



Rideau Waterway

LAND TRUST

Property Management Plan
for
Nicholson's Point Woods Nature Reserve



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Prepared for:

Rideau Waterway Land Trust

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Preserving special places in our community

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

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Disclaimer:

The information provided in this document contains the best available knowledge and is subject to modification based on new information.

Scale bars in all figures are intended to provide context and should not be used to measure exact distances between locations.

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1 MISSION STATEMENT

1.1 VISION, MISSION, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Rideau Waterway Land Trust's (RWLT) vision is that "Nature has a future because our communities care." Its mission is "To preserve important natural lands and habitat in the Rideau Corridor and foster a healthy future for our communities."

RWLT uses the following guiding principles:

- We focus on the preservation of important land that supports plants, animals, and clean water.
- Our actions are inclusive and for the benefit of the community.
- We welcome the participation of those who appreciate the importance of nature.
- We strive for the right balance between access and the protection of conservation values.
- We partner with other organizations on mutually beneficial activities.

1.2 GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

- The primary objective is the conservation of biodiversity.
- Use of properties owned and managed by the RWLT will be restricted to activities that are consistent with its mission statement, guiding principles and property-specific guidelines and attributes.
- Signage will be carefully planned to encourage only compatible activities. Signs at suitable access points will indicate:
 - Property ownership
 - Emergency contact name and telephone number

1.3 SITE INFORMATION USED FOR THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan is based on:

- 2008 "Information for Donation of Nicholson's Point Woods to qualify as Ecologically Significant Land under the EcoGift Program (Criteria) of Environment Canada"
- Property monitoring report from 2010
- 2019 eBird report by Gerard Phillips
- Site visits in 2020, 2021 and 2022 by RWLT staff biologists

2 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

2.1 PROPERTY INFORMATION

Nicholson’s Point Woods Nature Reserve is a large mostly forested parcel of land located west of Amherstview, ON. The property encompasses most of the naturally vegetated land located south of Highway 33 on Nicholson’s Point, a peninsula that juts into Lake Ontario. Approximately 30% of the property is shrubby open areas, while the remaining 70% of the property is forest. There are a number of narrow trails present on the property (Figure 1) that are mainly used by residents of the Point for passive recreation.

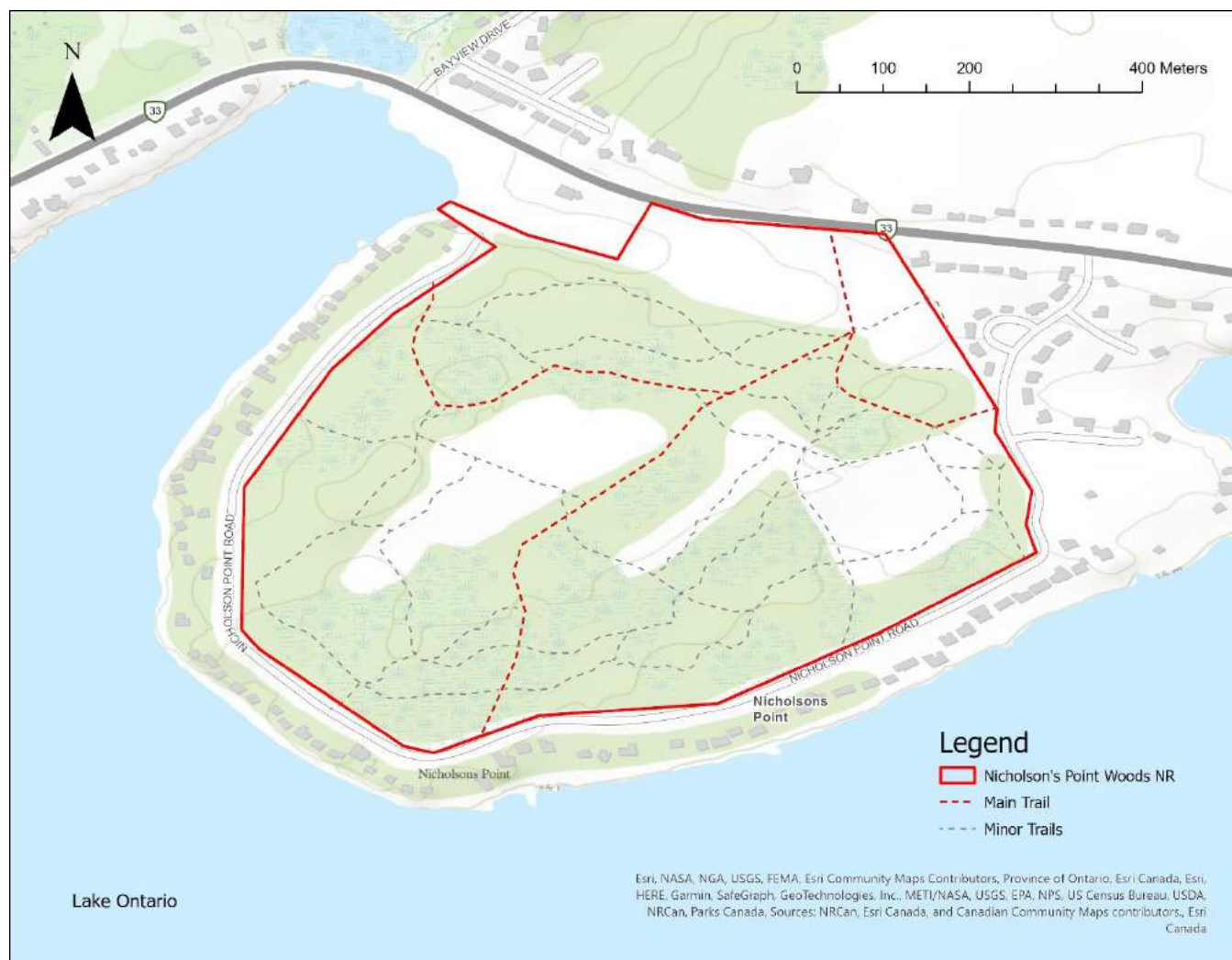


Figure 1: Nicholson’s Point Woods NR (shaded areas represent forest)

2.1.1 Location

Nicholson’s Point Woods Nature Reserve is located about 7 km west of Kingston and 3 km west of Amherstview, in Loyalist Township (Figure 2). The property is bounded by Highway 33/Bath Road on the northern periphery, while the majority of the rest of the perimeter is delineated by the curving Nicholson Point Road.

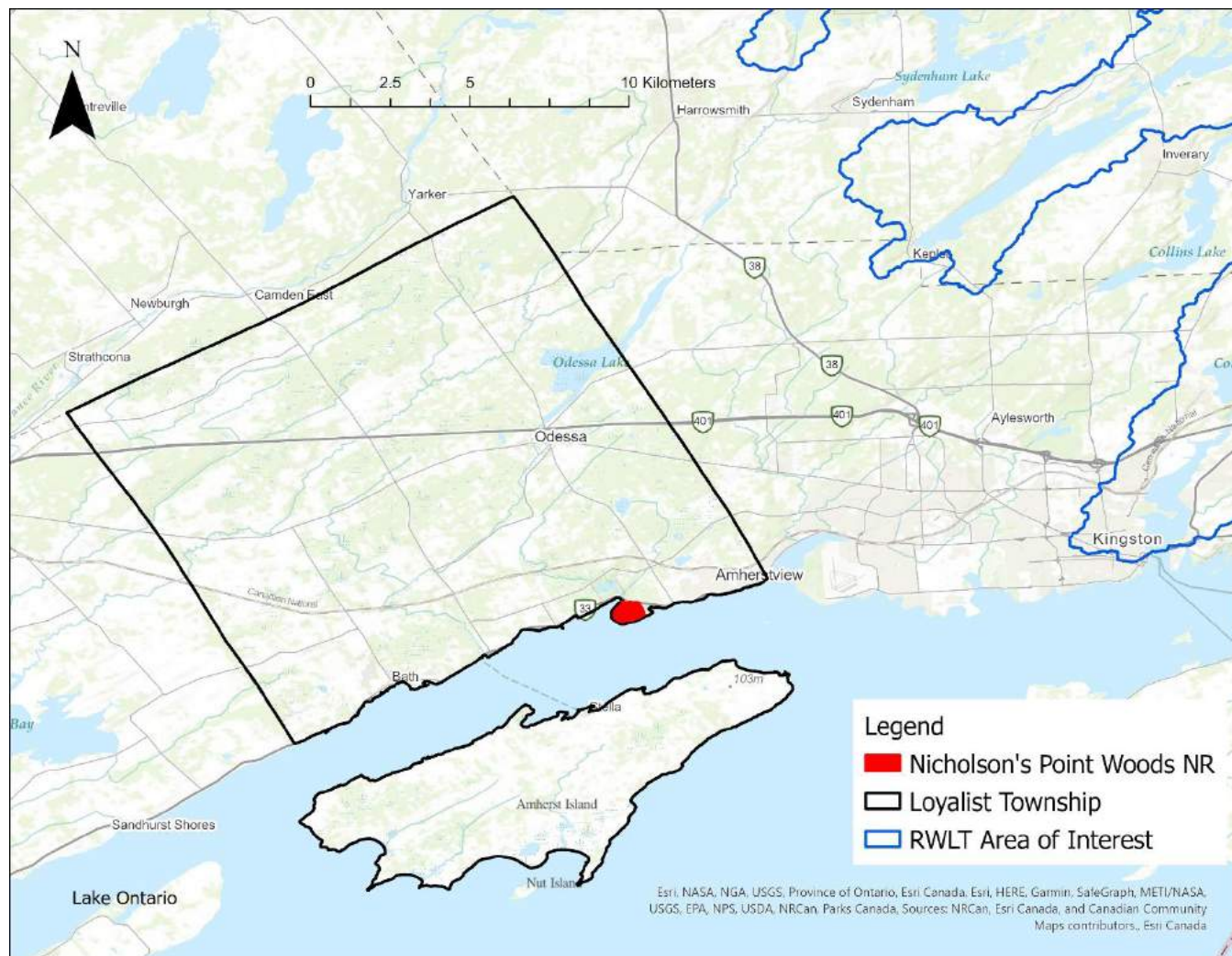


Figure 2: Regional Locator Map – Location of Nicholson’s Point Woods NR relative to Loyalist Township and RWLT Area of Interest

2.1.2 Property Area

Nicholson’s Point Woods Nature Reserve is 58.96 hectares (145.7 acres) and is made up of a single parcel.

2.1.3 Securement Type/ Year

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)	ASSESSMENT ROLL NUMBER	AREA (HECTARES)	YEAR ACQUIRED	ACQUISITION TYPE	PURCHASE PRICE
45132-0168 (LT)	11 04 010 080 19810	58.96	2008	Donation	N/A

2.1.4 Key Local Partners

1. Neighbours
2. Loyalist Township
3. Cataraqui River Conservation Authority

*Note: Contact information for key partners can be found in Appendix C: Contact Information for Key Local Partners

2.2 BIODIVERSITY VALUES

A brief summary can be found below, with further details in Section 5.2: Biological Features.

	<i>Number of Species</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Bird</i>	51	Including 9 forest interior species
<i>Invertebrate</i>	10	Including 1 Species at Risk
<i>Mammal</i>	8	Including coyote, red fox, raccoon, and white-tailed deer
<i>Plant</i>	64	Including 29 non-native species
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	49	Including 4 non-native species

2.3 CONSERVATION TARGETS AND THREATS

2.3.1 Conservation Targets/ Overall Viability Assessment

<i>Target</i>	<i>Viability</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Forest</i>	Fair	There are just over 40 hectares of forest, which are considered Significant Woodland. Due to pockets of shrubland and open areas, there is minimal interior forest habitat available to edge-intolerant bird species. However, some interior breeding bird species have been recorded on the property. The forest is also cut off from other natural areas by roads and residential neighbourhoods.
<i>Shrubland</i>	Fair	The shrublands on the property are large, allowing them to provide habitat to many shrubland birds and other species. However, over half the plant species present in these areas are not native to Ontario, and some such as wild parsnip and dog-strangling vine pose a significant threat to human and ecosystem health.

2.3.2 Highest Threats

<i>Threat</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Invasive, Non-Native Plants and Animals</i>	There are records of numerous invasive, non-native plants on the property that negatively impact all Conservation Targets. Some of these species are very aggressive and require immediate attention and management to prevent harm to the ecological integrity of the property. Approximately 50% of herbaceous species recorded were non-native.
<i>Climate Change</i>	An assessment of this property revealed that climate change could have serious impacts on the ecology of the property by compounding existing threats like invasive, non-native plants, putting new stresses on Conservation Targets, and introducing new threats to the property such as pests and disease.

2.4 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

2.4.1 Goal

It is RWLT’s goal to maintain the ecological integrity of the property with the following vision:

A thriving ecosystem of forest and shrubland where the birds sing from the trees, cottontails shelter in the shrubs, and monarch butterflies sip nectar from the plentiful flowers.

2.4.2 Objectives

RWLT will maintain the ecological integrity of the property with the following objectives:

1. Maintain and improve shrubland habitat for monarch butterflies and other key shrubland species
2. Keep invasive species from spreading beyond 2021 limits
3. Perform targeted studies to better record the species at risk currently making use of the property

2.5 FIVE-YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY

The total cost to implement this management plan is approximately \$20,000 over five years or \$4,000 per year. For information related to stewardship budgeting beyond the scope of the five years covered by this plan, including the plan update scheduled for 2026, please see Section 8.3. All cost calculations are based on rates from 2021 and are subject to change.

