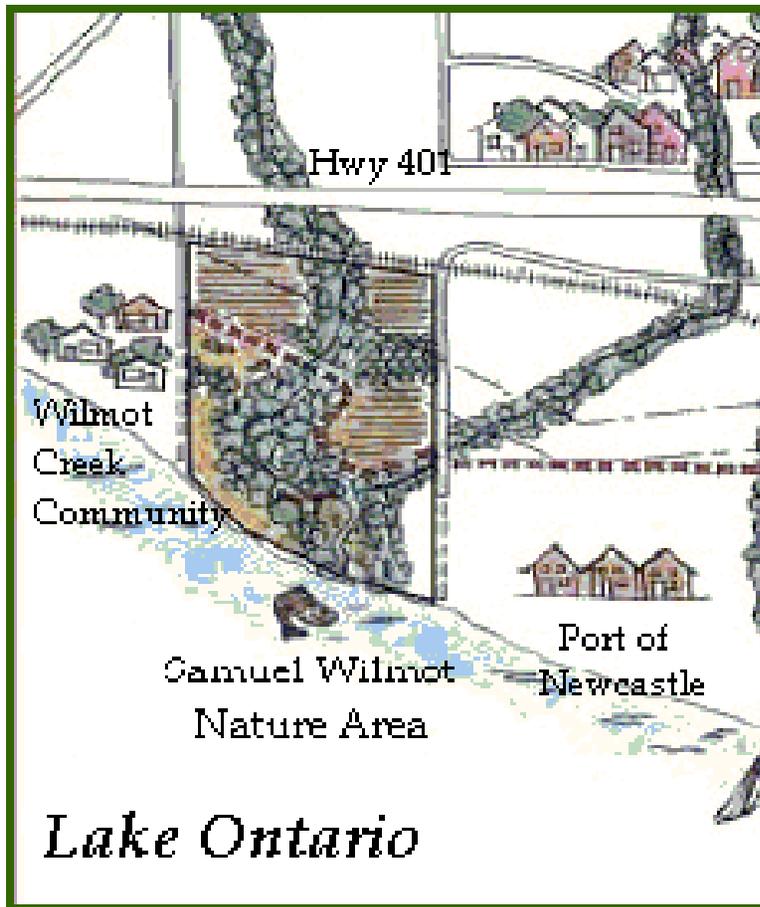




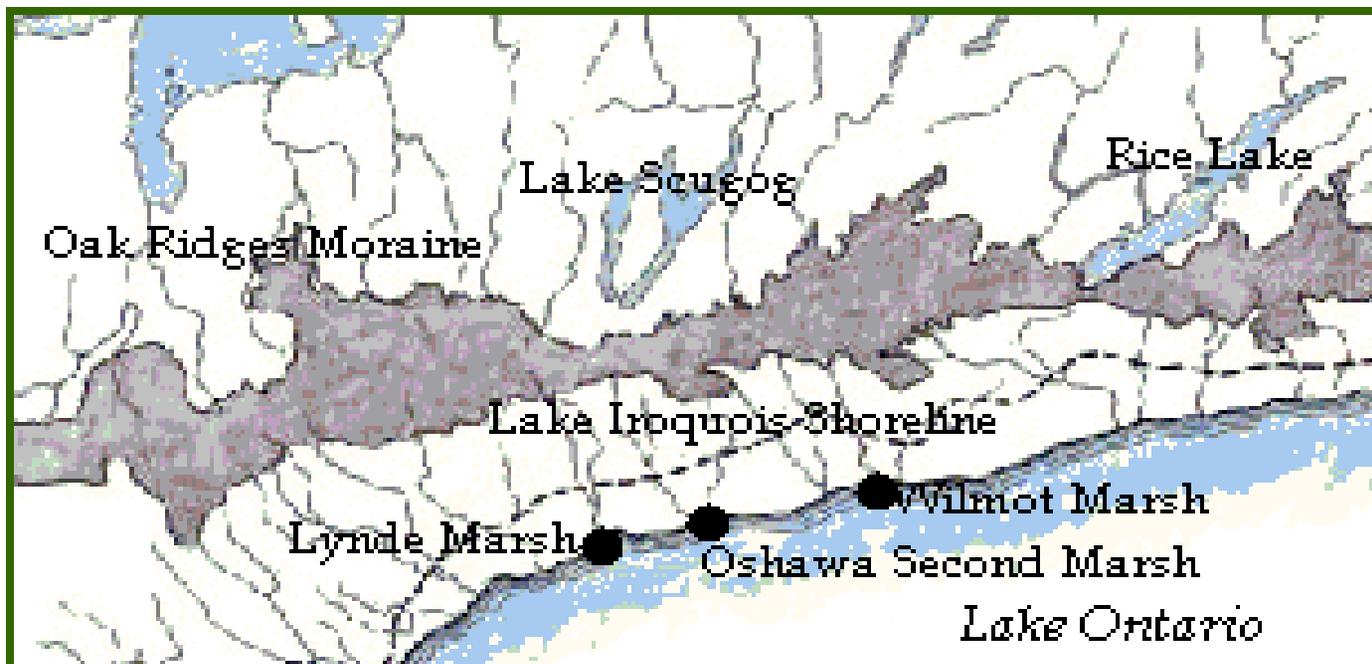
Inception of the Nature Area



- 77 hectares of land
- located between the CN Railway and Lake Ontario, Toronto St. to the east and Cobbledick Rd. to the west.
- Municipality began process of achieving the Nature Area in 1995, in collaboration with other landowners

