

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 2025, 10:00a.m.
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON
AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The Niagara Peninsula watershed is situated within the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and the Anishinaabeg, including the Mississaugas of the Credit—many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties (No. 3, 4, and 381) and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today, the watershed is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated July 25, 2025

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3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated July 25, 2025 (*distributed separately*)

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. Correspondence dated August 7, 2025, from the Town of Pelham RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority – Request for Financial Support re: St. John's Conservation Area Pilot Project

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5.2. Correspondence dated August 12, 2025 from the City of Hamilton RE: Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocols at Binbrook Conservation Area

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5.3. Correspondence from NPCA staff RE: Notice of Public Information Session – Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan

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6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. 2024 Watershed Monitoring Technical Report

Presented by Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting, Josh Diamond.

6.2. Conservation Areas Management Planning Process

Presented by Manager, Land Planning, Eric Baldin.

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1. Report No. FA-44-25 RE: Conservation Areas Management Planning Process

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9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1. Report No. FA-46-25 RE: Watershed Monitoring Technical Report 2024

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9.2. Report No. FA-43-25 RE: Contract Award – Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project

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9.3. Report No. FA-42-25 RE: Beach Water Quality Testing at Binbrook Conservation Area

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9.4. Report No. FA-45-25 RE: Update on Niagara Region Funding Agreement – 2025 Capital Projects (*distributed separately*)

9.5. Report No. FA-41-25 RE: Agreement of Services between Niagara Parks Commission and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Finance Committee Minutes, dated September 17, 2025 (*distributed separately*)

11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2025, 10:01a.m.
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Beattie, Vice Chair
B. Clark
D. Cridland
R. Foster
B. Grant
M. Seaborn
M. Tadeson
A. Witteveen

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Metcalfe, Chair
P. O'Neill
M. Tadeson

STAFF PRESENT: L. Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
B. Buggeln, Manager, Natural Hazard Management & Resiliency
W. Catterick, GIS Technician
A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas
M. Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
D. Deluce, Director, Planning & Development
L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
E. Gervais, Manager, Corporate Support Services
N. Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change
A. Powell, Manager, Conservation Areas Programs & Services
G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution No. FA-73-2025

Moved by: Brad Clark

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Board meeting held on July 25, 2025 **BE AMENDED** to address Item 9.1. immediately following Item 6.1.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution No. FA-74-2025

Moved by: Donna Cridland

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting and the Closed Session Minutes dated June 27, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- NPCA hosted a launch event showcasing the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project on July 22nd in Lincoln, joined by First Nations, Conservation Authorities, municipalities, and federal and provincial representatives to highlight the importance of this shoreline work in their respective communities.
- Acting Chair Beattie thanked Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation's Chief Salt, Regional Chair Jim Bradley, Town of Lincoln's Mayor Easton, and Conservation Halton's CEO, Chandra Sharma, for providing their insights and expertise. Fellow Board Members were acknowledged for showing such strong support for this initiative.
- Acting Chair Beattie announced a new week-long celebration, Song to the Waters, is taking place from August 12th to 16th with a series of events across Niagara. This week of immersive cultural and musical programming is presented by Niagara Parks Commission, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Kakekalanicks Consulting, and international producers and performing artists Corrina Bonshek & Collaborators, and Oktoecho.
- Acting Chair Beattie yielded the floor to CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Leilani Lee-Yates, who provided an update on removal of signage at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area that may have caused visitors any confusion. She further noted that staff are exploring interim solutions for washroom access while the permanent washrooms are closed due to vandalism incidents.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution No. FA-75-2025

Moved by: Robert Foster

Seconded by: Brad Clark

THAT the following correspondence items **BE RECEIVED:**

5.1. Correspondence dated June 19, 2025 from Regional Municipality of Niagara RE: Woodland Conservation By-Law Update PDS-4-2025; and

5.2. Correspondence dated June 27, 2025 from Regional Municipality of Niagara RE: 2026 Budget Planning CSD-31-2025.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Oswego Creek Floodplain Mapping

Manager, Natural Hazard Management and Resiliency, Brendan Buggeln, provided a presentation on the proposed floodplain mapping updates for Oswego Creek.

Resolution No. FA-76-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT the Oswego Creek Floodplain Mapping presentation **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

9.1. Report No. FA-37-25 RE: Oswego Creek Floodplain Mapping Approval

Resolution No. FA-77-2025

Moved by: Michelle Seaborn

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT Report No. FA-37-25 RE: Oswego Creek Floodplain Mapping Approval **BE RECEIVED;**

AND THAT the NPCA Board of Directors **APPROVE** the Oswego Creek Floodplain Mapping reports and associated flood maps for use in the implementation of Ontario Regulation 41/24 and policies;

AND THAT the approved flood maps of Oswego Creek **BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE;**

AND FURTHER THAT Report No. FA-37-25 **BE CIRCULATED** to Haldimand County and the Township of Wainfleet for Information.

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Resolution No. FA-78-2025

Moved by: Albert Witteveen

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT the following consent items **BE RECEIVED:**

8.1. Report No. FA-33-25 RE: Compliance and Enforcement Q2 Statistics 2025; and

8.2. Report No. FA-35-25 RE: NPCA Planning and Development Semi-Annual Report.

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.2. Report No. FA-34-25 RE: Binbrook Comfort Station – Contract Award

Director, Conservation Areas, Adam Christie, provided a brief overview of the report.

Resolution No. FA-79-2025

Moved by: Donna Cridland

Seconded by: Brad Clark

THAT Report No. FA-34-25 RE: Binbrook Comfort Station – Contract Award **BE RECEIVED;**

AND THAT a capital contract award to Duomax Developments Inc. in the amount of \$681,400 (plus non-recoverable HST) for the Binbrook Comfort Station **BE APPROVED;**

AND FURTHER THAT a contingency of 10% for the capital project **BE ALLOCATED** to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation process.

CARRIED

9.3. Report No. FA-32-25 RE: Long Beach Workshop – Contract Award

Director, Conservation Areas, Adam Christie, provided a brief overview of the report. Discussion ensued regarding the timeline to complete works in preparation for the busy season in 2026.

Resolution No. FA-80-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT Report No. FA-32-25 RE: Long Beach Workshop – Contract Award **BE RECEIVED;**

AND THAT a capital contract award to Duomax Developments Inc. in the amount of \$718,900 (plus non-recoverable HST) for the Long Beach Workshop **BE APPROVED;**

AND FURTHER THAT a contingency of 10% for the capital project **BE ALLOCATED** to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation process.

CARRIED

9.4. Report No. FA-38-25 RE: 2026 Budget Assumptions and Process

Director, Corporate Services, Lise Gagnon, provided a brief overview of the report.

Resolution No. FA-81-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT Report No. FA-38-25 RE: 2026 Budget Assumptions and Process **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the budget assumptions for the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets as identified in the report **BE APPROVED** for use in the development of the 2026 budgets;

AND THAT staff **BE DIRECTED** to continue discussions relative to known funding gaps and service level agreements with municipal partners;

AND THAT a list of current known unfunded priorities **BE PREPARED** for the Board's consideration in conjunction with 2026 budgets;

AND THAT the Preliminary 2026 Budget **BE REVIEWED** by the Finance Committee and brought to the Board of Directors at the October 24, 2025 meeting for review and approval;

AND FURTHER THAT the funding municipalities **BE ADVISED** thirty days in advance of the Levy vote in accordance with the Conservation Authorities (CA) Act and Ontario Regulation 402/22.

CARRIED

9.5. Report No. FA-39-25 RE: 2026-2027 Wedding and Facilities Rental Fees

Discussion ensued regarding fees reflecting costs appropriately and opportunity to compare to other conservation authorities that provide similar services.