2.5.1 Property-Specific Actions

Description		Cost	Frequency
Monarch Butterfly Research and Restoration	Perform tasks intended to improve habitat suitability and knowledge of monarch butterflies on the property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and remove dog-strangling vine • Remove wild parsnip to facilitate safe work in shrubland • Monitor shrubland for monarch caterpillars • Monitor forest and shrubland for presence of adult monarch butterflies, and potential for use as staging area • Determine need for additional wildflowers and milkweed plantings 	\$1300	2022
Community “Friends of” Group/ Neighbourhood Relations	Schedule education and events to maintain good relations with neighbours and local stewardship of the property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events (invasive species pulls, guided hikes, education, etc) • Management of “Friends of” group 	\$780	Annually
		Total Over 5 Years	\$5,200

2.5.2 Universal Actions

Description		Cost	Frequency
Property Taxes and Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register property under CLTIP CCL • Maintain insurance policy • Liaise with municipalities/MNDMNR/MPAC 	\$1,335	Annually
Property Signage	Maintain and replace signage as needed, assuming 10 year replacement period	\$410	Every 10 years
Property Maintenance	Perform tasks as needed to keep property in good condition ecologically and functionally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove invasive species • Remove unauthorized construction 	\$190	Annually

Annual Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual monitoring visit and complete form • Where appropriate, this visit can also include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invasive species inventory ○ Record incidental SAR • Record all species encountered 	\$440	Annually
Bi-Annual Monitoring	Bi-Annual Monitoring (in addition to annual monitoring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding Bird Surveys • Amphibian Surveys 	\$168	Every 2 years
Reports and Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft any invasive species or SAR reports • Update species database • Plan visits 	\$760/year	On-going
Partner Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep in contact with CRCA, Loyalist Township 	\$110/year	On-going
		Total Over 5 Years	\$14,800

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rideau Waterway Land Trust acquired the 58.96-hectare Nicholson’s Point Woods Nature Reserve property in 2008 as a donation from a resident of the adjacent Nicholson Point Road.

Ecological information on Nicholson's Point Woods NR was primarily found in the application for certification of the property as ecologically sensitive under the Ecological Gifts Program, as well as a property monitoring report from 2010 and observations by staff biologists in 2020 and 2021. RWLT has not previously completed any management or stewardship plans for this property.

The scope of this management plan is place-based, focused on Nicholson's Point Woods NR. This management plan will describe how the organization will govern this ecologically significant woodland for the next five years.

3.2 RIDEAU WATERWAY LAND TRUST’S CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The rationale and process by which the RWLT decided to accept Nicholson's Point Woods NR in 2008 are outlined in the Land Acquisition Report (Walker, 2008). Although the property does not contain any Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) or Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs), it is considered a Significant Woodland by the municipality. Additionally, it is close (within 1 km) to Parrott’s Bay Conservation Area and is likely to provide habitat for species at risk, all criteria that were considered under the Acquisition Guidelines at the time (RWLT Board of Directors, 2008). As a high-profile property in the Kingston area, and with a high likelihood of successful fundraising from the community for stewardship, the property was deemed a worthwhile acquisition.

The property continues to meet a number of the new acquisition criteria as well, including providing habitat for species at risk, identification in a watershed-based Natural Heritage System, containing significant amounts of forested land, having a high risk of being developed, and having a presence as a highly visible property in the Kingston community (Spang & Fiedler, 2021). It also has the potential to be a biodiversity hotspot due to the diversity of microhabitats and may provide nature-based services such as flood control to the community surrounding it.

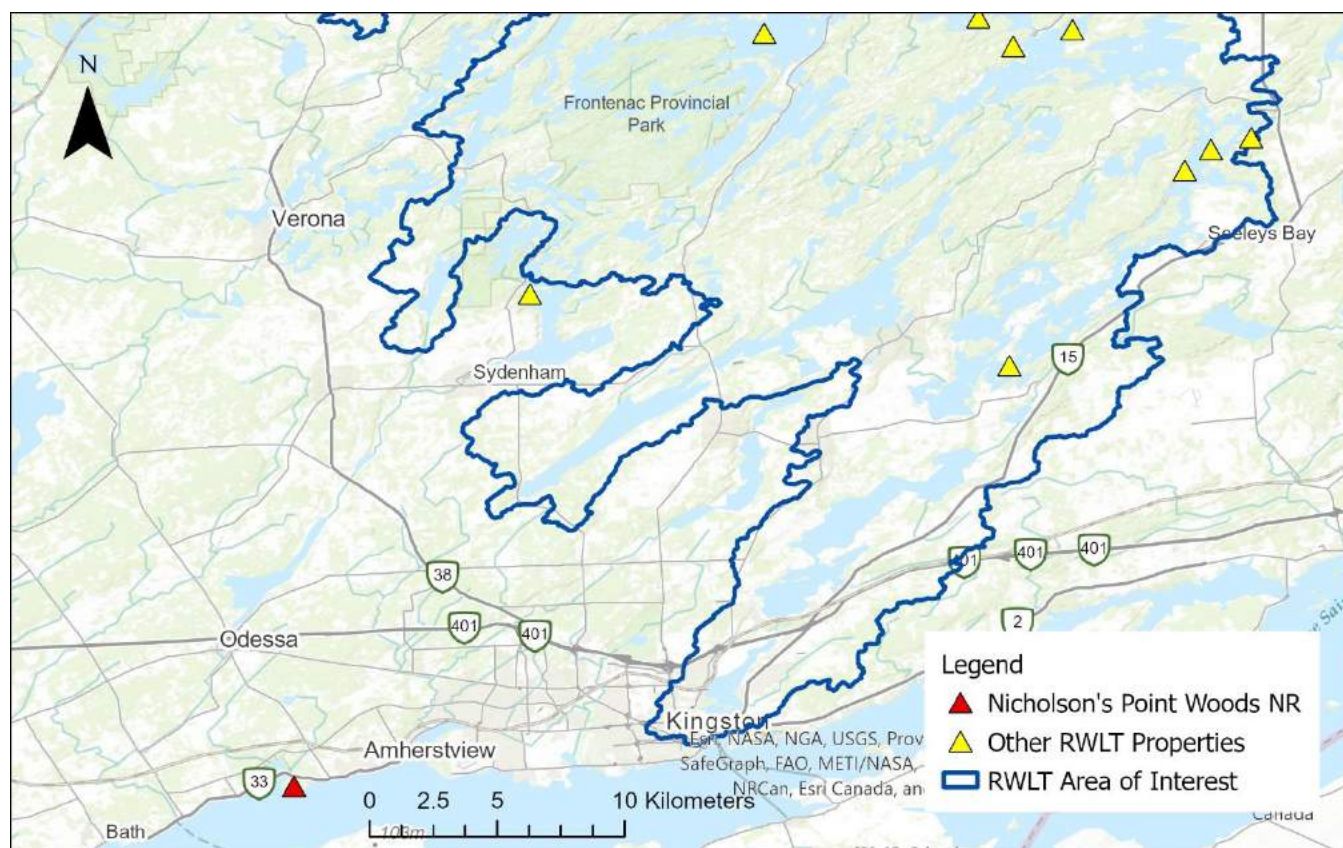


Figure 3: Map of the southern portion of RWLT area of operation w.r.t. Nicholson’s Point Woods NR

3.3 NICHOLSON'S POINT WOODS NR MANAGEMENT GOALS

It is RWLT's goal to maintain the ecological integrity of the property with the following vision:

A thriving ecosystem of forest and shrubland where the birds sing from the trees, cottontails shelter in the shrubs, and monarch butterflies sip nectar from the plentiful flowers.

The long-term vision for the property is to steward and maintain the health of conservation targets, reduce or eliminate threats, and support species at risk.

3.4 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Table 1: Nicholson's Point Woods NR Property Summary

Property Owner	Rideau Waterway Land Trust
Nearest Town	Amherstview, ON
Directions	Proceed west from Kingston on County Rd 33 past Amherstview to Edgewood Dr, turn left to Nicholson Pt Rd. The property is on the right along the entire length of the road. Parking is available at Lighthouse Park, about halfway along Nicholson Pt Rd.
Coordinate Reference	44.206795, -76.685790 (Lighthouse Park)
Elevation	91.8 MASL
Surface Area	58.96 hectares (145.7 acres)
Conservation Authority	Cataraqui River Conservation Authority
Watershed	Lake Ontario
EcoDistrict	6E-15 Picton
MNDMNRF District	MNDMNRF's Southern Region, Peterborough District Address: 1st Flr S, 300 Water St, Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7 Phone: 705-755-2001

3.4.1 Legal Description

Table 2: Legal Description of Parcels

Property Identification Number	Assessment Roll Number	Legal Description	Year Secured
45132-0168 (LT)	11 04 010 080 19810	PT LT 30-32 CON BROKEN FRONT ERNESTOWN AS IN LA220624 Except Pt 4, 29R8824; LOYALIST	2008

3.4.2 Description of Property Perimeter Boundaries

Nicholson's Point Woods is a roughly oval-shaped property covering just under 60 hectares (Figure 4). Starting from the dead-end of Nicholson Point Road, the boundary follows the left (interior) side of the curve of the road

for roughly 2.1 km. About 30 m past where Nicholson Point Road merges into Edgewood Road, the boundary diverges from the road and runs in a straight line northwest for about 300 m until it reaches Loyalist Parkway/County 33/Bath Road. The boundary follows the southern edge of this road for about 275 m, then turns southwest for 100 m. The boundary then runs west for 215 m, south for 18 m, and east for 90 m back to the starting point.



Figure 4: Satellite Imagery of Nicholson's Point Woods Nature Reserve (displayed by red polygon)

3.4.3 Site Designations

There are no Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) or Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) on the property. However, the majority of the property is designated as Significant Woodland.

3.4.4 Agreements (leases, encumbrances, etc.)

When the property was donated in 2008, some provisions were agreed to with the donor. They include:

- The existing trails are to be used for low impact, human-powered recreational uses only and maintained in a safe manner with all efforts made to protect identified conservation values of the property.
- The RWLT will encourage input and leadership from neighbouring landowners in the development and implementation of management plans for the property
- Signage will include RWLT property boundary markers in keeping with the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices and RWLT policy. In addition, if necessary, signage will be posted at trail entrances and any other point of entry to notify visitors of uses and/or any restrictions of usage on the property.
- The RWLT will be obligated to abide by any regulations or orders from any regulatory body having authority over the RWLT.

The property was donated through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Ecological Gifts Program. As the recipient of an Ecological Gift, RWLT is required to uphold recipient responsibilities under the federal EGP. This includes maintaining current land use consistent with the original objectives of the Ecological Gifts. The penalty for an unauthorized disposition or change in use of an Ecological Gift is a federal tax equal to 50% of the current fair market value of the land.

The property is also registered under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) as a Community Conservation Land (CCL). The CCL category broadens the range of properties owned by Conservation Authorities or like-minded organizations that are eligible for a property tax reduction. No use that would be detrimental to the natural heritage values of the property is permitted on a property registered under CLTIP (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2021). RWLT is required to reapply annually for properties registered in this program.

3.4.5 Adjacent Land Use and Cultural Elements

The properties directly surrounding Nicholson's Point Woods are mainly waterfront residential properties. Historically, there were a lot of seasonal cottages along Nicholson Point Road on the shore of Lake Ontario, but these have mostly been upgraded or replaced with year-round homes. About halfway down Nicholson Point Road, there is a small neighbourhood park called Lighthouse Park. This 0.34-hectare park provides green space, picnic tables, and access to the waterfront to the neighbourhood and visitors to the area.

4 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

4.1 HISTORICAL LAND USE

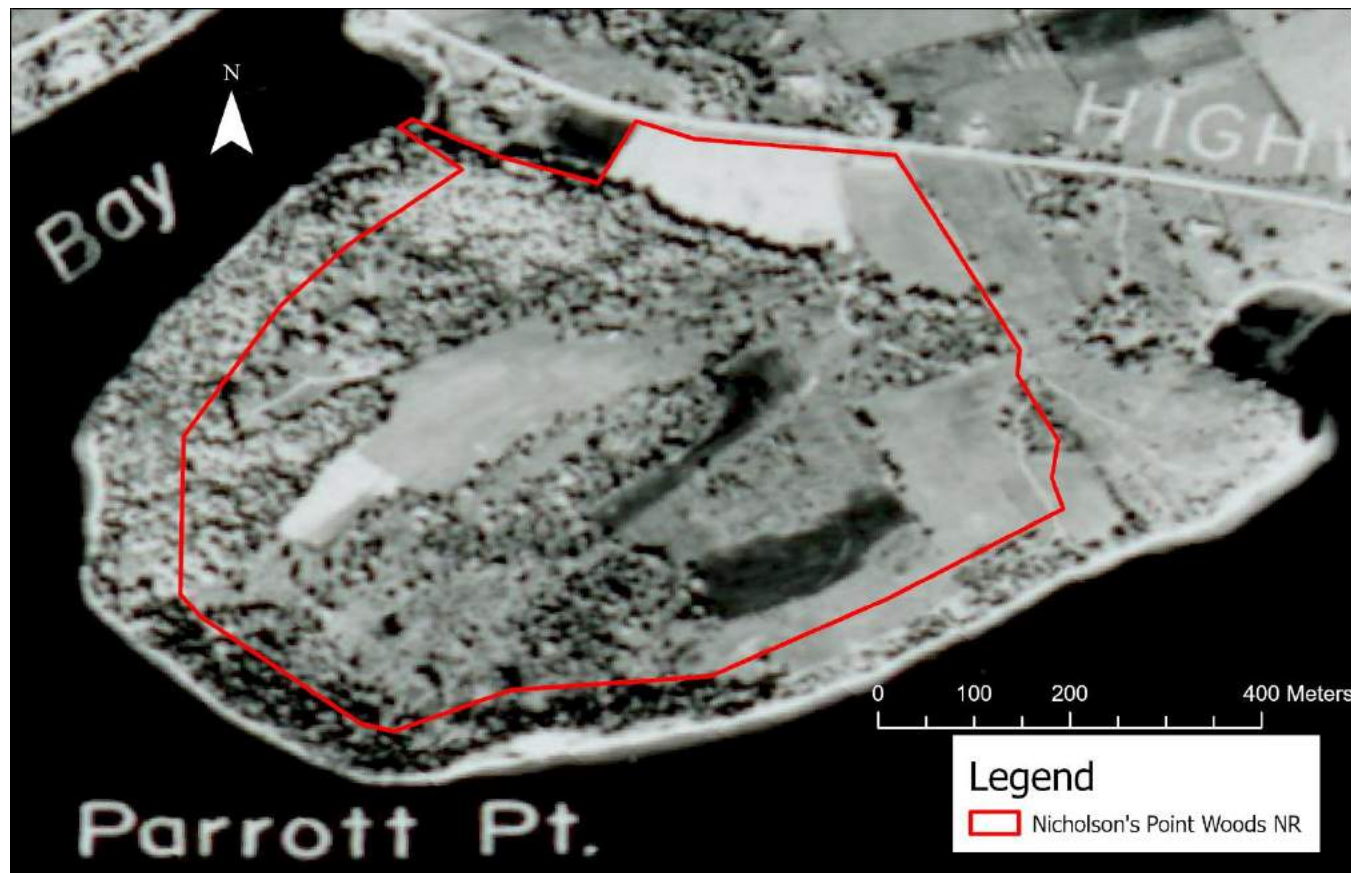


Figure 5: Nicholson's Point in 1954 (University of Toronto)

