



Chatham-Kent Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan

APRIL 11, 2011 | FINAL

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1.0

INTRODUCTION



Shorelines are special places. They have tremendous ecological, aesthetic, recreational, social and economic value. To many people, shorelines represent assets to their property; to others, they are unique public places that can offer special recreational, shopping, dining and social

experiences. But to all, shorelines are a limited resource that must be protected in the long term. The Chatham-Kent Shoreline Areas Sustainable Community Plan is a tremendous opportunity to ensure the long-term health of the Municipality's extensive shoreline areas.

1.1 What is Sustainability?

The development of this Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan considers sustainability as an approach to planning for the future development and management of the shoreline areas. A traditional and widely accepted definition of sustainability is “meeting the needs of people today without jeopardizing the flexibility of future generations to meet their needs” (World Commission on Environment and Development). However, traditional definitions are often difficult to implement ‘on the ground’. Being sustainable does not require fundamental lifestyle changes to something that is foreign to established community values. This Community Sustainability Plan reflects an approach specific to Chatham-Kent that is grounded in public consultation. Fundamentally, sustainability is about

improving the quality of human life and the natural environment, while fostering economic development and community health, and wisely using and managing non-renewable resources.

Environmental issues are an increasing public concern in the shoreline areas, including erosion, loss of natural heritage features and natural habitat that threatens the very features that draw people to the shorelines. There are several issues, on different scales that are driving sustainability. Some of these drivers include:

- climate change;
- increasing loss of significant natural heritage features;
- increased frequency and intensity of natural events;
- rising energy prices and the notion of peak oil;
- infrastructure deficits;
- shifting public focus towards environmental issues; and
- public health concerns.

Figure 1.1 | Sustainability Approach



This Community Sustainability Plan seeks to understand these matters and interpret them to develop an approach to sustainability in Chatham-Kent that will help to address these drivers.

As illustrated in [Figure 1.1](#), a sustainable approach to shoreline planning has been defined through community consultation and is reflective of community values – what is important to the community and what will be valued by future generations. The community values are generally reflected through the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan, the Official Plan, and through more specific community consultation undertaken through this Study. Through additional consultation with



the public and stakeholders, the assets and issues of the shoreline areas have become better understood and has resulted in a better concept of what sustainability means to Chatham-Kent in relation to the shoreline areas. A sustainable approach must consider the interconnected nature of the community, the environment, and the economy.

The sustainability approach for Chatham-Kent moves beyond typical definitions and implements solutions that have tangible impacts on shoreline sustainability. That is, the solutions will work to use resources in a manner that conserves and enhances the shoreline areas for future generations.

1.2 What is a Community Sustainability Plan?

As a growing movement among municipal governments throughout Canada, sustainability planning is increasingly being undertaken to improve overall environmental, economic, community and fiscal sustainability. Community Sustainability Plans in Ontario, where an Official Plan is in place, are not mandatory, however many municipalities have recognized the value of sustainability planning in the decision making process, and assisting them with advancing sustainability principles.

In Chatham-Kent, the Community Sustainability Plan integrates sustainability issues across municipal departments and services for the shoreline areas through the use of targeted programs. The Community Sustainability Plan addresses the following:

- The establishment of a shared vision of what sustainability means;
- An assessment of the current situation, using existing sources to identify areas of strength and concern;
- Sustainability goals to achieve the vision;
- Specific actions and programs to achieve the Municipality's sustainability goals and objectives; and
- An implementation plan that includes performance and evaluation criteria, scheduling and the allocation of Municipal resources. This also includes indicators to assess progress towards meeting the goals and targets.

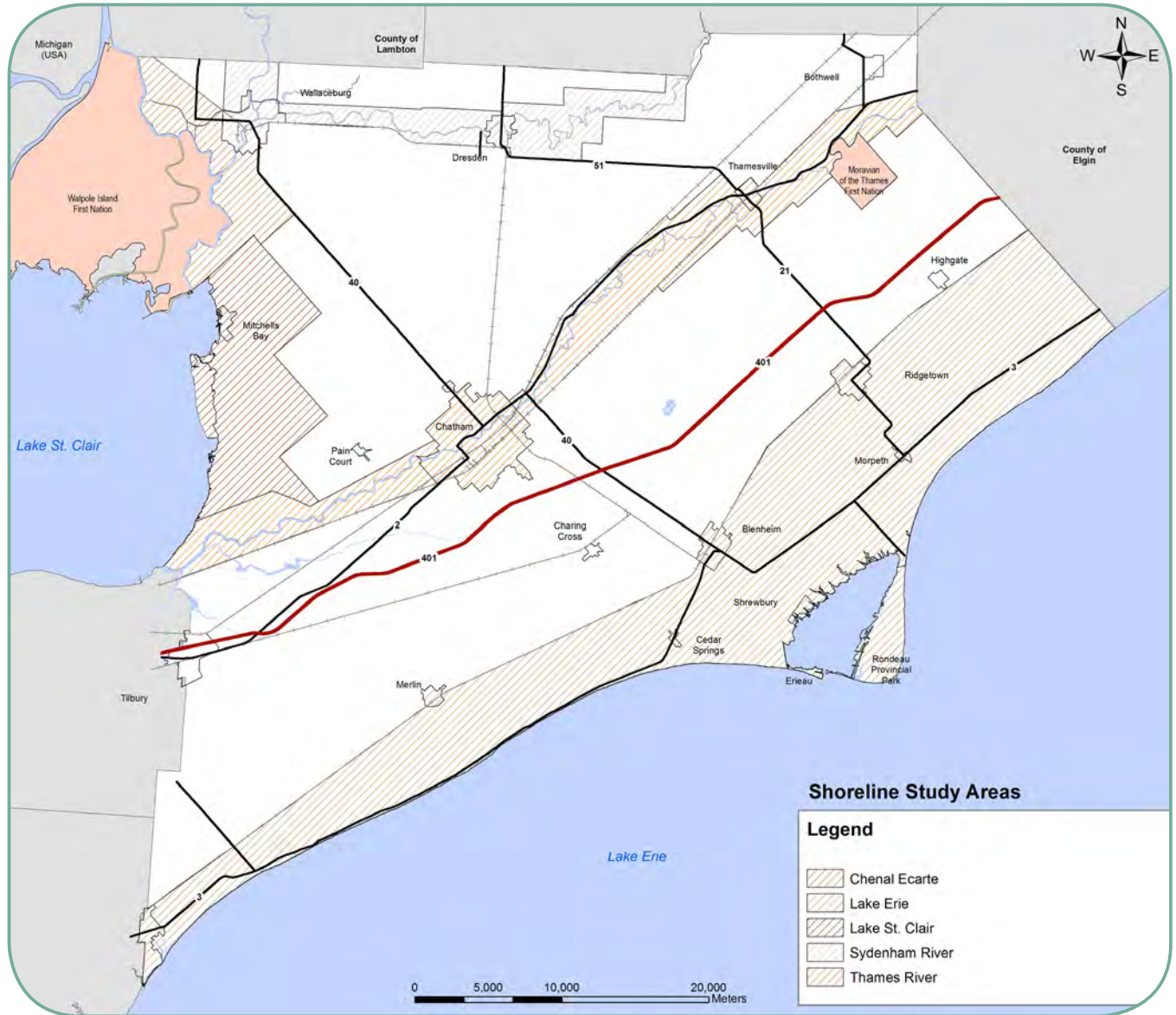
1.3 Shoreline Areas Profile

The study area for the Community Sustainability Plan is comprised of Chatham-Kent's shoreline areas. The shoreline areas encompass approximately 40% of the land in the Municipality, and the majority of residents and major settlement areas. The study area is located within proximity of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, the Thames River and the Sydenham River/Chenal Ecarté (the Syne) river system. These areas have been identified based on their relationship and proximity to the shorelines and the significant impact that the shorelines have on these communities. The Study Area is illustrated in [Figure 1.2](#).

The shoreline areas include over 130 km of shoreline on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, and over 170 km of the Thames River, Sydenham River and Syne Rivers. The study area for the Community Sustainability Plan generally encompasses settlements and urban areas that are impacted by the shorelines. These include: Chatham, Wallaceburg, Blenheim, Ridgetown, Dresden, Thamesville, Wheatley, Erieau, Erie Beach, Mitchell's Bay, Merlin, Shrewsbury, Cedar Springs and Morpeth. Although some of these settlements do not directly lie on the shorelines, they are recognized as part of the study area due to the significant relationship they have with the shoreline, relating to economic and recreational considerations. Finally, some of these communities are gateways to the shoreline areas, and service centres for shoreline communities (i.e., Blenheim and Ridgetown).

Although not included in the Study Area, there are First Nations communities which are located adjacent and/or have interests within the shoreline areas. The First Nations interests and comments received have been considered in the development of this Community Sustainability Plan.

Figure 1.2 | Shoreline Study Area



1.4 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Community Sustainability Plan is to implement goals and strategic actions relating to sustainability that have risen out of consultation with the community, the strategic directions of the Municipality's Community Strategic Plan and the numerous background studies which were conducted as a part of the preparation of the Official Plan. This Community Sustainability Plan is not a statutory document, however will be Council endorsed and will assist in achieving the following objectives:

- Defining community sustainability goals and values;
- Identifying community champions and establishing a framework for partnerships between the Municipality, agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders;
- Outlining and prioritizing specific actions which the Municipality and community champions can complete to address specific issues or complete other objectives which contribute to achieving the vision of this study;
- Identifying performance measures and targets to assist in evaluating and monitoring both the Community Sustainability Plan and the Municipality's general progress towards becoming a more sustainable community.

Additionally, the Community Sustainability Plan addresses sustainability issues present in Chatham-Kent, including the following:

- managing growth in an appropriate way;
- ensuring protection and conservation of important natural features;

- promoting responsible development/management on the shorelines to address erosion issues;
- encourage economic development in new sectors;
- implement green standards and initiatives;
- encourage active transportation;
- promote heritage restoration;
- recognize and protect cultural landscapes;
- provide a mechanism to access funding; and
- establish partnerships with other levels of government, agencies and stakeholders.

Finally, the Community Sustainability Plan identifies and recommends numerous strategies and planning policy directions for implementation that will assist in achieving the desired outcomes and vision of this Plan. These strategies recognize that the Community Sustainability Plan is not a statutory document and that implementation should be done in a manner that is mindful of the Municipality's financial resources. The Community Sustainability Plan prioritizes initiatives based on best practices and community goals and objectives. This Plan complements the desires of the community and balances a wide range of community, economic and environmental considerations while understanding the long-term implications of these decisions. While the proposed strategies are within the local community's and the Municipality's ability and authority to implement, the Community Sustainability Plan provides a framework for establishing partnerships with other stakeholders, leveraging financial assistance from other levels of government and agencies, and provides a tool to express public interest on matters beyond the Municipality's jurisdiction.

1.5 Basis of the Plan

Developing a comprehensive strategy for the shoreline areas requires consideration of numerous factors, as well as consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and members of the community.

Towards a Sustainable Shoreline Strategy: Framework Report

The report entitled “Towards a Sustainable Shoreline Strategy: Framework Report” (the Framework Report) is the foundation for the Community Sustainability Plan. All of the community input and background work undertaken in the development of this Plan is summarized in the Framework Report.

The vision of this Plan, outlined in Section 4.0, is community-based and has been refined through on-going public and stakeholder consultation. The vision was established during the initial phases of public consultation for the Shoreline Areas study, and has been adjusted and refined based on additional input.

It became clear that achieving the sustainability vision for the shoreline areas involved capitalizing on the unique opportunities and assets, and addressing a wide range of constraints and issues affecting the shoreline areas. The community identified a comprehensive list of issues, opportunities, constraints and assets, and offered a range of suggestions for addressing the issues and constraints or capitalizing on opportunities.

The basis of the actions, programs and tools outlined in Section 5.0 of this Plan is a best practices review of community sustainability plans prepared by Municipalities across Canada, as well as programs



identified by stakeholders and the public. The programs are directly linked to the vision statements, and are intended to address the issues, opportunities and constraints, which have been identified by the public, stakeholders and relevant background studies prepared by the Municipality.

The monitoring strategy for this Plan was developed to ensure that the Community Sustainability Plan is reviewed and updated in response to changing social, environmental and economic conditions.

Relationship to the Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan

The Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan was prepared in conjunction with the Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan. The Framework Report identified a series of actions, programs, tools and policy directions which would support the vision for the shoreline areas.

Accordingly, the outcome of the Framework Report was the preparation of both an amendment to the Official Plan (a Secondary Plan) and the Community Sustainability Plan.

The Secondary Plan is intended to specifically guide Council's decision-making in the shoreline areas related to land use planning matters. Decisions which have an impact on the shoreline areas will need to be in conformity with the policies of the Secondary Plan. The Community Sustainability Plan is a more action-oriented document, outlining specific programs and initiatives that the Municipality can take to help address specific issues or capitalize on opportunities. Together, the Secondary Plan and Community Sustainability Plan provide a more robust means of ensuring that the community's vision for the shoreline areas is achieved. The vision for the shoreline areas builds upon all six of the strategic directions identified in the Municipality's Community Strategic Plan, as discussed further in Section 4.0 of this Plan.

1.6 Benefits

There are a number of benefits that rise out of the preparation of the Community Sustainability Plan, including:

- **Coordinated Protection of Natural Features** – the Community Sustainability Plan addresses the protection of the shoreline areas through the identification of coordinated programs that will assist in protecting, and restoring the significant natural features. These programs will be used in order to address significant problems facing the natural features of the shorelines to ensure that they are protected for future generations.
- **Tool to Guide Municipal Decision Making** – the Community Sustainability Plan helps guide the decision making process, identify priorities, reduce costs, increase overall efficiency, and reduce the ecological footprint of municipal operators.
- **Coordination of On-going Initiatives** – The Community Sustainability Plan coordinates other on-going Municipal initiatives, assists in identifying priority actions and programs, and addresses any gaps in current Municipal initiatives.
- **Strong Understanding of Community Needs** – the Community Sustainability Plan was developed through public consultation, which assisted in understanding the goals of the community and translating these goals into recommended programs and actions.
- **Effective Policy Development** – the Community Sustainability Plan has a long-term focus and emphasizes the integration of sustainability dimensions. This will assist in integrating sustainability into all aspects of new policy development.
- **Creates a Foundation for Partnerships** – the Community Sustainability Plan has clear programs and actions that provide the foundation for partnerships with senior governments, agencies, institutions, community organizations and the private sector by mobilizing and combining resources to accomplish projects that will create multiple benefits for the community.



2.0

APPROACH



The process for preparing the Chatham-Kent Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan has included a high level of community and stakeholder involvement. The project has been driven by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Steering Committee, consisting of

representatives from the project's funding partners, Government ministries, agencies, businesses, First Nations and community organizations. The steps involved in the preparation of this Plan are illustrated in Figure 2.1.

The background review was intended to build an understanding of the study area: its structure, assets, issues, opportunities and constraints. A significant part of the study team's background review included a best practices review of Community Sustainability Plans prepared by other municipalities.

Visioning was a community-based effort. The public and community stakeholders were invited to refine and discuss their vision for the shoreline areas. A series of vision statements were developed and refined early in the process – and now form the basis and guiding framework for this Community Sustainability Plan.

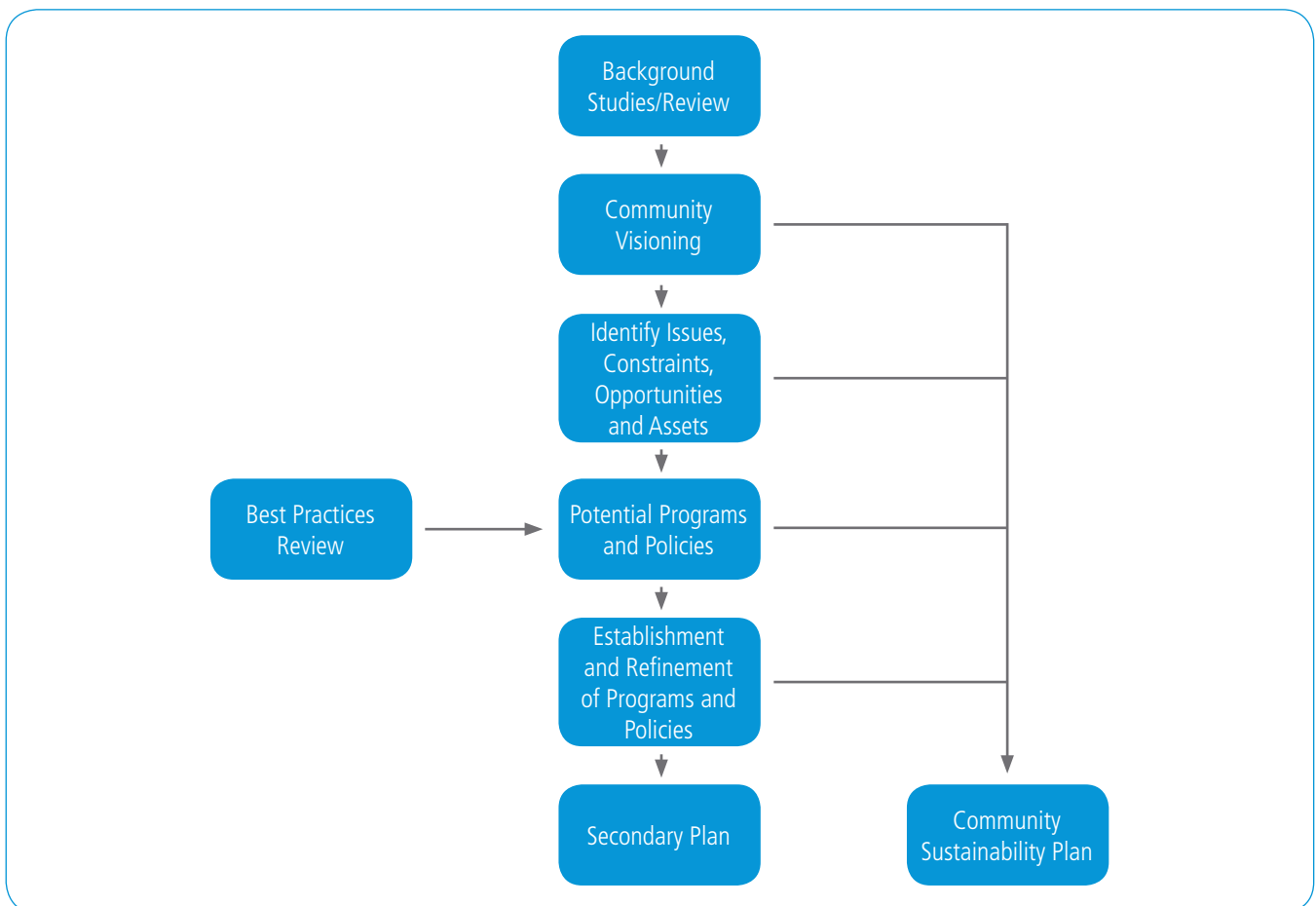
A comprehensive list of issues, constraints, opportunities and assets of the shoreline areas was developed primarily through on-going public and stakeholder consultation. Some of the issues, constraints, opportunities and threats were heard more than once, and many individuals offered their own ideas and solutions to address their concerns and achieve their vision for the shoreline areas.

Based on the background and sustainability best practices review, as well as suggestions by the community and stakeholders, the study team proposed a menu of potential actions, programs and projects to help address the issues, constraints and opportunities. Some residents and stakeholders offered clear support or refusal of the programs and projects, while others identified important considerations that the Municipality should review. The actions, programs and projects were refined through further consultation and review, and are contained within this Plan.

The Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan was developed concurrently with the Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan. The Secondary Plan, consisting of Official Plan policies and supportive mapping, works with this Community Sustainability Plan to form a more complete strategy for achieving the vision of the shoreline areas. The policies were developed to ensure that decision-making in the shoreline areas is consistent with the community's vision for these areas.



Figure 2.1 | Community Sustainability Plan Approach





3.0

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION



The Chatham-Kent Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan is based upon thorough public and stakeholder consultation.

The Municipality recognizes that the success of this Community Sustainability Plan is dependent upon public support and stakeholder leadership.

At the outset of the project a Steering Committee was formed to bring together a representative cross-section of various stakeholder groups and public organizations who may have an interest in the planning of the shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent, and who can offer valuable knowledge and technical expertise throughout the study.

Representatives from the following organizations and sectors were invited to participate as part of the Steering Committee, and have been actively involved throughout the Study:

- The Conservation Authorities having jurisdiction within Chatham-Kent, including the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority;
- Provincial Ministries, including the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- Various Municipal departments, including Planning, Economic Development, Engineering, Public Works, Recreation and Community Services;
- Businesses owners and community leaders, who can speak to challenges and issues regarding heritage conservation, hunting, tourism, culture, marine facilities, the environment, and shoreline property owners, etc.;
- Non-government organizations, including Ducks Unlimited Canada;
- Representatives of agricultural/farming sector organizations; and
- First Nations representatives.