Resolution No. FA-82-2025

Moved by: Albert Witteveen

Seconded by: Brad Clark

THAT Report No. FA-39-25 regarding the 2026-2027 Wedding and Facilities Rental Fees **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the 2026-2027 Wedding and Facilities Rental Fees outlined in Appendix 1 of Report No. FA-39-24 **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

9.6. Report No. FA-40-25 RE: Agreement of Services between the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Resolution No. FA-83-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT Report No. FA-40-25 regarding the Agreement of Services between the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE RECEIVED;**

AND THAT the Agreement of Services between the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE APPROVED;**

AND THAT the CAO/Secretary – Treasurer and NPCA Chair **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign required documents to execute said agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT the final executed Agreement of Services between the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE** on NPCA's website.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Governance Committee Minutes, dated June 27, 2025

Resolution No. FA-84-2025

Moved by: Donna Cridland

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT the Minutes of the Governance Committee, dated June 27, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

10.2. Finance Committee Minutes, dated July 16, 2025

Resolution No. FA-85-2025

Moved by: Michelle Seaborn

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee, dated July 16, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

11. MOTIONS

None.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- Member Witteveen inquired about any updates on the provincial appointment of an Agricultural Representative to the Full Authority Board. CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Lee-Yates advised that conservation authorities have not received notice of appointments and timing may be impacted by the transition from Ministry of Natural Resources to Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.
- Member Foster commended NPCA for the success of the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project event and noted that further engagement with Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative may be of interest.
- Member Cridland noted that the Green Herons were nominated by NPCF for the Canadian Wildlife's Wade Luzny Youth Conservation Award and shared that they had won the prestigious award. Two members travelled to Yellowknife, NWT in June to accept the award on behalf of the club.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. FA-86-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT the Full Authority Meeting scheduled on July 25, 2025 **NOW MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION** at 10:54a.m.

Resolution No. FA-87-2025

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT the Full Authority Meeting scheduled July 25, 2025 **RESUME** open session at 11:07a.m.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-88-2025

Moved by: Brad Clark

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT staff **PROCEED AS DIRECTED** in closed session regarding Confidential Report No. FA-36-25.

CARRIED

15. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Beattie adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

August 7, 2025

Via email: ngreen@npca.ca; kroyer@npca.ca; mdavis@npca.ca

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
3350 Merrittville Hwy, Unit 9
Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6

Attention: Natalie Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change
Kerry Royer, Land Planning Specialist
Melanie Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board

**Re: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority - Request for Financial Support
re: St. John's Conservation Area Pilot Project**

At their regular meeting of August 6, 2025, Council of the Town of Pelham received your Invasive Species Partnership presentation, and endorsed the following:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the St. John's Conservation Area Pilot Project presentation from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, for information;

AND THAT Council support the request for a financial contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to be drawn from the Operating Budget to support capacity building, training and treatment of Hemlock Woolly Alelgid;

AND THAT the CAO be directed to take the necessary steps to fulfill this partnership opportunity.

On behalf of Council, thank you for your presentation.

Yours very truly,



Jodi Legros
Deputy Clerk
jlegros@pelham.ca | 905-980-6662

- c. David Cribbs, Chief Administrative Officer
Teresa Quinlin-Murphy, Director of Corporate Services & Town Treasurer



City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5
www.hamilton.ca

Hamilton

August 12, 2025

Via Email: jmetcalfe@npca.ca

John Metcalfe
Chair, Board of Directors
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor
Welland, ON, L3C 3W2

Re: Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocols at Binbrook Conservation Area

Dear Mr. Metcalfe,

The Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Unit, at its meeting held on Monday, July 28, 2025, passed the following Resolution:

9.1 Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocols at Binbrook Conservation Area - REVISED

WHEREAS, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) oversees beaches within the jurisdiction of two municipal public health units: Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton. The NPCA conducts beach monitoring and assessment of its beaches within Niagara Region, as agreed upon with the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, and communicates results, water quality and risks to NPCA conservation area visitors. The City of Hamilton currently reports the beach water testing results, including Binbrook Conservation Area, to beachgoers. This current practice results in conflicting beach testing, water quality and risk messaging being communicated to park visitors and beachgoers between NPCA's Niagara and Hamilton beaches;

WHEREAS, Binbrook Conservation Area Beach is located on land owned and operated by the NPCA and does not fall within the legal definition of a "public beach" under the Ontario Public Health Standards, Recreational Water Protocol, 2019. A "public beach" is defined as a public bathing area owned and operated by a municipality to which the general public has access;

WHEREAS, In 2019, the NPCA updated its beach management program within Niagara Region by shifting away from public health unit-led lab testing and toward an environmental risk-based approach in accordance with the Ontario Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline;

WHEREAS, NPCA currently manages water quality testing programs for NPCA-owned beaches throughout its watershed, and has established protocols that include daily on-site monitoring of environmental and physical water conditions, weekly beach water sampling and laboratory testing, and responsive public notification protocols based on real-time observations that include posting results on the NPCA webpage;

WHEREAS, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) conducts weekly beach water sampling, but results typically take 24–48 hours, which can lead to delayed or outdated public notifications; and

WHEREAS, NPCA staff are willing to take forward recommendations to their Board of Directors to seek resolution for the beach water quality testing of the Binbrook Conservation Area Beach, including considerations for releasing the City of Hamilton from legal liabilities related to health issues that may be a result of beach water quality, and the assumption of costs that would allow HPS to reallocate resources to other beaches within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Health Services be directed to engage in formal discussions with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to explore the feasibility, legal authority, and operational requirements for transitioning beach water quality testing and public swimming advisories at Binbrook Conservation Area Beach from Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) to NPCA staff;
- (b) That staff report back to the Board of Health with findings and recommendations no later than Q4 2025;
- (c) That the report consider relevant legal opinions, service delivery models, operational impacts, communication strategies, public safety considerations, and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration; and
- (d) That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the NPCA Board of Directors for information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Trennum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and last name "Trennum" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

cc. Leilani Lee-Yates, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton Public Health Services

The NPCA will be hosting a **Public Information Session** focusing on the **Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan** on September 23, 2025.

About the Project

Located in the Town of Grimsby, Beamer Memorial was acquired by NPCA in the late 1960s for escarpment protection and nature study. Beamer Memorial is 63 hectares in size and offers breathtaking, panoramic views of the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario. The conservation area is popular for observing the annual spring hawk migration as they pass over the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

The development of the updated management plan for [Beamer Memorial Conservation Area](#) is guided by [NPCA's Conservation Areas Strategy](#), with a strong focus on collaboration and community engagement.

Due to the sensitive environment of the escarpment, the updated management plan will include natural heritage enhancements, biodiversity protection, and will guide capital investments to improve visitor experience and long-term sustainability of the conservation area.

Public Information Session

Beginning with a Public Information Session, NPCA will be working closely with community partners and members to ensure that current priorities, environmental pressures, protection of unique natural heritage, and needs of the community are reflected in the management plan.

The Public Information Session will be in-person only, held at the following date and location:

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Elizabeth Street Pumphouse
447 Elizabeth Street, Grimsby ON L3M 3C2

To attend the meeting, please [REGISTER HERE](#). You may also complete the form if you are unable to attend, but would like to receive project updates and further information.

Contact

For more information about the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan, please contact our land planning team at landplanning@npca.ca.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Conservation Area Management Planning Process

Report No: FA-44-25

Date: September 19, 2025

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-44-25 RE: Conservation Area Management Planning Process **BE RECEIVED.**

Purpose:

To provide information about the conservation area management planning process and priorities for management plans over the next three to five years.

Background:

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) manages 43 conservation areas which encompass a diverse range of ecosystem types, protect some of the most critical ecological features within the Niagara Peninsula watershed, and offer passive and active recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

As per *Conservation Authorities Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27) and *Ontario Regulation 686/21*, conservation authorities were required to develop a Conservation Area Strategy (CA Strategy) to provide high-level guidance for the sustainable management and long-term planning of its conservation areas. This legislative direction also aligns with several of NPCA's cross-organizational strategic priorities and goals. With extensive input from NPCA staff, Board of Directors, Public Advisory Committee, and the community, the NPCA completed its strategy in 2024, as required.

