



# Conservation Area Strategy 2024



**PROTECT. RESPECT. CONNECT.**

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## 1. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinabek: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomi Nation, who have inhabited this land from time immemorial. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land. We also recognize, the Metis whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. May we all, as Treaty People, live with respect on this land, and live-in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.

## 2. Strategy Purpose & Regulatory Framework

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA or the Authority) and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario are governed by [The Conservation Authorities Act](#) (herein referred to as the “Act”) the purpose of which is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario.

Together with accompanying regulations, the Act establishes requirements for Mandatory Programs and Services that must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities (CAs) in Ontario.

Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title, is mandatory. Related to this, the requirement for all CAs to complete a Conservation Area Strategy (herein referred to as the “Strategy”) is outlined in O. Reg. 686/21.

For additional details please refer to Section 21.1 of the Act and [O. Reg. 686/21](#).

This Strategy applies to all lands owned or controlled by the Authority, including any interests in land registered on title. The purpose of this Strategy is to document the objectives that will inform GSCA decision making, confirm both mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services, assess how lands owned and controlled by the authority augment natural heritage and integrate with other publicly accessible lands, and establish land use categories. The land use categories are for the purpose of classifying lands based on the activities that are engaged in on each parcel and other matters of significance and will inform the land inventory, also required by O. Reg. 686/21.

## 3. Introduction

The watershed area within the jurisdiction of GSCA spans 3,191 square kilometres. Within this watershed area, GSCA owns approximately 117.5 square kilometres (29,000 acres) of land in both Grey and Bruce Counties. These Conservation Areas are geographically disbursed, the most northern to most southern properties being approximately 130 km apart with a number of island properties accessible only by boat.

GSCA owns the largest amount of publicly accessible land in the watershed. GSCA's 207 property parcels, or 80 groupings, are comprised of sensitive landscapes such as shorelines, wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and old growth forests, providing much needed refuge for flora and fauna, some of which are rare. GSCA landholdings are a major contributor to natural heritage systems in the region.

In addition to these ecological benefits, GSCA lands boast 172 km of trails for outdoor recreation including hiking, walking, skiing, snowshoeing and in some areas cycling and snowmobiling. Public access to these properties contributes significantly to the physical and mental wellbeing of the local population and those visiting from other areas.

Over 6,400 ha (16,000 acres) of GSCA owned and managed forests are tended to ensure sustainable longevity. GSCA also owns and maintains flood control infrastructure including the Clendenan Dam and Taylor Street Detention Pond as well as a number of recreation supporting dams.

Several GSCA properties host cultural heritage features and historical assets, such as the former water filtration plant at Inglis Falls, the power plant ruins at Eugenia Falls, and the McNeill estate ruins at Spirit Rock. There is still much work to be done to understand the cultural significance GSCA properties have for local Indigenous peoples.

GSCA properties contribute to the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity as a continuous natural environment with 32 Conservation Areas within the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) the majority connected or will be connected by the Bruce Trail. Inglis Falls Conservation Area is one of the NEPOSS nine (9) nodal parks.

The diversity of recreational, natural heritage and ecological, historic and cultural heritage resources, and water control infrastructure on GSCA properties offer endless opportunities for research and education.

In 2018 a valuation of ecosystem benefits provided by GSCA properties found the ecological value provided by GSCA properties would be over \$86-million (2024-dollar value) annually if monetized. The importance and value of these properties will only increase as development pressures within the Grey-Bruce area intensifies.

### 4. GSCA Strategic Direction

The Board of Directors of GSCA are appointed by the eight participating municipalities that exist within the Grey Sauble Conservation area watershed. The Board of Directors govern and set direction of GSCA within the objects, powers, and duties established by the Act.

The Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for staff and the Board of Directors to make targeted decisions and deliver effective programs and services that support a healthy watershed with thriving communities.

Based on Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan, the strategic direction under which the Authority operates is as follows:

1. To **effectively monitor and manage the risk of natural hazards** by implementing strategies to identify, assess, and mitigate the impact of natural hazards on our communities associated with flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches.
2. To **enhance GSCA land management** through the implementation of sustainable land management practices, conservation efforts, and community involvement as key components of achieving this objective. This may include initiatives to improve environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and community engagement. This objective is intended to ensure that land is managed efficiently and responsibly, considering factors such as ecological health, economic viability, and social well-being.
3. Striving to **achieve organizational excellence** in performance, innovation, customer satisfaction, employee engagement, and ethical practices. It requires a holistic approach to organizational development, striving for continuous improvement and adaptability to changing natural, social and political environments. Achieving organizational excellence involves enhancing service quality, fostering a positive organizational culture, embracing innovation, and maintaining strong ethical standards.
4. To **improve watershed health** by enhancing the overall well-being of the watershed through monitoring water resources, promoting conservation, and engaging communities in stewardship for sustainable water resources.
5. **Strengthening environmental education and communication** by providing better awareness and understanding of environmental issues and fostering proactive environmental stewardship. This will include implementation of our Environmental Education Framework which guides the development and implementation of educational programming centred around GSCA environmental expertise. This will include execution of our Environmental Education Framework which guides the development and implementation of educational programming centred around GSCA environmental expertise.

## 5. Conservation Area Strategy Objectives

The Act Section 20 (1) provides objects that an Authority is to provide in the area over which it has jurisdiction. These are commonly considered as “categories” of program and service delivery as follows:

Legislative Description	Category
a) <i>the mandatory programs and services required under section 21.1;</i>	1
b) <i>any municipal programs and services that may be provided under section 21.1.1; and</i>	2
c) <i>any other programs or services that may be provided under section 21.1.2. 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 6 (1).</i>	3

A Conservation Area Strategy is one of the mandatory (Category 1) objects (others are discussed below). The Act further specifies that the Strategy shall include 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 the policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.

The following objectives have been established to meet the Part 3 NEPOSS objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Plan as well as GSCA’s Strategic Plan goal *to enhance GSCA land management through the implementation of sustainable land management practices, conservation efforts, and community involvement as key components of achieving this objective.*

## 5.1 Objectives:

### i. Natural Heritage:

- a. To protect, restore and regenerate the natural ecosystem of GSCA properties by ensuring the health and diversity of native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.
- b. To maximize the linkages and connectivity of the natural heritage features to one another and to adjacent areas.
- c. To provide professional resource management on the property as appropriate.

### ii. Cultural Heritage:

- a. To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features on GSCA properties for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area, including any identified traditional uses of Indigenous peoples.