The Steering Committee was actively engaged throughout the completion of this Community Sustainability Plan, and also participated in public consultation events.

The public played an essential role in the completion of the Community Sustainability Plan. Information

pertaining to the Study, including meeting notices, study newsletters, comment forms, an on-line questionnaire, and Study reports were made available on the Municipality's website and at Municipal Service Centres throughout the duration of the Study to engage the community and disseminate information. Several key public meetings and workshops have informed the development of this Community Sustainability Plan, and are briefly described as follows.

Development of the Vision Statements and Identification of Issues, Opportunities, Constraints and Assets

A public open house and workshop was held on June 22, 2010 at the Thames Campus Arena in Chatham. The purpose of the public meeting was to formally introduce the study to the public, and to gain detailed input on the assets, opportunities, constraints and issues of the shoreline areas and the draft vision statements which were presented to the public. Following an introduction of the study by the Municipality, including introductory remarks from His Worship, Mayor Randy Hope, and a presentation to the public, participants were asked to break-out into working groups. Participants were asked to refine and discuss vision statements for the study area, and to identify assets, opportunities, constraints and issues which should be addressed through the study. A variety of different viewpoints and concerns were heard, and a number of common issues were raised by multiple groups.

Development of Sustainable Shoreline Strategies, Actions and Programs

A second round of public and stakeholder consultation was held to discuss the development of strategies,



actions and programs related to the shorelines. Consultation consisted of three meetings held across Chatham-Kent:

- a public open house, presentation and workshop was held in Chatham on September 29th, 2010;
- a public open house, presentation and workshop was held in Wallaceburg on September 30th, 2010; and
- a public open house, presentation and question and answer period was held in Erieau on September 30th, 2010.

In Chatham, 70 participants signed-in to participate in the open house and presentation, while about 40 participants participated in the workshop. During the workshop component, participants were asked to comment on potential policy directions related to natural heritage, growth and development, and to discuss potential strategies, actions and programs which could be incorporated into the Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan.

The format of the meeting in Wallaceburg was similar to Chatham, with 34 participants signed-in to participate

in the open house and approximately 20 participants participated in the workshop. Like the workshop in Chatham, the attendees clearly showed that they had a variety of viewpoints and concerns which were sometimes conflicting. Clear support for some of the proposed potential sustainable shoreline strategies, actions and programs emerged through these meetings.

In Erieau, the Public Open House was very well attended with 178 participants signed-in, and engaged the municipality in an extended question and answer session, raising a variety of concerns about the shorelines, including wind farm development, shoreline management and the regulatory framework for managing the shorelines. Attendees also showed support for some of the sustainable actions and programs, including the development of a shoreline landowner's guide and community development and beautification.

A follow-up newsletter and comment form was subsequently mailed to all of the roughly 2,000 shoreline property owners who received direct invitations to the September 29th and 30th public open house

meetings, in addition to those who had provided email contact information at the meetings. The purpose of the newsletter was to provide additional information regarding the study's purpose; summarize what we've heard to date; and receive further feedback.

The receipt of numerous written comments, as well as submissions via an on-line survey and the follow-up newsletter and questionnaire, assisted the study team in gaining a very full and representative understanding of the community's support for the proposed potential shoreline strategies, actions, and programs, as well as furthering the study team's understanding of the types of issues that should be addressed through this Plan.

Through all of these consultation events and efforts, the study team was able to prepare a draft set of sustainable shoreline strategies, actions and programs, as well as a draft Secondary Plan, which were consistent with the vision statements and intended to address the types of issues and concerns identified by the public and stakeholders.

Refinement of Sustainable Shoreline Strategies, Actions and Programs

A third series of Public Open Houses were held on January 8, 2011 in Chatham and Blenheim to present the Draft Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan and Community Sustainability Plan. In Chatham there were 20 people who signed in, and in Blenheim there were 55 people who signed in for the Public Open House. The Municipality sent direct meeting invitations and a second study newsletter to all of the roughly 2,000 property owners that have lands abutting the shorelines and watercourses, in addition to advertisements in the local newspaper.

The Public Open Houses consisted of an open house component where participants were provided the

opportunity to review display boards and engage in one-on-one discussions with the Municipality and consulting team. The Public Open House also included a presentation of the Draft Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan and Community Sustainability Plan, and extended question and answer period. Participants were given the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions regarding the Study and submit written comments for consideration in the revised Draft Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan and Community Sustainability Plan.

The following summarizes some of the issues and questions that were identified by the participants at the Public Open Houses:

- Participants expressed concern that the proposed policies of the Secondary Plan may have impacts on existing private property rights within the shoreline areas, particularly regarding the advancement of a natural heritage system strategy. It was discussed that no new regulations impacting existing property rights are proposed through this Study. The Community Sustainability Plan encourages environmental stewardship and promotes conservation initiatives by raising public awareness and encouraging partnerships between landowners, the Municipality, other levels of government and agencies to protect and enhance the natural heritage system. Furthermore, the Secondary Plan clarifies the Environmental Impact Statement requirements to consider assessing and evaluating natural heritage features which may be significant in the context of a development application under the *Planning Act*.
- The public expressed strong support for the preparation of a Shoreline Landowners Guide as recommended in the Community Sustainability Plan. The Shoreline Landowners Guide would identify



4.0

**VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE
SHORELINES**



As part of the development of the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan, a vision was developed to help guide how Chatham-Kent would transform into the future. The Community Strategic Plan was developed in response to economic, social and environmental pressures

in Chatham-Kent and in consultation with members of the community. The foundations of the Community Strategic Plan, helped to form the vision statements in this Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan (2005) vision is:

“Chatham-Kent is a proud, proactive and progressive community committed to celebrating its diversity and ensuring a high quality of life for all its people”

To help implement this vision, a set of six (6) strategic directions were developed, including:

- Health – we are a healthy community
- Economy – we are a prosperous community
- Environment – we are a green community
- Culture – we are a cultural community
- Civic engagement – we are an engaged community
- Learning – we are a learning community

This Community Sustainability Plan is guided by a series of vision statements which have been developed through a community consultative process with the study steering committee and the community. The vision statements build upon the strategic directions of the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan and the Official Plan. Together, these vision statements and strategies seek to address the issues, opportunities and

constraints related to developing a Sustainable Shoreline Strategy.

CHATHAM-KENT'S VISION FOR THE SHORELINES IS:

“Chatham-Kent is committed to promoting the sustainability of its shorelines by balancing community, economy and environmental considerations, to contribute to healthy and vibrant shorelines and communities.”

This overarching vision statement is further supported through the following strategic directions.

Chatham-Kent's shoreline areas are, and will continue to be:



1. Connected

The shoreline areas and settlements are well-connected through parks, conservation areas, trails, sidewalks, streets and ecological corridors.



2. Identifiable

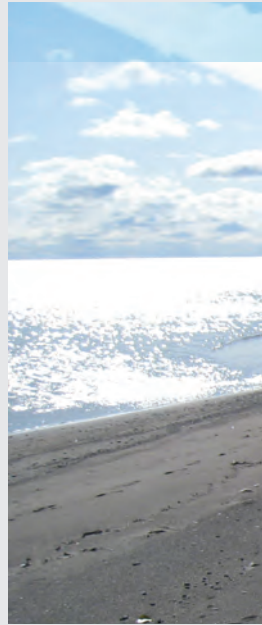
The shoreline areas communicate a sense of place through aesthetically pleasing and inviting public spaces, reflective of local history and context.

Chatham-Kent's shoreline areas are, and will continue to be:



3. Accessible

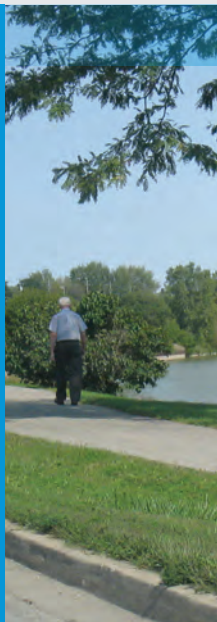
The public spaces are improved and easily accessible by all persons, while respectful of private property.



5. Historic

Cultural heritage resources and landscapes are preserved and celebrated.

Active and healthy lifestyles are promoted by accommodating opportunities for recreation (walking, cycling, hiking, swimming, canoeing, and water activities), social activities and cultural activities and amenities that respond to the needs of residents and visitors.



4. Visible



Views of important focal points and vistas from the shoreline areas and the water are protected, preserved and enhanced.

6. Active



7. Conserved



Ecological features, functions and habitats, and agricultural and other natural resources are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

8. Collaborative

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.



9. Renowned



The shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent are renowned for their regional, provincial, national and international significance, as established through Chatham-Kent's commitment to supporting and promoting its shoreline areas.





5.0

**SHORELINE AREAS
SUSTAINABILITY
ACTION PLAN**

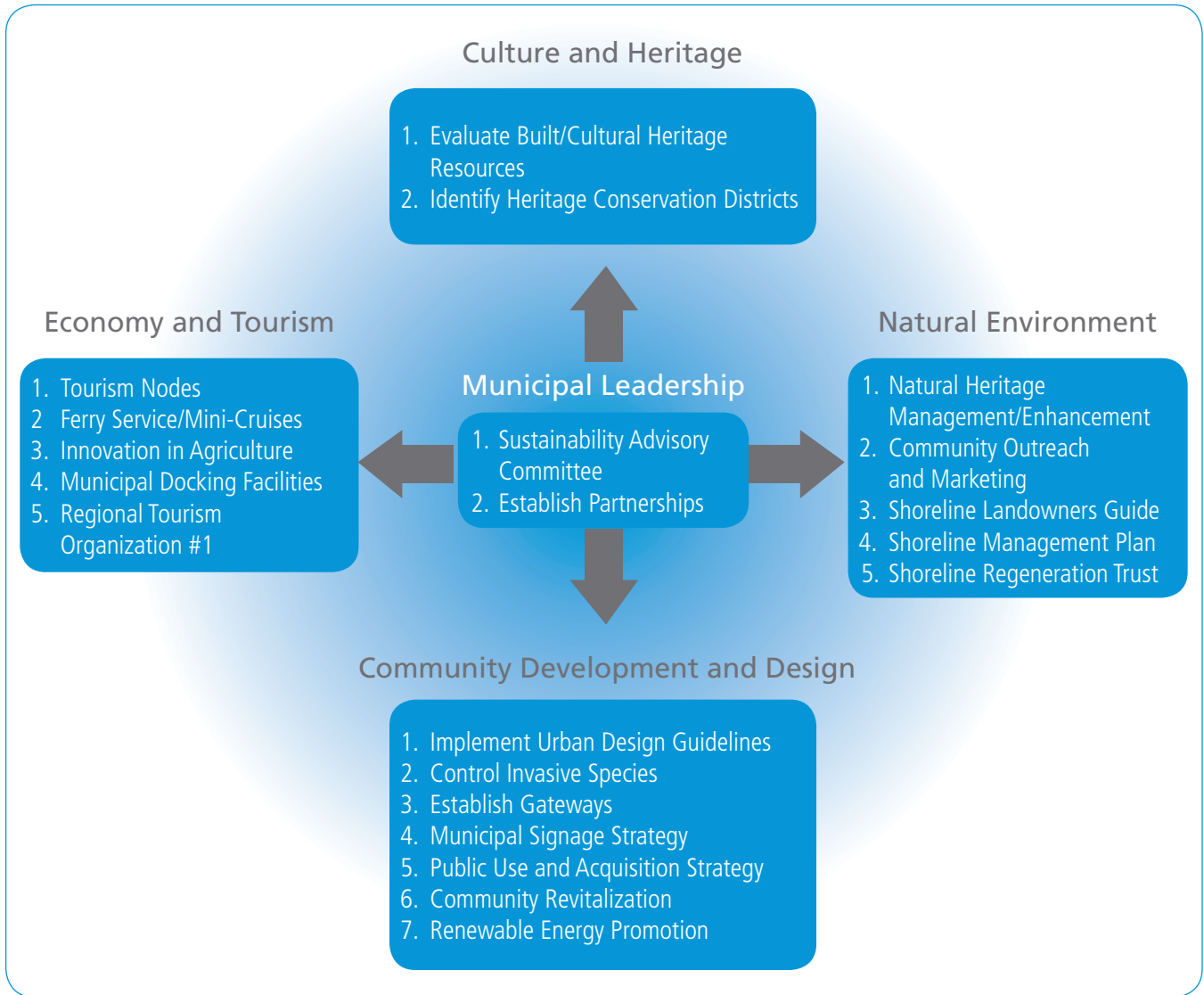


The Community Sustainability Plan outlines the sustainability actions and programs that the Municipality will endeavor to undertake to further the sustainability of the shoreline areas. The actions and programs are categorized under the following five

themes as illustrated in Figure 5.1:

- Economy and Tourism;
- Community Development and Design;
- Culture and Heritage;
- Natural Environment; and
- Municipal Leadership.

Figure 5.1 | Shoreline Areas Sustainability Actions and Programs



The actions and programs are described in the following sections, which also identifies the anticipated timing for undertaking the initiative, indicators to gauge the success of the implementation of the initiative, potential Municipal cost and resource commitments, and opportunities to establish partnerships to realize

and implement the initiative. Municipal leadership is recognized as the primary driver of these initiatives through the establishment of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, to implement and administer the sustainability actions and programs.

5.1 Economy and Tourism

Chatham-Kent's shoreline areas offer numerous important economic resources and economic benefits to the community. The Provincial parks contained within the shoreline areas are an important draw for tourists. The beauty and recreational assets of the shoreline areas make them an attractive place to live and recreate. Fertile agricultural lands, thriving fishing and hunting in the shoreline areas are cornerstones to the economies of many communities in Chatham-Kent, as well as Chatham-Kent's overall economy. Sustaining, promoting and developing these unique resources and assets are key to ensuring the sustainability of the shorelines and a prosperous Municipality. The Community Sustainability Plan recognizes the interdependency of the natural environment, and the economic development and tourism opportunities associated with the valuable natural resources of the shoreline areas.

The community has stated that there is enormous potential to further develop and promote Chatham-Kent as a world-class tourism destination – that the shoreline areas offer activities and amenities that everyone can enjoy. In order to attract tourists and sustain a long-term tourism industry, it will be important for the Municipality to further its understanding of its shoreline areas, to actively capitalize on opportunities, and to ensure that the water resources are enjoyed and managed in a sustainable and responsible manner.

It is important to recognize that the responsibility of promoting and developing Chatham-Kent's economy must be a partnership between government, the private sector and the community in order for the initiatives to





be viable and sustainable. Although the Municipality may take the “lead” in initiating tourism initiatives and economic development actions, the private sector and senior levels of government will also be relied upon to ensure the sustainability and viability of these initiatives. Involvement and support from the local community is also necessary for encouraging and supporting economic and tourism development initiatives.

5.1.1 Applicable Vision Statement(s), Goals and Objectives

The actions and programs related to economy and tourism will assist the Municipality in achieving the following sustainability strategic directions for the shoreline areas:

1. **Connected:** The shorelines areas and settlements are well-connected through parks, conservation areas, trails, sidewalks, streets and ecological corridors.
2. **Identifiable:** The shoreline areas communicate a sense of place through aesthetically pleasing and inviting public spaces, reflective of local history and context.
3. **Accessible:** The public spaces are improved and easily accessible by all persons, while respectful of private property.
7. **Conserved:** Ecological features, functions and habitats, and agricultural and other natural resources are conserved and enhanced for future generations.
8. **Collaborative:** The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.
9. **Renowned:** The shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent are renowned for their regional, provincial, national and international significance, as established through Chatham-Kent’s commitment to supporting and promoting its shoreline areas.



The following goals and objectives have been identified to support the actions and programs related to economy and tourism:

Goal: *Chatham-Kent is internationally recognized as a world-class recreational and tourist destination.*

Objective: To increase the number of annual tourists

Objective: To improve the availability and quality of amenities and accommodations for visitors

Objective: To establish recognized scenic, agri-tourism and historic routes in the shoreline areas.

Objective: To establish a ferry service and/or mini-cruise in Chatham-Kent

Goal: *The agricultural industry in Chatham-Kent is recognized for its innovation and sustainable operations.*

Objective: To establish new educational facilities or research institutions for agriculture.

Objective: To increase the number of farms engaged in sustainable farming practices.

Objective: To increase the number of agri-tourism and resources-based secondary uses and operations in the shoreline areas.

5.1.2 Actions and Programs

Action #1. Identify, Improve and Maintain Tourism Nodes

The communities of Chatham-Kent are defined as the Municipality's Urban Tourism Nodes by the Shoreline Areas Secondary Plan. This means that the Primary Urban Centres, Secondary Urban Centres and, to a lesser extent, the hamlets, are to be the focus of urban tourism and economic activities in the Municipality.

The Shoreline Areas Secondary Plan also provides a framework for the location and identification of Secondary Tourism Nodes in the shoreline areas. Secondary Tourism Nodes may include important viewsheds, lookout points or amenity landscapes with recreational potential. These Nodes may be located within the urban areas, or outside of the urban areas. These nodes may accommodate such uses as information booths, kiosk, interpretive signage, picnic facilities, park facilities, washrooms, parking, vehicular access, trails, commercial recreational uses (e.g., canoe rentals) or other similar facilities.

Building upon Chatham-Kent's tourism industry is an essential component of developing Chatham-Kent into a sustainable and thriving Municipality. The community has recognized that Chatham-Kent's unique natural heritage assets have the potential to attract tourists and to develop a sustainable, eco-tourism economy.

This program includes the identification, development, improvement and maintenance of Secondary Tourism Nodes and encourages the development of tourism and

recreational uses in the Urban Tourism Nodes. As part of this program, the Municipality is encouraged to partner with identified landowners, developers and community organizations in identifying potential opportunities to establish new tourism and recreational uses which build upon Chatham-Kent's assets. Further, the Municipality will lead the identification of Secondary Tourism Nodes, and may engage in improving or enhancing the nodes by providing and maintaining public facilities for public use and enjoyment. Any land acquisitions will be done in a manner that respects private landowners and will be undertaken to expand existing public assets at such time as the land is available for sale. Furthermore, improvements will need to fully consider land use and environmental impacts, which may be completed as part of the site-specific Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment which would be required as part of identifying a new Secondary Tourism Node. In identifying new Secondary Tourism Nodes or new tourism or recreational developments in the Urban Tourism Nodes, the Municipality will seek a fiscally sustainable means of building and maintaining the facilities.

Timing: On-going through life of Plan.

Indicators: Number of Secondary Tourism Nodes (as identified in the Official Plan), number of new tourism-based land uses (golf courses, marinas, recreational commercial establishments, etc.); number of annual visitors.

Cost Considerations: Staff time will be associated with providing planning framework and site plans for each node; cost of improving individual secondary nodes varies by project.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009), Trails Master Plan (2009), Economic Development Strategy (2008).

Partnerships:

- Identifying New Tourism Nodes: Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities, Private Landowners.
- Developing Tourism Uses in Primary Urban Centres, Secondary Urban Centres and Hamlets: Private Landowners, Developers, Community Organizations and Institutions.

Action #2. Promote a Ferry Service and/or Mini-Cruises

With over 130 km of shoreline on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, Chatham-Kent has numerous opportunities to promote a Ferry Service between Chatham-Kent and communities in Michigan (across Lake St. Clair) or Ohio (across Lake Erie). Such an initiative would require a major partnership between the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (including the local Marina), a ferry or cruise service company and any destination municipalities (potentially American and other Southern Ontario communities). Additionally, there is potential to develop mini-cruises which may accommodate tours related to eco-tourism, agri-tourism, cultural heritage resources and recreation. The promotion of water-taxi services may also promote and enhance tourism opportunities within the shorelines.

The first step in the advancement of this project will be contact with potential ferry or cruise service businesses, as well as communication with the Municipality's marinas. The Municipality may assist the ferry or cruise company in identifying potential routes and determining feasibility. Due to the large number of major stakeholders involved in successfully completing this major undertaking, the Municipality will need to take a leadership role in promoting the development of a ferry service or mini-cruises.

Timing: Long-term (2020-2025)

Indicators: Number of Ferry Service Routes, Number of Mini-Cruises.

Cost Considerations: Primarily staff time in investigating potential partnerships and encouragement of ferry services/businesses.

Related Municipal Initiatives: The Ministry of Tourism and the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition have been working together to bring small cruise boats to ports in the Great Lakes. They have identified Erieau as a potential port opportunity for small cruise boats.

Partnerships: Local marinas, ferry/cruise services, business community, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Tourism and the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition, Regional Tourism Organization #1, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Action #3. Promote and Develop Innovation in Agriculture

In terms of coverage, agricultural land uses are the predominant use of land in the shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent. Further, agriculture is among the most important industries in Chatham-Kent's economy. Chatham-Kent is a leader in agricultural and farming innovations, including sustainable farming practices. Further enhancing this will help to ensure that the agricultural sector remains thriving and sustainable in the long-term.

