



May LRCA Board Meeting
 Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
 130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams
 May 29, 2024 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM EDT

Table of Contents

1. CALL TO ORDER

Declaration: “The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live and work are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. As partners in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed along with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples, the LRCA is committed to the common vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed.”

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as published.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....4

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 4th Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 be adopted as published.

04-24-24 Minutes.pdf.....4

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at _____ p.m.
 THAT: we go into Open Meeting at _____ p.m. THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority April 24, 2024 meeting be adopted as published.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Conservation Ontario comments on the "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the CA Act".....10

Conservation Ontario Response - Minister Permit and Review Powers (ERO 019-8320).pdf.....10

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. GIC Purchase.....15

THAT: The purchase of \$6,500,000 GIC for one year maturing May 8, 2025, at a rate of 4.86% be approved.”

FIN-08-2024 GIC Purchase.pdf.....15

8.2. Audited Financial Statements.....18

THAT: the 2023 Audit Report and Financial Statements are adopted as presented

AND FURTHER THAT each Member Municipality will be forwarded a copy of the final version.

FIN-07-2024, 2023 Audited Financial Statements.pdf.....18

8.3. NMFC-04-2024, Neebing McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study Report.....20

THAT : the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study completed by KGS Group, May 2024, be adopted.

NMFC-04-2024 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study for Board Approval.pdf.....20

8.4. CORP-08-2024: Conservation Area Strategy.....30

THAT : Staff Report CORP-08-2024 be received.

STAFF REPORT CORP-08-2024 Conservation Area Strategy_COMBINED.pdf.....30

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report.....87

Monthly Financial Report April.pdf.....87

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS.....88

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024 cheque #3210 to #3242 for \$168,825.31 and preauthorized payments of \$ 171,306.12 for a total of \$340,131.43, we approve their payment.

Passing of Accounts April.pdf.....88

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Plan Input and Review program comments and Section 28 permits issued since last meeting summaries.

11.1. Plan Review Commenting Summary.....89

Plan Input and Review Yearly Summary April & May.pdf.....89

11.2. Section 28 Permit Summary.....91

Permit Tracking May 2024.pdf.....91

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update.....93

Communications Manager May 2024 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....93

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update.....94

Lands Manager May 2024 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....94

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update.....95

Watershed Manager May 2024 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....95

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being _____ p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.



April LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
April 24, 2024 at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Grant Arnold, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Brian Kurikka

Members Present (Virtual): Trevor Giertuga

Members Absent: Albert Aiello, Greg Johnsen, Jim Vezina

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark Ambrose, Finance Officer

Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager

Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes

Melissa Haresign, KGS Group, part of Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Motion: #50/24

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 3rd Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 be adopted as published.

Motion: #51/24

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

With permission of the Board, the Agenda was amended and Staff Item 8.2 was discussed prior to the In-Camera Agenda.

8.2 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-03-2024 related to the Draft Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study. Melissa Haresign, KGS Group gave a brief presentation to the Board.

THAT: Staff Report NMFC-03-2024 be received for information.

Motion: #52/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

THAT: we now go into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) at 5:04 p.m.

Motion: #53/24

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

THAT: we go into Open Meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Motion: #54/24

Motion moved by Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

THAT: the In-Camera Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority November 29, 2023 meeting be adopted as published.

Motion: #55/24

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Grand Arnold. **CARRIED.**

***THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority refuse the March 25, 2024, Offer to Purchase Land for vacant land owned by the Authority adjacent to Fort William Road.*

Motion: #56/24

Motion moved by Grant Arnold and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Easement Requests

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-02-2024 related to requests for easements to service a Tennis Facility, in Chapples Park by Enbridge Gas Inc. and Synergy North/City of Thunder Bay.

***THAT:** the CAO is authorized to execute a Pipeline Easement with Enbridge Gas Inc to permit the installation of a gas line by directional drilling under the Diversion Channel of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway near the Redwood Avenue Bridge.*

Motion: #57/24

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Grant Arnold. **CARRIED.**

***THAT:** the CAO is authorized to execute an Easement with the City of Thunder Bay to permit the installation of electrical services by directional drilling under the Diversion Channel of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway near Westminster Street.*

Motion: #58/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

8.3 Tangible Capital Assets Policy Update

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-01-2024 related to a policy update of the Authority's Tangible Capital Assets.

***THAT:** Finance Policy FIN-01-2024: Tangible Capital Assets, Version 4.0 be adopted.*

Motion: #59/24

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer's Report for March's Administration and Capital.

9.2. Re-Designation of Provincial Offences Officers

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-07-2024 related to the re-designation of LRCA's Provincial Offences Officers due to the enactment of new regulations and sections within the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

***THAT:** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors designate those individuals identified in Table 1 of Staff Report CORP-07-2024 as Provincial Offences Officers under S.30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act to enforce Section 28 and 29 of the Act and applicable regulations, as amended from time to time **AND FURTHER THAT** the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors also delegate those same individuals as Agents of the Authority for the purpose of the Trespass to Property Act.*

Motion: #60/24

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

***THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period February 1, 2024 to February 29, 2024 cheque #3155 to #3182 for \$127,513.60 and preauthorized payments of \$121,855.77 for a total of \$229,369.37, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #61/24

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the summaries of the Plan Input Review program and Section 28 permits issued since the last meeting.

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

Members reviewed and discussed the final version of the 2023 Annual Report.

***THAT:** the 2023 Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Annual Report be approved.*

Motion: #62/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

Members were advised that the LRCA received funding from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund (TD FEF) for the 2024 Watershed Explorers program.

Members were advised that the booth at the 2024 CLE Home and Garden Show was a success. Staff spoke to over 837 people over the course of the three-day event and sold \$2,594.00 worth of LRCA merchandise.

It was noted that the first LRCA Trivia event held on April 20, 2024 at the Dawson Trail Craft Brewery was successful.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

Members were advised that LRCA Staff constructed a new entrance sign for Wishart Conservation Area with installation pending.

Members were advised that the LRCA purchased an Alaskan Mill, which is a chainsaw attachment. The Alaskan Mill will be used to make benches and planks for signage using fallen trees from LRCA owned land.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the LRCA participated in Ontario Power Generation's call test related to the Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan program for the Kaministiquia River on March 26, 2024.

It was noted that the LRCA's Watershed Manager and GIS/Water Resources Technologist attended the KISTER'S WISKI Training facilitated through Upper Thames River Conservation Authority in London, Ontario.

It was noted that the April 1, 2024 snow surveys indicated that the snow survey locations were below average for snow depth and water content when compared to historical averages for April 1.

It was noted that the Level II low water advisory was still in effect.

It was noted that the 35th Annual Spring Melt Meeting was held on Monday, April 8, 2024.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The EOR posting related to new legislation enabling the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to override a broad suite of CA permitting decisions was discussed.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 5:35 p.m. AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #49/24

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer



MNRF – Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch
Conservation Authorities and Natural Hazards Section
300 Water Street, 2nd Floor, South Tower
Peterborough, ON
K9J 3C7

May 6th, 2024

Re: Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act” (ERO # 019-8320)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the “Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act”. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit comments submitted by CAs on this proposal.

On April 1st, 2024, previously unproclaimed provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)* and associated regulations came into effect. Provisions under sections 28.1, 28.1.1 and 28.1.2 of the *Act* provide the Minister new powers to:

1. Make an order to prevent a CA from issuing a permit to an individual (or individuals) to engage in an activity (or class of activities), that would be prohibited under section 28 of the *Act*;
2. Where an order is made, assume the responsibility for the permitting process in the place of a CA, where the criteria under section 28.1 of the *Act* concerning natural hazards and public safety can be satisfied; and,
3. Review (and potentially alter) CA permit decisions at the request of the applicant (where the Authority has refused a permit or assigned conditions to the permit that the applicant objects to).

Through Ontario Regulation 686/21, CAs provide mandatory programs and services to manage risks related to natural hazards, including preventing or mitigating those risks. Under the *CA Act*, certain prohibited activities require permits from the CA where the activity takes place in or adjacent to specified hazardous landscapes and features. CAs work closely with partner municipalities, the development community, consultants and watershed residents to ensure the permitting process and decisions are transparent, apolitical, and technically sound to protect people and property from the impacts of

natural hazards. Permitting decisions made by CAs are consistent with the *CA Act* and regulations and CA board-approved policies. When making decisions, CAs apply an integrated watershed management perspective to consider local conditions, potential impacts to upstream and downstream communities, and future management challenges.

Conservation Authorities support the Province's objective to increase housing without jeopardizing public health and safety, or the environment. Appeals of CA permitting decisions were infrequent over the past five years; specifically, <0.5% of the approximately 11,500 permits issued annually by CAs are appealed. Existing appeal mechanisms are in place under the *CA Act* to provide applicants with process certainty and appropriate recourse. CAs are committed to positive client service when reviewing and issuing permits, demonstrated by issuing 95% of all permits within provincial timelines in 2023.

In 2019, Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding strongly supported the coordinated, scientific, and hazard/risk-based approach integrated in the current CA permitting process. This process, above all, holds the protection of people and property in the highest regard. Conservation Ontario offers the following comments to ensure this approach is maintained and that use of the Minister's powers will not have unintended impacts and consequences to long-established working relationships and CA review and appeal processes.

Recommendation #1: THAT MNRF pause implementing the regulation and engage with Conservation Ontario and CAs to discuss proposed requirements, implementation details, and public guidance.

The proposed regulation currently scopes the Minister's ability to intervene in the CA permitting process where the development activity pertains to a "specified provincial interest". Conservation Ontario notes the list of provincial interests is extensive, and captures too broad a scope of development applications submitted to CAs.

To ensure appropriate and efficient use of these powers, Conservation Ontario recommends MNRF pause finalization of the regulation and meet with Conservation Ontario, CAs, and municipal representatives to discuss the circumstances for use of the new Minister's powers as well as implementation / procedural details (i.e., how the Minister will consider requests / petitions and make decisions). Appropriate scoping of these details will ensure the process remains transparent and procedurally fair, extinguishes requests / petitions made to circumvent locally established processes, and continues to apply a watershed lens to natural hazard management.

Conservation Ontario offers the following initial comments to refine the proposed regulatory requirements:

- Certain provincial interests (e.g., community services) are defined as "Institutional use" in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and are not permitted in/on hazardous lands and sites. Permitting these types of development activities in hazard lands

must not be considered by the Minister, and due care applied to ensure vulnerable populations or sensitive uses are not located in areas that pose an increased risk to life and property. Decisions by the Province must be consistent with the *CA Act*, Ontario Regulation 41/24, and policies in the PPS.

- Where a request for review or petition is made, proponents must indicate if the local municipality has endorsed the project and request for Minister's involvement. Development activities in one area of the watershed have the potential to impact upstream and downstream communities. Further, political resolutions are procedurally inappropriate where the CA Board (and Members) have hearing tribunal review responsibilities.
- It is proposed proponents be required to identify the status of other required project approvals. Proponents should be specifically required to indicate whether all approvals under the *Planning Act* are in place to demonstrate land use compatibility, appropriate zoning, etc. Permitting decisions made prior to having the appropriate planning approvals in place could put municipalities in a difficult position if they cannot support the works further to a Minister's permit.
- When a Minister's review is requested, the *CA Act* requires the Minister to notify the CA and applicant within 30 days of receiving a request. Further, when making an order under section 28.1.1, the Minister gives notice of an order to every applicable CA. In either scenario, notice should be provided to the applicable CA(s) at the time the request or petition is made. Confirmation on whether the proponent has made the CA(s) aware of initiating this process should be included in the regulatory requirements.

Recommendation #2: THAT MNRF establish a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee to provide decision recommendations to the Minister.

The proposal does not address how the Minister will assess requests for review and petitions for orders and, if applicable, what information and criteria will be applied to make an order or a decision on a *CA Act* permitting matter. The *CA Act* requires the applicable CA to forward relevant documents and information relating to an application to the Minister, as well as provides the Minister with the ability to confer with any other person or body they consider may have an interest in the application. The *Act* and proposed regulatory requirements do not provide details on how this information will be considered.

Recent amendments to the *CA Act* and regulations require all CAs to develop permit application policy and procedure documents and make maps of regulated areas publicly available. CA permitting decisions are undertaken consistent with these board-approved policies, and informed by natural hazard mapping, modelling, and knowledge of local watershed conditions and ongoing/planned projects affecting the watershed. These tools, experience and expertise allow CAs to assess permit applications to determine if an activity may affect the control of flooding, erosion, etc., or jeopardize the health and safety of

persons or result in property damage. It is unclear how the Minister would review and make decisions on applications in the absence of these policies and tools.

An unclear process will add costs and time delays. The existing system includes professionals with a high degree of specialized expertise. For example, existing floodlines have been well justified and peer reviewed. To go down a path of competing submissions is better reserved for the Ontario Land Tribunal with the requisite experience to appropriately weight multiple technical expert submissions.

Alternatively, Conservation Ontario recommends MNRF establish a multi-disciplinary Minister's technical advisory committee to provide recommendations to the Minister when issuing permits or reviewing CA permitting decisions. The committee should bring together technical experts from CAs, Municipalities, the private sector, and applicable provincial ministries to prepare recommendations for the Minister on permit applications. A balance of expertise is essential to ensure bias is not introduced, allowing the Minister to make decisions based on the same criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by CAs. Careful consideration of these applications is required to avoid unintended risk to public safety, properties, or natural hazards and avoid precedent setting decisions that may not align with CA board-approved policies.

Recommendation #3: THAT MNRF is fully responsible and accountable for losses or damages arising from Minister's decisions on permits.

When undertaking a review of a CA permitting decision or overtaking the CA permitting process further to an order, the Minister has the power to issue permits pursuant to the *CA Act*.

Where the Minister's decisions are inconsistent with CA Board-approved policies or CA natural hazard mapping and modelling, the liability for such decisions remains with the issuing body (the Minister of MNRF). CAs are not liable for decisions made under the *CA Act* by another body that may result in losses or damages. Liabilities and risks are one of the major drivers of exponentially increasing insurance costs/premiums, and CAs cannot be the insurers of last resort.

The amended *CA Act* and regulatory proposal purports to have CAs undertake compliance and enforcement activities with permits issued by the Minister. Without CA involvement in the review and approval process, it is difficult to anticipate enforcement and compliance staff resources necessary for permits issued by the Minister. Increases in enforcement and compliance activities may require additional time and staffing resources at the CA, that may increase costs associated with this program and service area. Due care must be applied when the Minister is reviewing and issuing permits to ensure appropriate conditions are assigned to the permit to minimize potential enforcement concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO#019-8320). The details regarding these new Minister's powers must be carefully developed to ensure Minister's decision making on permits remains technical, apolitical and integrates a watershed perspective to natural hazard management to continue protecting the public, properties and infrastructure. Conservation Ontario would be pleased to meet with Ministry staff to further discuss the regulatory requirements and implementation details.

Sincerely,



Chris White
Chair, Conservation Ontario

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
www.conservationontario.ca



PROGRAM AREA	FINANCE	REPORT NO.	FIN-08-2024
DATE PREPARED	May 14, 2024	FILE NO.	
MEETING DATE	May 31, 2024		
SUBJECT	GIC Purchase		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution

“THAT. The purchase of \$6,500,000 GIC for one year maturing May 8, 2025, at a rate of 4.86% be approved.”

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Govern and Enhance:

- *Continue to commit to accountable and transparent organizational governance.*
- *Maintain a stable model of financial resiliency based on capacity, capabilities, and public expectations by maximizing new funding opportunities, fundraising and self-generated revenue.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Utilizing the approved Investment Policy, staff invest Authority funds to generate interest revenue to offset municipal levy. Per the policy, investments greater than \$2,000,000, require Board approval. Staff recommend that the Authority purchase a GIC for \$6,500,000 at 4.86% for one year maturing May 8, 2025. The interest earned of the is investment will be \$315,900 and will be appropriated to Corporate Services (i.e., Administration).

DISCUSSION

The Authority is generally in a positive cash flow position and historically, has invested in short term GICs. Staff recommend investing \$6,500,000 in a one-year GIC at 4.86% that will yield \$315,900 in interest revenue. This investment will mature May 8, 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Investing in GICs will result in a higher rate of return on invested funds as compared to leaving in our Operating account. Investing \$6,500,000 at 4.86% for one-year will earn interest income of \$315,900. This interest income will help offset levy requests for Corporate Services.

CONCLUSION

Investing excess funds in GICs will bring in higher rates of return than leaving funds in the Authority’s Operating account. To maximize investment income, it is recommended that the Authority purchase GICs when cash is in excess of required amounts to fund the operations of the Authority in a given year.

BACKGROUND

Per Finance Policy FIN-02: Investment of Authority Funds (attached), guidelines have been established for the investment of Authority funds.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Finance Policy FIN-02: Investment of Authority Funds

PREPARED BY: Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager

REVIEWED BY: Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer

<p>THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:</p> <p><i>Tammy Cook</i></p> <p>Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer</p>	<p>DATE: May 24, 2024</p>
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Section:	FINANCE		
Title:	FIN-02: Investment of Authority Funds		
Resolution	#80/17	Approval Date:	May 31, 2017

1.0 Purpose

This Policy establishes guidelines for the investment of Authority funds.

2.0 General Investment Principles

All investments must consider the following:

1. Preservation of Capital,
2. Maintenance of liquidity,
3. Competitive return on investments.

3.0 Authorized Investments

The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to invest Authority funds under the following circumstances:

- investments up to \$2,000,000,
- for a period of up to one year, and
- where the capital is guaranteed.

Board of Directors approval is required under the following circumstances:

- investments greater than \$2,000,000,
- for a period greater than one year, and/or
- where the capital is not guaranteed.

4.0 Recording of Interest Income

All Interest income will be recorded in the Administration Fund to offset the annual administrative portion of the municipal levy.