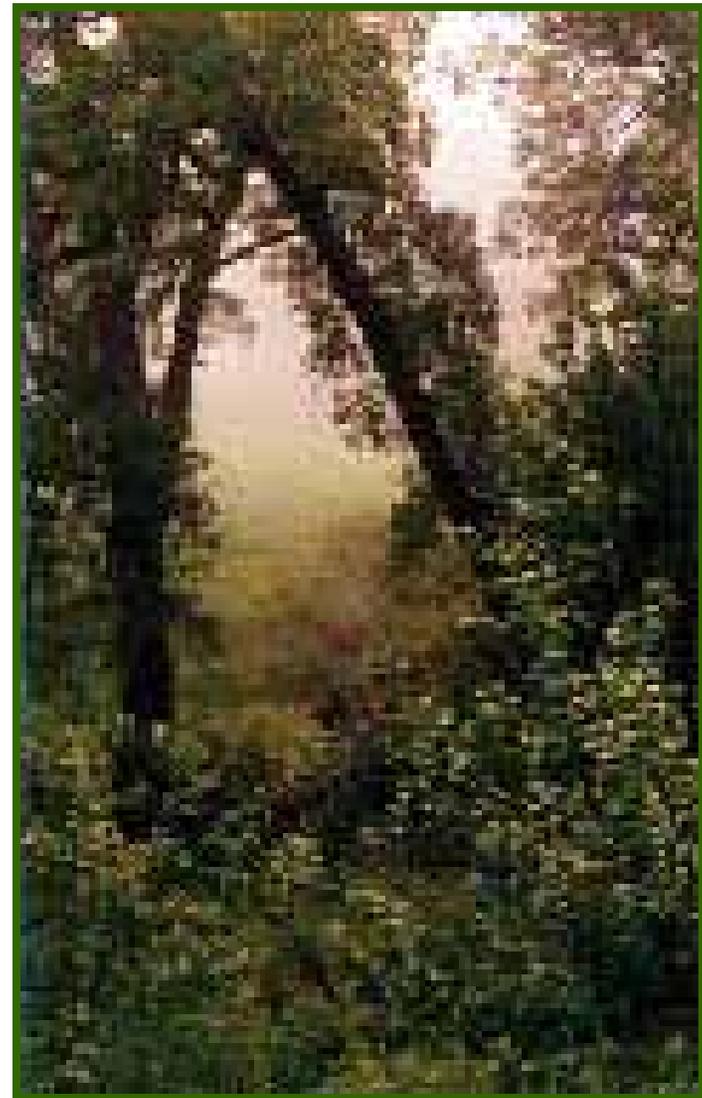
Origins

- Creek arises from Oak Ridges Moraine
- Watershed dissected by shoreline of Lake Iroquois
- Lake left irregular topography, course soils & poor drainage
- Once settled, forests were cleared
- Only most inaccessible portions were left uncleared
- These now function as wildlife pathways



