20, 2019, a depression in the streambed substrate was observed with high likelihood of being a trout spawning area. Spawning surveys were not conducted at other times of the year. However, it is likely that habitat conditions exist to support nesting and rearing of various spring and early summer spawners within the fish community.

3.4.2 WATER TEMPERATURE

Watercourses can be classified into 3 thermal categories: cold water (< 19°C), cool water (between 19-25°C) or warm water (>25°C). Stream temperature is an influencing factor that contributes to the composition of the fish community that resides there. Fish species such as

brook trout are highly sensitive to warmer water temperatures and their life processes start to become stressed as water temperatures rise above 19°C.

In 2018 a total of 5 HOBO water temperature data loggers were deployed by the GRCA within or in close proximity to Niska. The temperature loggers were installed in both the lower section of Hanlon Creek and an unnamed Speed River tributary along the northern property boundary to record daily maximum water temperature from July 5 to October 9.

Of the 3 HOBO loggers deployed in the lower section of Hanlon Creek, there were 16 days the maximum water temperature exceeded 21°C at one or more of the stations. There were no temperature exceedances above 24°C. Overall, water temperatures between July and October demonstrated the reach to be within a cold water thermal regime 65% of the monitoring period with short fluctuations into a cool water thermal regime the remainder of the time.

Of the 2 HOBO loggers deployed in the unnamed Speed River tributary along the northern Niska boundary, there were 6 days the maximum water temperature exceeded 21°C at one or both stations. Overall, water temperatures between July and October demonstrated the tributary to be within a cold water thermal regime 95% of the monitoring period with short fluctuations into a cool water thermal regime the remainder of the time.

3.5 FAUNA

Section 3.5 presents information on observed fauna within Niska. Information in this section is the result of biological inventories completed by the GRCA between spring 2015 and spring 2019. No formal inventories were completed by the GRCA prior to 2015.

Snakes, mammals, dragonflies, frogs/toads and butterflies and moths observed on an incidental basis were also recorded. Amounts observed include the following: 1 snake, 5 mammals, 6 frogs/toads, and 7 butterflies and moths. These incidental species are listed in Appendix D.

3.5.1 BIRDS

A total of 3 breeding bird surveys were conducted between May and June 2018 by GRCA staff in accordance with provincial standards of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Surveys were completed in different habitat types, including marsh, riverine, plantation, deciduous and mixed swamp, forest slope, upland forest and grassland. A total of 37 bird species were recorded within Niska during the surveys. In addition to the data generated through breeding bird surveys, eBird records from recreational birders were also compiled and integrated with GRCA surveys.

Based on GRCA surveys and eBird records, a total of 118 bird species have been recorded at Niska. As many as 106 bird species have been documented during the breeding season. Birds identified on the property are listed in Appendix C.

Understanding which bird species are using the various habitats and ecological communities on the property can provide a better understanding of habitat conditions on the property and inform management options to support those species during various life stages.

3.5.2 AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Breeding amphibians were surveyed in accordance with the Marsh Monitoring Program administered throughout the Great Lakes Region by Birds Canada in cooperation with Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A total of three surveys were completed at least 15 days apart during appropriate weather conditions in the spring of 2018. Five species, the American toad, gray treefrog, green frog, northern leopard frog, wood frog, and spring peeper, were confirmed during the survey.

Reptiles were not formally surveyed or observed on the property. However, iNaturalist data confirms the presence of six reptile species. These species are listed in Appendix D.

3.5.3 MAMMALS

No formal mammal surveys were conducted during the development of this Plan. However, during site visits to the property, incidental observations of mammals were recorded. In total, 10 mammal species have been observed. Refer to Appendix D for the list of mammal species.

3.6 SPECIES AT RISK

Several species at risk (SAR) have been observed within the property boundaries of Niska (Table 4). The source of this data is derived from a combination of GRCA monitoring and incidental observations along with observations from the public reported to GRCA directly or reported through citizen science platforms such as Ebird and iNaturalist. All observations, whether historical or recent, have been noted – this includes species that may be temporary migrants and some that may only occasionally use the property for foraging.

A total of six provincially significant species (4 birds, 1 turtle and 1 Lepidopteran) were recorded.

A total of twelve (12) species have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and are recognized as Species at Risk in Canada. Seven species of bird (bald eagle, Canada warbler, bank swallow and barn swallow, evening grosbeak, rusty blackbird, eastern wood-pewee), three reptiles (snapping turtle, midland painted turtle, eastern milksnake), a butterfly (monarch), and a vascular plant (black ash) have been identified within Niska. Threatened and Endangered terrestrial species listed under Schedule 1 of the Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) are only afforded legal protection on federal lands. Ontario's Endangered Species Act governs the identification and protection of SARs in Ontario.

Table 34 Species at Risk at Niska

Scientific Name	Common Name	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada Status	Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	NAR	SC
<i>Cardelina canadensis</i>	Canada warbler	SC	THR
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank swallow	THR	THR
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn swallow	THR	THR
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak	SC	SC
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird	SC	NAR
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern wood-pewee	SC	SC
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch	END	SC
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping turtle	SC	SC
<i>Chrysemys picta marginata</i>	Midland painted turtle	SC	
<i>Lampropeltis traingulum</i>	Eastern milksnake	SC	NAR
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black ash	THR	

3.7 INVASIVE SPECIES

Twelve terrestrial invasive species have been identified within Niska. The species which would most likely have negative impacts on natural areas within Niska are: European buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, Tatarian honeysuckle, white mulberry, European alder, [common European reed invasive phragmites \(European common reed\)](#), purple Loosestrife, periwinkle, and goutweed.

Tree and shrub species (European buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, Tatarian honeysuckle, white mulberry, and European alder) are common within the understory of many habitats within the property. European buckthorn is the dominant understory species in most of the deciduous and mixed forest communities and a forest health concern. As large ash trees in the canopy decline, presumably from emerald ash borer, they provide an opportunity for buckthorn seedlings to dominate these communities lowering the ecological value and biodiversity. [Common European reed-Invasive phragmites](#) is an aggressive invasive and was noted in 11 locations throughout the property. At current levels, patches are relatively small and control efforts could be considered. Periwinkle and goutweed are common household gardening groundcovers and are primarily located in areas of yard waste dumping, backyard gardens that have encroached onto the property, and around building envelopes. These groundcovers are hard to control but efforts could be made to remove them from more vulnerable ecological communities.

Section 4:

4.0 Current Management Practices

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 4 summarizes the current management practices within Niska by the GRCA.

4.2 CURRENT GRCA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Portions of Niska were originally acquired by the GRCA to support the development of a Hespeler Reservoir flood control project. The recommendation for this reservoir was removed in the 1982 Grand River Water Management Study. Since the end of the property's active use and lease arrangements with the NWF, Niska has been closed to the public and use of the property has been limited to agricultural use of the two farm fields. Enforcement and maintenance of the remaining natural areas of the property is conducted as concerns are raised and prioritized as resources allow.

For GRCA operational purposes, a gate and main entrance into Niska is located on the north side of Niska Road. An entrance path to the field on the south side of Niska Road is available for the agricultural tenant. There are no other officially recognized access or entry points into Niska.

4.2.1 AGRICULTURE

There are two agricultural fields within Niska that the GRCA leases to local farmers (Appendix A: Map 1.1). One field is located on the north side of Niska Road and is 4.575 hectares, and the second field is located on the south side of Niska Road and is 6.57.66 hectares. Both fields are planted with annual crops such as corn and soya beans, and winter wheat, and have been actively used for agriculture for more than 70 years.

Section 5:

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 INTRODUCTION

A list of recommendations has been created as a result of the management plan process for Niska. Recommendations listed in Section 5.2 are dependent upon annual budgets and resources. These recommendations may be dependent on the implementation of other recommendations that would need to be completed first.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Generally, the main objectives behind the recommendations for Niska focus on opportunities for community use and conservation of the natural areas through partnerships with the City of Guelph or other third parties, where appropriate, as well as the opportunities to declare lands as surplus, where appropriate.

Recommendation 1: Engage with the City of Guelph and other third parties to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement for parcels of land that can provide recreational or conservation opportunities.

There are suitable conditions at Niska for a maintenance agreement. The GRCA has a strong relationship with the City of Guelph and active third-party groups in the area. As well, there are existing city trails adjacent to and in close proximity to Niska.

It is recommended that the GRCA enter into a maintenance agreement with the City of Guelph. This would include discussing the opportunities to connect with the adjacent City trail systems as shown in Figure 5. As per the Ontario Municipal Board 2018 Minutes of Settlement, if this management plan is approved, the GRCA and the City of Guelph will establish a joint working group, which shall include members of the public, to consider the implementation of a trails system at Niska. The working group shall consider, among other things, the function, location and character of trails.

The terms of the maintenance agreement would also require the City of Guelph to assume full responsibility for maintenance, cleanliness, and general appearance of the lands and municipal works, including, but not limited to items such as removal of garbage, removal of tree hazards, maintenance of existing fences, maintenance of trails, etc.

Should the City of Guelph not be interested in entering into a maintenance agreement, GRCA staff will explore opportunities with third parties.

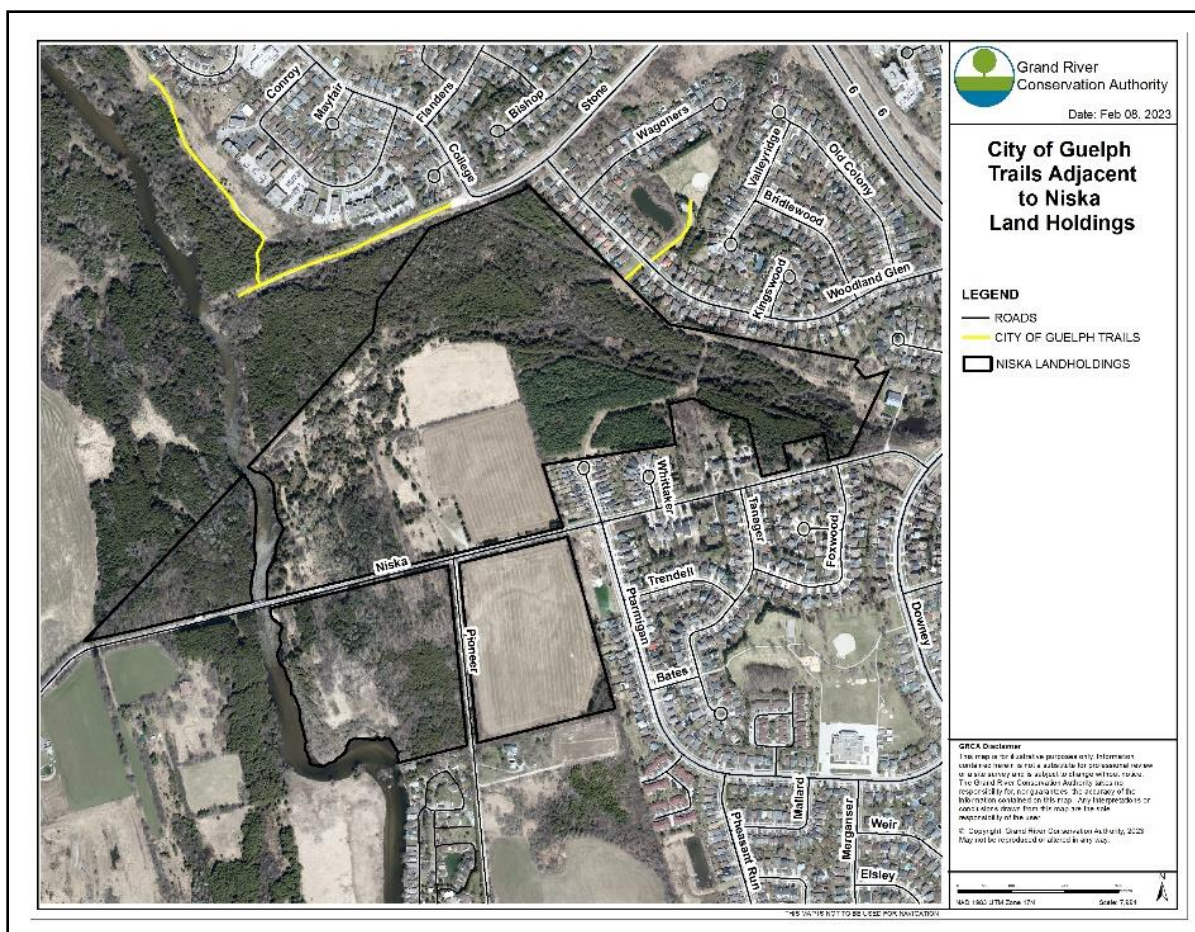


Figure 5 City of Guelph Trails Adjacent to Niska

Recommendation 2: Continue to advocate and promote partnership opportunities to manage and monitor the biodiversity and ecological systems within the land holdings.

Natural areas found at Niska, especially the Hanlon Creek and the Speed River provincially significant wetland, provide ecological values to the regional environment. Where possible, these areas should be managed using best practices to conserve and/or enhance those ecological values. Working with partners is an excellent way to implement this. Partners are able to conduct research, monitor and assess natural area conditions, and together implement habitat restoration and improvement. Opportunities for such may include, but are not limited to, plantings, invasive plant species control, water temperature monitoring, and measures to improve stream connectivity.

Recommendation 3: Dispose of the parcel of lands south of Niska Rd. that are associated with the agricultural lease, and identify Identify other lands in the Niska Landholdings that may could be suitable for disposition.

GRCA staff routinely review land holdings to ensure they align with the mandate of the GRCA, mainly: flood control, protection of people and property, and conservation and management of ecologically sensitive lands. Lands that fall outside the scope of these objectives may be considered for disposition by the GRCA.

~~The GRCA evaluates opportunities to dispose of, or enter into long term agreements for properties that do not meet the needs of the Authority.~~ Through the management plan process, GRCA staff concluded that the lands of an eight hectare parcel owned by the GRCA and located at Pioneer Trail and Niska Rd. in the City of Guelph, does not align with the mandate of the GRCA and meets GRCA's criteria for declaring land surplus, including:

- the land was acquired for the Hespeler Reservoir flood control project (Section 1.2.1), which was later removed as a project (Section 4.2);
- the land does not contain any provincially significant wetlands;
- the land is not part of a Management or Agreement Forest; and
- the land does not contain any regulated features under Ontario Regulation 150/06.

Further, with the recent introduction of Bill 23: The More Homes Built Faster Act, changes were made to how Conservation Authorities dispose of lands whose purchase was partially funded by the province. Authorities are now simply required to provide notice to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry at least 90 days before disposition of these types of lands. Authorities are required to conduct public consultations before disposing of provincially-funded lands that meet certain criteria, including those that contain areas of natural and scientific interest, wetlands, regulated natural hazards, habitat of threatened or endangered species as well as agreement forests or Niagara Escarpment lands.