5.0 Annual Reporting

Annually in the month of January, a summary investment report will be presented to the Board of Directors outlining investments made over the previous fiscal year.



PROGRAM AREA	Finance	REPORT NO.	FIN-07-2024
DATE PREPARED	April 30, 2024	FILE NO.	Audit File
MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024		
SUBJECT	2023 Audited Financial Statements		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution

“THAT: the 2023 Audit Report and Financial Statements are adopted as presented AND FURTHER THAT each Member Municipality will be forwarded a copy of the final version.”

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Govern and Enhance:

- *Continue to commit to accountable and transparent organizational governance.*
- *Maintain a stable model of financial resiliency based on capacity, capabilities, and public expectations by maximizing new funding opportunities, fundraising and self-generated revenue.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft 2023 Financial Statements have been completed by Grant Thornton, who have concluded that the financial position of the Authority has been presented fairly, in all material aspects. Once approved by the Board, copies of the final statements will be provided to all Member Municipalities, other government agencies as required, and posted on LRCA website.

DISCUSSION

The 2023 audited Financial Statements have been completed by the audit firm of Grant Thornton for the December 31, 2023, year end. The auditors have determined that the financial position of the Authority has been presented fairly, in all material respects as of December 31, 2023. The audit was performed using general accepted auditing standards. The audit consists of identifying and assessing risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, review internal controls, evaluate the accounting policies adopted by the Authority, and evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

A representative of Grant Thornton will present the statements at the Board Meeting. Once approved by the Board, Grant Thornton will forward a final version, which will be distributed to

all Member Municipalities, other government agencies as required, and will be posted on the LRCA website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Authorities financial position for 2023 has been concluded by Grant Thornton to present fairly in all material respects.

CONCLUSION

Each year the LRCA is required to have an audit of the Authority’s financial records. The audit ensures that the financial position of the Authority represents fairly in all material respect. The 2023 audited financial position of the Authority, as determined by Grant Thornton, has determined that the LRCA has presented fairly, in all material respects, for the year 2023.

BACKGROUND

Per the LRCA Administrative By-Law:

The Authority’s accounts and transactions will be audited by a person licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004* and shall ensure that the annual audit is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

The General Membership shall receive, consider and if appropriate approve the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor annually for the previous year at the April Board Meeting.


The Authority shall forward copies of the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor to Participating Municipalities and the Minister in accordance with Section 38 of the Act and shall make the Audited Financial Statements available to the public on the Authority’s website within sixty (60) days of receiving the Auditor’s Report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

None

PREPARED BY:

Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY: Tammy Cook  Chief Administrative Officer	DATE: May 14, 2025
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PROGRAM AREA	Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Flood Control	REPORT NO.	NMFC-04-2024
DATE PREPARED	May 14, 2024	FILE NO.	2-13-4
MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024		
SUBJECT	Neebing – McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study Report for Board Approval		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution:

“THAT: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study completed by KGS Group, May 2024, be adopted.”

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Links to the Strategic Plan (2023-2027):

Protect and Support:

- *Continue maintaining and enhancing flood control infrastructure in an effort to minimize the impacts of riverine flooding, erosion, and sedimentation.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KGS Group has completed an Integrity Evaluation Study of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway consisting of a comprehensive review of the entire Floodway to ensure that it will continue to provide protection up to the Regional Storm as designed. An Integrity Study is completed every 10 years and assists LRCA staff in the capital planning of the Floodway.

A copy of the Executive Summary from the final Integrity Evaluation Study is attached, and the full report can be found at the following link: [Neebing McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study, KGS 2024](#) (note, this link is set to expire on May 30, 2024).

In general, the study found that the Floodway system continues to operate as designed to provide protection up to the Regional Storm. Based on certain modeling scenarios, KGS observed that the banks between the CPR bridge and confluence with the McIntyre River were overtopped. The report offers recommendations to ensure the continued operation and functionality of the Floodway as designed. LRCA staff will assess and follow through with the recommendations subject to timeframes and available funding. To start, the LRCA has requested quotes from KGS Group to install the recommended monitoring devices, and to complete a focused study to analyze potential overtopped banks to determine if further action is required.

DISCUSSION

During the spring of 2023 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed by LRCA staff to seek a qualified consultant to complete an Integrity Evaluation Study of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway consisting of a comprehensive review of the entire Floodway to ensure that it will continue to provide protection up to the Regional Storm as designed. An Integrity Study is completed every 10 years and assists LRCA staff in the capital planning of the Floodway.

The project was awarded to KGS Group in June 2023. Since that time, KGS submitted a draft report for LRCA Staff review and comment, presented the study to the LRCA Board on April 24, 2024, and submitted the final Integrity Evaluation Study for Board approval. The study included a visual inspection of the Floodway and Diversion channel, completing hydrologic (flows as a result of precipitation) and hydraulic (movement of water in the system) analyses of the system and carrying out a wide range of sensitivity analyses with the hydraulic model to examine the effects of different variables on the hydraulic function of the system.

In general, KGS found that based on current conditions there would be no overtopping of the Diversion Structure for floods up to and including the Regional event. New design flows were established for the system based on current data and the modelling suggested in some instances that there may be overtopping of the banks at certain locations between the CPR bridge and the confluence with the McIntyre River. High-level recommendations included the following:

- Continuing with the ongoing maintenance, surveillance and operation of the Floodway (annual inspections, monitoring sediment, completing dredging when required, regular brush cutting and maintaining vegetation, etc.).
- Ensure continued access to the Floodway channel for dredging activities.
- Install an automated system to collect water level readings at various points along the Diversion and Floodway channels.
- Completing a focused study (high-level flood maps in the areas of interest) to determine the extent of potential flooding of overtopped banks and if any critical infrastructure would be impacted based on the new design flows in the Floodway.
- Continuation of dredging on a reach-by-reach basis and prioritizing the section from the Redwood bridge to approximately 300 m upstream.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff set aside City of Thunder Bay levy each year to fund the continued operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. This study qualified for funding under the 2023-2024 Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program facilitated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). WECI funding will account for 50% of project costs eligible under the program. The WECI program will not fund aspects related to the assessment of climate change, stormwater or the proposed Carrick Street pedestrian bridge on the Floodway:

however, LRCA staff considered these to be important aspects of the analysis and have therefore kept them as required in the study. The total costs are summarized as follows:

- WECI Funding \$76,224.12 (this includes non-recoverable HST)
- City of Thunder Bay \$99,888.81 (this includes non-recoverable HST)

The City of Thunder Bay amount will be appropriated from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway fund, which has adequate funds for the project.

CONCLUSION

KGS Group has completed the Integrity Evaluation Study of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. In general, the study found that the Floodway system continues to operate as designed to provide protection up to the Regional Storm. Based on certain modeling scenarios, KGS observed that the banks between the CPR bridge and confluence with the McIntyre River were overtopped. The report offers recommendations to ensure the continued operation and functionality of the Floodway as designed. LRCA staff will assess the recommendations and will follow through as necessary subject to time and available funding. To start, the LRCA has requested quotes from KGS Group to install the recommended monitoring devices, and to complete a focused study to analyze potential overtopped banks to determine if further action is required.

BACKGROUND

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway was constructed between 1979 and 1984 to provide additional flow capacity in the two river systems and eliminate surface riverine flooding in the lower Neebing River and Inter-City area. Excess flow diversion through the constructed diversion channel from the Neebing River is a routine occurrence during rapid spring melts and intense rainfall events. The Floodway has provided 39 years of continuous operation in eliminating surface flooding in the Inter-City area; diversion occurs on an almost annual basis.

The Authority has conducted various studies in the past to review the performance of the Floodway to facilitate multi-year capital planning of the system to ensure it continues to provide protection up to the designed level of the Regional Storm. An Integrity Study is completed every 10 years, with the last evaluation completed in 2013/2014.

Regular maintenance has occurred over the years including dredging of the sediment traps, dredging of sediment at the lip of the Diversion Channel, erosion protection at the confluence with Lake Superior, close cut clearing of vegetation, sediment removal from within the Diversion Channel, blockage removal at Diversion Structure, etc.


Regular monitoring has occurred over the years with annual inspections of the Diversion Structure completed by a Professional Engineer, annual inspections of the entire Floodway by the staff of the LRCA and City of Thunder Bay, and annual sediment surveys completed during winter months for the length of the floodway.

In May of 2022, the diversion channel was operational for 16 consecutive days due to a highly active spring freshet. As a result, dredging was completed at the lip of the diversion channel in the fall of 2022 removing 6,500 m³ of sediment. This Integrity Evaluation Study consists of a comprehensive review of the entire Floodway and includes modelling and analysis of real (i.e., 2022 spring freshet) and predicted scenarios to evaluate the overall performance of the Floodway and provide recommendations to ensure the Floodway continues to provide protection up to the designed level of the Regional Storm.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Executive Summary – Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Evaluation Study, KGS, 2024 (Attached)
- The full report is available through the following link: [Neebing McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study, KGS 2024](#) (note this link will expire on May 30, 2024).

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:  Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	DATE: May 16, 2024
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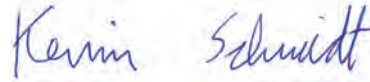
LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study

Revision:
Final / Rev 0

KGS Group Project:
23-3065-002

Date:
May 22, 2024



PREPARED BY:

Kevin Schmidt, P.Eng.
Intermediate Water Resources Engineer



Melissa Haresign, P.Eng.
Water Resources Assistant Department Head



2024-05-17

APPROVED BY:

David S. Brown, P.Eng.
Principal



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study was initiated by the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) in order to carry out a comprehensive review of the performance of the Floodway system. The overall goal was to assess and document major occurrences since the last integrity study (completed in 2014) including extreme weather events, updated data, maintenance activities completed, and to make recommendations for future maintenance required to ensure required functionality. The Integrity Evaluation Study is used by the LRCA staff to facilitate multi-year capital planning of the Floodway. The scope of this work included the following items:

- Visual inspection of the Diversion Channel and Floodway.
- Hydrologic analysis and modelling to update design flows on the Neebing and McIntyre rivers.
- Hydraulic analysis and modelling of Diversion Channel and Floodway.
- Stormwater analysis and modelling.
- Analysis of the May 2022 spring freshet event.
- Analysis of the impact of the proposed bridge at Carrick Street.
- Sedimentation analysis.
- Development of a Phragmites management plan.
- Development of an excess material management plan.
- Review and update of the Operation, Surveillance, and Maintenance Plan.

The visual inspection of the Floodway and Diversion channels indicated that overall, the system is in good condition. Repairs are required along the north side of the Floodway under the Fort William bridge and Memorial bridge, including placement of new geotextile and rip rap. There are also several culvert outlets requiring attention. The culvert repairs would be the responsibility of the property owners.

A hydrologic analysis was carried out to estimate design flows on the Neebing and McIntyre rivers using a combination of flood frequency analyses and hydrologic modelling. The results of the hydrologic analysis showed very good agreement with the design flows previously adopted for recent floodplain mapping studies on the Neebing River and McIntyre River. Therefore, the design flows established in the floodplain mapping studies were used in this study to maintain consistency between studies.

A hydraulic model was developed to analyze various flow and geometry conditions for the Diversion Channel and Floodway. The model was adapted from the Neebing River Floodplain Mapping Study (KGS, 2018) and was updated to include recent cross section survey data and LiDAR. It was re-calibrated using recent flow data to ensure it was representative of current hydraulic conditions. An additional geometry was developed to represent the original design profile that was based on the original design drawings. Flood events were simulated for both profiles and the resulting water surface profiles were compared. In general, the current water surface profiles were higher than the design water surface profiles. This is largely attributed to changes in the channel geometry over time as a result of sedimentation, particularly at the Diversion Channel lip.

A wide range of sensitivity analyses were carried out with the hydraulic model that examined the effects of different variables on the hydraulic regime of the Diversion Channel and Floodway. The findings are summarized below:

- **Full Sediment Traps** – Model results indicated that the CPR and Balmoral sediment traps being half full or full showed minor differences in the resulting water levels throughout the Diversion Channel and Floodway. This is because the trap weirs largely control water levels at these locations and the weirs are present in the channel whether the traps are empty or full.
- **Effects of 2022 Dredging** - The 2022 dredging lowered the water levels in the Floodway. However, the 2022 dredging activities near the Diversion Channel lip did not have a significant impact on Floodway conveyance, as there still is a high point which exists around 150 m downstream of the Diversion Channel lip at elevation 184.50 m which controls the water levels and limits diversion flows. Additional dredging is recommended in this reach to improve conveyance.
- **Lake Superior Water Level** - The effect of the water level on Lake Superior was most evident at lower flows and was most pronounced in the lower reach of the Floodway from the McIntyre confluence to Lake Superior. Upstream of the McIntyre River confluence, any lake level effects were reduced and there was little difference in modelled water levels at the Diversion Channel lip (< 3 cm).
- **Diversion Structure Blockage by Debris or Ice** – The model was altered to simulate a 25%, 50%, and 75% blockage of the Diversion Structure. It was found that the larger the blockage, the more flow diverted through the floodway. At 25% blockage, the additional flows diverted through the diversion channel were minor, generally resulting in minor impact on water levels. The 50% and 75% blockage had a greater impact, with flows increasing by up to 21 m³/s and increasing water levels increasing by up to 38 cm.
- **Sediment Accumulation at Lip of Diversion Channel** – The model was altered to consider 0.5 m, 1.0 m, and 1.5 m of sediment accumulation above the original design invert. Overall, accumulation of sediment at the lip of the Diversion Channel lowered the amount of flow being diverted for a given design flow. This lowered water levels in the Diversion Channel and Floodway, while raising water levels at the Diversion Structure. In general, sediment accumulation of up to 0.5 m result in fairly small changes to flows and water levels at the Diversion Structure. Once the accumulation exceeded 0.5 m, more significant increases are observed.
- **Antecedent Moisture Conditions** - The sensitivity of the antecedent moisture conditions was tested by adjusting the design flows to approximate dry and wet antecedent moisture conditions in the watersheds. These flows were then simulated in the hydraulic model using the 2023 current sediment profile and compared to the average condition. Results indicated that there was a significant difference in resulting water levels between the dry and wet conditions. This is due to the large changes in flows resulting from wet or dry conditions.
- **Climate Change** - Climate change flows were estimated based on the methodologies adopted by the City of Thunder Bay (Case 1) as well as Environment Canada (Case 2). Overall, the significant increases in flow related to the climate change scenarios (30% for Case 1 and 70% for Case 2), resulted in a significant increase in water levels along the Floodway and Diversion Channel.
- **Excessive Vegetation Growth in the Diversion Channel** - The effects of vegetation growth in the Diversion Channel were assessed with the hydraulic model by altering the channel roughness coefficient

in the Diversion Channel to be representative of various levels of vegetation growth. Heavy vegetation resulted in increased water levels in the Diversion Channel, as well as reduced conveyance through the channel.

- **Impact of Invasive Species Phragmites** - To determine the effects of phragmite growth on water levels in the Floodway, channel roughness was increased to 0.10 in the locations where phragmites may grow. Model results indicated that phragmite growth caused a significant increase in water level in the Floodway.

The hydraulic model results were used to complete an overtopping assessment of the Diversion Structure, Diversion Channel and Floodway. It was found that under current channel conditions, there would be no overtopping of the Diversion Structure for floods up to and including the regional event. Overtopping on the Floodway was generally observed for the regional event between the CPR bridge and the Chapples Golf Course. Minor localized overtopping was observed for the 100-year flood in the vicinity of Balmoral Street.

Stormwater analysis and modelling was completed to compare the magnitude and timing of the stormwater peaks to river peaks during significant rain events. It was found that stormwater peaks occurred prior to the riverine peaks, due to the faster runoff response of developed areas. The total stormwater peak flows into the Floodway comprised approximately 8% (Timmins storm) to 22% (2-yr storm) of the total Floodway flow.

The May 2022 flood event resulted from the melting of the largest snowpack on record in Thunder Bay and was exacerbated by a rainfall event that May 12, 2022. The rainfall event was between a 2 and 5-year event for the Neebing River watershed and less than a 2-year event for the McIntyre River watershed. This resulted in peak flows of 61.0 m³/s on the Neebing River (between 10 and 25-year floods) and 43.5 m³/s on the McIntyre River (approximately 10-year event). The Floodway was operated for 16 consecutive days.

The proposed pedestrian bridge at Carrick Street was assessed to assess any impacts on water levels or maintenance activities on the Floodway. It was found that the bridge resulted in negligible water level increases for flows up to the 100-year event but was overtopped for the regional events, based on its proposed elevation. The bridge is not anticipated to cause maintenance issues in the future.

A sedimentation analysis was undertaken to assess erosion and deposition in various reaches of the Floodway. This involved comparing surveyed cross sections along the Diversion Channel and Floodway on a year-to-year basis to determine general trends. It was found that deposition occurs at the Diversion Channel lip, within the sediment traps, and between the CPR bridge and the confluence with Lake Superior. Some erosion was noted on the Diversion Channel downstream of the Chapples Drive bridge. Between Balmoral Avenue and the Neebing River confluence, the channel was relatively stable.

The invasive plant species phragmites have been observed growing near the Floodway. If phragmites growth were to spread to the Floodway, they would impact the channel conveyance and increase water levels during a flood event. A phragmites control plan was developed to provide recommendations on controlling and treating phragmites. The recommended management plan includes:

- Pre-control monitoring on an annual basis (or appropriate frequency dependent on funding).
- Using a combination of cutting/mowing the stocks, removing them by hand or mechanically and tarping/solarization measures.

- Re-vegetating the floodway banks with native species.

The complete eradication of invasive Phragmites, particularly in well-established stands, is rarely achieved after one treatment. Depending upon the site, annual visits and touch-up control work may be required for several years. Post-treatment assessments are recommended to track control efficacy and guide future management.