### iii. Land Use:

- a. To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the properties through innovative planning and management, and appropriate conservation, recreation, and other land uses.

iv. Recreation:

- a. To provide opportunities for appropriate outdoor recreation at GSCA properties, that is sustainable in environmental, physical, and economic terms, and which is consistent with all other objectives.

v. Education:

- a. To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values on GSCA properties, the watershed area, and the Niagara Escarpment, including their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities, and interrelationships.

vi. Stewardship:

- a. To promote and facilitate the ongoing public involvement on GSCA properties that will foster sustainable recreational tourism and will accomplish watershed management objectives.

vii. Fiscal Sustainability:

- a. To ensure that GSCA undertakes upgrades, alterations, and management of properties in a manner that considers fiscal requirements and responsibilities and strives to ensure financial balance and sustainability over the long-term.

viii. Management:

- a. To manage GSCA properties in a manner that will ensure the achievement of all objectives.

The objectives will inform GSCA decision-making related to lands it owns and controls. Decisions related to acquisition and disposition of lands will consider these objectives within existing frameworks. Management Plans will be the primary tool through which these objectives will be achieved.

It is important to note that while all objectives will be considered in managing GSCA lands, not all objectives will be met, or met to the same degree, on all lands. When weighing objectives on management decisions for lands already owned and managed by the Authority, the classification category of the property will help inform the primary objectives for the land. When considering properties for acquisition, the characteristics of a property will inform its classification category and which objectives will be paramount for that property, if acquired.

The Act Section 21 (1) outlines the powers of authorities for the purposes of accomplishing its objectives, including but not limited to (c), *“to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, subject to subsections (2) and (4), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired.”*

GSCA has an established Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy, 2006 (ADP) attached as Appendix 1, which provides the administrative framework for future land securement of key properties or disposal of surplus lands. Without repeating the entire

policy, lands acquired are to help further the goals of the Authority and disposition must follow legislated process, requiring approvals from the GSCA Board of Directors. A “Natural Heritage Land Protection Acquisition Approach” mapping exercise was undertaken in 2022 to further support the ADP.

The objectives herein align with the criteria for assessing properties in accordance with the ADP which include the themes of connectivity, presence of significant natural or cultural heritage features, improved access to existing GSCA properties and trails, and recreation opportunities that relate to the Authority mandate.

Inversely, when considering any lands for disposition, GSCA will consider how the property does not fulfill the acquisition requirements or fulfill the objectives of the Authority.

In accordance with the ADP, surplus lands that are part of a property proposed for acquisition are to be established for disposal prior to securement of the property. This has been a theme of acquisitions of GSCA historically as can be seen at existing locations where, for example, existing homes were severed from parcels prior to them coming into Authority ownership.

## 6. Mandatory Programs and Services

As described in previous sections, programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title are considered mandatory (Category 1). Other programs and services provided by GSCA may have an indirect impact on lands owned or controlled by the authority as well but may fall under the other categories.

O. Reg. 686/21 requires that the Strategy shall provide 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 service.

GSCA undertook an [Inventory of Programs and Services](#) in 2023 as part of its transition plan required by legislation. Table 1 which follows, excerpts and updates the inventory for 2024 as it relates to various programs and services undertaken by or in partnership with the GSCA Lands Division.

Table 1: GSCA:Programs and Services Inventory (Lands Update 2024)

Program Area	Program / Service Provision	Program / Service Description	Legislative Reference	Category (1) Mandatory; (2) Municipal; (3) Other	Funding Mechanisms and Percentage of Funding Source (Operating Costs)	Agreement Requirements	Comments
Conservation Lands	Section 29 Minister's regulation for Conservation Areas	Conservation areas enforcement/compliance	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)4	1	1. Municipal Levy (55.1%) 2. Self-Generated (44.9%)* *any surplus self-generated revenue is transferred to reserves.	No	The total cost of operating these mandatory programs and services is heavily offset by self-generated revenue.
	Strategy for CA owned or controlled lands and management plans	Guiding principles, objectives, including for an authority's land acquisition and disposition strategy, land use categories on conservation authority owned land, recommended management principles for different land categories, etc.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1		No	
	Development and Maintenance of a Land Inventory	Development and maintenance of an inventory of every parcel of land that the Authority owns or controls including, location, surveys, site plans, maps, acquisition date, and how the parcel was acquired.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)3	1		No	
	Management, operation and Maintenance of CA owned lands	Management and Maintenance of CA owned lands including stewardship, restoration, and ecological monitoring	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1		No	
	Passive Recreation Use, Infrastructure and Management Planning	Management and maintenance of CA owned recreational assets including trails, parking, washroom facilities, pavilions and other capital assets.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1		No	
	Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy	The development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1		No	
	Forestry – Hazard Tree and Biodiversity Management	Management of hazard/diseased trees and the management of biodiversity and invasive species on Conservation Authority owned lands	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1		No	
	Land Acquisition and Disposition	Acquisition and management of lands containing important natural heritage features or strategically aligned with existing GSCA land holdings. Disposition of lands considered surplus to the vision, mandate and strategic goals of GSCA.	CAA s.21(1)(c)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)	No	In 2021, approximately \$10,000 in staff time and legal service fees went into the acquisition of donated properties. ROI was 800%
	Partnership Building and Support	Management and enhancement of mutually beneficial community partnerships with partners, stakeholders, committees and "friends of" groups. These vital partnerships allow GSCA to provide substantial value in the delivery of programs and services.	CAA s.21(1)(n)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)	No	Partnership building is the key to not-for-profit success. We are able to leverage these partnerships into volunteer time, donations, and general good-will.
	Land Lease and Agreement Management	Management of current and future land leases and property agreements. These leases and agreements help drive land based revenues to offset the costs associated with management and maintenance of GSCA's land holdings.	CAA s.21(1)(c)&(d)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)	No	This portion of the program is self-sustaining, bringing in over \$60,000 in annual revenues which help to offset other in-program costs.
Paid Parking Management	Management of the Authority's paid parking program, including staff time and all associated fees and expenses.	CAA s.21(1)(m)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)	No	This portion of the program is self-sustaining, bringing in over \$250,000 in annual revenues which help to offset other in-program and capital costs.	
Environmental Education	Curriculum delivery	Program development & delivery (future opportunity)	CAA s.21(1)(a)&(q)	3	1. Service Agreement(s)(100%)	No	May want to consider agreements for this in the future
	Day Camp Programming	Program development and execution for GSCA's summer day camp program	CAA s.21(1)(a)&(q)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)* *Any surplus transferred to reserves 2. Grants - variable	No	This program is designed to be self-sufficient through user fees. Expansion of this program at the request of one or more municipalities may necessitate additional funding and service agreements.
Forestry	Forestry – Forest Management Operations on GSCA lands	Forestry services, planting and/or woodlot management on Conservation Authority land	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1	1. Municipal Levy (56.9%) 2. Self-Generated (41.5%) 3. Donations (1.6% - variable)	No	GSCA manages over 28,000 acres of land. Much of this land is forested and needs to be tended to by forestry professionals. Our professional experienced staff manage the health of the forests, as well as ensure that no adverse uses are occurring on GSCA lands.
	Property maintenance on GSCA Forested Lands	Trail / Road and Gate Maintenance	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1		No	
	Property Inspections on GSCA Forested Lands	Property Inspections, boundary inspections and property marking.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1		No	
	Woodlot Management	Timber Operations for Woodland Management for natural heritage benefit	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2 CAA s.21(1)(f),(l)(q)	3	1. Self-Generated (100%)	No	Technically this program qualifies as Category 1.