With GRCA Board approval of the management plan, GRCA staff shall proceed with the process to declare this parcel surplus. It is recognized that within the OMB MOS, that an additional notification period by the GRCA is required for the public.

During the course of preparing the Management Plan it was identified that there are other portions of land within Niska, specifically open areas north of Niska Road including the other Agricultural field that may meet the GRCA's criteria ~~for declaring suitable for surplus~~ land surplus. However, there is more investigation that is required and all regulatory requirements would need to be met in order for the GRCA to declare the lands surplus.

Section 6:

6.0 Plan Implementation

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 6 presents the implementation phasing of the Management Plan. This section of the document will be informed and populated at the time that a final management report is submitted for approval

Section 7:

7.0 Literature Cites & References

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- iNaturalist. 2022. Web Application. Available at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/19980945>.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF), 2014. Ontario Wetland Evaluation System. Southern Manual. Third Edition. Version
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRR), 2015. Significant Wildlife Habitat Ecoregion 6E Criteria Schedule: Addendum to Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide.

Appendix D: Comments from First Nations on the Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan

A copy of the draft management plan was circulated to representatives from Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Additional comments may be received prior to finalization of the Management Plan.

Copies of Comments Received from First Nations

Comment from Lands and Resources Department of the Six Nations Council
July 28, 2023

Thank you for reaching out about this.

Of the three recommendations, we're most concerned with #3.

We believe any discussion about disposing a portion of the GRCA's Niska Land Holdings is premature as there's insufficient information contained within the draft management plan to contemplate such a disposal. The report centres on a broad characterization of the vast lands which make up the Holdings and is too high level to provide insight into such a decision. The plan does not contemplate development impacts on the agricultural land in question, nor on the remaining property.

The plan also notes additional lands within the Holdings which may be disposed of in the future. While we regret to hear more land from the Holdings may be subject to development, this should be studied all at once in a holistic fashion.

We're less worried about #1, which anticipates lower-level development activities like trails and related infrastructure. But taken as a whole, we're concerned that 2/3rds of the plan's recommendations favour activities which will eliminate or degrade the natural environment.

APPENDICES

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Appendix B: List of Plant Species

Appendix C: List of Bird Species

Appendix D: List of Other Wildlife Species

Appendix A: Maps

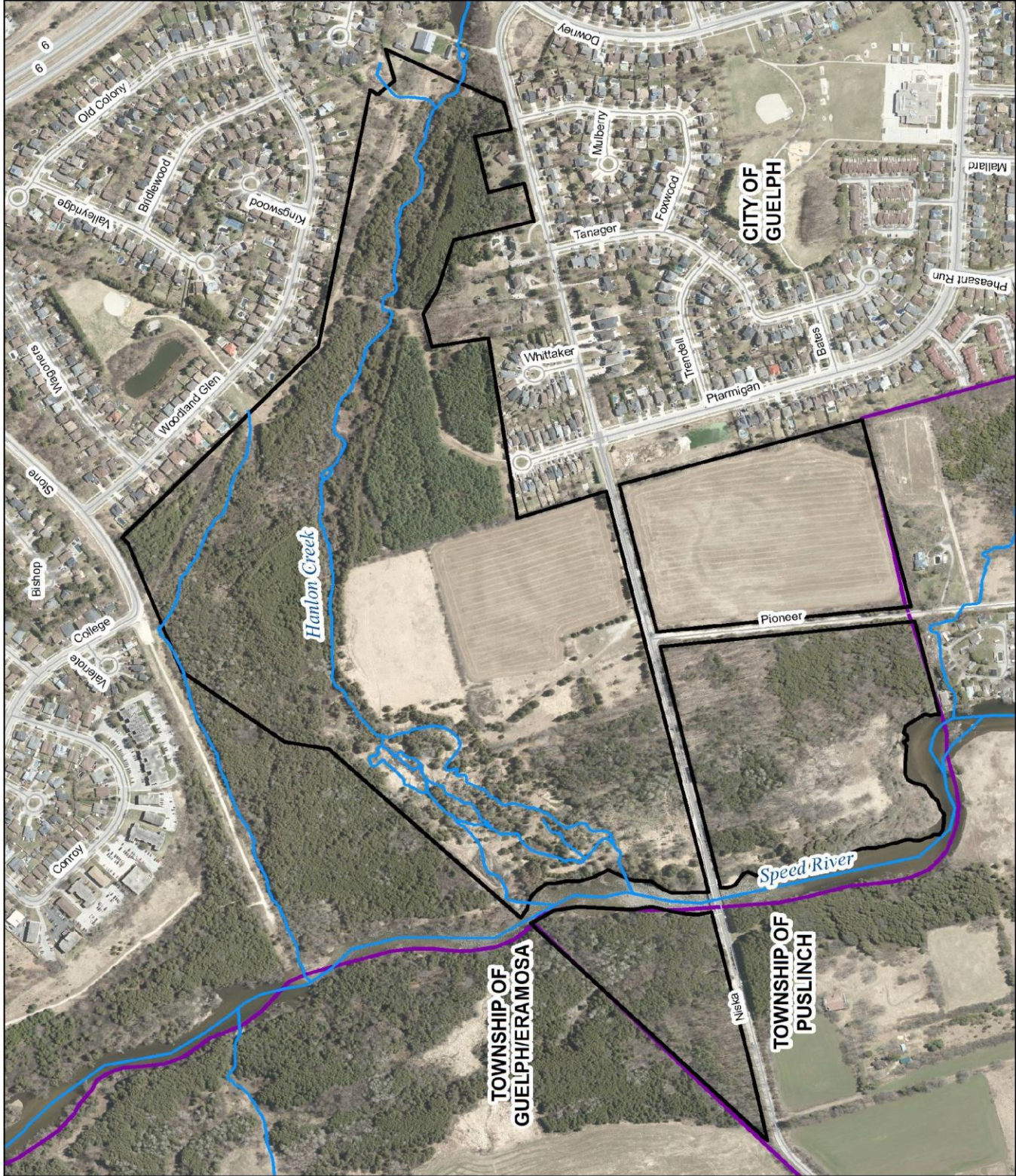
Map 1.1

Niska Land Holdings

Legend

- ROADS
- WATERCOURSE
- NISKA PROPERTY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:7,500
300 150 0 300 Meters

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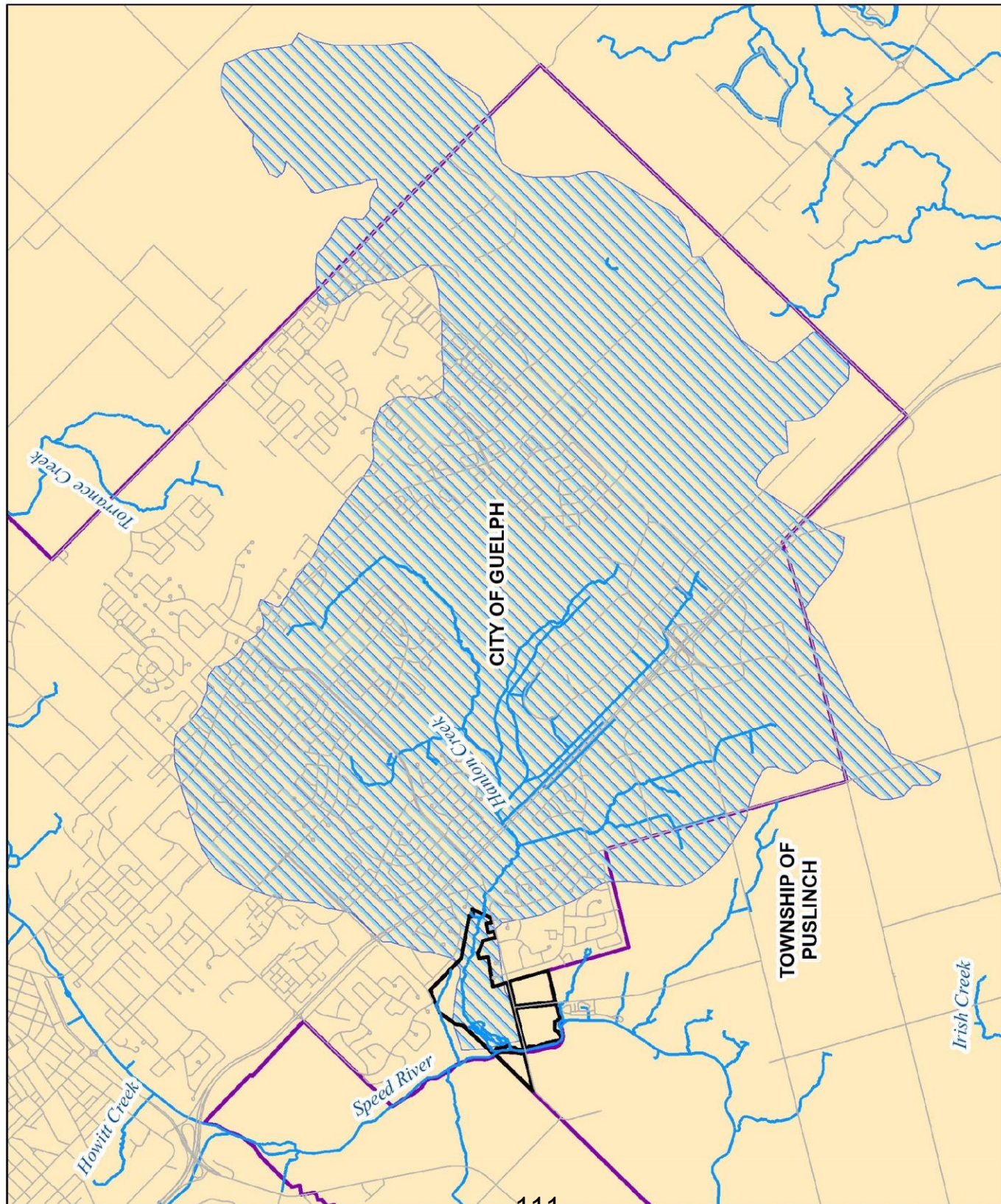
Map 1.2

Hanlon Creek Watershed

Legend

- ROADS
- WATERCOURSE
- NISKA PROPERTY
- HC SUBWATERSHED
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:46,000
1.5 0.75 0 1.5 Kilometers

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Map 3.1

Physiography

Legend

ROADS

NISKA PROPERTY

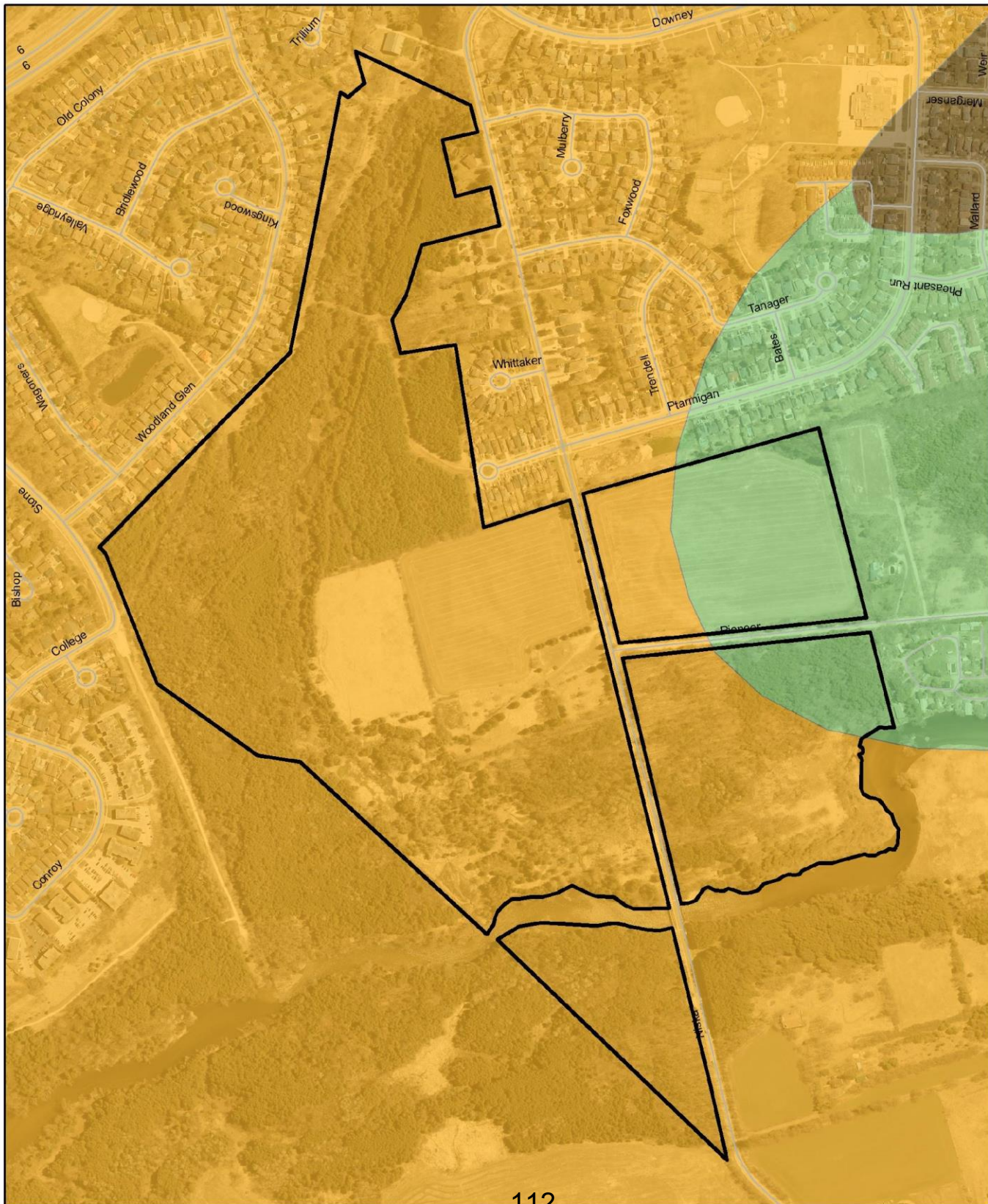
PHYSIOGRAPHY

Drumlins

Spillways

Till Plains (Drumlinized)