The Wilmot Creek Story

- Lands have remained intact over the past century
- Human history layered with evolution provides an understanding of the heritage of Ontario



Native Prehistory

- Nature Area lands typical of native travel ways and fishing grounds
- Prehistoric archaeological site, east of marsh, south of Water Pollution Control Plant
- Artifacts confirm native occupancy



Area Settlement

- Land for farming attracted families from York in late 1700's
- Baldwin family occupied land on Lake Ontario
- Mid-1800's, opening of Grand Trunk Railroad motivated growth and development in Newcastle
- Creek became known as Wilmot Creek, in honour of Samuel Wilmot



Newcastle Fish Hatchery

- Experiments by Samuel Wilmot in 1866
- 1868, Federal Government opens Ontario's first fish hatchery
- Built to restore declining salmon population
- Maximum production in 1876 – 1,500,000 eggs hatched
- Operation ceased in 1914



Significance of the Nature Area

- Wide range of landscape types
 - Visual interest
 - Habitat for a wide range of birds and wildlife



- Recreation
 - Fishing
 - Bird watching
 - Walking



- Education
 - Signage
 - Developing programs



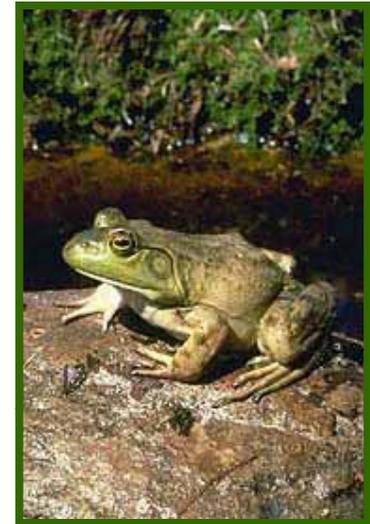
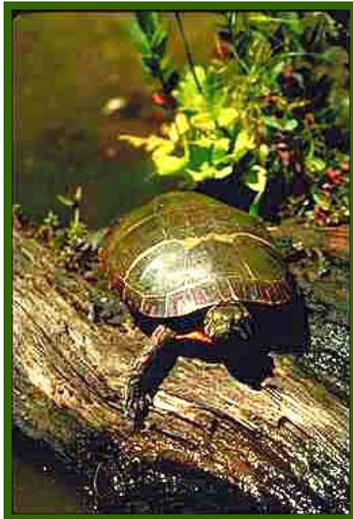
Significant Features

- Identified as a provincially significant wetland
- Used as a corridor to connect migrant fish to their spawning location
- Great sport fishing
- Breeding and nesting habitat; staging area for migratory birds



Wildlife Habitat

- Habitats include – wooded creek valley and upland, old field communities, and the marsh
- Supports wide range of species, including some of conservation concern
- Provides foraging and staging areas for migrant birds, bats, butterflies, hawks, and owls



Vegetation



- Vegetation communities are varied and typical of Southern Ontario
- Creek valleys – forest
- Lowlands – variety of trees
- Wetlands – cattail marsh
- Barrier beach – grasses
- Tablelands – former agricultural fields

