

A large, stylized leaf graphic in a lighter shade of teal, positioned in the upper right corner of the slide.

Woodend Conservation Area Management Plan

Open House – May 26, 2026

Niagara College – Daniel J. Patterson Campus, Niagara-on-the-Lake



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

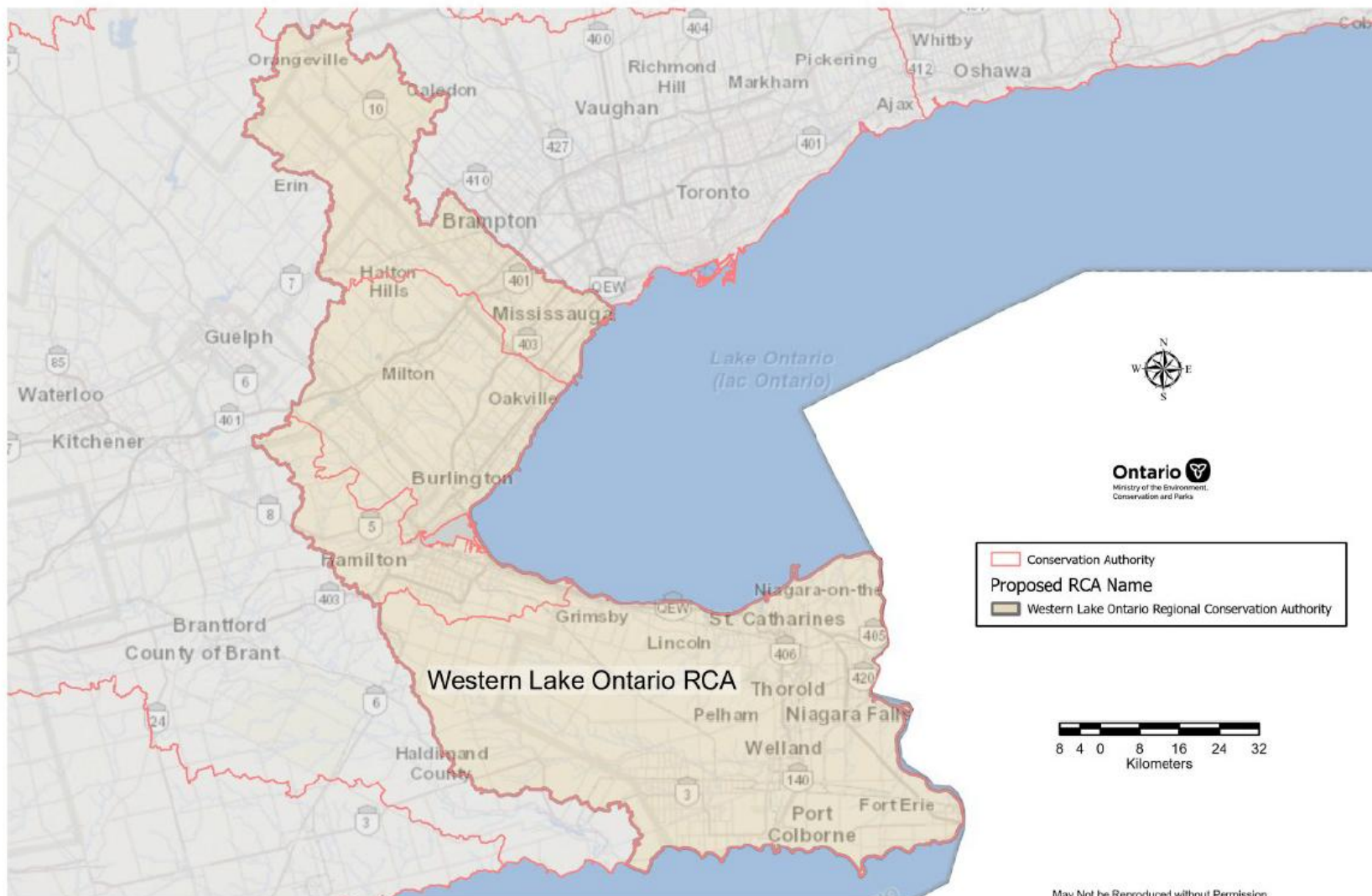
MEETING OVERVIEW

- **Opening Remarks & Housekeeping**
- **Presentation**
 - CA Consolidation
 - Background
 - Project Details
 - Project Q&A
- **Breakout Group Discussion**
- **Closing Remarks**
- **Informal Discussion / Networking**



CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CONSOLIDATION

WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



© King's Printer for Ontario and its licensors, 2025

The maps shown here are for illustration purposes only and are not suitable for site-specific use or applications. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provides this information with the understanding that it is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct or complete and conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user. While every effort has been made to use data believed to be accurate, a degree of error is inherent in all maps. Map products are intended for reference purposes only, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will accept no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from the use of these maps. These maps are distributed 'as-is' without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to warranties of suitability to a particular purpose or use.

