

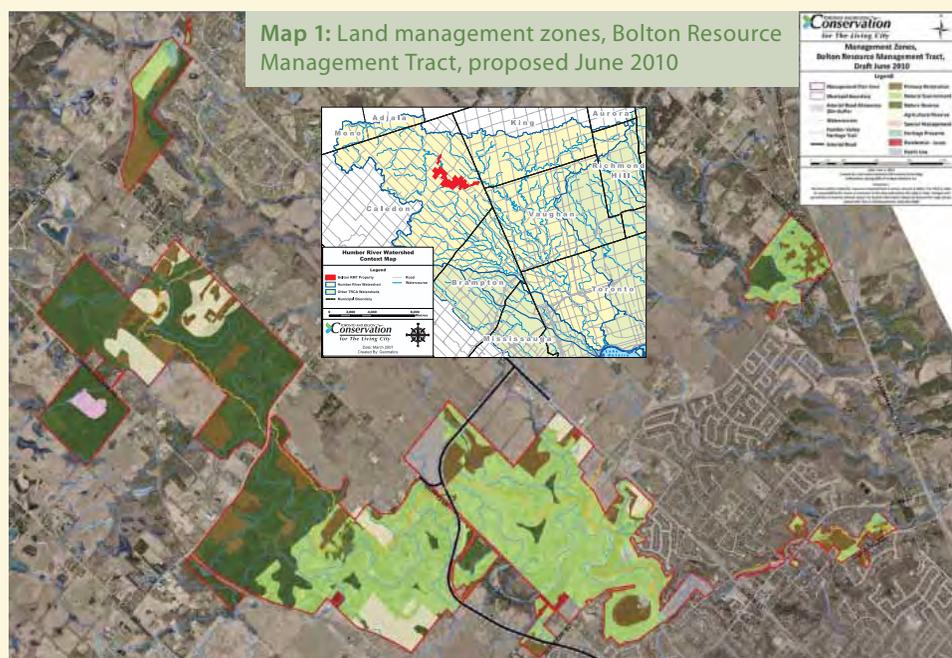
Bolton Resource Management Tract Management Plan

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

What is the Bolton Resource Management Tract?

The area included in the Bolton Resource Management Tract (BRMT) Management Plan includes over 800 hectares of greenspace in the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel. It includes Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA)-owned and managed properties along the Humber River valley, south of Old Church Road, north of King Street and west of Highway 50. Included in this area are the BRMT, Edelweiss Park, Dick's Dam Park and Bolton Mill Park. Forest management and restoration has been the focus for much of the land management in the study area. Some portions provide the opportunity for passive, year-round public use. The primary public use of the resource management tract is the Humber Valley Heritage Trail, a pedestrian-only trail. In addition, some agricultural land is leased.



Map 1: Land management zones, Bolton Resource Management Tract, proposed June 2010

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Bolton Resource Management Tract Management Plan's mailing list, please contact:

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If you would like more information about visiting TRCA conservation areas or to find out about upcoming events, please contact:

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Why prepare a management plan?

The management plan for the BRMT will address property management and public safety issues, respond to future demands and growth in the region, integrate and implement Humber River watershed management strategies, establish appropriate environmental protection and restoration techniques, receive public input regarding appropriate use, development and management of lands, and create a sense of stewardship among users and adjacent land owners. It will guide the management of the property for years to come, helping TRCA achieve its goal for the Living City - a vision for healthy communities based on a healthy ecosystem.

We have been busy

Property Acquisition

TRCA acquired two new properties in the area, the former Campbell and the former Muise properties, and has added them to the scope of the BRMT Management Plan.

The former Campbell Property is located on Columbia Way, Bolton, Ontario. It was acquired by the TRCA in 2008 with the assistance of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and funding from the Regional Municipality of Peel, the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. The property is located on the southern boundary of the Oak Ridges Moraine and has been designated a Natural Linkage Area by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. It contains sections of the Cold Creek West Tributary, which is part of the headwaters

for the Humber River. The property contains three types of forests – mature hardwood, conifer plantations and riparian forest. The total area of the acquisition was 37.2 hectares.

The former Patrick Muise Property is located on the east side of Humber Station Road between Old Church Road and Castlederg Sideroad, Caledon. It was acquired by the TRCA in 2009 with a 50% donation through the federal Ecological Gift Program and funding assistance from the City of Toronto. The property is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine and has been designated a Natural Core Area by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Its environmental features include a mosaic of forest, wetland and meadow habitat that contributes to a larger and contiguous natural habitat. The total area of the acquisition was 1.67 hectares.



Management Plan Advisory Committee

A public advisory committee, known as the BRMT Management Plan Advisory Committee, has been established to help TRCA develop the management plan for the BRMT. This group is comprised of local stakeholders and interest groups and members of the community.

TRCA and the Advisory Committee have been hard at work collecting background information and envisioning the future of the BRMT. Together, they have defined a vision for the property, management principles, goals, objectives and management zones. These will be referred to as the plan is developed and finalized.

