

Ausable River - Kettle Point to Pinery Conservation Action Plan



What is Conservation Action Planning?

- Conservation Action Planning (CAP) is an effective and efficient way to conserve many species and habitats at the same time.
- CAPs in Carolinian Canada focus on Biodiversity Hotspots – areas of high concentration of species and habitat diversity, and often home to many rare species.
- Local groups work together to develop and implement a plan, with common goals and strategies.

Ausable River - Kettle Point to Pinery Natural Heritage



- The Ausable River - Kettle Point to Pinery CAP (ARKPP CAP) covers approximately 60,000 ha of land along the southeastern shore of Lake Huron between Kettle Point and Grand Bend, and extends inland to include the lower sections of the Ausable River and several other subwatersheds. The area supports plants and animals characteristic of the Carolinian Life Zone, many of which are provincially, nationally and globally rare.



- At least 34 federally- and provincially designated Species At Risk (SAR) have been recorded in the ARKPP area within the past 30 years, with another dozen or so having occurred historically. The ARKPP contains the largest forested area south of the Bruce Peninsula on the eastern shore of Lake Huron. The globally rare dune ecosystem that extends across the breadth of the area just inland from the Lake Huron shore is one of the largest in the ecoregion. The backdune areas support some of the best examples of Black Oak dominated tallgrass savannah in Ontario and North America. The Ausable River supports a diversity of fish and mussel SAR, and the valley slopes and tableland forests sustain a number of imperilled flora and fauna. Within the CAP are a number of Provincially Significant Wetlands and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and a large Provincial Park.



- One of the most ecologically significant areas within the CAP is within the territory of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.
- The ARKPP CAP was completed in 2010.

Conservation Targets:

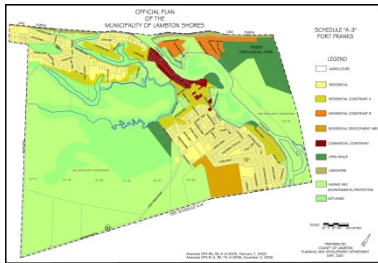
1. Riparian Systems (including Old Ausable Channel)
2. Open Dunes and Sand Beaches
3. Dry Oak – Pine Woodlands
4. Prairies and Savannahs
5. Coastal Marshes
6. Meadow Marshes and Fens
7. Swamps
8. Forests
9. Heart-leaved Plantain / False Rue-anemone



Major Impacts:

Air-Borne Pollutants; Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species; Tourism & Recreation Areas; Housing & Urban Areas; Problematic Native Species; Commercial & Industrial Areas; Roads & Railroads; Logging & Wood Harvesting; Other Ecosystem Modifications; Agricultural & Forestry Effluents; Gathering Terrestrial Plants; Fire & Fire Suppression; Livestock Farming & Ranching; Utility & Service Lines; Mining & Quarrying

Conservation Objectives & Strategic Actions



1. Create natural heritage plan for Lambton/Lambton Shores that is incorporated into next Official Plan.

Actions: Assist Municipality of Lambton Shores identify critical natural heritage sites and develop criteria and terms of reference for Environmental Impact Assessments for next Official Plan.

2. Engage key rural landowners with (particularly terrestrial) SAR habitat in good stewardship practices.

Actions: Secure long-term funding for Community Liaison Position to identify, map and prioritize key landowners for stewardship. Work with landowners to protect and enhance SAR habitat.

3. Reduce invasive species impacts on sand dunes.

Actions: Raise public awareness about notification and reporting of invasive aliens, support applications for funding, and undertake invasive species management on beaches and dunes.

4. Restore degraded sand dunes and beaches.

Actions: Increase public awareness and engagement relating to good dune stewardship practices. Develop and implement Beach and Dunes Stewardship Guides for 3 additional communities.

5. Reduce vehicle impacts on dune and beach ecosystems.

Actions: Incorporate off-road vehicle by-law into Lambton Shores Official Plan, ensure appropriate regulations in Pinery Provincial Park plans and ensure appropriate enforcement of regulations.

6. No net increase in invasive species cover in logged woodlands over next five years.

Actions: Participate in forest management plans, implement hygienic practices for logging equipment, ensure logging is undertaken at appropriate seasons, assist municipalities with by-law amendments, educate foresters regarding invasive species and practices.



Conservation Objectives & Strategic Actions

7. Provide private woodlot owners and registered forestry practitioners with information materials on SAR.

Actions: Prepare and distribute information materials.

8. Fill knowledge gaps regarding Heart-leaved Plantain.

Actions: Determine extent of canopy closure required for reproduction, and survival, identify appropriate means to undertake study.

9. Build capacity of stakeholders and landowners with priority terrestrial SAR to undertake appropriate management for SAR.

Actions: Provide stakeholders, landowners and medicinal users with Best Management Practices (BMPs) document.

10. Establish partnership initiatives with landowners to facilitate implementation of specific stewardship activities identified in Best Management Practices.

Actions: Engage agricultural community in Conservation Action Planning and implementation through communications, education, workshops, financial incentives and collaboration with agricultural organizations.

11. Build relationships with Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation (KSPFN) with regard to SAR protection, conservation and recovery.

Actions: Share knowledge relating to conservation and SAR with the KSPFN community and assist KSPFN in acquiring funding for SAR and conservation projects.