Keeping Partners & Community Informed

getinvolved.npca.ca/CA-Act-Changes



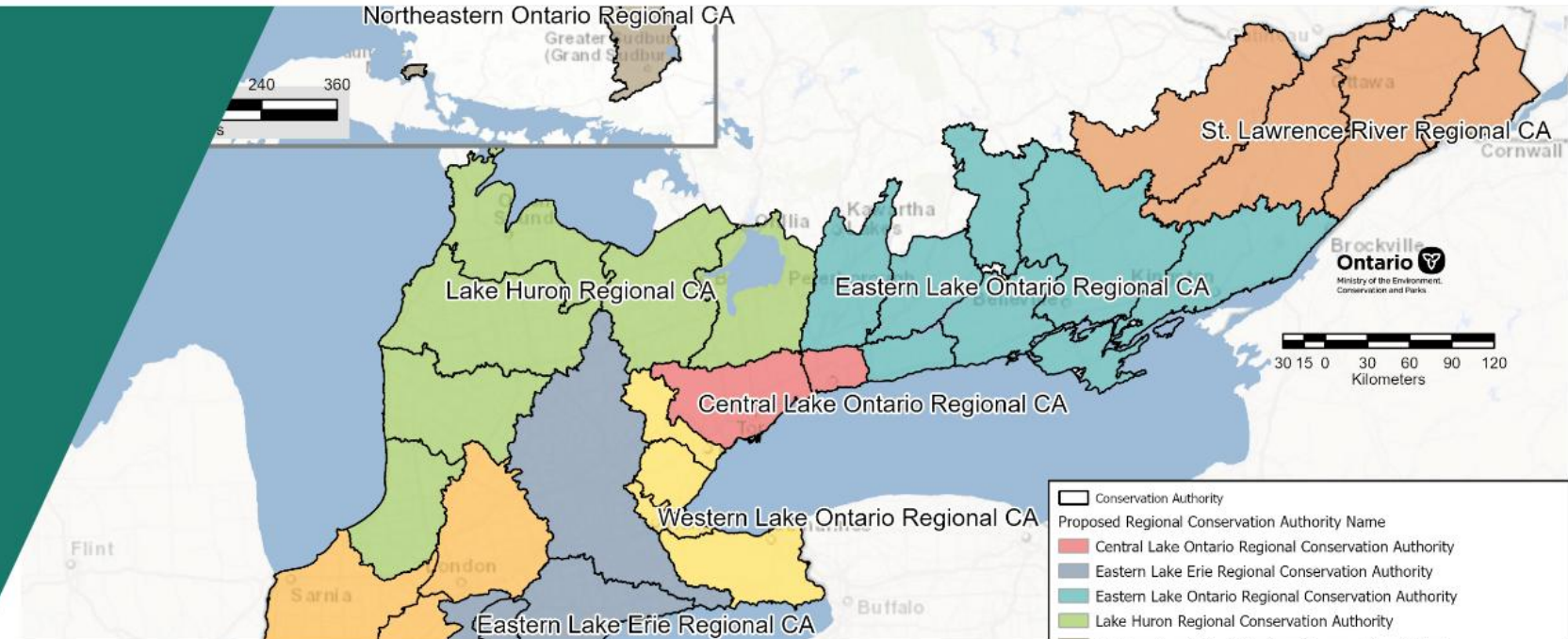
Niagara Peninsula
CONSERVATION
nature for all

[Home](#) [Projects](#) [English](#) [My profile](#) [Search](#)

Proposed Changes to Conservation Authorities in Ontario

What it means for NPCA and our communities

[+ Follow](#)



Map of Ontario showing proposed changes to Conservation Authorities. The map is color-coded by region: Central Lake Ontario (red), Eastern Lake Ontario (teal), Lake Huron (green), Western Lake Ontario (yellow), and Eastern Lake Erie (blue). Other regions shown include Northeastern Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Cornwall. A scale bar indicates distances up to 120 kilometers. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the Conservation Authorities and the proposed changes.

- Conservation Authority
- Proposed Regional Conservation Authority Name
- Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority
- Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority

[Home](#) / [Conservation Authorities Act Changes](#)



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NPCA Watershed

- ~68,000 ha of natural features & habitat for more than 2,200 species
- NPCA manages 43 conservation areas and properties
- NPCA stewards over 3,100 ha of conservation areas
- NPCA lands held in public trust for recreation, heritage preservation, conservation, and education.