The CA Strategy is guided by four goals: protect and restore, connect and enhance, adapt and sustain, and engage and inspire. Through its twenty specific objectives, the CA Strategy aims to improve biodiversity, address climate change impacts, manage invasive species, and enhance greenspace accessibility to ensure that conservation areas continue to meet the needs of people and support a healthy environment. One of the key objectives of the CA Strategy is to develop tailored management plans that specify the management approach and objectives for each conservation area while outlining the framework for ongoing decision-making.

A conservation area management plan is a long-term strategy that outlines how NPCA protects and conserves a conservation area's natural resources while enhancing public access and experiences. These plans will assess current conditions of the property, identify challenges, and set goals to balance ecological preservation with infrastructure improvements and recreational opportunities. These management plans guide permitted uses, access levels, enhancements, programs, services, and risk management to ensure visitors' safety and enjoyment at each property.

Discussion:

NPCA has completed management plans for approximately half of the 43 conservation areas, but many do not conform with the NPCA strategic plan and CA Strategy or have not been reviewed or updated since the 1980s-1990s. Despite being dated, existing management plans cover many of our active and most visited passive use conservation areas.

Most of the conservation areas without a management plan are passive use areas with little visitation or minimal natural heritage or hazard lands which do not require the same level of management as other conservation areas. Those passive areas with higher visitation, significant natural heritage and hazard lands will be prioritized, as feasible.

Management Planning Process

The management planning process often involves extensive review and studies to understand the site conditions followed by visioning exercises to imagine its future state.

Generally, the completion of a management plan can take 12-18 months or longer, depending on public interest and policy requirements. This process includes three key phases which vary in duration based on site characteristics, opportunities and constraints, resource requirements, and engagement needs.

Phase 1: Characterization or Background Report

- Field work and data gathering or analysis
- Technical studies (e.g. property survey, geotechnical assessment, cultural heritage assessments, etc.)
- Opportunities and Constraints

Phase 2: Management Plan Development

- Concept development
- Preliminary design
- Vision, Goals, Objectives, Classification, Zoning
- Draft and Final Plans

Phase 3: Implementation

- Capital development in one or more stages
- Educational and recreational programming

Community and partner engagement is at the heart of the management planning process and occurs throughout each phase. Interested parties (e.g., staff, Board of Directors, Indigenous partners, community groups, municipal partners, residents, visitors, etc.) are encouraged to share their experiences, ideas, and feedback to help create a plan that reflects the needs and values of the community for generations to come.

NPCA utilizes several engagement tools and methods to gather input, thoughts, and ideas from a broad range of perspectives and people to shape the management plan(s). Some examples of these methods include NPCA's online engagement platform, meetings with specific interest groups/parties, public information sessions, surveys, a technical staff working group, and workshops or design charettes.

Classification/Zoning

Through the CA Strategy, there are three broad land use categories used to classify NPCA properties: (1) Conservation Area – Active Recreation; (2) Conservation Area – Passive Recreation; and (3) Natural Heritage & Hazard Lands. NPCA currently has four conservation areas classified as Active Recreation; sixteen as Passive Recreation; and twenty-three as Natural Heritage & Hazard Lands.

Management plans will provide opportunities to further refine these classifications to allocate programs and activities to specific zones within the property, with consideration for staff and financial resource needs. Land use classifications are not fixed and may change over time as conservation areas are influenced by aspects such as increased visitation, a changing climate, or strategic directions. Any changes to land use classifications would be documented in updates to the Conservation Area Strategy and management plans.

The Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS)

The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* aims to maintain and protect the Niagara Escarpment and ensures all development in this area is compatible with the environment. Part 3 of the Niagara Escarpment Plan outlines the NEPOSS system and policies that guide the planning process for management (or master) plans for publicly owned escarpment properties.

For its properties located within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, NPCA engages with the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources for endorsement and approval of these management plans. NPCA owns 11 conservation areas within the Niagara Escarpment:

- Beamer Memorial
- Woodend
- Ball's Falls
- Rockway
- Mountainview
- Louth
- Woolverton
- Lathrop
- St. John's
- St. John's Centre
- Cave Springs

Prioritizing Management Plans

The management planning process can be lengthy and resource intensive depending on site-specific issues, public interest, and NPCA objectives for the conservation area (e.g., new programs and/or capital projects). As such, it is necessary that a management planning schedule prioritizes these factors while ensuring implementation is realistic and achievable within NPCA's budget and workplans.

Each conservation area does not require its own unique management plan. If factors such as classification, access, use levels, and infrastructure or programming needs are similar in nature, a single plan can be completed for multiple properties. For example, Louth, Mountainview, and Woolverton Conservation Areas are all classified for passive use, located on the Niagara Escarpment, and would have similar expectations for infrastructure and programming investment. A single management plan could be completed for all three properties.

Over the next five years, NPCA staff have prioritized the completion of management plans for the following conservation areas:

1. Beamer Memorial
2. Woodend
3. Rockway
4. Cave Springs
5. Morgan's Point

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

NPCA has initiated the management planning process for Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, and interested parties are invited to take part in shaping the future of this beloved natural space. A project kick-off public information session is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Elizabeth Street Pump House, located at 447 Elizabeth Street, Grimsby, L3M 3K9. The event will include presentations, background information, interactive breakout sessions with staff, and opportunities for one-on-one discussions with various NPCA staff. [Registration is required.](#) To learn more about the project, ask questions, and share thoughts, visit getinvolved.npca.ca/beamer-management-plan

Planning for the Woodend Conservation Area management plan is underway, and a project page will be launched in the coming months with more information on how to get involved. A project kick-off information session is anticipated in early 2026.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for this report. The development of conservation area management plans is included in the annual operating budget. Implementation of each plan will be prioritized through annual workplans and capital budgets, as needed.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 1.4: Manage NPCA lands to increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and natural cover

Goal 3.1: Create equitable access to greenspace for the health and well-being of people

Goal 3.3: Improve cultural connections and heritage appreciation.

Related Reports and Appendices:

None.

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Eric Baldin
Manager, Land Planning

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Natalie Green, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Sc., PMP
Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Watershed Monitoring Technical Report 2024

Report No: FA-46-25

Date: September 19, 2025

Recommendations:

THAT Report No. FA-46-25 RE: Watershed Monitoring Technical Report 2024
BE RECEIVED;

AND THAT a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to NPCA watershed municipalities, Indigenous partners, local Public Health Units, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the key findings presented in the Watershed Monitoring Technical Report 2024, which highlights Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) environmental monitoring program, provides insight into the health of the watershed, and offers recommendations to improve environmental conditions.

Background:

For decades NPCA has led several monitoring initiatives across the watershed (e.g., surface water quality) and has become a trusted source of scientific information. As part of its commitments in the 2021–2031 Strategic Plan and with Board endorsement (through resolution FA-88-2024), NPCA launched its enhanced Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program (IWMP) in 2024 to improve and coordinate monitoring efforts across its watershed jurisdiction. The primary goal of the IWMP is to comprehensively assess the ecological health and resilience of the NPCA watershed through coordinated monitoring initiatives that support evidence-based conservation and watershed management strategies.

The IWMP is comprised of three core program areas: Long-Term Watershed Monitoring (i.e., surface water, groundwater, hydrometrics (water quantity), and terrestrial ecosystems), Corporate Support Services (monitoring for NPCA-specific needs), and Monitoring Service Provider (environmental monitoring services to its watershed partners such as

municipalities, provincial and federal agencies as well as private companies). Together, these components form a cohesive framework for delivering effective and integrated watershed monitoring across the NPCA's jurisdiction.

Discussion:

The 2024 Watershed Monitoring Technical Report provides a comprehensive overview of the most recent environmental monitoring results of the NPCA's IWMP. Data collected through the program informs watershed health assessments, identifies pollution sources, and supports flood forecasting. The complete report can be found on the NPCA's website: <https://npca.ca/watershed-health#water-quality-monitoring>

A summary of the findings for each of the core program areas is provided below. Appendix 1 *Watershed Monitoring: Highlights and Key Insights* is a plain-language summary of the report to further support information sharing with the community and other interested parties.