The Municipality should continue to pursue opportunities to partner with educational institutions (i.e., University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus) to further research and innovation in agricultural practices, agri-tourism and sustainable farming operations in Chatham-Kent. These activities may range broadly from supporting and collaborating on research projects by educational institutions to supporting and encouraging the establishment of new educational or research facilities in the Municipality.

The Municipality should continue to encourage the development and improvement of agricultural lands for specialty agricultural uses such as greenhouses, specialty crops, agri-tourism operations, wineries, bed and breakfasts, guided tours, 'pick your own' programs and other agri-tourism uses. This may be a part of a Municipality-wide Community Improvement Plan (see the Community revitalization and improvements program below), or it may take the form of providing support to landowners who show interest in developing agri-tourism uses.

Timing: Short-term – Continue building partnerships with educational institutions and agricultural federations (2012-2015)

Indicators: Number and variety of post-secondary educational programs and facilities; number of post-secondary education jobs; number of post-secondary students; number of agri-tourism uses (i.e., building permit/planning data)

Cost Considerations: Varies depending on project. Staff time required to work with educational institutions.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Economic Development Strategy (2008)

Partnerships: University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Regional Tourism Organization #1, private landowners, other post-secondary institutions, and farm organizations.

Action #4. Enhance and Improve Municipal Docking Facilities

A tourism improvement identified by numerous members of the public and stakeholders through consultation, is the improvement of municipal docking facilities in Chatham-Kent, including the improvement of associated amenities (washrooms, change rooms, etc.). The ability for the Municipality to attract boaters, fishers and campers will be greatly enhanced by improving docking facilities throughout the Municipality.

The improvement of the facilities may begin with a general study of existing docking facilities, deficiencies, and critical needs, including a survey provided to current users. The study, perhaps in the form of a report to Council, may assist in prioritizing needed improvements and maximizing benefits. Opportunities to seek funding and donations from local businesses, organizations, senior levels of government and members of the community should be pursued to offset the cost of improving docking and marina facilities.



Timing: Short-term – study of existing facilities and understanding of needs (2012); Medium to long term – capital projects to improve facilities

Indicators: Number of amenities associated with docks (e.g., washrooms); investment (money spent on dock improvements); dock usage/boat traffic

Cost Considerations: Varies depending on proposed improvements. Opportunities to obtain funding from businesses, senior levels of government and individual donations should be pursued. User fees may be considered to enhance viability of improvements in the short or medium term.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009)

Partnerships: Local marinas, boating organizations, Business Improvement Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Federal and Provincial governments and Conservation Authorities, Regional Tourism Organization #1.

Action #5. Regional Tourism Organization #1

The Province has recently mandated a regional tourism organization structure throughout Ontario. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent is located within the Regional Tourism Organization #1, also known as "Southwest Ontario", which is a collaboration of the tourism authorities in Chatham-Kent, Elgin County, Haldimand County, London, Middlesex County, Norfolk County, Oxford County, Sarnia-Lambton, Windsor-Essex-Pelee and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The Municipality is part of the Transition Network Team, tasked with forming this new not-for-profit organization. The purpose of the RTO #1 is to be responsible for establishing the legal, governance, and membership framework for this new organization; develop and implement a transition plan that includes a strategic business plan and stakeholder communications plan; establish guidelines and decision making responsibilities for priority projects; and engage the tourism industry in all geographic sections and business sectors within Region 1.

There are a number of studies being undertaken simultaneously through the new RTO that will impact the shoreline areas, including: Agri-tourism Strategy; Birding Assessment & Strategy; Recreational Assessment- (focusing on golf, camping and fishing); a Port, Coastal and Riverfront Communities Development Plan and Investment Attraction Strategy, and a Tecumseh Monument Re-Development Plan (fully funded by the Ministry of Tourism).

The Municipality will actively participate and support the initiatives of the RTO to promote and enhance regional tourism and economic development initiatives. Given the Municipalities extensive shoreline areas and navigatable waterways, the Municipality will support the undertaking of the Port, Coastal and Riverfront Communities Development Plan and Investment Attraction Strategy, to support the use of the lakes, rivers and ports for economic uses related to marine transportation, shipping, and fisheries. Particular attention should be given to industrial port activities and commercial fishing which may be further supported and promoted in Wallaceburg, Erieau and Wheatley.

Currently, there exists a regional tourism initiative known as the Ontario South Coast tourism initiative (<http://www.gosouthcoast.ca/>). The initiative provides a central resource for information about dining, attractions and communities along Lake Erie. Currently Norfolk County, Haldimand County and Elgin County are leading and administering the initiative as a partnership between the governments.

At this time, it is uncertain whether Ontario's South Coast initiative will continue past 2011. Once the new Board for the regional tourism organization is formed and making strategic decisions about marketing, product

development, workforce development and investment attraction, the Municipality will have better direction as to the regional tourism strategy for Southwest Ontario Region and potential partnerships. Should the South Coast Initiative remain as a regional tourism initiative, the Municipality will pursue joining the group, which would provide a fairly low cost marketing and tourism initiative. Chatham-Kent's unique Lake Erie communities should be recognized as forming a significant component of Ontario's South Coast.

Timing: Short-term (2012)

Indicators: Development and implementation of programs and initiatives under the Regional Tourism Organization #1. Enhanced tourism and economic development within the Municipality. Addition of Chatham-Kent to the South Coast initiative, or other initiatives and programs which may succeed this.

Cost Considerations: Primarily staff costs in participating in the RTO #1 and undertaking/implementing the recommended programs/studies. There is an upfront cost of \$5,000 to join the Ontario South Coast Marketing Group, and costs associated with administering the initiative, potentially including website design and support.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Economic Development Strategy (2008).

Partnerships: Private Landowners and businesses, Business Improvement Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Haldimand County, Norfolk County and Elgin County, Conservation Authorities, First Nations, Regional Tourism Organization #1, and other levels of government.

5.2 Community Development and Design

Chatham-Kent contains numerous “waterfront communities” that have historic roots in the resources of the lakes and rivers of Chatham-Kent. The improvement of the design of public streets, spaces and waterfront amenities will benefit the entire community, and promote Chatham-Kent as a world-class tourism destination.

The community has recognized a need for the beautification of its shoreline area communities, a need for improved waterfront connections, and the importance of improving waterfront amenities to improve the quality of life of Chatham-Kent’s residents. The community has also expressed the importance of respecting private property and the quiet, peaceful lifestyle that has made Chatham-Kent a great place to live. The beautification, improvement and development of Chatham-Kent’s communities must therefore be undertaken in a strategic manner, in which the improvement of public streets and waterfront access does not negatively affect the tranquility of neighbourhoods and waterways.



5.2.1 Applicable Vision Statement(s), Goals and Objectives

The actions and programs related to community development and design will assist the Municipality in achieving the following sustainability strategic directions for the shoreline areas:

2. **Identifiable:** The shoreline areas communicate a sense of place through aesthetically pleasing and inviting public spaces, reflective of local history and context.
3. **Accessible:** The public spaces are improved and easily accessible by all persons, while respectful of private property.
4. **Visible:** Views of important focal points and vistas from the shoreline areas and the water are protected, preserved and enhanced.
5. **Historic:** Cultural heritage resources and landscapes are preserved and celebrated.
7. **Conserved:** Ecological features, functions and habitats, and agricultural and other natural resources are conserved and enhanced for future generations.
8. **Collaborative:** The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.

The following goals and objectives have been identified to support the actions and programs related to community development and design:

Goal: *The historic communities of the shoreline areas are attractive, vibrant places in which to live, work and play.*

Objective: To implement the recommendations contained in the Chatham-Kent Urban Design Guidelines (2005).

Objective: To create gateway features along major routes into the shoreline areas.

Goal: *Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.*

Objective: To acquire strategic land to improve connections and public amenities.

Objective: To address impacts of invasive species.

Objective: To implement a signage strategy including improved wayfinding signage.

Goal: *The communities and buildings of the shoreline areas are sustainable.*

Objective: To improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce the environmental impact of communities on the shoreline areas.



5.2.2 Actions and Programs

Action #1. Revisit, Prioritize and Implement Urban Design Guidelines Recommendations

The Municipality completed a comprehensive Urban Design Guidelines in 2005. In addition to offering guidelines for the design of buildings and streets, the Guidelines described numerous detailed potential design initiatives, streetscape improvements, beautification recommendations, streetscape plans/concepts, recreational improvements and other projects which could be undertaken to enhance the shoreline communities.

It must be emphasized that there is no need to repeat the work already completed as part of preparing the Urban Design Guidelines. Since some of the actions contained in this Plan address some of the recommendations of the Urban Design Guidelines, the Guidelines should be consulted for initial

guidance and background information. However, the recommendations and rationale should be revisited to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant.

This action involves re-visiting the Municipality's Urban Design Guideline recommendations, particularly with regard to beautification and improvements to the communities of the shoreline areas, and further pursuing implementation of the recommendations. The Urban Design Guidelines contain detailed streetscape plans, concepts and potential streetscape improvement initiatives (e.g., tree planting, lighting, etc.) for each of these communities. The Municipality should prepare a report to Council summarizing the recommendations of the Urban Design Guidelines; analyzing the relevance of the recommendations to the other actions provided in this Community Sustainability Plan; and commenting on the cost and relative priority of the projects. This exercise will help the Municipality "scope" the recommended community improvements and enhancements within the shorelines communities and identify budget resources

to priority projects. A capital works/forecast for specific areas should also be considered to implement the urban design guideline recommendations with respect to improvements to municipally owned lands and within right-of-ways.

Additionally, a “Green” Community Improvement Plan (as discussed in S. 5.2.2.6) could be prepared to provide financial incentives for property owners to implement certain sustainability initiatives, which may also include implementation of the Urban Design Guideline recommendations, related to restoration of heritage buildings and façade improvements.

Timing: Report to Council should be prepared in the short term (2012-2015). Capital improvements will be on-going.

Indicators: Completion of Council Report; number of beautification/streetscaping works; appropriate funds spent to support beautification/streetscaping; increase in private property beautification and homeowner involvement in neighbourhood beautification initiatives.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Urban Design Study/Guidelines (2005).

Cost Considerations: Staff costs related to initial report preparation.

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; Business Improvement Associations, Chambers of Commerce.

Action #2. Maintain Shoreline Areas Impacted by Invasive Species

A significant issue raised frequently through the preparation of this Plan was the impact of invasive species, specifically phragmites, on the quality of parks, open spaces areas and conservation areas. The

Municipality should investigate “priority areas” in need of action, and pursue solutions to this issue, including improved maintenance of trails. The Municipality should investigate opportunities for representation at the Ontario Invasive Plant Council to address issues related to invasive species.

The goal of this action is to improve the quality of recreational trails and areas, including improved viewsheds which have previously been impacted by invasive species. The Conservation Authorities, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Invasive Plant Council, should be consulted on this issue and may specifically help to identify priority areas and recommended strategies to mitigate invasive species. However, there is also a significant opportunity to partner with a post-secondary educational institution to study and report on the issue and identify potential solutions (i.e., as an activity which is part of an ecology or environmental management course).

Timing: Investigations could be completed in the medium term (2015-2017) with implementation in the long term (2018 and beyond).

Indicators: Qualitative perception of trails (i.e., a survey); cost of maintenance, reduction of invasive species.

Cost Considerations: Staff costs and costs of improved maintenance.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Trails Master Plan (2009).

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative with input from Conservation Authorities; Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Friends of the St. Clair River, Ducks Unlimited. The Municipality may pursue a partnership with a post-secondary education or a local environmental group to study or address this issue.

Action #3. Implement Municipal Signage Strategy

An issue raised by the public and stakeholders was the lack of wayfinding signage and the potential for new interpretive signage in the shoreline areas. The Municipality has recently prepared a report entitled the Municipal Signage Strategy, including potential designs for wayfinding and interpretive signage, as well as signage along important routes (Talbot Trail, Trans-Canada Trail, Blue Trails, Underground Railroad, and Tecumseh Parkway). Attractive and consistently themed signage is a beneficial and cost-effective tourism initiative, and can help to encourage the development of new tourism uses (e.g., new wineries or stimulate investment in wineries located along a designated “Scenic Route”) and a sense of place. The Municipality should investigate and implement the proposed Municipal Signage Strategy, Tecumseh Parkway Initiatives and First Nations interpretive signage along watercourses and in First Nation Settlement Areas.

This program will require the identification and agreement upon scenic and wine routes, including the detailed location of appropriate signage locations. The routes should be identified as part of a Secondary Plan schedule, and will need to be supported by a land use framework which is conducive to the appropriate development and enhancement of the type of route.

Timing: Medium-term (2015-2020)

Indicators: Number of new signage; number of annual tourists to attractions.

Cost Considerations: Cost to design and implement signage infrastructure and on-going maintenance.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009), Urban Design Study/Guidelines



(2005), Municipal Signage Strategy, Tecumseh Parkway Initiative (on-going).

Partnerships: Led by Municipality; Involvement by Business Improvement Associations, Local First Nations Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations and local businesses/tourism/agriculture organizations will be important to gain general support for the proposed tourism routes, Ontario’s South Coast, Regional Tourism Organization #1, Adjacent Municipalities.

Action #4. Identify Gateway Locations and Establish Gateway Features into the Shoreline Areas

Chatham-Kent’s shoreline areas and communities are unique places in the Municipality. Travelers should be made aware they are entering a unique place. The Municipality will identify opportunities for establishing gateway features to the shoreline areas, including the provision of enhanced signage, architectural features, buildings or landscaping at these areas. The Chatham-Kent Urban Design Guidelines may be consulted for inspiration; however, the design of gateway features

should reference historic persons, settlement or events which are indicative of the place as well as environmental features, lookouts and viewsheds.

Identifying gateway locations may be an exercise completed as part of the Municipal Signage Strategy, with consideration for design and implementation in the medium term.

The detailed design of gateway signage may be completed as part of the Signage Strategy action listed below.

Timing: Identification of gateway locations should be completed as part of a Gateway Study that would be implemented in the medium or long term (2015 and beyond).

Indicators: Identification of gateway features as part of enhancing gateways to Chatham-Kent.

Cost Considerations: There will be the cost retaining firms/contractors to design and install the gateway features, as well as on-going maintenance costs.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Chatham-Kent Urban Design Study/Guidelines (2005), Cultural Master Plan (2007), Tecumseh Parkway Initiative (on-going).

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations, Service Clubs, Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment, Private-Public Partnerships.

Action #5. A Public Use and Acquisition Strategy

Chatham-Kent's extensive lake and river frontage provides numerous opportunities for new or expanded recreational facilities and public amenities. The public

has also recognized that improved waterfront access and amenities are needed or would be valued in some communities. Furthermore, significant views of shorelines may be better enhanced if they are brought into public ownership and conserved by the Municipality.

Although the public generally supported a Public Use and Acquisition Strategy, it should be focused on improving/expanding existing public assets, including roadway right-of-ways that abut the lakeshore, open spaces, and beaches and be respectful of private property rights. A fundamental guiding principle behind such a strategy will be to respect private property, including the tranquil atmosphere of Chatham-Kent's waterfront communities.

The Public Use and Acquisition Strategy should include:

- A comprehensive inventory of publicly owned lands, including opportunities for new public uses on existing Municipal property;
- An analysis of deficiencies in public amenities in each individual shoreline areas community (including community consultation);
- An identification of desirable lands to:
 - Improve access to existing public uses;
 - Expand existing public uses;
 - Conserve/protect significant natural heritage features and archaeological resources;
 - Establish new public uses; or
 - Conserve or improve significant views or landscapes.
- A long-term strategy to acquire and utilize identified desirable lands.

It is not the intent of the Public Use and Acquisition Strategy that the Municipality seek out and expropriate lands. Rather, acquisitions should be completed as a partnership between the Municipality and landowners,

and potential land use conflicts with neighbours should be thoroughly addressed and mitigated through consultation with adjacent land owners.

Timing: Medium Term (2015-2020).

Indicators: Number and quality of recreational amenities, length of shoreline in public ownership.

Cost Considerations: Cost of preparing the strategy is primarily staff time; the cost of acquiring and improving land will vary and will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Trails Master Plan (2009), Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2009), Chatham Cultural Centre Master Plan (2009), Cultural Master Plan (2007), Tecumseh Park Master Plan (2006), Tecumseh Parkway Initiative (on-going).

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; partnerships/cooperation with private landowners, Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited, non-government organizations, other levels of government, stewardship organizations, Regional Tourism Organization #1.

Action #6. Community Revitalization and Improvements

Chatham-Kent's Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) have shown success in revitalizing parts of the community, including Chatham-Kent's brownfields, bluefields and downtown/main street areas. Furthermore, the Municipality has the administrative capabilities and experience to successfully administer CIPs. The community's awareness of Chatham-Kent's revitalization programs creates a significant opportunity to regenerate and improve the communities of the



shoreline areas through the use of a CIP which will likely see good results and success.

This program may include preparation of a community-wide "Green" Community Improvement Plan to provide a variety of financial incentives for landowners and municipal leadership programs. The CIP provides a mechanism for the Municipality to work in partnership with property owners to fulfill sustainability objectives that benefit the Municipality, landowner and broader community. The programs may offer incentives for:

- Energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades or building code compliance to existing buildings;
- Development of new 'green' buildings;
- Building restoration and facade improvements;
- Preservation and restoration of heritage buildings;
- The promotion of agri-tourism and eco-tourism uses; and
- Improvements to agricultural lands which contribute to more sustainable farming practices, which may include sustainable forestry, environmental stewardship and conservation initiatives and riparian buffer enhancements, among others.

The Green CIP should generally be intended to offset the initial cost and risk of more sustainable building practices, but should also work to promote the notion that green building offers numerous long-term cost benefits. The Green CIP may also provide incentives to assist in achieving other aspects of this Plan, such as encouraging agri-tourism uses, preservation of cultural and built heritage resources, and it may also be used to help revitalize shoreline area communities.

This program may also include, as a separate document or part of the Green CIP, a green community and building design program or strategy to implement green building and community design principles in the Municipality. The program may consist of the development of educational materials to assist property owners in retrofitting their properties, or in building more energy and water efficient buildings and structures, for example. Further, the strategy should contain a Municipal “action plan” for improving the Municipality’s own energy usage and environmental impact.

The Municipality should consider the implementation of a “Green” CIP at such time as the Downtown CIP expires in order to continue to provide incentives for downtown revitalization, while expanding the initiative to address other sustainability objectives.

Timing: Medium Term (2015-2020)

Indicators: Dollars granted for CIP programs; investment leveraged by CIP programs; number of LEED-certified buildings and communities in Chatham-Kent; municipal energy usage. A Community Improvement Plan prepared as part of this program should include a self-contained monitoring and evaluation program.

Cost Considerations: Cost of preparing the strategy would include consulting fees and staff resources; The cost of acquiring buildings and improving land will vary and will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Municipal costs will also be incurred through providing the financial incentives (i.e., waiving application/permit fees, tax incremental financing etc.), which should be considered in light of the potential benefits to the Municipality (i.e., increased assessment, taxes, economic development).

Related Municipal Initiatives: Downtown and Main Street Community Improvement Plan (2004), Brownfields and Bluefields Community Improvement Plan (2005), Commercial Community Improvement Plan (currently on-going; anticipated completion in 2011).

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations, Agricultural organizations, partnerships/cooperation with private landowners should be pursued to ensure success.

Action #7. Renewable Energy Promotion

The promotion of renewable energy sources is recognized as an important driver of sustainability, to address issues of climate change and reduce dependency on non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels. Renewable energy systems produce electrical power from an energy source that is renewed by natural processes including, but not limited to, wind, water, a biomass resource or product, or solar or geothermal energy.

The north shore of Lake Erie is recognized as a strategic location for wind energy projects as evidenced by the

existing wind energy systems and increasing interest in establishing new wind energy systems. The *Green Energy Act, 2009* established a new policy framework, regulations and requirements for the promotion and development of large-scale renewable energy systems, which is administered by the Province, and subject to a Renewable Energy Approval (REA). While the policies of the Municipality's Official Plan are no longer applicable in light of the *Green Energy Act, 2009*, the objectives of the Official Plan with respect to wind energy resources provides strong support for the development of wind energy systems, as a source of renewable energy for the economic and environmental benefit of Chatham-Kent and the Province. The public has expressed concerns regarding the development of new wind energy systems along the shorelines and potentially within Lake Erie, and their impacts on property values, the environment and significant views of the shorelines. Public sentiment has been expressed that this approvals process may not adequately take into consideration local planning issues and concerns regarding the development of wind energy systems, and the impact that wind energy systems have on opportunities for economic development within the shorelines.

While the Municipality supports the promotion or renewable energy sources, the development of wind energy systems within the shoreline areas remains a concern. The Municipality will pursue discussions with the Province when reviewing proposals for wind energy systems to ensure that the concerns of the Municipality's residents are addressed through the Renewable Energy Approval process.