Niagara Peninsula Watershed

- NPCA acquired the first parcel in 1974
- 48.4 ha conservation area in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Part of the Niagara Escarpment with significant ecological features
- Long-term lease with District School Board of Niagara for Walker Living Campus (Outdoor Education)
- Neighbouring properties include Niagara College and Bruce Trail Conservancy

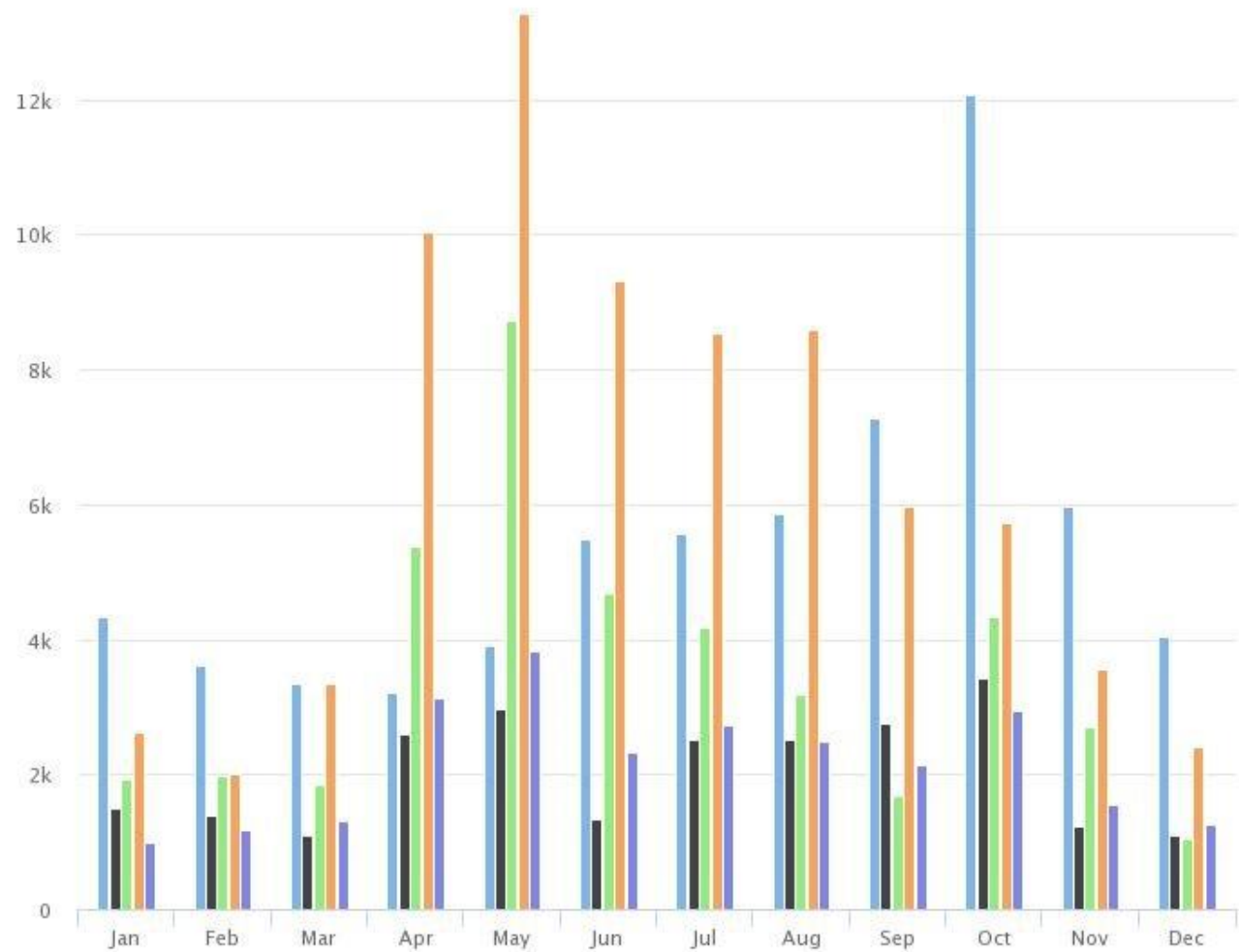


WOODEND CONSERVATION AREA

- One of eleven NPCA conservation areas on the Niagara Escarpment
- Part of the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) which includes over 160 protected areas
- Bruce Trail Main and Side Trails
- Laura Secord Legacy Trail
- Multiple access points
- Historically significant



