TERRESTRIAL NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM STRATEGY

APPENDIX J: GLOSSARY





TORONTO AND REGION Conservation
for The Living City

abiotic	neither living, nor produced by living organisms.
adjacent lands	lands that are contiguous with a specific natural heritage feature or area, where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a negative impact on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives. (Province of Ontario, 1997)
alien species	synonyms: non-native, non-indigenous, foreign, and exotic: a species, subspecies, or lower taxon introduced outside its normal past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. (IUCN, 2001)
age structure	the proportion of individuals in each age class. (Forman, 1995)
area sensitivity index	score assigned to each fauna species for area sensitivity. Area sensitivity is defined here as the minimum size of a habitat type or habitat association required for one breeding pair (see Habitat Dependence).
areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI)	areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having values related to natural heritage protection, scientific study, or education. Depending on the features of particular areas, they may be referred to as life science or earth science sites. These areas vary in their level of significance and their vulnerability to environmental impacts. (NEC, 2003)
baseflow	the groundwater contribution that maintains the volume of baseflow in a stream, critical for water quantity and thermal control, which may include direct discharge, discharge to wetlands, and bank seepage. (Don Watershed Regeneration Council, 2000)
beach	a shoreline habitat of a river or lake that results from a high level of disturbance from periodic high water levels and/or the affects of ice scour, erosion and deposition. (ELC code: BB)
best (management) practices	a technique or methodology that, through experience or research, has been proven to reliably lead to a desired result. (Whatis.com). after researching all known management methods, the selection and adaptation of the most suitable practices for achieving the desired outcome.
biodiversity	biodiversity (biological diversity) is the variability among living organisms from all sources including...terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003)
biological inventory	the systematic survey, sampling, classification and mapping of natural heritage features such as species, vegetation communities. A site inventory is conducted at the ground level; the "regional inventory" refers to the database and mapping of field-collected information compiled for the region.
bluff	a shoreline area of a river or lake with steep to vertical slopes of unconsolidated surficial deposits which are subject to active erosion from slumping, mass wasting or toe erosion. (Lee et al., 1998) (ELC code: BL)
brownfield	brownfields are derelict, dysfunctional or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Despite the complexity of developing these properties, they are often in desirable and strategic locations – in the heart of urban communities, on scenic waterfronts, in or near downtowns. (MMAH, 2005c)

class environmental assessment	is an environmental assessment done for a group, or "class". of projects that are carried out routinely and have predictable and mitigable environmental effects.
coastal habitats	refers to those habitats that occur along the Lake Ontario shoreline and can include both beach, bluff, and sand dune habitats. (ELC Code: BB, SD, BL, and, in some cases, MA, SA)
connectivity	the degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement [of species, individuals and genetic material] among habitat patches. (Taylor et al. 1993). the degree to which key natural heritage features are connected to one another by links such as plant and animal movement corridors, hydrological and nutrient cycling, genetic transfer, and energy flows through food webs." (ORMCP, 2002)
conservation authority	a community-based environmental organization dedicated to restoring, developing and managing natural resources using the watershed as a management unit (Conservation Ontario, 2005)
conservation authorities act	the Act that gives municipalities the right to form Conservation Authorities. It also gives Conservation Authorities the mandate to restore, develop, and manage natural resources within one or more watersheds.
conservation biology	the science dealing with the conservation of biodiversity. Fundamentally, it relies on the principles of ecology but it is also cross-disciplinary.
contiguous habitat	an unbroken expanse of one or more habitat types.
development	means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act; but does not include activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process; or works subject to the Drainage Act. (Province of Ontario, 1997)
covenant	a restriction in a land deed that would require a landowner to refrain from an activity such as tree cutting or mineral extraction. Agreements are usually triggered when the landowner makes an application for works or property transaction, or the TRCA conducts adjacent restorative works.
cultural heritage (landscape)	means a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. Examples may include, but are not limited to, heritage conservation districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act; and villages, parks, gardens, battlefields, mainstreets and neighbourhoods, cemeteries, trailways and industrial complexes of cultural heritage value. (PPS, 2005)
digital ortho-rectified aerial photographs	digital imagery in which distortion from the camera angle and topography have been removed, thus equalizing the distances represented on the image.
digitizing	method of converting information from one format to another using a trace methodology. Traditionally, digitizing has meant the creation of a spatial dataset from a hardcopy source such as a paper map or a plan. On-screen digitizing is the creation of a spatial dataset by tracing over features displayed on a computer monitor with a mouse. In both cases, the newly created dataset picks up the spatial reference of the source document.
dispersal capacity	the ability of a species or individual to move from one location to another based on its physical make-up and the landscape character (See Mobility)
distribution	in a biological context, refers to the relative location or geographical arrangement of a population of organisms over space and time.