Given that LRCA dredges the Floodway as part of major maintenance activities, an excess material management plan was developed to provide recommendations on reuse and management of the excess soil in accordance with O.Reg 406/19. It is recommended that the LRCA adopt a risk-based approach. This approach is beneficial to reducing the number of unknowns that may impact scheduling and project costs by providing critical soil quality information at the tender stage to assist bidder, and by providing clear instructions to the contractor. The LRCA currently own three properties that are may be suitable for soil storage (Williams Forest, land east of Roofmart, and land west of Roofmart). Given that dredging of the floodway will be an ongoing maintenance activity with large cumulative volumes of sediment needing to be managed, it is recommended that LRCA review the establishment of soil storage facilities. Depending on volume and soil quality, the sites would be suitable for either Class 1 or 2 facilities. Their use along with any regulatory requirements should be confirmed with the MECP.

The LRCA's current operation, maintenance, and surveillance plan for the Floodway was reviewed. Based on the results of this study, a dredging schedule was recommended to prioritize dredging in the more critical reaches of the channel. Dredging in the Diversion Channel between from the Chapples Drive bridge to approximately 300 m upstream is most critical and it is recommended this reach is prioritized for dredging as soon as possible. It is also recommended that the LRCA continue their annual maintenance and surveillance activities while addressing some of the larger maintenance items identified during the site inspection. Installation of level loggers and a telemetry system is recommended to record water levels on the Diversion Channel and Floodway when it is in operation.



PROGRAM AREA	CORPORATE	REPORT NO.	CORP-08-2024
DATE PREPARED	May 14, 2024	FILE NO.	
MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024		
SUBJECT	Conservation Areas Strategy – First Draft		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution

“THAT: Staff Report CORP-08-2024 be received.”

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2027)

Conserve and Sustain:

- *Engage stakeholders, the environmental community, and our watershed residents in a collective effort to protect, restore, and enhance our local environment through stewardship programs, strategies, and best management and sustainable practices.*
- *Manage land holdings through systemic evaluations, inventories, and strategies.*

Protect and Support:

- *Promote and implement programs to alleviate the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation, and threats to biodiversity.*

Connect and Explore:

- *Provide spaces, opportunities, and experiences that focus on physical and mental well-being through a connection to the land.*
- *Engage diverse stakeholders through effective communication, outreach, and education initiatives.*
- *Manage and enhance recreational areas for current and future generations through robust land management, efficient maintenance programs, and reinvestment in the land.*

Govern and Enhance:

- *Continue to commit to accountable and transparent organizational governance.*
- *Find and implement efficient and streamline processes across all program areas.*
- *Maintain a stable model of financial resiliency based on capacity, capabilities, and public expectations by maximizing new funding opportunities, fundraising, and self-generated revenue.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Ontario Regulation 686/21, Sections 9 and 10, requires the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) to develop a Conservation Area Strategy by

December 31, 2024. The Strategy is to provide a plan for the future operation of all LRCA owned land (not just Conservation Areas).

The first draft of the Conservation Areas Strategy, is being presented to the Board for review and comment, after which the final draft will be prepared and posted for public comment (as required). The Lands Acquisition and Disposition Policy, with is an appendix to this document will be presented at the June meeting. It is anticipated to consult with the public online and in person at the LRCA's 70th Anniversary. The final document will be presented to the Board at the November Board meeting for final approval. It will be a living document; therefore, updates will be conducted periodically.

DISCUSSION

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Ontario Regulation 686/21, Sections 9 and 10, requires the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) to develop a Conservation Area Strategy (also referred to as the "Strategy") by December 31, 2024. The primary intent of the Strategy is to inform decision-making regarding lands owned and controlled by the LRCA. Further, the Strategy reviews the mandatory and non-mandatory services that are provided on the LRCA-owned lands, including the revenue sources for each. A set of objectives was developed to guide decision-making related to the lands owned and controlled by the LRCA, including decisions related to the policies for the acquisition and disposition of these lands. The Lands Acquisition and Disposition Policy, with is an appendix to this document will be presented at the June meeting. The selected objectives align with the LRCA's Five-Year Strategic Plan, focused on four priorities that further the delivery of programs and services related to the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources within the Lakehead Watershed.

In part of the development of the Conservation Areas Strategy, the LRCA's Board of Directors are requested to review the first draft of the Conservation Areas Strategy. The Board of Directors will be provided with a questionnaire to provide timely feedback on the Strategy. Input from the Board of Directors will be integrated into the strategy prior to being released for public consultation.

The LRCA owns and maintains over 2,600 hectares of land. The lands owned by the LRCA offer a diversity of services to the public including recreation, water management, protection of natural heritage features, flood protection, erosion control, and forest management. LRCA-owned lands were acquired through purchase, donation, or expropriation (Neebing-McIntyre Floodway). Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, Section 9 outlines the required components of the Conservation and Management of Lands Program and Section 10 outlines the requirements of creating and maintaining a "Conservation Area Strategy". The "Conservation Area Strategy" includes the management of LRCA's Conservation Areas as well as all other land owned by the Authority.

The Conservation Area Strategy will serve as a complimentary document to the Strategic Plan, that specifically relates to the lands owned and operated by the LRCA and the associated

programs and services. The two documents encompass similar themes, focused on achieving goals and objectives that align with the LRCA’s mandate. In addition to the Conservation Area Strategy, a Lands Inventory and Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy are being developed as legislated.

The LRCA is required to consult the public and stakeholders during the preparation of the Conservation Areas Strategy. Public consultation will be provided both online and in-person to reach a larger demographic of participants. The LRCA selected methods that would provide transparency and enough time for adequate feedback including an online survey, social media promotion, newsletters, webpage, and open house information sessions.

The timeline for final approval of the Conservation Area Strategy is November 27, 2024. Once completed, the Strategy will be made publicly available for full transparency, allowing for continued understanding and appreciation for the roles and mandated responsibilities of the LRCA. The Conservation Area Strategy will be reviewed and updated every 5 years or sooner if conditions warrant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any future actions resulting from the objectives will be included, if warranted, in future budgets.

CONCLUSION

The Conservation Area Strategy will be utilized as a resource for tracking the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services offered on the lands owned and controlled by the LRCA. The Strategy provides a review of current operation and maintenance programs and policies in place that further the conservation, restoration development, and management of natural resources. Once completed, the Conservation Area Strategy will be made publicly available for full transparency, allowing for continued understanding and appreciation for the roles and mandated responsibilities of the LRCA.

The LRCA’s Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the organization’s strategies, policies, and budget. LRCA staff have produced a first draft of the Conservation Areas Strategy, to be reviewed by the LRCA’s Board of Directors. Board Members will be provided with a targeted questionnaire to streamline comments or suggestions relating to the Strategy’s required components. Feedback from the Board of Directors will be integrated into the Strategy before it is made available publicly for the next phase of consultation.

BACKGROUND

Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the *Conservation Authorities Act* outlines the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario. As outlined in subsection 9(1)1, each Conservation Authority is required to prepare a “Conservation Area Strategy” on or before December 31, 2024. The required components of the Strategy are further outlined in subsection 10(1) of the regulation:

Section 10. (1) A conservation area strategy referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following components:

1. Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority’s decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.
2. Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.
3. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,
 - i. augment any natural heritage located within the authority’s area of jurisdiction, and
 - ii. integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority’s area of jurisdiction.
4. The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.
5. A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.

(2) The authority shall ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the conservation area strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.


(3) The authority shall ensure that the conservation area strategy is made public on the authority’s website, or by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Attachment 1 - Conservation Areas Strategy 2024– First Draft

Attachment 2 - Conservation Areas Strategy Questionnaire

PREPARED BY: Michelle Willows, Environmental Planner

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:  Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	DATE: May 16, 2024
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LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Draft Conservation Area Strategy

Version 1.0

May 2024

VERSION	DATE	Resolution No.
Version 1.0	May 29, 2024	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, Ontario Regulation 686/21, Sections 9 and 10, requires the LRCA to develop a Conservation Area Strategy. In compliance with the *Act*, LRCA-owned lands were classified into land use categories, outlining the types of activities and significant features on the various parcels of land. The Strategy further highlights the mandatory and non-mandatory services that are provided on the LRCA-owned lands, including the revenue sources for each. A set of objectives was developed to guide decision-making related to the lands owned and controlled by the LRCA. The objectives also pertain to policy development to streamline the delivery of programs and services provided on LRCA-owned lands. The objectives align with the LRCA's Five-Year Strategic Plan, focused on four priorities that further the delivery of programs and services related to the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources within the Lakehead Watershed. The Conservation Area Strategy will be reviewed and updated every 5 years or sooner if conditions warrant.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Legislative Requirements	1
2	BACKGROUND.....	3
2.1	Area of Jurisdiction	3
2.2	LRCA Owned Lands	3
2.2.1	Conservation Areas.....	4
2.2.2	Conservation Authority Administration Area (Other Owned Land)	4
2.2.3	Management Areas (Other Owned Land)	5
2.3	Section 29 Regulation in Conservation Areas	8
2.4	Public/Private Use of LRCA Owned Land	8
2.5	Land Connections and Networks	8
2.5.1	Natural Heritage	8
2.5.2	Land Connectivity	9
3	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ON LRCA OWNED LANDS.....	10
3.1	Applicable Legislation	10
3.1.1	Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services.....	10
3.1.2	Occupiers Liability Act R.S.O 1990	11
3.2	Mandatory Programs and Services	12
3.2.1	Management and Operation.....	12
3.2.2	Facility Maintenance Activities.....	13
3.2.3	Forest Management	15
3.2.3.1	Hazard Tree Program	16
3.2.4	Invasive Species Management	16
3.3	Municipal Programs or Services.....	17
3.4	Non-Mandatory Programs and Services	17
3.5	Funding of Land Management Programs and Services.....	17
3.5.2	Provincial Programs Utilized to Reduce Property Taxes	19
3.5.2.1	Conservation of Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)	19
3.5.2.2	Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).....	19
4	CONSULTATION STRATEGY.....	20
3.1.1	Public Consultation	20
3.1.2	Staff Consultation	21
3.1.3	Board Consultation	21
3.1.4	Strategy Review Schedule	22
5	OBJECTIVES.....	23
5.2	Conserve and Sustain Objectives	23
5.3	Protect and Support Objectives	26
	Maintain the Integrity of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway	26
	Protect People from Natural Hazards by owning undevelopable land	26
5.4	Connect and Explore Objectives	27
	Increase Accessibility in Conservation Areas.....	27
	Advertise and Promote Conservation Areas	28
	Provide Educational Programming on LRCA Owned Land.....	28
	Enhance User Experience at Conservation Areas.....	28

Maintain and enhance amenities provided.....	28
Provide adequate signage at Conservation Areas	29
5.5 Govern and Enhance Objectives	30
Increase Compliance to Rules and Regulations	30
Reduce Liability	30
Maintain a long-term financial plan to maintain the assets on LRCA owned lands	30
Increase Revenue Generation	31
Reduce Costs to Operate Lands	31
5.6 Performance Evaluation Framework	32
5.7 Land Acquisition and Disposition	33
6 CONCLUSION	34
7 REFERENCES.....	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Funding sources of Programs related to Land Management	18
Table 2: Conserve and Sustain Objectives.....	24
Table 3: Protect and Support Objectives.....	26
Table 4: Connect and Explore Objectives.....	27
Table 5: Govern and Enhance Objectives.....	30

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Performance Evaluation Framework.....	32
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LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Amenities provided at Conservation Areas
- Appendix B: Conservation Areas Survey
- Appendix C: Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy

LIST OF MAPS

- Map 1: LRCA Area of Jurisdiction
- Map 2: Conservation Areas Map

1 INTRODUCTION

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is a community-based environmental non-profit agency that provides for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources within the Lakehead Watershed. The LRCA was established in 1954 (initially the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority) by the Province of Ontario at the request of municipalities in the Lakehead watershed.

As legislated, the LRCA provides mandatory programs that manage the risk of natural hazards, manage lands owned by the Authority, protect sources of drinking water, and monitor groundwater and surface water. The Authority also provides non-mandatory programs including programs at the request of the municipality (GIS mapping service) and programs that the LRCA considers to be beneficial to the watershed, such as stewardship on public and private lands and environmental education programming.

As part of the Land Management Program, the LRCA owns and maintains over 2,600 hectares of land. The land owned by the Authority was acquired through purchase, donation, or expropriation (Neebing-McIntyre Floodway). Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, Section 9 outlines the required components of the Conservation and Management of Lands Program and Section 10 outlines the requirements of creating and maintaining a “Conservation Area Strategy”. The “Conservation Area Strategy” includes the management of LRCA’s Conservation Areas as well as all other land owned by the Authority. For budgeting purposes, all land is categorized as either a “Conservation Area” or “Other Owned Land”.

This document is the first version of the LRCA’s Conservation Area Strategy, which will guide the efficient, transparent, and inclusive approach for the long-term management of Conservation Areas and other lands owned by the LRCA. The document is intended to outline land-based objectives, mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services, natural heritage management, land uses, and procedures for stakeholder and public engagement in the decision-making process. The primary intent of the Strategy is to inform decision-making regarding lands owned and controlled by the LRCA.

In addition to the Conservation Area Strategy, a Lands Inventory and Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy are being developed as legislated.

1.1 Legislative Requirements

Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the *Conservation Authorities Act* outlines the Mandatory Programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario. As outlined in subsection 9(1)1, each Conservation Authority is required to prepare a “Conservation Area Strategy” on or before December 31, 2024. The required components of the Strategy are further outlined in subsection 10(1) of the regulation:

Section 10. (1) *A conservation area strategy referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following components:*

1. *Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.*
2. *Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.*
3. *Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,*
 - i. *augment any natural heritage located within the authority's area of jurisdiction, and*
 - ii. *integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority's area of jurisdiction.*
4. *The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.*
5. *A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.*

(2) The authority shall ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the conservation area strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.

(3) The authority shall ensure that the conservation area strategy is made public on the authority's website, or by such other means as the authority considers advisable.

2 BACKGROUND

The current LRCA Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027 outlines the overall priorities and initiatives for the Authority over the five-year period, carrying on from the Authority's first-ever Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2018. The plan provides a focus on the continual protection of natural hazards, natural heritage, and ecosystems, in partnership with the community and organizations in the watershed.

The Conservation Area Strategy will encompass the LRCA's vision to provide a healthy, safe, and sustainable Lakehead Watershed for future generations, with a mission to lead in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed. The Conservation Area Strategy will serve as a complimentary document to the Strategic Plan, that specifically relates to the lands owned and operated by the LRCA and the associated programs and services. The two documents encompass similar themes, focused on achieving goals and objectives that align with the LRCA's mandate. The Conservation Area Strategy will follow the same pillars focusing on the four priorities: Conserve and Sustain, Protect and Support, Connect and Explore, and Govern and Enhance.

2.1 Area of Jurisdiction

The LRCA's area of jurisdiction is approximately 2,719 square kilometres (Map 1) and includes the eight Member Municipalities of the LRCA including: City of Thunder Bay, Municipalities of Neebing, Shuniah and Oliver Paipoonge and the Townships of Conmee, O'Connor, Gillies, and Dorion. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is responsible for the areas outside the jurisdiction of the Authority.

2.2 LRCA Owned Lands

As of 2024, the LRCA owns 2,660 hectares of land. The lands owned by the LRCA offer a diversity of services to the Member Municipalities including recreation, water management, protection of natural heritage features, flood protection, erosion control, and forest management. The properties owned by the LRCA fall into three different land use categories as indicated within the Land Inventory:

1. **Conservation Area for Passive Recreation:** intended for passive recreation, accessible to the public (i.e., Conservation Areas) (1552 hectares)
2. **Conservation Authority Administration Area:** LRCA's administration office and grounds (130 Conservation Road, Thunder Bay) (3.4 hectares)
3. **Management Area:** public accessibility varies or is completely restricted (e.g. Natural Hazard Lands, Water Management Areas, Forest Management Lands, Environmentally Sensitive Lands) (1104.6 hectares)

2.2.1 Conservation Areas

The LRCA offers the public ten Conservation Areas which have been identified as “Conservation Area for Passive Recreation” land use category (Map 2). The Conservation Areas include:

- Mission Island Marsh (City of Thunder Bay)
- Cascades (City of Thunder Bay)
- Mills Block (City of Thunder Bay)
- Silver Harbour (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Mackenzie Point (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Hurkett Cove (Township of Dorion)
- Little Trout Bay (Municipality of Neebing)
- Cedar Falls (Township of O’Connor)
- Hazelwood Lake (Unorganized Township of Gorham)
- Wishart (Unorganized Township of Gorham)

The LRCA’s Conservation Areas provide facilities for passive outdoor recreation including hiking, geocaching, birdwatching, canoe/kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, fishing, snowshoeing and more. Combined, the Conservation Areas have 28 kilometres of hiking trails that offer different unique views including waterfalls, rivers, and lakeside views. Based on the traffic counter studies and the sale of Explore Cards, it is estimated that the Conservation Areas have over 375,000 visitors annually. The Conservation Areas are highly valued by residents of the Lakehead Watershed, often used by community groups for public events.

Conservation Areas provide public access for passive recreation; however, they also protect the natural heritage features on the landscape while contributing to the overall health of the Lakehead Watershed. While offering recreational opportunities for community members, the lands also provide ecological benefits to water quality, protect land susceptible to erosion or flooding hazards, and increase resilience to climate change. Each Conservation Area is unique and provides varying functions to local ecosystems. Conservation Areas can also be utilized as a tool to build knowledge and understanding of natural ecosystems and the impacts of anthropogenic activity. See Appendix A for a full review of the facilities and amenities available at each Conservation Area.

