

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Program and Service Areas

Listed TRCA Program and Service Areas include both mandatory and municipally-requested programs and services. Municipally-requested services can include mandatory services where the municipality would like an enhanced level of service.

Watershed Studies and Strategies

- Watershed Planning and Reporting
- Climate Science

Water Risk Management

- Water Resource Science
- Flood Management
- Erosion Management

Regional Biodiversity

- Ecosystem Management Research and Directions
- Biodiversity Monitoring
- Restoration and Regeneration
- Forest Management

Greenspace Securement and Management

- Greenspace Securement
- Greenspace Management

Tourism and Recreation

- Waterfront Parks
- Conservation Parks
- Trails
- Events and Festivals

Planning and Development Review

- Policy Development and Review
- Development Planning and Regulation Permitting
- Environmental Assessment Planning and Permitting

Education and Outreach

- School Programs
- Family and Community Programs
- Newcomer Services

Sustainable Communities

- Community Engagement
- Living City Transition Program

Service Area 1 – Watershed Studies and Strategies

1.1 Watershed Planning and Reporting

TRCA conducts watershed and waterfront planning in collaboration with partner municipalities to develop comprehensive strategies that enable TRCA to fulfil its responsibilities for natural hazard and natural resource management under the Conservation Authorities Act and to support partner municipalities in undertaking land use planning, by assessing risks, developing strategies, and identifying implementation priorities at a cumulative and comprehensive scale.

1.2 Climate Science

Climate Science responds to information needs and knowledge gaps identified by partner municipalities, other government agencies, and external stakeholders by undertaking projects and programs that increase the resilience of TRCA watersheds, natural systems, and partner communities to extreme weather and a changing climate. The scope of the work includes obtaining the best knowledge of current and future patterns of weather and climate, understanding potential impacts, emerging policies, innovative practice, and developing programs to respond and adapt.

Service Area 2 – Water Risk Management

2.1 Water Resource Science

Water Resource Science is focused on the engineering and science of water resource management. Technical services provide an understanding of the current state of the watershed, inform growth management strategies for new communities, support the work of flood management, and promote the implementation of green infrastructure. TRCA maintains research, monitoring, and data analysis capabilities to meet internal and municipal partner data requirements.

2.2 Flood Management

TRCA provides municipalities and citizens with comprehensive flood risk identification, warning, and mitigation services. The Flood Management program is responsible for producing long term plans to minimize the loss of life and property due to flooding. Management of flood risk is achieved through operation of a Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre; implementation of flood remediation projects; maintaining and operating flood control infrastructure; operation of specialized gauging networks; and data management.

2.3 Erosion Management

Erosion Management protects life and property against the hazards of erosion and slope instability. TRCA offers comprehensive and integrated erosion identification, assessment and remediation services to TRCA owned assets and municipal and provincial partners and private property owners.

Service Area 3 – Regional Biodiversity

3.1 Ecosystem Management Research and Directions

Ecosystem management research and directions delivers initiatives to develop, communicate and regularly update jurisdiction-wide ecosystem management strategies, while responding to information needs and knowledge gaps identified internally or by partner municipalities.

3.2 Biodiversity Monitoring

Biodiversity Monitoring assesses catalogues and reports on the condition and trends of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity throughout TRCA jurisdiction. These data contribute to the understanding and conservation of flora and fauna species and communities, the success of restoration and management activities, as well as the understanding of invasive species prevalence and trends. Data analysis further serves to guide and support TRCA and partner municipality activities. As part of an integrated service delivery model, Biodiversity Monitoring enables TRCA to accelerate the adaptive management cycle and to address emerging opportunities and concerns more quickly, comprehensively, and cost effectively.

3.3 Restoration and Regeneration

Restoration and Regeneration programs and services restore physical habitat and improve ecosystem

health and habitat function, and involves comprehensive and integrated environmental restoration services for TRCA owned assets, public sector partners and private clients.