In 1803, King George III authorized a land claim for the area that is now known as Nicholson's Point. After some time, the land ended up in the possession of Chester Nicholson, the original Nicholson of Nicholson's Point. His descendants have been living at the point ever since. The first cottagers to build on the point were the father and grandfather of current Nicholson's Point resident, Barbara Wood Watson (Chester Nicholson's 3rd great-granddaughter). In the 1950s, the interior land of Nicholson's Point was farmed by a gentleman named Les Head (Figure 5). The fields grew grain and hay, and there were lots of cows around. The road providing access to most of the cottages on the point diverged into two sections just south of Bath Road, with one side providing access to the front shore and the other dividing numerous times into secondary roads each leading to a cottage or group of cottages on the bay shore. At each turn in the road, there were signpost trees, usually very old oaks, that until recently could still be seen. Many of these oaks have now fallen. Around 1976, a new perimeter road joined what had previously been two completely separate shore communities, and the interior roads became little more than walking paths, many of which can still be seen in the trail system today.

Since the 1980s, there have been few changes to the point. There were some mature trees removed the forest was used as a woodlot. Most of the trails currently existing in Nicholson's Point Woods NR were already in place when a local resident moved back to the point in 1984. There is one trail running east-west in the more northern section of the property that was cleared around 25 years ago.

The property that would later become Nicholson's Point Woods NR was purchased in 1997 by Judge William Henderson for \$200,000. He intended to develop the property with one to two-acre estate residential lots. To further this, the zoning of the property was changed from Future Development (D) to Estate Residential (ER). However, primarily due to health issues, Judge Henderson never proceeded with the development before his death in 2006.

At that time, the estate listed the property for sale at \$1.3 million. Several offers close to the list price were received; however, Loyalist Township discouraged the development of the site and was in the process of reviewing a possible land designation change to environmentally sensitive. As the higher offers were conditional on a favourable land designation for future development, and the estate wanted to sell quickly, the property was instead sold in 2007 for under the appraised value to a local resident (S. Rayner & Associates Ltd., 2008).

The new owner was a homeowner on Nicholson Point Road and purchased the property intending to donate it to a conservation organization, to keep the natural greenspace for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. After approaching both the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and the Kingston Field Naturalists in late 2007, the owner reached out to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust in June 2008 (Walker, 2008).

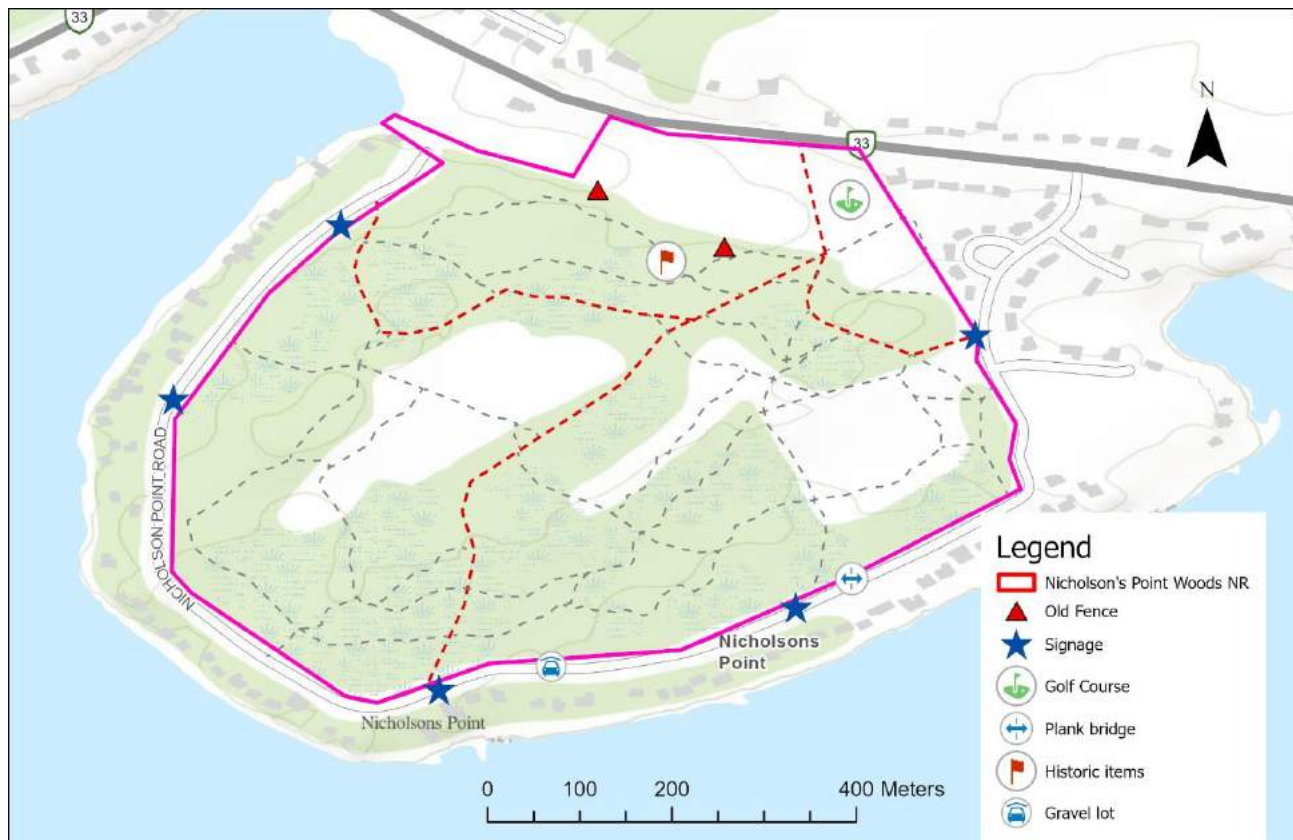


Figure 6: Structures and Features

At some time in its history, an old car, fridge, and other items were disposed of in the forest near the northern portion of the property (Figure 6, "Historic items"). As well, there are remnants of old wire fencing still visible in several places on the property, including a portion running just south of the edge of the most northern shrubland (Figure 8). More recent construction by neighbours includes a gravel parking area and several plank bridges that span the drainage culvert at the southern boundary of the property. There is also a small, one-hole golf course located in the furthest northeast section of the property.

4.2 ACQUISITION HISTORY

In June of 2008 the previous owner of Nicholson's Point Woods, reached out to the RWLT to determine if the land trust was interested in receiving a donation of land. He wished to see the property's "natural woodlands protected while allowing low impact recreational walking and cross country skiing to continue" (Walker, 2008). The owner had first approached the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority but after initial discussions was worried that CRCA would insist upon additional restrictions on the use of Nicholson's Point, such as leash-only dog walking and no cross-country skiing or biking, which would diminish neighbouring residents' accustomed use and enjoyment of the land. His rationale for contacting RWLT was to avoid similar land-use restrictions. An initial site visit by Dave Walker, Doug Lewis and Simon Lunn was undertaken on September 7, 2008.

Based on this initial visit, the property's designation as Significant Woodland, and the high likelihood of significant financial support for stewardship funding from the other property owners in the area, acquisition of the property was recommended by the Land Acquisition Committee of the RWLT. This was approved by the board of directors, and a Letter of Intent to Donate dated September 16, 2008, was drafted by the owner. The transfer of the property to the RWLT occurred on October 10, 2008. As per the donor's wishes, an application was made to certify the donation under the Ecological Gift Program as administered by Environment Canada. The donation was certified as ecologically sensitive on November 26, 2008, and the appraised value was certified on December 11, 2008.

In a letter sent to neighbourhood residents, dated March 9, 2009, then Executive Director, Dave Walker, confirmed the donor's ongoing wish, stating "... Nicholson's Point Woods will be preserved in its natural state for the benefit of the community ... to ensure that the conservation values of this property are protected. This will ensure the community can continue to walk the trails and cross country ski while enjoying nature, activities that many of you have taken for granted over the years."

4.3 CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Since the acquisition of the property in 2008, the RWLT has mainly allowed Nicholson's Point Woods to be managed and used by the residents of the neighbourhood. Several of the neighbours have cooperated to keep the trails through the open areas mown and clear of vegetation. There have also been community members that carried in gravel to make the trails more accessible in wetter weather. Currently, there are discussions underway between staff and board members about creating a "Friends of" group consisting of Nicholson's Point residents that are active in maintaining the property.

In March of 2012, the RWLT sent a letter to neighbours reminding them that dumping lawn clipping and branches in the Nicholson's Point Woods NR was not acceptable and that Loyalist Township provides free brush and yard waste pickup days twice a year. The issue of dumping yard waste and other materials has been a recurring one,

and a letter was sent out in the spring of 2021 on the same topic. According to conversations with Township employees, brush should be piled neatly in front of the property from which it came in order to be picked up.

The township also trims the grass and trees within their right-of-way along the edge of the property, as well as any trees that fall into or overhang the ROW and that are a potential hazard.

4.4 FUTURE ACQUISITIONS

No further acquisitions of property in the vicinity of Nicholson's Point Woods are anticipated. The surrounding properties are mainly residential and are not likely to meet acquisition criteria. The area also falls outside the main RWLT area of interest.

4.5 STEWARDSHIP

Nicholson's Point Woods is visited at least once a year for a full property monitoring visit, typically by RWLT biology staff. Each year, the visit is done during a different season to account for the full variation in flora, fauna, and habitat. Monitors complete the monitoring template attached as Appendix B, documenting any changes in the property and/or any disturbances that may have occurred, as well as updating the species database. If there are any unwanted or illegal activities, RWLT staff and board members decide upon the necessary actions needed to resolve the issue. Additional updates on the property may be provided by the neighbours on the adjoining properties. Maintaining a relationship with the current and future owners of the adjacent parcels is an important component of stewardship and long-term conservation of all RWLT properties.

5 BASELINE INVENTORY SUMMARY

5.1 PHYSICAL FEATURES

5.1.1 Geology

Nicholson's Point Woods NR is underlain primarily by Paleozoic-era bedrock of the Simcoe or Ottawa Group. The bedrock is primarily 470 million-year-old Middle Ordovician sedimentary rock, including Shadow Lake Formation. The Shadow Lake Formation consists of red and green sandy shales, shaly arkosic sandstones and impure silty dolostones (Dodge, 2007). Where the Shadow Lake Formation directly overlies Precambrian basement, its thickness varies from 0 to 15 m. In many places, the Shadow Lake Formation is overlain by and blends into the limestones of the Gull River Formation. In the most northern section of the property, the bedrock is overlain by clay and silt deposits (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Surface geology of area surrounding Nicholson's Point Woods NR (Ontario Geological Survey, 2010)

The property falls within the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence lowlands, on a clay plain (Figure 8). The Nicholson's Point Wood NR is part of a paleozoic bedrock-drift complex. The unconsolidated surface materials along the southern boundary of the county were deposited in fresh-water glacial lakes or the marine waters of the Champlain Sea (J. E. Gillespie, 1963).