donation	a gift of land at appraised value which can qualify as charitable donations under the Income Tax Act
easement	an acquisition of specific or limited rights of use from a landowner. May be binding on future purchasers. May or may not involve monetary compensation.
ecological condition	the state of an area's natural cover, usually referred to as existing condition but could also be a modeled condition. The measure can include the species diversity and richness within the system itself or the quantity and distribution of natural cover within a geographical area.
ecological functions	are the natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes, including hydrological functions and biological, physical, chemical and socioeconomic interactions. (MMAH, 2002)
ecological integrity	including hydrological integrity, means the condition of ecosystems in which: (a) the structure, composition and function of the ecosystems are unimpaired by stresses from human activity, (b) natural ecological processes are intact and self-sustaining, and (c) the ecosystems evolve naturally. (ORMCP, 2002) integrity is an intrinsic quality that characterizes natural, self-sustainable ecosystems, composed of native vegetation and wildlife that respond to natural disturbance regimes through adjustments in their composition and structure. There is considerable overlap in definition and meaning of both ecosystem "health" and "integrity". Ecological health may be considered a measure of ecological integrity, as in the ability to sustain that health. Thus integrity is in part the ability to address sensitivity and prevent crisis (see Ecosystem Health).
ecological land classification (ELC)	the Canadian classification of lands from an ecological perspective; an approach that attempts to identify ecologically similar areas. The original system proposed by the Subcommittee on Biophysical Land Classification in 1969 included four hierarchical levels that are currently called ecoregion, ecodistrict, ecosection and ecosite. Ecoprovince and ecoelement were later added to the upper and lower levels of the hierarchy. (Lee et al., 1998)
ecological structure	The structure of an ecosystem/community refers to the component species, their relative abundance, age, etc. (Forman, 1995)
ecology	the science that studies the living conditions of living beings and all types of interactions that take place among living beings and between living beings and their environment (Lee et al, 1998). See Landscape Ecology
ecosite	a classification unit within the spatial hierarchy of the Ecological Land Classification which consists of land having a homogenous combination of soils and vegetation. Usually mapped at a scale of 1:50,000 to 1:10,000.
ecosystem	is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003)
ecosystem health	Rapport et al. (1998) propose such attributes of "healthy" ecosystems, as: (1) resilient to natural perturbations; (2) free from "Ecosystem Distress Syndrome", (3) self-sustaining, (4) management practices not impairing adjacent ecosystems, (5) economically viable, and (6) sustaining healthy human communities. As part of the above definition, indicators of Ecosystem Distress Syndrome (EDS) include, for example rate of diseases, amplitude of fluctuations in populations, diversity and shift to opportunistic species (Yazvenko and Rapport 1996).