Nature Area Concept Plan

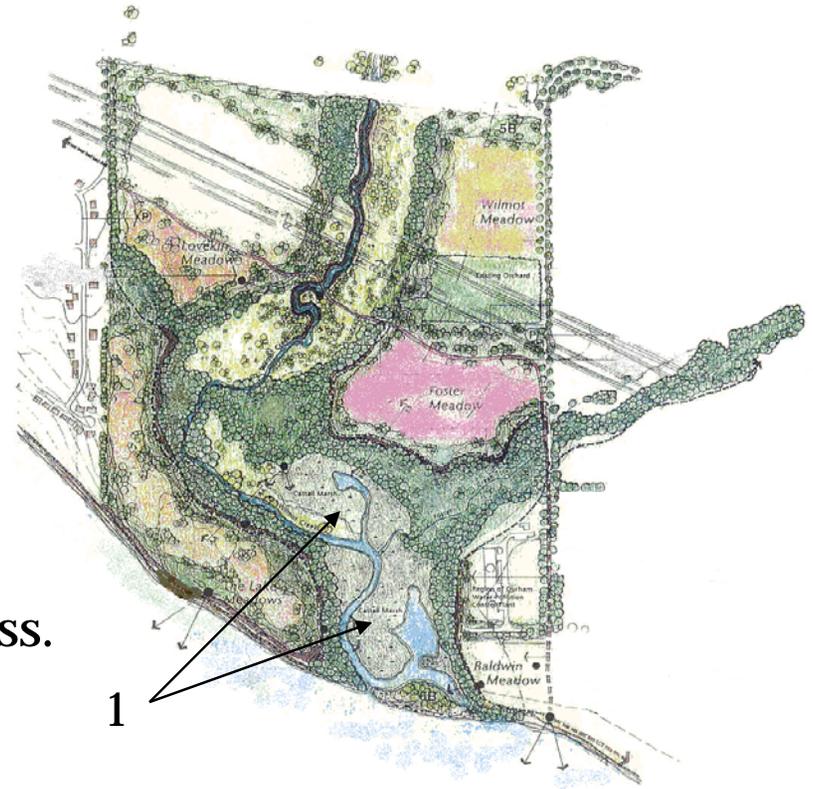
Built on the principle of:

- Protecting ecological integrity
- Providing nature-oriented recreation
- Maintaining site's natural resources

Made up of a series of zones based on site's natural environmental areas.

Zone 1 – Wetland

Wetland edges and floating cattail pads in marsh are being damaged and degraded due to uncontrolled access.

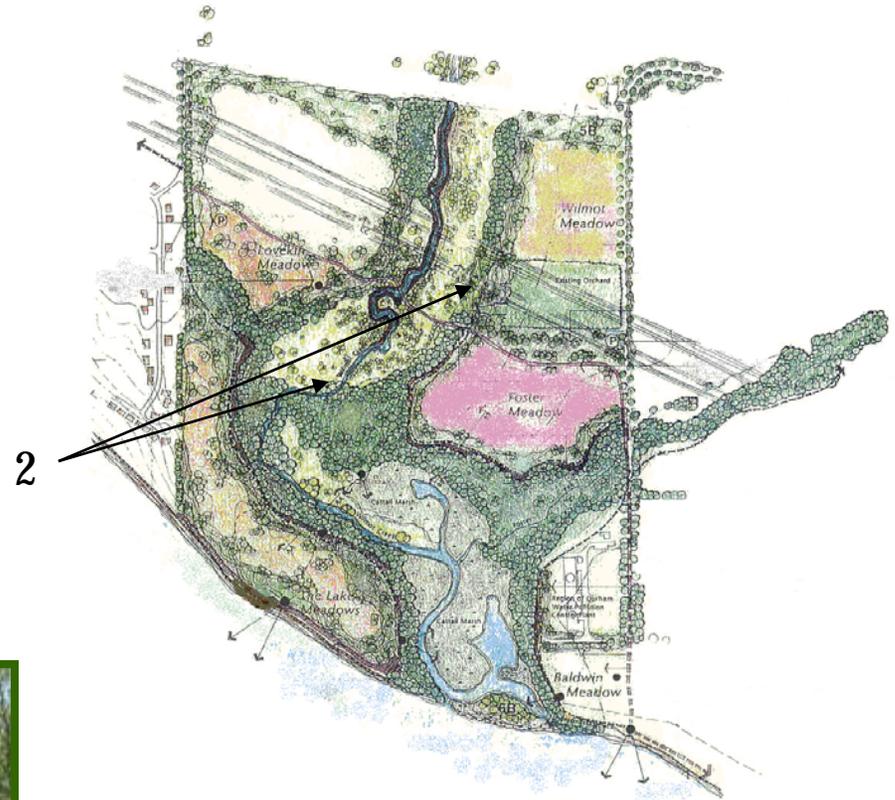


Recommendations:

- Clearly defined trail through less sensitive areas
- Seasonal restrictions

Zone 2 - Valley & Stream

Creek bank erosion caused by trampling and loss of vegetation.

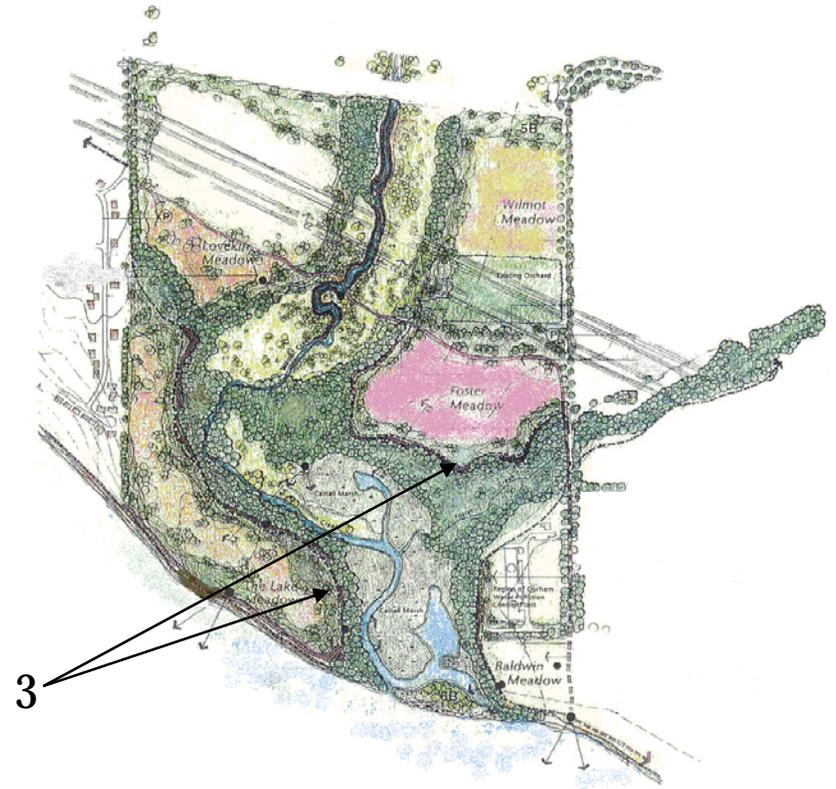


Recommendations:

- Streamside revegetation
- Managed walking trail
- Watershed stewardship

Zone 3 – Buffers/Barriers

Random access down valley slopes;
human intrusion in sensitive marsh
habitat.