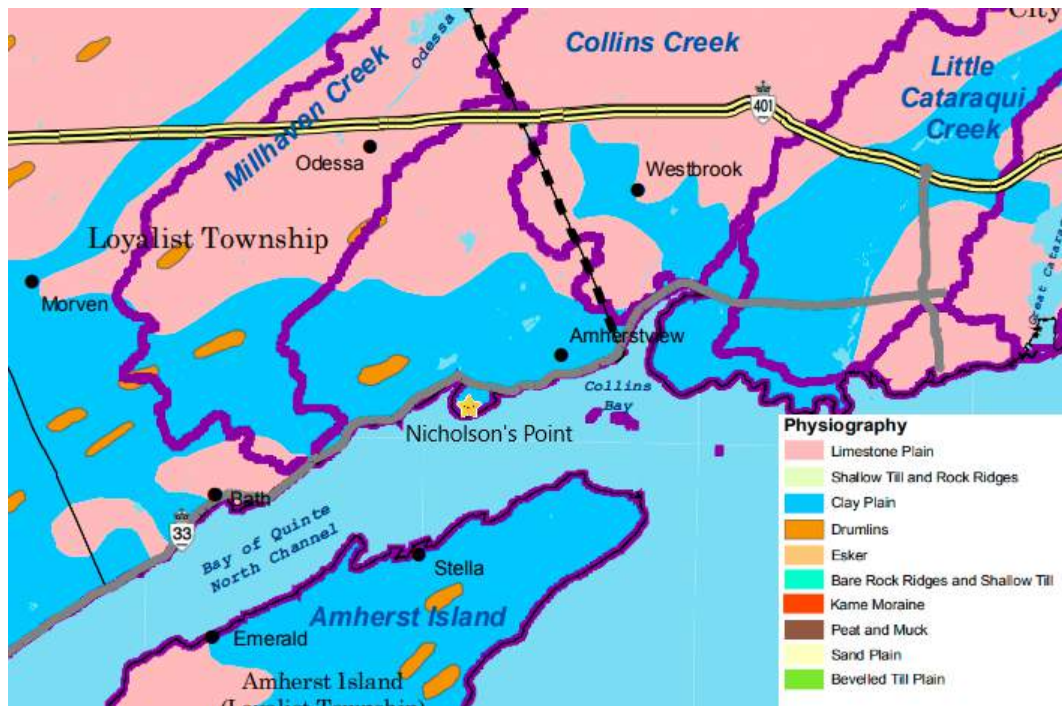


Figure 8: Local Physiography Surrounding Nicholson's Point Woods NR (yellow star)

5.1.2 Soils

The primary soil series on the property is Farmington loam. This is the third most common soil in the county (J. E. Gillespie, 1963). They are found only in the southern half of the county, on blocks of limestone tableland. The soil is very thin, lacking sufficient moisture reserves to ensure crop production. Use of the area as grazing land was more common than any attempt at agriculture.

Farmington soils also tend to have a high content of bases due to their proximity to bedrock. Organic material content is generally high and is present even in the subsoil, so the entire profile is dark brown.

Farmington soils are considered the “problem soils” in this as well as many other counties in the province. They have limited use for agriculture and have a low carrying capacity as grazing land. The capacity for forestry is also limited by the shallow depth (J. E. Gillespie, 1963).

The local soil has been described as very stony, well-drained shallow soil over bedrock. The topography of the area is generally gentle, with slopes of 2-5% (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, 2015).

5.1.3 Surface Hydrology

The topography of Nicholson's Point Woods tends to be fairly flat. There are no permanent streams or wetlands on the property. However, some sections are seasonally wet due to pooling water, and several springs exist in the northern section of the property. There is a steep ridge that drops into a valley at the northern section of the property, running generally west from the minimum elevation point (Figure 9). At the bottom of this ridge, there is a small

ephemeral creek that is fed by springs and rainfall. Areas around this creek and extending into the northern shrubland are flooded in the spring creating wetland and flooded grassland habitats.

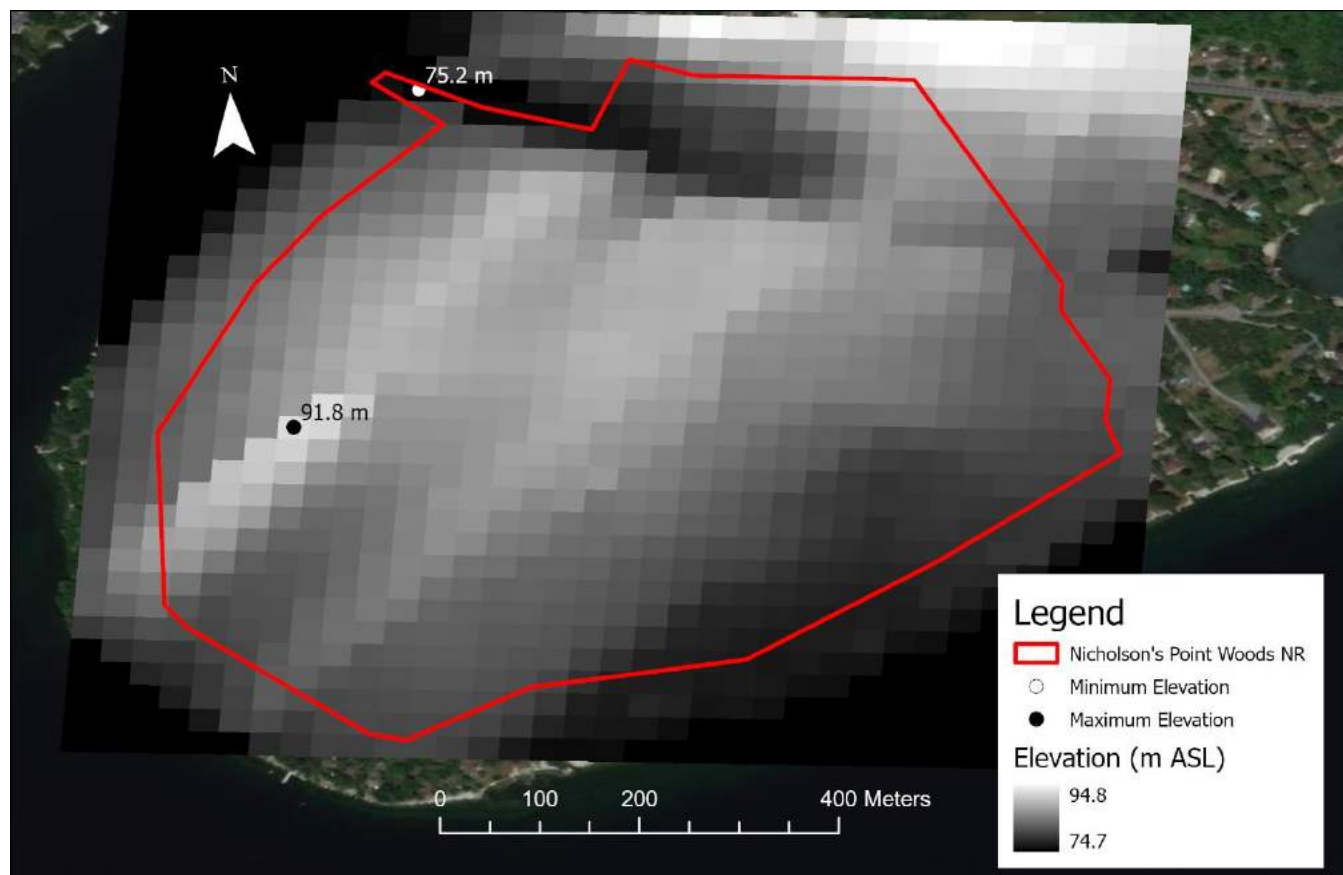


Figure 9: Topography of Nicholson's Point Woods NR

5.1.4 Climate

Nicholson’s Point Woods NR occurs in the Lake Simcoe-Rideau Ecoregion (6E). The climate in this region is warmer and drier than that of 5E – Georgian Bay Ecoregion to the north and cooler with a lower evapotranspiration rate than 7E – Lake Erie/Lake Ontario Ecoregion to the south. The area is generally cold and temperate with significant rainfall throughout the year.

5.2 BIOLOGICAL FEATURES

5.2.1 Land Cover

Nicholson's Point Woods NR is 58.96 hectares consisting mainly of forest, with some shrubby open areas. About 30% of the property is open areas, with sporadic trees and abundant shrubs and forbs. Of the 70% of the property that is forest, about 50% is mixed forest, 15% is deciduous forest, and 5% is coniferous forest (Figure 10).

5.2.2 Flora

The vegetation communities of this property are typical of those in the area. No official Ecological Land Classification (ELC) assessment has been completed, but the general communities have been delineated based on the Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System (SOLRIS) 3.0, and field observations by staff. SOLRIS is a regional, ecologically-based land use/land cover inventory that follows the standardized ELC for Southern Ontario (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2021). However, it is based solely on aerial imagery and has not been ground-truthed.

Table 3: Vegetation Communities Identified on Nicholson's Point Woods Nature Reserve

Name	Description
Shrubby Open Area	Open areas with few trees. Dominated by shrubs (grey dogwood, honeysuckle, buckthorn) and forbs (wild parsnip, goldenrod, elecampane, milkweed).
Mixed Forest	Primarily closed canopy (white pine, sugar maple, ash, shagbark hickory, ironwood), abundant understorey and floor vegetation dominated by young sugar maple, fragrant sumac, wild grapevines, prickly ash, mayapple, false Solomon's seal
Deciduous Forest	Closed canopy (sugar maple, northern red oak, white oak, shagbark hickory, ash, poplar, basswood) with a fairly open understory. Floor vegetation includes dog-strangling vine, sharp-lobed hepatica, false Solomon's seal, broad-leaf goldenrod, blue cohosh, early meadow rue, common blue wood aster, tall rattlesnakeroot
Coniferous Forest	Partly open canopy dominated by red cedar. Also includes white pine, maple, buckthorn, prickly ash, fragrant sumac, goldenrod, wild basil, meadow buttercup, oxeye daisy, zigzag clover, Deptford pink, wild strawberry

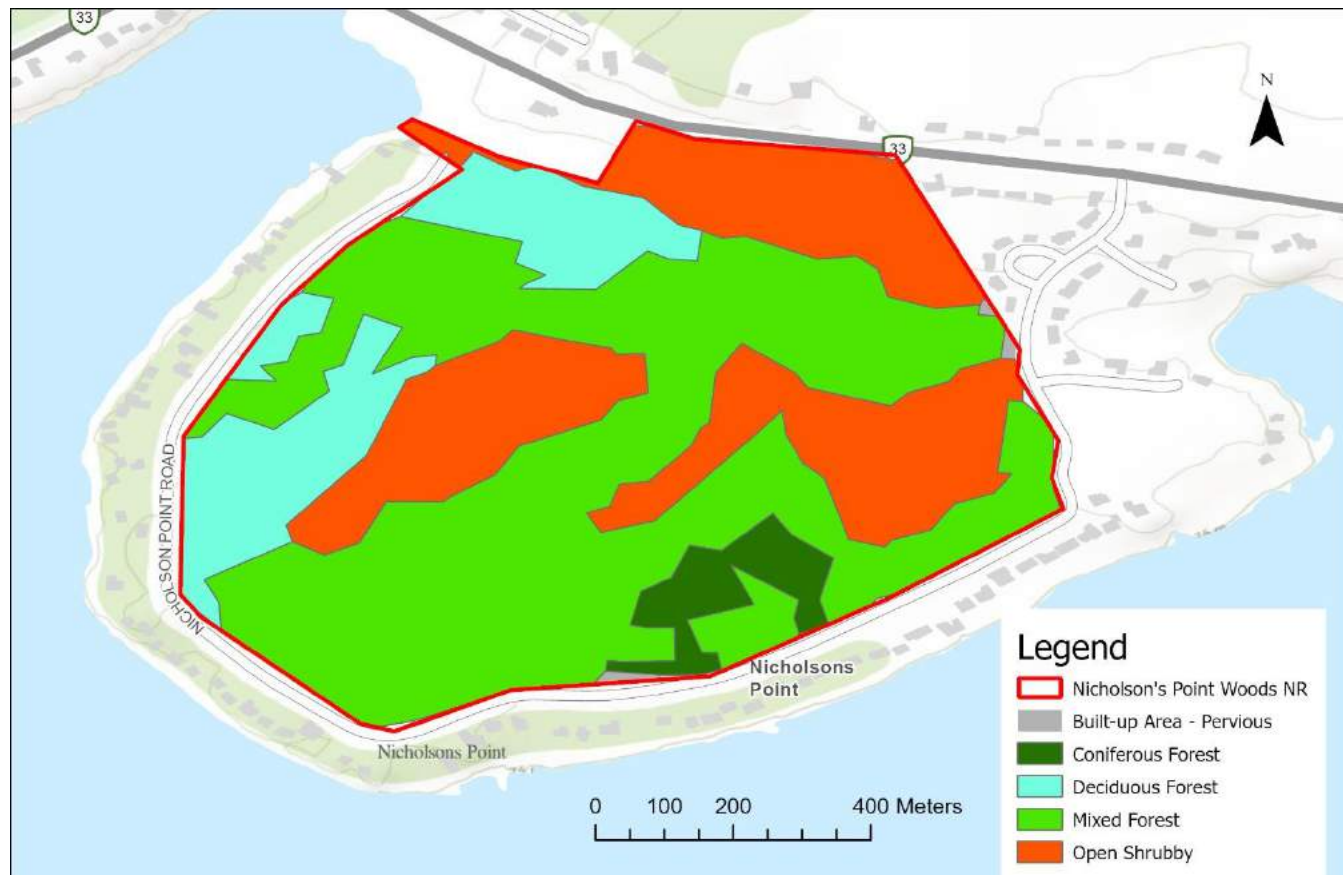


Figure 10: Vegetation Communities

5.2.3 Fauna

Nicholson's Point Woods NR provides significant forested habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Fifty-one species of birds have been identified on the property, including nine species that typically breed and dwell in large, unfragmented forests with interior habitat. Four of these species, black-and-white warbler, hairy woodpecker, hermit thrush, and pileated woodpecker, breed in forest interiors and are known to have significant population declines when forest habitat is reduced (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, 2000). Several others, including red-bellied woodpecker, red-eyed vireo, and rose-breasted grosbeak, will not breed in forest fragments (University of Florida).

There have also been eight mammals reported on the property, mainly by the donor. These include coyote, marten, raccoon, red fox, and skunk. Nicholson's Point Woods NR gives these medium-sized mammals a safe place to live and forage while minimizing any conflict with the neighbours that might occur if there were no natural areas for the animals.