Total	100%
Self	58.25%
Levy	41.75%

These programs and services include Category 1 (mandatory), Category 2 (municipal), and Category 3 (other) programs and services, in addition to general operating and governance roles. Category 2 programs undertaken through service agreements with Grey County and are not undertaken on lands owned and managed by GSCA. The total cost of operating the programs and services included in Table 1 is heavily offset by self-generated revenue, with only 41.75% funded through municipal levy.

O.Reg. 686/21 invites the Strategy to consider whether the following *programs and services* are advisable to achieve the objectives herein:

- 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,*

Response: Securing the authorities interests in its lands is necessary to achieve the Fiscal Sustainability objective herein to ensure that GSCA undertakes upgrades, alterations, and management of properties in a manner that considers fiscal requirements and responsibilities and strives to ensure financial balance and sustainability over the long-term.

GSCA's Risk Management Guideline (RMG), provides a framework for risk planning, implementation of mitigation measures, checking and corrective actions and reporting. The Occupiers Liability Act, the Trespass to Property Act, and the Conservation Authorities Act are all of concern from a land management perspective in order to manage risk and reduce liability. Activity or asset specific mitigation measures such as physical barriers including fencing, signage, and inspection/patrolling are just some of the controls considered in the RMG to protect the public, staff, and the organization. The RMG recognizes that available resources to implement appropriate risk mitigation measures are limited and not all risks can be mitigated, as such GSCA will strive to focus resources on the most prevalent risks identified through the processes defined in the guideline.

These programs and services are necessary to achieve the objectives of this Strategy in a safe and fiscally responsible manner.

- 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,*

Response: Maintenance of existing amenities that support public access to recreational activities in conservation areas is necessary to achieve the Recreation objective herein to provide opportunities for appropriate outdoor recreation at GSCA properties that is sustainable in environmental, physical, and economic terms, and which is consistent with all other objectives. Maintaining facilities, trails and amenities such as parking areas and signage in good

condition promotes regular visits for permitted uses and deters off-trail and non-permitted uses thereby supporting the protection and conservation of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage and associated objectives.

GSCA properties do not include dedicated amenities for active recreation requiring direct support or supervision of staff (such as downhill ski slopes, or golf courses). Amenities such as pavilions are available for general use unless booked out for special events or programs. Any programs requiring supervisory staff such as day camps are run self-sufficiently or with third-party agreements and as such are self-funded with consideration of maintenance costs as part of any fee and not grouped with mandatory programs and services. Although these programs may occur on lands managed by GSCA, they are not the primary reason for owning and maintaining the properties.

- 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,*

Response: GSCA is a landowner, and as such, may become involved in the planning and development process, either as an adjacent landowner or a proponent.

Enabling the Authority, in its capacity as an owner of land, to make applications or comment on matters under the Planning Act is necessary to achieve the Land Use objective herein to ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the properties through innovative planning and management, and appropriate conservation, recreation, and other land uses. It is also necessary to achieve the Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage objectives which include protection and proper management of those resources. Participating in the land use planning process also promotes knowledge and understanding of natural and cultural values of GSCA properties in accordance with the Education objective. Further, GSCA and its invitees, like any other landowner, are entitled to quiet enjoyment of its properties and may protect this right through Planning Act or other legislated mechanisms.

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

Response: Programs and services as described to address natural heritage are necessary to achieve the Natural Heritage objective herein and to protect, restore and regenerate the natural ecosystems, maximize linkages and connectivity, and provide professional resource management as appropriate.

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

Response: Tree planting on lands owned or controlled by the authority is necessary to achieve the Land Use and Natural Heritage objectives herein including innovative planning and management and professional resource

management on properties as appropriate. Tree planting also fosters education and stewardship when the public is able to be involved in tree planting programs. One example of this on GSCA lands would be the work of the [Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance](#), a volunteer organization that collects seed and propagates native plants at the arboretum nursery, provides guided tours and educational opportunities, and plants and tends trees, on GSCA property. Another example would be the [Memorial Forests](#) program whereby in memory of a loved one a tree can be planted at one of three memorial forest sites for a small fee (\$75 in 2024). This program is administered by the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation a federally registered, charitable, not-for-profit that raises money to assist in funding GSCA programs and projects.

In accordance with the objectives herein, professional resource management as appropriate may include sustainable forest management to mimic natural disturbances to create suitable habitat for trees to regenerate. Any trees selected for removal are generally those showing signs of disease and/or decline with harvesting completed when it will benefit the forest through practices that do as little damage to the forest as practical. Commercial logging, which selects the most desirable trees for commercial purposes to be harvested, is not a program or service offered on GSCA properties.

- vi. *the development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions.*

Response: The development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions is necessary to achieve the Management objective herein to manage GSCA properties in a manner that will ensure the achievement of all objectives. As noted in an earlier section, GSCA has developed a Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy, 2006. Such guidance requires not only initial development but regular review such as through the 2022 supporting Natural Heritage Land Protection & Acquisition Approach mapping exercise.

GSCA finds that the above programs, services, and policies are all advisable and required to achieve the objectives of the Authority and this Strategy, and to fulfill the purpose of the Act on GSCA lands.

In accordance with the Act a [Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy](#) (WBRMS) is also required to be completed by GSCA including a review of programs and services under section 21.1 of the Act. The WBRMS includes a review of programs and services provided by GSCA, identifies issues and risks limiting their effectiveness, and actions to address issues and mitigate risks including consideration of the cost of those actions.

## 7. Natural Heritage Augmentation and Integration

O. Reg. 686/21 provides that where the Authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives of the Strategy, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may augment any natural heritage located within the authority’s area of jurisdiction and integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority’s area of jurisdiction shall be included in the Strategy.

This Strategy includes a Natural Heritage objective and GSCA finds it advisable to include an assessment of natural heritage and integration.

GSCA owns over 200 individual property parcels. Many of these properties contain natural heritage features, including Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), evaluated wetlands, significant woodlands, deer yards and the Niagara Escarpment. Table 2 summarizes the area of these features within the watershed and what portion of these are within GSCA lands. This Table is supported by Map 1 which shows where GSCA lands are in relation to the regional Natural Heritage System.