Long-Term Monitoring Program

Surface Water Quality Monitoring

NPCA monitors surface water quality monthly across 84 stations during the ice-free season, using chemical indicators such as chloride, nitrate, phosphorus, suspended solids, metals, and *E. coli* to calculate the Canadian Water Quality Index. In addition, benthic invertebrates are used as biological indicators of stream health due to their sensitivity to localized environmental conditions.

Monitoring results show that many watercourses in the Niagara Peninsula watershed exhibit poor or impaired water quality, primarily due to pollutants from both non-point sources (e.g., agriculture, septic systems, road salt) and point sources (e.g., urban stormwater runoff, combined sewer overflows). However, watercourses influenced by groundwater discharge, the Great Lakes, or located in well-forested areas, tend to have better water quality ratings.

Groundwater Quality Monitoring

NPCA collects groundwater quality data from 46 monitoring wells, including 15 wells from the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) and 31 NPCA-operated wells. These wells are distributed across the watershed to assess ambient conditions in various bedrock and overburden aquifers.

Monitoring results show that groundwater quality is highly variable, with some wells exceeding Ontario Drinking Water Standards. Most exceedances are attributed to naturally occurring geological conditions and have been investigated through MECP protocols, with notifications sent to the appropriate local Public Health Department. One monitoring well, however, showed elevated nitrate levels linked to anthropogenic sources. This exceedance has also been investigated by MECP and public health authorities. The required follow-up action, as part of the PGMN exceedance notification protocol, is for NPCA to continue

notifying the owner of the monitoring well about the ongoing or new groundwater quality exceedance.

Terrestrial Quality Monitoring

NPCA's newly developed terrestrial monitoring was implemented to assess ecological integrity across the watershed. In 2024, a statistical power analysis was conducted to guide the design of the program, ensuring appropriate sampling effort, time scale, and resource allocation. Forests, wetlands, and birds were identified as key components for long-term monitoring. Based on this analysis, NPCA initiated the first phase of its forest monitoring program, establishing 30 deciduous forest plots within its conservation areas (17 installed in 2024 and 13 added in 2025). These plots follow standardized Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network protocols to track forest health indicators such as species composition, tree health, regeneration, invasive species presence, and coarse woody debris. This data will support adaptive management and inform broader conservation planning across the watershed.

Hydrometric Monitoring

NPCA's Hydrometric Monitoring Program is a critical component of its watershed monitoring efforts, providing continuous data on surface water quantity and climate conditions. The program includes 21 water level stations, 7 flow stations, 11 precipitation stations, 7 wind stations, and 7 snow monitoring sites, with readings taken every 5 to 15 minutes or seasonally, as appropriate. This data supports NPCA's mandated Flood Forecasting and Warning function under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *O. Reg. 686/21*, enabling timely flood messaging to municipalities and media when flooding is possible or imminent. These flooding advisories help local governments activate emergency response plans and protect public safety.

While hydrometric data is not included in the watershed monitoring technical report, real-time and historical streamflow and water level information is available through the NPCA's online Flooding and Stream Flow Monitoring portal at www.npca.ca/watershed-health#flooding-stream-flow-monitoring.

Corporate Support Services

The Corporate Support Services program area is comprised of several monitoring projects/programs that provide NPCA staff with crucial data to inform operational activities across multiple departments and divisions. The type and number of Corporate Support Services that the NPCA implements is dynamic and driven by its program and project needs.

In 2024, this program area included conservation area water quality monitoring, conservation area ecological studies, conservation area beach monitoring, and Lake Niapenco Perfluorinated Compound Monitoring.

Monitoring Service Provider

The IWMP's Monitoring Service Provider program area enables NPCA staff to respond to the needs of its watershed partners such as municipalities, provincial and federal agencies as well as private companies to provide high-quality, cost-effective environmental monitoring services. Through NPCA's dedicated team of experts specializing in hydrometric, groundwater, surface water, and terrestrial monitoring and trained to utilize state-of-the-art technologies, monitoring protocols, and data analyses, NPCA is readily equipped to provide environmental monitoring services for a variety of needs.

In 2024, NPCA provided monitoring services for the following projects: Hamilton International Airport Monitoring, Glanbrook Landfill Monitoring, and the Unrated Drain Classification Fish Sampling Program under the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

Conclusion & Next Steps:

Overall, findings indicate that watershed health remains degraded due to historical impacts, but targeted restoration efforts—such as nutrient management, riparian buffer expansion, and forest cover enhancement—can help reverse these trends over time. To build on the progress made through the IWMP, NPCA will continue to invest in and expand its monitoring efforts to support watershed health and strategic priorities. Continued monitoring is essential to track progress, guide decision-making, and ensure alignment with provincial and federal water quality standards.

Key next steps include communicating with partners and other interested parties to share information about IWMP findings, maintaining long-term monitoring programs to ensure up-to-date data, continuing to enhance data management systems, and strengthening partnerships with internal and external stakeholders.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with the receipt of the Watershed Monitoring Technical Report for 2024. NPCA's Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program is included in the annual operating budgets.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

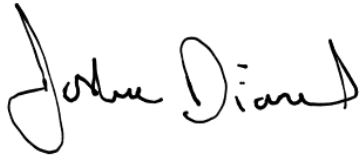
Goal 1.1: Support evidence-based decision-making for climate-resilient watersheds and shorelines.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Watershed Monitoring: Highlights and Insights

Authored by:

Original Signed by:



Joshua Diamond, M.Sc. C.Tech.
Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Natalie Green, M.Sc., PMP
Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

WATERSHED MONITORING: HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS

PROGRAM GOALS

Establish baseline conditions by understanding natural variability and ecological thresholds in the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

Assess temporal and spatial conditions of aquatic and terrestrial resources against established baselines.

Identify potential stressors and emerging threats for management through other programs.

INTERESTING FACT: Monitoring of aquatic bugs that live in the sediment as well as fisheries provide additional information about the biological condition waterbodies.

Surface Water

Surface water chemistry monitored monthly at 84 stations during the ice-free season. Using indicators like chloride, nitrate, phosphorus, suspended solids, metals, and E. coli, staff calculate the Canadian Water Quality Index to provide a standardized rating. This monitoring helps assess watershed health, identify pollution sources, and guide effective management and restoration.

- Most sites show poor water quality due to levels of phosphorus, E. coli, and chlorides.
- The best water quality is found in the Upper Twelve Mile Creek, one site in the Upper Welland River, and areas influenced by the Great Lakes.
- Areas with natural cover (e.g., forests, wetlands, riparian zones) generally have better water quality than those without.



771
Surface Water Samples
2024



29
Benthic Macro-Invertebrate Samples

Groundwater

Groundwater quality data is collected from 46 monitoring wells (15 from the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and 31 operated by NPCA). This monitoring assesses conditions in bedrock and overburden aquifers, helping evaluate aquifer health, detect contaminants, and ensure safe groundwater for communities.

- Most groundwater monitoring stations meet Ontario Drinking Water Standards.
- Any exceedances are generally due to natural conditions (e.g., bedrock).
- One groundwater well in Pelham exceeds nitrate levels, likely due to human sources (e.g. fertilizer application).



52
Groundwater Samples Collected in 2024



2
Landowner Groundwater Wells Decommissioned

Terrestrial

NPCA's terrestrial monitoring program assesses ecological integrity through standardized forest plots, tracking forest health to support long-term conservation planning.

- Terrestrial monitoring is an enhanced program area with data collection initiated in 2025.
- Monitoring network established across the watershed, starting with 30 deciduous forest plots in conservation areas.
- Data will inform long-term watershed management.



30
Terrestrial Monitoring Forest Plots

Hydrometric

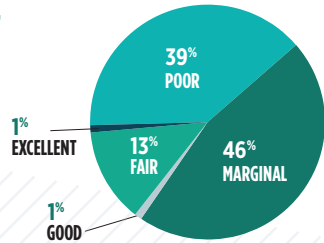
NPCA's hydrometric monitoring collects continuous water level and climate data to support flood forecasting and public safety across the watershed.