A variety of invertebrates also make their home at Nicholson's Point Woods NR, including butterflies, moths, gall-forming insects, and at least one species at risk.

No amphibians or reptiles have been seen by staff of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. However, a neighbour did say that she has seen snakes on the property and adjacent yards. One was brown with triangular markings – possibly an Eastern Milksnake. She also said she had never noticed any salamanders.

5.2.4 Species of Conservation Concern

Nicholson's Point Woods NR provides suitable habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, including at least three species at risk (Section 11.1.1)

According to the Natural Heritage Information Centre, there are six species of conservation concern known to be present in the area surrounding Nicholson's Point Woods NR. They include the Eastern Musk Turtle and five species of birds (Table 4 **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**). There is also a Colonial Waterbird Nesting Colony located nearby (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019).

Table 4: Species of Conservation Concern – NHIC

Common Name	Scientific Name	SARO Status	COSEWIC Status
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	THR	THR
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturgnella magna</i>	THR	THR
Eastern Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	SC	SC
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	END	END
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	THR	THR
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	SC	THR

5.2.5 Species At Risk Inventories

There have been no targeted species at risk inventories performed at Nicholson's Point Woods NR at the time of the writing of this plan.

5.2.6 Invasive Species

Initial surveys of the property indicate that the nature reserve has a high incidence of invasive species. Invasive species proliferate once introduced and displace native species in the ecosystem. Invasive species were recorded in every vegetation community on the property.

Table 5: Invasive Species Recorded

Common Name	Date Observed	Description
Canada Thistle	2021	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive;
Common Lilac	2022	Category 2 – Very Invasive; located in shrublands and along trails
Dog-Strangling Vine	2022	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive; Abundant throughout entire property.
European Buckthorn	2022	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive; Abundant throughout the entire property.

Garlic Mustard	2022	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive; Abundant along the roadside and in the forest on the western side of the property.
Manitoba Maple	2008	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive;
Periwinkle	2021	Category 2 – Very Invasive; mainly located near the roadside
Phragmites	2021	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive; Restricted to one location on the eastern side of the property near hill/pile of dumped fill.
Tartarian Honeysuckle	2022	Category 1 – Aggressively Invasive; along trails and in open areas
White Sweet-Clover	2020	Category 2 – Very Invasive;
Wild Parsnip	2022	Category 3 – Moderately Invasive; located in all the shrublands

5.3 CONSERVATION CONTEXT

5.3.1 Protected Areas

The Nicholson's Point Woods NR is the only property that the Rideau Waterway Land Trust owns west of Kingston. The closest RWLT property is Covington Cottage NR, located about 28 km northeast of Nicholson's Point, near the town of Sydenham.

However, Nicholson's Point Woods NR is located close to three properties owned by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). Parrott's Bay Conservation Area (CA) is located just over 300 m north, Owl Wood CA is about 3 km south on Amherst Island, and Lemoine Point CA is about 5 km east near the Kingston Airport.

There are also two PSWs (Bayview Bog and Collins Creek Complex) and two ANSIs (Amherstview Swamp and Fen, and Asselstine Alvar) located north of Nicholson's Point Woods NR. The majority of the Bayview Bog is owned and protected by the CRCA.

Nicholson's Point Woods NR is also located between two Important Bird Areas (IBAs), the Napanee Limestone Plain IBA about 3 km north, and the Amherst Island IBA about 2 km south (Figure 11). The Amherst Island IBA is a globally significant staging area for waterfowl such as Brant, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, and Redhead, with thousands congregating at a time. Amherst Island has also gained international recognition for congregations of wintering hawks and owls, with up to 10 species of owls recorded in a single winter (Birds Canada, n.d.).

At one point, Nicholson's Point Woods NR was considered to be inside the Napanee Limestone Plain IBA according to the maps available in the Conservation Plan for the IBA (Bland, 2004). However, the boundaries have been revised over the years, and the southern boundary of the IBA is now approximately 3 km north of Nicholson's Point Woods. The Napanee Limestone Plain IBA is a nationally significant IBA under both the threatened species and congregatory species categories. This IBA supports the critically endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrike, of which there may be as few as a dozen wild breeding pairs remaining in Ontario. The Napanee Limestone Plain is one of the few places where these predatory songbirds are consistently found to breed, and their existence is threatened by agriculture, development and the natural succession of their grassland

habitat. This IBA also supports a variety of other grassland birds of conservation concern, including the Upland Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and the endangered Henslow’s Sparrow.

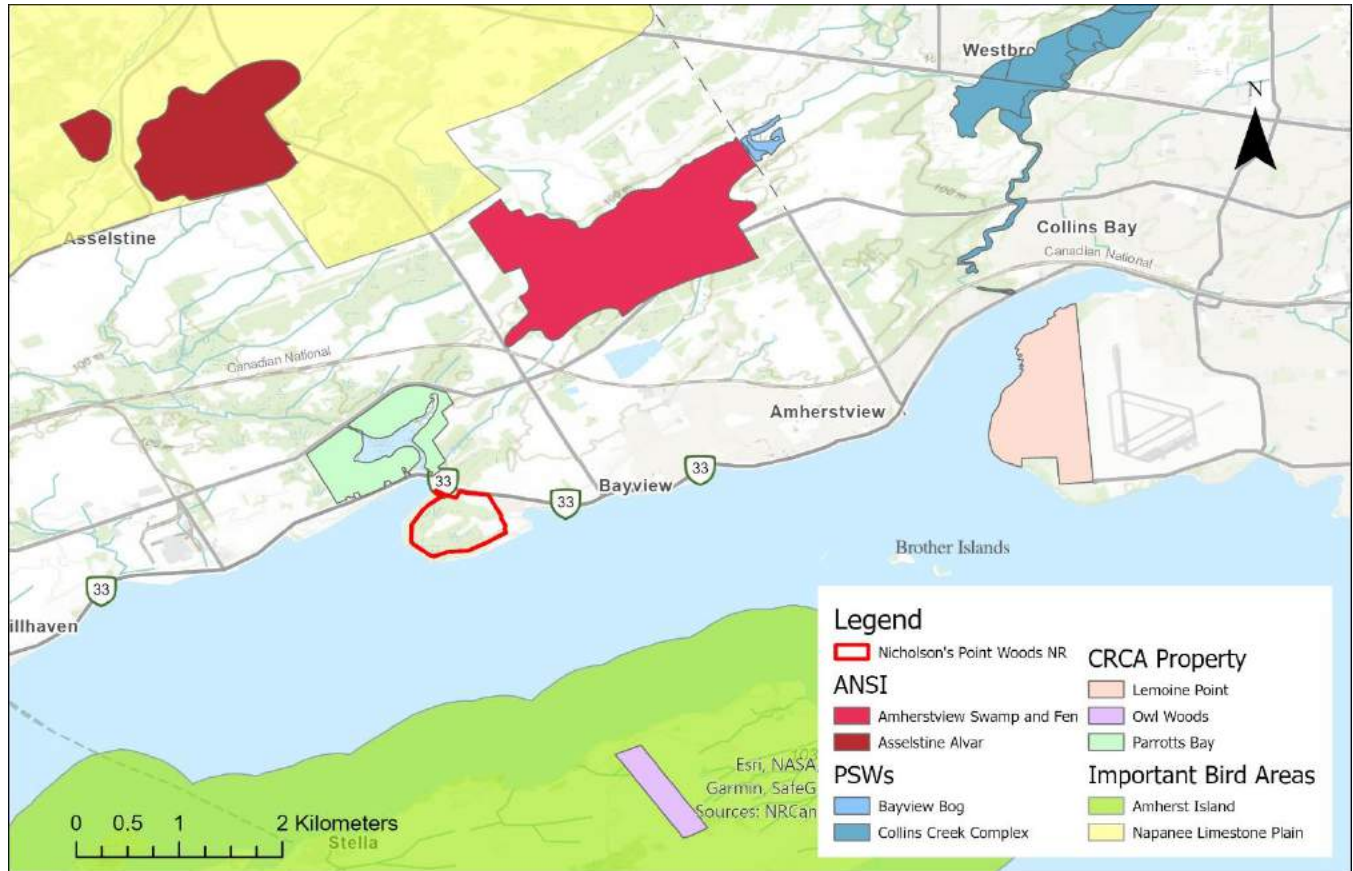


Figure 11: Protected Properties Surrounding Nicholson’s Point Woods Nature Reserve

5.3.2 Policy Areas

5.3.2.1 Official Plan of Lennox and Addington

The first County Official Plan for Lennox and Addington was adopted by Council on September 30, 2015, and approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on March 9, 2016. The current version is dated February 13, 2018, and includes Official Plan Amendments #1 and #2.

Nicholson’s Point Woods NR is part of the Urban Area around Bath and Amherstview. General land use objectives for urban areas can be found in section C1. A full range of uses is permitted within Urban Areas in accordance with local Official Plan policies and land use designations.

Section D1 contains objectives and policies relevant to Natural Heritage Resources, including significant woodlands. Many of the Natural Heritage Features are to be identified when the County develops a natural heritage system in accordance with section D1.9.

General development policies applicable to the entire county can be found in section E.

5.3.2.2 Official Plan of Loyalist Township

Under the current Official Plan of Loyalist Township, Schedule C, the property has an **Environmental Protection** land use designation. The Environmental Protection Area designation applies to “lands that play an important role in the conservation of the natural heritage system of the Township and surrounding region”. This designation includes PSWs, ANSIs, the habitat of endangered and threatened species, and any **conservation lands owned by the township, conservation authority or the Rideau Waterway Land Trust**. Policies and permitted uses can be found in section 4.2.2 of the Official Plan.

In Schedule C1, the property is identified as **Environmentally Sensitive**. An Environmentally Sensitive Areas overlay “identifies lands where development and site alteration shall not be permitted unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological function. These areas should be conserved in the long term”. Policies and permitted uses can be found in section 4.2.3.

General Development policies applicable to the entire Township can be found in Section 5 of the Official Plan.

5.3.2.3 Zoning By-law #2001-38

Under the current Zoning By-law of the Loyalist Township, the entire property is zoned **Environmental Protection** (EP). Permitted uses and zone provisions can be found in section 5.2.1. General provisions applicable to all zones can be found in Section 4.0.

5.3.2.4 Environmental Designations

In 2006, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority completed the Central Cataraqui Region Natural Heritage Study. This study was funded by the City of Kingston and Loyalist Township to identify a “broad-brush” system of features and areas that support biodiversity in their planning areas. In this study, the majority of Nicholson's Point Woods NR is designated as **Significant Woodland**. Five criteria have been used to identify significant woodlands; meeting any one criterion was sufficient to designate a woodland as significant. Criteria included: Size, Interior Habitat, Hydrological value (adjacency to streams), Connection to other significant features, and Age. The forested area of Nicholson's Point Woods is considered significant mainly due to its large size (over 40 hectares).



Figure 12: Excerpt from Figure 4a: SIGNIFICANT WOODLANDS (Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, 2006)

5.4 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

Adjoining land is mainly zoned **Shoreline Residential** (along Nicholson Point Road) or **Residential** (the streets located east of Nicholson's Point Woods NR). Lighthouse Park is zoned as **Open Space**. Much of the land north of Highway 33/Bath Road is currently zoned **Future Development** and is likely to be under increasing developmental pressure in the future as Amherstview continues to expand. Nicholson's Point Woods is already cut off from other natural areas by Highway 33, but this disconnection is likely to increase as more forested areas make way for residential development.

6 CONSERVATION TARGET ANALYSIS

RWLT staff have worked collaboratively to identify conservation targets for Nicholson's Point Woods NR. Targets include the **Forests** and **Shrublands** of the property. Each of these conservation targets is described below with a particular focus on their ecological significance. General assessment criteria are identified, and a rating is assigned where possible.

6.1 FORESTS

In this section, forests are all those types that exist within the Nicholson's Point Woods Nature Reserve including:

- Coniferous forest dominated by red cedar
- Mixed forest dominated by white pine, sugar maple, ash, hickory, and other hardwoods
- Deciduous forest dominated by red and white oak, sugar maple, and basswood

6.1.1 Ecosystem Description

Forest is the dominant ecosystem type at Nicholson's Point Woods NR, accounting for over 70% of the property. The forest is made of a mosaic of different types that together make up just over 40 hectares of Significant Woodland. Loyalist Township has significant amounts of forested land, but they are generally fragmented from each other by roads and residential areas. Nicholson's Point Woods NR provides a significant patch of forest in a generally otherwise residential and built-up area of the Township. The location and size of the forest are especially significant due to its proximity to the lake - it provides a linkage between inland and waterfront habitats and could be significant for migration.

6.1.2 Biodiversity

The forest has mainly been managed as a natural preserve, with limited passive recreation available to the neighbours of the property. There are large amounts of decaying wood, mosses, cavity trees and snags, all signs of a healthy, mature forest. The mature stands are mostly made up of sugar maple, oaks, basswood and white pine. Younger regeneration is also apparent within the forest. Sugar maple, bitternut hickory, elm, and ash are in early and advanced stages of regeneration.

These forest stands create the habitat required for a wide variety of fern and wildflower species. Species include blue cohosh, barren strawberry, common jewelweed, false Solomon's seal, and mayapple. Herbaceous species are important food sources for wildlife such as white-tailed deer.

Many bird species are recorded in the forest. Forest interior breeding birds require large contiguous tracts of forest. Species including the black-and-white warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), and rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) have all been recorded in the forest at Nicholson's Point Woods during the breeding season. As well, hairy woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*), hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), and barred owl (*Strix varia*), have been observed at other times of the year.

