

Appendix C: Summary of Management Recommendations

List of all management recommendations in Natural Heritage Management Study

For details and context for each recommendation, please refer to Appendix A and B.

#	Overall Project Management and Coordination
1	Track the implementation status and progress of each management action on a regular basis.
2	Identify and track key performance metrics (KPIs) for select management actions.
3	Study leads coordinate the overall implementation of the Natural Heritage Management Study recommendations and assist internal department staff
4	Consider and incorporate results and recommendations of the Natural Heritage Management Study into City plans and processes including the annual budget process, updates to the City's Asset Management Plan and Official Plan.
Land Use and Natural Heritage Planning	
5	Continue to seek ownership of natural areas for their long-term protection and stewardship.
6	Continue to participate in natural area protection initiatives of other agencies.
7	Identify opportunities to create lateral, upland connections.
8	Require minimum setbacks for new developments.
9	Maintain and restore buffer zones to protect natural areas.
10	Continue to require fencing between natural areas and new development.
11	Develop access routes to support natural area maintenance.
12	Increase outreach to landowners on fencing and encroachment of natural areas
13	Remediate issues associated with damage to natural areas.
14	Integrate invasive species management practices into the review of planning applications (e.g., cover crop seeding)
Ecosystem Management	
15	Leave natural vegetation such as deadwood and leaves in place.
16	Use native plants and seeds when restoring native habitats.
17	Monitor the composition, structure and health of vegetation communities.
18	Regularly monitor trees along trails for potential hazards.
19	Control invasive species and prioritize projects per the Invasive Plant Species Management Plan
20	Control vegetation pests through an integrated pest management approach.
21	Collaborate with York Region and others to detect new threats to vegetation.
22	Continue developing an inventory of potential restoration projects.
23	Implement ecological restoration projects.
24	Support community-led naturalization and reforestation projects.
25	Develop typical reforestation plan specifications (e.g., species, plant spacing).
26	Develop an understory planting program.
27	Allow cash-in-lieu for tree removals when there is ecological net-benefit.
28	Continue to protect trees and woodlands through by-laws.
29	Monitor and promote natural succession for meadows and thicket habitats.
30	Maintain wildlife habitat value for select meadows.
31	Thin plantations.
32	Continue to avoid using existing wetlands for attenuation of untreated stormwater.
33	Leave unmown vegetated buffer of at least 1.5m from wetlands.
34	Implement wetland creation projects.

	Wildlife
35	Identify significant wildlife habitat per Provincial technical guidelines.
36	Monitor structural changes, disturbances and threats to wildlife habitat.
37	Encourage community-led biological surveys and monitoring.
38	Avoid mowing or vegetation removal during nesting period for migratory birds.(April to August).
39	Retain lower 3m trunks of hazardous trees for bird roosts and perches.
40	Add turtle basking structures in appropriate aquatic habitats
41	Add bird/bat boxes in suitable habitats.
42	Avoid the control of nuisance animals unless necessary for public safety or protection of infrastructure.
43	Use natural barriers to discourage use by Canada Geese
44	Avoid use of insecticides for the control of mosquitoes.
45	Assess need for wildlife exclusion fencing when building new roads and infrastructure.
46	Integrate wildlife movement requirements into the design of bridges and culverts.
	Watercourses and Aquatic Habitat
47	Leave unmown vegetative buffer of at least 1.5m around watercourses.
48	Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides.
49	Collaborate with other partners to minimize road salting and other forms of pollution.
50	Continue to improve stormwater management through stormwater facility retrofits.
51	Continue to implement Erosion Master Study to protect property and infrastructure.
52	Avoid watercourse channel hardening.
53	Plan for infrastructure outside of erosion hazards and minimize number of watercourse crossings.
54	Prepare long-term strategy for removal of dams and artificial watercourse impoundments.
55	Continue exploring opportunities for channel restoration.
	Invasive Species
56	Implement an Early Detection, Rapid Response strategy for invasive species.
57	Implement equipment cleaning protocol.
58	Implement education and outreach activities on the impacts of invasive species.
59	Conduct a baseline invasive species inventory of City-owned natural areas.
60	Continue to manage invasive plant species which pose a risk to humans
61	Establish an internal working group to coordinate invasive species management projects.
62	Implement invasive species pilot projects. Review ecological conditions on other city-owned natural areas and prioritize invasive species management needs.
63	Develop monitoring and management plans for other invasive species (e.g., insects/ pathogens).
64	Follow integrated pest management principles for managing and responding to tree pests and pathogens (e.g., spongy moth).
	Public Infrastructure Maintenance
65	Situate new roads and utilities away from natural areas.

66	Strictly enforce best practices for environmental management (e.g., erosion/sediment control, migratory bird protection)
67	Restore natural areas to pre-construction condition where they are impacted.
68	Collaborate with other infrastructure providers to minimize impact of new infrastructure on city-owned natural areas.
69	Collaborate with other utility, railroad and road operators to minimize herbicide use and disturbance within existing rights-of-ways.
Public Use	
70	Establish formal recreational trails through buffer zones and avoid sensitive habitats.
71	Develop design guidelines for natural area trails.
72	Keep formal trails well maintained to prevent the creation of informal trails.
73	Block informal trails and support their restoration back into a natural condition.
74	Install interpretive signage to inform users of important habitats or ecological functions.
75	Provide accessible waste bins along trail heads and promote bring-in-bring-out litter policy.
76	Enforce penalties for dumping and other illegal activities in natural areas.
77	Support community cleanup events.
78	Continue to install fishing regulation signage as issues arise.