Public Information Session

TRCA and the Management Plan Advisory Committee hosted a public information session on June 10, 2010. Members of the public were invited to attend and learn about the draft vision statement, goals and management zones that were developed for the property. They were also invited to provide feedback on the proposed items. Nine members of the public attended the session at Humberview Secondary School. The proposed materials were well-received and positive discussions took place. A summary of the meeting can be found at www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/oak-ridges-moraine.dot. TRCA and the Advisory Committee are happy to announce that no changes were necessary to the drafts presented at the public information session.

Vision Statement for the Bolton Resource Management Tract

The following statement reflects the ultimate vision for the Bolton Resource Management Tract, once the Bolton Resource Management Tract Management Plan has been fully implemented.

The Bolton Resource Management Tract acts as a natural connection in the greenspace system of The Living City's Humber River Watershed. Nature-based recreation and education complement the natural and cultural heritage resources that have been protected, restored and enhanced with the support and stewardship of the community.

Management Principles for the Bolton Resource Management Tract

The following principles have been derived from various TRCA management strategies, policies and plans, and from the ideas put forth by the BRMT Management Plan Advisory Committee during their visioning workshop. They are intended to represent what is desirable for the BRMT and to help determine appropriate directions for the management of the property. These principles guide the management goals and objectives.

- 1 Use the principles of ecological integrity to conserve, protect, regenerate and celebrate the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the BRMT.
- 2 Effectively manage public use safety and liability issues.
- 3 Promote nature-based recreation and education opportunities that respect natural and cultural heritage resources.
- 4 Develop awareness and promote cooperation between all stakeholders and form partnerships that will enhance stewardship and provide protection of the conservation lands.
- 5 Utilize flexible management approaches that allow for adaptation as the management plan is implemented.
- 6 Ensure net gains to the local economy, social cohesion and ecological integrity.
- 7 Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.



Management Goals for the Bolton Resource Management Tract

The following management goals and objectives have been derived from various TRCA management strategies, policies and plans, and from the ideas put forth by the BRMT Management Plan Advisory Committee during their visioning workshop. Management actions to support the goals and objectives will be developed as the management planning process continues.



Healthy Rivers and Shorelines

Goal: To protect and enhance the form and function of the Humber River aquatic system.



Regional Biodiversity

Goal: To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem to improve quality, biodiversity and ecological function.
Goal: To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the land through innovative planning,

management and appropriate conservation, recreation and other land uses.

Sustainable Communities

Goal: To protect and enhance the integrity and economic viability of agricultural areas.
Goal: To manage the BRMT using an ecosystem approach.
Goal: To identify, document, protect and conserve cultural and heritage resources for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area.
Goal: To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the land and water, their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships in the BRMT and surrounding areas.
Goal: To provide opportunities for appropriate, accessible nature-based recreation activities that are environmentally, physically and economically sustainable, and which are consistent with all other objectives.
Goal: Link into a system of inter-regional trails and local and regional-scale nature-based recreation, education and tourism destinations within the greenspace system.

Business Excellence

Goal: To promote and facilitate the ongoing public involvement towards a partnership that will foster sustainable living and will accomplish watershed management objectives, as well as implement Management Plan recommendations.

Land Management Zones

The BRMT has been delineated into land management zones to reflect the vision and management goals for the BRMT. The management zone definitions (Table 1) are standard zones used in all TRCA management and master plans, although not every property will utilize all the zones. TRCA staff and the Advisory Committee reviewed the vision for the BRMT and the possible management zones. After much discussion, the results of their efforts are reflected in Map 1 (see also Table 2).

Table 1: TRCA land management zone definitions.

MANAGEMENT ZONE	DEFINITION
Nature Reserve	Areas that have significant or unique natural features, landforms, species or habitats that require careful management to ensure long-term protection.
Natural Environment	Large core habitat areas and corridors that are “natural” in character, but do not meet the criteria of the Nature Reserve Zone.
Primary Restoration	Priority lands where ecological health and diversity could be enhanced through active environmental restoration.
Public Use	Areas that have existing or potential for recreational and educational uses, facilities or services. This designation may include areas with suitability to low, moderate or high intensity public uses. These areas may include areas subject to lease or management agreements, such as Edelweiss Park, and may restrict public access.
Residential – Lease	Areas of the property containing residential dwellings that are leased by the TRCA and that have restricted access.
Operations	This refers to areas of the property containing operational buildings and their surrounding areas used by the TRCA staff for operational, maintenance and administrative duties. No public use is allowed.
Special Management	Areas that require special management practices to address storm water management, to control invasive vegetation, to remediate the natural environment or for some other reason.
Heritage Preserve	Areas that have important human heritage features or landscapes that require careful management to ensure long-term protection.
Agricultural Reserve	Areas that have existing or potential for agricultural uses, including crops or nursery operations. These areas may be subject to lease agreements.
Commercial	Areas that have existing or potential for commercial, office or institutional buildings.

Table 2: Land management zones, Bolton Resource Management Tract.