The dense forest and fairly flat terrain in most areas allow for the pooling of water in the spring, providing moist habitats likely conducive to breeding by many amphibian species, although none have been verified as of the writing of this report. Of particular interest is the area in the northern section of the property, where a steep ridge and several springs unite to create an ephemeral stream at the edge of the forest habitat.

6.1.3 Assessment

Table 6: Target Viability Assessment for Forest Target

Type	Key Attribute	Indicator	Ranking	Notes
Size/Extent	Size/Extent of Characteristic Communities	Area of habitat	Fair	40.6 hectares of forest total. This qualifies the forest as “Significant” in the Cataraqui Natural Heritage System

				report. However, this size of forest patch is not typically sufficient to support many interior bird species
	Size/Extent of Characteristic Communities	Interior Forest Area	Fair	2.14 hectares, just over 5% of the total forest. This is well below the 40 hectares of interior forest that is considered to be good interior habitat. However, it does provide habitat in an otherwise developed area.
Condition	Indicator Species	Number of Interior Forest Birds	Good	Large, intact forests reduce nest predation and parasitism that many forest-dwelling bird species are subjected to. The presence of forest interior birds, specifically those that are edge-intolerant, is an indicator of quality interior forest habitat. There are nine bird species present at Nicholson's Point Woods NR that are considered to be interior species, which is about 41% of all interior birds observed on RWLT properties. However, over half the species were observed during non-breeding times of the year
	Indicator Species	Amphibian diversity	Poor	Amphibians such as wood frogs and salamanders are often found on the forest floor under woody debris and leaf litter. Many species rely on vernal pools for breeding. No amphibian species have yet been located on Nicholson's Point Woods NR.
	Forest Quality	Percent of trees with disease or damage	Unknown	Forest health to be assessed at future monitoring visit
	Forest Quality	Vernal Pools	Poor	There do not appear to be any vernal pools on the property. No amphibians have been located to-date
	Forest Quality	Number of forest layers	Unknown	Forest health to be assessed at future monitoring visit
	Forest Quality	Percent native species	Good	Approximately 90% of forest species recorded were native to Ontario

	Forest Quality	Floristic Quality Index	Fair	24.93 for all species, 26.65 for native species only. An FQI of under 20 means a property has minimal significance from a natural quality perspective, while an FQI of over 35 means a property possesses sufficient conservatism and richness to be floristically important from a Provincial perspective
Landscape Context	Connectivity with Adjacent Natural Areas	Land use of surrounding landscape	Fair	Surrounding land is a mix of residential, agricultural, and protected areas or parks
Overall Ranking			Fair	

6.2 SHRUBLANDS

6.2.1 Ecosystem Description

Approximately 30% of Nicholson's Point Woods NR property consists of shrublands, divided among three large locations, along with smaller clearings in the forest. These more open areas are spread throughout the property, with one located at the far northern edge, and the other two located to the east and west of the center of the property. The shrublands are generally flat, with some areas of exposed bedrock and thin soils.

6.2.2 Biodiversity

The shrublands are mainly dominated by tall herbaceous species and mid-sized shrubs. There are also sporadic trees, including elm, ash, basswood, apple, and eastern white cedar. Shrub species include common lilac, common buckthorn, honeysuckle, and grey dogwood. Herbaceous species include common milkweed, goldenrods, chicory, timothy grass, and raspberries.

The shrublands offer varied habitats for local wildlife, including trees and shrubs for birds to perch in and hunt from, food shrubs that attract wildlife with their berries, and abundant plants for herbivores.

Several bird species have been identified using the shrublands, including eastern towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), great crested flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), and house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*).

The more open portions also provide habitat for varied butterflies and moths. A number of plants on the property are host plants for the caterpillars of specific species, including New England aster (silvery checkerspot and northern pearl crescent butterflies), eastern cottonwood (mourning cloak, viceroy, swallowtail), willows (white admiral, viceroy, swallowtail), Canada thistle (painted lady), common milkweed (monarch), and queen Anne’s lace (black swallowtail) (David Suzuki Foundation, 2022). Other plants including deptford pink, goldenrod, and wild strawberry provide nectar for adult butterflies and moths (Boyd, 2018).

6.2.3 Assessment

Table 7: Target Viability Assessment for Shrublands Target

Type	Key Attribute	Indicator	Ranking	Notes
Size/Extent	Size/extent of characteristic communities	Area of habitat	Very Good	16.3 hectares of habitat, with 3 patches, the largest of which is 5.9 ha. One study showed that the chance of use by all area-sensitive species studied was >90% for patches over >5.5 ha (Shake, Moorman, Riddle, & Burchell, 2012)
Condition	Indicator Species	Number of species that rely on shrubland	Good	14 bird species that use or prefer shrub habitats have been identified at Nicholson's Point, as well as some mammals such as the eastern cottontail. This accounts for 48% of the shrubland birds found on all RWLT properties
	Species Composition	Number of invasive, non-native species	Poor	Approximately 52% of the species identified in the open areas are non-native. Several invasive species highly detrimental to ecosystem and human health are present in these areas, such as wild parsnip.
	Community Quality	Floristic Quality Index	Poor	native species only, FQI = 12.39; all species FQI = 8.49 An FQI <20 = Minimal significance from a natural quality perspective
Landscape Context	Connectivity with Adjacent Natural Areas	Land use of surrounding landscape	Fair	Surrounding land is a mix of residential, agricultural, and protected areas or parks. Shrublands are buffered by forest.
Overall Ranking			Fair	

6.3 OTHER TARGETS

The monarch butterfly has been noted in the shrublands. Further monitoring is needed to determine what level of use this species at risk makes of the property. In the spring, monitoring for caterpillars can determine if a breeding

population is present. As well, there is the potential that the property could act as a staging area for fall migration, due to the matrix of forest and shrubland that allows for resting and feeding in close proximity.

Funding-dependent, rehabilitation of the shrublands by removing invasive dog-strangling vine and supplementing current populations of milkweed and other flowering plants can improve habitat quality for the monarch butterfly as well as other species.

7 THREATS

7.1 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES – LOW

Nicholson's Point Woods NR is crisscrossed by a series of trails, most of which have existed on the property for over 40 years. The newest trail was created about 25 years ago by a pair of residents. Most of the trails are narrow, dirt pathways through the forest, although a few are wider and have a gravel substrate, having once been roads. Where the trails go through the shrublands, the vegetation is trimmed by residents. The trails on the property pose a low threat to both Conservation Targets. The physical compaction of the soil caused by hikers using the trail over many years can lead to decreased vegetation in both the forest and shrubland targets, as well as changing the soil properties and type of vegetation that grows. Trails also facilitate the movement of invasive species further into a natural system, as seeds and plant parts can hitch a ride on hikers or their pets. Trails can also have less obvious impacts on the biodiversity of an area. Although there is a large, forested area, the trails fragment this into many smaller sections and may prevent the use of the property by birds and other species that are intolerant to high levels of disturbance. However, the location of this property inside a thriving residential neighbourhood means that there will always be a minimal level of disturbance that must be coped with, irrespective of the number of trails on the property itself.

The number and location of trails are stable, allowing portions of the property to remain relatively undisturbed and preventing additional damage to the property. Under the restrictions imposed by the EcoGift program under which the property was donated, **no new trails** are allowed to be created. The existing trails provide recreation and nature enjoyment to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, which should be encouraged by continuing to classify the property as **conservation land**, but with access allowed for neighbours. More widespread usage (by people outside of the immediate vicinity) should be discouraged to prevent issues with overuse and erosion.

7.2 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE/ PLANTS AND ANIMALS – HIGH

Invasive species are the largest threat that Nicholson's Point Woods NR is currently facing. Of the 64 herbaceous plant species identified on the property, at least 29 are non-native. There are also five non-native tree or shrub species. Not every non-native species is considered invasive, but with a changing climate causing new disturbances and changing environmental conditions, there is a chance that more non-native species will start to prosper at the expense of native species.

Already, there are nine species reported at Nicholson's Point Woods NR that are considered Aggressively Invasive (Category 1) or Very Invasive (Category 2). These classifications come from Urban Forest Associates Inc. and the Invasive Species Centre (Urban Forest Associates Inc., 2002), and seek to rank invasive species based

on their greatest negative effect on local ecosystems. This list is currently undergoing revisions, and the up-to-date list should be used for any future management plans.

The most harmful invasive plants at Nicholson's Point Woods NR include dog-strangling vine and garlic mustard, which are abundant in the forest, and wild parsnip which poses a threat to both ecosystem and human health in the more open shrublands.

7.3 GARBAGE AND SOLID WASTE - LOW

Due to Nicholson's Point Woods NR's location in the middle of a longstanding residential neighbourhood, garbage and the dumping of solid waste on the property has been identified as a potential threat to the conservation values of the property. In the northern section, there is an old car from the 1950s, that has been in the forest gradually rusting away since at least the early 1980s, as well as other metal debris such as old sinks, dishwashers, and stoves. This area of discarded items has been on the property for decades, and likely poses no further risk to the ecological values of the property, although care should be taken by users of the property to avoid any broken glass. The historic items may even provide habitat for animals seeking shelter on the property, and there is no plan to remove these items at this time.

Other, more recent garbage and solid waste on the property should be removed if and when possible. One source of garbage on the property noted during property visits in 2021 is the culvert under the road near the 100-level houses of Nicholson Point Road. It appears that some garbage may be washing onto the property by the water flowing through this culvert. Litter is also common along the entire edge of the property, where it has been washed or blown from the road into the forest. Garbage in Nicholson's Point Woods NR causes visual pollution, as well as potential environmental issues if animals become entangled in or consume plastic debris or toxins leach into the soil and should be picked up when and where possible.

In the same area, there are some scattered piles of scrap wood, metal, sandbags, bricks, concrete blocks, food scraps, and other scattered materials. Some of these are located along short spur trails starting at the road. Storage of construction materials or other personal property on Nicholson's Point Woods NR is not permitted, and materials should be relocated.

There is also some dumping of yard waste and brush into the forest by residents of the point. This could be potentially harmful for several reasons, including the introduction of invasive species, increasing the fuel load present in case of a fire, and smothering desirable plants such as trilliums. Dumping plant materials into the roadside culvert can also lead to flooding and road wash-outs. Loyalist Township staff have previously stated that dumping of plant materials into the roadside culvert and forest is often done by lawn-care contractors. **No dumping** signs have been placed around the perimeter of the property, and **education** of neighbours and contractors on the hazards posed by dumping yard waste should be a priority. Contractors should cart away any yard waste to be disposed of properly.

7.4 CLIMATE CHANGE - MEDIUM

Upon completion of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, climate change is likely to compound existing threats and put new stresses on the conservation targets.

Threats related to invasive species, pests, and diseases, in particular, may become more pronounced in conjunction with climate change. Extreme weather events, which are expected to increase in frequency in the future, can cause disturbance to the forest and create new opportunities for invasive species to colonize. In particular, the velocity and frequency of severe windstorms coming off Lake Ontario have already begun to increase, knocking over older or more exposed trees on the edge of Nicholson's Point Woods.

Increased temperatures associated with climate could also lead to heat stress in some species, making them more susceptible to disease or pests, and more likely to be outcompeted by non-native species, especially those better adapted to higher temperatures.

Climate change may also create new threats that do not currently impact the conservation targets. It is expected that overall, there will be an increase in temperatures and precipitation, especially in the fall, winter, and spring months. The consequence of an increase in winter temperatures is that more precipitation will fall as rain instead of snow, with unknown consequences for the ecosystem. Temperature increases, especially in the summer, coupled with lower or unchanged amounts of rainfall, may also lead to more frequent droughts due to increased evaporation and transpiration. Vernal pools and streams may dry up sooner in the face of increased temperatures, reducing the likelihood that amphibian species successfully reproduce. Increased temperatures may also lead to temporal mismatches in when peak insect emergence happens in relation to bird migration.

General anticipated changes resulting from climate change also include species migration and changes in species ranges. The changes in temperature and precipitation patterns will affect the species that can thrive on the property under future climate scenarios. It is an important consideration for any restoration work that may take place on the property to ensure that activities are sustainable under current and future climate projections.

8 MANAGEMENT GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

8.1 MANAGEMENT GOAL

RWLT intends to maintain the ecological integrity of Nicholson's Point Woods NR. This nature reserve has extensive significant woodland. It is our goal to ensure its persistence as well as the species it supports into the future.

It is RWLT's goal to maintain the ecological integrity of the property with the following objectives:

1. Maintain and improve shrubland habitat for monarch butterflies and other key shrubland species
2. Keep invasive species from spreading beyond 2021 limits
3. Perform targeted studies to better record the species at risk currently making use of the property

8.2 STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

The following was compiled based on the Conservation Actions Classification (V2.0) created by the Conservation Management Practices (IUCN, 2012).