- Informs flood forecasting and warning across the watershed.
- Real-time and historical streamflow and water level data are available through NPCA's online Flooding and Stream Flow Monitoring portal.

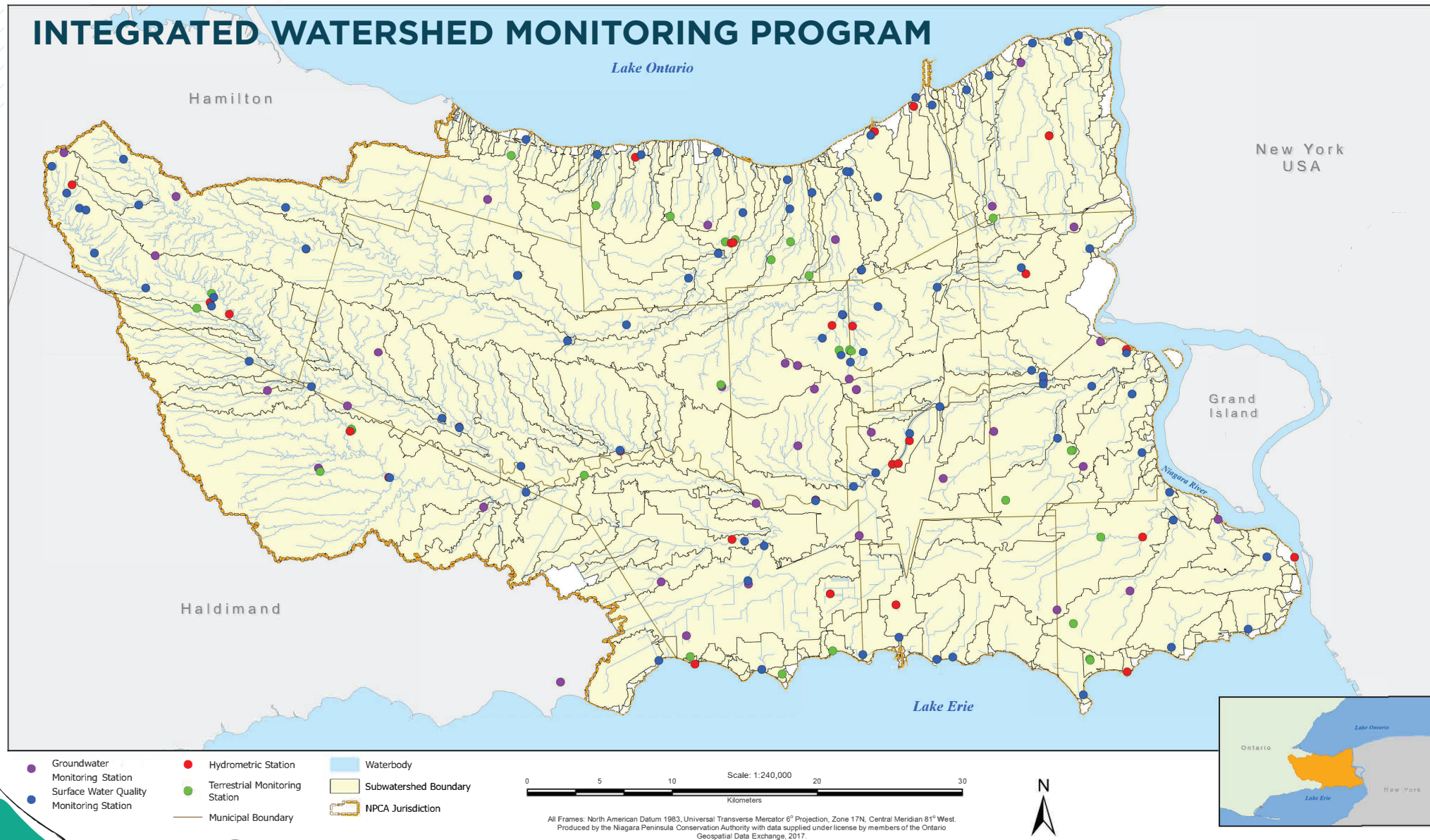


11
Flood Bulletins Issued

The State of Our Streams 2024: Station Ratings by Percentage



INTEGRATED WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Plant native vegetation
- Limit pesticide & fertilizer use
- Don't oversalt your driveway – a little goes a long way
- Pick up pet waste and dispose in the trash
- Regularly maintain your septic system
- Install rain barrels or rain gardens to conserve water
- Don't litter and properly dispose of household chemicals
- Volunteer with conservation activities

Report a problem

REPORTING POLLUTION: Contact MECP Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 or online here: report-pollution.ene.gov.on.ca

FOR FISH DIE-OFF: Contact Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Fish Die-Off Hotline at 1-800-387-7011

Learn More

Full Technical Report – available on NPCA website
Data Requests – watershedmonitoring@npca.ca or scan below



3350 Merrittville Hwy #9, Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6
npca.ca | watershedmonitoring@npca.ca
[@NPCA_Ontario](https://www.instagram.com/NPCA_Ontario)

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Contract Award - Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project

Report No: FA-43-25

Date: September 19, 2025

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-43-25 RE: Contract Award - Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT a contract award to DHI Water & Environment Inc. to a maximum upset limit of \$848,705 (plus non-recoverable HST) for the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project **BE APPROVED**;

AND THAT a contingency of 10% or \$86,358 **BE ALLOCATED** to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation;

AND FURTHER THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute all necessary documents to award the contract.

Purpose:

The purpose is to request approval to award a contract to DHI Water & Environment Inc. in the amount of \$848,705 (plus contingency and non-recoverable HST) for the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project, in accordance with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) Procurement Policy.

Background:

In 2023, the Canadian Federal Government launched the [Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities \(CRCC\)](#) program to provide financial support to coastal communities and sectors to foster the collaboration of regional Coastal Resilient Plans. The program aims to facilitate the co-development of strategies and actions to eliminate and/or mitigate coastal hazards. The NPCA collaborated with Conservation Ontario and four (4) other Conservation Authorities on an application to the CRCC program entitled 'Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes' to complete three pilot projects across Ontario.

As part of this funding application, the NPCA in collaboration with Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) and Conservation Halton (CH) were successful in receiving funding to complete a regional-scale pilot project that aims to enhance climate resilience of local Great

Report No. FA-43-25
Contract Award – Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project

Lakes' coastal communities, accelerate adaptation, and enables partners to work together to reduce climate change risk through coordinated, innovative actions along approximately 100km of Lake Ontario shoreline, 50km of which are regulated by NPCA. The project also involves collaboration with local coastal municipalities, academics, Indigenous partners, and other key regional partners (e.g., Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative).

The Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project will leverage science-based approaches to develop short-term and long-term actions that help local communities eliminate and/or mitigate potential coastal hazards, including flooding, coastal erosion, variable lake levels, extreme events, wave uprush, loss of life and property damages. The geographic scope of this project includes the western Lake Ontario shoreline from the mouth of the Niagara River in Niagara-on-the-Lake to Joshua's Creek in Oakville/Mississauga, encompassing portions of the NPCA, HCA, and CH watershed jurisdiction shorelines. The Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project is a multi-year project to be implemented from 2025 to 2027.

Discussion:

On May 7, 2025, the NPCA issued competitive procurement RFP-2025-040 to solicit proposals from qualified engineering firms to submit proposals to deliver the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project. The Request for Proposal was posted to Bids and Tenders and closed on June 24, 2025. A total of six (6) compliant bids were received and evaluated.

In accordance with NPCA's procurement policy, staff are recommending that the project be awarded to the top-ranked bidder, DHI Water & Environment Inc., who will collaborate with Zuzek Inc. and SJL Engineering Inc. to deliver the project. These firms have partnered on numerous integrated projects across Lake Ontario and the broader Great Lakes Basin, supporting shoreline management planning, hazard mapping, and nature-based infrastructure design.

