

Chapter 7: Implementation

Table 1:Oxford Natural Heritage Study Implementation Schedule	Time Line	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	ONGOING
<b>Recommendation 1: Incentives</b>							
1a. It is recommended that the County expand the current Clean Water Project (CWP) to add categories that target terrestrial and aquatic natural heritage protection and enhancement. The main additions to the program will need to be targeted to terrestrial natural heritage protection (e.g. woodlot management, expanded native species plantings). The results of the ONHS can be used by the CWP Committee to adapt the project to get the best environmental value for the dollars available.							
1b. It is recommended that opportunities for additional government and non-government funding support of the Clean Water Project continue to be pursued.							
1c. It is recommended that the County continue to endorse other incentive programs provided by other agencies as a means of protecting and enhancing the natural heritage resources of Oxford County.							
1d. It is recommended that the County investigate options for providing tax relief to the owners of designated patches.							
1e. It is recommended that the County contribution to the Clean Water Project (CWP) be increased from \$70,000 per annum to \$200,000 to support the expanded eligible categories (see Recommendation 1b).							
<b>Recommendation 2: Ongoing Support</b>							
2a. It is recommended that the County establish a Natural Heritage Advisory Committee that would report to County Council and oversee the ongoing implementation of the ONHS.		 * The implementation of the other recommendations relies on the early implementation of this recommendation.					
2b. It is recommended the County hire a permanent staff person to take the lead on natural heritage planning and implementation activities. This person would support the Natural Heritage Advisory Committee, coordinate other County efforts on natural heritage planning and implementation and assist the local municipalities with their natural heritage activities.		 * The implementation of the other recommendations relies on the early implementation of this recommendation.					
<b>Recommendation 3: Education Communicators</b>							
3a. It is recommended that the County of Oxford develop a communications strategy on natural heritage that builds on, and links to, existing communications programs targeted to landowners.							
3b. It is recommended that part of the communications strategy entail presentations to Oxford's local municipalities to raise awareness at this level.							
3c. It is recommended that the County work with other agencies involved in communications regarding natural heritage issues.							
<b>Recommendation 4: Recognition of Landowners</b>							
4a. It is recommended that the County support the development of a recognition program for landowners who own and have conserved significant natural heritage areas.							
<b>Recommendation 5: Regulation Measures</b>							
5a. It is recommended that the County of Oxford proceed to designate significant natural heritage areas (i.e. sites that meet one or more ONHS terrestrial criteria).							
5b. It is recommended that the County directly advise affected landowners of the designation and provide an explanation of why their land is significant, outline permitted uses, identify incentives that are available and provide information on beneficial management practices that can be undertaken to further enhance natural features. This is part of the communications strategy that is referenced in recommendation 3a. and this needs to be provided prior to the Official Plan Amendment public meetings.							
5c. It is recommended that the policy for the natural heritage designation in the County Official Plan explicitly permit uses such as							

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sustainable tree harvesting, maple syrup production, recreational trails, hunting, fishing and trapping.								
5d.	It is recommended that designated properties receive first priority for incentives and tax relief . Cross reference recommendation 1e.		█					
5e.	It is recommended that official plan policy be developed to protect and enhance natural heritage features, such as existing watercourses, as urbanization occurs.		█					
<b>Recommendation 6: Public Ownership</b>								
6a.	It is recommended that opportunities for public ownership of significant natural heritage continue to be supported by the County of Oxford.		█					➔
6b.	It is recommended that the County develop master plans for the County Forests and that as part of the process, the County determine its role in the protection of natural heritage as a landowner.			█				
<b>Recommendation 7: Urban Natural Heritage</b>								
7a.	It is recommended that the local municipalities complete inventories of the remaining natural heritage areas within their urban growth centres.		█					
7b.	It is recommended that the local municipalities develop management strategies for the overall identification, ownership and management of significant and non-significant (locally important) natural heritage areas within their urban growth centres.		█					
7c.	It is recommended that local municipalities, at a minimum, have generic master plans for the ongoing management of publicly owned natural heritage areas, particularly in urban growth areas and that specific master plans be developed for each site as resources permit.		█					
<b>Recommendation 8: Woodland Conservation By-law</b>								
8a.	It is recommended that the County review its Woodland Conservation Bylaw within five years.						█	
<b>Recommendation 9: Monitoring</b>								
9a.	It is recommended that the County of Oxford lobby the provincial government to continue to support the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network programs.		█					
9b.	It is recommended that the County of Oxford request that the Conservation Authorities identify their specific monitoring services as a budget item and that the County continue to support the monitoring programs of the Conservation Authorities.		█					➔
9c.	It is recommended that the County of Oxford work with the Conservation Authorities to enhance the existing monitoring programs by adding new sites as appropriate and improving consistency of monitoring techniques between the Conservation Authorities.		█					➔
9d.	It is recommended that the Conservation Authorities provide a coordinated comprehensive report on monitoring for the County area on a regular basis.						█	
<b>Recommendation 10: Tourism</b>								
10a.	It is recommended that the County explore tourism opportunities related to natural heritage such as hunting and fishing outfitting, examining models from other parts of North America.		█					➔