12. Implement prairie and savannah restoration at ecologically appropriate sites.

Actions: Raise public awareness regarding historic prairie and savannah ecosystems and fire management techniques, identify historic prairie and savannah sites and assess restoration potential, conduct prescribed burns at key degraded sites.

13. Include seasonal concentration sites (e.g., hibernacula, gestation sites, staging areas) in Official Plans.

Actions: Conduct research of existing knowledge and inventory to identify concentration sites. Provide mapping to appropriate agencies.

14. Significantly reduce recreational impacts on sand dunes at Pinery Provincial Park by 2015.

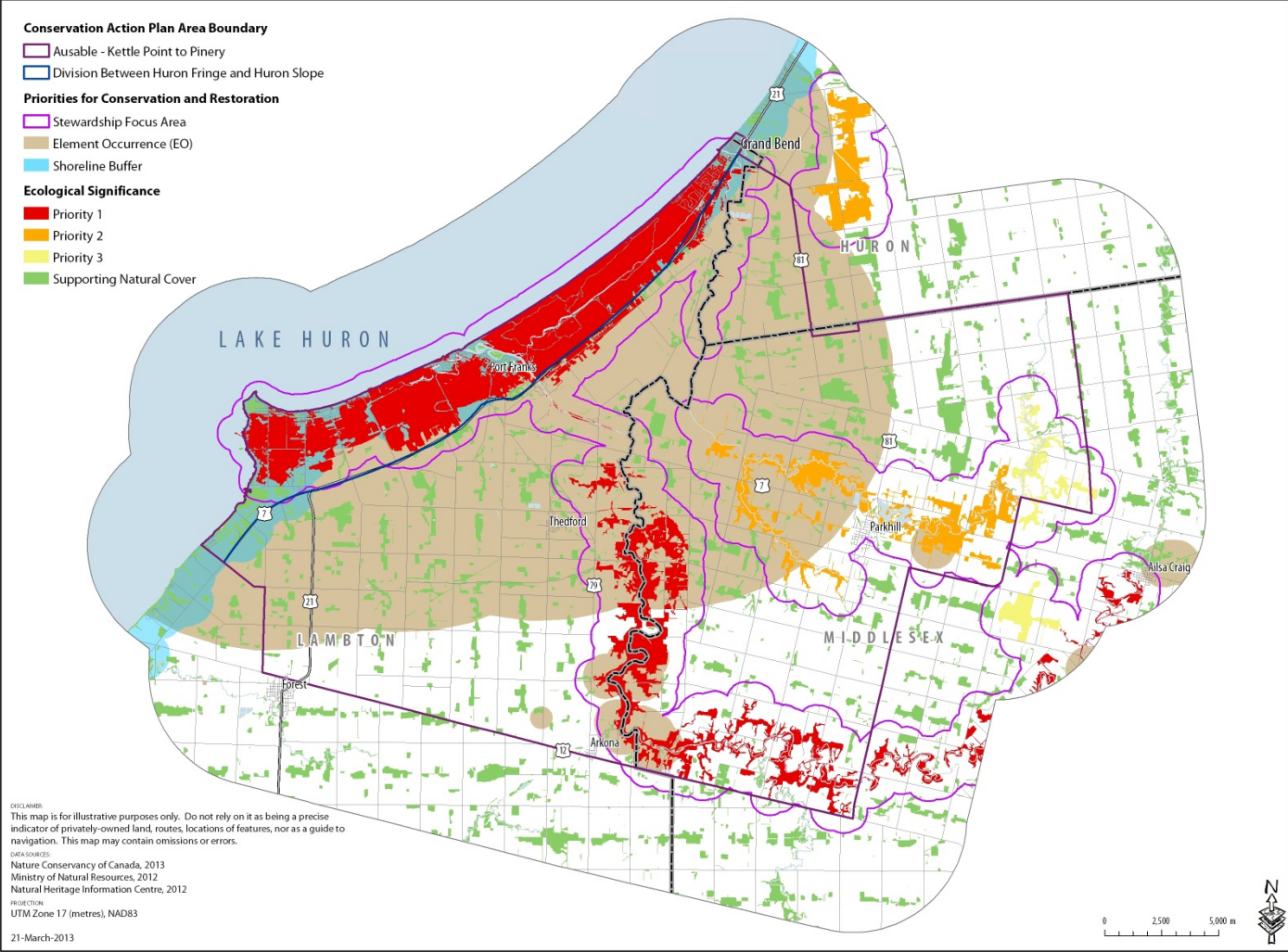
Actions: Turn Pinery Parking lots 90 degrees to reduce trampling on dunes.

15. Ensure that high potential invasive species do not colonize dune ecosystems.

Actions: Assess likelihood of potential invasions based on other Great Lakes dune systems.



AUSABLE - KETTLE POINT TO PINERY: Priorities for Conservation and Restoration



Partners

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC)
 Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point
 First Nation
 Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
 Lambton Federation of Agriculture

Municipality of Lambton Shores
 Ontario Federation of Agriculture
 Ontario Parks
 Rural Lambton Stewardship Network
 St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
 The Nature Conservancy of Canada
 The Nature Conservancy (U.S.)
 University of Western Ontario



Collaborating for a Healthy Ecoregion

For more information about Conservation Action Planning and how you can be involved please visit www.carolinian.org

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Ontario



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