As part of the Municipality's commitment to energy conservation and sustainability, it is recommended

that the Municipality undertake the preparation of a Community Energy Plan, in order to set targets for energy reduction, develop energy efficient building standards and promote growth in the renewable energy sector, that is responsive to the local environment and balances other sustainability objectives within the shorelines.

Community Energy Plans are developed through establishing an energy baseline and setting targets for higher energy performance. Targets are set for residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors. This involves:

- Maximizing efficiency in homes, buildings, industries and transportation;
- Maximizing the use of clean and distributed power solutions;
- Maximizing the use of economically viable renewable energy sources; and
- Minimizing peak and average load increases on the grid.

Additionally, these plans are developed through consultation with the public and set out implementation measures to the Municipality to achieve reduction targets. These recommendations may include:

- Adopting an energy performance label, such as EnerGuide or Energy Star to establish building standards for efficiency;
- The restructuring of energy service providers;
- The development of a district energy system;
- The development of partnerships with local schools and utility companies; and
- Standards relating to efficiency, recovery, cogeneration, and renewable energy.

Community Energy Plans result in tangible benefits for the Municipality including improvements to the delivery, reliability and affordability of local services, a reduction in greenhouse gases, cost savings, better forecasting of future energy needs, job creation and the potential to assess alternative technologies.

Many communities in Ontario have already undertaken the process of developing a Community Energy Plan, including the City of Guelph and the Town of East Gwillimbury. The City of Guelph Community Energy Plan was developed to help establish a reliable energy future by continually increasing the effectiveness of how energy is used and managed. It also made the commitment to reducing its per capita greenhouse gas emissions below the global average and lower than comparable Canadian cities.

Timing: Medium Term (2015-2020)

Indicators: Reduction in energy consumption through increased energy conservation measures.

Cost Considerations: Cost of preparing the Community Energy Plan and staff resources. Grants are also available from the Green Municipal Enabling Fund for the creation of a Community Energy Plan.

Related Municipal Initiatives: CK Energy solar project initiatives.

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; Chambers of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations, partnerships/cooperation with private landowners and local businesses should be pursued to ensure success.

5.3 Culture and Heritage

Chatham-Kent's historic roots were established along the waterways and lakes, which facilitated trade and growth and resulted in the development of shoreline communities. The shoreline areas and its communities have unique built and cultural heritage assets, archaeological resources, as well as historic First Nations settlements which provide tourism potential, and also add social value.

The 2007 Chatham-Kent Cultural Plan recognizes the strong link between cultural assets and economic and social health and well-being. Tourism is recognized by the Cultural Heritage Plan, Council's Strategic Plan for Chatham-Kent (2007-2010) and the 2007 Economic Development Strategy as an important driver in Chatham-Kent's economy. More specifically, the Cultural Plan identifies Black History Tourism, recreational birding, and the RM Classic Car Exhibit as the three primary tourism opportunities of Chatham-Kent. The Plan recognizes that encouraging individual creativity, culture and creating high quality places are strong economic drivers. The War of 1812 heritage resources is also an important tourism opportunity in Chatham-Kent. The development of partnerships and cooperation between the Municipality, business owners and residents is the most efficient means of improving creativity, cultural assets and strong communities.

Although not directly located in the Shorelines study area, there are First Nations located adjacent to the Shorelines study area or that have an interest in this study and the recommended programs relating



to cultural heritage and archaeological resources. Consultation was conducted with the local First Nations communities. The First Nations expressed that local cultural assets should be promoted for tourism and economic development opportunities. This may include interpretative signage which identifies and celebrates First Nation cultural heritage resources, including important waterways and settlement areas.

This Community Sustainability Plan recognizes and promotes the importance of Chatham-Kent's cultural heritage, historic assets, and archaeological resources, as a key tourism driver and contributor to the quality of life in Chatham-Kent. Preserving and promoting cultural heritage assets, and building communities in which creativity can be inspired, will be important economic drivers for the Municipality. Through the process of preparing this Community Sustainability Plan, the community has acknowledged the importance of the unique built and cultural heritage assets and

archaeological resources in the shoreline areas, and the small-town atmosphere which makes Chatham-Kent a great place to live and a unique tourism destination.

5.3.1 Applicable Vision Statement(s), Goals and Objectives

The actions and programs related to culture and heritage will assist the Municipality in achieving the following sustainability strategic directions for the shoreline areas:

- 5. **Historic:** Cultural heritage resources and landscapes are preserved and celebrated.
- 8. **Collaborative:** The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.

The following goals and objectives have been identified to support the actions and programs related to culture and heritage:

Goal: *Chatham-Kent celebrates, conserves and improves its cultural heritage resources and its resources are renowned.*

Objective: To develop a complete understanding of Chatham-Kent's cultural heritage resources including built heritage, and share this understanding with the public and visitors through improved interpretive/wayfinding signage and documentation of assets.

Objective: To designate one or more communities as a Heritage Conservation District.

5.3.2 Actions and Programs

Action #1. Identify and Evaluate Built and Cultural Heritage Resources

As part of preparing the Cultural Plan, the Municipality undertook an extensive Cultural Tourism Analysis, in which the Municipality's cultural tourism assets were identified and evaluated for market readiness (compiled in a Report entitled Building Capacity, Realizing Opportunities: Cultural Tourism in Chatham-Kent Situation and SWOT Analysis). This program is intended to elaborate on this work, to identify specific built and cultural heritage resources which were not examined as part of the program, and to assist in further studying built heritage as part of identifying potential Heritage Conservation Districts.

The community recognizes the importance of its built and cultural heritage resources in Chatham-Kent's

economy. Some members of the public communicated that there is a lack of knowledge and understanding of Chatham-Kent's assets, particularly for visitors. The community's assets need to be better identified and communicated to residents, visitors and policy-makers in order to promote Chatham-Kent as a tourist destination.

The Chatham-Kent Heritage Registry, developed under the authority of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, identifies a database of approximately 300 heritage structures that have been identified throughout the Municipality. This is a living document that is managed by the Municipal Heritage Committee and serves as an inventory for the identification of candidate heritage buildings for designation. Council has approved in principle a Heritage Tax Incentive program which provides a tax rebate of 40% as an incentive for property owners of eligible heritage properties to designate under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

This program may also include the preparation of supportive mapping (i.e., an Appendix) which may be included in the Official Plan and completed as part of the Official Plan update by 2013. Recognizing these assets in the Official Plan would be a critical step to considering them in tourism initiatives, including the Signage Strategy, Public Use and Acquisition Strategy and other actions recommended in this Plan.

Timing: Short Term (2013, on-going)

Indicators: Identification of cultural heritage/tourism assets; number of interpretive installations/signage; number of designated heritage structures.

Cost Considerations: Cost of preparing of the strategy is primarily staff time.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Municipal Heritage Property Register (On-going), Chatham Cultural Centre Master

Plan (2009), Cultural Master Plan (2007), Downtown and Mainstreet Community Improvement Plan.

Partnerships: Primarily a Municipally-led initiative; First Nations, partnerships/cooperation with private landowners should be pursued to ensure success.

Action #2. Identify Potential Heritage Conservation Districts

Chatham-Kent currently does not have any Heritage Conservation Districts which are designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. However, numerous studies and stakeholders have identified the potential of designating one or more heritage conservation districts in the Municipality, to recognize the concentration of built heritage resources in Chatham-Kent's communities.

Consideration should first be given for the candidate Heritage District Areas put forth in the Urban Design Guidelines (Chatham, Wallaceburg, Dresden, Bothwell, Thamestown and Ridgeway) as well as the historic main street area of Erieau and Wheatley, which have been identified by the community as a potentially suitable candidate for designation as a Heritage Conservation District. It should be noted that there is no need to repeat any preliminary work which has already been undertaken.

The process of identifying and designating a heritage conservation district will involve initial consultation with the Ministry of Culture to determine if the assets are suitable under the *Ontario Heritage Act* to begin an official Heritage Conservation District Study. The process of completing the study includes a detailed architectural and historical assessment of the study area, and further consultation. A resulting Heritage Management Plan is prepared which ensures the proper maintenance and improvement of the heritage conservation district. The



process of identifying potential Heritage Conservation District study areas, including priority, must be inclusive and considerate of the interests of private landowners.

Timing: Medium Term (2015-2020)

Indicators: Number of heritage conservation districts

Cost Considerations: A consultant may be retained to complete the study; staff time will also be required, including engagement of the Municipal Heritage Committee.

Related Municipal Initiatives: Municipal Heritage Property Register (On-going), Chatham Cultural Centre Master Plan (2009), Cultural Master Plan (2007), Urban Design Study/Guidelines (2005).

Partnerships: Led by Municipal Heritage Committee; local landowners, First Nations, Business Improvement Associations (if applicable), Chambers of Commerce.

5.4 Natural Environment

The natural environment of the shoreline areas consists of very low natural cover in total land area, however, the Municipality has one of the highest diversity of species as well as Species at Risk (SAR) in Ontario. Although the Municipality is low in total natural cover area, the largest concentration of the Municipality's natural areas is situated within the shoreline areas. The Shoreline Areas offer some of the largest concentrations of natural areas in Chatham-Kent. These areas serve as an important habitat area and provide linkages between terrestrial and aquatic systems, including headwater systems that drain to Lake Erie.

The terrestrial (e.g. woodland, meadow, thicket, agricultural) and aquatic (waterbodies, watercourses and wetlands) features within the shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent include large portions of the shoreline areas of Lake Erie, Lake St Clair and the Sydenham and Thames Rivers. Together, these areas provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals including Carolinian vegetation communities, Species at Risk and encompass globally significant Important Bird Areas.

As a result of a long history of agricultural production, there is significant habitat fragmentation in the shoreline areas with only approximately 4% of natural forest cover remaining. Sustaining the remaining natural features

is extremely important as they will serve as existing habitat nodes (connected or otherwise), and as building blocks for future habitat protection, expansion and restoration.

Consultation with members of the community identified that priority natural areas should be carefully identified based on their ecological significance. Additionally, the public expressed concern that agricultural development should be carefully incorporated into the natural heritage system. Natural heritage protection needs to be respectful of landowners on the shoreline areas; protection should preserve and restore the natural environment, while encouraging economic development and not precluding the continuance of existing uses. It is recognized that all uses and activities within the shoreline areas must comply with the Municipality's Official Plan and relevant Federal and Provincial policies and legislation and Conservation Authority regulations.

Also, the public expressed significant concern and frustration over the lack of restoration and protection measures against shoreline erosion. They felt that shoreline management guidelines would be helpful, but that they should provide tools and identify methods to address shoreline erosion, both as part of a broader shoreline management strategy and also through property specific erosion protection measures, where feasible and appropriate.



5.4.1 Applicable Vision Statement(s), Goals and Objectives

The actions and programs related to the natural environment will assist the Municipality in achieving the following sustainability strategic directions for the shoreline areas:

- 1. Connected:** The shorelines areas and settlements are well-connected through parks, conservation areas, trails, sidewalks, streets and ecological corridors.
- 6. Active:** Active and healthy lifestyles are promoted by accommodating opportunities for recreation (walking, cycling, hiking, swimming, canoeing and water activities), social activities and cultural activities and amenities that respond to the needs of residents and visitors.

- 7. Conserved:** Ecological features, functions and habitats, and agricultural and other natural resources are conserved and enhanced for future generations.
- 8. Collaborative:** The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.
- 9. Renowned:** The shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent are renowned for their regional, provincial, national and international significance, as established through Chatham-Kent's commitment to supporting and promoting its shoreline areas.

The following goals and objectives have been identified to support the actions and programs related to the natural environment:

Goal: *Protect and restore natural heritage features within the shoreline areas.*

Objective: Increase natural cover, habitat linkages and restore the natural habitat of the shoreline areas.

Goal: *Increase environmental stewardship and sense of place within the shoreline areas.*

Objective: Increase owner awareness of tools available to increase shoreline stewardship on their own properties.

Goal: *Increase public participation in shoreline management*

Objective: Reduce total amount of shoreline erosion and loss of habitat through individual land owner and shoreline user participation in shoreline management.

Goal: *Establish a framework for partnerships to assist with shoreline sustainability initiatives*

Objective: Increase overall participation of stakeholders, local community groups and the private sector in shoreline management projects.

5.4.2 Actions and Programs

Action #1. Natural Heritage System Management, Enhancement and Restoration

Historic development practices and loss of shoreline habitat has resulted in fragmentation of the natural heritage system. In order to address natural heritage sustainability within the shoreline areas, enhancements to the natural heritage system should be undertaken. Natural heritage system enhancements may include a combination of the following:

- **Natural Cover Enhancement and Restoration:** through careful selection and use of native vegetation, existing natural cover can be enhanced and bolstered. Increased natural cover may result in decreased stormwater runoff and coastal erosion. Identification of opportunities should be supported through planning processes such as Environment Impact Statements and should be assessed in consideration of ecological form and function to better inform restoration and management decisions for the larger natural heritage system.
- **Riparian Enhancement:** Riparian areas represent the intersection between aquatic and terrestrial areas. By increasing the total amount of riparian areas, water temperatures can be moderated, buffers are provided from toxic substances, erosion can be reduced, downstream sedimentation is reduced, and increased habitat is provided for fish and other aquatic species.
- **Farm Stewardship:** Traditional farming practices can significantly impact the surrounding environmental landscape. Pesticide run-off, manure run-off, impact of livestock on surrounding uses, watering systems etc. can all negatively alter ecosystems. By establishing or participating in

provincial or federal stewardship programs, the impact of the agricultural community can be decreased.

- **Shoreline Development Guidelines:** shoreline development guidelines assist in protecting scenic resources, while allowing property owners and developers to make informed, sensible decisions regarding construction along the shoreline. Guidelines may include building setbacks, floodproofing requirements, vegetation buffers, naturalization initiatives and shoreline treatments which have consideration for Great Lakes coastal processes and Natural River channel processes.
- **Establishment of Linkages and Corridors:** sustaining natural wildlife patterns and movement is important for dealing with habitat fragmentation. Through a variety of techniques, such as shoreline acquisition and naturalization initiatives, functional connectivity between habitats can be established. Fragmentation is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity conservation; therefore the establishment of linkages and corridors within the shoreline areas is crucial to long-term biodiversity sustainability.
- **Watershed/Subwatershed Studies and Plans:** Watershed and subwatershed studies are detailed, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary inventories of natural heritage features and functions (biotic and abiotic) within an ecologically-defined functional unit - the watershed or subwatershed. Studies at these scales provide a landscape-based approach to implementation of NHS principles and objectives (e.g. identification of NHS features and linkages). Existing features are inventoried and assessed at an ecologically-meaningful scale and opportunities for restoration and enhancement can be identified and prioritized to have the



greatest benefit to the functional unit (watershed / subwatershed). Watershed/subwatershed studies may be undertaken in partnership with the local Conservation Authorities and would identify recommendations to be undertaken to deal with biodiversity, water quality and aquatic habitat.

- **Sourcewater Protection Plans:** The Municipality will support the preparation and implementation of Sourcewater Protection Plans prepared by the Conservation Authorities and other levels of government, in consultation with the Municipality, to ensure and promote clean water sources, and integrate such plans with other sustainability initiatives. The Municipality will support the formation of Source Protection Committees under the *Clean Water Act*.
- **Phosphorus Reduction Strategies:** The Municipality will support the undertaking of phosphorus reduction strategies to mitigate water contamination and improve water quality. The Municipality will support Conservation Authority and other levels of government in their efforts. The Municipality will support Environment Canada

in their Phosphorus Reduction Pilot Project for Rondeau Bay.

- **Private Services:** The Municipality will strictly monitor development within environmentally sensitive areas, particularly in areas where private sewage and/or water services exist by requiring septic inspections to ensure that such systems are maintained and functioning appropriately to minimize potential environmental impacts.
- **Specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Requirements:** The EIS study requirements in the Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan provide for the evaluation and protection of locally significant wetlands, significant woodlands, natural heritage features within Important Bird Areas, shoreline landforms, significant wildlife habitat, regional Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI's), and habitat for regionally and locally significant species. Additionally, a requirement should be added for a Terms of Reference document to be created at the outset of the project to be reviewed by the municipalities and agency to ensure that required elements are included in the development plan. The Sustainable Shorelines Secondary Plan should also provide direction to appropriately scope an EIS based on the nature of features and the impacts of the project.
- **Expand the Greening Strategy:** The general policy directions in the Official Plan relating to a greening strategy and the creation of a more comprehensive natural heritage system strategy should be expanded on to encourage additional naturalization and restoration projects through land stewardship and conservation initiatives. The Municipality's Greening Strategy would address reforestation, forest management and would support natural heritage policies. Additionally it would include voluntary and regulatory measures to protect and

enhance natural heritage features. Finally, the strategy would encourage the protection of small woodlots through the use of incentives identified as part of a forest management strategy.

- **Promote Private Landowner Environmental Stewardship:** Incentives and opportunities can be promoted to private landowners to add more protective zoning or conservation easements to natural heritage features to protect and manage these features. The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program is designed to recognize and encourage the long-term stewardship of environmental features by providing tax incentives to landowners who wish to protect these features. The current tax relief is 100% tax exemption on the eligible portion of the property.

The Municipality's Official Plan identifies several objectives that support the identification of natural heritage features and the development of a Natural Heritage System to protect existing features, to restore, enhance and expand natural features and habitats, and to establish natural linkages and corridors. The Sustainable Shoreline Secondary Plan further promotes these objectives through specific Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements and the promotion of natural heritage feature conservation and enhancement through land stewardship and restoration initiatives.

As part of the background work undertaken in support of the Sustainable Shorelines Study, more detailed natural heritage feature investigations were undertaken to support the establishment of a more comprehensive Natural Heritage System. This resulted in the identification of natural heritage feature Areas of Policy Interest which are identified in Appendix "A". Areas of Policy Interest represent significant concentrations of natural heritage features and ecological functions



within the shoreline areas. The table in Appendix “A” further identifies the rationale for the delineation of these Areas of Policy Interest. The Areas of Policy Interest represent priority areas for focusing Municipal efforts and encouraging private landowners in their efforts to promote environmental stewardship to enhance the natural heritage features and functions and support the establishment of natural linkages and corridors. Furthermore, these areas may provide focus for the Municipality’s land acquisition strategies when reviewing strategic acquisitions for enhancing the Municipality’s Natural Heritage System. It is recognized that the Areas of Policy Interest may be further refined through more detailed Watershed or Subwatershed Plans and through the preparation of EIS’s.

In developing a more detailed action plan to deal with natural heritage system enhancements, potential partners should be identified. A variety of stakeholders have a vested interest in the shoreline, and the natural heritage enhancements small or large scale should be done in coordination with local and regional partners and stakeholders.

Timing: Long-term (2020-2025)

Cost Considerations: To be determined; would relate to the approach taken and to the programs that are identified. Private owners may apply for 100% tax relief under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program.

Indicators:

- Total area of shoreline preserved/enhanced
- Number of stewardship initiatives under way
- Area of parks/green space
- Total number of farmers engaged in sustainable farming practices
- % of green space connected
- Number of watershed studies completed
- Number of subwatershed studies completed
- Total area of natural cover (% change over time)

Related Municipal Initiatives: Chatham-Kent Greening Strategy (2007).

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham Kent, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment,

Environment Canada, First Nations, Regional Tourism Organization #1, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH), Community Round Table- Environmental Committee, Wallaceburg Social Justice Group, Carolinian Canada Coalition, Ducks Unlimited, Dresden District Horticultural Society, Sydenham Field Naturalists, Friends of the St. Clair River, Buy Local! Buy Fresh, Canadian Organic Growers, Chatham-Kent Community Gardens Network, St. Clair River Trail Committee and Wallaceburg Trails.

Action #2. Establish Education, Community Outreach and Marketing Programs

Educating members of the public regarding shoreline sustainability is extremely important to the long-term sustainability of the area. By formalizing education partnerships, it will improve the community's understanding of the shorelines, but will also clarify the responsibility of government agencies.

To effectively engage the public, a program for developing partnerships that focus on education should be formalized. Partnerships will assist in facilitating the sharing of information, combining strengths, and opening up access to opportunities. Several education and engagement programs already exist in Chatham-Kent, including Stewardship Kent's Children's Water Festival and the Community Tree's initiative. By developing a formal program, common goals and objectives to managing shoreline issues such as erosion can be established.

A website could be established, and would provide a place to promote events, provide education resources and provide information for people to get involved. The Municipality currently has an interactive municipal website, a component could be added that addresses

a sustainability partnership and would provide a central location for residents to access resources.

One specific marketing strategy that could be explored is the Blue Flag for Public Beaches and Marinas designation. The Blue Flag Designation is an internationally recognized symbol of excellence relating to the recreational quality, safety and environmental impact of beaches and marinas. Beaches and Marinas must meet established criteria related to environment, water quality, information and education, safety services and environmental management in order to be awarded the designation for one season. Chatham-Kent could pursue the designation on a trial basis, as the designation would need to be renewed through re-application on an annual basis. Having the designation could contribute to an increase in ecological related tourism, as well as be marketed to surrounding residents. The Mitchell's Bay Marine Park and Campground, Dover Community Park, and Erieau beach have been identified as potential candidates to pursue a Blue Flag designation.