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:7,500
300 150 0 300 Meters

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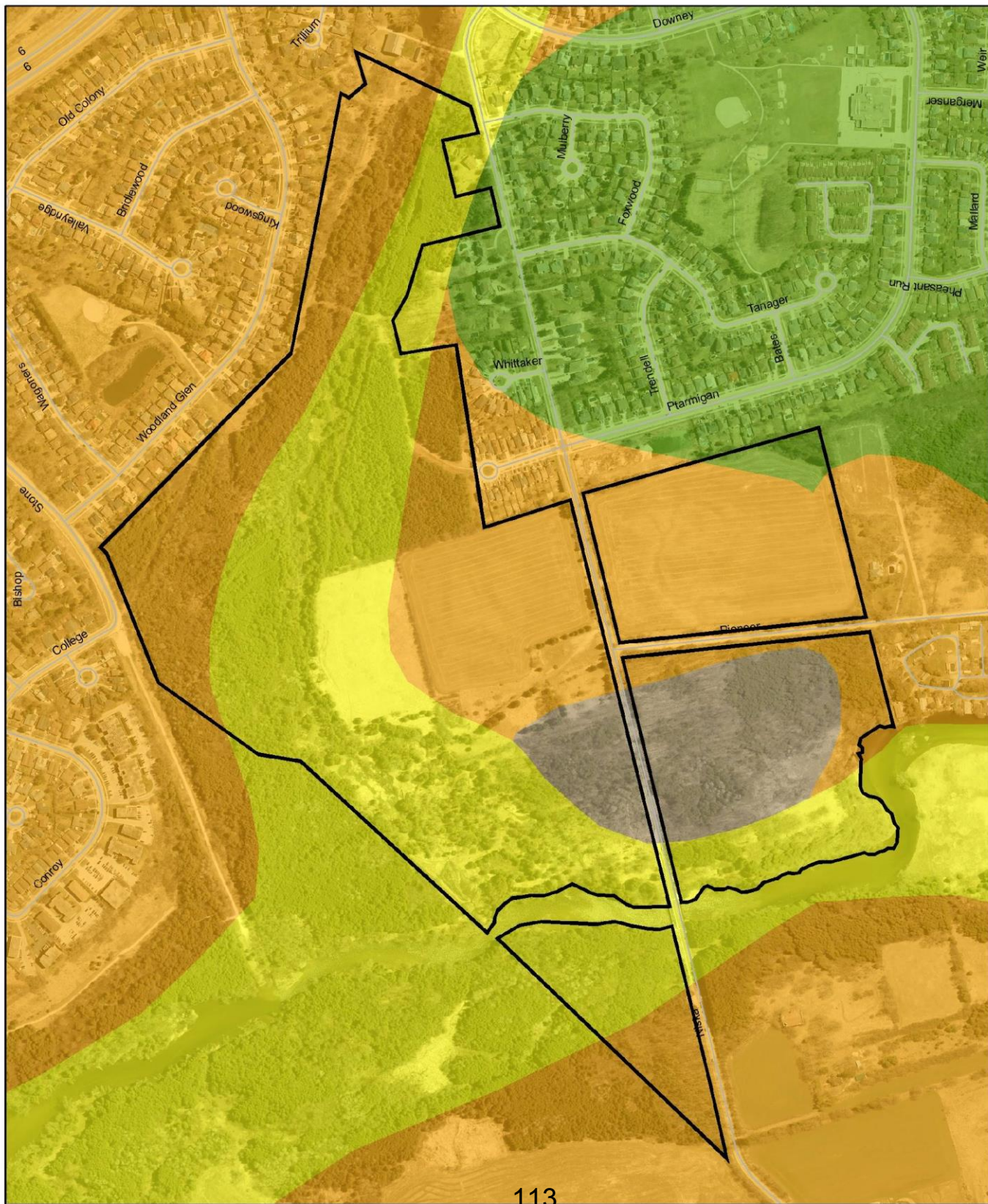
Map 3.2

Surficial Geology

Legend

- ROADS
- NISKA PROPERTY
- PRIMARY MATERIAL
- Till
- Gravel
- Organic Deposits
- Sand

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:7,500
300 150 0 300 Meters

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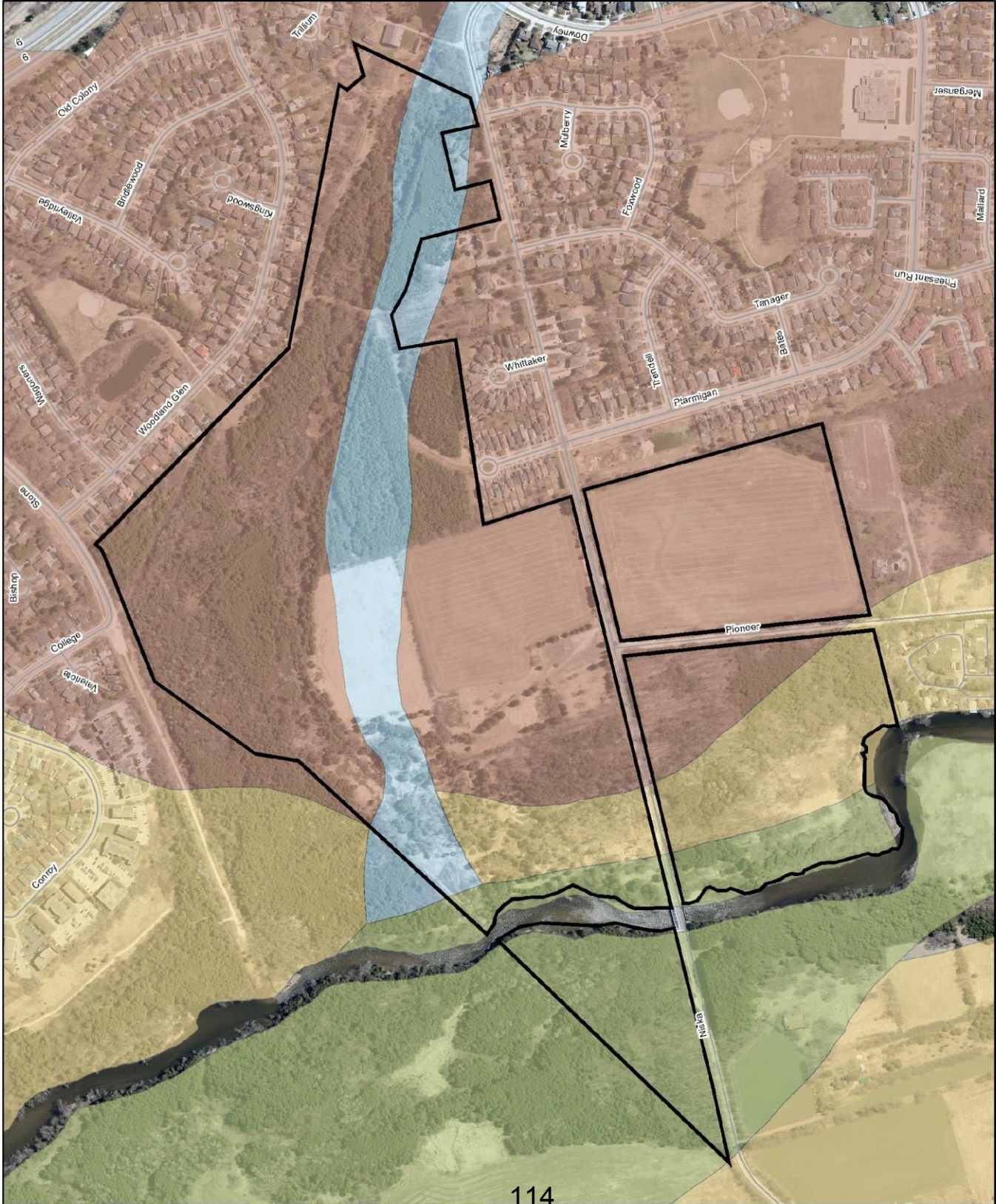
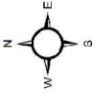
Map 3.3

Soils

Legend

- ROADS
- NISKA PROPERTY
- SOILS**
 - BOTTOM LAND
 - BURFORD
 - DUMFRIES
 - STREAM COURSE

Niska / Kortright Master Plan



Scale 1:7,500
300 150 0 300 Meters

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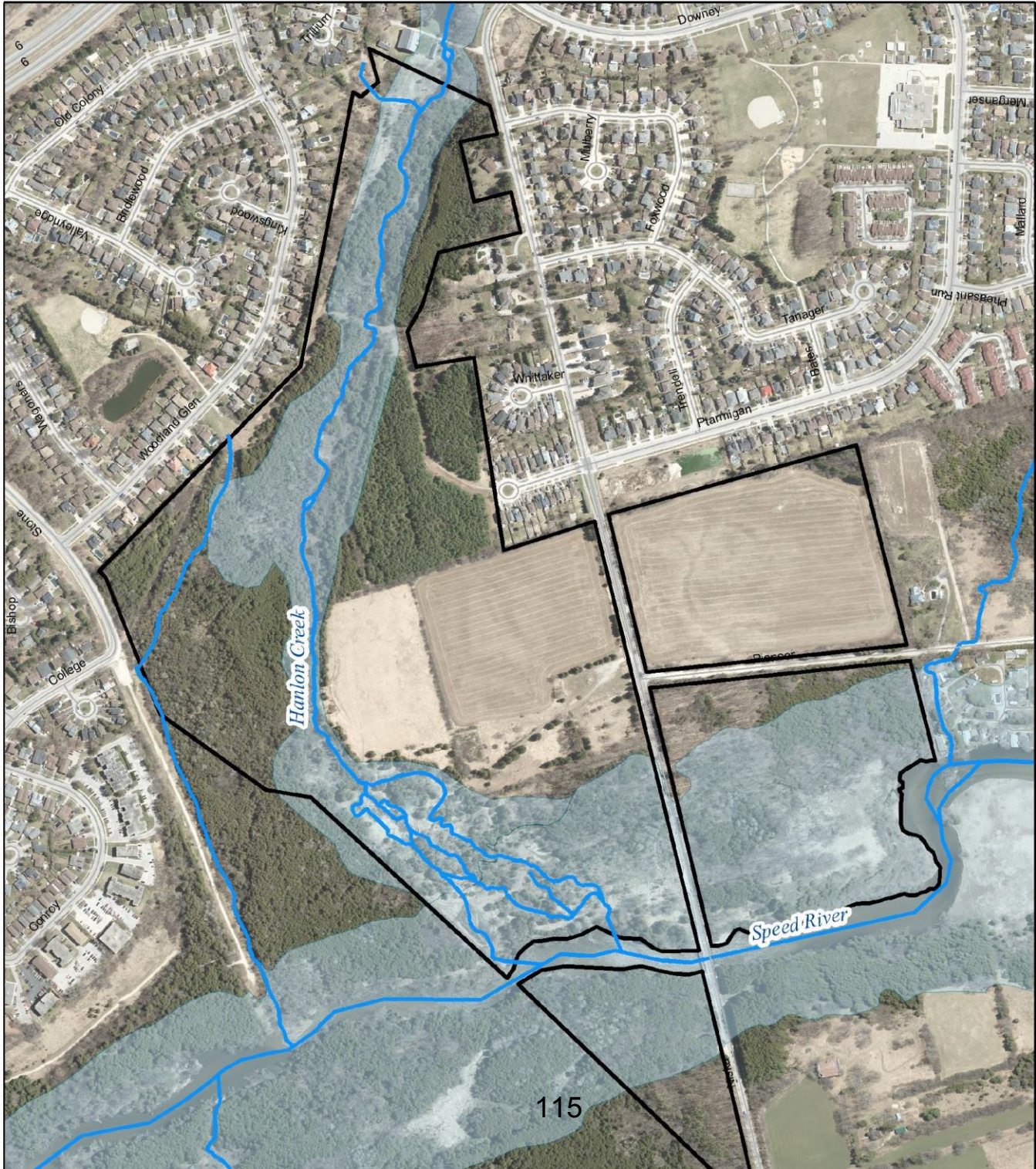
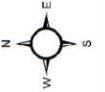
Map 3.4

Hydrology

Legend

- ROADS
- WATERCOURSE
- FLOODPLAIN
- NISKA PROPERTY

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



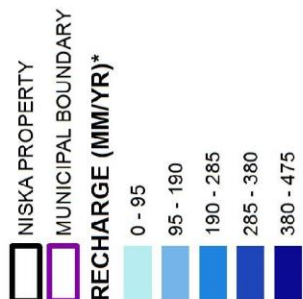
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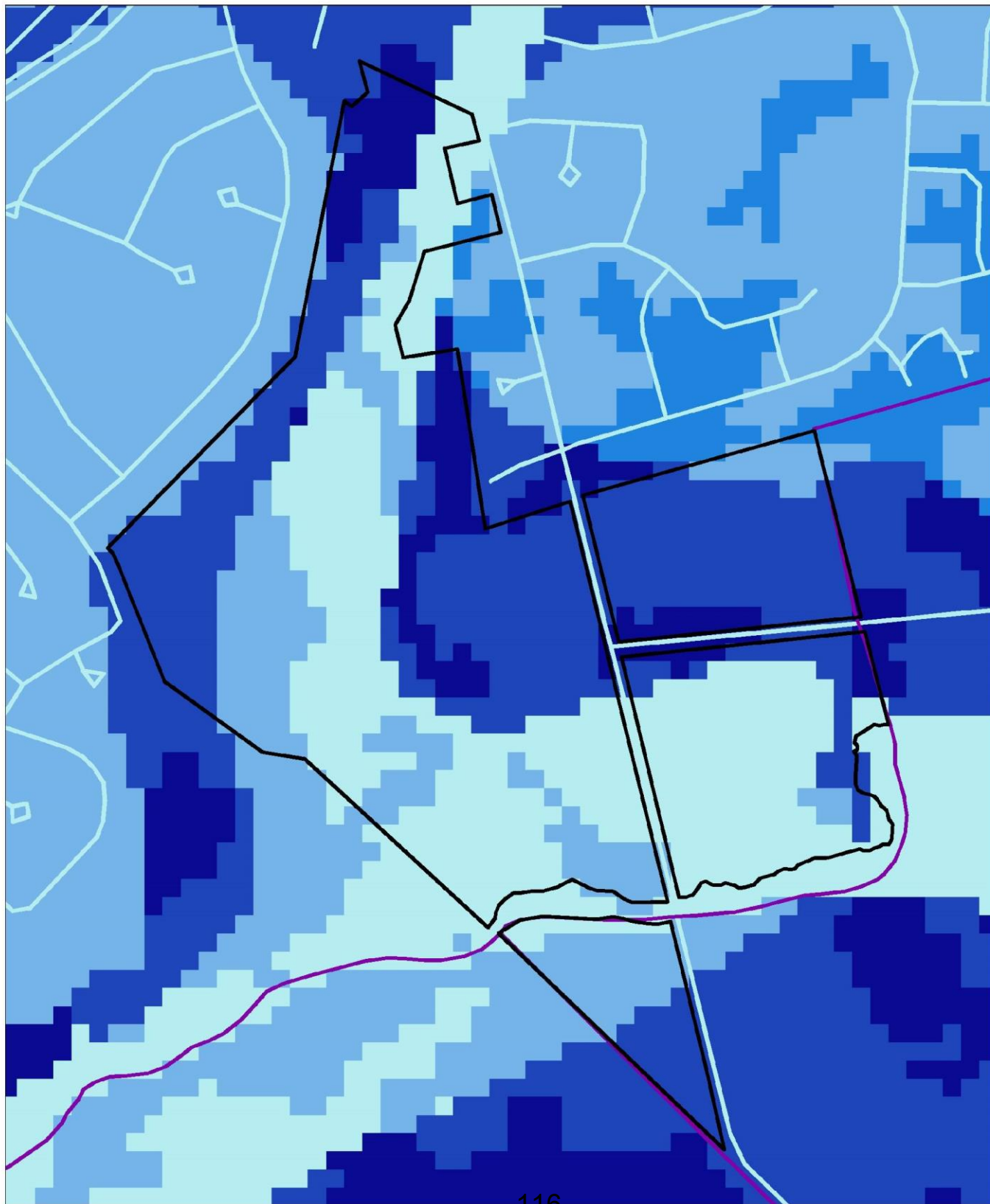
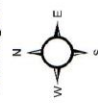
Map 3.5