*Table 2. GSCA Lands Integration with Natural Heritage Systems*

NH Feature	Acres within watershed	Ha within watershed	GSCA Land Acres	GSCA Land Ha	% of Watershed
Evaluated Wetlands	53,029.44	21,460.25	8,472.86	3,428.84	15.98
ANSI	100,105.83	4,0511.4	10,780	4,362.51	10.77
Significant Woodland	19,3467	78,293.3	17,874.88	7,233.7	9.24
Deer Yard	28,495.96	11,531.9	3492.16	1,413.23	12.25
NEC Designation	151,005.52	61,109.76	13,622.13	5,512.68	9.02

In addition to these natural heritage features, data collected through Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) and GSCA species inventories identifies over 40 different Species at Risk (SAR) or locally rare species on GSCA lands.

As shown in Table 3, GSCA owns the most publicly accessible land within the Grey Sauble Watershed. The properties include approximately 172 km of trails, many of which connect with lands owned by other agencies, particularly Grey County Forests, Crown land and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The Bruce Trail and Bruce Side Trails, as well as Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs act as a connector to the majority of properties.

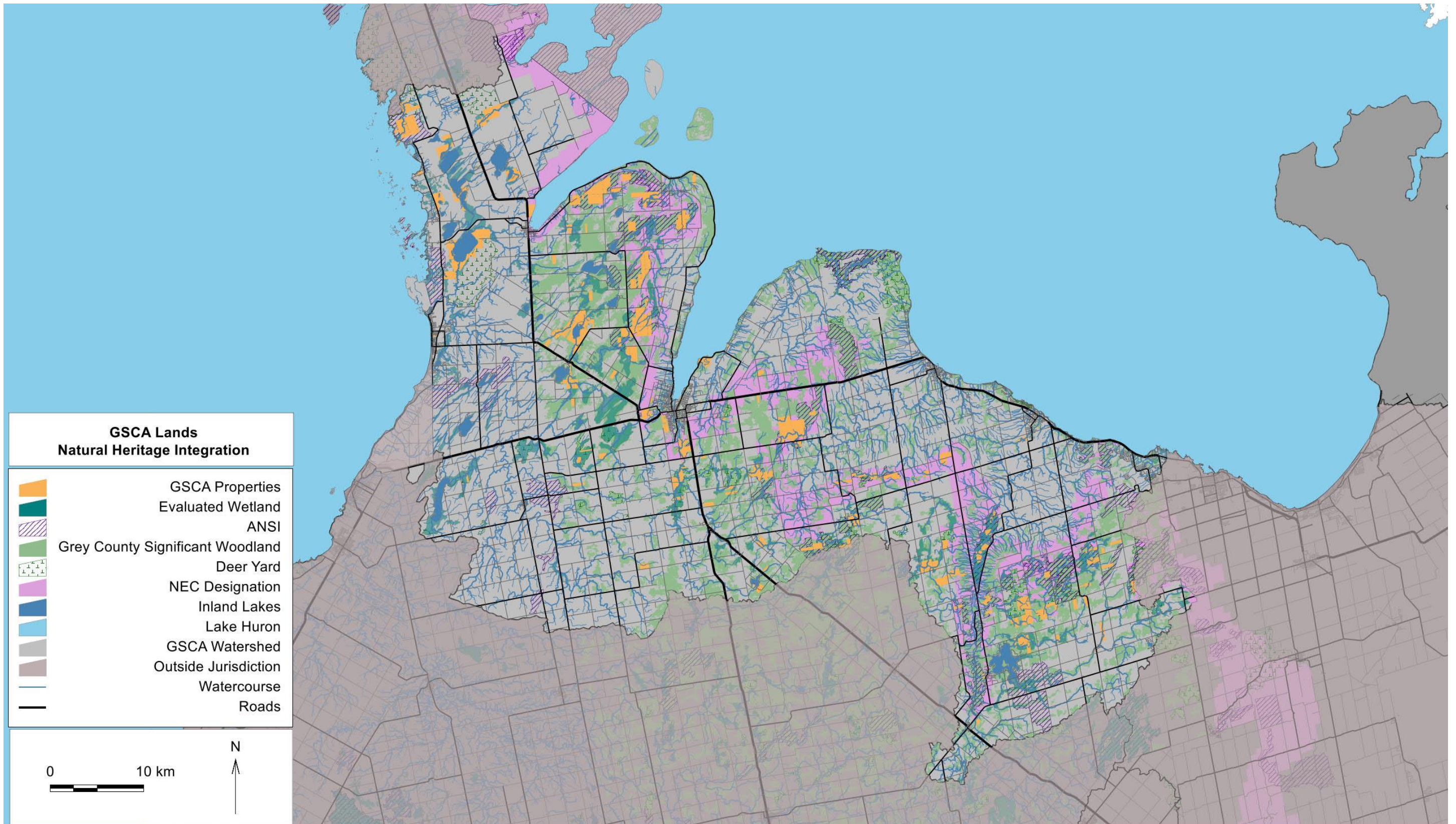
Table 3. Publicly Accessible Land Acreage within the GSCA Watershed

Landholder	Hectares	Acres
GSCA	11,755	29,048
Province	10,052	24,840
Bruce Trail Conservancy	3,161	7,810
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy	2,355	5,820
Grey County	1,503	3,713
Bruce County	911	2,251
Nature Conservancy of Canada	111	275
Municipal/Other	72	179
ON Nature	67	167

Map 2 illustrates GSCA Property Integration with other Publicly Accessible Landholders. As evidenced by the groupings on the map, there are a number of adjacent or nearby landowners providing integrated outdoor recreation and conservation of key natural resources within the watershed. GSCA’s properties, in conjunction with the properties owned by partner organizations provide important natural heritage linkages throughout the watershed.