2.2.2 Conservation Authority Administration Area (Other Owned Land)

In 1974, the LRCA acquired its present office and grounds, located at 130 Conservation Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Administration Grounds are composed of three parcels, totaling 3.4 hectares. One parcel includes the office infrastructure, and the two vacant land parcels include wetland features. The administrative building consists of an open and private office space, meeting rooms, and an attached garage. The meeting space is available to the public and organizations to rent for a fee. Other buildings on site include a detached garage, greenhouse, community garden, and storage containers. The grounds also offer an EV charging station for public use for a fee. Within the Lands Inventory, these properties are referred to as “Conservation Authority (CA) Administration Areas”.

2.2.3 Management Areas (Other Owned Land)

2.2.3.1 Floodplain and Erosion Control Lands

Defined by the *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 25(d), “Hazardous Land”, also referred to as regulated land, “means land that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes associated with flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil, or bedrock”. The LRCA has acquired certain properties to afford further flood protection, erosion control, and prevent development on hazard lands.

McVicar Creek: The LRCA owns eight parcels of land in the City of Thunder Bay (6.2 hectares), some of which have been amalgamated by MPAC. Some of the properties were acquired for channel improvement along McVicar Creek between 1966 and 1976. Remedial erosion efforts included the placement of rip-rap gabion baskets, channel straightening, and re-vegetation. Some of the lots are considered to be undevelopable from a residential perspective due to the land being with the regional floodplain. One parcel was donated.

Kaministiquia River: The LRCA owns seven properties in the City of Thunder Bay (3.7 hectares), along the Kaministiquia River (Victor Street/Broadway Avenue), six of which were residential properties purchased in 1982 due to the impending risk from the adjacent erosion hazard. The at-risk dwellings were removed from the parcels and the properties re-naturalized over time. The properties are considered to be undevelopable due to the erosion risk.

Neebing River: The LRCA acquired 11 properties in the City of Thunder Bay (8.1 hectares), along the banks of the Neebing River (west of Ford Street). The intent of acquisition was to rehabilitate and beautify the banks, with a specific focus on reducing erosion and providing floodplain control. The LRCA has leased some of these parcels to the City of Thunder Bay until 2060 for park and recreational purposes. A sea-lamprey barrier weir is located upstream of Edward Street on LRCA owned land. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) operates a sea-lamprey trap at the site. Currently, portable traps are installed each spring. A permanent concrete trap has been approved by the LRCA Board of Directors to be installed at the site by DFO. DFO executes a contract each year for the maintenance of the trap. LRCA staff were awarded the contract in 2024 and will be conducting the work as a Category 3 – Non-Mandatory program.

Arthur’s Bog: The LRCA purchased 54 hectares of property within the boundaries of Arthur’s Bog in the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge. The property protects a portion of a large wetland that holds water in high flow conditions of Pennock Creek, reducing downstream flooding. Not only do the parcels provide floodplain protection, but the wetlands also provide recharge for the local water table.

2.2.3.2 Forest Management Property

The LRCA owns one Forest Management Property, Williams Forest, which is located within the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge. The property is comprised of nine parcels of land (non-contiguous), with approximately 547 hectares of forest. In accordance with the Managed Forest Plan, the parcels are managed for the health of the forest, to provide habitat for wildlife, protection against floods and erosion, and the protection and production of water supplies. Williams Forest is not open to the public and has not been designated as a recreational area, therefore the properties have been classified as a Management Area.

The property receives a tax reduction as it is registered under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). The program provides tax relief as well as a plan for proper long-term forest management. See Section 3.2.3 Mandatory Programs and Services for additional information on the MFTIP and how it relates to the lands owned by the LRCA.

It is noted that this property is being considered as a location to deposit future dredged material from the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway, within previously harvested areas. The goal after in-filling would be to re-forest the previously harvested/in-filled areas.

2.2.3.3 Nature Reserves

The LRCA owns five nature reserves (386.4 hectares), including:

- Granite Point (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Harpell/Bocking Area (unorganized Township of Ware)
- Jim Jessiman Nature Preserve (City of Thunder Bay)
- LaCaine-Bailey Bird Sanctuary Island (Municipality of Shuniah)
- Wakefield Common (City of Thunder Bay).

Within the Lands Inventory, Nature Reserves are classified as Management Areas, as the intent of these properties is to protect the flora, fauna, features of ecological or special interest, and provide wildlife habitat. Many of the properties are landlocked or are only accessible by boat. The nature preserves are currently not open to the public. Additional land securement may be required to provide site access, if the properties were to be developed into Conservation Areas. Future development of these sites is subject to funding availability and approval by the LRCA's Board of Directors.

2.2.3.4 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway

The LRCA has acquired many parcels of land along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway through expropriation to provide flood protection within the City of Thunder Bay. Construction of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway was completed in 1984 by the LRCA with a final cost of \$15 million dollars. The Floodway was constructed to address flooding in the lower Neebing River and Intercity Area of Thunder Bay. The properties are also intended to provide access for required maintenance (i.e., dredging) and to prevent development on the floodplain, hazard lands, or near erosion hazards. Maintenance ensures that the Floodway remains operational and provides flood protection to the lower Neebing River and Intercity Area to the magnitude of the Regional Storm. The main features of the Floodway include:

- Diversion Structure at Ford Street
- Diversion Channel
- Sediment Trap at Balmoral Street
- Sediment Trap at CPR Bridge
- Widened and deepened Floodway Channel to Lake Superior
- Outlet into Lake Superior

Construction of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway has provided a valuable legacy to the City of Thunder Bay. Green space was created along the Floodway and, in partnership with the City of Thunder Bay, six kilometres of access pathways have been developed for public enjoyment and connects to the City's network of recreation trails and provides public access to Lake Superior.

An Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan has been developed that details the past and future operation of the Floodway.

2.2.3.5 Hope and Memory Garden

Adjacent to the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Channel downstream of the Balmoral Street Bridge, the Hope and Memory Garden has been established. The extensive perennial, tree and shrub garden was initiated in 1999, in a partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society; however, the Cancer Society is no longer involved with the garden. The living garden was created as a symbol of hope for those that had been touched by cancer and to continue the memory of those who had passed away from cancer. The garden was a volunteer led initiative for 24 years; however, in 2024, the operation and maintenance of the garden was passed back to the LRCA. The LRCA is working with the remaining volunteers to create a plan for the continued operation of the garden, including recruiting volunteers and donations to assist in funding the operation of the garden.

2.2.3.6 Victor Street Erosion Lands

On behalf of the City of Thunder Bay, the LRCA has managed erosion prone City owned land between the Kaministiquia River and Victor Street in order to protect access and egress on Victor Street and the municipal infrastructure within the bank. Extensive studies and remedial work have been conducted over the years to address on-going erosion in the area. Monitoring of the at-risk areas is conducted annually. An Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan has been developed that details the past and future management at the location.

2.2.3.7 Leased Lands

Presently, the Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area is the only land leased by the LRCA. The property is owned by the City of Thunder Bay and is leased to the LRCA on a five-year basis as per Section 21 (1)(d) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The property was previously a landfill site that has been remediated and transitioned into a conservation area for passive recreation and public enjoyment.

2.3 Section 29 Regulation in Conservation Areas

The LRCA has designated Provincial Offences Officers to enable enforcement under the *Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O 1990*, Part VII Enforcement and Offence, Section 30.1 and associated regulations. The Section 29 Regulations Officers are appointed to manage, patrol, and monitor activities on all authority-owned land to encourage compliance with the associated regulations. Under the *Provincial Offences Act R.S.O 1990*, c. P.33, a Provincial Offences Officer who believes that one or more persons have committed an offense may issue a certificate of offense (i.e., ticket). Additionally, enforcement is conducted under the City of Thunder Bay's Parking By-Law to enforce the required payment of parking fees at the Cascades and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas.

The LRCA will be developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), that allows the LRCA's designated Provincial Offences Officers to follow a uniform process and provide a higher level of consistency regarding compliance matters within the Conservation Areas. The SOP will assist officers in navigating complex situations, providing a set of best practices to enhance officer safety when performing their duties. By following the SOP, the LRCA's Provincial Offences Officers can maintain consistent interactions with the members of the public, while ensuring visitors to the Conservation Areas are in compliance with the safety rules and regulations.

2.4 Public/Private Use of LRCA Owned Land

Members of the public or groups can request the use of LRCA-owned land through the submission of a Land Use Request form. Staff review all requests and where the activity is permitted a Land Use Permit is issued. Fundraising conducted on LRCA-owned land is subject to Board approval. Fees are charged for weddings and shelter rentals and the parking fee is applicable to all users attending the public/private event. When warranted the user is required to obtain liability insurance for the event. Conservation Areas remain open to the public and all other rules and regulations apply (i.e., no alcohol, no fires, open dawn to dusk, etc.).

2.5 Land Connections and Networks

LRCA-owned and controlled lands provide connection, wildlife corridors, and integration with other lands or significant features within the Lakehead Watershed.

2.5.1 Natural Heritage

The management of natural heritage features and interconnected systems is necessary to protect biodiversity, important ecological processes, wildlife corridors, and valuable outdoor recreational experiences for the long term. Many of the lands owned and controlled by the LRCA protect and conserve natural heritage systems within the Lakehead Watershed; however, a full assessment of these significant features and linkages has yet to be completed.

In 2022, the LRCA started a natural heritage inventory of the Conservation Areas that are open to the public for passive recreation. The LRCA seeks to expand this work to develop a full inventory of significant features on the lands owned and controlled by the Authority. The inventory will

assist in identifying linkages between natural heritage features, hydrologic features, document the presence of flora, fauna, species at risk, and any other special habitat elements. An inventory of natural heritage features will allow the LRCA to:

- Maximize ecosystem services on LRCA-owned lands through the management and restoration of natural heritage features.
- Facilitate a Natural Heritage Protection and Regeneration Program to restore and naturalize degraded ecosystem features.
- Collaborate, educate, and engage with municipal members to deliver coordinated natural heritage management.
- Analyze connectivity with adjacent municipal or like-minded organizations to determine where a collective approach can achieve wildlife corridors, protect entire systems, wetlands, etc.
- Continue ongoing monitoring and tracking of natural heritage features and ecological indicators.

Information on the natural heritage systems and their linkages can guide important planning decisions and further support municipal objectives and initiatives. The Natural Heritage System inventories will remain as a working document that can be updated with new information.

While the properties owned along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway do provide a corridor for wildlife, the primary function is to address flooding in the lower Neebing River and Intercity Area. The land parcels related to the Floodway are primarily maintained to provide access for maintenance and dredging; however, the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway also serves as a recreational attraction, with paved recreational trails for wildlife viewing opportunities including amphibians, waterfowl, groundhogs, and songbirds as well as access to Lake Superior.

2.5.2 Land Connectivity

The LRCA currently has three Conservation Areas that connect with other municipally or private/organization-owned land, including Cascades, Mission Island Marsh, and Little Trout Bay Conservation Areas. Currently, the Cascades Conservation Area connects to two other popular trail systems within the city limits: Trowbridge Falls and Centennial Park. The trail system is popular amongst community members for trail running, hiking, and dog walking. Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area connects to Thunder Bay's Waterfront Trail, a larger initiative by the City of Thunder Bay to connect parklands across the waterfront. In partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Little Trout Bay Conservation Area "Lookout Trail" connects to the James Duncan Memorial Trail and Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve. Additionally, the trails along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway connect with the many trails within the City of Thunder Bay.

3 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ON LRCA-OWNED LANDS

The Conservation Area Strategy is to identify the programs and services (Category 1 – mandatory, Category 2 – at the request of a municipality, and Category 3- non-mandatory/other) that are provided on Conservation Authority owned lands, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.

3.1 Applicable Legislation

3.1.1 Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services

Section 9 of O. Reg. 686/21 outlines the mandatory components of the Conservation and Management of Lands Program:

Required components

9. (1) Programs and services provided by an authority with respect to the conservation and management of lands under subparagraph 1 ii of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act shall include the following:

1. A conservation area strategy, prepared on or before December 31, 2024 for all lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title, that meets the requirements set out in section 10.

2. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 10 (1),

i. programs and services to secure the authority's interests in its lands that include measures for fencing, signage, patrolling and any other measures to prevent unlawful entry on the authority's land and to protect the authority from exposure to liability under the Occupiers' Liability Act,

ii. programs and services to maintain any facilities, trails or other amenities that support public access and recreational activities in conservation areas and that can be provided without the direct support or supervision of staff employed by the authority or by another person or body,

iii. programs and services to enable the authority, in its capacity as an owner of land, to make applications or comment on matters under the Planning Act,

iv. programs and services to conserve, protect, rehabilitate, establish, and manage natural heritage located within the lands owned or controlled by the authority,

v. programs and services to plant trees on lands owned or controlled by the authority, excluding commercial logging, and

- vi. the development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions.*
3. A land inventory, prepared on or before December 31, 2024, that meets the requirements set out in section 11.
4. Programs and services to ensure that the authority carries out its duties, functions and responsibilities to administer regulations made under section 29 of the Act.

(2) For greater certainty, programs and services with respect to the conservation and management of lands under subparagraph 1 ii of subsection 21.1 (1) of the Act do not apply to any lands where the authority has no legal interest in the lands registered on title and the authority has entered into an agreement with another person or body to manage the lands on the person's or body's behalf.

3.1.2 Occupiers Liability Act R.S.O 1990

The LRCA has a duty to maintain the condition of the Conservation Areas (*Occupiers Liability Act* Section 3(2)) to reduce the level of danger when properties owned by the LRCA are open to the public and community members are on the premises participating in passive recreation. The *Occupiers Liability Act R.S.O 1990, C. O.2* provides a framework to establish the duty of care of those who occupy premises and the liability for injuries or damages that occur on the property.

- S.3(1) An occupier of premises owes a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that persons entering on the premises, and the property brought on the premises by those persons are reasonably safe while on the premises.
- S.3(2) The duty of care provided for in subsection (1) applies whether the danger is caused by the condition of the premises or by an activity carried on the premises.
- S.3(3) The duty of care provided for in subsection (1) applies except in so far as the occupier of premises is free to and does restrict, modify or exclude the occupier's duty. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.2, s. 3.
- S. 5(3) (3) Where an occupier is free to restrict, modify or exclude the occupier's duty of care or the occupier's liability for breach thereof, the occupier shall take reasonable steps to bring such restriction, modification or exclusion to the attention of the person to whom the duty is owed. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.2, s. 5.

In compliance with the *Occupiers Liability Act R.S.O 1990, C. O.2*, the LRCA has a duty to ensure that any persons or their property within the premises of a conservation area reasonably safe and free of danger.

3.2 Mandatory Programs and Services

The LRCA conducts a variety of mandatory programs and services on the land owned and operated by the Authority. As of 2024, the Lands Program staff complement includes 3 full-time staff (Lands Manager, Environmental Planner, and Field Operations Lead Hand) and one 33-week recurring contract position (Floodway Labourer). Additionally, four summer students are hired annually during the summer months.

3.2.1 Management and Operation

The LRCA utilizes a variety of methods to manage and operate its various land holdings.

3.2.1.1 Asset Management Plan

In 2021, the LRCA updated the Authority's Asset Management Plan (AMP). The purpose of an AMP is to provide a strategy for maintaining, renewing, rehabilitating, and replacing LRCA assets while ultimately maintaining financial goals. The AMP is used for the short and long-term planning related to all of the Authority's assets and is used annually during the budgeting process to determine required maintenance in a given year. The AMP includes Conservation Areas Condition Assessments, LRCA Administrative Building Condition Assessment, Diversion Structure Condition Assessment, and an overall Asset Management Plan.

3.2.1.2 Health and Safety of Visitors

The safety of visitors to LRCA's lands are of utmost importance. Employed safety measures include:

- Installation of shepherd hooks and life buoys at each Conservation Area where the public can access the water.
- Routine inspections of all land and facilities.
- Hazard tree removal program.
- Installed rope on the steep section of Little Trout Bay trail.
- Application of sand in parking lots in the winter months, when warranted.
- Weekly cleaning of all outhouses.
- Garbage collection at areas open to the public.

3.2.1.3 Signage

The LRCA utilizes signage on its land to notify the public on a variety of topics, including:

- Entrance signs
- Conservation Area information panels (operating hours, address, disclaimers, emergency contact numbers, etc.)
- Information panels in pavilions
- Trail maps
- Trail directional signage
- Signs advising of permitted and non-permitted activities.

Signage is a tool that easily conveys expected conduct within the Conservation Area. The *Occupiers Liability Act* Section 4 (3)(b) indicates the necessity to have posted notice with respect to operating hours. Signage regarding the rules and regulations must be present, specifically when

enforcement officers are patrolling and ticketing for infractions. Staff keep an up-to-date inventory of the signs installed at each Conservation Area. The LRCA recently modified regulations signage from text-based to infographics to visually inform visitors of Conservation Areas rules. The signs are updated and replaced as necessary to continue clear communication with the users of LRCA-owned land.

3.2.1.2 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a proactive technique that utilizes proper design and efficient use of the built environment to deter vandalism, reduce crime, and minimize the concern of unlawful behavior. The LRCA practices natural surveillance by ensuring maximum visibility of amenities such as pavilions, picnic tables, washrooms, and interpretive signage. Where warranted, the bottom branches of trees are removed to increase visibility. The LRCA uses natural parking lot barriers as a method of territorial reinforcement to deter vehicles from driving onto landscaped areas and causing damage to the grounds (i.e., tire ruts, etc.). The most effective methods have been using built-up natural grass-covered berms or the placement of large boulders around the perimeter of the parking lot.

3.2.1.3 Section 29

Section 29 patrolling occurs at the Conservation Areas that are open to the public for passive recreation. Designated Provincial Offences Officers patrol the Conservation Area to encourage compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O 1990*, Part VII Enforcement and Offence, Section 30.1., and under the City of Thunder Bay Parking By-Law at Cascades and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas. Patrolling occurs weekly where Provincial Offences Officers walk the trail systems to educate visitors about the rules and regulations of the Conservation Areas and issue tickets where warranted. Officers follow the Procedure for City By-Law Parking Enforcement for Conservation Areas within Thunder Bay and follow the Procedure to issue a Provincial Offences Notice when outside of city limits. Developing a Standard Operating Procedure for enforcement will streamline the patrolling process, to ensure adequate staff presence at Conservation Areas.