3.4 Forest Management

TRCA provides comprehensive and integrated forest management, reforestation and restoration services to municipal and regional partners and private property landowners. Forest Management operates its own nursery and locally collected seed is used to grow highly desirable hardy native plant materials well adapted to local conditions.

Service Area 4 – Greenspace Securement and Management

4.1 Greenspace Securement

TRCA brings lands into public ownership or otherwise secures the assurance of their protection through private landowner agreements. Greenspace securement protects human life and property by securing lands subject to erosion or flooding hazards, protects the form and function of natural heritage lands by bringing them into public ownership and management, and increases local and regional recreational health benefits by allowing for public use and programming.

4.2 Greenspace Management

TRCA undertakes comprehensive land asset management services on TRCA managed greenspace to reduce risk to human and assets from natural or human hazards, eliminate encroachments, and, where appropriate, provide opportunities for safe and enjoyable recreation experiences to residents and visitors. Projects under the program include monitoring and management of TRCA properties to ensure that their natural and cultural heritage values are protected in perpetuity while providing a safe visitor experience for the public.

Service Area 5 – Tourism and Recreation

5.1 Conservation Parks

TRCA manages ten conservation parks across nine watersheds that provide nature-based recreation within our communities.

5.2 Waterfront Parks

As a significant waterfront landholder with jurisdictional authority over a portion of the Lake Ontario shoreline TRCA provides waterfront park development services to its municipal partners.

5.3 Trails

The TRCA trails program includes site specific planning, development and trail management activities that support complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment by providing nature-based recreation experiences for a growing population while protecting and restoring the form and function of existing ecological systems.

5.4 Events and Festivals

Events and festivals promote community involvement and recreation while generating diversified revenue that supports TRCA's financial sustainability. TRCA offers a variety of unique indoor and outdoor accessible community event spaces for a variety of public events and festivals. With expertise delivering festival and event programming, TRCA can host and promote large-scale events in a manner that maximizes revenue, engagement, enjoyment, learning, and customer satisfaction.

Service Area 6 – Planning and Development Review

6.1 Policy Development and Review

Review of federal, provincial and municipal legislation and incorporates the science and mapping of the integrated watershed management perspective.

6.2 Development Planning and Regulation Permitting

Advice to approval authorities under the Planning Act as a service provider, provincially delegated reviewer for natural hazards, public commenting body, and resource management agency.

Administration of permit applications within TRCA's area of jurisdiction under the Conservation Authorities Act.

6.3 Environmental Assessment Planning and Permitting

TRCA undertakes environmental assessments on behalf of municipal and agency partners. In addition, the Environmental Assessment Planning and Permitting section provides advice to approval

authorities under the Environmental Assessment Act and associated legislation, and is provincially delegated reviewer for natural hazards.

Service Area 7 – Education and Outreach

7.1 School Programs

TRCA designs and delivers environmental education programs that complement provincial curriculum outcomes and objectives, including programs tailored for classroom, community, and TRCA field trip locations. School Programs include formal and non-formal environmental education programs provided to students from pre-kindergarten to university level.

7.2 Family and Community Programs

Programming at various TRCA lands and facilities involving scheduled activities, special events, attractions, and exhibits on matters related to environmental education and TRCA's mandate.

7.3 Newcomer Employment and Education

TRCA provides support services for new Canadians to settle socially, culturally, academically and economically into the Toronto region.

Service Area 8 – Sustainable Communities

8.1 Living City Transition

The Living City Transition program supports innovation and improvement in existing TRCA community sustainability projects and builds alignment for action on broader sustainability issues within the region. TRCA delivers sustainability and resilience development programs and services including the Climate Consortium, Partners in Project Green, Sustainable Technology Evaluation Program, Rural Clean Water programs.

8.2 Community Engagement

TRCA's community engagement program activities employ unique and innovative collaboration models to engage residents, government, private sector and NGO's with the objective of achieving healthy ecosystems, community well-being and regional sustainability.