AVERAGE MONTHLY VISITATION 2021-2025



Site Name		Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
Beamer		5,392.7	4,914.5	2,345.7	3,201.8	12,078.0
Louth		2,037.2	2,009.0	799.6	1,085.0	3,434.0
Rockway		3,471.7	2,937.3	2,060.4	1,055.0	8,726.0
St.Johns		6,286.3	5,846.0	3,484.9	2,019.0	13,283.0
Woodend (1)		2,158.3	2,242.5	869.7	990.5	3,839.1

VISITATION

- Steady increase in visitation at all NPCA conservation areas since 2019
- Woodend is one of the top 5 most visited passive recreation site averaging over visits 2000 per month
- Potential visitation peaks but data may show different trends than other CAs
- Approximately 590 school students per month (DSBN)
- Total visitation likely higher when adjusting for multiple access points

**More info included in Background Report Summary located on the Get Involved portal (more on that later)

KEY PARTNERS

- DSBN
- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Niagara College
- Niagara Geopark
- City of Niagara Falls
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Indigenous partners
- Community members





KEY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- DSNB: Outdoor Education
- Niagara Geopark: Geosite
- Niagara College: collaboration projects and programs for experiential learning
- Historical significance
- Passive recreation: nature observation, hiking, bird watching, photography, etc.

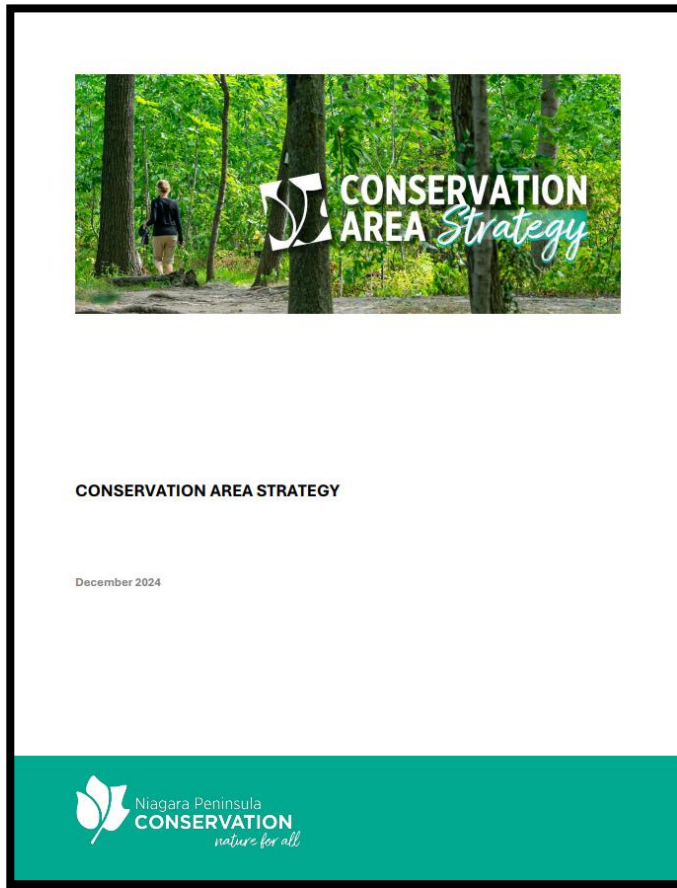


GUIDING STRATEGIES

NPCA STRATEGIC PLAN – NATURE FOR ALL



NPCA CONSERVATION AREA STRATEGY



**Protect and
Restore**



**Connect and
Enhance**



**Adapt and
Sustain**



**Engage and
Inspire**

4 GOALS & 20 OBJECTIVES



MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT PLAN?

- Long-term strategy that guides decision making for the use of the conservation area
- Assess current conditions and challenges for the property
- Sets goals to balance ecological preservation with infrastructure improvements and recreational opportunities
- Master vs Management Plan



CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

- Three broad phases:
 - Background Report, Information Gathering
 - Plan Development
 - Implementation
- Each phase will include several steps
- Engagement included in every phase