3.2.2 Facility Maintenance Activities

3.2.1.4 Major Maintenance

The Asset Management Plan is followed to fund, plan, and complete the recommended major maintenance of all facilities. Long-term funding strategies are employed to ensure adequate funds are on-hand when major maintenance is required.

3.2.1.5 Routine Maintenance

Regular routine maintenance is undertaken at all publicly open properties and the Office Administrative Facility. Activities include:

- Grass cutting and trimming.
- Trail brushing.
- Weekly commercial cleaning of Office Administrative Facility.
- Weekly cleaning of outhouses.

- Commercial emptying of underground garbage and recycling containers at the Cascades and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas.
- Staff emptying garbage and recycling receptacles at Conservation Areas.
- Disposal and recycling delivery to the City of Thunder Bay landfill.

Facility maintenance requirements of the Conservation Areas vary seasonally. During the main operating season (late spring to early fall), staff conduct weekly inspections of the majority of the Conservation Areas. Little Trout Bay and Hurkett Cove are inspected on a bi-weekly basis due to their distance and visitor volumes. Standard maintenance includes garbage removal, privy stocking and cleaning, grass cutting, and cleaning of the grounds. Additional maintenance tasks that occur less frequently include painting, sign installation, and removal or repair of vandalized infrastructure. In the winter, maintenance is limited to garbage removal, snow plowing, and sanding icy sections of the parking lots.

Two Conservation Areas offer boat launches that provide public access to Lake Superior. Little Trout Bay and Silver Harbor both have permanent docks and concrete ramps that are inspected and repaired as required. The LRCA also provides floating docks and EZ Launch Kayak Docks at four Conservation Areas including: Hurkett Cove, Hazelwood Lake, Silver Harbour, and Little Trout Bay. The floating docks and kayak launches are removed in the fall for the winter season and are re-installed in the spring.

3.2.2.1 Trail Maintenance

Trail Maintenance is important for the safety and enjoyment of visitors to the Conservation Areas. Regular trail inspections are integral to the maintenance and overall continued operation of the Conservation Areas. Basic trail maintenance requires the pruning of trees and shrubs. Staff inspect the trail systems for trail widening, erosion, fallen trees, and other natural hazards to ensure they are as safe as reasonably possible for visitor use. All railings, boardwalks, stairs, bridges, and trails are cleared of garbage, debris, vegetation growth, and vandalism and maintained/repaired as warranted. Inspections also involve the assessment of trail signage to ensure both safety and directional signage is present, visible, and legible.

3.2.2.2 Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring

Staff conduct water quality testing from June to the end of August for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) at Hazelwood Lake and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas as part of the bathing beach program in conjunction with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. In the event the criterion is exceeded, a swimming advisory is posted at the respective beach to notify potential bathers of the presence of *E. coli*.

The LRCA began monitoring for Cyanobacteria in 2022 as a protective measure to better understand the presence of cyanobacteria within four Conservation Areas (Mission Island, Silver Harbour, Hazelwood and Hurkett Cove). Testing sites were selected based on the frequency of visitor contact with open water. Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring intends to keep visitors and their pets safe when participating in water-based recreation at the LRCA's Conservation Areas.

3.2.2.3 Structure Monitoring and Inspections

Annual structure monitoring and Inspections are carried out on five LRCA-owned structures including: Mission Island Marsh Conservation Area Board Walk, Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Structure, Neebing River Free-flow Wier, Hazelwood Lake Weir Dam Structure, and Hazelwood Lake Causeway. Inspections are conducted by structural engineers or LRCA staff by completing a pre-established checklist specific to the features of each structure. Required maintenance is addressed as warranted.

The erosion control soil-nailing completed along Victor Street is inspected bi-annually by contracted engineers to monitor the completed sites and look for additional sites that may require remediation.

3.2.2.4 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Operation, Maintenance, and Surveillance

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Operation, Maintenance, and Surveillance Plan ensures that the Floodway remains operational and capable of handling rainfall up to and including the Regional Storm. The sediment traps installed within the Floodway are a part of the original design and were anticipated to require periodic dredging. The sediment traps are classified as major maintenance. In part of the plan, dredging is required in the sediment traps every seven to ten years, and the removal of sediment at the lip of the Diversion Channel is required approximately every four years. From the ice annually, the LRCA hires consultants to conduct an annual sediment accumulation survey within the Floodway channel. Additionally, the lip is surveyed every spring. When dredging is required, sediment samples are taken to assess the quality before disposal. A long-term major maintenance schedule is maintained ensuring that funds (i.e., sole-benefitting City of Thunder Bay Levy) are available to fund the required minor and major maintenance annually.

In 2024, the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Integrity Study was completed, which is conducted every 10 years to assess the overall operation of the Floodway and to determine long-term maintenance requirements to ensure the continued operation of Floodway.

3.2.2.5 River Clean Up Program

The River Clean Up Program is conducted annually during the summer months, in which staff maintain the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and other riverside properties that are owned by the LRCA. The program reduces the volume of garbage within the City's waterways. This routine maintenance also ensures the optimal functioning of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. The program is funded by the City of Thunder Bay as a sole benefiting program, with River Clean Up Crew wages budgeted annually.

3.2.3 Forest Management

The **Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)** is utilized by the LRCA to deliver forest management for a tax reduction. The LRCA has ten properties enrolled in the MFTIP, which all have an approved Managed Forest Plan. In 2017, the LRCA contracted KBM to develop and approve Managed Forest Plans for a twenty-year period, from January 1, 2017, to December 31,

2036. The LRCA is taxed at 25 percent of the municipal residential property tax rate for managed areas. The regular tax rate still applies to parts of the property that are not managed (i.e., infrastructure, buildings). Activities in the MFTIP are to be carried out according to “good forestry practices” as defined in the *Forestry Act*. Appropriate management activities for the MFTIP include:

- Tree planting of native tree species, tending, thinning, pruning and harvesting,
- Recreational activities,
- Wildlife management involving habitat work or participating in monitoring programs,
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas by limited disturbance, and
- Learning about the forest.

Costs to manage the forestry component of the Forest Management Properties are funded through self-generated revenue. The Managed Forest Plans are intended to guide the sustainable management of forest health, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreation, and education.

3.2.3.1 Hazard Tree Program

The Hazard Tree Program is conducted to proactively deal with trees that are dead, dying, or have the potential to fall on trails or infrastructure. All staff involved in the Hazard Tree Removal Program have Chainsaw Safety and Operations Certification. While smaller trees are removed by LRCA staff, professional tree contractors are hired when hazard trees could become a safety risk during felling or if they are near infrastructure. The Hazard Tree Removal Program ensures the safety of staff and visitors, while also minimizing the risk to LRCA-owned infrastructure. The program is budgeted annually as a part of the LRCA’s levy process.

3.2.4 Invasive Species Management

The LRCA has taken progressive steps to monitor and address invasive species on LRCA-owned lands and throughout the Lakehead Watershed. Invasive species are a growing threat to the ecological and recreational benefits afforded by the lands owned and operated by the LRCA. The LRCA seeks to protect and conserve natural ecosystems and their biodiversity by implementing proactive projects to prevent the negative effects of invasive species. The LRCA manages invasive species through specific actions and tactics including:

- Identification and mapping,
- Monitoring and assessing risk,
- Management and control of identified invasive species,
- Education and outreach,
- Prevention of new invaders, and
- Application or development of Best Management Plans.

Through education and outreach campaigns, visitors to the Conservation Areas are urged to report any observations of invasive species to the LRCA. Facts sheets have been developed to assist staff and the public with the identification of known invaders.

3.3 *Municipal Programs or Services*

The LRCA has no Municipal (Category 2) Programs related to lands owned by the Authority. Municipal Programs that would fall into this category refer to those that are focused on municipal priorities, such as the operation of museums or heritage buildings. No such establishments have been developed to date on LRCA-owned property.

3.4 *Non-Mandatory Programs and Services*

The LRCA provides watershed residents with outdoor environmental education programming and nature interpretive programs, hosted at Conservation Areas that are open to the public for passive recreation. Educational programming offered by the LRCA provides an opportunity for participants of all ages to discover new trails, learn from the land, and become environmental stewards. Environmental education programming and nature interpretive programming are provided on LRCA-owned land through the LRCA's Non-Mandatory Education Program. No municipal levy is used for this program area.

Stewardship programming is offered at the LRCA on private and public lands as a Non-Mandatory program, with no municipal levy used for the programming. Stewardship programming on LRCA land is considered to be a mandatory program as it relates to managing LRCA-owned land.

The LRCA does not conduct any Category 3 (Non-Mandatory) programming related to "active" recreation requiring direct support or supervision of CA staff or other person/body or land management activities for education, training, and cultural purposes. The timber harvesting completed by the LRCA is conducted to maintain the health of the forest, and not primarily as commercial logging (which is non-mandatory) and is therefore considered a mandatory program. It is noted that any activities related to harvesting (i.e., hiring of a registered forester) are funded using self-generated forestry revenue.

Beginning in 2024, LRCA was awarded a contract by DFO for the emptying and maintenance of sea-lamprey traps installed on LRCA-owned Neebing River property. This non-mandatory program is fully funded by the DFO.

3.5 *Funding of Land Management Programs and Services*

During the annual budget process, costs associated with the operation and maintenance of LRCA-owned land are estimated for the year. Expenses related to land management include property taxes, staff wages and benefits, regular and major maintenance, equipment, vehicle, garbage removal, plowing, health and safety, tree removals, structural inspection, training, monitoring supplies, outhouse rentals, tools, etc. As a private landowner, the LRCA pays property taxes to the Municipality/Township in which the land resides. The Asset Management Plan provides guidance on scheduling required maintenance and the estimated life span of assets.

Levy collected from the Member Municipalities funds the majority of the costs associated with the Lands Program. The LRCA's self-generated funding is used to partially fund the Lands Program

and comes from the collection of parking fees/day use fees, Explore Card Sales, and fees charged for the public to hold a wedding or rent a picnic shelter.

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and the Victor Street Erosion lands are eligible structures under the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) fund. Annually, the province provides five million dollars to fund 50% of eligible major maintenance projects conducted by the 36 Conservation Authorities in the province. The funds are distributed through an application process, where projects are scored, and the highest-ranking projects are funded with the available funds. Funding is not guaranteed year to year.

The Land Management Programs offered by the LRCA are funded by both municipal levy, external funding, and self-generated funds. Table 1 outlines the funding type used for each of the Land Management Categories.

Table 1: Funding sources of Programs related to Land Management

Land Management Program Areas	Funding Type					
	Levy-All	Levy Sole-Benefitting (City of Thunder Bay)	Provincial Funding	Federal Funding	Other Grants and Donations	Self-Generated (Fees)
Category 1 – Mandatory Programs						
Neebing-McIntyre Floodway		X	*WECI projects			
Victor Street Erosion - City Lands		X	*WECI projects			
Conservation Areas	X				X	X
Section 29 Regulations	X					
Other Owned Land						
• Admin Office	X					
• Nature Reserves	X					
• Floodplain and erosion lands	X					X
• Forest Management Land	X					X
Category 2 – Non-Mandatory at the request of a Municipality						
No programs						
Category 3 – Non-Mandatory Programs and Services						
Environmental Education					X	X
Nature Interpretive Programming					X	X

*WECI – Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Funding (used for major maintenance)

**When available, funding applications are submitted for special projects on LRCA land

3.5.2 Provincial Programs Utilized to Reduce Property Taxes

3.5.2.1 Conservation of Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

The LRCA applies annually to the Conservation of Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) for four LRCA-owned properties to recognize the Provincially Significant Wetlands on the lands. This program reduces the taxes in recognition of natural heritage features for the following lands:

- 330 Beaver Avenue
- Wakefield Common
- Hurkett Cove Conservation Area
- Mills Block Conservation Area

3.5.2.2 Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

Several LRCA-owned lands have Forest Management Plans developed under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive program (MFTIP), which provides some tax relief as well as a plan for proper long-term forest management. As warranted, harvesting occurs with revenue used to maintain the forest management area and the associated Forest Management Plans. Surplus-generated funds in a given year are allocated to the Forest Management Reserve which is used to fund all tree/forest-related expenses (i.e., costs related to maintaining forest management plans, hiring of Registered Foresters to oversee harvesting operations, promotion of tree planting in the watershed, etc.).

Forest Management Plans registered under the MFTIP are for the following LRCA-owned properties:

- Cascades Conservation Area
- Cedar Falls Conservation Area
- Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area
- Hurkett Cove Conservation Area
- Little Trout Bay Conservation Area
- Wishart Conservation Area
- Mills Block Conservation Area
- Harpell/ Bocking (no public access)
- William's Forest (no public access)
- Granite Point (no public access)

4 CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The *Conservation Authorities Act*, Ontario Regulation 686/21 Section 10(2) mandates that the LRCA consult stakeholders and the public during the preparation of the Conservation Area Strategy. The LRCA will complete consultation in a timely manner to ensure adequate feedback from a wide range of participants. Effective consultation is key for decision-making and for furthering the goals and objectives of lands owned by the LRCA. The LRCA developed the following principles when conducting public, staff, and board consultation:

- To provide accessible and inclusive opportunities for Lakehead Watershed residents provide comments, or concerns related to the Conservation Area Strategy.
- To allow decision-makers to make informed choices by clarifying objectives and developing a greater understanding of values, interests, issues, and concerns.
- To provide early engagement on multiple platforms to reach a broad range of participants during the consultation process.
- To conduct public consultation in a respectful manner, acknowledging differing views, values, and interests, ensuring that all input is documented.
- To build trust between the LRCA, stakeholders, and community members through a transparent consultation process to facilitate collaborative decision-making.

3.1.1 Public Consultation

The LRCA will utilize a variety of outreach activities to consult with stakeholders and the public during the development of the Conservation Areas Strategy. Public consultation will be provided both online and in-person to reach a higher demographic of participants. The LRCA selected methods that would provide transparency and enough time for adequate feedback including:

- Online Survey
- Social Media Promotion
- Newsletters
- Webpage
- Open House/Information Sessions

As part of the public consultation process, the LRCA circulated a Conservation Areas Visitor Survey to establish a current set of objectives to inform decision-making related to the Conservation Areas or lands owned and operated by the Authority. The survey was available on the LRCA's website and advertised on established social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). To generate a high volume of interest, the posts were financially boosted through social media advertising and incentivized with a \$100 LRCA prize pack. The survey was successful in generating interest, with over 866 submitted surveys. The intent of the Conservation Areas Survey was to identify shortcomings or receive requests that can be addressed to create a positive outcome at the LRCA's Conservation Areas and other owned lands. The data collected from the survey has been incorporated into the Conservation Area Strategy as a component of the public consultation process.

Results from the Conservation Areas Survey will be shared with the public during a summer webinar. The presentation will highlight a total of 14 different improvement categories that were derived from the “Ideal Changes” and “Comments” sections of the survey (Appendix B). The webinar will be shared on the LRCA’s YouTube channel to ensure it is accessible for those who may have missed the presentation.

The public will be provided with an opportunity to review the first draft of the Conservation Area Strategy in the summer of 2024. The public will be given a month to provide feedback and comments before they are assessed, and where applicable, integrated into the final version of the Conservation Area Strategy. To facilitate participation, the LRCA will advertise the Conservation Area Strategy on the established social media platforms. Further, information regarding the Conservation Areas Strategy will be disseminated through a newsletter to over 600 watershed residents. A link will be provided through both outreach forms to allow community members to comment on the Conservation Area Strategy.

An “Open House” will be hosted as a part of the LRCA’s 70th anniversary, where a presentation will be delivered on the Conservation Area Strategy. Attendees will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions or to fill out an in-house survey to be reviewed by staff.

3.1.2 Staff Consultation

Similar to public consultation strategies, LRCA staff will be provided with an opportunity to review and deliver feedback on the Conservation Areas Strategy both in-person and virtually. The LRCA routinely has staff meetings to share information about ongoing projects and initiatives. A focused meeting will be held to review the results of the Conservation Areas Survey and discuss the mandatory legislative requirements. Staff will be provided with sufficient time and information prior to the meeting to enable them to contribute to discussions.

The first draft of the Strategy will be circulated to staff via e-mail, accompanied by a staff survey, to provide employees with a second opportunity to provide comments on the Conservation Area Strategy. The suggestions from the questionnaire will be reviewed, and if not integrated into the strategy an explanation will be provided. The staff consultation process will be an excellent way to identify shortcomings or strengthen the requirements of the Conservation Areas Strategy.

3.1.3 Board Consultation

The LRCA’s Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing the organization’s strategies, policies, and budget. Consultation will be completed during three of the scheduled Meetings of the Board of Directors. The first form of consultation was focused on presenting the results of the Conservation Area Survey for review and feedback. The Board’s response was integrated into the first draft of the Strategy.

Once the first draft of the Strategy is completed, it will be circulated at the May 2024 Board Meeting with a questionnaire to allow members to provide comments or suggestions at the following Board Meeting. At the June Board Meeting, the Land Acquisition and Disposition Strategy will be presented for review. Feedback will be integrated into the strategy before it is made available on the LRCA’s website for a second round of public consultation.

The final draft of the Conservation Area Strategy was provided to the Board of Directors for approval at the November 2024 Board Meeting. Once the Board approves the Conservation Area Strategy it will be made available on the LRCA's website.

3.1.4 Strategy Review Schedule

The Conservation Area Strategy will be reviewed and updated every 5 years or sooner if conditions warrant. Updates to the Conservation Area Strategy will align with the LRCA's Five-Year Strategic Plan. Changes to the Conservation Area Strategy will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and approved by resolution. Stakeholders and the public will be consulted as considered advisable during the periodic review and update process for the Strategy.