ecosystem services	the goods and services provided by ecosystems that are critical to the environments life support systems and that contribute significantly to human welfare both directly and indirectly and therefore represent a significant social and economic value. ecological services are services that humans derive from ecological functions such as photosynthesis, oxygen production, water purification and so on (Canadian Biodiversity Strategy).
edge habitat	the interface between a habitat patch and its surroundings - particularly forest. Edge habitats tend to be inhabited by both generalist species that can use many kinds of habitat (American crow) and species that specialize in edges (eastern cottontail rabbit).
edge effect	influences generating from outside of a habitat patch, including wind, exotic species, predators, parasites, etc, that have a negative impact on the patch. Edge effects are generally considered to penetrate at least 100m into a forest.
environment	means the components of the Earth and includes (a) air, land and water; (b) all layers of the atmosphere; (c) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms; and, (d) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c). (CEPA, 1999) Note: a broad definition that includes social and economic factors is used in the Environmental Assessment Act
environmental assessment	in general, environmental assessment is a process to predict the environmental effects of proposed initiatives before they are carried out. An environmental assessment:: - identifies possible environmental effects - proposes measures to mitigate adverse effects - predicts whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after the mitigation is implemented (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 2005) a decision-making process used to promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects of development projects on the environment. In Ontario, this process is determined by the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). If the project involves the Federal Government, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) takes precedence.
environmental farm plan (EFP)	EFP's are documents voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their awareness of the environment on their farm. Through the EFP process, farmers will highlight environmental strengths on their farm, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic goals and time tables to improve environmental conditions. (OMAFRA corporate website, 2005)
environmentally significant areas (ESAs)	natural areas that have been identified as being significantly important to the protection and conservation of the ecological integrity and function of an area. Within the TRCA's jurisdiction, ESAs are identified using 9 criteria: distinctive landform or geological feature, water storage/recharge/discharge areas, linkages/corridors among systems, essential habitat for continuation of species, rare/endangered species, exceptional high quality and/or diverse habitats and communities, limited representation ecosystem, extensive habitat tracts, and provincial designations.
exchange agreement	the exchange of one parcel of land for another by agreement between two parties.

exotic species	species occurring out of their native ranges in a given place as a result of action by humans, any species introduced from a foreign country. (Shafland and Lewis 1984) See Alien Species.
fee simple purchase	purchase of the total interest in a property
forest	is a self-perpetuating natural habitat dominated by trees; a coniferous, mixed, or deciduous forest; or a plantation forest, swamp forest, or successional growth. A forest is not a treed yard or cemetery. Although these areas certainly provide environmental benefits, they do not have the biological structure of a forest and do not provide the ecological functions that forests do. (TRCA Data Collection Protocol, 2006) (ELC code: FO)
forest interior	the habitat found deep within woodlands, away from the influence of edge effects (see Edge Effect). The interior sections of forest, generally 100 m or more in from the forest edge, are darker, cooler and moister, and less prone to disturbances from outside of the forest (both human and environmental). Forest interior species are those that require forest interior conditions. Occasionally the term "deep interior" is used to refer to those sections of forest 200 m or greater from the forest edge. (Landowner Resource Centre and OMNR, 2000; and EC, 1998)
forest management	is the management of woodlands, including accessory uses such as the construction and maintenance of forest access roads and maple syrup production facilities, for the proxduction of wood and forest products, including maple syrup; to provide outdoor recreation opportunities; to maintain, and where possible, improve or restore conditions for wildlife; and to protect water supplies. Forest management does not include agro-forestry activities or maple syrup production carried out on a farm. (MMAH, 2002)
fragmentation	relates to the breaking up of a habitat, ecosystem, or land-use type into smaller isolated parcels. (Forman, 1995)
gene flow	the exchange of genetic characteristics within and between populations of a species through breeding.
genetic fitness	the ability of a population to survive or adapt to varying and adverse conditions (eg. disease or weather fluctuations) because of genetic variation among its members.
geographic information systems (GIS)	a computerized information system for storing, manipulating and analyzing spatially indexed information.
geophysical requirements	vegetation communities are formed under certain site conditions; some communities are restricted to particular conditions based on the slope and aspect, hydrology, soil characteristics (eg. structure and nutrient status), and dynamic processes (eg. erosion and flooding).
georeference	from "geographical reference", the relationship between a feature on a map and its location on the ground; the page coordinates on a planar map that refer to real-world coordinates.
giardia	small, flagellated, protozoan parasites that inhabit the small intestines of a variety of animals. Giardia is the most commonly reported intestinal parasite in North America causing nausea, diarrhea, an uneasiness in the upper intestine, malaise and perhaps low-grade fevers and chills. A well-managed water treatment system providing effective filtration and disinfection should control contamination by *Giardia*. (MOE. 2000)