CONSERVATION AREA CLASSIFICATION / ZONES



Conservation Area- Active
Recreation



Conservation Area – Passive
Recreation

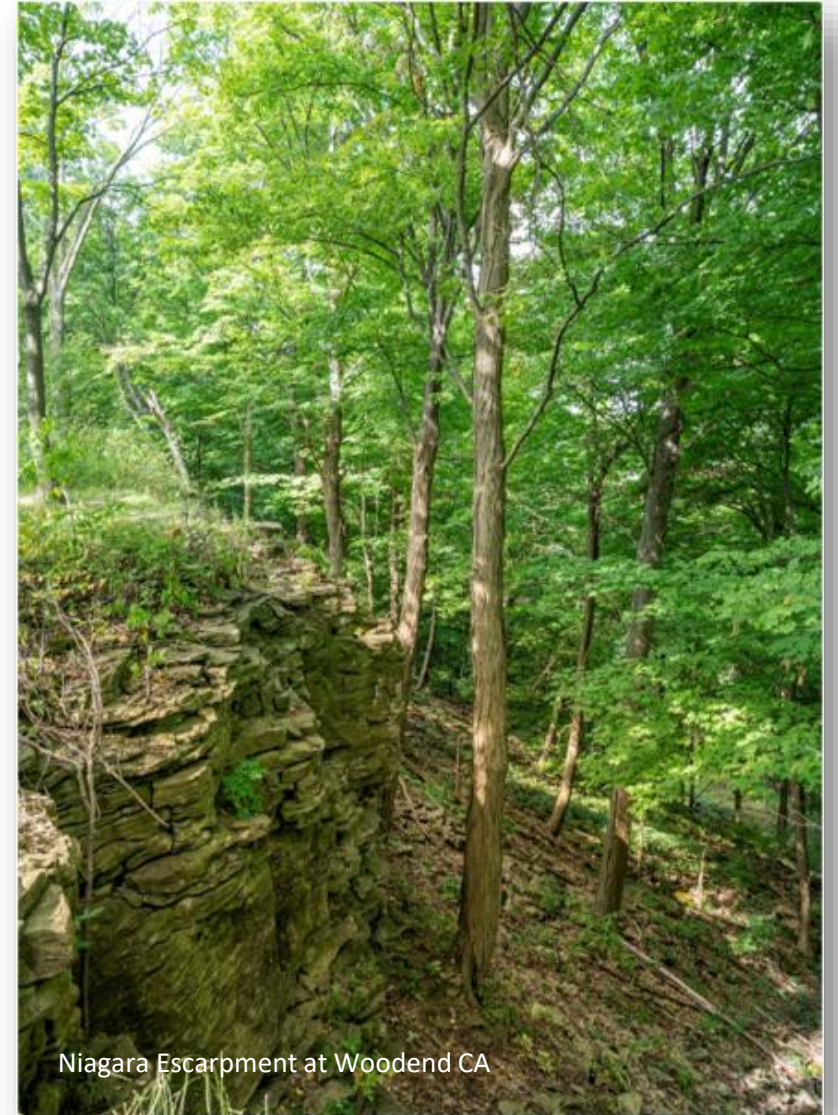


Natural Heritage and Hazards

- Land use categories for conservation areas:
 - Conservation Area - Active Recreation
 - Conservation Area - Passive Recreation
- Natural Heritage & Hazard Lands
- Management plans will further refine these classification
- Specific zones within a property can be allocated for specific activities or programs

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PARKS & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

- Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act
 - Maintain and protect the Niagara Escarpment
 - Development must be compatible with the environment
 - Niagara Escarpment Plan outlines policies for management of publicly-owned escarpment properties
- NPCA properties within Niagara Escarpment
 - Beamer Memorial
 - **Woodend**
 - Ball's Falls
 - Rockway
 - Mountainview
 - Louth
 - Woolverton
 - Lathrop
 - St. Johns
 - St. Johns Centre
 - Cave Springs
- Endorsement and approval required by MNR and NEC for these management plans



Niagara Escarpment at Woodend CA

PRIORITIZING MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Management planning can be a lengthy, resource intensive process.
- Each CA does not require its own management plan and can be combined depending on similarity of factors or proximity.
- Over the next 5 years, NPCA staff have prioritized the completion of management plans for the following conservation areas:
 - Beamer Memorial – in progress
 - **Woodend**
 - Morgan's Point
 - Rockway
 - Cave Springs