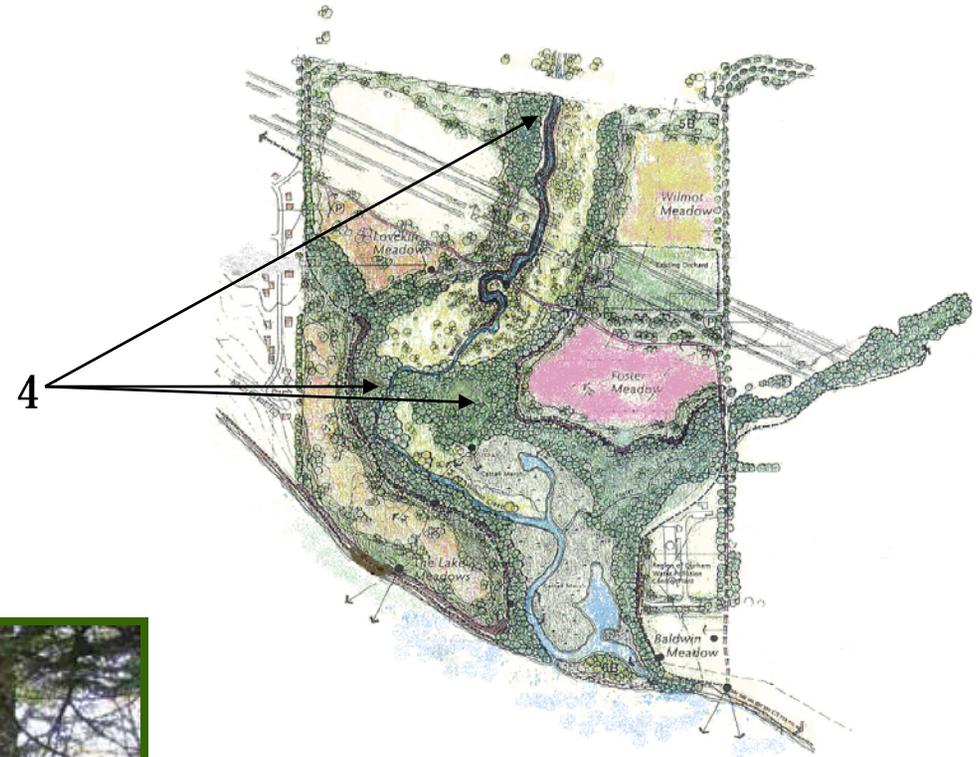


Recommendation:

- Perimeter barrier planting of thorny unfriendly species

Zone 4 – Upland Forest

Understorey is being trampled
from random use.

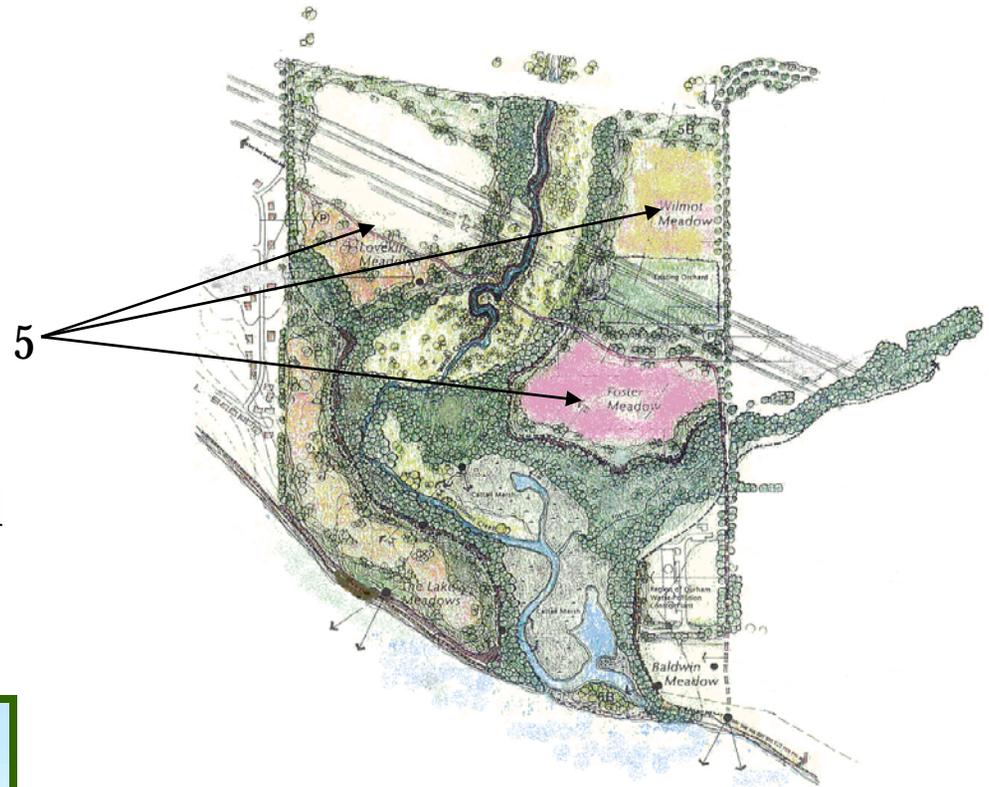


Recommendation:

- Soft surface walking trail system

Zone 5 – Tablelands

Remnant agricultural fields are regenerating into grassland and old field communities.