Great Lakes Remedial Action Plan (RAP)	the area stretching from Etobicoke Creek in the west to Rouge River in the east (Figure One), in Toronto, has been identified as one of the "Areas of Concern" (AOC) around the Great Lakes system. In accordance with the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and supervision of the International Joint Commission, a "Remedial Action Plan" (RAP) for the Toronto and Region has been developed (Metro Toronto & Region Remedial Action Plan, undated).
green infrastructure	natural cover or the natural system, considered in terms of the ecosystem services it renders in the landscape, including water management, air quality and climate regulation, and recreation and resource provision.
Greenbelt Plan	a cornerstone of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan, the Greenbelt Plan identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and function occurring on this landscape (Greenbelt Plan, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2005). The Plan builds upon ecological protection provided by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan and other provincial level initiatives.
groundwater	water that has percolated into the ground and occupies spaces between soil particles or cracks and fissures in otherwise solid rock. (MOE, 2004) Water located in the saturated zone of the earth's crust. (MOE, 2000)
habitat	an area within which a biological organism obtains the biotic and abiotic elements it requires to live and reproduce. The definition can be further refined by species or groups of species (eg. the habitat of fish or spring wildflowers or deer, etcetera), each with its own criteria for definition and evaluation. the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. Species may require different habitats for different uses throughout their lifecycle. (Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, 1995)
Habitat Implementation Plan (HIP)	the Habitat Implementation Plan (HIP) is a targeted implementation strategy, rooted in watershed-wide habitat concepts, and prioritized according to site level criteria. In other words, the HIP will act as a mechanism by which the concepts of the Terrestrial Natural Heritage Program, Fisheries Management Plan, and Watershed Management Strategy can be implemented. The HIP contains a catalogue/database of potential restoration sites which are linked to GIS information layers. The information stored within the database includes general site descriptions, existing habitat components, the potential habitat opportunities identified, and an implementation priority score. The HIP database of projects functions through a dynamic process based on querying data to determine the highest priority site for restoration.
habitat dependence	the degree of a species flexibility or restriction to habitat types for its survival. The degree to which a species can be classified as a specialist.
habitat patch	A contiguous (or unbroken) extant of one habitat type, either forest, wetland or meadow.
hazardous lands	lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. For coastal and inland lakes this means the land, including that covered by water (international boundary for coastal lakes) and the furthest landward limit of flooding, erosion, or dynamic beach hazard limits. For river and stream systems, this means the land, including that covered by water to the furthest landward limit of the flooding or erosion hazard limits. (Province of Ontario, 1997)
headwaters (headwater area)	the area that forms the source of a river; where a stream begins either from springs or from overland drainage.
headwater watercourse	The smallest watercourse (1st order) that conveys surface and/or groundwater.