Groundwater Recharge

Legend



2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:7,500
300 150 0 300 Meters

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Map 3.6

Ecological Land Classification

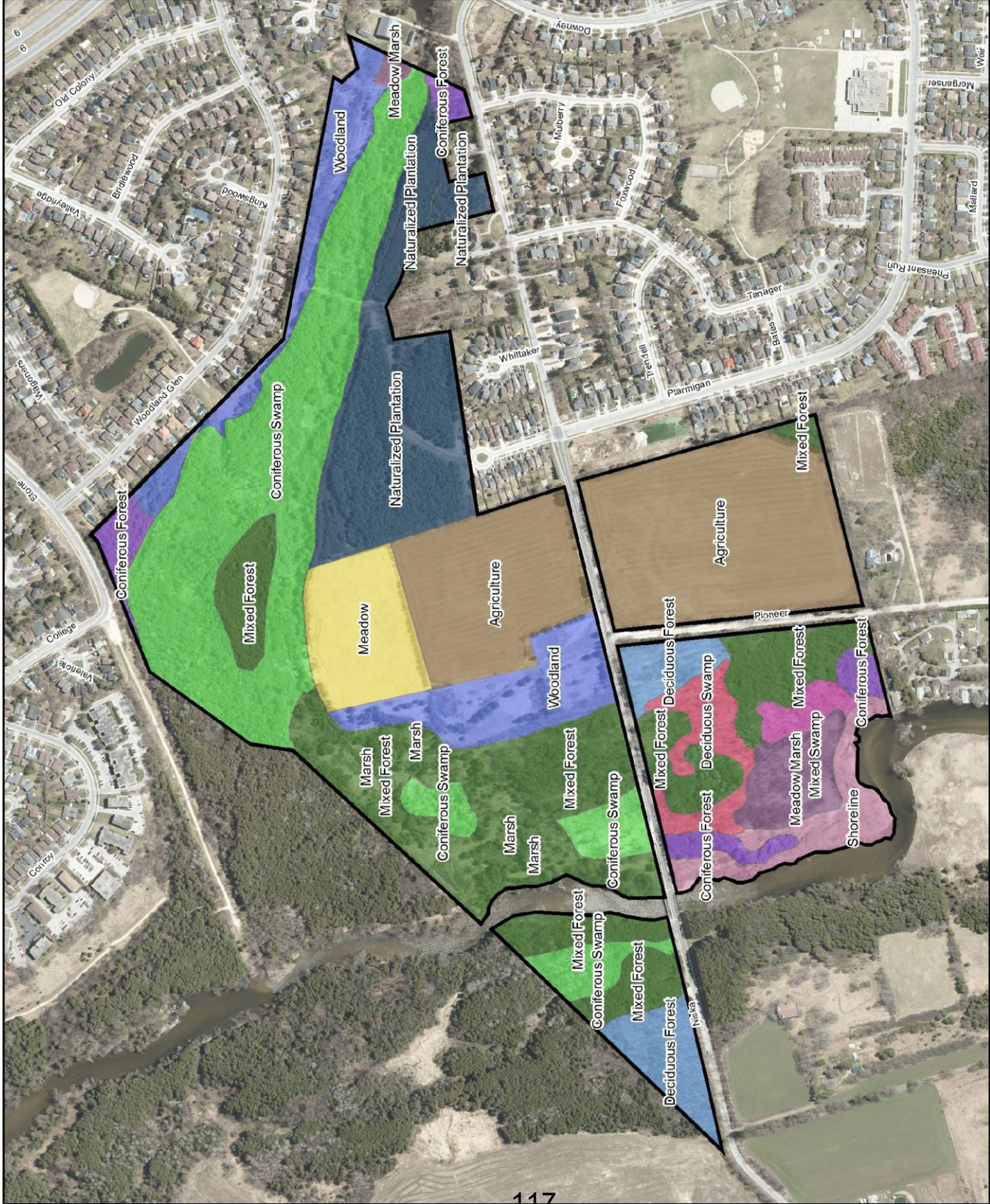
Legend

ROADS

ELC

- Agriculture
- Coniferous Forest
- Coniferous Swamp
- Deciduous Forest
- Deciduous Swamp
- Marsh
- Meadow
- Meadow Marsh
- Mixed Forest
- Mixed Swamp
- Naturalized Plantation
- Shoreline
- Woodland

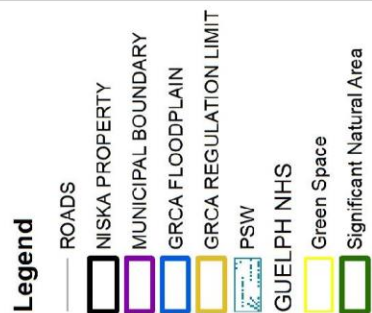
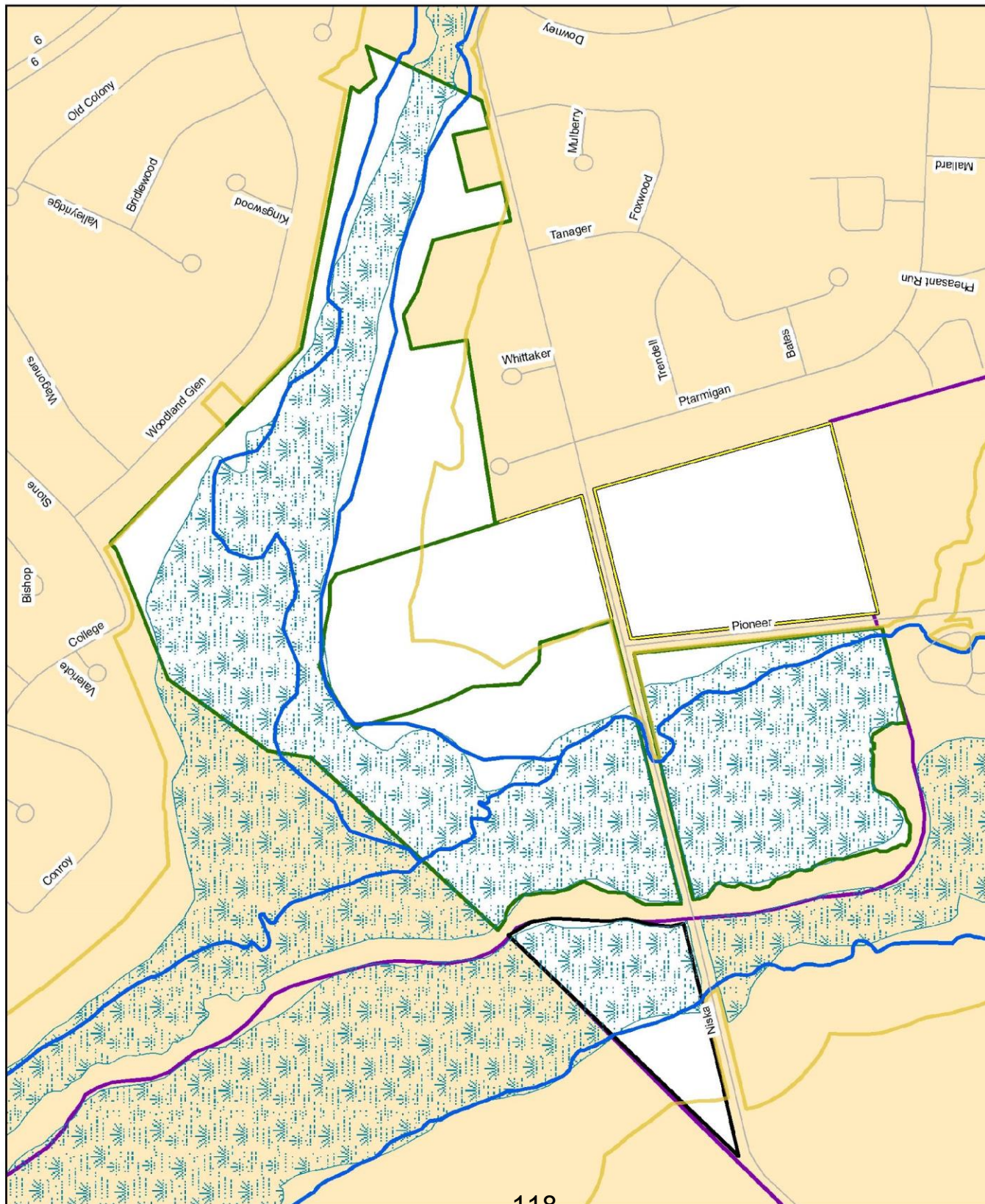
2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan



Scale 1:7,500
0 150 300
Meters

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Ecological Land Designations

2023 Niska Land Holdings
Management Plan

Scale 1:7,500



A horizontal scale bar with a black background and white markings. It is divided into three equal segments, each labeled '150' at the top and '300' at the bottom. The word 'Meters' is written at the far right end.

0 150 300 Meters

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Appendix B:List of Plant Species

Species lists below include common and scientific names, conservation priority ranks assigned by the Natural Heritage Information Centre, and the status assigned by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and/or the Committee on the Status of Species At Risk in Ontario (COSSARO). Species lists are based on GRCA field data and data from acquired from external sources. The tables reflect information that was available at the time of preparing this management plan.

Glossary of Terms:

Provincial Rank

S1= Critically Imperiled, S2= Imperiled, S3=Vulnerable, S4= Apparently Secure, S5= Secure, SH=Historic; SE= Exotic in Ontario (non-indigenous species) NAR= Not At Risk

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

EXP = Extirpated; END = Endangered; THR = Threatened; SC = Special Concern; SNA = Status Not Assessed

At the time of this report, there are no COSEWIC species listed on Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act

Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)

Provincial Endangered Species Act. In order of severity, statuses include: EXP = Extirpated; END = Endangered; THR = Threatened; SC = Special Concern; NL = Not Listed

Exotic Status: Rank assigned to non-indigenous species.

CC: Coefficient of conservatism

CW: Coefficient of Wetness

Information Sources:

(*) ELC 2018

*** iNaturalist contributors, iNaturalist (2023). iNaturalist Research-grade Observations. iNaturalist.org. Occurrence dataset <https://doi.org/10.15468/ab3s5x> accessed via GBIF.org on 2023-03-08.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
Trees & Shrubs						
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple***	SNA		SE1		5
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba Maple(*)	S5			0	0
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Freeman Maple(*)	SNA			6	-5
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Black Alder(*)	SNA		SE4		-3
<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Serviceberry species(*)					
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch(*)	S5			6	0
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch(*)	S5			2	3
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue-beech***	S5			6	0
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry(*)	S4			8	0
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood(*)	S5			6	3
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood(*)	S5			2	0
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood(*)	S5			2	-3
<i>Crataegus species</i>	Hawthorn species(*)					
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech(*)	S4			6	3
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Glossy Buckthorn(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash(*)	S4			4	3
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black Ash(*)	S3	END		7	-3
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash(*)	S4			3	-3
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut(*)	S4?			5	3
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack(*)	S5			7	-3
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European Privet(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern Hop-hornbeam(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce(*)	SNA		SE3		5
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce(*)	S5			6	3
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balsam Poplar(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Populus spp.</i>	Poplar species(*)					
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen(*)	S5			2	0
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry(*)	S5			3	3
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry(*)	S5			2	3

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak(*)	S5			6	3
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn***(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac(*)	S5			1	3
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow(*)	SNA		SE4		-3
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peach-leaved Willow(*)	S5			6	-3
<i>Salix eriocephala</i>	Heart-leaved Willow(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Salix petiolaris</i>	Meadow Willow(*)	S5			3	-3
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow Species(*)					
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Sambucus spp.</i>	Elderberry species(*)					
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountain-ash(*)	SNA		SE4		5
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern White Cedar(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Tilia Americana</i>	American Basswood(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock***	S5			7	3
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm(*)	S5			3	-3
<i>Viburnum opulus ssp. trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Common Prickly-ash(*)	S5			3	3
Forbs						
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Alisma triviale</i>	Northern Water-plantain(*)	S5			1	-5
<i>Alliaria petiolate</i>	Garlic Mustard(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Canada Garlic(*)	S5			8	3
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed(*)	S5			0	3
<i>Anemonastrum canadense</i>	Canada Anemone(*)	S5			3	-3
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Red Columbine(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Canada Wild-ginger(*)	S5			6	5
<i>Asclepias incarnate</i>	Swamp Milkweed	S5			6	-5
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed(*)	S5			0	5
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Common Lady Fern(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound(*)	SNA		SE1		
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	Nodding Beggar ticks(*)	S5			2	-5
<i>Bidens tripartite</i>	Three-parted Beggar ticks(*)	S5?			5	-3
<i>Brassica sp.</i>	mustard species(*)					
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Yellow Marsh Marigold(*)	S5			5	-5
<i>Campanula sp.</i>	Bellflower species(*)					
<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>	Cut-leaved Toothwort(*)	S5			6	3