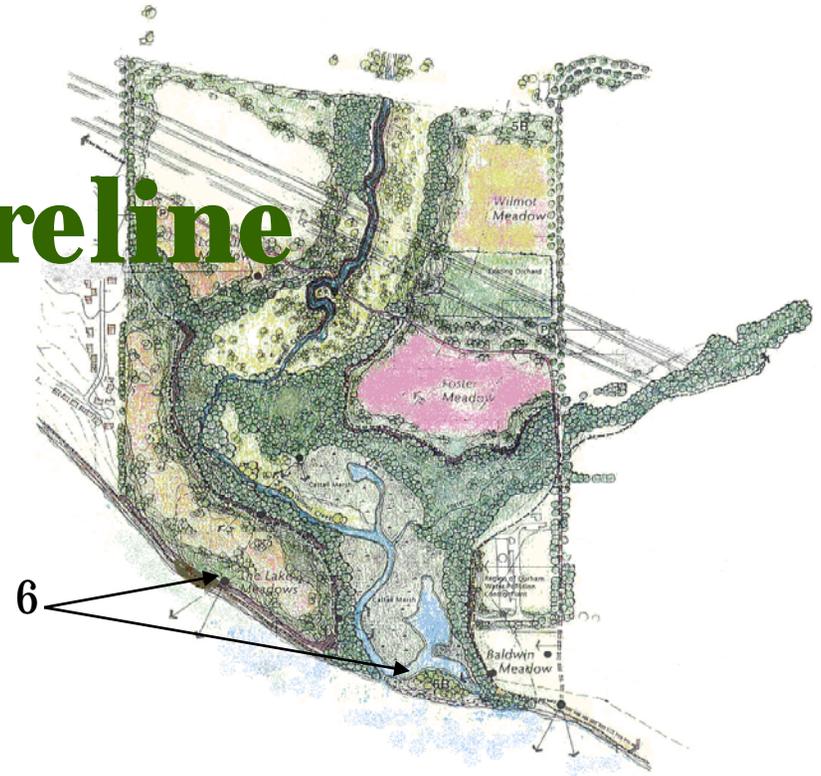


Recommendations:

- Wildflower meadows to attract butterflies and songbirds
- Reforestation and natural regeneration
- Protection and enhancement of old orchard, roadside trees and hedgerows.

Zone 6 – Lake Ontario Shoreline

Cobble barrier beach can withstand pedestrian activity, but reshapes in response to lake conditions.



Recommendation:

- Erosion must be a consideration in any trail or planting project

Building the Vision

Goals and Objectives

- Promote Regional ecosystem objectives
- Protect and enhance the ecological integrity of the existing natural areas
- Provide opportunities for public use of the site
- Establish a management framework
- Promote public stewardship

Getting Involved

Realization of concept plan requires
time and resources

We need community support and involvement



Here's how you can help ...

Volunteer Your Time...

- Planting trees
- Building trails
- Fundraising



Pick A Project...

- Adopt-a-Trail
- Sponsor the newsletter
- Fund a special event



Spread The Word...

- Invite friends to special events
- Promote environmentally-friendly behavior
- Encourage responsible use of the Nature Area



What We Have Done



Lake Meadow Trail,
Waterfront Trail & East Side Trail

North & South Lookouts

What We Have Done

Wildlife Habitats



Newcastle Lions
Memorial Forest



What We Have Done

Gazebo &
Viewfinder



Kiosk



Future Project

Elevated Boardwalk



Experience the marsh
from a birds eye view