Additional actions that could address community outreach include; interpretive/education signage that is associated with key natural features and a manual for shoreline management or signage relating to cultural heritage and First Nations sites.

Timing: Medium-term (2015-2020)

Cost Considerations: Costs would include website development, development and printing of marketing materials and staff/consultant time. The feasibility study and first year pilot phase for the Blue Flag program is conducted by Environmental Defence, without charge. However, there is an application fee and annual administration fee for a Blue Flag designation of \$400 for marinas and \$1,000 for beaches, which is



administered by the international organization of the Foundation for Environmental Education.

Indicators:

- Website development and usage
- Number of Blue Flag Designated Beaches
- Number of education programs developed
- Number of events devoted to shoreline sustainability
- Number of education resources distributed to the community

Related Municipal Initiatives: Municipal Publications and Website (<http://www.chatham-kent.ca>).

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham Kent, Regional Tourism Organization #1, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, First Nations, Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH), Community Round Table-Environmental Committee, Friends of the St. Clair River, Ridgetown District Agricultural Society, CK on the Edge, Transition Town, Cultural Coalition of Chatham-Kent,



Chatham-Kent Community Gardens, Ridgetown and St. Clair Colleges, University of Guelph at Ridgetown.

Action #3. Develop a Shoreline Landowners Guide

Private landowners can significantly impact shorelines if they do not incorporate sustainable living practices. Shoreline parcels in Chatham-Kent are owned by private landowners; because of this a Shoreline Landowners Guide may be developed and provided to landowners to educate them on living sustainably and how to properly manage the shorelines. The guidelines developed would also identify and assist landowners in understanding the various regulations and requirements of the multiple agencies (i.e., Municipality, Conservation Authorities, and Provincial and Federal governments) which have jurisdiction over shoreline development and related matters.

The guide could consist of several components, and may include a combination of the following:

- A check list to determine as a baseline, how sustainable the owner currently is. This may include criteria relating to water, fish and wildlife, land, and the owners ecological footprint.
- A series of steps that a landowner can take to ensure that they are acting sustainably, including; promoting natural landscaping, establishing and maintaining shoreline buffers, planting native species, use of rain barrels, limit lawn mowing adjacent to shoreline, etc.
- A series of pictures to illustrate sustainable actions.
- Guidance on septic tank maintenance to ensure that septic systems are functioning properly, and sewage and effluent does not enter the ecosystem.
- Resources and contacts for more information and guidance on shoreline sustainability, and agency contacts and their responsibilities within the shorelines.

The handbook could be developed in consultation with identified partners and members of the community and would significantly increase the outreach and education relating to shoreline sustainability in Chatham-Kent.

Timing: Short-term (2012)

Cost Considerations: Staff/consultant time to develop guide and printing costs for distribution.

Indicators:

- Total number of landowner guides distributed.
- Total number of actions from landowner guide implemented.

Related Municipal Initiatives: None

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Regional Tourism Organization #1, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Wallaceburg Advisory Team for

a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH), Community Round Table-Environmental Committee and Friends of the St. Clair River.

Action #4. Develop a Shoreline Management Plan

Significant issues relating to shoreline erosion and stabilization exist in Chatham-Kent. To address this, it is recommended that a Shoreline Management Plan or Strategy be developed to identify a set of recommended approaches and actions to deal with maintaining natural features and shoreline stabilization. Shoreline Management Plans are particularly effective in erosion and floodprone areas susceptible to development pressures, including areas considered significant beach deposits. The principal goal of a Shoreline Management Plan is to reduce or eliminate damage to shorelines, typically the Shoreline Management Plan will identify areas that have significant flooding, erosion, storm damage and bluff failure. They also establish setbacks from the shoreline for new development and provide a variety of shorelines management options where feasible that will protect the shoreline from future damage. It is recognized that in high bluff areas shoreline management in terms of human-made erosion control structures may not be feasible and should not impede natural processes and sediment transport.

The Shoreline Management Plan may also contain an inventory of shoreline conditions, which would assist in determining areas with the most significant shoreline erosion and environmental risk. Proposed actions could be tailored to address areas with erosion problems. Actions to address erosion on the shoreline could consist of a combination hard and soft engineering techniques such as sea walls, off-shore breakwaters, beach nourishment etc.



An additional component of shoreline management would be to include strategies and actions relating to erosion and stabilization in the Shoreline Landowners Guide.

Currently, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is updating its 1996 Lake Huron Shoreline Management Plan. Any shoreline management plan should follow established standards and procedures and should be consistent with Provincial policy and guidelines and adjacent Conservation Authority updated Shoreline Management Plans.

Timing: Medium-term (2015 – 2020)

Cost Considerations: To be determined

Indicators:

- Total number of shoreline management techniques implemented
- Total number of hard engineering shoreline management techniques implemented
- Total number of soft engineering shoreline management techniques implemented
- Total area of shoreline stabilized

Related Municipal Initiatives: None

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Action #5. Establish a Shoreline Regeneration Trust

Shoreline Regeneration Trusts are established to provide a mechanism to leverage funding to implement a number of shoreline initiatives including trail construction, park and marina improvements, habitat restoration projects, erosion and stabilization projects, education and marketing initiatives, and wayfinding. A regeneration trust could be established for the Lake Erie Shoreline, similar to the trust set up for the Lake Ontario Shoreline.

The trust would seek to integrate community, environmental and economic goals with the aim of preserving and regenerating the shoreline for future generations. The trust mainly acts as a catalyst and coordinator of ideas and resources for environmental

and economic renewal. It would assist in linking people, setting up partnerships and supplying resources for projects. Members of the trust may have a background in municipal government, understand planning and development, have strong relationships in the community to understand different perspectives and issues of the various stakeholders.

Timing: Long-term (2015-and beyond), or earlier, if feasible and the appropriate level of buy-in and partnerships with neighbouring Municipalities may be achieved.

Cost Considerations: to be determined

Indicators:

- Establishment of a Shoreline Regeneration Trust
- Number of partnerships established as part of the trust
- Total km of trail improvements
- Number of shoreline projects related to restoration and stabilization

Related Municipal Initiatives: None

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham Kent, Ministry of the Environment, Ontario Trails Council, Lake Erie Municipalities, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Ducks Unlimited, First Nations, Government of Canada (Heritage Canada).

5.5 Municipal Leadership

The municipal leadership goals, objectives and actions that are outlined in this section focus on communicating and coordinating activities with stakeholders in the community and members of the public. A measure of success of the Community Sustainability Plan will be implementation of programs, and community uptake. The programs that are outlined in this plan are very much based on the concepts of education, outreach and public consultation. The programs seek to protect and restore the shoreline, while encouraging economic development in a responsible manner.

Chatham-Kent is made up of numerous urban and rural centres, with a number of small rural hamlets. It has many unique natural and cultural assets that should be promoted and protected. The municipal leadership programs identified help to provide guidance on the municipality's role relating to the implementation of this Community Sustainability Plan. This role is one of facilitation, consultation and advocacy, and will provide the Municipality with opportunities to engage the public and private sector, while being fiscally responsible.

Through consultation with the public, it was identified that community outreach and establishing a Sustainability Advisory Committee were high priorities for the community. The participants felt that a Sustainability Advisory Committee would help to ensure that initiatives would be communicated to the public and that there would be a greater likelihood of success of initiatives being implemented. Additionally, establishing partnerships was seen as a high priority as they would provide members of the community with access to private and public funding, which would make shoreline area projects and community revitalization projects more feasible.

5.5.1 Applicable Vision Statement(s), Goals and Objectives

The actions and programs related to Municipal leadership will assist the Municipality in achieving the following sustainability strategic direction for the shoreline areas:

9. Collaborative: The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with other levels of government, agencies, community groups, First Nations, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.

The following goals and objectives have been identified to support the actions and programs related to municipal leadership:

Goal: *Provide leadership to members of the community on shoreline sustainability*

Objective: *Oversee, generate interest and promote shoreline sustainability in the community.*

Goal: *Establish partnerships to assist with implementing shoreline projects*

Objective: *Act as a mediator and coordinator to facilitate partnerships between agencies, groups, educational institutions and sustainability champions.*



5.5.2 Actions and Programs

Action #1. Establish a Sustainability Advisory Committee

A Sustainability Advisory Committee should be established and include members of Municipal Council, Municipal Staff and stakeholders. The purpose of the Committee will be to oversee, generate, and promote sustainability initiatives on the Shorelines in Chatham-Kent. It would be the responsibility of the Committee to work with Staff and a variety of partners to ensure that the vision, goals and objectives are met through the implementation of a variety of programs outlined in this Community Sustainability Plan. The Committee will also work to create and strengthen partnerships and would oversee the implementation of the Community Sustainability Plan. The Committee would provide an opportunity for local community members to engage with local government on the topic of shoreline sustainability. Community uptake will be a measure of the success of this plan. When the Sustainability Advisory Committee is established, a terms of reference should be developed which would establish their mandate, budget and goals and objectives.

The composition of the Sustainability Advisory Committee should be further investigated, which may be comprised of a separate Committee of Council, or added to the role of the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan Committee.

Timing: Short-term (2012)

Cost Considerations: To be determined, would be identified when Terms of Reference for Committee is developed.

Indicators:

- Total number of programs implemented from the Community Sustainability Plan
- Number of community sustainability education programs implemented
- Total number of partnerships established by committee
- Number of collaborative projects involving two or more organizations/companies
- Related Municipal Initiatives: None

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Community Champions and Stakeholders, Transition Town, Local Groups Concerned with Sustainability in the Shoreline Areas.



Action #2. Identify and Establish Partnerships

Shoreline sustainability will not be reached simply as a municipal initiative, partnerships with local community groups and private corporations will need to be established in order for successful implementation of a number of the recommended programs. A number of potential partners have been identified that could work with the municipality to achieve the actions and programs outlined in this Community Sustainability Plan.

Potential partners have been assigned to each recommended program, as potential partners that could assist with implementation, provide resources, or may have an interest in investing in shoreline sustainability. Partnerships will be crucial to implement a number of recommended programs and consultation may be conducted in an on-going manner.

Timing: Short-term (2011)

Cost Considerations: Staff resources

Indicators:

- Total number of partnerships established by committee
- Number of collaborative projects involving two or more organizations/companies

Related Municipal Initiatives: Existing Partnerships with Government/Agencies and the Private Sector, Committees and Business Improvement Area Associations

Leadership and Partners: As identified, relevant to the specific actions and programs.

Action #3. Advocate Municipality's Interests

The Municipality is committed to advocating the actions and programs contained in the Community Sustainability Plan with other levels of governments, agencies, stakeholders and partners to further the sustainability objectives of the Municipality. The following highlights some of the key action items and priorities that the Municipality will seek to advocate with other levels of governments, agencies and stakeholders:

a) Shoreline Erosion and Shoreline Protection Measures:

Throughout the public consultations, the public expressed significant concerns regarding matters of shoreline erosion and protection measures. It is recognized that shoreline erosion measures cannot be addressed solely by private landowners or the Municipality, but that a more comprehensive approach is required in consultation with other levels of government and the Conservation Authorities. Furthermore, the Municipality does not have the fiscal resources required to implement shoreline protection measures. The Municipality will facilitate discussions with other levels of government and the Conservation Authorities to address matters related to shoreline erosion and protection, including:

- Preparation of Shoreline Management Plans;
- Preparation of a Shoreline Landowners Guide;
- Shoreline Regeneration Trust;
- Secure funding from other levels of government for shoreline protection measures to protect areas of existing development from erosion hazards, where feasible; and
- Streamlining the required approvals process.

b) Wind Energy: The public has expressed concerns that the Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) under the *Green Energy Act, 2009*, may not adequately take into consideration local planning issues and concerns during the review and evaluation of renewable energy projects. In April 2010, Council passed a recommendation that: "The Municipality's efforts to advocate on behalf of Chatham-Kent residents by working with the Province of Ontario to educate our citizens regarding green energy issues, and to ensure their related concerns and questions are being addressed." The Municipality will pursue discussions with the Province when reviewing proposals for wind energy systems to ensure that the concerns of the Municipality's residents are addressed through the Renewable Energy Approval process.

Timing: Short-term (2011)

Cost Considerations: Staff resources, political resources.

Indicators:

- Amount of funding obtained for shoreline erosion and protection measures
- Number of shoreline erosion and protection works undertaken
- Number of collaborative projects

Related Municipal Initiatives: Existing Partnerships with Government/Agencies and the Private Sector, Committees and Business Improvement Associations.

Leadership and Partners: Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Conservation Authorities, other levels of government.



A landscape photograph showing a hillside with sparse vegetation, including small trees and shrubs, under an overcast sky. The foreground shows a steep, eroded bank of dark soil with visible cracks. The background features a line of trees, some with green leaves and others with bare branches, against a grey, cloudy sky.

6.0

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
AND PROGRAMS**



The following Table 6.1 summarizes the actions and programs proposed through the Community Sustainability Plan, indicators in determining and monitoring the success of the programs, and the anticipated timeframe to implement the actions and programs.

Table 6.1 | Summary of Actions and Programs

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS				
5.1.2 ECONOMY AND TOURISM				
1	Identify, Improve and Maintain Tourism Nodes	Chatham-Kent is internationally recognized as a world-class recreational and tourist destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Secondary Tourism Nodes • Number of new tourism-based land uses (golf courses, marinas, recreational commercial establishments, etc.) • Number of annual visitors 	On-going (life of plan)
2	Promote Ferry Service or Mini-Cruises	Chatham-Kent is internationally recognized as a world-class recreational and tourist destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Ferry Service Routes • Number of Mini-Cruises 	Long-term (2020-2025)
3	Promote and Develop Innovation in Agriculture	The agricultural industry in Chatham-Kent is recognized for its innovation and sustainable operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and variety of post-secondary educational programs and facilities • Number of post-secondary education job • Number of post-secondary students; number of agri-tourism uses (i.e., building permit/planning data) 	Short-term (2012 -2015)
4	Enhance and Improve Municipal Docking Facilities	Chatham-Kent is internationally recognized as a world-class recreational and tourist destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of amenities associated with docks (e.g., washrooms) • Amount of money spent on dock improvements; dock usage/boat traffic 	Short-term (2012-2020 – on-going)
5	Regional Tourism Organization #1	Chatham-Kent is internationally recognized as a world-class recreational and tourist destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement programs and initiatives under the Regional Tourism Organization #1 • Addition of Chatham-Kent to the South Coast initiative 	Short-term (2012)

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS				
5.2.2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN				
1	Revisit, Prioritize and Implement Urban Design Guideline Recommendations	Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Council Report • Number of beautification/ streetscaping works • Appropriate funds spent to support beautification/ streetscaping • Increase in private property beautification and homeowner involvement in neighbourhood beautification initiatives 	Short-term (2012-2015 – on-going)
2	Maintain Shoreline Areas Impacted by Invasive Species	Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative perception of trails (i.e., a survey) • Cost of maintenance, reduction of invasive species 	Medium-Term (2015-2017)
3	Implement Municipal Signage Strategy	Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new signage • Number of annual tourists to attractions 	Medium-term (2015-2020)
4	4. Identify Gateway Locations and Establish Gateway Features into the Shoreline Areas	Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of gateway features as part of enhancing gateways to Chatham-Kent 	Medium to Long-term (2015 and beyond)
5	5. Public Use and Acquisition Strategy	Public spaces, trails and parks are well-connected and accessible, and well-maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and quality of recreational amenities • Length and frequency of shoreline in public ownership 	Medium-term (2015-2020)

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROBLEMS				
5.2.2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN				
6	Community Revitalization and Improvements	The historic communities of the shoreline areas are attractive, vibrant places in which to live, work and play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dollars granted for CIP programs • Investment leveraged by CIP program • Number of LEED-certified buildings and communities in Chatham-Kent • Municipal energy usage 	Medium-term (2015-2020 – on-going)
7	Renewable Energy Promotion	The communities and buildings of the shoreline areas are sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy consumption • Increased energy conservation measures 	Medium-term (2015-2020)
5.3.2 CULTURE AND HERITAGE				
1	Natural Heritage System Management, Enhancement and Restoration	Chatham-Kent celebrates, conserves and improves its cultural heritage resources and its resources are renowned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of cultural heritage/ tourism assets • Number of interpretive installations/signage • Number of designated heritage structure 	Short-term (on-going)
2	Identify Potential Heritage Conservation Districts	Chatham-Kent celebrates, conserves and improves its cultural heritage resources and its resources are renowned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of heritage conservation districts 	Medium-term (2015-2020)

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROBLEMS				
5.4.2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
1	Natural Heritage System management, Enhancement and Restoration	Protect and restore natural heritage features within the shoreline areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total area of shoreline preserved/enhanced • Number of stewardship initiatives under way • Area of parks/green space • Total number of farmers engaged in sustainable farming practices • % of green space connected • Number of watershed/subwatershed studies completed • Total area of natural cover (% change over time) 	Long-term (2020-2025)
2	Establish Education, Community Outreach and Marketing Programs	Increase public participation in shoreline management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website development and usage • Number of education programs developed • Number of events devoted to shoreline sustainability • Number of education resources distributed to the community 	Medium-term (2015-2020)
3	Develop a Shoreline Landowners Guide	Increase environmental stewardship and sense of place within the shoreline areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of landowner guides distributed • Total number of actions from landowner guide implemented 	Short-term (2012)

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROBLEMS				
5.4.2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
4	Develop a Shoreline Management Plan	Protect and restore natural heritage features within the shoreline areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of shoreline management techniques implemented • Total number of hard engineering shoreline management techniques implemented • Total number of soft engineering shoreline management techniques implemented • Total area of shoreline stabilized 	Medium-term (2015-2020)
5	Establish a Shoreline Regeneration Trust	Protect and restore natural heritage features within the shoreline areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a Regeneration Trust • Number of partnerships established as part of the trust • Total km of trail improvements 	Long-term (2015-and beyond)

	ACTION / PROGRAM	GOAL	INDICATORS	TIMING
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND PROBLEMS				
5.5.2 MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP				
1	Establish a Sustainability Advisory Committee	Provide leadership to members of the community on shoreline sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of programs implemented from the Community Sustainability Plan • Number of community sustainability education programs implemented • Total number of partnerships established by committee • Number of collaborative projects involving two or more organizations/companies 	Short-term (2012)
2	Identify and Establish Partnerships	Establish partnerships to assist with implementing shoreline projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of partnerships established by committee • Number of collaborative projects involving two or more organizations/companies 	Short-term (2011 - on-going)
3	Advocate Municipality's Interests	<p>Provide leadership to members of the community on shoreline sustainability</p> <p>Establish partnerships to assist with implementing shoreline projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of funding obtained for shoreline erosion and protection measures • Number of shoreline erosion and protection works undertaken • Number of collaborative projects 	Short-term (2011)



7.0

IMPLEMENTATION



The Implementation section identifies actions the Municipality will undertake to implement and monitor the actions and programs outlined in the Community Sustainability Plan. These actions include the establishment of a Sustainability Advisory Committee, and the on-going

review and monitoring of the actions and programs to ensure success. Furthermore, a number of “quick win” projects are identified as short-term priorities for implementation.

7.1 Sustainability Advisory Committee

A recommended program/action, as discussed in Section 5.0, is the establishment of a Sustainability Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation of the Community Sustainability Plan. The Committee would inform the public on successes and challenges of implementing the Community Sustainability Plan and would be set up as a Committee that reports to Council. The Committee could be made up of members of the public, members of Chatham-Kent staff, key stakeholders and members of Council. Alternatively, additional roles may be assigned to the Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan Implementation Committee to implement this Community Sustainability Plan.

Key roles and responsibilities of the Sustainability Advisory Committee would include:

- Overseeing implementation of the Plan;
- Working with local agencies and groups to develop partnerships and promote awareness to carry out initiatives;
- Advocate the Municipality's interests to senior levels of government and other agencies;

- Consulting with the public on the successes and challenges of implementation;
- Developing and promoting events related to shoreline sustainability
- Overseeing the review and reporting on the status of implementation of the Plan;
- Identifying and pursuing potential funding sources, such as Green Municipal Funds to implement projects in this Plan;
- Developing and implementing education, promotional and wayfinding materials; and
- Developing and implementing a Shoreline Landowners Guide.

Prior to establishing the Committee, a Terms of Reference document will be developed that will outline the roles and responsibilities, goals and objectives of the Committee and the committee's budget.



7.2 Review and Reporting

On-going review and reporting of this Community Sustainability Plan should be undertaken by the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Incorporated into the Terms of Reference document for the Sustainability Advisory Committee should be requirements for reporting. Annual progress reports may be conducted and reported online to members of the community. It has become evident through community consultation that members of the community wish to be engaged in the implementation of the actions and programs outlined in the Community Sustainability Plan, therefore, progress on these actions should be communicated to them.