Table 8: Planned Stewardship Actions – 2022 and beyond

Action Category	Description	Target(s)	Threat(s)		Frequency
A. Target Restoration/Stress Reduction Actions					
Land/Water Management	Monitor property boundaries for evidence of threats, risks, and liabilities	All	All	i) Annual monitoring visits to check property. This includes monitoring the property boundary, changes to the land, threats, SAR, and invasive species. ii) Monitoring form is completed and data is stored in a database. Any issues and threats are addressed.	Annually
	Monitor property for undocumented anthropogenic features	All	All	i) Annual monitoring visits to check the property for new anthropogenic structures ii) Monitoring form is completed and data is stored in a database. Features are known and removed/addressed.	Annually
	Monitor property for invasive species	All	Invasive species	i) Inventory property to document location and extent of invasive species on the property and develop an action plan. ii) Action plan will mitigate impacts of invasive species. Scope and severity of threat are better understood.	Annually

Species	Maintain current species list for the property	All	All	Annual monitoring visits to document incidental SAR, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Species list is updated. Database is updated with new observations. SAR/tracked species are reported to NHIC.	Annually
Species	Breeding Bird Surveys	Forest	All	Undertake approved breeding bird survey and/or targeted SAR bird survey. Sites established for personnel to undertake BBS and Nightjar surveys. Database updated with new records. SAR/tracked species reported to NHIC. Data will help inform management plans, stewardship actions, priorities.	2022, Every 2 years
Species	Monarch Restoration & Research	Shrubland	All	Determine feasibility of creating a butterfly garden and/or doing habitat restoration in the shrublands to promote monarch butterfly recovery Monitor in fall for possibility of monarch staging area	2022
Awareness Raising	Maintain signage on the property boundaries	All	All	Annual monitoring to check that signs are in good condition and reflect permitted uses on the property. Signs installed/maintained.	Annually

Law & Policy	Connect with Indigenous communities	All	All	Meet with local Indigenous communities to discuss the property and community interests. Relationship established and traditional knowledge incorporated into property stewardship.	On-going
Research & Monitoring	Identify vegetation communities	All	All	Identify and map all ELC communities on the property. ELC data updated to inform stewardship.	2021, Every 5 years
Education and Training	Train staff	All	All	Provide personnel with specific knowledge and skills in species ID and survey protocols. Personnel are trained and better able to undertake actions.	On-going
Institutional Development	Secure funding for permanent and seasonal staff	All	All	Identify funding sources and positions. Funding secured, increase capacity.	On-going
Institutional Development	Establish volunteer community Create a “Friends of Nicholson’s Point Woods” group	All	All	Volunteers are trained to undertake annual monitoring and where relevant additional targeted surveys. RWLT grows current volunteer pool and increases engagement with those volunteers.	On-going 2022
Institutional Development	Establish alliances/partnerships	All	All	Partnerships are formed with organizations with shared priorities.	On-going

				Coordinated conservation – data is shared.	
Institutional Development	Secure financial support for conservation activities	All	All	Funding sources identified and applied for where appropriate. Secured funds support stewardship actions.	On-going

8.3 STEWARDSHIP COST SUMMARY

Table 9: Cost breakdown to implement management actions

For full stewardship budget breakdown, see Appendix D: Stewardship Budget. All prices are estimates based on 2021 unit costs and are subject to change.

Action	Cost	Frequency
Property taxes and insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register property under CLTIP CCL • Maintain insurance policy • Liaise with MNDMNR, MPAC, Loyalist Township 	Insurance Cost: \$1000 Property Taxes: \$225 Staff Time: \$110 Total = \$1,335	Annually
Signage Replacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification Sign • No Dumping Signage *Estimated lifespan of signs = 10 years *Estimated lifespan of posts = 20 years	Cost of Signage: \$300 Labourer Time: \$90 Travel: \$20 Total = \$410	Every 10 years
Annual Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual monitoring visit and complete form • Where appropriate, this visit can also include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invasive species inventory ○ Record incidental SAR ○ Record all species encountered ○ Trail monitoring • Update database with new information 	Biologist Time: \$270 Assistant Time: \$150 Travel: \$20 Total = \$440	Annually
Bi-Annual Monitoring (in addition to annual monitoring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding Bird Surveys • Amphibian Surveys 	Biologist Time: \$108 Assistant Time: \$60 Travel: \$20 Total = \$168	Every 2 years

<p>Planning and Database Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan monitoring visits • Write reports • Report SAR to NHIC • Update species database 	<p>Biologist Time: \$760</p> <p>Total = \$760</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>Yearly maintenance</p> <p>May include the following as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of invasive species • Removal of unauthorized construction • Any major trail maintenance 	<p>Biologist Time: \$110</p> <p>Labourer Time: \$60</p> <p>Travel: \$20</p> <p>Total: \$190</p>	<p>Annually, as needed</p>
<p>Partner Liaison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain partnerships with CRCA, Loyalist Township 	<p>Staff Time: \$110</p> <p>Total = \$110</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>Plan Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 site visits in addition to annual monitoring (2 days each, to see the property in 3 seasons) • Estimated 5 days of revising PMP and getting approved 	<p>Biologist Time: \$2,650</p> <p>Assistant Time: \$420</p> <p>Travel: \$40</p> <p>Total = \$3,110</p>	<p>2027, Every 5 years</p>
<p>Neighbour Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events (invasive species pulls, guided hikes, education, etc) • Management of “Friends of” group 	<p>Biologist Time: \$760</p> <p>Travel: \$20</p> <p>Total: \$780</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>Monarch Butterfly Research and Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species removal • Monitoring for species presence and life stages • Evaluate milkweed and wildflower community 	<p>Biologist Time: \$810</p> <p>Assistant Time: \$450</p> <p>Travel: \$40</p> <p>Total: \$1300</p>	<p>2022</p>

9 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Every 5 years – starting June 2027.

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 APPENDIX A: SPECIES LIST (TO DATE)

11.1.1 Species at Risk Recorded - Confidential

11.1.2 All Species Recorded (including Research-Grade iNaturalist Observations)

<i>Order</i>	<i>Species name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Last Seen</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provincially Tracked?</i>	<i>S Rank</i>	<i>SARO</i>	<i>COSEWIC</i>	<i>Exotic Rank</i>
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-Winged Blackbird	2022		N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Alcedinidae sp.</i>	Kingfisher	2010						
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Cedar Waxwing	2021	Shrubland	N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose	2019		N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-Tailed Hawk	Donor		N	S5	NAR	NAR	
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal	2022	Shrubland	N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	2019		N	S5B, S3N			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit Thrush	2019	Forest Interior*	N	S5B, S4N			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Common Flicker	2008		N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pewee	2008		Y	S4B	SC	SC	
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow	2019		N	S5			
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	2019		N	S5			

<i>Bird</i>	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay	2022		N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	2019		N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker	2020	Forest Interior*	N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	2021	Forest Interior*	N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B, S3N		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B, S3N		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush	2022		Y	S4B	SC	THR
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole	2022		N	S4B		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Lanius sp.</i>	Shrike	Donor					
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	2019		N	S4B, S5N		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	Tennessee Warbler	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	Nashville Warbler	2019	Shrubland	N	S5B		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	2010	Forest Specialist*	N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	2022	Shrubland	N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black And White Warbler	2022	Forest interior*	N	S5B		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-Headed Cowbird	2022		N	S5		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Great Crested Flycatcher	2022		N	S5B		
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	2022		N	S5B		

<i>Bird</i>	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	2022	Forest Specialist*	N	S5B
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Eastern Towhee	2022	Shrubland	N	S4B, S3N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-Capped Chickadee	2022		N	S5
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	2019		N	S5B, S3N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-Crowned Kinglet	2019		N	S5
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Eastern Phoebe	2019		N	S5B
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Yellow-Rumped Warbler	2019		N	S5B, S4N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	2010		N	S5
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-Breasted Nuthatch	2019		N	S5
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	2022	Shrubland	N	S5 S4B, S3N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B, S3N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Strix varia</i>	Barred Owl	Donor	Forest interior	N	S5
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Carolina Wren	2019	Shrubland	N	S4
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House Wren	2022	Shrubland	N	S5B
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	Winter Wren	2019		N	S5B, S4N
<i>Bird</i>	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	2022		N	S5

Bird	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Red-Eyed Vireo	2022	FIDS, Forest Specialist*	N	S5B		
Bird	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Blue-Headed Vireo	2019		N	S5B		
Bird	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	2019		N	S5		
Bird	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-Throated Sparrow	2019	Shrubland	N	S5		
Fungus	<i>Ceriporus squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle	2019					
Fungus	<i>Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae</i>	Juniper-Apple Rust	4/18/2022					
Fungus	<i>Tremellodendron pallidum</i>	Jellied False Coral Fungus	2021					
Fungus		Puffball Mushrooms	2020					
Invertebrate	<i>Caryomyia viscidolium</i>	Hickory Sticky Ginger Jar Gall Midge	2021					
Invertebrate	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Juvenal's	2021		P	S2N,S4B	SC	END
Invertebrate	<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	Duskywing	2019		N	S5		
Invertebrate	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	Silvery Blue	2019		N	S5		
Invertebrate	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Japanese Ladybug	2010		N	SNA		SE
Invertebrate	<i>Malacosoma americana</i>	Eastern Tent Caterpillar	2019		N	S5		
Invertebrate	<i>Philonix nigra</i>	Fuzzy Gall	2021					
Invertebrate	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White	2010		N	SNA		SE
Invertebrate	<i>Tettigoniidae sp.</i>	Katydid	2010					

<i>Invertebrate</i>	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral	2019		N	S5B	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote	Donor		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Martes americana</i>	Marten	Donor		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Skunk	Donor		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	White-Tailed Deer	2010		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon	Donor		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Gray Squirrel	2022		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Eastern Cottontail	2021		N	S5	
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox	Donor		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	2021	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	Wild Leek	Neighbors	spring ephemeral - indicator of healthy undergrowth	P	S4	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed	2010		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Tall Thimbleweed	2021		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	2021		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Borodinia laevigata</i>	Smooth Rockcress	2021		N	S4	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge	2021	Wetland indicator species, Swamp, Marsh	N	S5	

				spring ephemeral - indicator of healthy undergrowth	N	S5	
Plant	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh	2021				
Plant	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Wild Chicory	2021		N	SNA	SE5
				Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	2021				
Plant	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	2010		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	European Lily Of The Valley	2019	Category 3 - Mod Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Crocus sp.</i>	Crocuses	2022				
Plant	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Daisy Fleabane	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Fragaria virginiana ssp. virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Galanthus sp.</i>	Snow Drops	2022				
Plant	<i>Gallium sp.</i>	Bedstraw	2021				
Plant	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	2022		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	2019		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Geum fragarioides</i>	Barren Strawberry	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-Ivy	2020	Category 4 - Exotic	N	SNA	SE5

Plant	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Orange Day Lily	2010	Category 4 - Exotic	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Sharp Lobed Hepatica	2021	forest plant	N	S5	
Plant	<i>Hieracium laevigatum</i>	Smooth Hawkweed	2021		N	SNA	SEH
Plant	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St John's Wort	2021	Category 4 - Exotic	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	Hyssop	2020		N	SNA	SE2
Plant	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Common Jewelweed	2021	Wetland indicator species, Marsh, Swamp	N	S5	
Plant	<i>Inula helenium</i>	Elecampane	2021	Category 4 - Exotic	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	3/17/2021		N	SNA	SE1
Plant	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Lilium sp.</i>	True Lily	2021				
Plant	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's Seal	2022	forest plant	N	S5	
Plant	<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White Sweet-Clover	2020	Category 2 - Very Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	Ghost Pipe	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Nabalus altissimus</i>	Tall Rattlesnakeroot	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	2022	Category 3 - Mod Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy Grass	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox	2022		N	S4	

				Wetland indicator species, Marsh, Swamp, Fern;			
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Phragmites australis ssp. australis</i>	Phragmites	2021	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i>	Meadow Hawkweed	2010	Category 3 - Mod Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple	2022		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Common Silverweed	2020		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulfur Cinquefoil	2021		N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Common Buttercup	2021		N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	European Raspberry	2021		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	4/28/2022	spring ephemeral - indicator of healthy undergrowth	N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Siberian Squill	4/20/2022		N	SNA	SE2
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	Broad-Leaf Goldenrod	2021		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh Woundwort	2020		N	SNA	SE5
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>	Common Blue Wood Aster	2021		N	S5	
<i>Plant</i>	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	9/15/2021		N	S5	

Plant	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early Meadow Rue	2021		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>	Tall Meadowrue	2010		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison Ivy	2020		N	S5	
Plant	<i>Trifolium medium</i>	Zigzag Clover	2021		N	SNA	SEH
Plant	<i>Trillium sp.</i>	Trillium	2022				
Plant	<i>Triosteum aurantiacum</i>	Orange-Fruit Horse-Gentian	7/21/2021		N	S4S5	
Plant	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common Mullein	2021		N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Vicia sp.</i>	Vetch	2021				
Plant	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	2021	Category 2 - Very Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Plant	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	European Swallowwort	2022	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
Tree/Shrub	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir	2010		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba Maple	2008	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	2020		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	2021		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	White-Fruited Red Baneberry	2021	forest plant	N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch	2008		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White Birch	2008		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	3/11/2020		N	S5	
Tree/Shrub	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	2021		N	S5	

<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Crataegus sp.</i>	Hawthorn	2008				
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	2008		N	S4	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	2010		N	S4	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	2020		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Glaucus Honeysuckle	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle	2022	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Malus sp.</i>	Wild Apple	2021				
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern Hop- Hornbeam	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	2020		N	S4?	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	2010		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine	2008		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Pinus Strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood	2021		P	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Bigtooth Aspen?	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry	2008		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	2008		N	S5	

<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Pyrus sp.</i>	Pear Trees	2020				
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin Oak	2020		N	S4	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	European Buckthorn	2022	Category 1 - Aggressively Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	2021		N	S4	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	2020		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Rhus x borealis</i>	Northern Sumac	2020		N	SNA	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	Prickly Gooseberry	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Salix sp.</i>	Willow	2010				
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac	2022	Category 2 - Very Invasive	N	SNA	SE5
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	Canada Yew	2010		N	S4	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern White Cedar	2020		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm	6/21/2021		N	SNA	SE3
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery Elm	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	2021		N	S5	
<i>Tree/Shrub</i>	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Common Prickly-Ash	2021		N	S5	

11.2 APPENDIX B: MONITORING REPORT TEMPLATE



Property Monitoring Report Form

Please complete this form and include any supporting illustrations, maps or photos in the appropriate section. Please email the completed form to lands@rwlt.org or give directly to RWLT Ecologist.