human system	the sum of the physical, social and cultural organization within and outside of a given geographical area, including the exchange of goods and services, and the interactions between humans.
hydrological function	means the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things. (PPS, 2005)
index of Biotic Integrity	an index based on fish community composition originally developed in the US and adapted to southern Ontario (Steedman, 1988) for assessing the health of a watercourse.
indigenous species or communities	See native species or communities definition.
infiltration rates	The speed per unit volume at which water percolates into the ground.
intensification	the development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through: · redevelopment, including the reuse of brownfield sites; · the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas; · infill development; and · the expansion or conversion of existing buildings. (PPS, 2005)
interior habitat	See Forest Interior.
introduced species	any species moved from one place to another by human activity. (Shafland and Lewis 1984). Generally refers to the movement of species from one continent to another, or from one bioregion to another within the same continent.
invasive alien species	any alien species whose establishment and spread threatens ecosystems, habitats or species with economic or environmental harm. (IUCN, 2001)
landscape	refers to the level of ecological assessment that can generally be done using remote sensing data (aerial or satellite imaging). Landscape classes include forest, wetland, meadow, and urban.
landscape analysis model	is a quantitative tool for measuring patch quality. It uses three indicators - size, shape, and matrix influence - to evaluate the current or future quality of a habitat patch whether existing or hypothetical.
landscape ecology	see ecology the study of the structure, function and change in a heterogeneous land area composed of interacting ecosystems (Lee et al, 1998)
local rank (L-rank)	a rank assigned to a species, vegetation community, or habitat patch which describes its status in the TRCA Region. *See Species of Conservation Concern*
matrix	the landscape structure that surrounds and includes habitat patches.
matrix influence	the surrounding land-use of a habitat patch is known as "matrix"; the influence the surrounding land-use has on a patch is scored by TRCA based on whether the area (2 km from a patch's edge) is urban, agricultural or natural, and the score is known as the matrix influence
meadow	a general term to describe early successional communities that have regenerated from either a natural disturbance (e.g. fire) or from abandoned agricultural land. Can be dominated by native or non-native vegetation. *Related: see Glossary 'old field'*

mitigate	includes the prevention, modification or alleviation of impacts on the natural environment. Also includes any action with the intent to enhance beneficial effects. (Natural Heritage Reference Manual, OMNR, 1999)
mobility index	score assigned to each fauna species based on their mobility. Mobility is the faunal equivalent of dispersal in plants: the ability of a species to move within or between habitats. It relates to such factors as size, endurance (i.e. susceptibility to desiccation, starvation) and behavior, (i.e. speed of travel, need for cover, ability to travel at night, etc.) as well as how habitat-specific a species is.
native species or communities	a species, subspecies, or lower taxon living within its natural range (past or present), including the area which it can reach and occupy using its own legs, wings, wind/water-borne or other dispersal systems, even if it is seldom found there. (IUCN, 2001)
natural areas	natural areas - features of the environment that are not generally used for intensive agriculture or human use. These features include wetlands, lakes, forest, meadows, etc. (MOE, 2004) The term is generally more specific than natural cover, for example, referring to an area of natural cover.
natural cover (terrestrial)	land occupied by naturally and culturally occurring vegetation that is not characterized as agricultural or urban land uses. Could be dominated by native and non-native vegetation. Does not include manicured areas such as parkland or lawns. The TNHSS considers two components to natural cover: a) *existing cover*: land within the TRCA region that is current existing natural cover and falls within one of the ELC vegetation community codes listed below. b) *potential cover*: lands within the target terrestrial natural heritage system that are not existing natural cover, but that are needed to achieve the TRCA's targets for the potential creation of the target system. Through implementation these lands will become a vegetation community falling into one of the ELC vegetation community codes listed below. **natural cover** includes the following ELC vegetation community codes- BB (beach/bar), SD (sand dune), BL (bluff), CL (cliff), TA (talus), AL (alvar), RB (rock barren), CC (crevice/cave), SB (sand barren), TP (tallgrass prairie, savannah and woodland), FO (forest), CU (cultural), SW (swamp), FE (fen), BO (bog), MA (marsh), SA (shallow aquatic) Terrestrial natural cover encompasses the species found in those communities, including plants and animals that require land for at least part of their life cycle (such as amphibians and waterfowl).
natural heritage	features and areas, including significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands, fish habitat, significant woodlands south and east of the Canadian Shield, significant valleylands south and east of the Canadian Shield, significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, and significant areas of natural and scientific interest, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area. (from 2005 PPS) Is the features, functions, and areas which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area. (Province of Ontario, 1997)
natural heritage system	a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, linked by natural corridors which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems. These systems can include lands that have been restored and areas with the potential to be restored to a natural state. (From 2005 PPS)
natural heritage compensation plan	is a plan prepared by an applicant or landowner in accordance with TRCA's Natural Heritage Restoration Plan requirements.