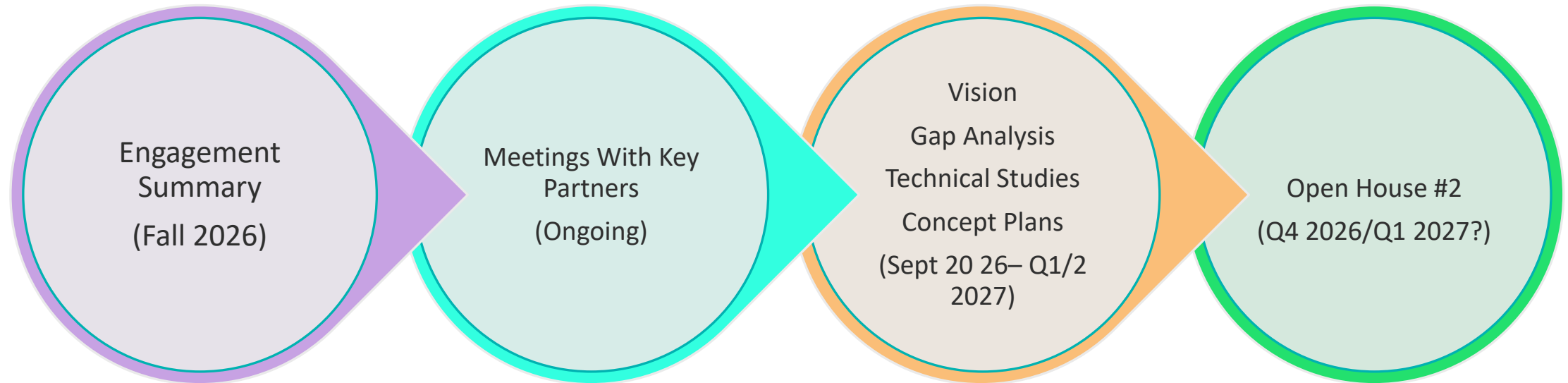


MANAGEMENT PLAN TIMELINE

PROJECT TIMELINE



SHORT-TERM ACTIONS



- Get Involved Portal
- Meeting Summary
- Survey

- Indigenous partners
- NEC, MNR staff
- DSBN
- Niagara College
- Municipal staff
- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Interest Groups
- Community Groups

- Studies to support content or design
- Artistic renderings
- Guiding statements

- Review Session #1
- Study results
- Concept review
- Looking ahead to draft plan

STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!

[Home](#)[Projects](#)[English](#) ▼[Log In / Join](#)[Search](#)

Woodend Conservation Area Management Plan

[+ Follow](#)

[Home](#) / [Woodend Conservation Area Management Plan](#)

<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/woodend>



Woodend Background Info

+ Follow

Home / Woodend Conservation Area Management Plan / Woodend Background Info

The future management plan for Woodend Conservation Area will establish the vision and objectives for the operation, conservation, and enhancement of the conservation area.

+ Learn about Woodend Conservation Area

+ Learn about the Management Plan

+ Stages of the Management Planning Process

+ Learn more about Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

This project follows the guidance of several important plans and strategies.

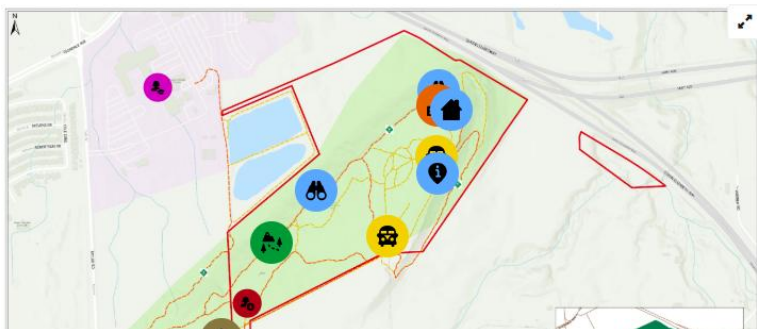
NPCA STRATEGIC PLAN
2021-2031

CONSERVATION AREA
STRATEGY

NEXT
STEPS

- Develop Strategic Work Plans
- Natural Habitat Operational Plan
- Corporate Social Management Plan
- Invasive Species Strategy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Wetland and Management Plans
- Erosion and Water Quality Monitoring
- Natural Areas

Map of Woodend Conservation Area



Document Library



NPCA Conservation Areas Strategy
PDF (3.51 MB)



NPCA Strategic Plan
PDF (5.78 MB)



Woodend Conservation Area Background Summary
PDF (251.03 KB)

Welcome, we're so glad you're here!

This is your space to connect, learn, and share as we work together on the future of Woodend Conservation Area.

More than just a one-time stop, this hub is here for you throughout the process - a place to follow updates, ask questions, and add your voice to the conversation.

By being here, you're part of shaping a plan that protects and enhances Woodend for years to come. We hope you'll stay with us on this journey, not just to engage once, but to return, share, and grow this vision together.



Background Info

Every plan starts with a story. Learn how we got here, why Woodend is so important, and how you can be part of shaping its future

[LEARN MORE](#)

How to get involved:

As we develop the **Woodend Conservation Area Management Plan**, we invite you to come along on the journey. Your input will help guide how we care for and enhance this special place for years to come.



Take a look around—this is your guide to Woodend and the project journey. Browse the documents, links, photos, and more.



Join the conversation—share your stories, tell us your big ideas, ask a question, or share your feedback in the Q&A tool.



Attend the Public Information Session on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Bring your friends and neighbours!