Reporting to the community would be done through a reporting mechanism that would be established when the Committee is formed. Popular approaches to reporting identified in the best practices review include annual progress reports, establishing a sustainability website to report on project status or issuing notifications to the public. Additionally, a comprehensive review may be undertaken every five years in coordination with a review of the Official Plan and Shoreline Secondary Plan.

7.3 Adaptive Management

Adaptive management understands that not all actions and programs undertaken may be successful, and that through implementation and monitoring, deficiencies and areas for improvement may need to be identified. By employing a mechanism whereby changes to the actions and recommendations are welcomed, greater success may be achieved.

If it is determined, through the indicators presented in Section 5.0, that one or more of the goals identified are not being achieved by the recommended programs, then the adaptive management approach will be used to amend some recommended initiatives. This approach understands that the social, environmental and economic climate is fluid and can change. This approach ensures the Municipality is well equipped to deal with changes in shoreline sustainability.

7.4 Quick Wins

An in-depth list of programs have been identified in this Community Sustainability Plan, and because of this, a set of 'Quick Win' programs have been identified. Quick wins are programs that will require limited start-up resources to implement, are short-term priority items and that are relatively simple to implement. The quick win projects identified include:

- Shoreline Landowners Guide (S. 5.4.2, Action #3);
- Natural Heritage System Management, Enhancement and Restoration Programs (S. 5.4.2, Action #1);
- Municipal Signage Strategy (S. 5.2.2, Action #3); and
- Community Revitalization and Improvements (Sustainability Community Improvement Plan) (S. 5.2.2, Action #6).





8.0

CONCLUSION



The Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan provides a framework for achieving the community's vision for the sustainability of the shoreline areas.

The Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan provides a framework for achieving the community's vision for the sustainability of the shoreline areas. The Shoreline Areas Community Sustainability Plan identifies a number of programs, actions and projects that are to be implemented and monitored for their success in achieving the vision for the sustainability of the shoreline areas. This Community Sustainability Plan is a living document. The actions and programs are intended to adapt to changing economic, environmental and social factors over time, including changes to respond to global sustainability challenges as well as smaller, local challenges.

Since there are a large number of projects being proposed, it would be unreasonable to expect the Plan to be fully implemented and completed by Council and Municipal staff in the short term, given other financial

priorities and limited staff resources. It will be important for staff to monitor the success of the Community Sustainability Plan, and adjust programs and priorities based on resource availability. Means of funding the programs and actions, as well as the formation of partnerships to reduce the burden on municipal staff, are encouraged for all of the identified actions and programs.

This Community Sustainability Plan needs to work within the Municipality's existing planning framework in order to be effective. The programs and actions proposed by this Community Sustainability Plan should not result in duplicated work or effort by the Municipality. The Municipality should utilize its existing studies and work by its partners, in furthering the completion of the identified actions and programs.



Appendix A

Natural Heritage Feature Areas
of Policy Interest

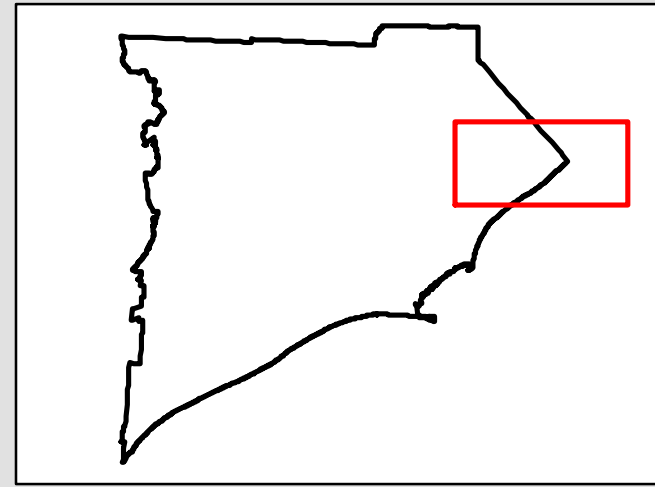
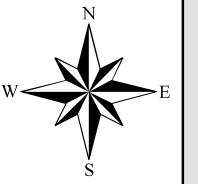
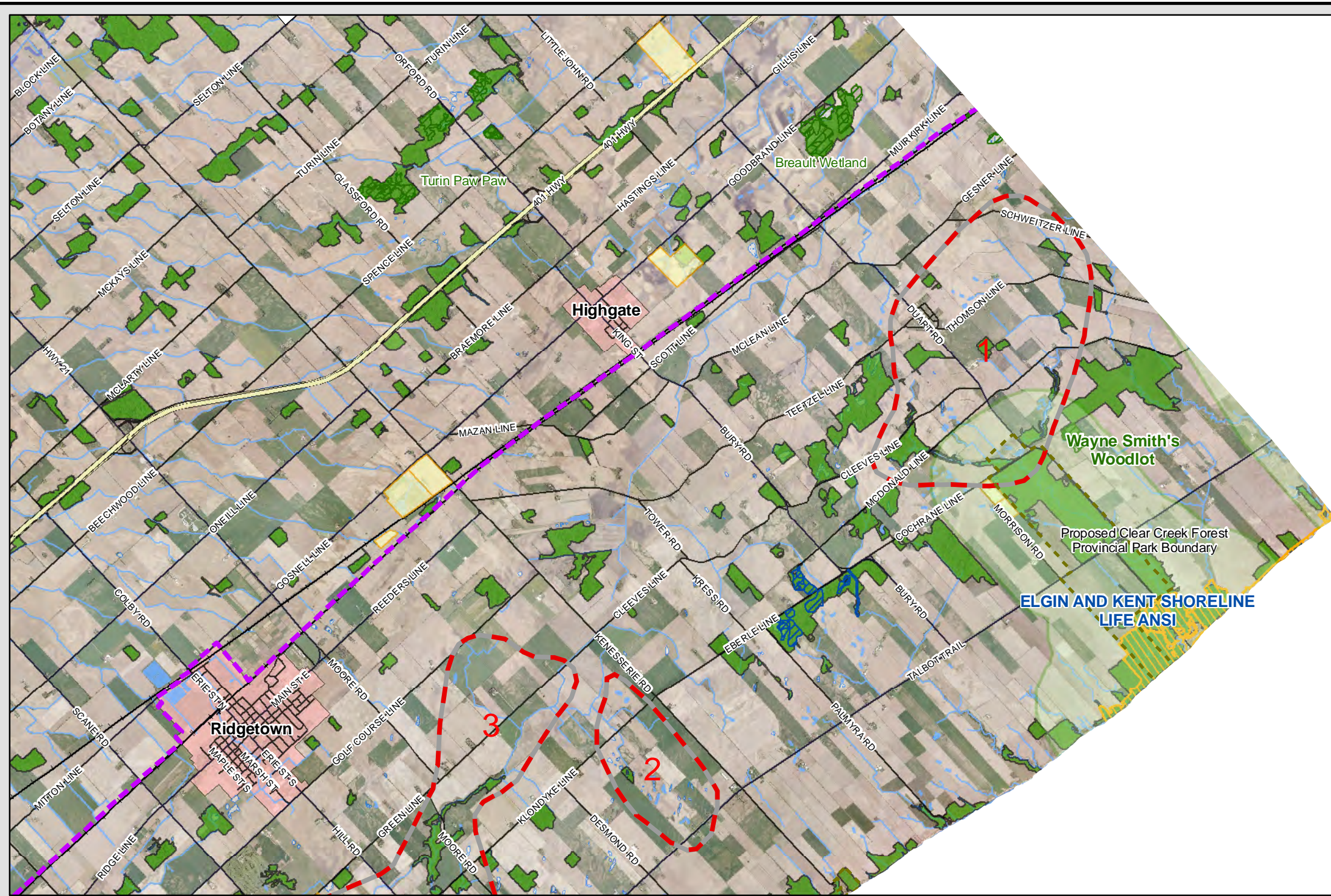
Appendix A | Natural Heritage Feature Areas of Policy Interest

AREA OF POLICY INTEREST	LOCATION	RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily located south of Muirkirk, at Duart Rd. and McLean Line; Encompasses headwater areas of Clear Creek (including Dubs Drain). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and enhancement of headwater areas to support downstream habitat Large woodlot with large interior and deep interior habitat, Wayne Smith Woodlot PSW and Elgin and Kent Shoreline Life Science ANSI located downstream of the API; Woodlands with existing interior habitat are valued ecological features, particularly in this landscape that currently has limited overall forest cover; Landform representation: landscape characterized by hummocky till-moraine features, abandoned beaches and bars; Opportunities to enhance natural cover and create contiguous habitat units.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North of Talbot Trail, between Desmond Rd. and Kenesserie Rd.; Encompasses complex of 'pocket' wetland and pond features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landform Representation: 'Pocket' wetland complex is not well represented within the landscape of the shoreline study areas; Potential importance for groundwater recharge-discharge; PPS Natural Heritage Reference Manual (2010) places some emphasis on protection of smaller wetland complexes rather than on only larger, contiguous PSW's.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valleyland, including headwater tributaries; Headwaters, located north of Morpeth, to the confluence with Lake Erie. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High potential for identification as a Significant Valleyland; Existing natural cover and woodlands with opportunities for enhancement – natural cover, connectivity and linkage function associated with this system; Presence of headwater wetland(s).
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tributaries to Rondeau Bay, areas sheltered by the Rondeau Spit; Approximate boundaries: south of Ridge Line between Kent Bridge Rd and Erieau Rd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rondeau Spit and Rondeau Bay - significant Natural Heritage features in Chatham-Kent; Greater Rondeau Area IBA, Rondeau Bay North Shore Wetlands PSW, Sinclair Bush Life Science ANSI. Protection and enhancement of tributaries and watercourses that support these designated features and the aquatic system of Rondeau Bay; Opportunities to increase natural cover & corridor function.

AREA OF POLICY INTEREST	LOCATION	RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Erie North Shore north to the study area boundary between Merlin Rd. and Coatsworth Rd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly developed shoreline area; Very limited woodland habitat; Very little natural cover; General priority area for the creation of natural cover (woodland, meadow, wetland, etc.) to help meet stated objectives of C-K.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream of confluence of the Thames River with St. Clair Lake; Near Bradley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thames River Mouth Complex PSW; Presence of several small un-designated wetland features; Opportunities to enhance / expand wetland features; Potential opportunity to enhance connection to riverine systems of the Thames River and Jeannette's Creek; PPS Natural Heritage Reference Manual (2010) places some emphasis on protection of smaller wetland complexes rather than on only larger PSW's.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearshore areas encompassing St. Clair Marsh Complex PSW; From Balmoral Line north to Mitchell's Bay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large number of overlapping designations and features, including: Lake St. Clair Marshes Life Science ANSI, St. Clair Marsh Complex PSW, within Critical Floodplain / Floor Prone area, Eastern Lake St. Clair IBA, St. Clair National Wildlife Area; Potential opportunities to increase natural cover, enhance existing natural features as part of a consolidated Natural Heritage System.

AREA OF POLICY INTEREST	LOCATION	RATIONALE FOR IDENTIFICATION
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Line Rd. and Meadowvale Line; At the confluence of Little Bear Creek and Maxwell Creek with the Sydenham River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features with overlapping designations: St. Clair March Complex PSW and ANSI; Presence of woodland unit with interior forest habitat (>100m) in close proximity to designation features; Woodlands with existing interior habitat are valued ecological features, particularly in this landscape that currently has limited overall forest cover.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sydenham River meander corridor from Dresden east to intersection of Grove Mills Line and Flat Rock Rd; Highly meandering portion of the Sydenham River east of Dresden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly meandering section of the Sydenham River Uncommon landform representation (e.g. oxbow wetlands / ponds) Corridor and linkage function of existing cover along the Sydenham River for flora and fauna movement.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline and adjacent areas along the Thames River from Chatham east to Thamesville. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly meandering portion of the Thames River Existing woodland cover connecting / in close proximity to the cover along the Thames River for linkage and corridor opportunities. Uncommon Landform representation (e.g. oxbow wetlands, forests and ponds/lakes) Potential habitat opportunities and enhancement of corridor and linkage opportunities to help meet C-K stated objectives for increasing overall forest cover.



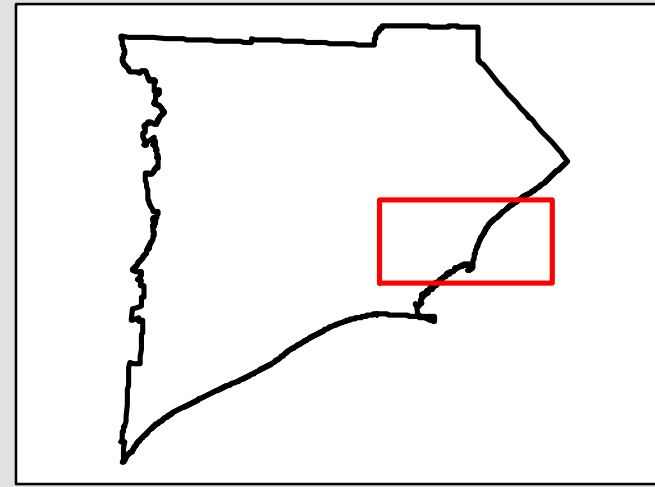
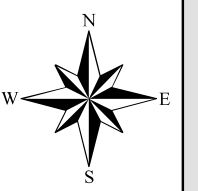
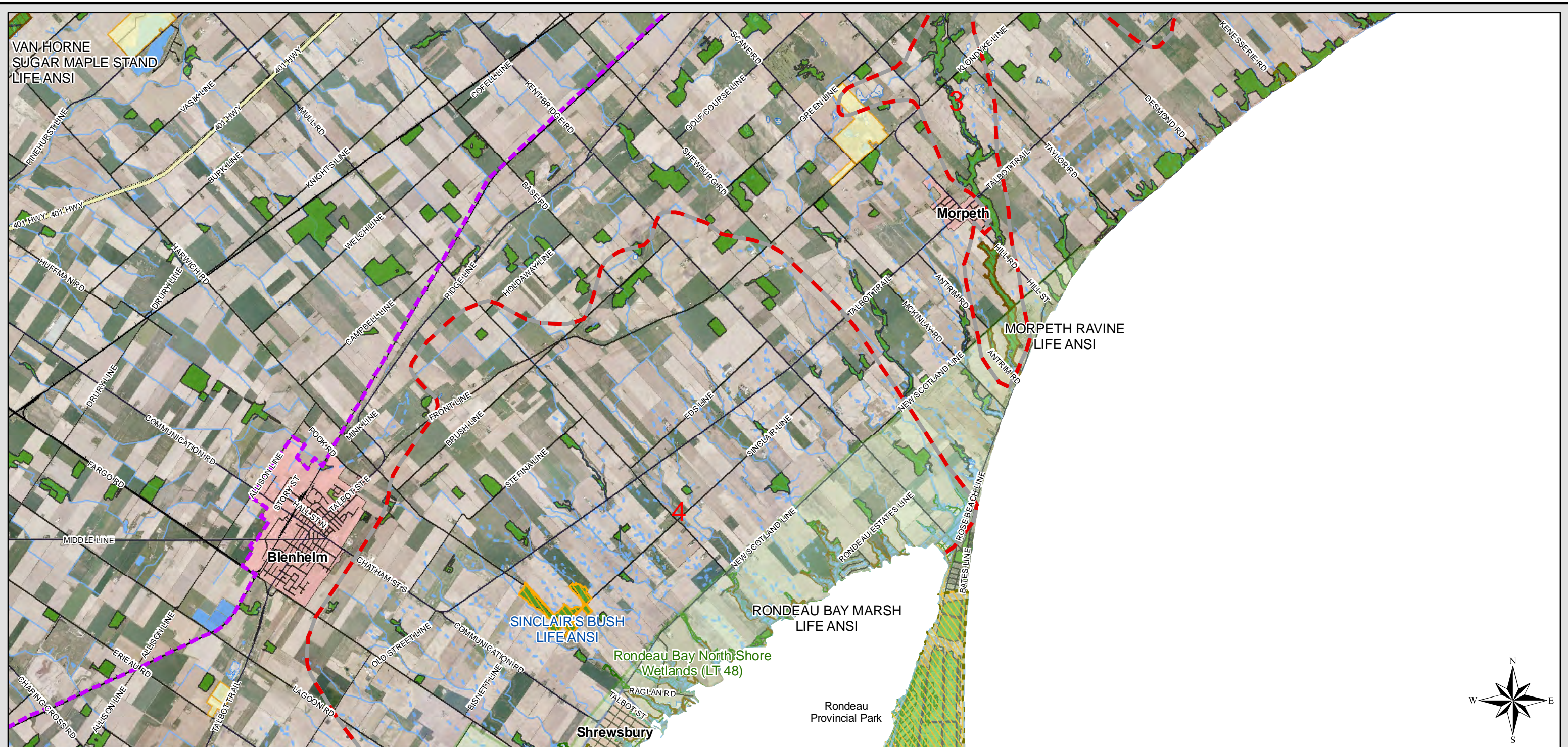


Legend					
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone		Wetland
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-1
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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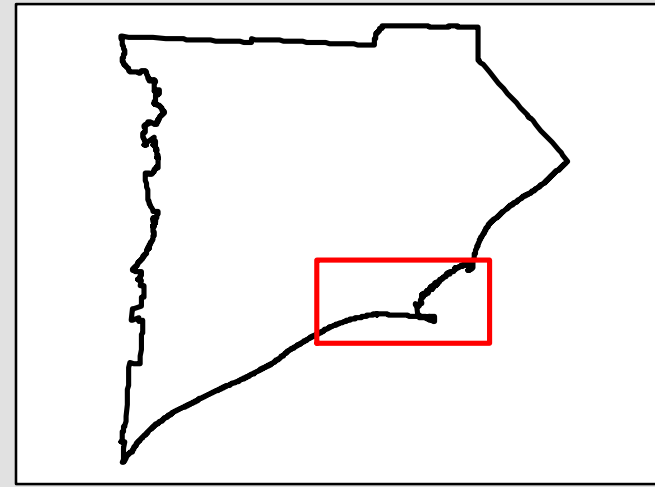
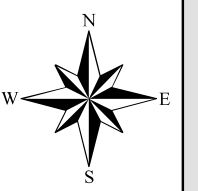
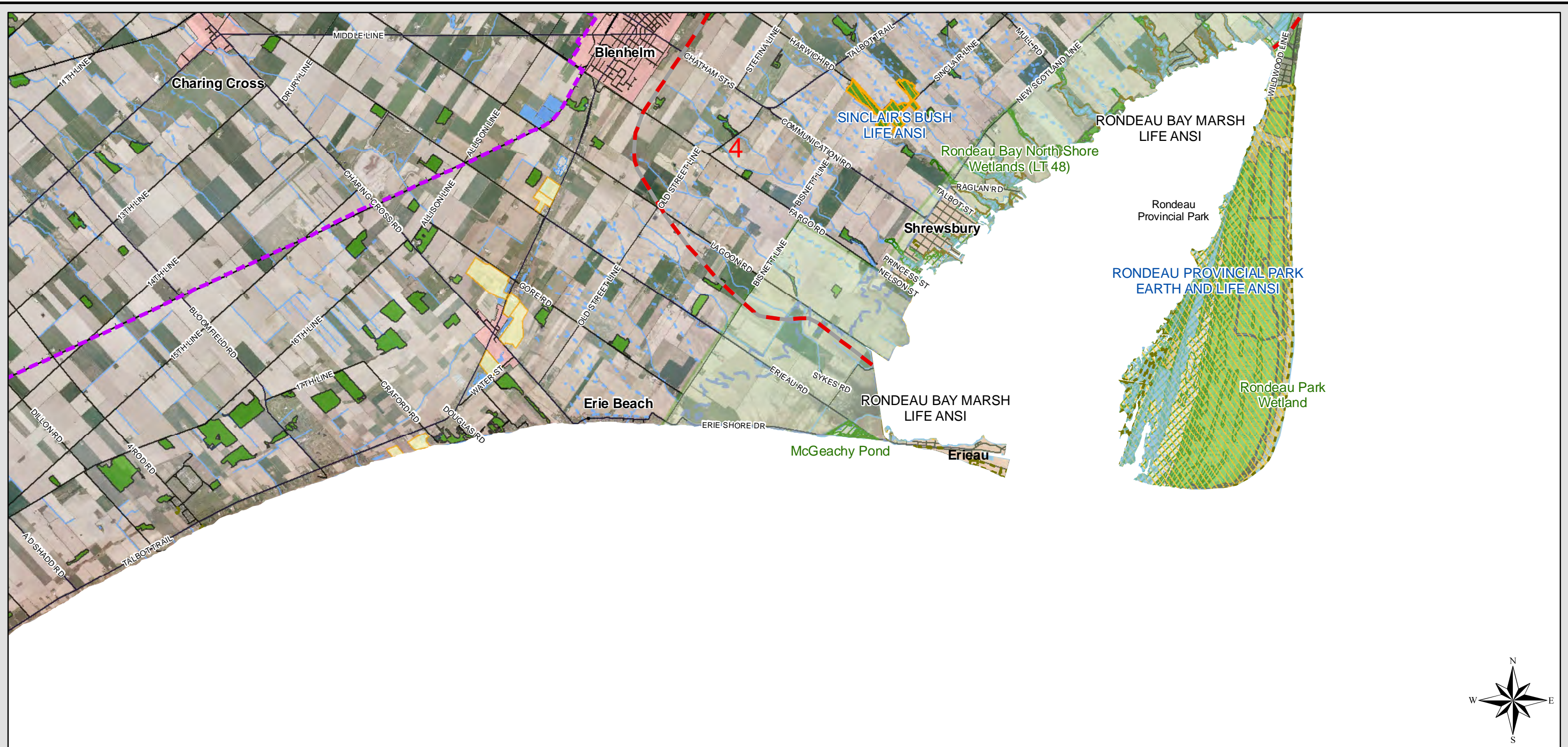
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	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-2
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N