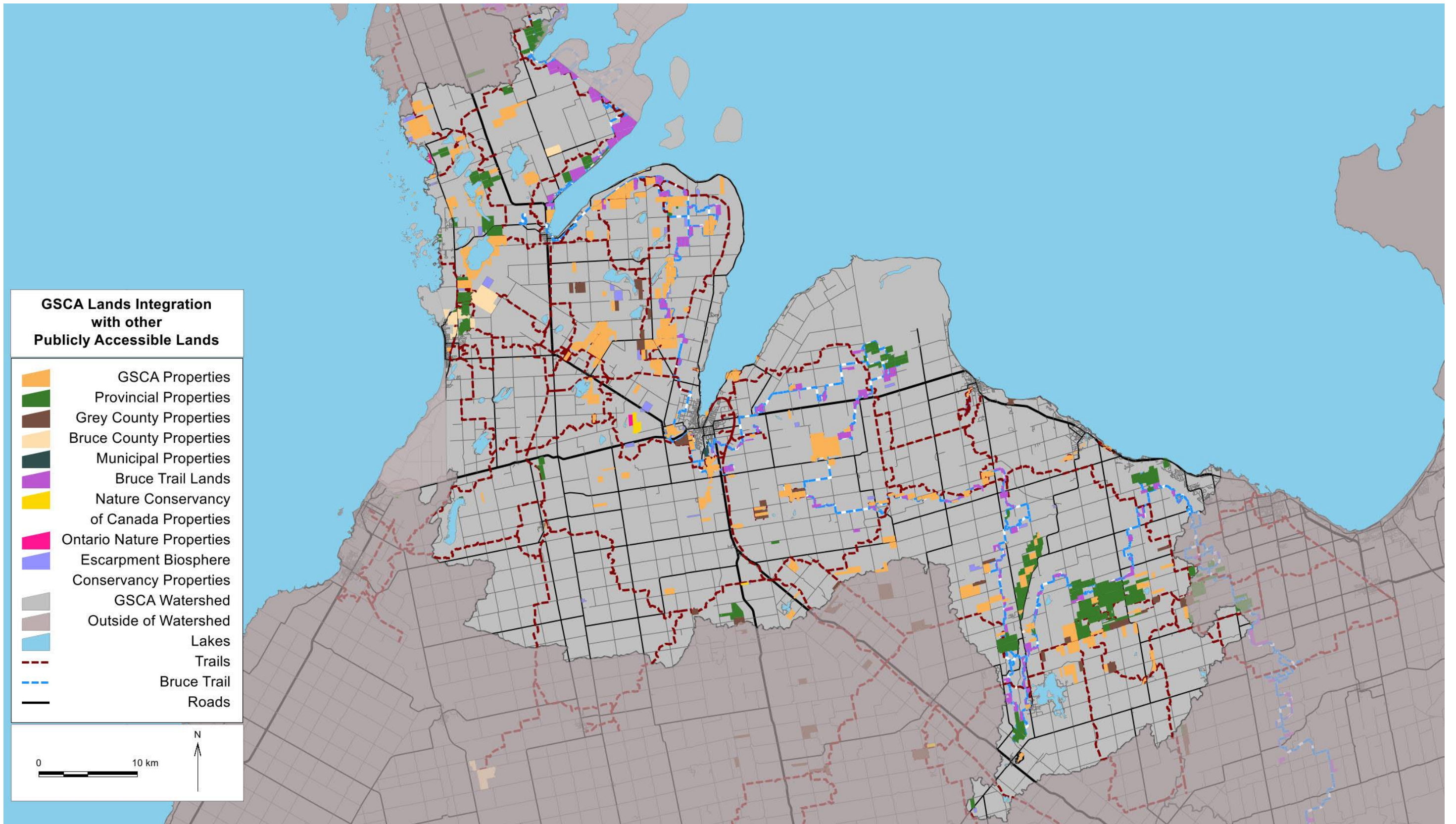
The GSCA Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy (ADP) as well as a Natural Heritage Land Protection and Acquisition Approach, assist with decision making on which properties to consider for acquisition.

Map 1: GSCA Lands within the Greater Natural Heritage System



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Map 2: GSCA Property Integration with other Publicly Accessible Landholders



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## 8. Land Use Classification

A requirement of this Strategy as per O. Reg. 686/21 of the Conservation Authorities Act is to establish land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the associated inventory based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance.

Previously, GSCA properties were classified as:

*Conservation Areas: These lands are designated for more intensive recreational uses. There are usually washroom facilities, parking lots, picnic pavilions, trails and perhaps a gatehouse for collecting parking fees.*

*Management Areas: These properties are managed for sustainable forestry purposes, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, protection of sensitive species, etc. Development in these areas is limited to trails and perhaps small parking areas. Management areas are generally managed to improve or maintain the present characteristics of the property.*

*Nature Preserves: These areas are not managed. Trails may be located through these properties, but nature is allowed to run its course.*

These classifications have served GSCA well for many years for public facing communications including for describing permitted uses.

In consideration of the updated strategic plan goals and objectives herein, together with the programs and services GSCA considers advisable to achieve those objectives, GSCA finds that it would be beneficial to the Management objective for this Strategy to adopt the classifications from the Risk Management Guideline (RMG) to describe the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land and other matters of significance related to the parcel and the needs of this Authority. This also recognizes lands that are subject of long-term leases which were not addressed in the former categorization. Adopting updated classifications in this strategy and going forward will also support continuity across policies providing clarity and improving effective implementation and communication. Appendix 2 includes an excerpt of the Risk Management Plan categories and inspection frequency.

For clarity and to distinguish between the land use categories for the purposes of classifying lands and the categories of programs and services as defined by the Act, the term “type” will be used to describe the classification of lands going forward.

Many Conservation Areas exist because multiple historic parcels were acquired over time which may or may not have merged on title. When adjacent or in close proximity to each other, these properties may be commonly known by the same name. An example of this would be the Conservation Area commonly known as West Rocks, which is made up of a number of land parcels (components) acquired over time. Where parcels remain separate, but the management needs differ, it is possible that a named

Conservation Area has multiple components with different land use 'types'. These details will be established in the Conservation Land Inventory. Where a single parcel has areas that may fall into more than one type, the highest level of use will be considered the primary type to correspond with inspection frequencies warranted by the RMG.

Where a lease agreement does not cover the whole of the lands, or is not applicable year-round, lands that have a lease on them may be classified in Types 1-3.

## 8.1 Proposed Land Use Types:

### Type 1. High-Use Conservation Lands

Lands which are well promoted and have managed trail networks, parking lots, signage, and facilities. These areas are typically distinguished from Type 2 Lands by the level of development and the intensiveness of use.

### Type 2. Lower Use Conservation Lands

Lands which are similar to Type 1 lands but are less developed and typically have lower public use.

### Type 3. Resource Management Areas and Non-Public Nature Preserves

Although public access is permitted, Type 3 Conservation Lands are not promoted for public access, are generally not managed for public access, and typically serve solely as resource management areas or nature preserves. These areas do not have facilities and/or parking lots. Trail networks, if existing, are simple, minimal, and unmaintained.

### Type 4. Leased Conservation Lands

Lands which are subject to a long or short-term lease agreement between the GSCA and an individual, a corporation, or a municipality. Through the terms of the lease agreement, the Lessee is typically responsible for management of these lands.

## 9. Implementation



The undertaking of mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services on lands owned and managed by GSCA is guided by the Conservation Authorities Act and Regulations, the Strategic Plan, and other GSCA policies and guidelines. Going forward, this Strategy and the objectives herein will be added to that guidance.

The land use types identified herein will be used to classify GSCA lands in the Land Inventory required by O. Reg. 686/21.

The Strategy objectives will primarily be implemented through management plans as they are completed for GSCA properties. These objectives are already reflected in the Inglis Falls Conservation Area Management Plan and the Eugenia Falls Conservation Area Management Plan, for two of GSCA’s most visited conservation areas. Each of these management plans includes deliverables and metrics informed by the objectives and specific action areas to meet the needs of that GSCA property. These more specific implementation measures will be enabled through the annual budget and yearly workplans. More broadly, this Strategy and the land use type classification will be considered in prioritizing properties for new or updated Management Plans.