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Caulophyllum giganteum</i>	Giant Blue Cohosh***	S5			5	5
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh(*)	S5			5	5
<i>Chara sp.</i>	Chara species					
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead***	S5			7	-5
<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i>	Bulb-bearing Water-hemlock	S5			5	-5
<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Spotted Water-hemlock	S5			6	-5
<i>Circaea canadensis</i>	Broadleaf enchanter's nightshade	S5				
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Conocephalum salebrosum</i>	Cat-tongue Liverwort	S5				
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>	Yellow Lady's-slipper	S5			5	0
<i>Cypripedium pubescens</i>	Large yellow slipper	S5				
<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>	Bulblet Fern(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common Teasel(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Dryopteridaceae Famly</i>	Wood Fern Species(*)					
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Wood Fern	S5			5	-3
<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>	Wild Cucumber***(*)	S5			3	-3
<i>Eleocharis mamillata</i>	Soft-stemmed Spikerush(*)	S1				-5
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wildrye***	S5			5	-3
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy Willowherb(*)	SNA		SE5		-3
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Eastern Helleborine(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	Meadow Horsetail(*)	S5			8	-3
<i>Erigeron hyssopifolius</i>	Daisy Fleabane(*)	S5			10	-3
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Philadelphia Fleabane(*)	S5			1	-3
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset(*)	S5			2	-3
<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	Large-leaved Aster(*)	S5			5	5
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe Pye Weed***(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Fragaria vesca ssp. vesca</i>	Woodland Strawberry(*)	SNA		SE		3
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Virginia strawberry	S5			2	3
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw(*)	S5			5	-5
<i>Galium sp.</i>	Bedstraw species(*)					
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert(*)	S5			2	3
<i>Geum aleppicum</i>	Yellow Avens(*)	S5			2	0
<i>Geum canadense</i>	White Avens(*)	S5			3	0
<i>Geum fragarioides</i>	Barren strawberry(*)	S5			5	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl Mannagrass(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Sharp-lobed hepatica(*)	S5			8	5
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Hostas sp.</i>	Hosta(*)					
<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	Virginia Waterleaf(*)	S5			6	0
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's-wort(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted Jewelweed(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Purple Jewelweed***	SNA		SE4		-3
<i>Ipomoea lacunosa</i>	White Morning Glory(*)	SNA		SEH		
<i>Iris sp.</i>	Iris species(*)					
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	SNA		SE4		
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Harlequin Blue Flag(*)	S5			5	-5
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Tansy Ragwort***(*)	SNA		SE1		5
<i>Laportea canadensis</i>	Wood Nettle(*)	S5			6	-3
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Common Motherwort(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Poor-man's Peppergrass(*)	S5			0	3
<i>Leptosporangiate sp.</i>	Fern species(*)					
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Butter-and-eggs(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	American Water-horehound(*)	S5			4	-5
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jennie(*)	SNA		SE5		-3
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted Loosestrife***	S5			7	-5
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife(*)	SNA		SE5		-5
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Wild Lily-of-the-valley(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Large False Solomon's Seal(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Common Horehound(*)	SNA		SE2		3
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern(*)	S5			5	0
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medic(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	Canada Moonseed(*)	S4			7	0
<i>Mentha sp.</i>	Mint species(*)					
<i>Myosotis sp.</i>	Garden forget-me-not(*)					
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Small Forget-me-not(*)	S5			6	-5
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	True Forget-me-not(*)	SNA		SE5		-5
<i>Myosotis sp.</i>	Forget-me-not-species(*)					
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress(*)	SNA		SE		-5
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Common Evening-primrose(*)	S5			0	3
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern***(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted fern(*)	S5			7	0

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Oxalis</i> sp.	Wood sorrel species(*)					
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Upright Yellow Wood-sorrel(*)	S5			0	3
<i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i>	Smooth Witchgrass(*)	SNA		SE5		-3
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper(*)	S4?			6	3
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Marshpepper Smartweed(*)	SNA		SE5		-5
<i>Persicaria</i> sp.	<i>Persicaria</i> sp.(*)					
<i>Persicaria virginiana</i>	Virginia Smartweed(*)	S4			6	0
<i>Pilea fontana</i>	Lesser Clearweed(*)	S4			5	-3
<i>Pilea pumila</i>	Dwarf Clearweed(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English Plantain(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Plantago major</i>	Common Plantain(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May-apple(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly-leaved Pondweed(*)	SNA		SE5		-5
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Tall Buttercup(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Cursed Buttercup(*)	S5			2	-5
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Buttercup species(*)					
<i>Ribes americanum</i>	Wild Black Currant(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Ribes</i> sp.	Raspberry species(*)					
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Allegheny Blackberry(*)	S5			2	3
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Common Red Raspberry(*)	S5			2	3
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan(*)	S5			0	3
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock species(*)					
<i>Sagittaria cuneata</i>	Northern Arrowhead(*)	S5			7	-5
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Dark-green Bulrush(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort***	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion***	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Sium suave</i>	Hemlock Water-parasit(*)	S5			4	-5
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet Nightshade(*)	SNA		SE5		0
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod(*)	S5			1	3
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	Zigzag Goldenrod(*)	S5			6	3
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Giant Goldenrod***	S5			4	-3
<i>Solidago patula</i>	Round-leaved Goldenrod(*)	S4			8	-5
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough-stemmed Goldenrod(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Solidago</i> sp.	Goldenrod species					

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Symphyotrichum puniceum</i>	Swamp Aster(*)	S5			6	-5
<i>Symphyotrichum</i> sp.	Aster species(*)					
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>	Tall Meadow-rue(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy(*)	S5			2	0
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Yellow Goat's-beard(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Trifolium pretense</i>	Red Clover(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	White Trillium(*)	S5			5	3
<i>Triosteum aurantiacum</i>	Orange-fruited Horse-gentian(*)	S4S5			7	5
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Cattail(*)	SNA		SE5		-5
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broad-leaved Cattail(*)	S5			1	-5
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle(*)	S5			2	0
<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>	Common Mullein(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Verbena hastate</i>	Blue Vervain***	S5			4	-3
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White Vervain(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water Speedwell***	SNA		SE		-5
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Highbush Cranberry(*)	S5			5	-3
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Woolly Blue Violet(*)	S5			4	0
<i>Viola</i> sp.	Violet species(*)					
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape(*)	S5			0	0
<i>Zizania palustris</i>	Northern Wild Rice(*)	S5?			9	-5
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders(*)	S5			7	0
	Floating algae(*)					
Grasses						
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth Brome(*)	SNA		SE5		5
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard Grass(*)	SNA		SE5		3
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice Cutgrass(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass(*)	S5			0	-3
<i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	Common Reed(*)	SNA		SE5		-3
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada Bluegrass(*)	SNA		SE5		3
Sedges						
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water Sedge(*)	S5			7	-5
<i>Carex arctata</i>	Drooping Woodland Sedge(*)	S5			5	5

Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSSARO Status	Exotic Status	CC	CW
<i>Carex aurea</i>	Golden Sedge(*)	S5			4	-3
<i>Carex gracillima</i>	Graceful Sedge(*)	S5			4	3
<i>Carex granularis</i>	Limestone Meadow Sedge(*)	S5			3	-3
<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Porcupine Sedge(*)	S5			5	-5
<i>Carex interior</i>	Inland Sedge(*)	S5			6	-5
<i>Carex laevivaginata</i>	Smooth-sheathed Sedge(*)	S4			8	-5
<i>Carex leptalea</i>	Bristle-stalked Sedge(*)	S5			8	-5
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Sedge(*)	S5			5	5
<i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	Cyperus-like Sedge(*)	S5			6	-5
<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	Retorse Sedge(*)	S5			5	-5
<i>Carex stipata</i>	Awl-fruited Sedge(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge(*)	S5			4	-5
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge(*)	S5			3	-5
<i>Bryophyta</i>	moss species(*)					
<i>Tortella tortuosa</i>	Frizzled Twisted Moss***	S5				

Appendix C: List of Bird Species

Breeding Status Codes

(O) Breeding Observed

- X = species observed in its breeding season (no breeding evidence).

(PO) Breeding Possible

- H = species observed in its breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.
- S = singing male(s) present, or breeding calls heard, in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.

(PR) Breeding Probable

- P = pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in nesting season.
- T = permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song, etc.) on at least two days, a week or more apart, at the same place.
- D = courtship or display, including interaction between a male and a female or two males, including courtship feeding or copulation.

(CO) Confirmed

- DD = distraction display or injury feigning.
- NU = used nest or egg shells found (occupied or laid within the period of the survey). FY = recently fledged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species), including incapable of sustained flight.
- AE = adult leaving or entering nest sites in circumstances indicating occupied nest.
- FS = adult carrying fecal sac.
- CF = adult carrying food for young.
- NE = nest containing eggs.
- NY = nest with young seen or heard.

Information Sources

* Natural Heritage GRCA, 2018 *** iNaturalist

**eBird, 2019 (*) ELC 2018

**** Burnside, 2016. Niska Road Improvements Schedule C Municipal Class EA Environmental Study Report. Appendix E

Scientific Name	Common Name	Breeding Status	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status	Habitat Requirement
<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Common Redpoll **		S5			Forest
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk *	Pr	S4	NAR	NAR	Forest
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk **	Pr	S5	NAR	NAR	Forest
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird *	Co	S5			Wetland
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail***		S5B,S4N			
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard *	Co	S5			Wetland
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck ***	O	S4			Wetland
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	American Pipit **		S4B			Grassland
<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron *	Co	S4			Wetland
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck ***	O	S5B,S4N			Wetland
<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing **	Pr	S5			Forest/Grassland
<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Bohemian Waxwing **		S4B,S5N			Forest
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose *, ***	Co	S5			Wetland
<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Great Horned Owl **	Pr	S4			Forest
<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Bufflehead		S5			Wetland
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common goldeneye (*)***		S5			Wetland
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk *(*)	Pr	S5	NAR	NAR	Forest/Grassland
<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Rough-legged Hawk ***		S1B,S4N	NAR	NAR	Forest/Grassland
<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	Canada Warbler **	O	S5B	SC	SC	Forest
<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Wilson's Warbler **	O	S5B			Wetland
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal * (*)	Pr	S5			Forest/Grassland
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture **	Pr	S5B,S3N			Forest
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Veery ** (*)	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush **	O	S5B,S4N			Forest
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper **	Po	S5			Forest
<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher **	Pr	S5B,S4N			Wetland
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer *	Co	S4B			Grassland
<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	Northern Harrier **	Co	S5B,S4N	NAR	NAR	Grassland
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak **		S4	SC	SC	Forest
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo ***	O	S4S5B			Forest
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker *, ***	Pr	S5			Forest
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove **	Co	SE			Forest/Grassland
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-pewee **	Pr	S4B	SC	SC	Forest
<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet **		S5B,S3N			Forest
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow * (*)	Co	S5			Forest
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven **	Pr	S5			Forest
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay * (*) ***	Co	S5			Forest
<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Trumpeter Swan ***	O	S4	NAR		Wetland

Scientific Name	Common Name	Breeding Status	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status	Habitat Requirement
<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker ***	Pr	S5			Forest
<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker ***	Pr	S5			Forest
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker **	Pr	S4S5			Forest
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird **	Pr	S5B,S3N			Wetland/Forest/Grassland
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher (*)	Pr	S4B			Wetland/Forest
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark **	Pr	S4			Grassland
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird **	O	S4B,S3N	SC	NAR	Wetland/Forest
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin***	O	S5	NAR	NAR	Forest
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel **	Co	S4			Forest/Grassland
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat * (*)	Pr	S5B,S3N			Wetland/Forest/Grassland
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle ***	O	S4	NAR	SC	Forest
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House Finch **	Pr	SE			Grassland
<i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>	Purple Finch **	Po	S5			Forest
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow **	Co	S4B	THR	THR	Grassland
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole *	Pr	S4B			Forest/Grassland
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco **		S5			Forest
<i>Lanius borealis</i>	Northern Shrike **	O	S4B,S5N			Wetland/Forest
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull **	O	S4B,S5N			Wetland
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull **	O	S5			Wetland
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser ***	O	S5			Wetland
<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher ***	O	S5B,S4N			Forest/Wetland
<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-bellied Woodpecker **	O	S4			
<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Wild Turkey **	Co	S4			Forest
<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Swamp Sparrow **	Co	S5B,S4N			Wetland
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow * (*)	Co	S5			Grassland
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser ***		S5			Wetland
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser ***		S4			Wetland
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird *	Co	S5			Grassland
<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher *	Co	S5B			Forest
<i>Otus asio</i>	Eastern Screech-owl *	Po	S4	NAR	NAR	Forest
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey **	Co	S5B			Wetland
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow **	Co	SE			Grassland
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow *	Co	S5B,S3N			Wetland/Grassland

Scientific Name	Common Name	Breeding Status	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status	Habitat Requirement
<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Fox Sparrow **		S5B,S3N			Forest
<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Indigo Bunting *	Co	S5B			Forest/Grassland
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow **	Co	S4S5B			Wetland/Grassland
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Pine Grosbeak **		S4B,S5N			Forest
<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Scarlet Tanager **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting **		S4N			Grassland
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee * (*)	Co	S5			Forest
<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow **	Po	S4B			Grassland
<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Common Grackle *	Co	S5			Wetland/Forest/Grassland
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet **	Po	S5			Forest
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow *	Co	S4B	THR	THR	Wetland/Forest/Grassland
<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe * (*)	Co	S5B			Forest
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Ovenbird **	Po	S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga castanea</i>	Bay-breasted Warbler **		S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler **	Co	S5B,S4N			Forest
<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	Blackburnian Warbler **	O	S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	Palm Warbler **	O	S5B			Wetland/Forest
<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	Chestnut-sided Warbler **	Po	S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler **	Pr	S5B			Wetland
<i>Setophaga pinus</i>	Pine Warbler **	Po	S5B,S3N			Forest
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American Redstart **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	Cape May Warbler **		S5B			Forest
<i>Setophaga virens</i>	Black-throated Green Warbler **	Pr	S5B			Forest
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch *	Po	S5			Forest
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch *	Pr	S5			Forest
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	<u>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ****</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>S5B,SZN</u>			<u>Forest</u>
<i>Spinus pinus</i>	Pine Siskin **		S5			Forest
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch * (*)	Co	S5			Grassland
<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Chipping Sparrow *	Co	S5B,S3N			Forest/Grassland
<i>Spizelloides arborea</i>	American Tree Sparrow **		S5			Forest/Grassland
<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Northern Rough-winged Swallow **	Po	S4B			Wetland/Grassland
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling *	Co	SE			Forest/Grassland