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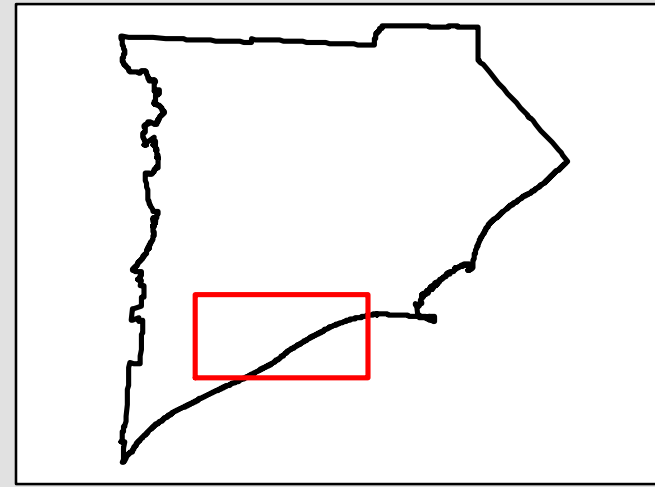
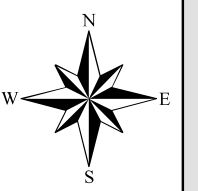


Legend			
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	Areas of Policy Interest		Wetland
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Intermittent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Permanent Watercourse
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Waterbody
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		Aggregate Site
	Locally Significant Wetland		
	Railway		
	Provincial Highway		
	Road Network		
	Conservation Authority Boundary		

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-3
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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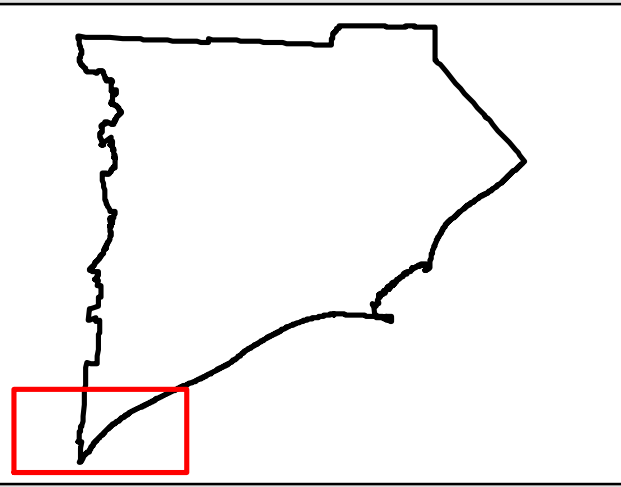
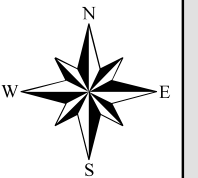


Legend					
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	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-4
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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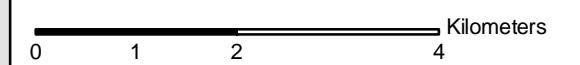
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| Sustainable Shorelines Study Area | Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone | Wetland |
| Areas of Policy Interest | Provincial Park | Intermittent Watercourse |
| Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada) | Railway | Permanent Watercourse |
| Provincially Significant Wetland | Provincial Highway | Waterbody |
| Significant Woodland (>2 ha) | Road Network | Settlement Area |
| Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial) | Conservation Authority Boundary | Aggregate Site |
| Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional) | | |
| Locally Significant Wetland | | |

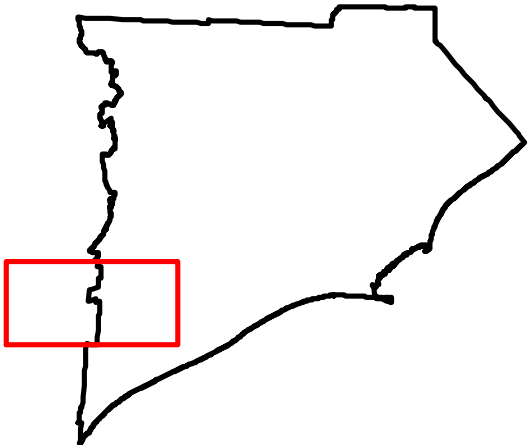
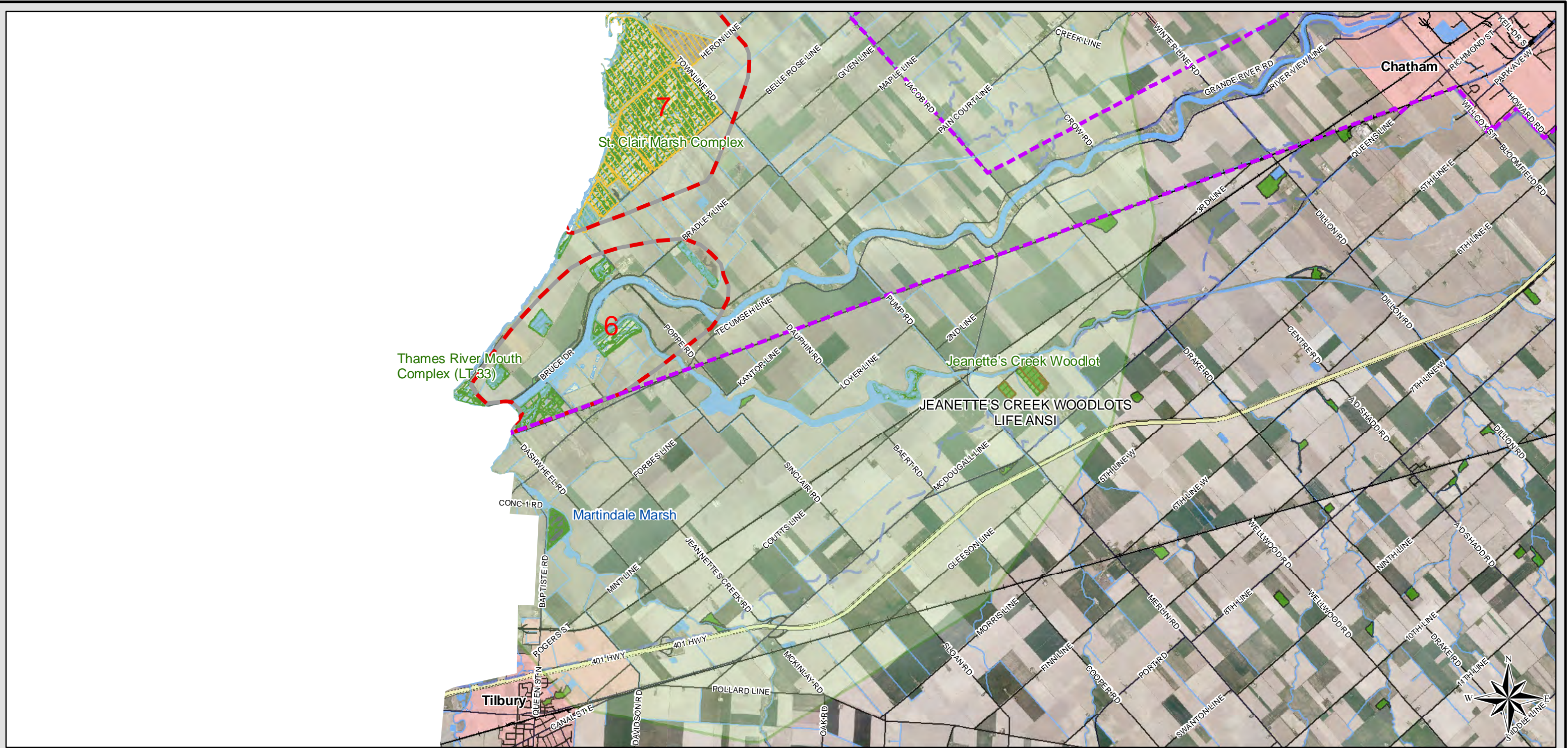
MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT



APPENDIX A-5
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N





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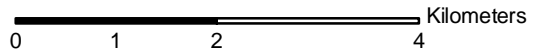
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- Areas of Policy Interest
- Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Significant Woodland (>2 ha)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)
- Locally Significant Wetland
- Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone
- Provincial Park
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Road Network
- Conservation Authority Boundary
- Wetland
- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Settlement Area
- Aggregate Site

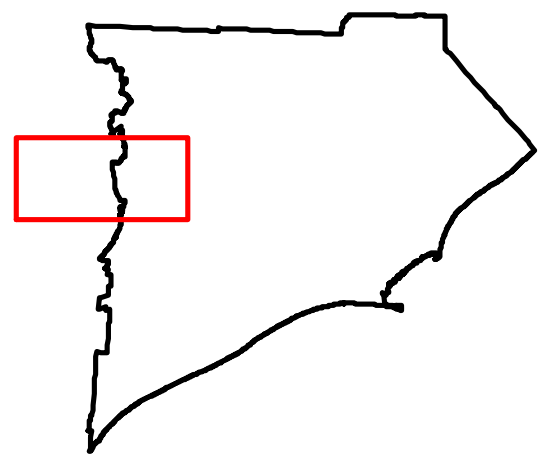
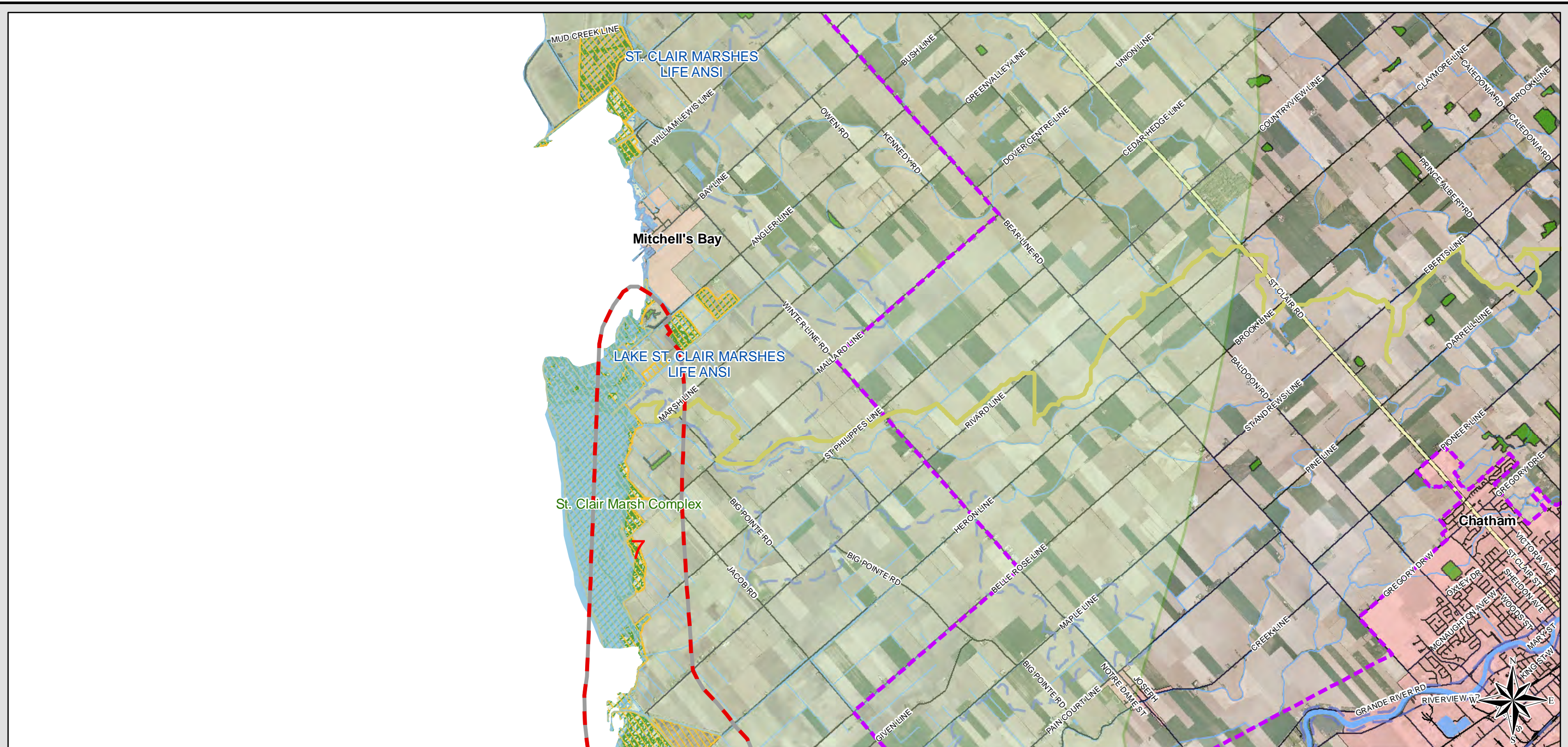
MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT



**APPENDIX A-6
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST**

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N



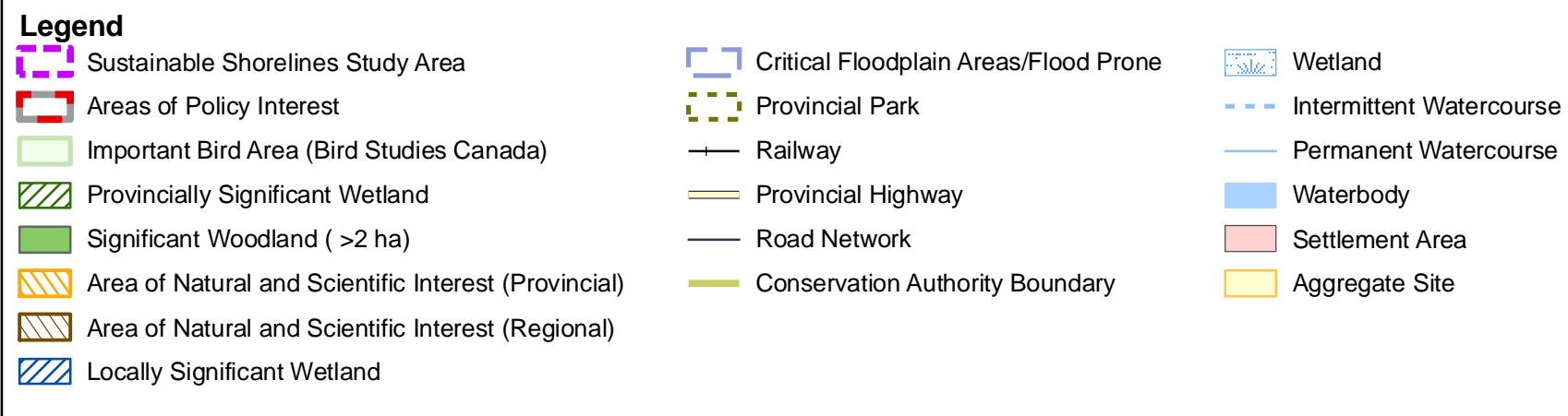
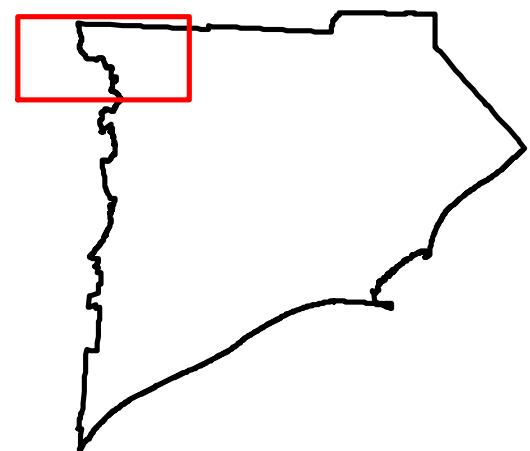
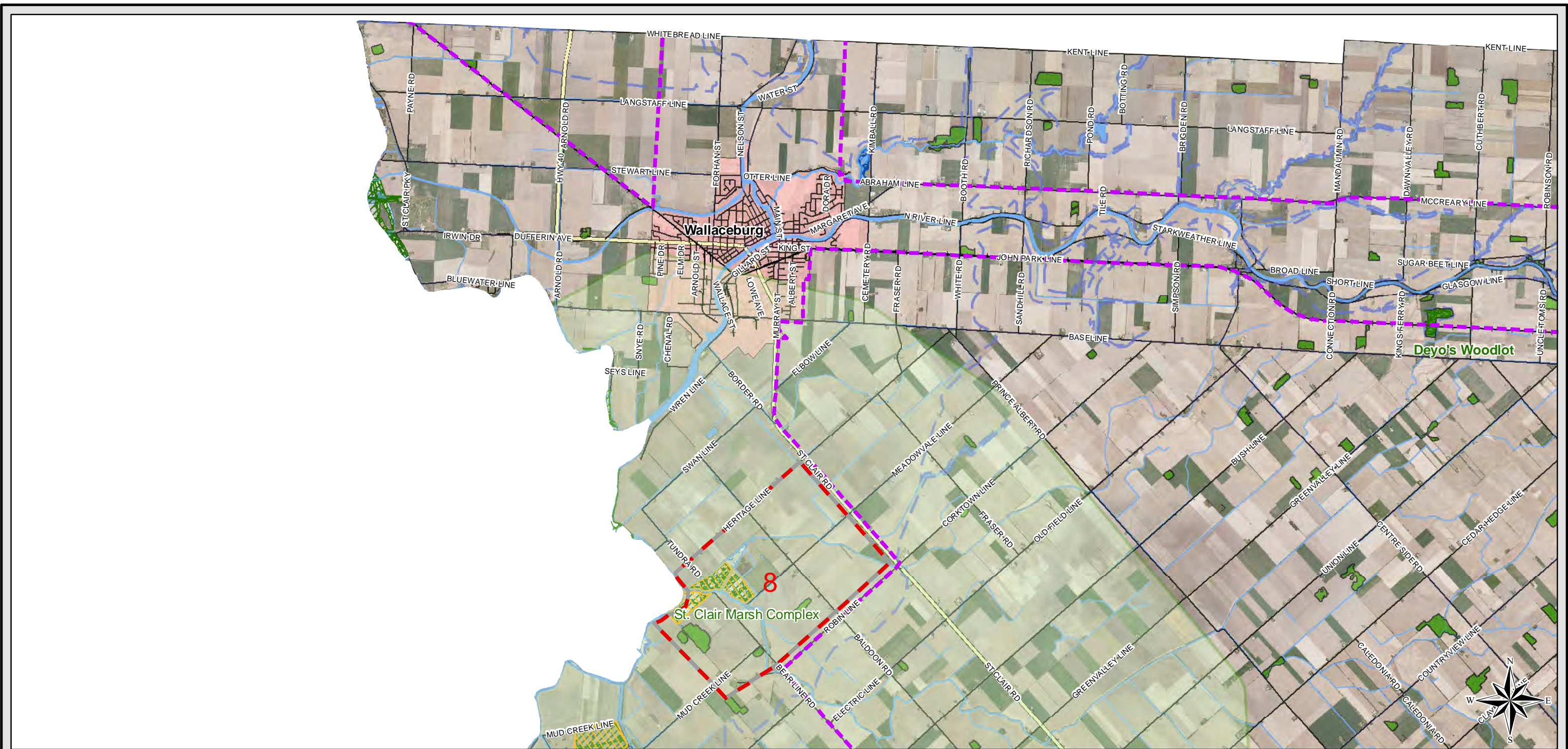


Legend					
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	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

