

2024 WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

MAITLAND CONSERVATION • JANUARY 2024

Vision:
Working for a
Healthy
Environment

Mission:
To protect and
enhance water,
forests and soils



BACKGROUND

Maitland Conservation is jointly governed by its member municipalities.

Conservation Authorities are established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities. The activities of Maitland Conservation are driven by municipalities, landowners and community partners.

We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.

KEY 2024 PRIORITIES

1. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
Undertake a Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Use Inventory.
2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
3. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
4. Complete a Watershed Strategy under the updated Conservation Authorities Act.
5. Develop a stable financial base for services and infrastructure.





1. FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES

Helping municipalities reduce the risk to life and property in areas prone to flooding and erosion.

Conserving features and functions of the river system and Lake Huron shoreline.

- Planning and implementing the replacement of radio telemetry equipment is a priority for the flood monitoring network in 2024.
- Finalize the Floodplain Mapping Update for the Listowel Ward in North Perth.



Repairs to precipitation gauge

Meet the provincial requirements for changes set out in the Conservation Authorities Act by December 31, 2024, including:

- Develop an ice management plan for areas prone to ice jamming.
- Develop an asset management plan for flood and erosion control structures (Goderich Bluffs, McGuffin Gully, Listowel Conduit).
- Develop a drought monitoring plan.
- Develop an outreach and education plan related to natural hazards.



Land Use Planning Support & CA Development, Interference & Alteration Regulations

To ensure that development does not increase risk for flooding or erosion and protects the river and shoreline.

Coastal Resiliency Project followup:

- Sediment restoration strategy for Goderich Harbour
- Assist shoreline municipalities to:
 1. Develop future development policies for the Lake Huron shoreline.
 2. Develop policies and procedures for dealing with the relocation of shoreline development from eroding bluffs.

2. DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION - 2024

- Governance: Maitland Source Protection Authority meetings; renewal of agreement with ABCA; approval of budget for program.
- Implementation/Technical Support: review of planning and development applications located within municipal well head and intake protection areas; amendments to Maitland Source Protection Plan to incorporate changes in wellhead protection area around wells in Century Heights subdivision located in the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, and in Lucknow. Issue confirmation notices for new wells planned in Harriston and Palmerston.
- Communications: promotion of drinking water source protection program to the public.



George Taylor Conservation Area

3. CONSERVATION AREAS

Maitland Conservation owns 28 properties encompassing 1,862 hectares. Key priorities include:

- showcasing best management practices on conservation lands,
- ensuring properties are safe for public use,
- dealing with aging and surplus infrastructure.

Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Use Inventory: mandatory requirement of the Conservation Authorities Act to be completed by December 31, 2024. Strategy will include:

- The objectives, programs and services offered on lands owned by Maitland Conservation including policies for land acquisition and dispositions.
- Stakeholder and public consultation during the development of the strategy.
- Land use inventory of all parcels owned by Maitland Conservation.



Conservation Areas Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan

Development of this plan will guide asset management including future financial needs.



Administrative Office Renovations and Repairs

Washroom and front entrance door renovations to improve accessibility. Radon mitigation and improved air filtration.



Invasive Species Control

Buckthorn and phragmites removal and control will continue in 2024.



Falls Reserve Conservation Area Improvements

Renovations to the gatehouse will improve accessibility. Roadway and parking lot replacement at the park entrance will get underway in 2024.

4. WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

Maitland Conservation is working with municipalities, landowners and partners to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses. Priority for restoration of natural areas along watercourses as well as on floodplains, river valleys and wetlands. Promote practices that improve soil health.

- Natural Areas Restoration: provide technical and financial support to landowners to plant buffers along watercourses, restore wetlands, plant windbreaks and establish natural areas on marginal farmland.
- Promote the use of cover crops to keep soil covered during the winter months.
- Tree and shrub order program for landowners and municipalities.
- Delivery and administration of County Stewardship Programs: Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Program and assistance with Perth County Stewardship Program.
- Healthy Lake Huron: delivery of stewardship services on behalf of OMAFRA and MECP to improve Lake Huron nearshore water quality.
- Middle Maitland Restoration Project: targeted stewardship efforts to restore natural areas along the Middle Maitland River and its tributaries upstream of Wingham.



5. WATERSHED HEALTH ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

On-going assessment and monitoring identifies how the health of forests and streams are changing and pinpoints problems and opportunities.

- Surface and Groundwater Monitoring - continue field work to collect water samples for the provincial surface and groundwater monitoring program. This is a mandatory service.
- Forest Health Improvement - working with landowners and practitioners to identify strategies for improving forest health.
- Aquatic Assessment Project evaluating the health of local streams and rivers gets underway in 2024.



6. CORPORATE SERVICES

- **Watershed Strategy:** The preparation of a Watershed Strategy is a mandatory requirement and must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by December 31, 2024. Corporate Services will lead the design and public consultation component of the strategy.
- **Healthy Lake Huron Terms of Reference:** Encourage MECP and OMAFRA to expand the terms of reference to include improving the health of watersheds, people, and wildlife.
- **First Nations and Metis Relationship Building:** Continue to explore interest in developing a working relationship with First Nations and Metis.
- **2025-2027 Work Plan and Budget Forecast:** Update Maitland Conservation's three-year forecast.



Falls Reserve Conservation Area, photo by Tom Samworth



Naftel's Creek Conservation Area, photo by Jesse Paul

Comments or Questions?

If you have questions please contact your Maitland Conservation Member.

If your municipality would like to submit comments on the work plan or budget, please submit them to us by March 7, 2024. Comments may be sent to:

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