Community Land or Conservation Land (circle one)			
Property:		Date of Visit:	
Name(s) of Monitor(s):		Contact Information:	
Report Completed By:			
Date of Last Monitoring Visit:			
Management Plan Reviewed:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Follow-up Required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please describe:			
Management Action Taken:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please describe:			
I - Hazards			
Bears	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Snags	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Wells <input type="checkbox"/>
Poison Ivy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe:			

II - Existing Structures (buildings, signs, footbridges, fences, etc.)			
Structure	Location	Condition	Comments

III - Recreational Uses (Please check off those activities observed and whether they are either allowed (A) or prohibited (P)).

	A	P		A	P		A	P
Formal Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informal Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Berry Picking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trapping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature Appreciation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird Watching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Climbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equestrian use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X-country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Angling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bus tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorized vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Describe:

IV - Natural Heritage Values

a) Wildlife Observations (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, other):

b) Vegetation (trees, shrubs, plants):

c) Habitat Features (examples: snags/cavity trees, fallen trees, conifer thickets, brush piles, waterfowl nesting, waterfowl feeding, dens, nests, wildlife trails, etc.):

V - Disturbances

a) Natural

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Beaver dams | <input type="checkbox"/> | Erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fire | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Heavy deer browsing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Siltation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wind falls | <input type="checkbox"/> | Invasive species | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Describe:

b) Human

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Camping | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pesticides | <input type="checkbox"/> | Road widening | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Channelization of streams | <input type="checkbox"/> | Horseback riding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shoreline alteration | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clearing of municipal drains | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motorized vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stray animals | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ditching | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mountain bikes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trampling | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dumping | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feeding wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> | Plant harvesting | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trespass | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fires | <input type="checkbox"/> | Poaching | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unauthorized construction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Urban runoff | <input type="checkbox"/> | Utility corridors | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

Describe:

VI - Contact with Neighbours or Visitors (briefly describe your conversation, provides names if possible):

VII - Notes/Comments:

VIII – Maps, Illustrations, Photographs

11.3 APPENDIX C: CONTACT INFORMATION FOR KEY LOCAL PARTNERS - CONFIDENTIAL

11.4 APPENDIX D: STEWARDSHIP BUDGET

N.B. All dollar values are based on 2021 costs and are subject to change

<i>Necessary Stewardship Items</i>		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>Endowment</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
<i>Ownership</i>			Funds Needed	
	Taxes	225.00	5,625	Actual costs now
	Liability Insurance – total RWLT	4,000.00		
	Acres, RWLT	1,174		
	Average cost per acre	3.41		
	Factor due to public use	2		
	Cost per acre,	6.81		
	Acres, Nicholson	146		
	Annual Insurance Cost,	1000.00	25,000	
	Follow up with MNDMNRF/MPAC/Municipality regarding CLTIP	110.00	2,750	
Administrator Hours	2			
Administrator Wage	54			
<i>Signage</i>		410.00	854	Replace damaged/missing signs as needed, assuming 10 year lifespan
Replacement period	10			
Cost of signs	300			
Labourer hours	3			

<i>Monitoring</i>	Labourer hourly rate	30.00			
	Sub-total, labourer	90.00			
	Travel – number of trips	1			
	Travel – km’s per trip	40			
	Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50			
	Sub-total, travel	20.00			
	Annual Property Monitoring		440.00	11,000	Trespassing, invasives, incidental species observations
	Biologist hours	5			
	Biologist hourly rate	54.00			
	Sub-total, biologist	270.00			
	Labourer hours	5			
	Labourer hourly rate	30.00			
	Sub-total, labourer	150.00			
	Travel – number of trips	1			
	Travel – km’s per trip	40			
	Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50			
	Sub-total, travel	20.00			
	Biannual Ecological Monitoring		168.00	2,059	Breeding birds, amphibians
	Frequency, # of years	2			
	Biologist hours	2			
Biologist hourly rate	54.00				
Sub-total, biologist	108.00				
Labourer hours	7				
Labourer hourly rate	30.00				
Sub-total, labourer	60.00				

	Travel – number of trips	With other trip		
	Travel – km’s per trip	40		
	Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50		
	Sub-total, travel	0		
	Planning and Database Update	760.00	9,314	Plan visit, write reports, update database
	Biologist hours	14		
	Biologist hourly rate	54.00		
	Sub-total, biologist	756.00		
<i>Maintenance</i>				
	Yearly Maintenance	190.00	4,750	invasive species removal, removal of any unauthorized structures/etc
	Biologist hours	2		
	Biologist hourly rate	54.00		
	Sub-total, biologist	108.00		
	Labourer hours	2		
	Labourer hourly rate	30.00		
	Sub-total, labourer	60.00		
	Travel – number of trips	1		
	Travel – km’s per trip	40		
	Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50		
	Sub-total, travel	20.00		
	Plan Update	3110.00	14,355	Visit property in all 3 seasons, write updated plan
	Frequency, # of years	5		
	Biologist hours	49		
	Biologist hourly rate	54.00		

Sub-total, biologist	2,646.00		
Labourer hours	14		
Labourer hourly rate	30.00		
Sub-total, labourer	420.00		
Travel – number of trips	2		2 extra visits in addition to annual monitoring, to visit in all 3 seasons
Travel – km’s per trip	40		
Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50		
Sub-total, travel	40.00		
Partner Liason		110.00	2,750 Loyalist, CRCA,
Biologist hours	2		
Biologist hourly rate	54.00		
Sub-total, biologist	108.00		
Total Endowment Fund Needs		78,456	
Optional Stewardship Items			
Monarch butterfly		1300.00	Map DSV, remove parsnip/DSV from shrublands, monitoring for adults/caterpillars
Biologist hours	15		
Biologist hourly rate	54.00		
Sub-total, biologist	810.00		
Labourer hours	15		
Labourer hourly rate	30.00		
Sub-total, labourer	450.00		
Travel – number of trips	2		
Travel – km’s per trip	40		

Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50		
Sub-total, travel	40.00		
"Friends of" Group Management/ Neighbour Relations Events & Education			
		780.00	19,500
			Neighbourhood events, managing "Friends of" group, working to manage human threats (dumping/storage)
Biologist hours	14		
Biologist hourly rate	54.00		
Sub-total, biologist	760.00		
Travel – number of trips	1		
Travel – km's per trip	40		
Travel – rate per kilometre	0.50		
Sub-total, travel	20.00		

11.5 APPENDIX E: RESTRICTIONS UPON USE OR DISPOSITION OF NICHOLSON'S POINT WOODS NR

11.5.1 CLTIP

The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program offers a 100% rebate on property taxes on eligible properties in exchange for a long-term commitment to steward them as conservation lands. Only uses deemed compatible with the natural heritage and biodiversity objectives are allowed on properties enrolled in CLTIP. This includes but is not limited to:

- low-impact recreational activities such as hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing,
- routine land-use activities such as invasive species management, prescribed burns, trail maintenance, tree removal for safety or forest health purposes, and planting of native species.

Other land-use activities may be permitted if approval from MNDMNRF program staff is solicited, including:

- culling non-native tree species
- sustainable fuelwood removal for personal use only
- planned trail development or upgrading.

Land uses such as:

- building structures
- landscaping/grooming areas or farming
- use of motorized vehicles (off-trail)
- sale of forest products (timber and non-timber products)
- alteration of ecosystems by draining, dredging, filling, grading or extracting aggregate

are incompatible with objectives under CLTIP and will likely result in the portions of the property affected becoming ineligible for tax exemption.

11.5.2 EcoGift

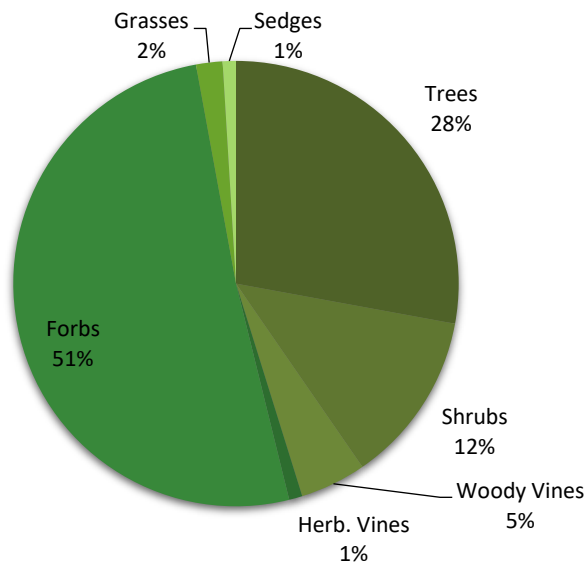
Donation under the EcoGifts program provided the donor with significant tax benefits and ensured that the RWLT would conserve the property's biodiversity and environmental heritage in perpetuity.

Written authorization from Environment and Climate Change Canada is required for any changes in use or dispositions of properties certified as an EcoGift. Failure to receive this authorization before making changes to the property may result in a penalty tax equal to 50% of the current fair market value of the property.

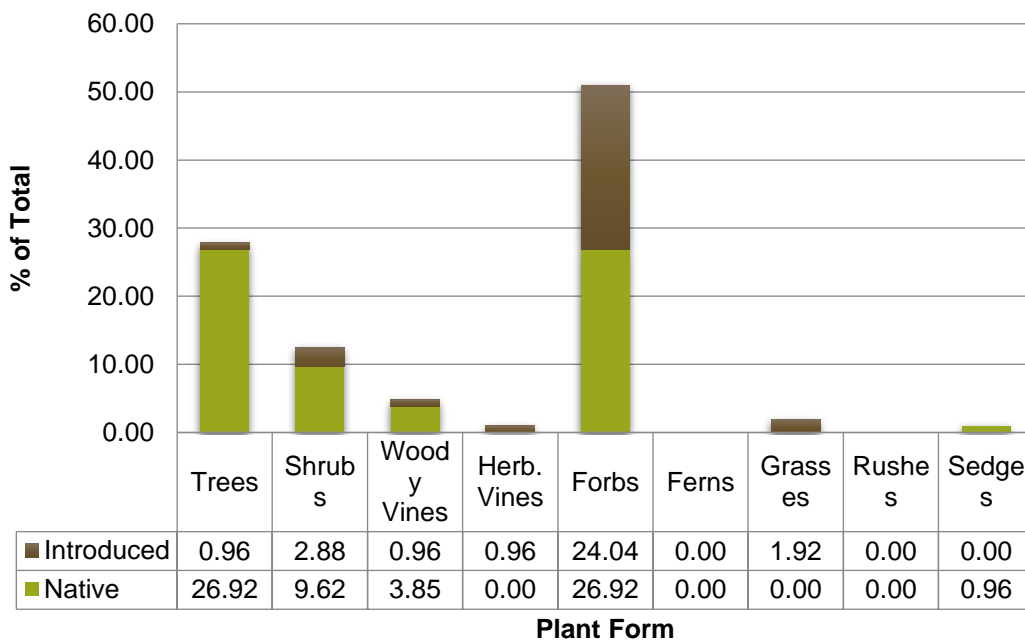
Changes of use that would enhance or restore the conservation value of the property are typically authorized. Any change in use that is not consistent with the original objectives of the ecological gift, such as subdivision, the building of structures or trails, or other changes that may threaten the environmental values, are not likely to be allowed. As well, **the sale or transfer of ownership can only be to another conservation organization that is authorized by ECCC as an EcoGift recipient.**

11.6 SOUTHERN ONTARIO FLORAL INVENTORY ANALYSIS

11.6.1 Physiognomy



Physiognomy



11.6.2 Floristics

Floristic Analysis	
Total Spp.	104
Native	71
% Native	68.27
Introd.	33
% Introd.	31.73
Coefficient of Conservatism	
SUM CC	312
Mean CC (Natives)	4.39
Mean CC (All Spp.)	3.00
FQI	
FQI (Natives)	37.03
FQI (All Spp.)	30.59
Mean Coefficient of Wetness	
Natives	2.11
All Species	2.49

Mean Coefficient of Conservatism

Native Spp.	All Spp.	Scale
		10.00
		9.50
		9.00
		8.50
		8.00
		7.50
		7.00
		6.50
		6.00
		5.50
		5.00
		4.50
4.379		4.00
		3.50
	3.00	3.00
		2.50
		2.00
		1.50
		1.00
		0.50
		0.00

>4.5 remnant has natural area potential (relatively intact natural area with high floristic quality)

>3.5 Sufficient floristic quality to be of remnant natural quality

Mean Coefficient of Wetness

Native Species	All Species	Scale	
		5.0	Strong
		4.5	
		4.0	
		3.5	
		3.0	
		2.5	
		2.0	
2.11	2.49	2.0	
		1.5	
		1.0	
		0.5	
		0.0	Strong
		-0.5	
		-1.0	
		-1.5	
		-2.0	
		-2.5	
		-3.0	
		-3.5	
		-4.0	
		-4.5	
		-5.0	

Floristic Quality Index (FQI)

Native Spp.	All Spp.	Scale	
		100.00	
		95.00	
		90.00	
		85.00	
		80.00	
		75.00	
		70.00	
		65.00	
		60.00	
		55.00	
		50.00	
		45.00	
		40.00	
37.03		35.00	
	30.59	30.00	
		25.00	
		20.00	
		15.00	
		10.00	
		5.00	
		0.00	