Scientific Name	Common Name	Breeding Status	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status	Habitat Requirement
<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Tree Swallow *	Co	S4S5B			Wetland
<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren ***	O	S4			Forest/Wetland
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren **	Co	S5B			Forest
<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	Winter Wren **	Po	S5B,S4N			Forest
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin *	Co	S5			Forest
<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Eastern Kingbird *	Co	S4B			Grassland
<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-eyed Vireo *	Co	S5B			Forest
<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Philadelphia Vireo **	O	S5B			Forest
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove *	Co	S5B			Forest/Grassland
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow **	Pr	S5			Forest

Appendix D: List of Other Wildlife Species

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status
Herpetofauna	<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	American Toad*	S5		
	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle***	S4	SC	SC
	<i>Chrysemys picta marginata</i>	Midland Painted Turtle***	S4	SC	
	<i>Dryophytes versicolor</i>	Gray Treefrog*	S5		
	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Eastern Milksnake***	S4	SC	NAR
	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	Green Frog*	S5		NAR
	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog***	S5	NAR	
	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	Wood Frog*	S5		
	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	Spring Peeper*	S5		
	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	Dekay's Brownsnake***	S5		
	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Eastern Gartersnake*	S5		
	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Pond Slider***	SE2		
Lepidoptera	<i>Acleris nivisellana</i>	Snowy-shouldered Acleris Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Alsophila pometaria</i>	Fall Cankerworm Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Amphipyra pyramidoides</i>	Copper Underwing Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Anticlea multifurcata</i>	Many-lined Carpet Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Great Tiger Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Celastrina lucia</i>	Northern Azure***	S5		
	<i>Ciseseis fulvicollis</i>	Yellow-collared Scape Moth***	S5		
	<i>Copivaleria grotei</i>	Grote's Sallow Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Ctenucha virginica</i>	Virginia Ctenucha Moth***	S5		
	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch*	S2N,S4B	END	SC
	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	Small Engrailed Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	Wild Indigo Duskywing***	S4		
	<i>Euphyes vestris</i>	Dun Skipper***	S5		
	<i>Haploa confusa</i>	Confused Haploa Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Hyphantria cunea</i>	Fall Webworm Moth***	S5		
	<i>Idia americalis</i>	American Idia Moth***	S5		
	<i>Leuconycta diptheroides</i>	Green Leuconycta Moth	S5		
	<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	Red-spotted Purple***	S5		
	<i>Lomographa vestaliata</i>	White Spring Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Lophocampa caryae</i>	Hickory Tussock Moth***	S5		
	<i>Loscopia velata</i>	Veiled Ear Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Malacosoma americana</i>	Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moth***	S5		
	<i>Maliattha synochitis</i>	Black-dotted Lithacodia Moth***	S5		
	<i>Mythimna unipuncta</i>	Armyworm Moth***	S5		
	<i>Nephelodes minians</i>	Bronzed Cutworm Moth***	S5		

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status
	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Mourning Cloak***	S5		
	<i>Operophtera bruceata</i>	Bruce Spanworm Moth***	S5?		
	<i>Orthosia hibisci</i>	Speckled Green Fruitworm*** Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	Black Swallowtail***	S5		
	<i>Phigalia titea</i>	Half-wing Moth***	S4S5		
	<i>Phyciodes cocyta</i>	Northern Crescent	S5		
	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	Mustard White***	S4		
	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White*	SE		
	<i>Polites themistocles</i>	Tawny-edged Skipper***	S5		
	<i>Polygonia comma</i>	Eastern Comma***	S5		
	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Question Mark***	S5		
	<i>Protodeltote muscosula</i>	Large Mossy Lithacodia Moth***	S5		
	<i>Pyrrharctia isabella</i>	Isabella Tiger Moth***	S5		
	<i>Sitochroa palealis</i>	Carrot Seed Moth***	SE		
	<i>Synanthedon proxima</i>	Clearwing Moth***	SNR		
Mammals	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote***	S5		
	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Woodchuck***	S5		
	<i>Mustela richardsonii</i>	American Ermine***	S5		
	<i>Myotis sp.</i>	Myotis Bat*			
	<i>Neovison vison</i>	American Mink***	S4		
	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-tailed Deer*	S5		
	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Eastern Gray Squirrel*	S5		
	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail*	S5		
	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Eastern Chipmunk*	S5		
	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Red Squirrel***	S5		
Odonates	<i>Amphiagrion saucium</i>	Eastern Red Damselfly***	S4		
	<i>Anax junius</i>	Common Green Darner***	S5		
	<i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	River Jewelwing***	S5		
	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	Ebony Jewelwing*	S5		
	<i>Cordulegaster diastatops</i>	Delta-spotted Spiketail***	S4		
	<i>Hetaerina americana</i>	American Rubyspot***	S4		
	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	Widow Skimmer***	S5		
	<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	Common Whitetail***	S5		
Fishes	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	Rock Bass***	S5		
	<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i>	Fantail Darter***#	S4		
	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>	Johnny darter^	S5		
	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Pumpkinseed^	S5		

Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Provincial Rank	COSEWIC Status	COSSARO Status
	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i>	Striped Shiner***#	S4	NAR	NAR
	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Round Goby***	SE		
	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>	Horneyhead chub^	S4	NAR	NAR
	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>	Bluntnose minnow^	S5	NAR	NAR
	<i>Rhinichthys obtusus</i>	Western Blacknose Dace^##	S5		
	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>	Longnose dace^##	S5		
	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	Brook Trout^	S5		
	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	Creek Chub^	S5		
Mussels	<i>Alasmidonta marginata</i>	Elktoe***	S3		
	<i>Alasmidonta viridis</i>	Slippershell Mussel***	S3		
	<i>Anodontoidea ferussacianus</i>	Cylindrical Papershell***	S4		
	<i>Elliptio dilatata</i>	Spike***	S5		
	<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	Creek Heelsplitter***	S5		
	<i>Pyganodon grandis</i>	Giant Floater***	S5		
	<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	Creeper***	S5		
Other Invertebrates	<i>Cicadellidae (Family)</i>	Leafhopper species			
	<i>Aquarius remigis</i>	Common Water Strider***			
	<i>Dissosteira carolina</i>	Carolina Grasshopper***	S4S5		
	<i>Faxonius rusticus</i>	Rusty Crayfish***	SE		
	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	Eastern Black-legged Tick***			
	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Common Red Soldier Beetle***	SE?		
Fungi	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Chicken of the woods***			
	<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle***			

Information Sources:

* Natural Heritage GRCA, 2018

*** iNaturalist contributors, iNaturalist (2023). iNaturalist Research-grade Observations. iNaturalist.org. Occurrence dataset <https://doi.org/10.15468/ab3s5x> accessed via GBIF.org on 2023-03-08.

Fish species marked with # were captured in the Speed River adjacent to the Niska Lands.

Fish species marked with ## were captured in Hanlon Creek during a MNR survey at the creek's confluence with the Speed River in 1993.

Fish species marked with ^ were captured in Hanlon Creek during a GRCA/MNR survey in 2017.

Appendix E: Public Comments on the Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan

Overview of Public Comments

A total of 17 individuals or groups submitted 25 responses providing comment on the Niska Landholdings 2023 Draft Management Plan.

Responses re: Draft Management Plan Recommendations*

- Recommendation #1: Engage with the City of Guelph and other third parties to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement for parcels of land that can provide recreational or conservation opportunities.
 - 5 respondents agreed with this recommendation
 - 1 respondent did not agree with this recommendation
- Recommendation #2: Continue to advocate and promote partnership opportunities to manage and monitor the biodiversity and ecological systems within the land holdings.
 - 5 respondents agreed with this recommendation
 - 0 respondents did not agree with this recommendation
- Recommendation #3: Dispose of lands south of Niska Rd. that are associated with the agricultural lease and identify other lands that could be suitable for disposition.
 - 5 respondents agreed with this recommendation
 - 11 respondents did not agree with this recommendation

Other Common Responses*

- 10 respondents mentioned valuing the landholdings for recreation & \or nature appreciation
- 9 respondents mentioned valuing the landholdings for its natural \ecological values
- 2 group respondents expressed interest in working with the GRCA to help manage aspects of the Niska Land Holdings

* Note – opinions from individual respondents that submitted multiple sets of comments were only recorded once in the above summary

Copies of Public Comments – Niska Landholdings 2023 Draft Management Plan

Comment #1

May 11, 2023

The Guelph hiking club just put in a bridge that makes the conservation lands accessible. Since that bridge went in, I am walking in the conservation lands everyday. It's an amazing spot and deserves to be protected. I walk along the river, all the streams and in the forested areas. They're all amazing and have been a huge help in my recovery from cancer that I have been battling for a few years. Please therefore do not sell the forested areas for development. I get that the fields may make good housing but turn the rest into a park if the conservation authority is not able/wanting to keep it. Green mostly natural areas that are accessible are so hard to come by and this one is a gem and should be protected for future generations to use and benefit from.

Comment #2

May 12, 2023

I generally support the recommendations of the management plan. I agree that the abandoned infrastructure such as fences and weirs should be addressed. It is not reasonable or appropriate to saddle the City or third party (who is very unlikely to have the financial capacity to do this) with this responsibility, especially in absence of a cost estimate. Part of the funds from disposition of the agricultural lands should be used for decommissioning. GRCA should be good stewards of the lands and clean up their mess, and the mess of their tenants, rather than starting the inevitable, decades-long game of hot potato.

Comment #3

May 12, 2023

Please please please don't sell off any of the Niska/Kortright lands. Unfortunately Ontario is stuck with the Doug Ford way for a while. Please don't let his government's short-sighted thinking lead to losing land. From what I understand, housing is not the crisis governments claim it is. I don't live near the old Kortright property but knowing it is there and undeveloped means something to me as I believe it does to many others especially the flora and fauna that live there.

Comment #4**May 15, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 4,6,8,10,11)

As mentioned our 6 acres connects onto Niska Land Holdings to the east.

1) We have been maintaining the path which runs parallel to Woodlawn Glen for over 15+ years, allowing a path for walking, for access to city of Guelph staff to access the storm overflow pond, we have been cleaning the stream/river that runs through this area (especially after the new subdivision construction to the south of us dumped an enormous amount of silt), we have been disassembling the drug huts, picking garbage, cleaning up by hand invasive buckthorn.

2) I have been planting native trees/tree seedlings every spring 100-200+, which I purchased from GRCA forestry, to improve the wetlands and the animal corridor, we cut the grass to maintain a safe path for walking to reduce tick encroachment. We have been excellent stewards of this land and we would like to continue to improve this area.

3) The stream is filled with trout, there are salamanders, and this area is home to many turtles. I have encouraged a repopulation of birds to this area by my 18 years of tree planting by providing a greenspace/wetlands for them. My trees help cool our area and assist in our microclimate.

4) The city of Guelph has a well here which pumps our water from this area, a healthy watershed is vital for purification of water and conservation of water.

5) We have vital wetlands which are essential to keep.

6) I would like to understand the potential for sale of the path that the community uses that backs on to Woodlawn Glen which all neighbours have access to.

7) I would like to consider this strip of land area also to be protected:

<https://www.quietparks.org/quiet-conservation-area>

I would like to nominate this area to protect it: <https://www.quietparks.org/nominate-a-quiet-place>

I hope you can help to carry on my stewardship and conservation efforts of this area.

Thank you for your time today.

Comment #5**May 15, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 5,7,18,19)

I have many concerns regarding Niska Land Holdings Management Plan and I do not support the sell of the Niska Lands. These lands are homes to many birds, animals and fish. Developing this area would have a devastating effect ecologically. This would have a devastating effect on the community as it provides a source of nature for people to enjoy and embrace. Please provide a detailed description and map outlining the details of the property that GRCA purposes to develop.

Comment #6**May 15, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 4,6,8,10,11)

Our 6 acres connects onto Niska Land Holdings to the east. No one consulted us on our opinion.

1) We have been maintaining the path which runs parallel to Woodlawn Glen for over 15+ years, allowing a path for walking, for access to city of Guelph staff to access the storm overflow pond, we have been cleaning the stream/river that runs through this area (especially after the new subdivision construction to the south of us dumped an enormous amount of silt), we have been disassembling the drug huts, picking garbage, cleaning up by hand invasive buckthorn.

2) I have been planting native trees/tree seedlings every spring 100-200+, which I purchased from GRCA forestry, to improve the wetlands and the animal corridor, we cut the grass to maintain a safe path for walking to reduce tick encroachment. We have been excellent stewards of this land and we would like to continue to improve this area.

3) The stream that runs through this land is filled with trout, there are salamanders, and this area is home to many turtles. I have encouraged a repopulation of birds to this area by my 18 years of tree planting on Niska by providing a greenspace/wetlands for them. My trees help cool our area and assist in our microclimate.

4) The city of Guelph has a well here which pumps our water from this area, a healthy watershed is vital for purification of water and conservation of water.

5) We have vital wetlands which are essential to keep for water management/flooding.

6) I would like to understand the potential for sale of the path that the community uses that backs on to Woodlawn Glen which all neighbours have access to.

7) I would like to consider this strip of land area also to be protected:

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.quietparks.org%2Fquiet-conservation-area&data=05%7C01%7Cniska%40grandriver.ca%7C14a1eba8123946717f8b08db555b9a62%7C1315710bb3704b46afe05f81d18c449a%7C0%7C0%7C638197624184575681%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=feEUAgpp2myThS%2BdPyOnsG2tmvhEN09R6rj%2Bbe2xgJM%3D&reserved=0>

I hope you can help to carry on my stewardship and conservation efforts of this area.

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A PORTION OF THIS LAND TO CARRY ON OUR CONSERVATION.

Comment #7**May 15, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 5,7,18,19)

Would like to speak to someone regarding the land holding draft management plan. Called twice but it only allows a voicemail. Can't speak to someone and there is no contact. the paper has publicized this that the GRCA hasn't provided any contact person.

Comment #8**May 15, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 4,6,8,10,11)

Good morning,

Our 6 acres connects onto Niska Land Holdings to the east.

1) We have been maintaining the path which runs parallel to Woodlawn Glen for over 15+ years, allowing a path for walking, for access to city of Guelph staff to access the storm overflow pond, we have been cleaning the stream/river that runs through this area (especially after the new subdivision construction to the south of us dumped an enormous amount of silt), we have been disassembling the drug huts, picking garbage, cleaning up by hand invasive buckthorn.

2) I have been planting native trees/tree seedlings every spring 100-200+, which I purchased from GRCA forestry, to improve the wetlands and the animal corridor, we cut the grass to maintain a safe path for walking to reduce tick encroachment. We have been excellent stewards of this land and we would like to continue to improve this area.

3) The stream that runs through this land is filled with trout, there are salamanders, and this area is home to many turtles. I have encouraged a repopulation of birds to this area by my 18 years of tree planting on Niska by providing a greenspace/wetlands for them. My trees help cool our area and assist in our microclimate.