26
MAY



Woodend Conservation Area Open House

May 26, 2026 6:00 PM - May 26, 2026 8:00 PM

Niagara College Daniel J. Patterson Campus | Room W214, 135 Taylor Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0, Canada

Attend the Public Information Session on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Bring your friends and neighbours!

Who's listening



Eric Baldin
Manager – Conservation Areas Land Planning
Email: landplanning@npca.ca



Adam Christie



Take a look around—this is your guide to Woodend and the project journey. Browse the documents, links, photos, and more.



Join the conversation—share your stories, tell us your big ideas, ask a question, or share your feedback in the Q&A tool.



Attend the Public Information Session on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. Bring your friends and neighbours!

Open

Show and Share

We'd love to see Woodend through your eyes — share a memory, story, or photo!

Post your story

0 contributions so far

Filter by:

Type

Search



Sort by

1. What's Your Big Idea?

2. Complete the Survey

3. Q&A

What's your big idea?

Your experience at Woodend matters. We'd love to know what ideas you have for making it even better! (max 140 characters).

Tell us your idea

You have 140 characters left

Screen name *

Enter user name

Email address

Enter email

Postal Code Required

1. Share Your Story

2. What's Your Big Idea?

3. Complete the Survey

4. Q&A

Frequently Asked Questions

? What is a management plan?

? Why does the NPCA create management plans?

? How does this project support NPCA's Strategic Plan?

See more

Ask a question!

Open

? Ask a Question



Who's Listening?

Woodend Conservation Area Visitor Survey

This public survey is designed to gather community input to support the development of a management plan for Woodend Conservation Area. This management plan will guide the enhancement, protection and operation of the conservation area to meet environmental, recreational, and community needs.

We are seeking your input to ensure that the management plan will reflect the values, interests and needs of the community and align with the vision, mission, and priorities of the NPCA's Strategic Plan and Conservation Areas Strategy. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

How often do you visit Woodend?

When do you usually visit?

☐ Weekday

☐ Weekend

What time of day do you usually visit?

☐ Morning

☐ Afternoon

☐ Evening

What season do you usually visit?

Why do you want to visit Woodend?