natural heritage restoration plan /guidelines	a plan that sets out guidelines to be applied in instances where a development application (plan of subdivision and site plan) has been proposed within portions of the terrestrial natural heritage system, and the removed lands are to be offset by lands that will be added to the terrestrial natural heritage system.
natural self-sustaining vegetation	See Self-sustaining
naturalize	to convert urban or agricultural lands to natural cover. See Natural Cover, also Restoration
net gain	the concept of incurring more gains than losses at the end of a process. In Model Policy 8, Negotiating Net Gains, the result of decisions that, for example, through the negotiation on the target system boundary, would amount to more gain than loss on the target system.
niche	the functional position of an organism in its environment comprising the habitat in which the organism lives, the periods of time during which it occurs and is active there, and the resources it obtains there (Allaby, 1999)
Niagara escarpment	is a limestone ridge that is a prominent topographic feature in the landscape of Ontario. It runs 725 km from Queenston on the Niagara River to Tobomory and Manatoulin Island in Georgian Bay. It also appears in the states of New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin. (NEC, 2003)
non-native (non-indigenous) species	See alien species
Oak Ridges Moraine	a glacial ridge that is north of and runs parallel to Lake Ontario. It stretches from the Trent River in the east to the Niagara Escarpment in the west. The moraine was formed at the meeting point of two opposing ice sheets during the last glaciation period. Glacial tills, thick sand and gravel, and outwash deposits make this area a major groundwater recharge zone and the headwaters of several area watercourses. This formation is the divide for watercourses draining north into Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe and south into Lake Ontario. (MMAH 2002, and MTRCA 1982)
Official Plan (OP)	a document containing objectives and policies established primarily to provide guidance for the physical development of a municipality or part thereof, while having regard to relevant social, economic, and environmental matters.
one hundred year flood	for river, stream and small inland lake systems, means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of 100 years on average, or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. (From PPS, 2005) according to predictions, the high level at which a stream might flood once every 100 years.
old field	a general term to describe early successional communities that have regenerated from abandoned agricultural land. (Lee et al, 1998)
Ontario Municipal Board	is an independent adjudicative panel that hears appeals and applications and resolves land use disputes under a variety of legislation. (OMB, 2004)
parasite	an organism that derives benefit from its relation with a host organism, which is either unaffected or suffers detriment. (Riley and Mohr, 1994)
patch (habitat patch)	is a distinct, separately mapped block of one type of natural cover. That is, a block of forest and an abutting block of wetland are two separate patches.
physiographic regions	regions delineated based on differences in physical geography, for example, the Oak Ridges Moraine, Peel Clay Plain and Iroquois Sand Plain.