4) The city of Guelph has a well here which pumps our water from this area, a healthy watershed is vital for purification of water and conservation of water.

5) We have vital wetlands which are essential to keep for water management/flooding.

6) I would like to understand the potential for sale of the path that the community uses that backs on to Woodlawn Glen which all neighbours have access to.

7) I would like to consider this strip of land area also to be protected: <https://www.quietparks.org/quiet-conservation-area>

I hope you can help to carry on my stewardship and conservation efforts in this area.

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A PORTION OF THIS LAND TO CARRY ON OUR CONSERVATION.

Comment #9**May 18, 2023**

Please make walking and bike trails in this area. Please don't develop the land and build houses. The roads won't be able to handle the increase in cars and school is already over populated.

Comment #10**May 18, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 4,6,8,10,11)

Good Morning,

When we purchased our 6 acre property 18 years ago, we moved from the GTA for mental calm. I had an adoration of the GRCA and the philosophy of stewardship of land, water, and nature.

Please help our community know that the GRCA stands for these ideals.

Niska Land Holdings is not in surplus. By selling these lands for further development we risk having more problems.

1) Niska Land is a vital important watershed for the city of Guelph water well that feeds this community. Clean water. The wetlands are vital as a carbon sink, and water filter.

2) This area is a vital Ecosystem, and corridor for the existing habit for animals, birds, reptiles, we need to preserve the quiet and not increase the noise. There are trout and fish in the Niska creek, this flows through my property and this area. We have leaders in the community who advocate for our fish and turtles here. We have a community who cares here.

3) Let us increase nature and not lose nature. When noise pollution increases nature leaves. This affects the community's mental health, and children's mental health.

4) The Niska climate microsystem needs to be preserved in this area, the trees cool our community. Eliminating and adding concrete and asphalt increases the heat.

5) The Niska community has been having issues with increasing noise pollution, the traffic dangers is an ongoing issue with the expansion of Baileys bridge, the city of Guelph and the police are unable to address these issues as it is. If Guelph cannot handle the already problems, how can they increase development in this area? We need a better strategy, CONSERVATION!

-Increase Noise pollution=increase aggression, increase mental health issues, disconnection

-unsafe for children to cross the road due to traffic

-UNSAFE elderly and disabled cross the road due to traffic

6) The GRCA has a responsibility to revive the waterfowl park, and the Niska Land Holdings so it can be once again a point of pride for Guelph. For tourism, for education, for the community.

How can we revive this and have a legacy of pride:

1) Create a Niska Education center

2) Ask the community:

Do you want a place to safely walk your children/grandchildren, to increase/maintain the value of your property, to have a place for community pride and maintain safety?

or

a place with more traffic, concrete, noise, noise pollution, less/no nature, because nature will leave

3) Community fundraising and involvement to revive this area into a proper park

- 4) Collaboration with the University of Guelph as an education, research facility
- 5) Collaboration with the city of Guelph to create a park

We can apply for a Quiet park International award and designation.

I have already nominated Niska Land Holdings area, and we qualify

"All that would be needed is for a specific statement in the Management Plan that lists natural quiet as a valuable resource that is to be protected and managed"

Gordon Hempton, Co-Founder
Quiet Parks International
Cell: +1-360-477-9588
gordon@quietparks.org

<https://www.quietparks.org/quiet-parks-international-award>

*I am interested in taking over a piece of the Niska Land Holdings that I have maintained for 15+ years/purchasing, the lands that i have cared for, planting GRCA trees, cleaning the land, cutting grass and maintaining walking trails for the city of guelph to access the storm ponds and tick prevention.

We can do better, we can create a legacy of pride for the next generation.

Comment #11

May 18, 2023

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 4,6,8,10,11)

Good Morning,

When we purchased our 6 acre property 18 years ago, we moved from the GTA for mental calm. I had an adoration of the GRCA and the philosophy of stewardship of land, water, and nature. Please help our community know that the GRCA stands for these ideals.

Niska Land Holdings is not in surplus. By selling these lands for further development we risk having more problems.

1) Niska Land is a vital important watershed for the city of Guelph water well that feeds this community. Clean water. The wetlands are vital as a carbon sink, and water filter.

2) This area is a vital Ecosystem, and corridor for the existing habit for animals, birds, reptiles, we need to preserve the quiet and not increase the noise. There are trout and fish in the Niska creek, this flows through my property and this area. We have leaders in the community who advocate for our fish and turtles here. We have a community who cares here.

3) Let us increase nature and not lose nature. When noise pollution increases nature leaves. This affects the community's mental health, and children's mental health.

4) The Niska climate microsystem needs to be preserved in this area, the trees cool our community. Eliminating and adding concrete and asphalt increases the heat.

5) The Niska community has been having issues with increasing noise pollution, the traffic dangers is an ongoing issue with the expansion of Baileys bridge, the city of guelph and the police are unable to address these issues as it is. If Guelph cannot handle the already problems, how can they increase development in this area? We need a better strategy, CONSERVATION!-Increase Noise

pollution=increase aggression, increase mental health issues, disconnection-unsafe for children to cross the road due to traffic-UNSAFE elderly and disabled cross the road due to traffic

6) The GRCA has a responsibility to revive the waterfowl park, and the Niska Land Holdings so it can be once again a point of pride for Guelph. For tourism, for education, for the community. How can we revive this and have a legacy of pride:1) Create a Niska Education center2) Ask the community: Do you want a place to safely walk your children/grandchildren, to increase/maintain the value of your property, to have a place for community pride and maintain safety? ora place with more traffic, concrete, noise, noise pollution, less/no nature, because nature will leave
3) Community fundraising and involvement to revive this area into a proper park4) Collaboration with the University of Guelph as an education, research facility5) Collaboration with the city of Guelph to create a park We can apply for a Quiet park International award and designation. I have already nominated Niska Land Holdings area, and we qualify "All that would be needed is for a specific statement in the Management Plan that lists natural quiet as a valuable resource that is to be protected and managed"

Gordon Hempton, Co-FounderQuiet Parks InternationalCell: [+1-360-477-9588](tel:+13604779588)gordon@quietparks.org
<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.quietparks.org%2Fquiet-parks-international-award&data=05%7C01%7Cniska%40grandriver.ca%7Cce6cdebe121a4b29f08008db57a42749%7C1315710bb3704b46afe05f81d18c449a%7C0%7C0%7C638200134790757206%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sd ata=ChixxhUatC9Xluzk6sc%2F15zwlcGrcDZl7EWquZCPX5c%3D&reserved=0>

*I am interested in taking over a piece of the Niska Land Holdings that I have maintained for 15+ years/purchasing, the lands that i have cared for, planting GRCA trees, cleaning the land, cutting grass and maintaining walking trails for the city of guelph to access the storm ponds and tick prevention. We can do better, we can create a legacy of pride for the next generation.

Comment #12 **May 18, 2023**

The Niska Land Holdings should be preserved in a natural but managed state for future generations. This unique area of water, farmland and forest should not be developed or sold to developers. Water and forest resources next to cities are excellent buffers in a warming climate and also habitants for wildlife as well as recreational use.

Comment #13 **May 29, 2023**

As residents of the Niska neighbourhood our family has been impressed with the community stewardship of the land holdings. We spend a significant amount of time walking in the woods as a

family. We are concerned that opening up the lands south of Niska to development will not only bring more people to the area but will impact the eco-system. We have already seen a difference with the installation of the bridge at College/Stone that has brought more people to the woods. There is more garbage, less care taken to stay on established paths.

We are also concerned about the loss of usable farm land in the region. At what point will we realized we have put houses over too much of it?

We strongly encourage the GRCA to hold on to this land. We'd happily contribute to a fund to maintain it; I'm confident many of our neighbours would.

Thanks for listening

Comment #14

June 12, 2023

Request for Comment – GRCA Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan (June 2023)

The Niska Lands are a component of the ecologically significant Hanlon Creek PSW that has been studied extensively over the past half century. The management plan needs to acknowledge the significance of its setting and structure appropriate future natural/human community land use issues accordingly. As outlined below, the land use base has been extensively studied and findings of the various reports/studies over the decades have found their way into the official planning documents of the City of Guelph – the 2023 Official Plan (as amended by OPA 80) and the Comprehensive Zoning By-law (2023-20790).

In terms of basic land use, the bulk of the Niska Lands are comprised of NHS lands – protected natural lands for biodiversity protection, and to permit passive recreational pursuits, i.e., trails, scientific study. A portion of the lands north of Niska are designated for Open Space use (recreational facilities and multi-functional natural buffer enhancement). The lands in the southeast portion of the block, south of Niska are designated for residential development. The Plan outlines development policies applicable to these various land use designations. The Zoning By-law zones the subject Niska Lands in compliance with the Guelph OP policies.

In terms of trail development through the area, guidance is given by way of OP Schedule 6 – Open Space and Trail Network from the Guelph OP. New trail development fits with the goals and aspirations of the City's Guelph Trail Master Plan – May 2021. <https://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Guelph-Trail-Master-Plan.pdf> New trail development will support the great effort the City and the Guelph Hiking Trail Club put into the development of the new Crane Park Community Bridge (opened May 2023 to the north of the Niska lands).

I would urge GRCA to acknowledge the existing ecological protection and extensive planning base information that is available for the Niska Lands area, and to work expeditiously to finalizing a management plan. I do not take issue with the 3 recommendations outlined in the draft Management Plan.

All the best in the completion of your work,

Comment #15
June 14, 2023

I absolutely do not support the sale of the land holdings on Niska especially if the plan is to develop this area including the farm land for residential or industrial use. PLEASE leave this area as it is.

Comment #16
June 17, 2023

Hello - I oppose opening more of the land for development, work with the city if you have maintenance problems, but the answer is not selling conservation land

Comment #17
June 20, 2023

Dear Chair, Board and GRCA staff,

The Guelph Hiking Trail Club would like to acknowledge the work that has been done to bring this “Niska Land Holdings Management Plan” into this phase of the process.

The Guelph Hiking Trail Club is in a unique position to comment on the recommendations.

- The Club has trail maintenance licence agreements with the Authority at Starkey Hill and Smith Property.
- We have managed the Speed River Trail, which runs from Guelph to Cambridge for 50 years. Part of this recreational trail runs through the Niska Land Holdings to the west of the Speed River.
- Working with the City of Guelph we received a GRCA permit to install a pedestrian bridge to the south of Crane Park on city lands. The club managed the project and led a campaign to raise \$65000 to fund the project. The bridge was installed in January 2023 and had an official “Grand Opening” celebration on June 3rd of this year with an associated tree planting activity. This bridge gives safe access to city lands adjacent to the Niska Land Holdings.

On behalf of the Guelph Hiking Trail Club **we support the 3 recommendations** outlined in the Niska Land Holdings 2023 Draft Management Plan and look forward to being an active partner in the development of Niska Lands in concert with two of GRCA’s stated objectives;

To connect people to the environment through outdoor experiences and to manage landholdings in a responsible and sustainable way.

Comment #18**June 21, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 5,7,18,19)

My hope would be that GRCA would not sell/develop the Niska land indicated in the proposal. The wetlands and Speed river are unique and offer many different plant and animal life as indicated in your report. These lands hold an important role in the ecosystem and is crucial to maintaining balance.

Comment #19**June 21, 2023**

(Respondent submitted multiple comments – 5,7,18,19)

I am a concerned tax paying citizen with regards to the proposal For the Niska Land. The land currently offers green space for the neighbouring community. The trails offer a natural and beautiful pathway giving opportunity to appreciate the waterways, bird, animal and plant life. The way god intended. By incorporating compact gravel or pavement trails would create another man made trail system and take away from the lands beauty. It is crucial that the lands are preserved and not turned into another man created project.

Comment #20**June 21, 2023**

This is a comment regarding the Niska lands to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the GRCA board. I would like to encourage the GRCA Board to approve the draft management plan. With that, the GRCA can engage with the City of Guelph to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement to maintain portions or all of Niska. Thanks.

Comment #21**June 22, 2023**

The Niska Land Holdings, and the other surrounding natural areas, have been an important part of my family's life ever since we moved to Guelph's south end more than thirty years ago. My children grew up exploring its trails and waterways, and I still walk in the woods nearly every day. Guelph is lucky to have such a beautiful, accessible natural area, and it should be expanded, not diminished. I applaud the GRCA's work to develop a draft management plan so that the Niska Land Holdings can be conserved for future generations. However, I am alarmed by the GRCA's proposal that the agricultural field south of Niska be declared surplus and sold off. Although I understand that the field may not currently align with the mandate of the GRCA, selling it off would be a wasted opportunity. Instead, the field should be incorporated into the broader trail system proposed in Recommendation 1 of the 2023 Draft Management Plan. It could be reforested, re-wilded, or turned into a recreational area for families; it could even host a parking lot so that more people can enjoy the nearby woods. But opening the land up to development would spoil the the area's integrity and erode its natural beauty. I urge the GRCA not to dispose of of the agricultural field south of Niska.

Comment #22
June 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Trout Unlimited Canada and our local Speed Valley Chapter regarding your public call for comment on the GRCA's Niska Land Holdings Management Plan.

Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) is a national, not-for-profit charity that is science-based and volunteer driven. Partners and volunteers are paramount to the numerous successful river restoration projects we implement every year. Through our Speed Valley Chapter, we have a long history of working to protect, enhance, and restore Hanlon Creek, which flows through the Niska Land Holdings and where it meets the Speed River. Our work protects and enhances water quality, water flow, aquatic and riparian life, community health, and creates additional benefits of a healthier environment. TUC is proud of the critical role our organization has played in the protection of freshwater environments for over 50 years and the value we provide to the lives of Canadians.

We welcome your call for comments on the recommendations in the Niska Land Holdings Management Plan, which we provide below:

Recommendation 1: *Engage with the City of Guelph and other third parties to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement for parcels of land that can provide recreational or conservation opportunities.*

TUC is fully in support of Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) engaging with the City of Guelph and other third parties to explore opportunities to enter into a maintenance agreement for parcels of land that can provide recreational or conservation opportunities. TUC is interested in being involved as a third-party partner should the City of Guelph enter into a maintenance agreement over the land holdings.

Recommendation 2: *Continue to advocate and promote partnership opportunities to manage and monitor the biodiversity and ecological systems within the land holdings.*

TUC is fully in support of GRCA advocating and promoting partnership opportunities to manage and monitor the biodiversity and ecological systems within the Niska Land Holdings. Indeed, our organization would welcome the opportunity to expand our work on Hanlon Creek into the land holdings, including but not limited to water temperature monitoring, aquatic species surveys, stream and riparian restoration, and enhancing stream connectivity.