## 10. Acknowledgements & Summary of Public Consultation

The Conservation Area Strategy (“Strategy”) for Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) was developed following the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulations with consideration of Conservation Ontario’s Guidance on the Conservation Authority Mandatory Conservation Area Strategy and draft content from other Conservation Authorities.

A Draft of the Strategy was provided to the Board of Directors prior to being made available for broader consultation to provide an overview of the regulatory requirements and how they are proposed to be addressed by the Draft following which the document was made available for stakeholder and the public input by:

- Providing all members municipalities, SON Environment Office, Metis Nation of Ontario, and Bruce Trail Conservancy with a draft of the Strategy and inviting input directly via email;
- Developing a section of GSCA website dedicated to Conservation Authority Act requirements with a page dedicated to the Conservation Area Strategy explaining its importance, providing a draft for review, and inviting feedback through an online form.
- Publicizing the Strategy and input opportunity via social media and media releases.

An overview of the four responses received to the feedback form for the Draft Strategy are included as Appendix 3. No responses were received directly via email.

Through the form seven specific questions were asked. Respondents were split on whether there should be a hierarchy to the objectives and those that thought there should be a hierarchy did not agree on what it should be. Only Recreation and Education objectives were in the top 5 of both responses. Natural Heritage and Fiscal Sustainability were inversely the top priority and second last priority of the two responses that ranked the objectives. In light of these responses, no hierarchy of objectives is recommended for this overarching Conservation Area Strategy. It would be interesting to consider the question of hierarchy at the time that management plans are being developed for individual conservation areas.

The responses were supportive of the Strategy finding that GSCA properties augment and enhance natural heritage and integrate with other publicly accessible lands and trails.

Where respondents were invited to offer any other comments, two responded:

- 1) *“I'd like to see a greater diversity of recreational opportunities across more of your properties. E.g. rock climbing, mountain biking.”*
- 2) *“So important to preserve our pieces of nature, especially given climate change and also development pressure in the region.”*

These responses are included for future consideration as this Strategy is used to inform future decision-making respecting lands owned and managed by GSCA.

The Final Conservation Area Strategy will remain posted on the GSCA website for future consideration.

## 11. Periodic Review Process

This Strategy document shall be monitored from time to time to evaluate its ongoing relevance.

Comprehensive review of the Conservation Area Strategy will take place within one year of any new Strategic Plan. Comprehensive review will include a wholistic consideration of the objectives herein and their alignment with any new strategic directions as well as their effective support of legislated programs and services. Any proposed changes to the document will be made available for comment by municipal partners, will be available on GSCA's public facing website, and will be brought forward to the GSCA Board of Directors for review and endorsed by resolution before taking effect. Changes to the categorization of individual properties (land use type) shall not be considered a change to the Strategy.

For clarity, the objectives of the 2025-2035 Strategic Plan have already been considered in this 2024 Conservation Area Strategy and as such a comprehensive review is not anticipated until the next Strategic Plan review (anticipated in 2030).

## 12. Conclusions

Under Conservation Authorities Act regulation, all CAs in Ontario are required to complete a Conservation Area Strategy before the end of 2024.

Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by GSCA, including any interests in land registered on title, is already a mandatory requirement of the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulation. Through the process of considering the objectives to apply GSCA finds that the programs and services specified continue to be necessary to support the objectives recommended herein.

GSCA has been managing lands across the watershed for decades and has a number of policies and guidelines already in place for land management decision making supported by robust GIS data. In considering the requirements of the province for a Conservation Area Strategy, we found that much of the groundwork was in place through these existing tools already approved by the Board or Directors. The Conservation Area Strategy requirement encouraged GSCA to reflect wholistically on how these tools can and should work together to guide decision making going forward.

A Draft of the Strategy was made available to the public and stakeholders whose feedback was considered as described herein.

This Conservation Area Strategy concludes that:

- The objectives that will inform GSCA decision making related to its lands shall follow the example set by the Inglis Falls and Eugenia Falls Conservation Area Management Plans. The objectives established herein further support the

Strategic Plan and NEPOSS objectives. Decisions related to acquisition and disposition of lands will consider these objectives within existing frameworks;

- Mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services are provided on lands owned and controlled by the authority. The total cost of operating the programs and services (as included in Table 1) is heavily offset by self-generated revenue, with only 41.75% funded through municipal levy. The undertaking of mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services on lands owned and managed by GSCA is guided by the Conservation Authorities Act and Regulations, the Strategic Plan, and other GSCA policies and guidelines. Going forward, this Strategy and the objectives herein will be added to that guidance.
- The Land Use Types that will best support the objectives for land management are those that align with the Risk Management Guideline and will be applied to each property and included in the Land Inventory. More broadly, this Strategy and the land use type classification will be considered in prioritizing properties for new or updated Management Plans.
- GSCA owns the most publicly accessible land in the watershed and these properties both conserve and connect natural heritage features and integrate with other publicly accessible lands and trails. Connecting natural heritage features and integrating with other publicly accessible lands and trails helps to manage GSCA properties in a manner that will ensure the achievement of all objectives.
- The Conservation Area Strategy and objectives herein will be considered in prioritizing properties for new or updated management plans and will primarily be implemented through management plans as they are completed for individual properties, with actions identified specific to the needs of that GSCA property. It will also provide additional guidance to inform the undertaking of mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services and decisions related to acquisition and disposition of lands.
- This Strategy will be reviewed regularly as described in Section 11.

The Conservation Area Strategy will be made available to the public by being available upon request at the administration offices and by posting on the GSCA website.

### 13. List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy

Appendix 2: GSCA Risk Management Guideline (excerpt)

Appendix 3: Overview of Consultation Responses Received

14. Related Links

[Conservation Authorities Act](#)

[O.Reg.686/21](#)

[Niagara Escarpment Plan](#)

[GSCA Programs and Services Inventory](#)

[Inglis Falls Management Plan](#)

[Eugenia Falls Management Plan](#)

[Forest Management Plan](#)

[The Value of Our Natural Areas](#)

[Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy](#)

[Bruce Trail Conservancy End-User Data Licence Agreement](#)

## Appendix 1: Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy

### Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

#### Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy

*February 2006*

#### Introduction

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority owns and manages over 11,000 hectares (27,000 + acres) of wetland, forest, headwater, Niagara Escarpment, agricultural and shoreline property, scattered throughout its 3,146 sq. kilometre watershed jurisdiction.

All GSCA lands have been divided into one of three classifications based upon the reasons for their purchase, any conditions on title, and the management objectives established for each type of property. These classifications include Management Areas, Conservation Areas and Nature Preserves.