Financial Implications:

Total contract award to DHI Water & Environment Inc. is for a maximum upset limit of \$848,705 plus non-recoverable HST. Staff recommend a 10% contingency provision in the amount of \$86,358 be included in the total project budget for a maximum upset limit of \$950,000.

The project budget breaks down as follows:

Contract award to DHI Water & Environment Inc.	\$848,705
Non-recoverable HST	\$14,937
10% contingency	\$86,358
Total	\$950,000

Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project – Funding Sources

Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (NRCan)	\$646,000
2022 Board Approved Capital/Special Project (WPP-053)	\$157,753
2024 Board Approved Capital/Special Project (WSC-015)	\$159,678
2025 Board Approved Capital/Special Project (WPP-053)	\$52,099
Total	\$950,000

This project is funded with financial support from Natural Resources Canada, as part of the Conservation Ontario 'Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes' program. Additional funding sources are from the Capital/Special Projects Board Approved budgets through the NPCA special levy for Lake Ontario shoreline hazard.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 1.1: Support evidence-based decision-making for climate-resilient watersheds and shorelines

Goal 1.2: Protect people and properties from natural hazards and climate impacts

Goal 4.1: Strengthen government relations toward collective outcomes and impact

Goal 4.2: Foster relationships with the community, non-government organizations, businesses, agriculture, industry, and academic institutions for collective outcomes and impact.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Report No. FA-10-25: Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Brendan Buggeln, M.Sc., P. Eng.
Manager, Natural Hazard Management and Resiliency

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Natalie Green, M.Sc., PMP
Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Beach Water Quality Testing at Binbrook Conservation Area

Report No: FA-42-25

Date: September 19, 2025

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-42-25 RE: Beach Water Quality Testing at Binbrook Conservation Area **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back on findings and recommendations related to feasibility, legal liabilities, operational requirements and timelines for the transition of beach water quality testing at Binbrook Conservation Area from the City of Hamilton Public Health Services to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, on or before December 19, 2025;

AND THAT Report No. FA-42-25 RE: Beach Water Quality Testing at Binbrook Conservation Area **BE CIRCULATED** to the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Unit.

Purpose:

This report is intended to inform the Board of Directors about NPCA's current Conservation Area Beach Water Testing Program and the proposed collaboration with Hamilton Public Health to transfer responsibility for beach water testing at Binbrook Conservation Area to the NPCA.

Background:

In 2020, NPCA launched the Conservation Area Beach Water Testing Program with the aim of fostering proactive education and public awareness. This initiative enables park visitors to make informed decisions about swimming in natural water bodies within NPCA conservation areas and enhances customer service by providing real-time updates to NPCA pass holders, campers, and the broader public via the NPCA website and social media channels. Beach monitoring includes weekly water sampling and testing for *E. coli* bacteria, daily visual inspections, and timely public communication through on-site signage and the NPCA's [beach conditions webpage](#).

NPCA's Conservation Area Beach Water Testing Program follows the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guidelines and has established Standard Operating Procedures for Blue-Green Algae to guide decision-making related to beach closure and reopening when algae presence is detected.

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Recreational Water Protocol defines a "public beach" as a publicly accessible bathing area owned and operated by a municipality. NPCA staff has obtained independent legal advice that supports the opinion that conservation areas are not categorized as a "public beach" under OPHS guidelines

Currently, Binbrook Conservation Area is the only NPCA-owned swimming area where beach water testing is conducted externally by a public health agency.

On July 28, 2025, NPCA staff made a delegation that supported a motion at the City of Hamilton's Board of Health that resulted in the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) oversees beaches within the jurisdiction of two municipal public health units: Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton. The NPCA conducts beach monitoring and assessment of its beaches within Niagara Region, as agreed upon with the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, and communicates results, water quality and risks to NPCA conservation area visitors. The City of Hamilton currently reports the beach water testing results, including Binbrook Conservation Area, to beachgoers. This current practice results in conflicting beach testing, water quality and risk messaging being communicated to park visitors and beachgoers between NPCA's Niagara and Hamilton beaches;

WHEREAS, Binbrook Conservation Area Beach is located on land owned and operated by the NPCA and does not fall within the legal definition of a "public beach" under the Ontario Public Health Standards, Recreational Water Protocol, 2019. A "public beach" is defined as a public bathing area owned and operated by a municipality to which the general public has access;

WHEREAS, In 2019, the NPCA updated its beach management program within Niagara Region by shifting away from public health unit-led lab testing and toward an environmental risk-based approach in accordance with the Ontario Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline;

WHEREAS, NPCA currently manages water quality testing programs for NPCA-owned beaches throughout its watershed, and has established protocols that include daily on-site monitoring of environmental and physical water conditions, weekly beach water sampling and laboratory testing, and responsive public notification protocols based on real-time observations that include posting results on the NPCA webpage;

WHEREAS, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) conducts weekly beach water sampling, but results typically take 24–48 hours, which can lead to delayed or outdated public notifications; and

WHEREAS, NPCA staff are willing to take forward recommendations to their Board of Directors to seek resolution for the beach water quality testing of the Binbrook Conservation Area Beach, including considerations for releasing the City of Hamilton from legal liabilities related to health issues that may be a result of beach water quality, and the assumption of costs that would allow HPS to reallocate resources to other beaches within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Health Services be directed to engage in formal discussions with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to explore the feasibility, legal authority, and operational requirements for transitioning beach water quality testing and public swimming advisories at Binbrook Conservation Area Beach from Hamilton Public Health Services to NPCA staff;
- (b) That staff report back to the Board of Health with findings and recommendations no later than Q4 2025;
- (c) That the report consider relevant legal opinions, service delivery models, operational impacts, communication strategies, public safety considerations, and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration; and
- (d) That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the NPCA Board of Directors for information.

Discussion:

NPCA provides permitted swimming opportunities at Long Beach, Chippawa Creek, and Binbrook conservation areas, located in both the Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton. Beach water testing at Long Beach Conservation Area and Chippawa Creek Conservation Area is managed and operated by NPCA staff; however, beach water quality testing at Binbrook Conservation Area is led by Hamilton Public Health.

This jurisdictional division in beach water quality testing has resulted in beach water quality updates being communicated differently across NPCA conservation areas, creating inconsistencies and potential confusion for visitors and annual pass holders. Visitors to Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas benefit from real-time email updates regarding NPCA beach testing results, observations, and actions to reduce risk. Other Conservation Authorities (i.e., Grand River Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton) have implemented their own beach water testing programs in collaboration with their respective Public Health agencies.

NPCA is working with Hamilton Public Health to explore the feasibility, legal authority, and operational requirements for transitioning Binbrook Conservation Area into the NPCA's Conservation Area Beach Water Testing program starting in 2026.

Staff will report back to the NPCA Board of Directors by Dec. 19, 2025, on findings and recommendations related to feasibility, legal liabilities, operational requirements and timelines for the transition of Binbrook Conservation Areas beach water quality testing from Hamilton Public Health to the NPCA's Conservation Area Beach Water Testing program.

Financial Implications:

The NPCA currently manages its own beach water testing program at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas. The inclusion of Binbrook Conservation Area is expected to incur minimal costs and will be funded through the NPCA's 2026 operating budget.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 3.1: Improve services and visitor experiences at NPCA properties.

Goal 1.1: Lead water quality and quantity monitoring throughout the NPCA jurisdiction

Related Reports and Appendices:

None.

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Adam Christie
Director, Conservation Areas

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Joshua Diamond M.Sc, C.Tech.
Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Natalie Green, M.Sc, PMP
Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

**Subject: Agreement of Services between the Niagara Parks Commission and
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**

Report No: FA-41-25

Date: September 19, 2025

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-41-25 RE: Agreement of Services between The Niagara Parks Commission and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the Agreement of Services between The Niagara Parks Commission and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE APPROVED**;

AND THAT the CAO/Secretary – Treasurer and NPCA Chair **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign required documents to execute said agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT the final executed Agreement of Services between The Niagara Parks Commission and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE** on NPCA's website.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to authorize the execution of an Agreement of Services between The Niagara Parks Commission and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) for services provided through the *Trees for All* program.