Recommendation 3: *Dispose of lands south of Niska Rd. that are associated with the agricultural lease and identify other lands that could be suitable for disposition.*

This matter falls outside of TUC's mandate, and we do not have comment as to whether these lands should be disposed of, however, if the lands identified are disposed of, we advocate for the implementation of stormwater runoff management best practices.

Thank you for this opportunity for comment. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Comment #23

June 25, 2023

The proposed sale of lands for residential development should be supported by the community, and is an initiative that I support personally. The land has been designated in the Official Plan as such for a number of years, is a natural extension of the adjacent residential uses, it is on tableland, and the Authority does need the money, in light of a series of grievous cuts to MNRF grants since 1995. The Authority could increase the sale value of these lands by expediting completion of the City-proposed trail along the river (per its Guelph Trail Master Plan) from Pioneer Road to its Crane Park property.

The plan omits mention of a number of man made assets, features or disturbances to the property, namely:

- the closed “municipal” roadway that was built into the Hanlon Creek valleyland, running north, off the end of Ptarmigan, and that was apparently abandoned due to opposition from neighbouring residents (c. 1980?)
- the steel Eagle footbridge at the end of that roadway, crossing Hanlon Creek
- the City’s sewer easement associated with the roadway
- the City’s easement for a sewer, which runs along much of the north side of the property westerly to Stone Road West
- the very old/heritage dam embankment on the north side of the creek, north of the field.
- the dike paralleling the river, on the section west of Pioneer and south of Niska Roads.
- the road system (also on this section of the property) that apparently once served a campground or picnic area, and that appears to link to the end of the dike. The GRCA’s 1982 Master Plan shows these roads and the dike as “existing trails”, but they are now somewhat overgrown. The roadway and the dike top will serve as a solid basis for the City-proposed trail from Crane Park to Pioneer Road, a proposal that has been specified in the Guelph Trail Master Plan since 2005.
- the large gravel parking lot on tableland behind the main gate to the property (which would be capable of supporting the potential sports fields in the fields north of Niska)
- the small gravel parking area for the Speed River Trail and the John Wood 2 Sidetrail on the portion of the property west of the Niska bridge over the Speed River, which straddles the road allowance and Authority lands, and as is maintained by the City for 4 season use. Trails have been in use on this portion of the property, with GRCA permission, since 1973. These trails were rationalized in 2007 based on a GHTC written request and an approval by Martin Neumann, GRCA forester.
- the area of gravel and silt deposited into the PSW from stormwater flows off of the south side of the Niska road allowance onto GRCA lands south of Niska, prior to the road reconstruction project
- over 500 feet of boardwalk and some half dozen small wooden bridges (apparently being reasonably well maintained by residents from the nearby neighbourhoods)
- an extensive network of footpaths, most of which had been already shown as “existing trails” by GRCA staff in 1982 in their authoring of the GRCA’s Hanlon Creek Conservation Area Master Plan, plus other trails completed and being maintained by neighbouring residents
- on the Niska Road allowance, the 3 metre wide multi-use path, completed by the City as part of its reconstruction of Niska and its bridge over the Speed River, in order to bring local residents to the trailhead for the Speed River Trail

Daily access to the property has been enjoyed for many years on the many existing trails by local residents/dog walkers, given the adjacency of to several large residential areas, and specifically:

- up and down the Hanlon Creek valley from both ends of the Eagle bridge on the “Ptarmigan roadway extension”, as well as from multiple points to the south along that roadway
- along the trail atop the sewer easement within the north east boundary, as accessed from Stone Road West and a City property fronting on Woodland Glen Path
- from trails in the adjacent City of Guelph’s Crane Park on the northwest boundary of the property
- from a trail into the Hanlon Creek valley from Authority land fronting on Niska, slightly east of and opposite from Tanager Court
- from the terminus of the City’s multi use path at small parking area on Niska (in Puslinch) for access to the Speed River Trail and John Wood 2 Sidetrail
- and less regularly, in winter, spring and fall seasons, from the adjacent Pioneer Trailer Park, along the riverbank and also atop the dike.

The plan does not note the existence of other materials remaining on the property, that should be removed as part of further decommissioning, specifically: sundry chain link fencing inside the former waterfowl park near the river, and corrugated iron roofing left on the parcel south of Niska next to the former roadway.

The plan errs in indicating trails on a map as being part of the City’s trail system, as they are on Authority property and are not managed by the City under any agreement to date.

The original vision of the 1982 Master Plan for the Hanlon Creek (Preservation Park) wetland, and the length of the valley of Hanlon Creek, ending at the Niska Waterfowl Park, has not been mentioned in the management plan. The Master Plan Concept (Figure 8.1) proposed a continuous trail running from its large wetland holdings east of the Hanlon, down the creek valley to the Speed River. In fact, a trail underpass was completed by MTO beneath the Hanlon Parkway (c.1970) at the request of both the City and the Authority *for the very reason* that it would enable completion of the trail along the valley (not in close proximity to the creek, however) so as to connect the wetland east of the Hanlon Parkway to the Niska Waterfowl Park and the Speed River. Since that time, the City has acquired lands in the valley to the west of the Hanlon sufficient to enable such a trail to be completed.

The Authority succeeded in gaining an agreement for the City to manage its larger holdings along Hanlon Creek east of the Hanlon Parkway in recent years. As these lands also lie within the City it would seem entirely appropriate for the City to also manage the undevelopable portion of all the Authority lands to the west of the Hanlon as well. It is most perplexing to the public as to why such an agreement has not been struck to date and implemented. After so many years have passed since the waterfowl park closed and the tenancy expired, the expectation of Guelph residents is that the property will be reopened in the near future, presumably under “new management.”

The Management Plan should be amended to include two appendices:

- a listing of the works performed by GRCA to decommission the former Niska Waterfowl Park, and the total cost of this work
- a listing of the *specifics* of additional safety issues (pursuant to the suggestion on page x of the Plan) that remain to be dealt with before the property can be re-opened to the public

Comment #24
June 25, 2023

I would like to enter comments on the recommendations of the Niska Land Holdings Draft Management Plan. I was a delegate at the meeting that recommended a Management Plan, so I feel that it is important that I register my feedback.

I was also part of the Speed River Valleylands Working group, and President of Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Guelph and Wellington Branch who supported the working group and neighbourhood association in its efforts to preserve the Niska Bridge.

I am greatly concerned that the recommendations in the draft Management plans fail to recognize the cultural heritage of the Niska area landscape as a whole. Replacing the heritage Niska Bridge and widening Niska Road caused huge damage to the natural and cultural heritage of the Speed River Valley. The recommendation to sell off the south portion of the former Kortright Waterfowl Park, and Hanlon Creek Conservation area will do even more damage to the river valley.

I applaud the recommendation to preserve the northern section of the former Waterfowl Park for recreational and conservation opportunities like a trail system, however the recommendation to sell off the southern portion for more housing sprawl is egregious and contrary to sustainability. The Niska Wildlife Foundation, following in the footsteps of Howard Mack, stated its primary goal to “increase public awareness of wildlife resources and their preservation.” Although ridiculed today, the purpose of those lands was to foster Canada geese who were an endangered species at the time of the founding of the Waterfowl park.

Today we need agricultural lands to feed our growing populations; the alarming sprawl of housing subdivisions in southern Ontario is destroying those much-needed farmlands. To sell off this prime land south of Niska is to sell off an important part of our food supply, and to allow even more paving over of our province. The proposed housing would threaten our groundwater supply as well.

You do not mention any consultation with any First Nation, especially the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who are the stewards of the lands along the Speed River. I’m sure they would be interested in your findings and should be consulted before you make any decision on these Niska lands.

We spent hundreds of hours in fighting the loss of the heritage Niska Bridge and the widening of Niska road into the natural areas along its edges. Please do not contribute to the further degradation of the area by selling off this land for more urban sprawl.

Comment #25
June 25, 2023

Apparent Omissions and inaccuracies in the Niska Landholdings 2023Draft Management Report
I was surprised to see that the management plan is only a brief 30 pages long for such an important ecologically sensitive property.

My comments and concerns:

Section 3.2.4 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

How can the GRCA predict the impacts of declaring this land surplus with knowing its contribution to the base flow of the Speed River? There is no watershed plan for the Speed River. The PPS section 2.2.1 states “ Planning Authorities shall protect

Improve or restore water quality and quantity by “using watersheds as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and longterm planning.”

The 8 hectares on the south side of Niska are identified in the Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Risk as having a significant recharge reduction risk. There is no overland runoff from this property all rainfall is recharged. I have several years of pictures to illustrate this. Figure 4 does not show the shallow groundwater flow on the 8 hectares south of Niska. Why not?

This section does not reference the findings in the Class Niska Rd. Improvement EA. which discovered areas of significant groundwater discharge into the Speed River in the area of the Niska Rd. Bridge. This discharge provides refuge for the brook trout in the summer and creates an ice free environment for waterfowl in the winter. This area of the River is listed by the MNRF as a Provincially Significant overwintering area for waterfowl.

Has the GRCA identified the source of the TCE contamination ?

Furthermore, a reduction in groundwater recharge into the Speed may reduce the summer low flow conditions downstream from our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Affecting dilution of the wastewater. Alterations to the groundwater regime may also impact the provincially significant groundwater seeps on the north side Niska. There is inadequate info in this report to identify future problems.

The management plan does connect or discuss the hydrological importance of the Niska lands to the health of the Speed River and the Hanlon Creek this is a major flaw.

Section 4.2 Current GRCA Management Practices .

? What management practices? There has been a long-standing history of neglect of the Niska lands by the GRCA. The role of the GRCA in the long term deterioration of the former Niska Waterfowl Park has been omitted. In 1977 the GRCA acquired a world class nature facility that was supposed to form a key portion of the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area. When the 8 hectares on the south side of Niska RD were annexed into the city of Guelph from Puslinch Township they were placed into a P1 parkland zoning in preparation for the incorporation of this portion of the Niska Waterfowl Park into the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area. The Master Plan for the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area is listed in the references. Why does this management plan not discuss the option of implementing the the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area Master Plan? Especially given that the GRCA is already aware of the overuse of it other conservation areas? The City of Guelph Parks and Recreation Plan 2022 describes a future shortage of parkland and the need in future to purchase more land for parks, so how can this land be declared surplus?

As the landlord the GRCA was entitled to inspect the park yearly and the lease indicated that the park facilities were to be maintained in good condition. Instead, under the GRCA a world class nature facility with 45,000 visitors a year was allowed to fall into wrack and ruin. In 2014 the GRCA closed the park so why has it taken almost 10 years to produce this management plan? Thousands of hours of volunteer hours used to build an outdoor viewing towers, an outdoor auditorium and other facilities were wasted

when the park facilities were demolished. The Niska lands were supposed to be transitioned into a nature reserve. Years have been wasted that could have been used to plant and establish meadow habitat and forest habitat. An initiative that could have added to the overall forest cover in the watershed.

The management plan does not acknowledge that there is a balance of \$3,861,668 in the Land Sale - Valley Land - Guelph as of Dec. 2021. This reserve increased to \$5,194,168 as of Sept 2022. Why isn't this reserve fund being put to use? How much of the fund dates back to the original Valleylands Project Fund?

4.2.1 Agriculture

The Management Plan Section 4.2.1 describes the agricultural fields but does not mention their historical importance to the waterfowl park as sources of feed and food for overwintering waterfowl in the Speed River. There is no alternative ecological uses suggested. These fields were to be part of the nature reserve in the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area.

These fields could be rehabed into meadow and field habitat for species in decline such as field birds and wildlife dependant on open meadow areas.

Section 3.3 Terrestrial Resources

Where are the maps showing the ECL's??? Without them I cannot determine how your ECL identification compares to the ECL's in previous studies. Please provide these maps.

What were the exact dates of your surveys? Were 4 season surveys completed? Please provide this information.

I found it disturbing that the GRCA did not reference or make use of the extensive lists of species and ELC's found in the Niska Rd. Improvement Class C EA? As a reviewing and commenting agency for the EA the GRCA did review these reports so please explain this omission?

Please amend your report to include this data. Otherwise you cannot state that "all observations historical or recent have been noted"

Eg. Endangered bats on Niska lands found during the EA study for Niska Rd but are not on your list why not? This is a major omission not identifying a federally protected species.

The terrestrial section should be expanded before any decisions are made re surplus land. The identification of SWH and candidate SWH should be made now not after any decisions are made to declare land surplus because many species use different habitats at different times in their lifecycle.

How can you do this later? It should be done now as part of the plan. After all isn't that the purpose of a proper management plan - to identify what needs to be protected or restored? Without this determination your management plan is incomplete.

3.4. Aquatic Resources

Not complete. Since the fish in the Speed River may be dependant on groundwater recharge from the Niska lands this area of the river needs to be surveyed as part of the management plan. Water temperature data loggers should be placed in the Speed River. Brook trout within a major urban city is a unique resource. The GRCA must identify in the Management Plan how they intend to protect and restore their habitat.

Section 3.5 Fauna

Section 3.5.2 and 3.5.3

This section is insufficient and not acceptable. Not acceptable because no formal surveys were conducted of mammals, amphibians and reptiles. This area is a Stratum II Deer winter congregation Area. Where are the deer trails? How can planning occur without data? I suspect that the GRCA would not accept this if they were reviewing reports from the development industry or the city.

Section 3.7. Invasive Species.

No mention of phragmites spreading through wetland area on the north and south side of Niska Rd. During the reconstruction of Niska Rd. The City was willing to remove the phragmites on the GRCA

property on the south side of Niska but the GRCA refused the offer. Since then it has spread filling in this small wetland.

Section 4 Current Management Practices

This section does not mention the problems that have occurred on the Niska lands since park was closed.

Despite the “no trespassing signs”. There has been significant trespassing on the land including off leash dogs , unauthorized buildings, hunting etc. There is even a campsite shown on Google Maps.

Other Problems with the plan. There is no Cultural Heritage section in this plan.

This is very serious omission especially given the Status of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River.

The recommendations of Heritage Guelph at their November 9, 2015 Meeting supporting the designation the Niska cultural heritage landscape under section 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act is not included in this plan. Why Not? Without assertion on cultural heritage this management’s incomplete and should be rejected by the Board of the GRCA. What does the GRCA intend to do to support the designation if the land is declared surplus? How will the cultural heritage view shed be protected for all the citizens of Guelph to enjoy?

In conclusion I strongly believe that this plan is incomplete, inadequate and lacks details . Thus if this plan is brought forward in its current iteration I respectfully request that the GRCA Board Members reject this plan and send it back to staff with the funding needed to produce a complete and fullsome plan with details.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan

I reserve the right to submit comments at a later date if any relevant information becomes available.