plan review	the review of development applications and official plans as part of the municipal planning process.
planning act	the Planning Act sets out the ground rules for land-use planning in Ontario. It describes how different land-uses can be controlled and who can control them. The MMAH issues Policy Statements under the Planning Act that are designed to promote sustainable economies while ensuring healthy environments through policy direction.
population	a population is composed of the individual plants or animals of a single species present in a location. (Forman, 1995)
PPS	Provincial Policy Statement, 2005
provincial policy statement	provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The policies are complemented by locally-generated policies regarding matters of local interest. The Policy Statement is issued under the authority of Section 3 of the Planning Act. (Province of Ontario, 1997). The Provincial Policy Statement includes policies that: -protect natural heritage, and encourage natural heritage restoration and the development of natural heritage systems, -direct development away from lands subject to flooding and erosion (hazardous lands).
provincially significant wetlands	a wetland is considered provincially significant after being evaluated according to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System. It must receive a total score of 600 or greater in the wetland evaluation score, or 200 points or more in the biological or special features components.
quality	in this Strategy, the term "quality" always refers to patch quality based on its size, shape and matrix influence as determined from aerial photography and mapping rather than on its composition and health as would be determined through field investigation. System quality refers to the sum of all patches in the system.
quantity	the quantity of natural cover in the landscape, determined through aerial photography.
regeneration	the renewal of woody species by natural or artificial means. (Lee et al, 1998)
restoration/restore	to repair or re-establish functioning ecosystems; the process of altering a site to establish a defined, native, historic ecosystem; the goal is to emulate the structure, function, diversity and dynamics of a specified ecosystem. (Society of Ecological Restoration) Passive restoration is to allow lands to recover on their own; active restoration is to engage in plantings, species reintroductions, habitat structures, excavation or mound creation in order to actively assist in the recovery.
rehabilitation	to restore the ecosystem to a higher functioning condition. (OMNR, 1999)
riparian (cover, habitat)	the area associated with the bank of a river or lake or tidewater. Riparian vegetation provides habitat, food and shelter, assists in stabilizing soils, and contributes to both the adjacent aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The desired width of riparian cover (or its extant from the bank outward) may vary depending on the relationship of the surrounding lands to the river and on the desired functions. riparian vegetation communities found in the area of transition between the river ecosystem and the terrestrial ecosystem. This area is located immediately landward of watercourses and is characterized by soils that exhibit signs of regular saturation and vegetation tolerant of periodic inundation.

secondary plan	a secondary plan, sometimes called a block plan, is a more detailed land use and development plan for an area within a municipality. It forms part of the local official plan, and compliments the official plan's broad policies for the whole municipality.
self-sustaining vegetative cover	vegetation dominated by plants that can grow and persist without direct human management, protection, or tending. (ORMCP, 2002)
shape (of habitat patch)	shape of habitat patches in the natural system; based on a perimeter-to-area calculation (e.g. the lower the perimeter-to-area ratio, the better the shape of a patch).
site	in a landscape ecology context, references to the site-level are based on lands on which a localized biological study is conducted and can vary from less than 1 hectare to more than 500 hectares (for example, multiple concession blocks). in a planning context, the existing or proposed entire lot or group of abutting lots that include or consist of the lands subject to a development application. the land subject to an application. (ORMCP, 2002)
site alteration	means activities, such as fill, grading and excavation that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site. (Province of Ontario, 2005)
size (of habitat patch)	size of habitat patches in the natural system; measured as area (in hectares) occupied by a patch.
Southern Ontario wetland evaluation system	an evaluation system that aims to identify the value or importance of a wetland based on a scoring system that has four principle components - biological, social, hydrological, and special features. Each component is worth 250 points for a maximum of 1,000 points. (OMNR, 2002)
species dispersal	the phenomenon of plant or animal species or individuals moving relocating in the landscape. These relatively short travels are different from long distance migration. Plants generally disperse by seed carried by wind or animals. Animals (invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) disperse either as dispersing young or as adults relocating. Endel (1977) describes this as movements of only a short distance made by individuals away from a natal site. These movements are continual rather than periodic and can occur within or between generations.
species of (conservation) concern	according to the TRCA methodology, any species with a local rank of L1 to L3, and those L4 species found within the Built-up Area. Generally species that are disappearing in the regional landscape, primarily as a result of land use changes. Species of Concern records can also be used as indicators – a surrogate measure - of ecosystem function. Improvements in their distribution may indicate an improving trend in ecosystem or regional health.
stepping stone	an ecologically suitable patch where an object or individual such as an animal temporarily stops while moving along a heterogeneous route. (Forman, 1995)
stormwater management facilities	wet or dry pond used to treat urban runoff
stream morphology	the study of the dynamics of changes in the shape or geometry of watercourses
stream order	the number assigned to a particular stretch in a dendritic river system and determined by the numbers for upstream tributaries. For example, two 3rd-order streams coalesce to form a 4th-order stream. (Forman, 1995)
sub-basins	synonymous with sub-watershed or sub-catchment, usually refers to a small drainage basin in which all surface water drains to a single branch of the stream.