**Conservation Area** - Conservation Areas in the Grey Sauble watershed are day-use areas with the primary purpose of providing outdoor recreation facilities or activities. Seasonal facilities such as parking, washrooms and picnic tables or picnic pavilions can be found at these sites. GSCA's Conservation Areas encompass approximately 1,005 hectares (2,483 acres) of land. Conservation areas usually feature one or more attractions that draw visitors to the site, such as unique vistas, waterfalls, caves, trails, sites of historical significance or beaches.

**Management Area** – Management Areas are properties managed for a variety of uses, including forest management, fish and wildlife management, recreation and watershed protection (soil and water conservation). Facilities on management areas may include boardwalks, trails and parking.

**Nature Preserve** - Nature Preserves are properties that have been left unmanaged to protect them in a natural state. These properties were acquired to protect them against further development or to preserve sensitive features, flora or fauna.

Passive recreational activities such as hiking or nature appreciation are encouraged on these properties. The facilities found at these sites may consist mainly of trails. GSCA has five Nature Preserves comprising approximately 84 hectares of land (208 acres).

#### Policy Intent

This policy provides the administrative framework under which future land securement of key properties by the Conservation Authority can be achieved as well as guidance for the disposal of surplus lands. It sets out specific policies related to securement, appraisal, survey, environmental audit and disposal. Description of the legislative and procedural Provincial statements included in this policy document are for convenience only. A copy of the relevant legislation and procedures should be obtained to determine the exact requirements. The specific content of the appendices are not considered part of the formal policy, as they may be updated and/or amended from time to time, provided that these

changes are consistent with the original intent. Securement or disposition of any property interest must be approved through a Resolution from the GSCA Board of Directors.

## **Background**

### **Provincial Legislation**

Section 20 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act outlines the objects of a Conservation Authority which are “to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 20”.

Section 21 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act outlines the powers of authorities for the purposes of accomplishing its objects.

Subsection 21 (1) (c) states that an Authority has the power “to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise and to expropriate any land that it may require, and, subject to subsection (2), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired”.

Subsection 21 (1) (d) gives the Authority the power, “despite subsection (2), to lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority.”

Subsection 21 (1) (e) gives the authority power “to purchase or acquire any personal property that it may require and sell or otherwise deal therewith.”

Subsection 21 (1) (g) gives the authority power “to enter into agreements with owners of private lands to facilitate the due carrying out of any project.”

Subsection 21 (1) (n) gives the Authority power “to collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations.”

Section 21 (2) states that “if the Minister has made a grant to an authority under section 39 in respect of land, the authority shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the land under clause (1) (c) without the approval of the Minister. 1996, c. 1, Sched. M, s. 44 (3)”.

Section 21 (3) states that “the Minister may impose terms and conditions on an approval given under subsection (2), including a condition that the authority pay a specified share of the proceeds of the disposition to the Minister. 1996, c. 1, Sched. M, s. 44 (3)”.

Section 31 of the Conservation Authorities Act states that “the Expropriations Act applies where land is expropriated by an authority or where land is injuriously affected by an authority in the exercise of its statutory powers. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 31.”

## **1. Acquisition Policy**

- 1.1. For the purposes of this policy, land acquisition means to obtain from a willing landowner, interest in land title for conservation purposes and includes such acquisition as land bequest, land trading, donation, and fee simple purchase.
- 1.2. The GSCA will acquire lands located within the Grey Sauble watershed to help further the goals of the Authority mandate.
- 1.3. All land bequests and donations will be taken to the board for review.
- 1.4. A “Property Acquisition Fact Sheet” must be completed for all proposed acquisitions.
- 1.5. The “Peer Review Team” refers to one Director (representing the Municipality where the acquisition is located) and two staff members who review proposed property acquisition fact sheets and dispositions prior to making recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- 1.6. A property considered for acquisition must be identified as having 3 or more of the following characteristics:
  - a) Fill out, adding to an existing GSCA land holding
  - b) Property previously approved for acquisition by the Board of Directors. (Niagara Escarpment Acquisition Plan, Master plan, Priority list)
  - c) Niagara Escarpment property designated under the Niagara Escarpment Plan as Escarpment Natural, Escarpment Protection or Escarpment Rural.
  - d) Located along the Optimum Route of the Bruce Trail
  - e) Land that will improve access to existing GSCA property
  - f) Significant Wildlife Habitat
  - g) Provincially/Regionally Significant ANSI
  - h) Provincially/Regionally Significant Wetland
  - i) Environmentally Significant Area
  - j) Significant Vegetation/Forest Cover
  - k) Significant Cultural/Historical Features
  - l) Significant Fisheries Habitat
  - m) Significant Water Resources (e.g. Headwaters, floodplain, streams)
  - n) Significant Features (waterfalls, scarp faces, re-entrant valley)
  - o) Land identified with forest management potential.

- p) Land identified with public outdoor recreation opportunities that relate to the Authority mandate.
- 1.7. The GSCA may partner to acquire lands, where possible and appropriate, with other agencies to acquire lands such as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Bruce Trail Association. Such partnerships may require specific details and agreements to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The GSCA will acquire lands within the Grey Sauble watershed only on a willing-buyer, willing-seller basis, unless otherwise authorized by the GSCA Board of Directors.
  - 1.8. A proposal to acquire a property with a fair market value estimate greater than \$10,000 must be supported by an appraisal that is signed by an appraiser who is accredited AACI (Accredited Appraiser Canadian Institute) in accordance with the Canadian “Standards” (Canadian Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice) of the Appraisal Institute of Canada.
  - 1.9. Legal council must be hired or provided by the partnering agency to complete all legal transactions related to the land acquisition process.
  - 1.10. The GSCA will consult on a confidential basis with staff from the municipalities in which the subject property is located to reduce duplication, identify and resolve any municipal concerns, and examine opportunities to acquire the property through the development approval process.
  - 1.11. Disposal of surplus lands acquired through a land transaction are to be established prior to the securement of the property. Disposal of surplus lands will follow the disposal policies as outlined in Section 2.
  - 1.12. Prior to finalizing any property acquisition, a Registered Plan of Survey must be received from a registered Ontario Land Surveyor in accordance with the Surveys Act, the Surveyors Act and the Land Titles Act and their regulations.

## **2. Disposition Policy**

- 2.1. Disposal, leasing of lands and the sale of surplus lands will (if required) be in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources Policies and Procedures and Section 21 (2) of the Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27 as amended.
- 2.2. In instances where the GSCA is not required to follow the policies and procedures outlined in Section 20(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act , they will still be used as a guideline for land disposal.
- 2.3. The disposition of land by the GSCA will be subject to Planning Act review and must conform to local planning regulations.

- 2.4. The GSCA will not transfer title to all or part of any GSCA property without first obtaining all required approvals from the GSCA Board of Directors and the Ministry of Natural Resources (if required).
- 2.5. The GSCA will notify the local Municipality in writing (where the identified land disposition is located) regarding the land disposition prior to disposal.