5 OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Area Strategy is to establish Authority objectives that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies for the acquisition and disposition of these lands.

The objectives of the Conservation Area Strategy provide high-level context, guidance, and direction for actions related to the lands owned or controlled by the LRCA. Aligning with the LRCA's Five-Year Strategic Plan, the objectives focus on four key priorities relating to the programs and services provided by the LRCA. Objectives may vary for each parcel dependent on the land use category, specifically if they are Conservation Areas open to the public for passive recreation. The Conservation Area Strategy Objectives have been grouped under each of the four pillars and initiatives as outlined in the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. The next step after completion of the Conservation Area Strategy will be to develop specific actions. Each year, staff will consider the objectives when setting their priorities in their workplans and budgets.

The LRCA's four pillars as outlined in the Strategic Plan include:

- 1) **Conserve and Sustain:** Enhance the management and sustainability of natural habitats and ecosystems through an integrated approach.
- 2) **Protect and Support:** Safeguard people, property, and communities through robust watershed and lands management.
- 3) **Connect and Explore:** Maximize intergenerational educational, engagement, and recreational opportunities through strong collaborations.
- 4) **Govern and Enhance:** Distinguish the organization as a leader in environmentally sustainable practices and responsible stewardship.

5.2 Conserve and Sustain Objectives

Conserve and Sustain: Enhance the management and sustainability of natural habitats and ecosystems through an integrated approach.

The LRCA aims to protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats and ecosystems on LRCA-owned lands through an integrated approach. This will be accomplished by managing land holdings through systemic evaluations, inventories, and strategies. The protection of these natural assets will positively impact the health and sustainability of the Lakehead Watershed for future generations.

Table 2: Conserve and Sustain Objectives

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
<p>Engage stakeholders, the environmental community, and our watershed residents in a collective effort to protect, restore, and enhance our local environment through stewardship programs, strategies, and best management and sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Promote the Stewardship of the Lakehead Watershed by leading by example on all LRCA owned land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize LRCA-owned land as a source of native species seeds for propagating native plants in a sustainable manner for use on LRCA-owned projects and to encourage local organizations to also utilize native species for their projects. • When conducting plantings, prioritize the use of native species only on LRCA-owned lands. • Ensure the sustainable management of forest resources on LRCA-owned lands for future generations through sound forest management practices in accordance with completed Managed Forest Plans (MFTIPs). • Maintain, enhance, and restore ecologically significant habitats on LRCA-owned lands to prevent the loss of biodiversity. • Properties owned by the LRCA should contribute to the continual protection of natural hazards, natural and cultural heritage, ecological functioning, and the integrity of the Lakehead Watershed.
<p>Manage land holdings through systemic evaluations, inventories, and strategies.</p>	<p>Assess and Monitor LRCA-owned land to understand the current status of natural heritage and natural hazards and to monitor for emerging issues and trends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through water quality monitoring, acquire datasets in order to detect trends over time and identify emerging issues. • Utilizing natural heritage inventories of significant features on LRCA-owned lands, incorporate new data into the Conservation Area Master Plans and Land Management Plans. • Conduct wetland evaluations on LRCA properties to compile a complete dataset of LRCA-owned Evaluated Wetlands. • Identify and protect Species at Risk, or species with Conservation Status Rank, and their respective habitats on LRCA-owned lands. • Continue to identify and protect Cultural Heritage Sites on LRCA-owned lands to preserve history and traditions of past communities. • Assess all erosion-prone land to identify any areas that may need remediation.

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
	<p>Create and maintain Land Management Policies, Procedures and Plans to promote a consistent level of management on all LRCA-owned lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Land Use Policy to guide land use planning and the development process to maintain property standards on LRCA-owned lands. • Develop an Invasive Species Policy to guide the identification, control, and management of invasive species on LRCA-owned lands to maintain high levels of biodiversity. • Streamline land inspections and inventories by utilizing digital data collection apps to provide accurate and complete records. • Develop a Service Level Policy that will outline the method and frequency by which staff are inspecting landholdings, how often maintenance is required, and associated reporting requirements. • Develop a reporting system for visitors and staff to report hazards on the trail systems to be directly received by maintenance personnel. • Create a Trail Development Policy that outlines the guiding principles and procedures when developing new or multi-use trail systems for passive recreation. • Develop an Encroachment Policy to maintain property boundaries and protect the land from encroachments or illegal activity to preserve the ecological integrity of LRCA-owned land. • Develop a Standard Operating Procedure outlining the general processes Provincial Offences Officers should take when addressing visitor violations of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>. • Update the Hazard Tree Policy.
<p>Collaborate and partner with agencies and community organizations to take action in the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, share decision-making, and address emerging issues that impact the health and sustainability of the Lakehead Watershed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage visitors to practice citizen science, through online platforms such as iNaturalist or EddMapps, to continue to build species data sets.
<p>Increase the availability of data and knowledge to our partners and the public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with the public regarding emerging issues found to be occurring on LRCA-owned land through the LRCA website, fact sheets, social media, etc.
<p>Other Objectives</p>	

5.3 Protect and Support Objectives

Protect and Support: Safeguard people, property and communities through robust watershed management.

The LRCA owns lands that contribute to the protection and management of floodplains, erosion hazards, recharge areas and significant wetlands. These lands further the objective of safeguarding people, property, and communities throughout the Lakehead Watershed.

Table 3: Protect and Support Objectives

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
<p>Increase capacity to issue relevant and timely flood messaging by utilizing technology and best practices to enhance the flood-readiness of our partners.</p>	
<p>Create and update policies, guidance documents and technical data to streamline the LRCA approvals process that provides transparency of process and rules of service.</p>	
<p>Continue maintaining and enhancing flood control infrastructure in an effort to minimize the impacts of riverine flooding, erosion, and sedimentation.</p>	<p>Continue Maintaining the Integrity of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By conducting adequate surveys, carrying out annual maintenance, and undertaking major maintenance as required, the LRCA will continue to ensure proper operational functioning of the Floodway. • When applicable apply for WECI funding for major maintenance to reduce the financial burden of maintenance. <p>Protect People from Natural Hazards by owning undevelopable land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key properties for acquisition that provide a benefit to the Lakehead Watershed, prioritizing floodplain, hazard lands, source water areas, natural heritage features, or the provision of passive recreation for the public.
<p>Prioritize and promote the protection and management of natural hazards, wetlands, and natural heritage features within the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Utilize users of LRCA land to aid in identifying issues on LRCA-owned land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage watershed residents to report any observed environmental hazards on LRCA-owned property to the LRCA (such as erosion, algal Blooms, or invasive species).

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
Promote and implement programs to alleviate the impacts of climate change, habitat degradation, and threats to biodiversity.	Consider climate change, impacts to habitat, and threats to biodiversity during the planning of any updates or new developments on LRCA land.
Align watershed decision-making with stakeholders both within and outside the jurisdiction.	Solicit Public Input on the operation of Conservation Areas and projects on LRCA land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit public and stakeholder input on significant projects conducted on LRCA-owned land. • Conduct visitor surveys over a five-year cycle in order to engage the public’s opinion to assess and identify visitor needs and wants to improve satisfaction, which in turn will assist in generating revenue for maintenance and amenities.
Other objectives.	

5.4 Connect and Explore Objectives

Connect and Explore: Maximize intergenerational educational, engagement, and recreational opportunities through strong collaborations.

The LRCA manages and enhances recreational areas for current and future generations through robust land management, efficient maintenance programs, and reinvestment in the land. Enhancing access into nature through land holdings, the LRCA enables community members to build a connection to the land and an appreciation for natural or cultural heritage features. In providing spaces and opportunities to connect with the land, the LRCA supports the physical, psychological, mental, and emotional health of community members within the Lakehead Watershed. Visitor satisfaction is a priority, as it boosts customer loyalty and recurring revenue that can be reinvested into the lands owned and operated by the LRCA. Further, providing passive recreation opportunities will encourage advocacy within the community, increasing public awareness of the LRCA.

Table 4: Connect and Explore Objectives

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
Provide spaces, opportunities, and experiences that focus on physical and mental well-being through a connection with the land.	Increase Accessibility in Conservation Areas when feasible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the Conservation Areas and their respective facilities to determine if AODA facilities would be complementary to the site (i.e., trails, washrooms, rest areas). • Where feasible and funding-dependent, continue to integrate AODA infrastructure in the Conservation Areas, including accessible washrooms, trail systems, and rest areas.

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
<p>Engage diverse stakeholders through effective communications, outreach, and education initiatives.</p>	<p>Advertise and Promote Conservation Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote lands that are open for passive recreation, increasing accessibility to a natural setting to improve the physical, psychological, mental, and emotional health of its community members. • Build the LRCA’s social media following to reach a greater audience within the Lakehead Watershed. • Enhance public relations by providing fun and engaging materials on social media platforms that promote Conservation Areas. <p>Provide Educational Programming on LRCA Owned Land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster an awareness of and love for nature and the natural world by continuing to deliver engaging and high-quality educational programming. • Seek new and leverage existing funding to expand capacity for additional non-mandatory programs on LRCA land. • Continue to work with Indigenous partners to explore new ways of incorporating both Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Western knowledge into programming, including “two-eyed-seeing” where appropriate. • Explore ways to guide meaningful collaboration on holistic programming or events with local Indigenous Communities.
<p>Grow partnerships, collaborations, and relationships with new and existing partners who share the LRCA’s Vision and Mission.</p>	<p>Increase available amenities at Conservation Areas utilizing partnerships with other organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where feasible, partner with like-minded agencies to enhance user experience and/or expand services offered on LRCA-owned lands. • Review lands inventory to determine which properties could be integrated with other provincially, municipally, or publicly accessible lands or trail networks.
<p>Manage and enhance recreational areas for current and future generations through robust land management, efficient maintenance programs and reinvestment in the land.</p>	<p>Enhance User Experience in Conservation Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to develop additional Conservation Areas for passive recreation by utilizing the Lands Inventory. • Identify trail development priorities and establish a fieldwork schedule to meet timelines for completion. <p>Maintain and enhance amenities provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the Conservation Area Master Plans and CA Inventories to inform new passive recreational opportunities to the public and to determine which locations would benefit from the installation of new amenities, such as washrooms or pavilions.

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding where appropriate to integrate new assets into the Conservation Areas that will enhance visitor experience. • Review waste management policies and procedures at the Conservation Areas to reduce pollution of the natural ecosystems and recreational zones. • Assess current maintenance practices to ensure they are meeting the needs of the Conservation Areas (garbage, washrooms, and trail amenities). • Ensure adequate access and parking facilities, and where necessary add or update facilities. <p>Provide adequate signage and wayfinding at Conservation Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new trail classification system that provides essential and consistent information, allowing visitors to select trails that meet their physical requirements, expectations, and preferred experience. • Signage will be placed in a way that is mindful to not visually pollute the natural areas. • Utilize strategic incorporation of interpretive signage on LRCA lands only in instances that enhance visitors' knowledge or perceptions of the natural heritage systems, cultural relevance, or significant species. • Maintain up-to-date maps of each property owned. Where applicable, maps will include wetlands, natural heritage features, infrastructure, or Conservation Area trails and amenities.
Other Objectives	

5.5 Govern and Enhance Objectives

***Govern and Enhance:** Distinguish the organization as a leader in environmentally-sustainable practices and responsible stewardship.*

Deliver transparent organizational governance and services that reflect our commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and responsible stewardship of LRCA owned lands. The LRCA is committed to reducing costs where feasible and exploring opportunities for revenue to reinvest into the lands owned and operated by LRCA.

Table 5: Govern and Enhance Objectives

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
Continue to commit to accountable and transparent organizational governance.	<p>Increase Compliance to Rules and Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage visitor compliance with the rules and regulations outlined in the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> through regular enforcement in Conservation Areas. <p>Utilize policies, procedures and actions in an effort to Reduce Liability and Increase Safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safer spaces and reduce liability through the installation of adequate signage, frequent documented inspections of lands, maintaining essential infrastructure and disposing of surplus and defective items. • Continue to utilize the expertise of professional engineers through inspections of substantial infrastructure on a recurring basis to ensure their proper function. • Practice proper hazard identification and mitigation procedures in order to identify and remove hazards as soon as possible to maintain safety of visitors and staff. • Maintain the marking of boundaries of all property boundaries, especially on properties open to the public for passive recreation.
Find and implement efficiencies and streamline processes across all program areas.	
Maintain a stable model of financial resiliency based on capacity, capabilities, and public expectations by maximizing new funding opportunities, fundraising and self-generated revenue.	<p>Maintain a long-term financial plan for the maintenance of assets on LRCA owned lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Asset Management Plan every 5 years. • Maintain adequate reserves required to operate and maintain LRCA owned lands and associated infrastructure.

Strategic Plan Initiative	Conservation Area Strategy Objective
	<p>Continue to Increase Revenue Generation through various means to offset costs to maintain and enhance lands and amenities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review marketing plan to identify the most strategic methods of promoting and advertising Explore Cards, parking fees, etc. <p>Reduce Costs to Operate Lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply to the Conservation of Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) for applicable properties in an effort to decrease property taxes. Explore and continue to apply for grants and funding programs to reduce the cost of maintenance staff wages, to enhance recreational facilities, and to provide additional amenities at Conservation Areas open for passive recreation. Review landholdings and potentially dispose of any surplus lands to generate funds for more favorable parcels of lands.
<p>Build upon and nurture a healthy, diverse, and positive workplace through a dynamic culture of learning, safety, inclusion, and mental well-being.</p>	
<p>Continue to work with Indigenous partners and community members to incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into programming and organizational decision-making.</p>	
<p>Build organizational capacity to provide new and developing program areas.</p>	
<p>Other objectives</p>	

5.6 Performance Evaluation Framework

The Performance Evaluation Framework is a cyclical systematic approach to effectively measure the completion of objectives over a five-year period (Figure 1). The simplicity of the framework allows the LRCA to reevaluate established objectives to ensure they are being met or that there is significant progress towards completion.

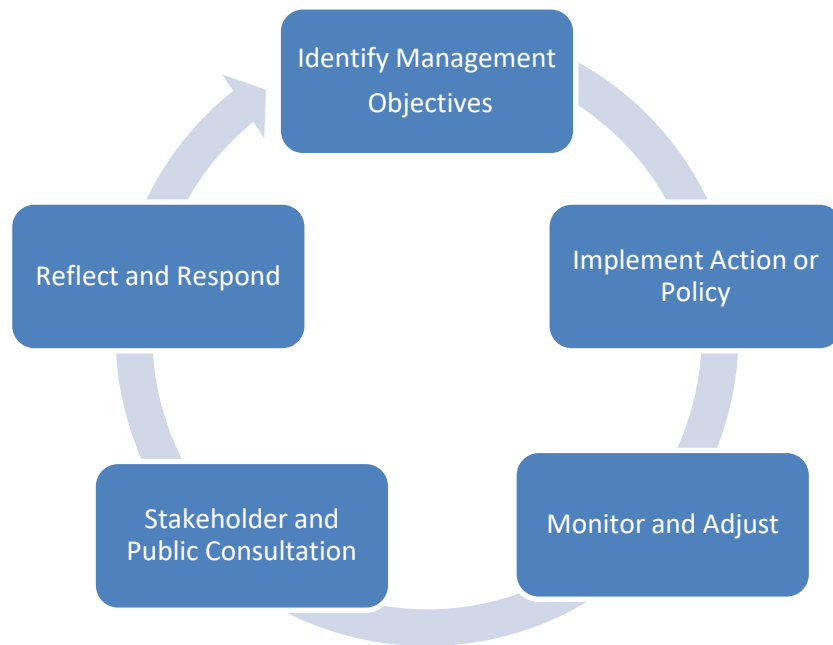


Figure 1: Performance Evaluation Framework

1) Identify Improvement Objectives

The LRCA will continue to identify objectives that are prudent to the management, maintenance, and protection of the lands owned by the LRCA. Over the course of a five-year period, the objectives identified in the Conservation Area Strategy should be a primary focus.

2) Implement Action or Policy

Where feasible, the LRCA will work towards completing the established set of objectives. Objectives vary significantly between policy development, lands management, and installation capital assets. Staff availability and project costs can be prohibitive; therefore, the framework must be flexible to account for available resources and management requirements.

3) Monitor and Adjust

While the scope of the objectives varies between short-term, long-term, and ongoing, it's important to keep track of progress. The LRCA will assess the success of completed objectives, adjusting for shortcomings when necessary. Progress of objectives will be documented in annual staff reports, and when applicable, shared with the public on the LRCA's social media platforms to build public relations.

4) Stakeholder and Public Consultation

The LRCA seeks to update the Conservation Area Strategy on a five-year basis, or as otherwise warranted. Periodic review and updates of the Conservation Area Strategy must include consultation with stakeholders and the public. The Conservation Area Survey was found to be an effective means of consultation, allowing the public to bring forward requests, concerns, or feedback on the maintenance. The survey highlighted successes and shortcomings of current lands management, specifically relating to those that are open to the public for passive recreation. New objectives can be derived from public consultation, leading to positive change on LRCA owned lands.

5) Reflect and Respond

Once the consultation process has ended, the Authority will compile and assess the recommendations and feedback, translating them into feasible objectives. Public feedback will assist with final decision-making and identify programs or services that could be improved. The outcomes of the consultation process should be reported back to participants with the updated recommendations rendered.

5.7 *Land Acquisition and Disposition*

The Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy (Appendix C) provides an administrative framework and evaluation scheme for future land acquisitions by the LRCA, whether by design or in response to an offer of a land donation. Further, the policy provides guidance for the disposal of surplus lands. The policy encompasses a criteria-based process to identify lands that benefit the mandate of the LRCA or lands that could be sold to generate funds for alternate parcels of conservation importance.