Background:

On May 25, 2021, The Niagara Parks Commission provided NPCA with a letter to support for NPCA's application to the *Growing Canada's Forests* program under the federal government's 2 Billion Trees initiative. The broader municipal support for the initial application has since evolved into NPCA's *Trees for All* program built on a cost-sharing approach to plant more trees within the Niagara Peninsula watershed. NPCA, on behalf of the municipal tree planting partnership, has successfully secured funding from the federal 2

Report No. FA-41-25
**Agreement of Services between The Niagara Parks Commission
and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**
Page 1 of 5

Billion Trees program and its aggregators (Forests Canada and Tree Canada) as well as several other third-party sources to provide a low-cost option to partners collaborating on tree planting projects.

O. *Reg. 686/21* identifies tree planting and other restoration endeavors as either non-mandatory Category 2 or 3 programs and services. These services are either conducted collaboratively through levy neutral cost-sharing approaches, via fee-for-service at the request of a municipality, or as determined and recommended by the Conservation Authority to further the purposes of the *Conservation Authorities Act* as in the recommended agreement for services. Non-municipal partners such as The Niagara Parks Commission can also leverage and/or participate in programs and services that the Conservation Authority develops and offers.

NPCA is a demonstrated leader and tree planting subject matter expert as developed through restoration programming. *Trees for All* provides tree planting project management support while securing external funding to further reduce expenses for participating landowners and organizations. Under the program, tree planting projects require an extensive year-long implementation cycle that will benefit from confirmed partnerships and formal service commitments. Increased financial incentives, demand, and local tree planting ambitions further support a collaborative approach in the Niagara Peninsula watershed that leads to effective tree planting program delivery that achieves shared goals and objectives.

Similar to the Agreements of Services NPCA has executed with our upper, single and lower-tier municipalities to facilitate the Trees for All cost-sharing services, an agreement with the Niagara Parks Commission is a best management practice to clearly identify roles and responsibilities and funding commitments.

Discussion:

The NPCA and The Niagara Parks Commission have agreed to work collaboratively on tree planting initiatives based on their letter of support provided in 2021, but a formal agreement is not yet in place.

On August 10, 2025, The Niagara Parks Commission executed an agreement with NPCA for the purpose of planting trees through the *Trees for All* program. The agreement between the NPCA and the Niagara Parks Commission establishes clear responsibilities and financial commitments for each party. The NPCA has not yet executed this agreement, which is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

The **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority** will:

- a. Assist the partner by providing technical subject matter expertise to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated program activities within their jurisdiction.

- b. Undertake and pay for all costs incurred by *Trees for All* services including:
 - i. engagement with partners and private landowners to identify plantings,
 - ii. program marketing and communications,
 - iii. project design and development of site plans,
 - iv. permitting and professional stamping where applicable,
 - v. procurement of nursery stock and project materials and supplies,
 - vi. volunteer coordination,
 - vii. site preparation and installation,
 - viii. post monitoring
 - ix. reporting to contributing partners.
- c. Invoice the partner after the planting, biannually after each spring and fall season.
- d. Monitor granting and complementary funding spaces to secure funding and continuously improve the *Trees for All* program cost-sharing models.
- e. Update Appendix 1 to the service level agreement yearly, outlining the partner's annual *Trees for All* scope detailing funding contribution breakdowns relative to total project(s) value.
- f. Provide an annual report of *Trees for All* program activities, outcomes and recommendations, including key performance indicators (i.e. total number of trees, hectares afforested, carbon sequestration projection, natural asset enhancement valuation) and financial tracking of the achievements of the program at both the municipal partner and Niagara Watershed level. Reports will be delivered by March 31st of the subsequent year.

The **Niagara Parks Commission** will:

- a. Assist the NPCA by providing and tracking in-kind support to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated activities within their jurisdiction.
- b. Contribute to costs incurred by NPCA *Trees for All* services for plantings and associated program activities within the organization.
- c. Cooperate to formalize annual financial commitments and to establish purchasing orders for timely compensation for services and to validate match funding expectations with grant agreements taken on by the NPCA.
- d. Collaborate with NPCA to determine planting scopes prior to annual budgets and nursery deadlines.
- e. Provide attestation of financial and in-kind contributions to *Trees for All* planting and associated activities to program funders as may be required.

- f. Endeavor, to the best of the partner's ability, to leave the *Trees for All* plantings intact and encouraged to grow as a natural feature in the landscape for a period of 15 years following completion.

The **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority** and the **Niagara Parks Commission** will:

- a. Meet annually to discuss the implementation of the Agreement.
- b. Meet as required to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated activities within the partner jurisdiction
- c. Collaborate to fundraise and secure funding continuously improve the *Trees for All* program cost-sharing models.
- d. Collaborate to promote and amplify *Trees for All* program marketing and communications.
- e. Collaborate on the long-term vision and management of the *Trees for All* partnership and program implementation.

Financial Implications:

The delivery of the *Trees for All* program does not impact the municipal levy and is prepared in line with the Board-approved 2025 Operating Budget.

The Niagara Parks Commission's contributions will be appended to the agreement annually based on collaboratively determined planting scopes as a record of service value through formal participation in the program. For 2025, Niagara Parks Commission has committed \$20,000 to plant 1,600 trees through the program. Future contributions by The Niagara Parks Commission are to be determined.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 1.3: Restore and enhance natural habitat, water resources, and forest cover.

Goal 4.1: Strengthen government relations toward collective outcomes and impact

Goal 4.2: Foster relationships with the community, non-government organizations, businesses, agriculture, industry, and academic institutions for collective outcomes and impact.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreement for Services between Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and The Niagara Parks Commission

Report No. FA-54-24 RE: Trees for All Update

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Geoffrey Verkade
Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Natalie Green, M.Sc., PMP
Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Trees for All Program

This Agreement is effective on August 10, 2025.

BETWEEN: **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)**
3350 Merrittville Highway, Unit 9
Thorold, Ontario, L2V 4Y6

hereinafter called the "NPCA"

- and -

The Niagara Parks Commission
P.O. Box 150
7400 Portage Road
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T2

hereinafter referred to as the "Partner"

The Parties have executed the Agreement on the dates set out below.

Date	Name: Leilani Lee-Yate Title: Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

I have authority to bind the NPCA

David Adames
David Adames (Aug 7, 2025 22:10:00 EDT)

Date	Name: David Adames Title: Chief Executive Officer

I have authority to bind the Partner

1. INTERPRETATION

It is understood that the use of the term “Partner” is not intended and does not create a partnership at law between the Parties.

2. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on August 10, 2025 and terminate on December, 31 2028 (or upon completion of deliverables, as per Schedule A) (the “**Term**”). After the Term, NPCA and the Partner can re-negotiate another Agreement or extend with an amendment, if desired.

3. NOTICE

For the purposes of this Agreement the designated representatives are:

For the NPCA: Geoffrey Verkade – Sr. Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
905-788-3135 x244

For the Partner: Corey Burant – Manager, Lands and Stewardship Planning
The Niagara Parks Commission
905-295-4396 x3262

Both parties may designate a different representative by providing notice in writing.

4. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

The Parties hereto agree that this Agreement embodies the entire Agreement between the parties. Further, the Parties agree that by entering into this Agreement there is no previous oral or implied representation, inducement, or understanding of any kind.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY, TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

NPCA and the Partner agree to respect and protect confidentiality, IPR, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and authorship between the Parties.

Information shared through this Agreement can only be shared externally with express permission of the other party and in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

6. RECOGNITION

The Parties agree to recognize their mutual support in any publicly available document, signage or presentation that specifically refers to this project, including traditional and social media stories.

The Parties agree to participate in outreach and communications activities, jointly producing communication pieces, and coordinating other outreach activities, where appropriate.