Select all that apply

☐ Bird watching

☐ Hiking / walking

☐ Nature observation

☐ Education programs

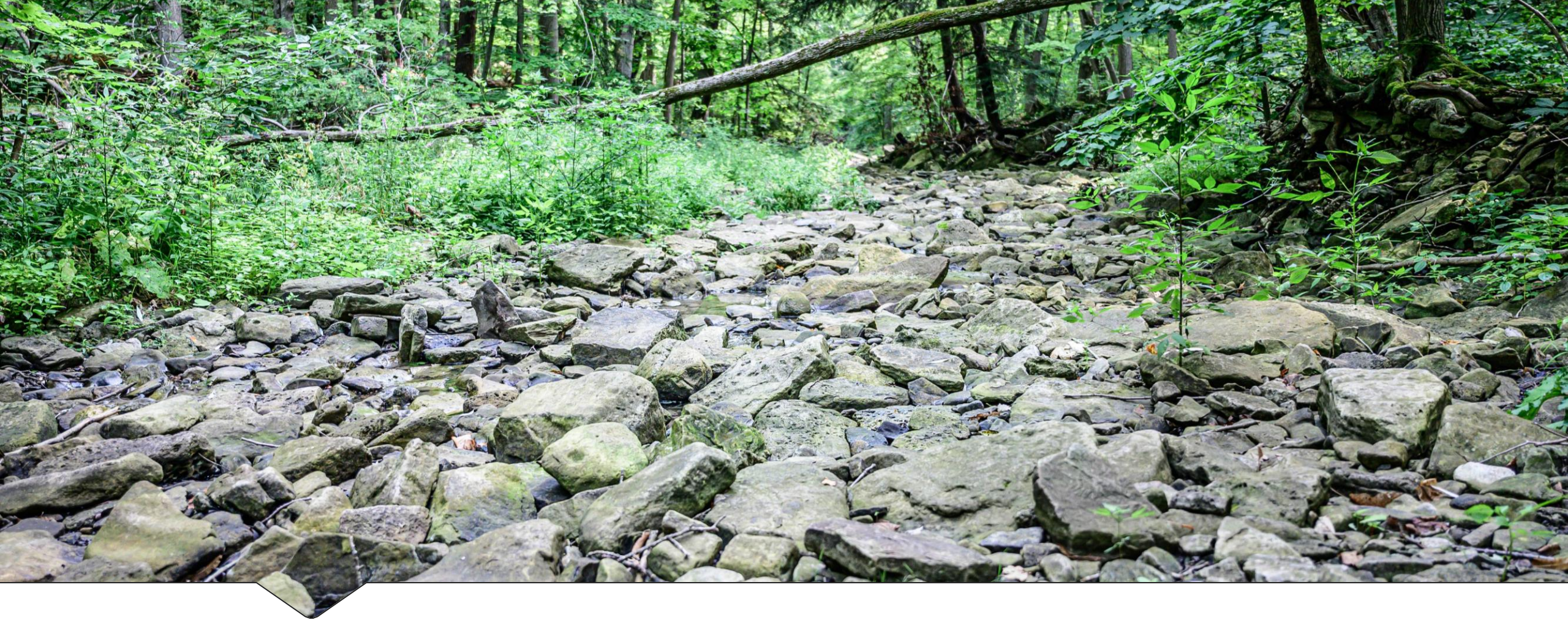
☐ Health and wellness

☐ Volunteering

☐ Other (please specify):

SURVEY

Open Now!



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

- **Breakout Activity Overview**
- **Facilitators:**
 1. Allegra Caballero
 2. Kerry Royer
 3. Eric Baldin
 4. Sofia Zavarella

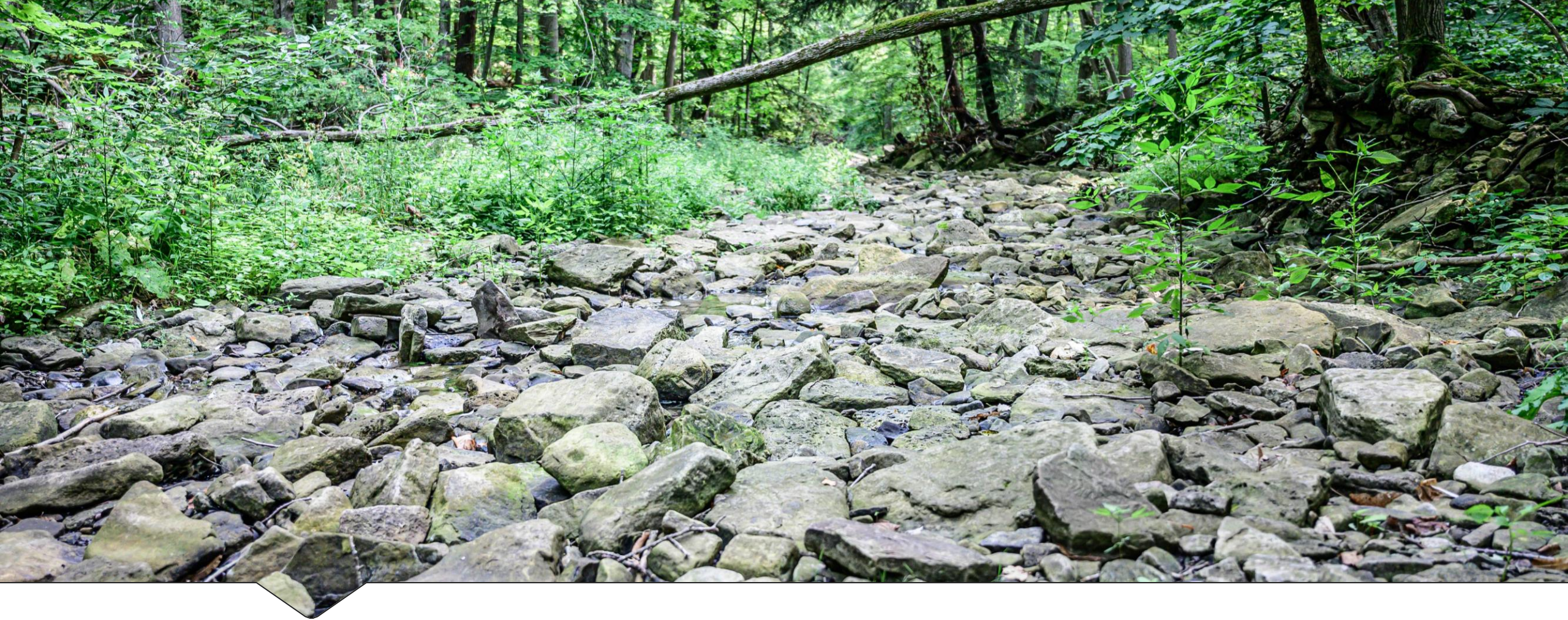
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you love about Woodend?
2. How can we make Woodend better?
3. What are the issues and challenges for Woodend?
4. Who else should be involved or engaged and what additional details should we consider?

NEXT STEPS

- Compile information; continue discussions
- Meeting summary and presentation posted to project page
- Survey is available for your input
- Get Involved to help shape the future of Woodend Conservation Area!

<http://getinvolved.npca.ca/woodend>



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/woodend>