**Grey Sauble Conservation Authority**  
**Property Acquisition Fact Sheet**

Date	
Completed by	

**Step 1**

**1. Landowner:**

Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	

**2. Property description:**

Property address	
County	
Local Municipality	
Lot(s):	
Concession(s)	
Size	
Roll number	

**3. Name of agent for landowner:**  yes (provide details)  no

Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	

- 4. Acquisition analysis:** identify three or more of the following and provide details (include photos and maps)
- Fill out, adding to an existing GSCA land holding
  - Niagara Escarpment property designated under the Niagara Escarpment Plan as Escarpment Natural, Escarpment Protection or Escarpment Rural.
  - Property previously approved for acquisition by the Board of Directors. (i.e. Niagara Escarpment Acquisition Plan, Master plan, Priority list)
  - Located along the Optimum Route of the Bruce Trail
  - Land that will improve access to existing GSCA property
  - Significant Wildlife Habitat
  - Provincially/Regionally Significant ANSI
  - Provincially/Regionally Significant Wetland
  - Environmentally Significant Area
  - Significant Vegetation/Forest Cover
  - Significant Cultural/Historical Features
  - Significant Fisheries Habitat
  - Significant Water Resources (e.g. Headwaters, floodplain, streams)
  - Significant Features (waterfalls, scarp faces, re-entrant valley)
  - Land identified with forest management potential.
  - Land identified with public outdoor recreation opportunities that relate to the Authority mandate.

Acquisition analysis details

5. **Easements proposed:**  yes (provide details) no

<u>Easement details</u>
-------------------------

6. **Acquisition cost estimate:**

Item	Cost
land appraisal fee	
purchase price	
legal fees	
survey cost	
partnership arrangements	
Other, specify	

<u>Additional acquisition cost details</u>
--

7. **Management costs estimate:** short and long term capital.

Item	Cost
fencing	
infrastructure – upgrade / removal	
access to the property	
trails	
signage	
future capital needs / issues	
taxes	
management issues	
forest management costs/revenue	
other, specify	

<u>Management cost details</u>
--------------------------------

8. **Site plan/map:**

- depicting property boundary
- significant features
- surrounding land uses
- other GSCA / public property in the area

<u>Site plan details</u>
--------------------------

9. Surplus lands to be sold:  yes (provide details) no

Surplus land details

10. Partnership arrangements:  yes (provide details) no

- agency(s) involved
- easements
- option agreement
- letter of understanding / agreement
- other

Partnership details

### Step 2 - Peer review

1. Peer review / recommendation – review of step 1 – items 1-10

Peer review details: Reviewed by

### Step 3 – Board of Directors recommendation

1. Recommendation results:

Recommendation

### Step 4 – Completing the acquisition

1. Legal council:

Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone/fax	

2. Land appraisal report:  yes (appendix) no

3. Reference plan: Survey firm information

Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone/fax	

4. Acquisition closing:

- All related expenditures paid
- deeds filed
- survey filed
- agreements / letters of understanding filed
- appraisal filed

<u>Closing acquisition notes</u>          
--

## Appendix 2: GSCA Risk Management Guideline Excerpt (pg9)

### 3.5.1 Conservation Land Categorization

GSCA lands will generally be classified based on GSC's primary goals for the property and the level of use. Risk management activities will vary depending on property category.

The category types are:

#### Category 1 – High-Use Conservation Lands

Lands which are well promoted and have managed trail networks, parking lots, signage, and facilities. These areas are typically distinguished from Category 2 Lands by the level of development and the intensiveness of use.

#### Category 2 – Lower Use Conservation Lands

Lands which are similar to Category 1 lands but are less developed and typically have lower public use.

#### Category 3 – Resource Management Areas and Non-Public Nature Preserves

Although public access is permitted, Category 3 Conservation Lands are not promoted for public access, are generally not managed for public access, and typically serve solely as resource management areas or nature preserves. These areas do not have facilities and/or parking lots. Trail networks, if existing, are simple, minimal, and unmaintained.

#### Category 4 – Leased Conservation Lands

Lands which are subject to a long or short-term lease agreement between the GSC and an individual, a corporation, or a municipality. Through the terms of the lease agreement, the Lessee is typically responsible for management of these lands.

### 3.5.2 Inspection Frequencies

Category 1 lands shall receive a minimum of six (6) inspections per year, generally carried out on a quarterly basis, with the additional inspections generally occurring between May and October.

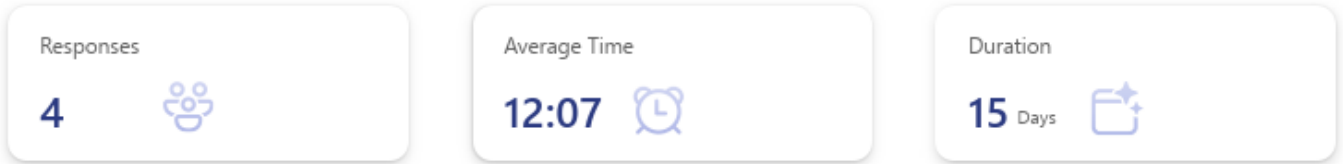
Category 2 lands shall receive a minimum of four (4) inspections per year, generally carried out on a quarterly basis.

Category 3 lands shall receive a minimum of one (1) inspections per year generally spaced a year apart. These inspections shall occur in the snow-free season.

Category 4 lands shall receive a minimum of one (1) inspection per year generally spaced a year apart. These inspections shall occur in the snow-free season.

## Appendix 3: Overview of Consultation Responses Received

### Responses Overview Closed



1. Do you think that there should be a hierarchy to these objective categories?



2. Please rank the following Conservation Area Strategy objectives in order of importance:



3. Do you agree that properties owned and managed by GSCA enhance natural heritage in the region?



4. Can you share an example of how GSCA properties enhance natural heritage? (e.g. perhaps with respect to habitat, landscape features, wildlife corridors, ecological processes, or others)

3  
Responses

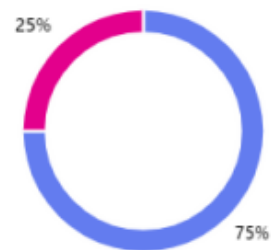
Latest Responses

"Bognor Marsh protects wetlands and wildlife corridors."  
"Protecting habitat, wildlife corridors and natural spaces"

...

5. Do you agree that properties owned and managed by GSCA integrate with other publicly accessible lands and trails (e.g., those managed by the Province, local municipalities, Bruce Trail Conservancy, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Escarpment Biosphere Commission etc.)?

● Yes 3  
● No 1



6. Can you share an example of how GSCA properties integrate with other publicly accessible lands and trails?

2  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Old Baldy integrated the Bruce Trail"

...

7. Do you have any other comments on the Draft Conservation Area Strategy?

2  
Responses

Latest Responses

"So important to preserve our pieces of nature, especially given climate change an..."

...