MANAGEMENT ZONE	HECTARES	%
Natural Environment	360.65	41.0
Nature Reserve	296.84	33.7
Primary Restoration	117.27	13.3
Agricultural Reserve	67.72	7.7
Public Use	23.99	2.7
Special Management	7.01	0.8
Residential Lease	2.57	0.3
Heritage Preserve	2.19	0.2
<i>Bolton Arterial Road 30 m Allowance</i>	2.88	0.3

Over 88% of the property will remain in natural cover as part of the Nature Reserve, Natural Environment and Primary Restoration land management zones. Much of these lands are on the Oak Ridges Moraine and along the Humber River valley. Approximately 8% of the tract will be allocated to agriculture including maintaining some existing farm leases and entering into a new farm agreement with Albion Hills Community Farm Incorporated. Public uses will be concentrated in Dick’s Dam Park, Jack Garrett Park and the parcel of land severed by the construction of the Bolton Arterial Road (the Bolton by-pass). The Humber Valley Heritage Trail will continue to provide pedestrian hiking opportunities, while a separate trail to accommodate bicycles is being investigated. Special Management zones have been established in the areas of storm water management ponds and other flood control structures. TRCA will continue to lease three residential properties. A Heritage Preserve zone has been established at the Cedar Mains property with the intent of celebrating the cultural heritage significance of the Blair family in the local area.



Site Securement and Protection Plan

Unauthorized use of TRCA land is a major factor in land care across TRCA’s jurisdiction including the BRMT. As such, a site securement and protection plan has been developed to manage the unauthorized uses that are occurring on the BRMT property. The plan outlines all boundary issues for the property, including current and potential access points, major trails and existing fencing conditions. The plan also makes recommendations about actions to remedy these issues. Some of these actions are short-term and have already been implemented. Others are longer-term action items and may be implemented as a result of the management planning process.

Current Management Plan Initiatives

We have accomplished a lot but there are still things to be done in order to complete the management plan for the BRMT. Here are just a few things that we are working on.

The **Humber Valley Heritage Trail** traverses the property and is an important recreational feature in the area. It is maintained as a footpath by the Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association. It is known that the trail is also used by persons on bicycles. TRCA is working with the BRMT Management Plan Advisory Committee to plan and improve the trail system for the property that will incorporate pedestrians and cyclists, that will connect the village of Bolton to Albion Hills Conservation Area and other trail systems, and that will provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy the trail system. Please stay tuned for more details.

The Region of Peel is at the detailed design stage for the construction of the **Bolton Arterial Road** (also known as the Bolton by-pass) with a portion of the road crossing the BRMT. TRCA and the BRMT Management Plan Advisory Committee continue to work with the Region of Peel to ensure that the road and its construction will have a minimal impact on the environment and that the public benefits from the road. Borehole investigations within the proposed area of the road alignment are expected to begin shortly. For more information about the road, please contact the Region of Peel.

And there's more!

TRCA continues to be committed to its **Conservation Land Care Program**. We are actively inventorying and monitoring our lands and waters in the area. If you see a TRCA staff person while you are out enjoying the BRMT or another of TRCA's properties, please feel free to ask for some insight on our projects. Here are just a few that we are currently working on in the area:

- Improving our fence and gate conditions.
- Notifying neighbours of encroachments onto TRCA lands.
- Removing unauthorized tree houses, bridges, hunting blinds and other structures on TRCA property.
- Cleaning up household and commercial waste dumped on conservation lands.
- Assessing the condition of our trails and ensuring their safety for trail users.
- Asking users to participate in online trail surveys.
- Enhancing the trails at Albion Hills Conservation Area and Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area.
- Treating invasive vegetation species such as Giant Hogweed, common buckthorn, dog-strangling vine and garlic mustard.

Taylorwood Valley on Bolton's North Hill is going to the birds! Thanks to the local community, Bolton District Horticultural Society and TRCA, seven bird nesting boxes have been installed and over 500 native trees and shrubs were planted in the valley this year. This work has been so well received by the community

that details of a spring work bee to maintain the site are already being arranged. Please stay tuned for more information at www.trcastewardshipevents.ca.

TRCA has entered into a long term lease agreement with the **Albion Hills Community Farm** (AHCF) to farm approximately 76 acres of TRCA agricultural lands within the BRMT and Albion Hills Conservation Area. In partnership with TRCA, the AHCF will contribute towards a sustainable and accessible local food system by aligning food, farming, community, heritage, education and conservation. The farm will engage the community in educational programming around local food and sustainable farming practices. It has the potential to provide food for up to 48,000 meals for the two on-site education centres, based on season and availability. Produce will also be available to the community via gate sales, farmers markets and a Community Supported Agriculture program. The farm will start its first growing season in 2011.



How you can be involved

In order to produce the best possible management plan for the BRMT, we would like to obtain broad public input. This will ensure that the final management plan reflects the needs and wishes of both local communities and the region's citizens. You can attend public meetings that will be held throughout the development of the plan and provide verbal or written comments. There will be questionnaires provided, which you can complete and return to the TRCA. The best way to stay in touch is by registering for our mailing list. Please contact TRCA to sign up.