6 CONCLUSION

The Conservation Area Strategy will be utilized as a resource for tracking the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services offered on the lands owned and controlled by the LRCA. The strategy provides a review of current operation and maintenance programs and policies in place that further the conservation, restoration development, and management of natural resources. Further, the mandatory public review process was beneficial for highlighting areas for improvement and the development of practical objectives to be addressed by the LRCA. The objectives developed will inform decision-making regarding the management, maintenance and restoration of the LRCA's lands. The Conservation Area Strategy will be made publicly available for full transparency, allowing for continued understanding and appreciation for the roles and mandated responsibilities of the LRCA.

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APPENDIX A: Amenities in Conservation Areas

Conservation Area Name	Hectares	Trails (km)	Amenities	Passive Recreation Activities
Cascades	157.61	5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • AODA Compliant Trail System • Interpretive Signage • 2 Outdoor Privies • 2 Bridges • 3 Staircases • Picnic Tables • BBQ Grill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Birding • Photography • Trail Running • Swimming • Fishing • Snowshoeing
Cedar Falls	22.66	1km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • 2 Staircases • Picnic Table • Bench 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Photography • Birding • Trail Running • Fishing • Snowshoeing
Hazelwood Lake	669.39	7km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Kayak Launch • Fishing Dock • Pavilion • 3 Outdoor Privies • 1 Seasonal Privy • Picnic Tables • Interpretive Signage • 3 Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Photography • Birding • Trail Running • Kayaking/Canoeing • Geocaching • Swimming • Fishing • Snowshoeing
Hurkett Cove	121.8	2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Kayak Launch • Trail Boardwalk • Outdoor Privy • BBQ Grills • Pavilion • Interpretive Signage • 3 Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Photography • Birding • Swimming • Fishing • Snowshoeing • Kayaking/Canoeing
Little Trout Bay	17.70	2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Boat Launch • Dock • 2 Outdoor Privies • Pavilion • Picnic Tables • BBQ Grills • 2 Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Birding • Trail Running • Swimming • Fishing • Snowshoeing • Kayaking/Canoeing • Scuba Diving • Photography
MacKenzie Point	0.93	0.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga • Fishing • Picnicking

Conservation Area Name	Hectares	Trails (km)	Amenities	Passive Recreation Activities
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birding • Photography • Swimming • Nature Appreciation
Mission Island Marsh	62.77	2.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • AODA Compliant Trail • Boardwalk • 2 Outdoor Privies • 1 Seasonal Privy • Interpretive Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature appreciation • Birding • Photography • Swimming • Fishing • Scuba Diving • Geocaching • Kite Surfing/Wind Surfing
Mills Block	287.16	4km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Interpretive Signage • 1 Seasonal Privy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Birding • Geocaching • Snowshoeing • Photography
Silver Harbour	69.39	0.5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Boat Launch • 3 Docks • 2 Outdoor Privies • Pavilion • Picnic Tables • BBQ Grill • Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Birdwatching • Swimming • Photography • Fishing • Kayaking/Canoeing • Scuba Diving
Wishart	215.09	2.3km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Interpretive Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking/Dog Walking • Nature Appreciation • Birding • Cross Country Skiing • Snowshoeing • Fishing • Photography

APPENDIX B: Conservation Areas Survey



CONSERVATION AREAS VISITOR SURVEY

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) is gathering information from visitors to our Conservation Areas to better understand how our lands are being utilized, and to determine if there are realistic goals we can achieve to create a better user experience. Please consider filling out the questionnaire below in order to share your valuable feedback.

The LRCA is developing a Conservation Area Strategy to establish a current set of objectives that will inform decision-making related to the Conservation Areas or lands owned and operated by the Authority. The intent is to identify the gaps, necessary actions, and funding required to support the services provided by these lands in the future. The data collected from this survey will be incorporated, as warranted, into the Conservation Area Strategy as a component of the public consultation process.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this voluntary survey. It should take approximately 2-5 minutes to complete. Please note that individual responses are confidential. Data obtained from the survey will be reported to the LRCA Board of Directors and Management.

By selecting "I Agree", you are indicating that:

- you are willingly participating in this survey
- you agree to the above information

I Agree *

First Name	Last Name	E-Mail
Age	Phone	

Where do you reside? If you selected "Other", please specify in the space provided.

Please select *
Specify Other

Do you purchase an Explore Card Parking Pass annually? If you selected "Yes", for how many years have you been purchasing Explore Cards?

Please select *	0	Years Purchased *
-----------------	---	-------------------

When visiting a Conservation Area, approximately how many people are typically accompanying you in your vehicle?

0	Number of People in Vehicle *
---	-------------------------------

What activities do you participate in when visiting Conservation Areas? (Select all that apply, and add your own in the space provided)

Please select *

Additional Activities



How often do you visit each Conservation Area? If you visit an area frequently, use the Visits Per Week column; if you visit an area rarely or only sometimes, use the Visits Per Year column.

Cascades	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Mission Island Marsh	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Silver Harbour	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Hazelwood Lake	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Little Trout Bay	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Hurkett Cove	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Cedar Falls	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
MacKenzie Point	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Mills Block	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year
Wishart	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Week	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Visits Per Year

Do you visit Conservation Areas with a club/organization/group? Please list below.

Please specify

In your own personal opinion, what are the ideal modifications, improvements or changes that you would like to see at the Conservation Areas that you visit (funding and personnel permitting)?

Please specify

Do you have any other comments or concerns?

Please specify

Would you like to be contacted to further discuss your survey responses? (If yes, please ensure your contact information is filled out above.)

APPENDIX C: Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy

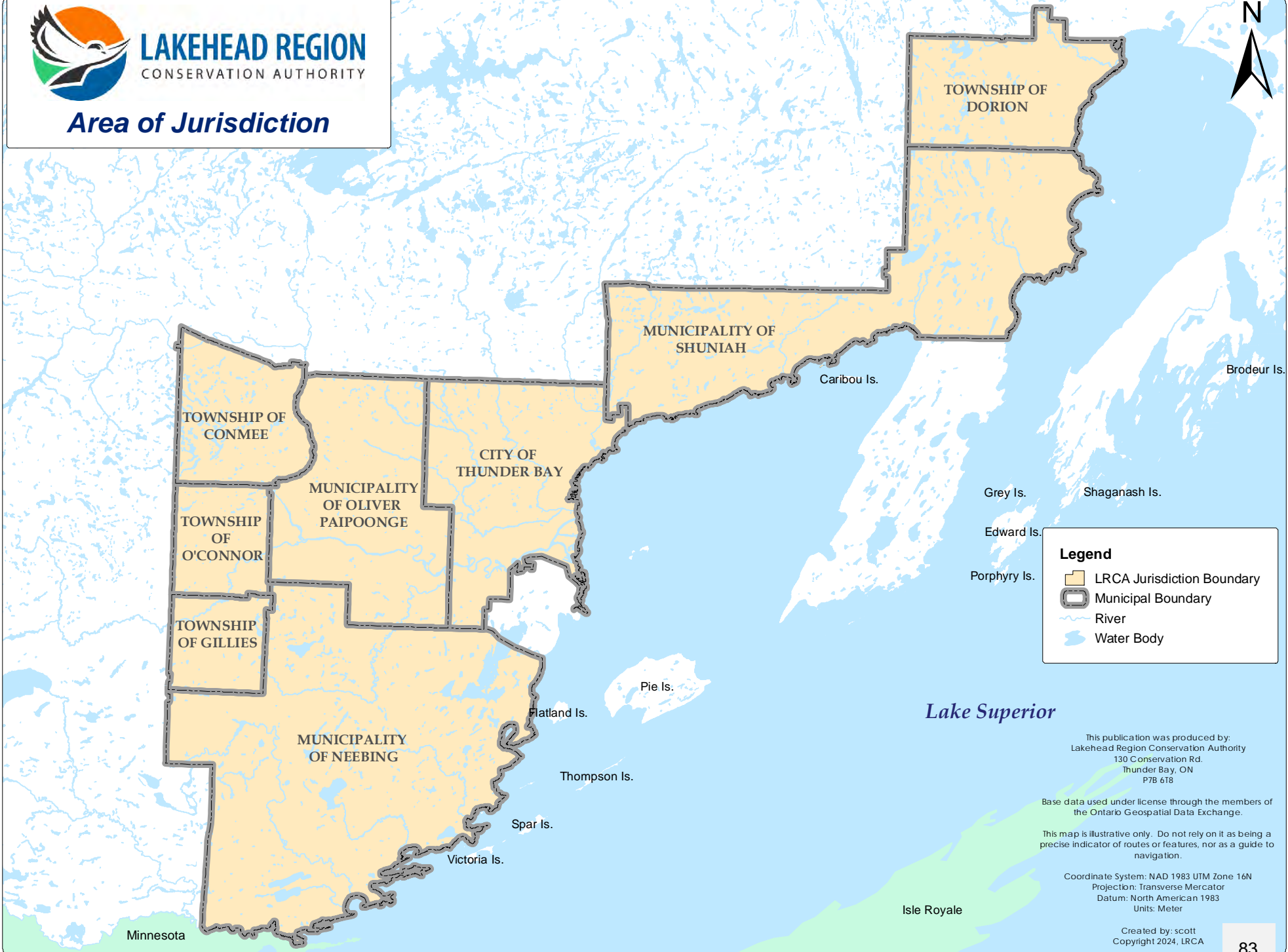
(TO BE REVIEWED AT THE JUNE BOARD MEETING)

MAPS







LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Area of Jurisdiction



Legend

-  LRCJA Jurisdiction Boundary
-  Municipal Boundary
-  River
-  Water Body

Lake Superior

This publication was produced by:
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
130 Conservation Rd.
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6T8

Base data used under license through the members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange.

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes or features, nor as a guide to navigation.

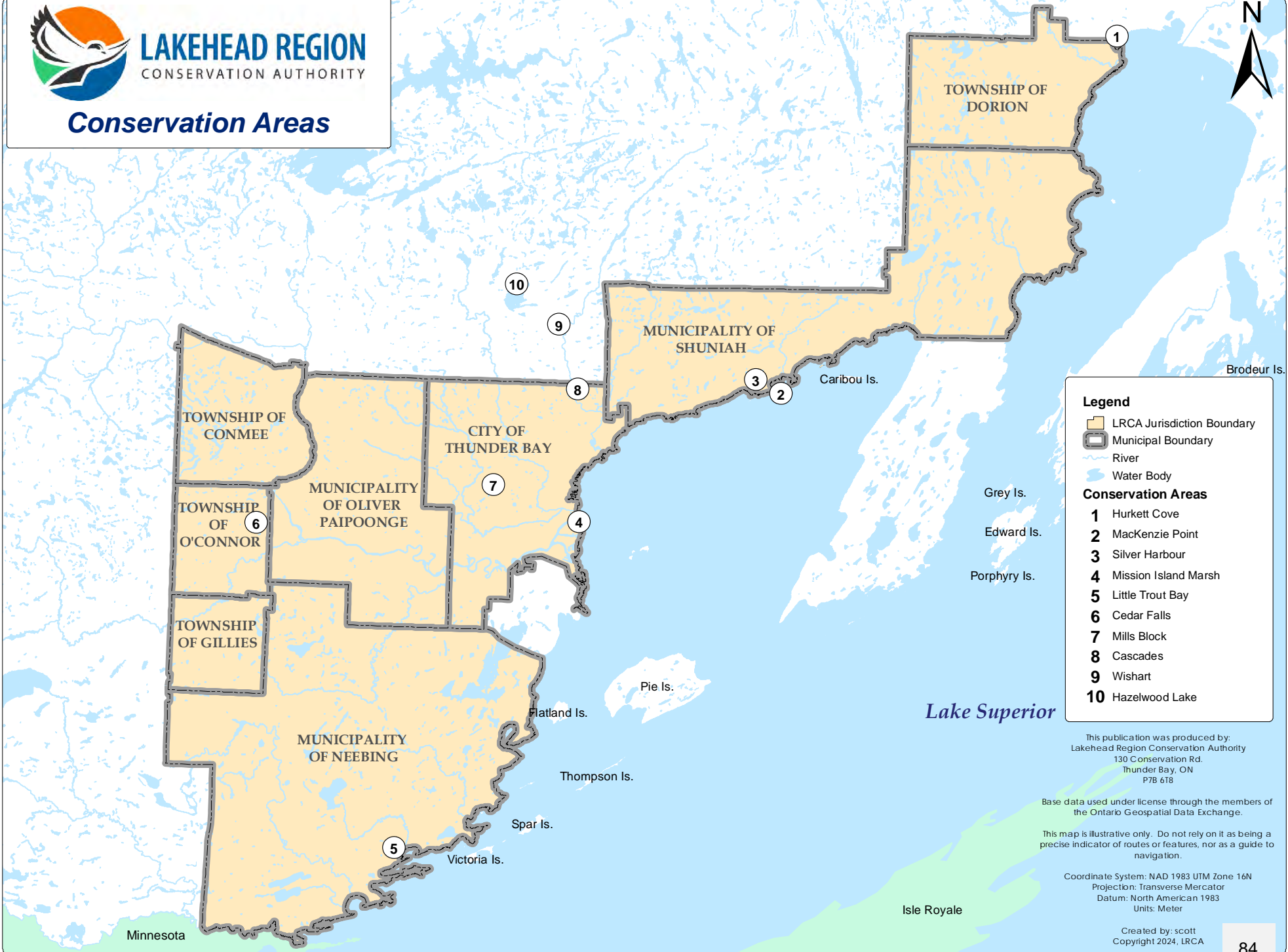
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

Created by: scott
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LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Areas



Legend

- LRCA Jurisdiction Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- River
- Water Body

Conservation Areas

- 1** Hurkett Cove
- 2** MacKenzie Point
- 3** Silver Harbour
- 4** Mission Island Marsh
- 5** Little Trout Bay
- 6** Cedar Falls
- 7** Mills Block
- 8** Cascades
- 9** Wishart
- 10** Hazelwood Lake

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130 Conservation Road, PO Box 10427
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
Phone: (807) 344-5857 | Fax: (807) 345-9156

Conservation Areas Strategy Questionnaire

Q 1) Do you think the Conservation Areas Strategy provides an adequate representation of LRCA-owned lands and their respective land use categories?

YES / NO (Circle One)

If you answered no, please indicate how the lands could be better identified or categorized:

Q 2) Does the Conservation Areas Survey provide an accurate representation of the LRCA's Mandatory and Non-Mandatory services?

YES / NO (Circle One)

If you answered no, please describe which programs or services are missing (if any) or how improvements could be made: _____

Q 3) Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the public consultation strategy beyond what has been referenced in Section 4?

Q 4) Do you think the objectives selected for the Conservation Area Strategy are relevant and valuable to future decision-making related to the lands owned and controlled by the Authority?

YES / NO (Circle One)

If not, please indicate how the objectives could be improved or what objectives should be integrated into the Conservation Areas Strategy:

Q 5) Do you think the performance evaluation framework will efficiently measure performance over a 5-year period?

YES / NO (Circle One)

If not, please indicate how the performance evaluation framework could be improved.

Q6) Please provide any additional comments, feedback, or questions below:

Thank you for taking the time to review and evaluate the Conservation Areas Strategy.

**2024 TREASURER'S REPORT
MONTHLY EXPENSES**

	2024 BUDGET	April	TOTAL TO DATE	BALANCE REMAINING
REVENUE				
Provincial Grants	348,732	-	141,545	207,187
Municipal Levy	1,854,691	-	1,854,691	-
Self Generated	341,214	88,359	291,573	49,641
Other Revenue	414,019	7,540	61,762	352,257
TOTAL REVENUE	2,958,656	95,899	2,349,572	609,084
EXPENSES				
Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services				
Corporate Services	959,560	88,611	411,846	547,714
Risk of Natural Hazards	1,048,714	56,848	271,459	777,255
Conservation and Management of Lands owned and controlled by the Authority	455,875	40,953	136,683	319,192
Source Water Protection	68,792	3,890	22,599	46,193
Other Programs and Services	22,870	627	3,518	19,352
Total Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services	2,555,811	190,929	846,105	1,709,706
Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality				
Mapping Services	16,000	1,300	5,138	10,862
Total Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality	16,000	1,300	5,138	10,862
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services				
Education	103,882	4,122	17,403	86,479
Stewardship	272,963	9,565	62,454	210,509
Other	10,000	-	3,816	6,184
Total Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services	386,845	13,687	83,673	303,172
Total All Expenses	2,958,656	205,915	934,916	2,023,740
Surplus(Deficit)	-	- 110,017	1,414,656	- 1,414,656



May 31, 2024

Moved By _____
 Seconded By _____

"THAT: having examined the accounts for the period April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024 cheque #3210 to #3242 for \$168,825.31 and preauthorized payments of \$ 171,306.12 for a total of \$340,131.43, we approve their payment."