sub-national or provincial rank (Srank)	a rank assigned to a species by The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Data Centres to define the status of a species or vegetation community by state or province.
succession	the progression within a community whereby one plant species is replaced by another over time, e.g. meadow eventually reverting to forest.
successional habitat	a vegetation community that is in transition, part-way in the "succession" of becoming a climax community such as a mature or old growth forest. "Successional community" often means old field or thicket (shrub) vegetation. Soils generally have a less developed duff layer than the soils of climax forests.
surface water budget	an analysis to quantitatively measure the contribution of all components of the hydrologic system, including precipitation, runoff and evapotranspiration, and to understand the pathways that water takes through a watershed.
surficial geology	the study of material overlying bed rock.
tableland	a relatively flat upland area outside of valley land.
terrestrial	pertaining to land as opposed to water in relation to habitat and species. For the TRCA this includes wetlands.
terrestrial natural heritage	natural heritage associated with land environments, as opposed to aquatic natural heritage which is associated with water environments. In the Toronto Region, terrestrial natural heritage consists mainly of forests, wetlands and meadows (old fields), but also includes prairies, savannahs, beaches, dunes, and bluffs.
terrestrial natural heritage system	consists of existing natural cover and potential natural cover. The boundaries of these two components are as shown on Map 5.
Toronto region	is the TRCA's area of jurisdiction. It includes all of the City of Toronto, all or almost all of Pickering, Ajax, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan, and parts of nine other GTA, Simcoe County, and Dufferin County municipalities. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) consists of the City of Toronto and the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Peel, York, and Durham.
transportation, infrastructure, and utilities	these consist of: provincial highways and municipal roads, except for local roads not subject to Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements; transit lines, railways, and related facilities; gas and oil pipelines, power transmission lines, and telecommunications lines and facilities including broadcasting towers; sewage and water service systems and lines, except for local lines not subject to Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements; and bridges, interchages, stations, and other structures, above and below ground, as well as rights-of-way associated with these facilities.
valley and stream corridor	valley and stream corridors are the natural resources associated with river systems characterized by their landform, features, and functions. (MTRCA, 1994)
Valley and Stream Corridor Management Plan (VSCMP)	the TRCA's Valley and Stream Corridor Management Program outlines policies that seek to retain watercourses and valley and stream corridors as open, natural landforms, from the headwaters to the river estuary marshes. These policies guide Development Services staff when commenting on land use planning policy documents and development applications (TRCA, 1994)
vegetation community (vegetation type)	an abstract vegetation classification unit based on the species present in a site. The most detailed level in the Southern Ontario ELC. (Lee et al., 1998)

vegetation community of (conservation) concern	according to the TRCA methodology, any vegetation community with a local rank of L1 to L3, and those L4 communities found within the Built-up Area. Generally communities which are disappearing in the regional landscape, primarily as a result of land use changes. Vegetation Communities of Concern records can also be used as indicators – a surrogate measure - of ecosystem function. Improvements in their distribution may indicate an improving trend in ecosystem or regional health.
watershed	a watershed includes all of the lands draining into a river system and, in the Greater Toronto region, ultimately into Lake Ontario. (TRCA website www.trca.on.ca) an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Homes, farms, cottages, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross municipal, provincial and even international borders. They come in all shapes and sizes and can vary from millions of acres, like the land that drains into the Great Lakes, to a few acres that drain into a pond. (Conservation Ontario, 2005)
watershed planning	the setting of priorities and actions for management at the watershed scale. Planning is assisted by the characterization and evaluation of existing environmental condition and by the prediction of outcomes of current planning practices in the long-term.
wetland	lands that are seasonally or permanently flooded by shallow water as well as lands where the water table is close to the surface; in either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs, and fens. (OMNR, 2002)