All public project communications must recognize NPCA, the Partner, and other related partners, as appropriate.

7. INSURANCE

NPCA is insured with commercial general liability up to 5 million dollars which covers:

- Personal Injury
- Owner's or Contractors Protective Liability Coverage
- Contingent Employers Liability
- Employer's Liability
- Blanket Contractual Liability
- Premises and Operation
- Broad Form Property Damage
- All vehicles owned or leased

NPCA is further insured with umbrella coverage for excess of commercial general liability and automobile liability policies.

NPCA's insurance does not cover liabilities beyond the project's active implementation period, such as the partner's commitment to maintain plantings as a natural feature in the landscape for a period of 15 years following completion.

Certificates of Insurance with minimum limits will be made available for *Trees for All* partners who may require on a per project basis.

The liability is limited to direct damages only and all other remedies or damages are waived. In no event shall NPCA be liable for consequential, incidental, punitive, or indirect damages, in tort, contract or otherwise.

8. TERMINATION of AGREEMENT

Either Party shall have the right at any time, with or without cause, to cancel this Agreement by giving the Partner thirty (30) days prior written notice.

In the event of termination of this Agreement by either Party, either with or without cause, a full accounting of all reimbursable costs to the date of cancellation based on deliverables completed at the time of termination (Schedule A) shall be undertaken and provided to both Parties. Reimbursable costs owing to either NPCA or the Partner shall be settled with 30 days of termination. The Partner shall not have the right to include as a cost of cancellation any profit or earnings that may have been realized by the Partner had the work not been terminated.

In the event of termination of this Agreement, the provisions in Section 5 (Confidentiality, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge, and Intellectual property Rights (IPR)) shall survive termination.

SCHEDULE A
Project Specific Information

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1) The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has facilitated a partnership (The Niagara Peninsula Tree Planting Partnership) with member municipalities and other local partners since 2021 with the goal of establishing of a high-volume multi-year tree planting program for the Niagara Peninsula Watershed in response to the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program.
- 1.2) In 2021, the NPCA submitted on behalf of the partnership a proposal to the 2 Billion Trees Program's 'Request for Information' process detailing its collective vision for a high-volume multi-year tree planting program for the Niagara Watershed endorsed with Letters of Support from each of the member municipalities and other partners.
- 1.3) In 2022, on behalf of the partnership, NPCA applied for a Capacity Building Grant through the 2 Billion Trees Program's funding streams in order to secure planting site supply. This proposal strategically addressed the partnership's consensus with respect to the most critical functional dependency necessary to facilitate collective involvement in planning and undertaking future tree planting to increase tree canopy, forest and woodlot cover in the watershed through a multi-year high-volume tree planting program.
- 1.4) From November 2022 to May 2023, the NPCA with the partnership's support implemented the awarded Capacity Building Grant. The development of a public and private lands inventory of tree planting opportunities in the watershed was completed through a successful landowner marketing campaign branded *Trees for All*. In total, over 800 hectares of lands were identified across more than 700 private and 200 public properties estimated with cumulative capacity for 750,000 trees. *Trees for All* would remain as the branding for the NPCA tree planting services and ongoing facilitation of the supporting partnership and its goals.
- 1.5) NPCA on behalf of the partnership have successfully secured grant funding from the federal 2 Billion Trees program and its aggregators (Forests Ontario and Tree Canada) to plant 90,000 trees annually (70,000 bareroot and 20,000 potted) from 2025 to 2028. The external funding supports a cost-sharing model wherein individual members of the partnership provide cash and in-kind contributions to deliver the *Trees for All* program and achieve their needs.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities and financial obligations are outlined as follows:

- 2.1) The **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority** will:
 - a. Assist the partner by providing technical subject matter expertise to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated program activities within their jurisdiction.
 - b. Undertake and pay for all costs incurred by *Trees for All* services including:
 - i. engagement with partners and private landowners to identify plantings,
 - ii. program marketing and communications,
 - iii. project design and development of site plans,
 - iv. permitting and professional stamping where applicable,

- v. procurement of nursery stock and project materials and supplies,
 - vi. volunteer coordination,
 - vii. site preparation and installation,
 - viii. post monitoring
 - ix. reporting to contributing partners.
- c. Invoice the partner after the planting, biannually after each spring and fall season.
 - d. Monitor granting and complementary funding spaces to secure funding and continuously improve the *Trees for All* program cost sharing models.
 - e. Update Appendix 1 to this service level agreement yearly, outlining the partner's annual *Trees for All* scope detailing funding contribution breakdowns relative to total project(s) value.
 - f. Provide an annual report of *Trees for All* program activities, outcomes and recommendations, including key performance indicators (i.e. total number of trees, hectares afforested, carbon sequestration projection, natural asset enhancement valuation) and financial tracking of the achievements of the program at the both the partner and Niagara Peninsula watershed level. Reports will be delivered by March 31st of the subsequent year.

2.2) **The Niagara Parks Commission** will:

- a. Assist the NPCA by providing and tracking in-kind support to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated activities within their jurisdiction.
- b. Contribute to costs incurred by NPCA *Trees for All* services for plantings and associated program activities within the organization.
- c. Cooperate to formalize annual financial commitments and to establish purchasing orders for timely compensation for services and to validate match funding expectations with grant agreements taken on by the NPCA.
- d. Collaborate with NPCA to determine planting scopes prior to annual budgets and nursery deadlines.
- e. Provide attestation of financial and in-kind contributions to *Trees for All* planting and associated activities to program funders as may be required.
- f. Endeavor to the best of the partner's ability to leave the *Trees for All* plantings intact and encouraged to grow as a natural feature in the landscape for a period of 15 years following completion.

2.3) The **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority** and **The Niagara Parks Commission** will:

- a. Meet annually to discuss the implementation of this Agreement.
- b. Meet as required to collaboratively plan and facilitate *Trees for All* plantings and associated activities within the partner jurisdiction
- c. Collaborate to fundraise and secure funding continuously improve the *Trees for All* program cost sharing models.

- d. Collaborate to promote and amplify *Trees for All* program marketing and communications.
- e. Collaborate on the long-term vision and management of the *Trees for All* partnership and program implementation.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1) There are two financial models available for participating in the *Trees for All* program with varying costs, depending on the scope of the project (i.e., cost sharing model or fee-for-service).
- 3.2) The cost-sharing model applies to bareroot and potted stock tree plantings and leverages other external funding sources to provide a subsidy to partners. For cost-sharing model:
 - Each partner is expected to provide matching cash and in-kind contributions to projects to receive the subsidized service rates.
 - The costs are based on a per tree rates (updated annually) which are inclusive of NPCA staff to engage with the *Trees for All* partner to design, plan, implement (plant), and monitor (post-planting) tree planting projects.
 - \$8.41/ tree or better for bareroot stock (2025 rate)
 - \$12.50/tree for potted stock (2025 rate)
 - Unrealized in-kind contributions may increase the price per tree price up to a maximum of \$25 for each 1-gallon potted tree which will be communicated and negotiated in advance of annual final invoicing as needed.
- 3.3) A fee-for-service (cost-recovery) model may apply in cases where the cost-sharing funding cannot be used (e.g., funding constraints, caliper tree planting, etc.). For the fee-for-service model, the relevant NPCA fee schedule will be used to prepare a cost estimate and included in Appendix 1 of this agreement.

APPENDIX 1

The Niagara Parks Commission 2025 Tree Planting Projects

For 2025, the total annual *Trees for All* program financial contribution by the Niagara Parks Commission is \$XXXX. The in-kind contribution is valued at \$XX through the provision of mulch, staff time for planting, and watering in the first 4 months after planting.

Potted Tree Planting Projects:

RP00XX: XX trees, contribution requirement of \$XXXX

RP00XX: XX trees, contribution requirement of \$XXXX

Bareroot Tree Planting Projects:

There are zero (0) bareroot tree planting projects planned for 2025.

- END -