3210	2611943 Ontario Ltd.	Garbage removal Mission Marsh Feb 8	113.00
3211	Capstone Development and Training	PON Ticket Writing refresher training for RG, RH and MW	108.65
3212	City of Thunder Bay	Water Bill Jan 10, 2024	1,068.86
3213	generator	Experience Guide 2024 Ad	1,863.00
3214	Grant Thornton LLP	QBO fees January - March 2024	389.85
3215	Lowery's	Office Supplies	1,487.06
3216	Mark Ambrose	Petty Cash	194.73
3217	Marsh Canada	Insurance Coverage April 1, 2024 - April 1, 2025	76,408.56
3218	Rachael Z Bezanson	Ice for SWAP	53.30
3219	RAS Maintenance Services	Cleaning service for March	644.04
3220	Superior Outdoors Inc. The Walleye	Advertising in the Walleye magazine	335.61
3221	Thunder Bay Answering Service Inc.	Answering Service	258.72
3222	Thunder Bay Broom & Chemicals	Office Supplies	156.82
		Native shrubs and perennials for Fisherman's Park West and Water St.	
3223	Trevisanutto's	Shoreline plantings	11,060.18
3224	2611943 Ontario Ltd.	Garbage Removal Mission Marsh Apr 7	226.00
3225	Gary Davies	Supplies for bird boxes	134.89
3226	Grant Thornton LLP	Second interim billing - 2023 Audit	3,695.10
3227	Innovated Solutions	2024 Cloud Protection	847.50
3228	KGS Group Consulting Engineers	Floodway integrity Evaluation February 2024	30,043.38
3229	Northern Turf Equipment	Oil, Air filters, spark plugs	344.20
3230	Ontario Nature	2024 Ontario Nature Membership Renewal - Bronze	50.00
3231	Rachael Z Bezanson	Education supplies	145.10
3232	Willis Technical Services	Boulevard Lake Shoreline project-Construction Bid package	2,983.20
3233	Workplace Safety North	Competent Supervisor Training 2023	4,068.00
3234	Despres Metal Artwork	Deposit for Cascades Entrance Sign	15,000.00
3235	Donna Blunt	CO Meeting Apr 14-16, 2024 Donna Blunt	167.20
3236	Lakehead Conservation Foundation	Membership payment for 2023 and 2024 Sabina Kovacevic	20.00
3237	Mark Ambrose	Petty Cash	136.00
3238	Melissa Hughson	Training Meal Allowance Melissa Hughson	232.20
3239	Scott Drebit	Meal allowance expenses for WISKI training Apr 9-11, 2024	175.50
3240	Shout Media	Payment # 2 Website development	15,066.29
3241	Tammy Cook	CO Meeting Apr 14-16, 2024 Tammy Cook	163.00
3242	TBay Post Inc.	Visitor Map ad	1,185.37
			<u>168,825.31</u>
PA	Payroll and Per Diems		131,973.20
PA	Royal Bank Group Retirement RRSP and TFSA		2,011.48
PA	RWAM and Lifeworks Benefits		3,833.61
PA	Enbridge		793.88
PA	Synergy North		561.07
PA	Esso		923.29
PA	Visa Routine Monthly Expenses		8,083.24
PA	Banking and Visa Fees		1,106.49
PA	Postage		1,130.00
PA	OMERS March		18,902.96
PA	Computer Consulting		1,700.00
PA	Photocopier Lease		286.90
			<u>171,306.12</u>
			<u>340,131.43</u>

Chair

Res# _____/24

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration
April 1 to April 30, 2024

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan/ Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (Z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay	A-30-2024		OZ-03-2024					1047 Dawson Road	1350 Arthur St W	Phase 1 ESA - 408 Frederica St W	
			OZ-02-2024					125 Birchwood Cres	100 Princess St	Phase 1 ESA - 1214 Amber Dr	
								740 Grey Cres			
								724 Holly Cres			
								628 Thistle Cres			
								168/172 Hodder Ave			
								837 Hodder Ave			
								661 Thornloe			
								Bruce St/Minot Ave			
								217 Arthur St W			
								698 Arthut St W			
								330 St George Street			
								1725 Highway 61			
Total	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	2	2	20
Oliver Paipoonge							210 McLaren Road				
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O'Connor											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neebing		B03-2024									
		B04-2024									
Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Shuniah											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conmee											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gillies											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorion		B25-4									
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rural Planning Board											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Total	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	13	2	2	24

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration
May 1 to 21, 2024

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan/ Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (Z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay								Portion of Lands on Mission Island			
								940 Memorial Ave			
								16 Cumberland St N			
								1181 Golf Links Rd			
								463 Hodder Ave			
								15C St Paul Street			
							139 Heron St				
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
Oliver Paipoonge							243 Harstone Road				
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
O'Connor											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neebing		B05-2024									
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shuniah		B24-2						Mackenzie Heights Lot			
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Conmee				Adopted Official Plan Review							
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gillies											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorion											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Planning Board											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Total	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	7	0	0	12



Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses O.Reg. 180/06

Year: 2024

Permit #	Category	Fee	Applicant Name	Municipality	Subject Property Address	Type of Work	Key Dates				
							Rec'd at LRCA	Permit Issued	Days to Issue Permit	Reason for Timeline	Approved by:
#1/24	Major	\$1,000.00	Forum Thunder Bay Inc	City of Thunder Bay	0 Innovation Dr.	Fill & Stormwater Pond	15/01/2023	9/1/2024	17		Staff
#2/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Andrew Perger	City of Thunder Bay	134 Bruin Crescent- Parkdale	Dwelling & Garage Construction	15/1/2024	23/01/24	12		Staff
#3/24	Standard Works	\$150.00	B.J. Halow	Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	3437 Rosslyn Road	Bank Repair, Erosion Protection	22/1/2024	25/01/24	3		Staff
#4/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Shawn Reid	Municipality of Shuniah	1027 Cedar Bay Road	Constructed Rock Groynes	8/1/2024	29/01/24	21		Staff
#5/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Rory Prezio	City of Thunder Bay	190 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	25/1/2024	30/01/24	5		Staff
#6/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	159 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	6/2/2024	13/02/24	6		Staff
#7/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	181 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	6/2/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#8/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	183 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	6/2/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#9/24	Standard Work	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	202 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	2/6/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#10/24	Standard Work	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	203 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	6/2/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#11/24	Standard Work	\$300.00	Lomar Construction	City of Thunder Bay	205 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	2/6/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#12/24	Standard Work	\$600.00	Mark Kotz	City of Thunder Bay	129 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	8/2/2024	13/2/2024	6		Staff
#13/24	Large Works	\$600.00	J.W. Michieli Construction	City of Thunder Bay	198 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	21/02/24	26/02/24	5		Staff
#14/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Justin Deanielewski	City of Thunder Bay	925 Balsam St	Garage	27/02/24	06/03/24	9		Staff
#15/24	Large Works	\$600.00	North Star Holdings	Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	Cooper Rd	Culvert Replacement	4/3/2024	09/03/24	7		Staff
#16/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	L. Sebastianis Contracting	City of Thunder Bay	Lot 20 Bruin Cres.	Dwelling	8/3/2024	11/03/24	4		Staff
#17/24	Standard Works	\$0.00	North Shore Steelhead	City of Thunder Bay	Boulevard Lake Dam	Fishway Modifications	11/3/2024	19/03/24	9		Staff
#18/24	Large Works	\$600.00	North Star Holdings	City of Thunder Bay	Cooper Rd	Lot Regrading - Fill - Removal and Placement	4/3/2024	14/03/24	11		Staff
#19/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Francis Frattoroli	City of Thunder Bay	201 Bruin Crescent	Dwelling Construction	14/3/2024	27/03/24	13		Staff
#20/24	Standard Works	\$300.00	Nicole Lagrange	City of Thunder Bay	4003 Dawson Rd	Garage & Greenhouse Construction	15/3/2024	25/03/24	11		Staff
#21/24	Small Works	\$150.00	Kevin Granholm	City of Thunder Bay	1535 Mountain Rd	Fill Placement & Garage Construction	20/3/2024	22/03/24	8		Staff
#22/24	Large Works	\$0.00	City of Thunder Bay	City of Thunder Bay	Blanchard St. Bridge over McVicar Creek	Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	28/03/24	16/04/24	12		Staff
#23/24	Large Works	\$0.00	City of Thunder Bay	City of Thunder Bay	County Park Bridge over to McVicar Creek	Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	28/03/24	16/04/24	12		Staff
#24/24	Large Works	\$0.00	City of Thunder Bay	City of Thunder Bay	Brent St. Bridge over to McVicar Creek	Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	28/03/24	16/04/24	12		Staff

Prohibited Activities, Exceptions and Permits- Ontario Regulation 41/24

Year: 2024

Permit #	Category	Fee	Applicant Name	Municipality	Subject Property Address	Type of Work	Key Dates					Within Timelines	Notes (violation, reason for timeline, etc.)
							Complete Application Received with Permit Fee Paid (YYYY-MM-DD)	Notice of Complete/ Incomplete Application ISSUED (YYYY-MM-DD)	Days to Issue Notice of Complete/ Incomplete Application (21 day timeline)	Permit Issued / Refused (YYYY-MM-DD)	Days to Issue /Refuse Permit (90 day timeline)		
#25/24	Standard	\$300.00	Brian Belluz	Oliver Paipoonge	Vacant Lot West of 412 Barrie Dr.	Shed Construction, Fill Placement & Site Grading	4/11/2024	4/16/2024	5	4/17/2024	1	Yes	
#26/24	Small	\$150.00	Rob Frenette	Shuniah	620 Bryan Avenue	Retaining Wall Reconstruction	4/11/2024	4/12/2024	1	4/15/2024	3	Yes	
#27/24	Standard	\$300.00	Confederation College	City of Thunder Bay	1450 Nakina Drive	Disc Golf Course	4/22/2024	4/29/2024	7	5/1/2024	2	Yes	
#28/24	Standard	\$300.00	Trogan Management Services	City of Thunder Bay	133 Bruin Crescent	Dwelling	5/8/2024	5/9/2024	1	5/11/2024	2	Yes	
#29/24	Standard	\$300.00	Tracey Lazzarotto	Shuniah	677 E. Green Bay Rd	Garage	5/8/2024	5/10/2024	2	5/13/2024	3	Yes	
#30/24	Standard	\$300.00	Allen Koistinen	Dorion	251 Wolf River Road	Erosion Protection	5/8/2024	5/13/2024	5	5/14/2024	1	Yes	
#31/24	Standard	\$300.00	Dwight Anderson	City of Thunder Bay	2537 Cypress Drive	Garage	5/6/2024	5/14/2024	8	5/14/2024	1	Yes	
#32/24	Standard	\$300.00	Jeff Salmela	City of Thunder Bay	3111 Feaver Avenue	Garage Addition	5/16/2024	5/17/2024	1	5/21/2024	4	Yes	



Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024
STAFF NAME	Ryan Mackett
POSITION	Communications Manager

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report was scheduled to be distributed by the Chronicle Journal on May 25. Physical copies are now available at the office, and will be provided to interested Members.

2024 Dorion Birding Festival

The 2024 Dorion Birding Festival occurred on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

2024 Wine Tasting and Dinner at Whitewater

The 2024 Wine Tasting & Dinner at Whitewater fundraising event was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024. There were 80 tickets sold (down from 136 sold in 2023), however the event was a success once again. The silent auction and ticket sales together brought in a total profit of approximately \$6,800.00.

2025 Conservation Dinner & Auction

At the April 29 Lakehead Conservation Foundation Meeting, it was decided that the 2025 Conservation Dinner & Auction will not be held. A verbal update will be provided at the Meeting.

Children’s Water Festival

Staff are currently planning the 2024 Lakehead Children’s Water Festival, which will be held June 11-13 at the LRCA Administrative Office.

Pride Month

During the month of June, the LRCA will be flying the pride flag alongside the Canada and Ontario flags. The pride flag was provided free of charge by Rainbow Collective. This symbolic show of support reaffirms the LRCA’s commitment to being a safe, inclusive work environment and providing non-discriminatory public spaces for all members of the community.



Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024
STAFF NAME	Ryne Gilliam
POSITION	Lands Manager

2024 Season Staff

Casey Van de Sande, Drew Zurevinski, Rachel McTavish and Sam De La Mothe have been hired as part of the Lands Maintenance Team for the 2024 summer season. They will assist in maintaining the Conservation Areas, Neebing-McIntyre Floodway and LRCA Office and grounds.

Board Member Conservation Areas Tour

A Board Member tour of Cedar Falls, Little Trout Bay and Mission Island Marsh Conservation Areas is planned for the near future. We ask for the Board Members who are interested in attending discuss a mutual date for the tour.

Wishart Conservation Area Timber Harvesting

As per the Forest Management Plan for Wishart Conservation Area, Block 2 will be harvested during the summer and fall months of 2024. Block 2 is located along the southern section of Wishart along Olmala Road, there is currently no active trails in this Block 2 therefore the Conservation Area will not need to be closed during harvesting, any and all access points into Block 2 will be barricaded with signage identifying the closure if that section. Post cutting the re-establishment of the lookout trail can be completed adding a new maintained trail to Wishart Conservation Area. Cutting is being done in a Selective Harvesting approach thus limiting the overall impact and aesthetic of the forest. All harvesting is being overseen by a Registered Professional Forester.



Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	May 29, 2024
STAFF NAME	Melissa Hughson
POSITION	Watershed Manager

Watershed Conditions – Low Water

On May 10, 2024 the LRCA downgraded the Level II Low Water Condition to a Level I Condition. Precipitation received in both March and April was slightly above average resulting in the Level II Condition being downgraded. Prior to March 2024, the Thunder Bay region had received 10 consecutive months of below average precipitation, and a Level II Low Water Condition was issued on January 3, 2024. The low water criteria will be assessed in June to determine if the condition will be undeclared.

Watershed Conditions

Lake Superior’s beginning of May water level was 2 cm below the beginning of month average, and 30 cm below last years May measurement. During the month of May, Lake Superior undergoes a seasonal rise that historically averages to approximately 10 cm; the lake is expected to continue the seasonal rise under most potential water supply scenarios.

Annual Rain Gauge Inspection

LRCA staff conducted its annual inspection at the nine rain gauge stations maintained by the LRCA in May. The inspection involved removing debris with the tipping buckets, recording gauge conditions (i.e., missing bolts, damage, etc.) and a calibration check. The calibration check consisted of pouring water down the tipping buckets, downloading the gauges at the office, and observing if the tipping buckets are operating correctly.

Lake Superior Management Committee

On May 14th, applicable LRCA staff attended the Lake Superior Partnership Management Committee call led by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the United States’ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Committee is made up of representatives from various regulatory agencies as well as various interest and user groups that contribute to the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP). The LRCA provided an update on the invasive species projects we are involved with this spring/summer including phragmites, narrow leaved cattail and sea lamprey. A presentation was provided by the Transportation and Resource Extraction Committee (TREC) on Metallic Mining (the committee works on tracking and mapping mining projects in the Lake Superior basin).

Kaministiquia River Standing Advisory Committee

The LRCA participated in the Kaministiquia River Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting held May 7, 2024 at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park. The committee is made up of representatives with a vested interest in the flows of the Kaministiquia River including, OPG, camper's associations (Shebandowan and Dog Lake), upper and lower Kam River residents, LRCA, Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park, Fort William Historical Park, Resolute Forest Products, etc. The meeting is held annually to discuss how the Kaministiquia River Water Management Plan is being implemented, how the system performed over the last year and what is expected for spring freshet and the year to come.

PWQMN Sampling

The Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) sampling program, facilitated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, began this month. The program measures water quality in rivers and streams across Ontario. Over 400 locations are currently monitored in partnership with Ontario's Conservation Authorities, participating municipalities and provincial parks. Water samples are taken monthly during the ice-free period. Seven locations are within the Lakehead Region including: Current River, McVicar Creek, McIntyre River, Neebing River (at two locations), Slate River and the Kaministiquia River. The program has been operating since 1964 in the province providing a valuable database for tracking changes in water quality over time.

LRCA Greenhouse

The LRCA Greenhouse has been filled with hundreds of native perennial seedlings, including Black-eyed Susan, Pearly Everlasting, Milkweed, Evening Primrose, and Goldenrod. In celebration of Earth Day, LRCA hosted a volunteer event that drew a crowd of nearly 50 volunteers. The volunteers made quick work of re-potting, separating, and transplanting the young seedlings and were able to join in on Dawson Trail Brewery's LRCA Trivia Night afterwards. A plant sale is planned for early June, with all funds raised to return to the stewardship program. Plants will also be retained for our 2024 habitat restoration projects.

Phragmites Update

In April, LRCA staff had the opportunity to meet with funders from the Invasive Species Centre and offer a tour of Invasive Phragmites management hotspots in Thunder Bay. It was a great opportunity to discuss priorities for the region and upcoming funding. Positive feedback was received, and staff are optimistic about the availability of additional funds for continued management in the 2024 season. Funding applications to the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund are now open, and we will be increasing our funding ask to continue to expand the scope and effectiveness of the Thunder Bay Regional Phragmites Collaboration (TBRPC). Another successful TBRPC meeting was held on April 30th with project partners and stakeholders to discuss monitoring and management priorities this season. The group contributed many new sightings, landowner contacts, and recommendations to continue the fight against phragmites in the region.

Invasive Cattail

The Hurkett Cove Invasive Cattail project is pending final approval through Parks Canada at the time of writing but is expected to be completed imminently. A preliminary meeting with Parks Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada took place to plan out baseline data collection and field work for this season, and compile resources on Invasive Cattail in the province.

Shoreline Protection Program

The Shoreline Protection Program has reached capacity for the 2024 season, with 5 landowners signed up to restore their shorelines and an agreement with Fort William First Nation to install the remaining plants along Lake Superior shoreline.

Sea Lamprey Traps

The LRCA has been contracted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to monitor the sea lamprey traps on the McIntyre and Neebing Rivers for the 2024 season. Sea lamprey are a parasitic invasive species. LRCA has been hired to service the traps daily from Monday to Friday by conducting mark and release studies with the sea lamprey captured and collect and supply raw data that will be used by DFO to generate a population estimate in the streams. These population estimates will be used along with that of other streams to estimate the population in all of Lake Superior. The traps have been operational since April 29th and staff will continue to monitor the traps for a minimum of 8 consecutive weeks. DFO has been collecting adult sea lamprey from the Neebing-McIntyre system since 1954, as part of a Lake Superior network of traps intended to monitor sea lamprey populations. Initially carried out with electrical and mechanical weirs, portable traps were introduced at the Edward Street weir on the Neebing River in 1987, and a permanent trap was installed in the McIntyre River in 1987. A permanent trap is scheduled to be installed at the Neebing River weir by DFO in the summer of 2024; the project was previously approved by the LRCA.