**APPENDIX A-7
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST**

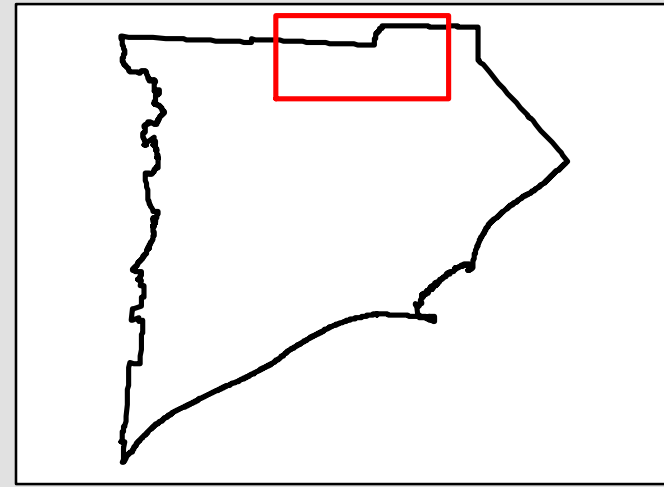
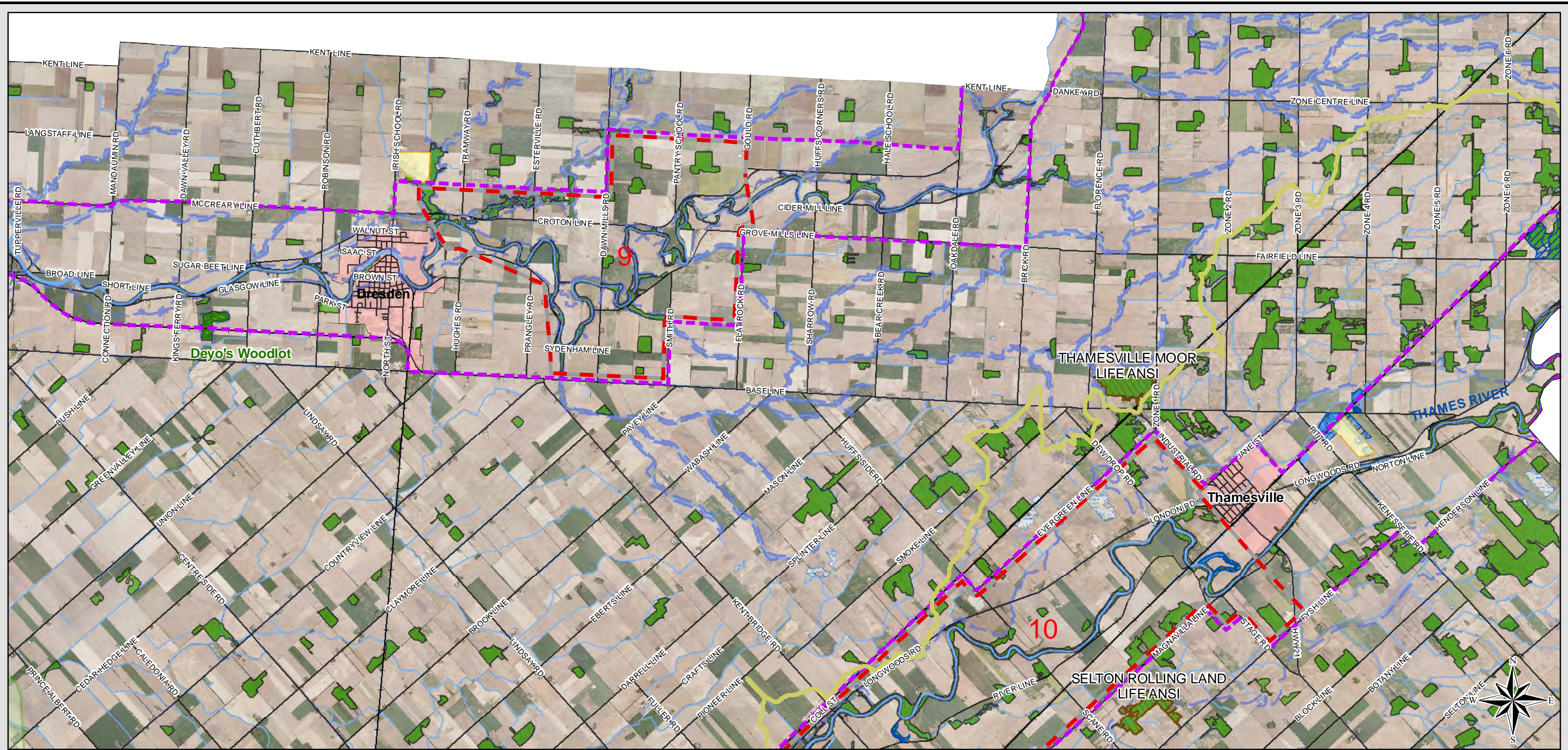
Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-8
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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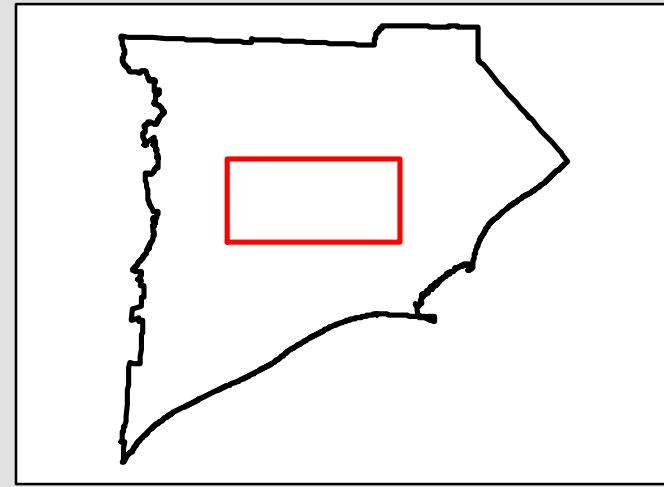
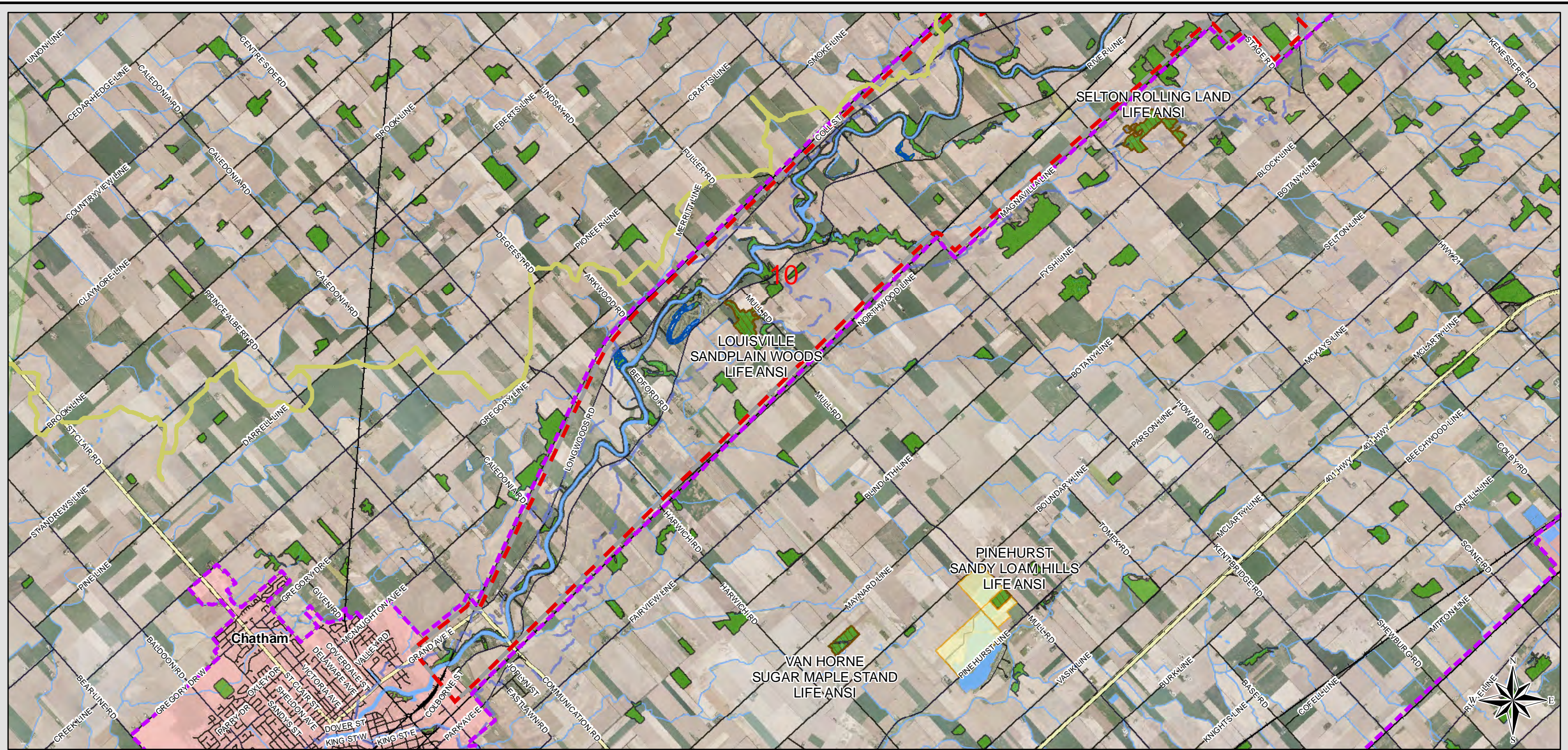
Legend

Sustainable Shorelines Study Area	Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone	Wetland
Areas of Policy Interest	Provincial Park	Intermittent Watercourse
Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)	Railway	Permanent Watercourse
Provincially Significant Wetland	Provincial Highway	Waterbody
Significant Woodland (>2 ha)	Road Network	Settlement Area
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)	Conservation Authority Boundary	Aggregate Site
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		
Locally Significant Wetland		

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-9
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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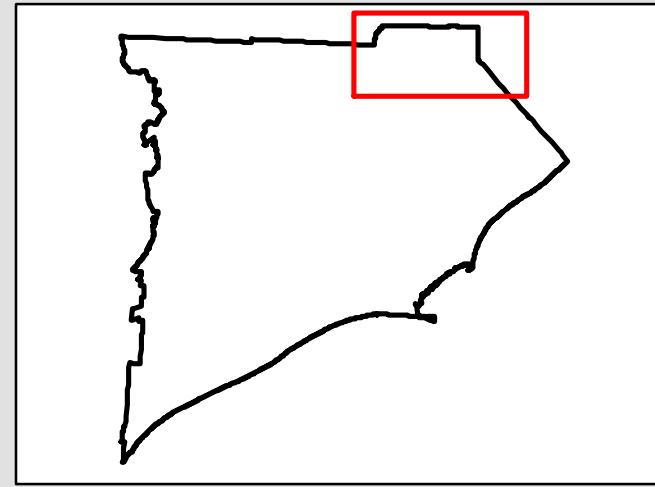
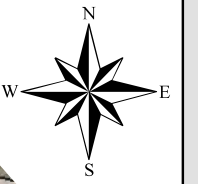
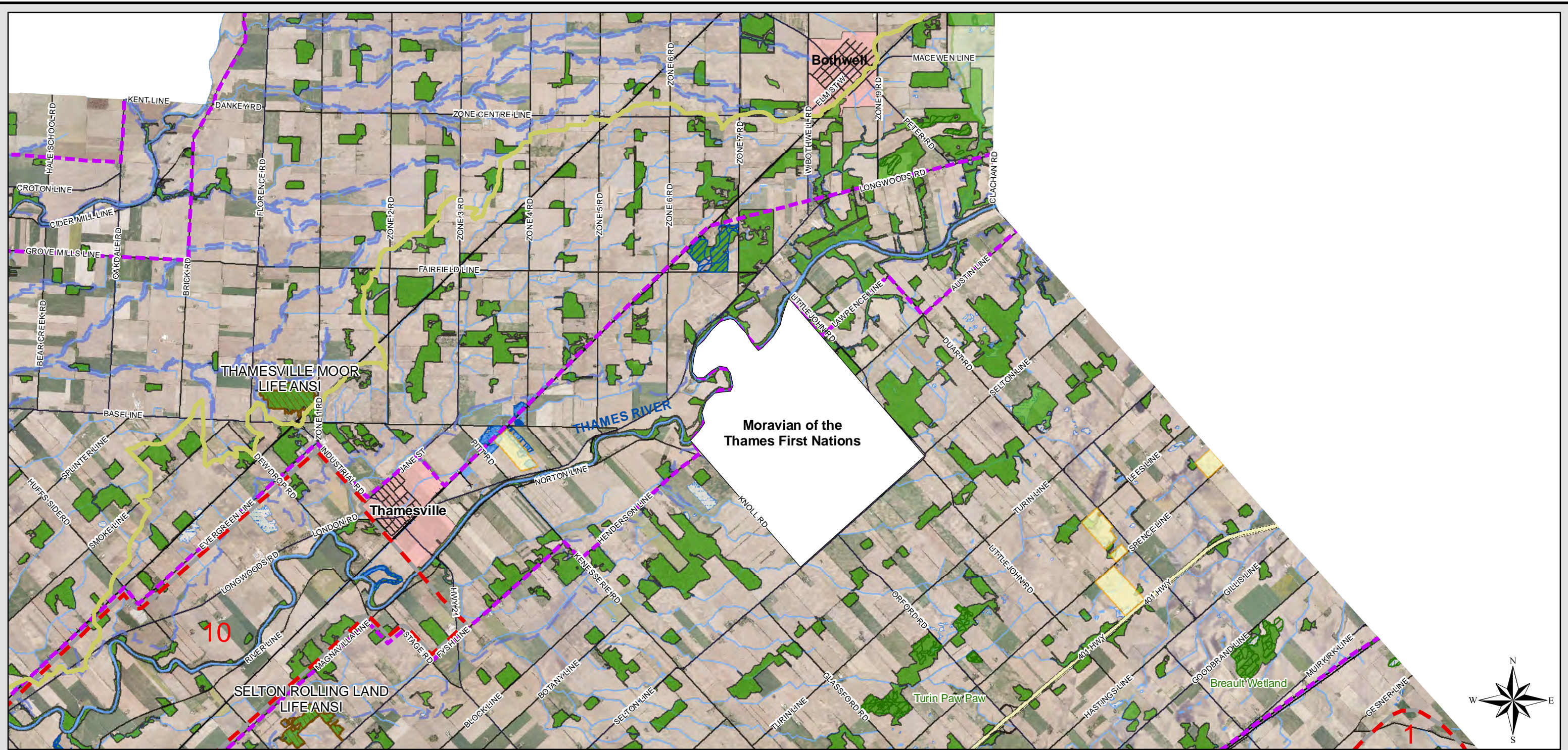
Legend

Sustainable Shorelines Study Area	Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone	Wetland
Areas of Policy Interest	Provincial Park	Intermittent Watercourse
Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)	Railway	Permanent Watercourse
Provincially Significant Wetland	Provincial Highway	Waterbody
Significant Woodland (>2 ha)	Road Network	Settlement Area
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)	Conservation Authority Boundary	Aggregate Site
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		
Locally Significant Wetland		

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APPENDIX A-10
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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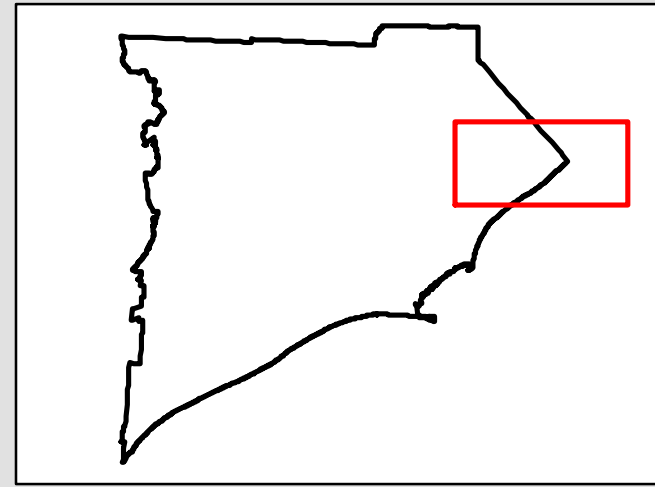
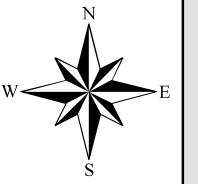
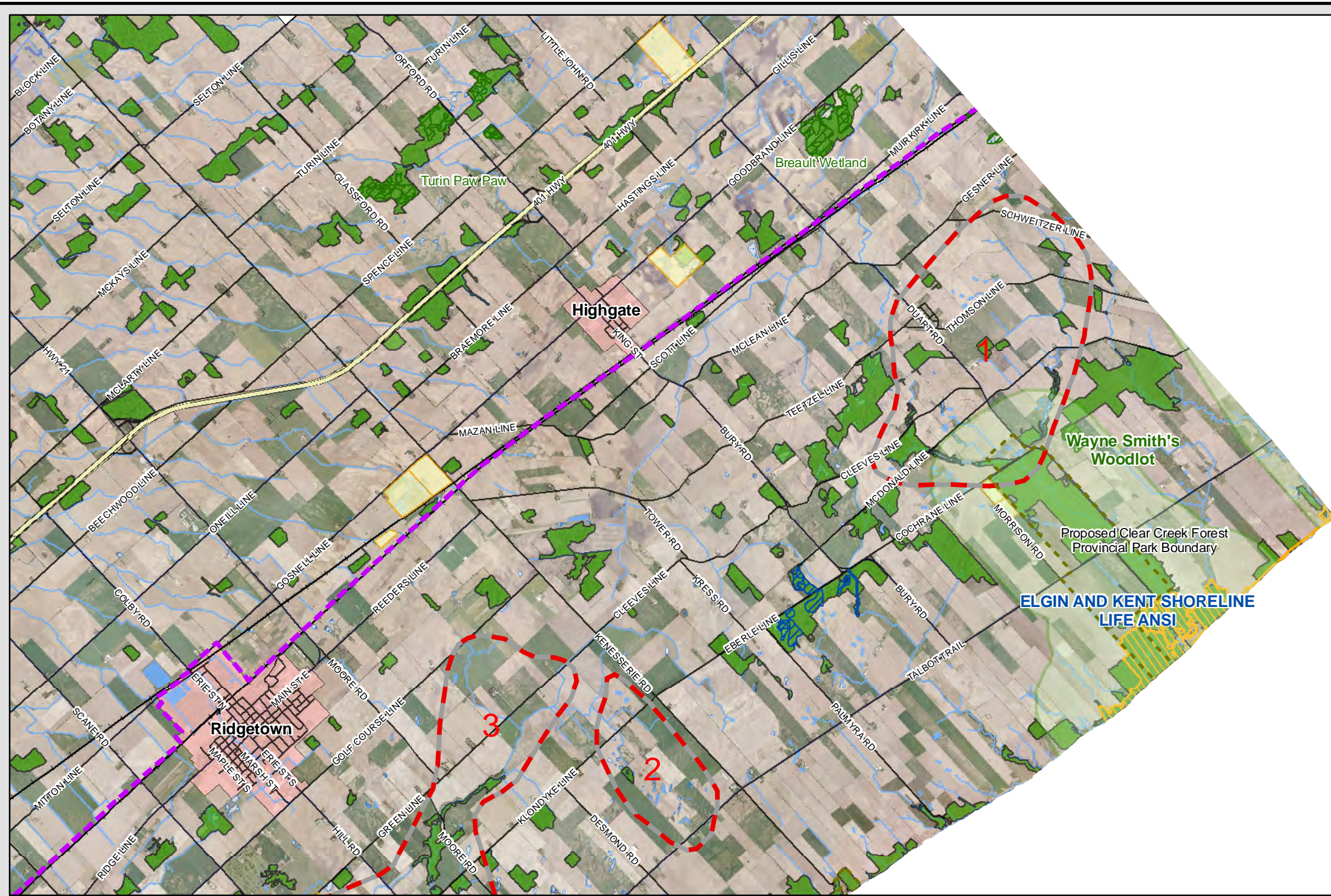


Legend			
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		Wetland
	Locally Significant Wetland		Intermittent Watercourse
			Permanent Watercourse
			Waterbody
			Settlement Area
			Aggregate Site

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-11
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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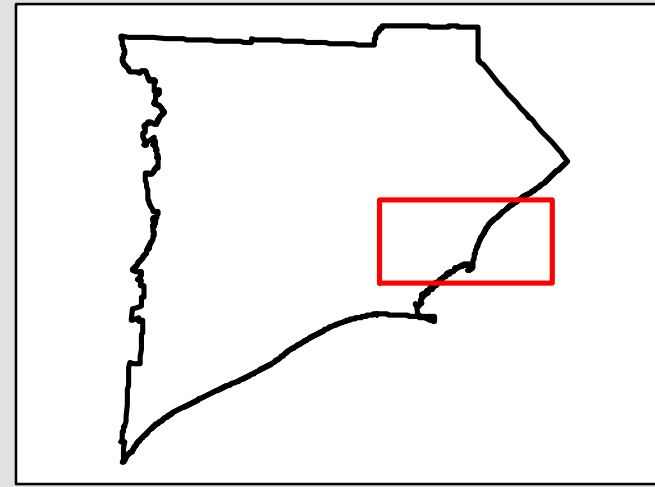
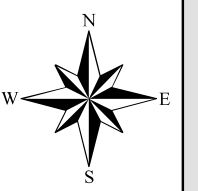
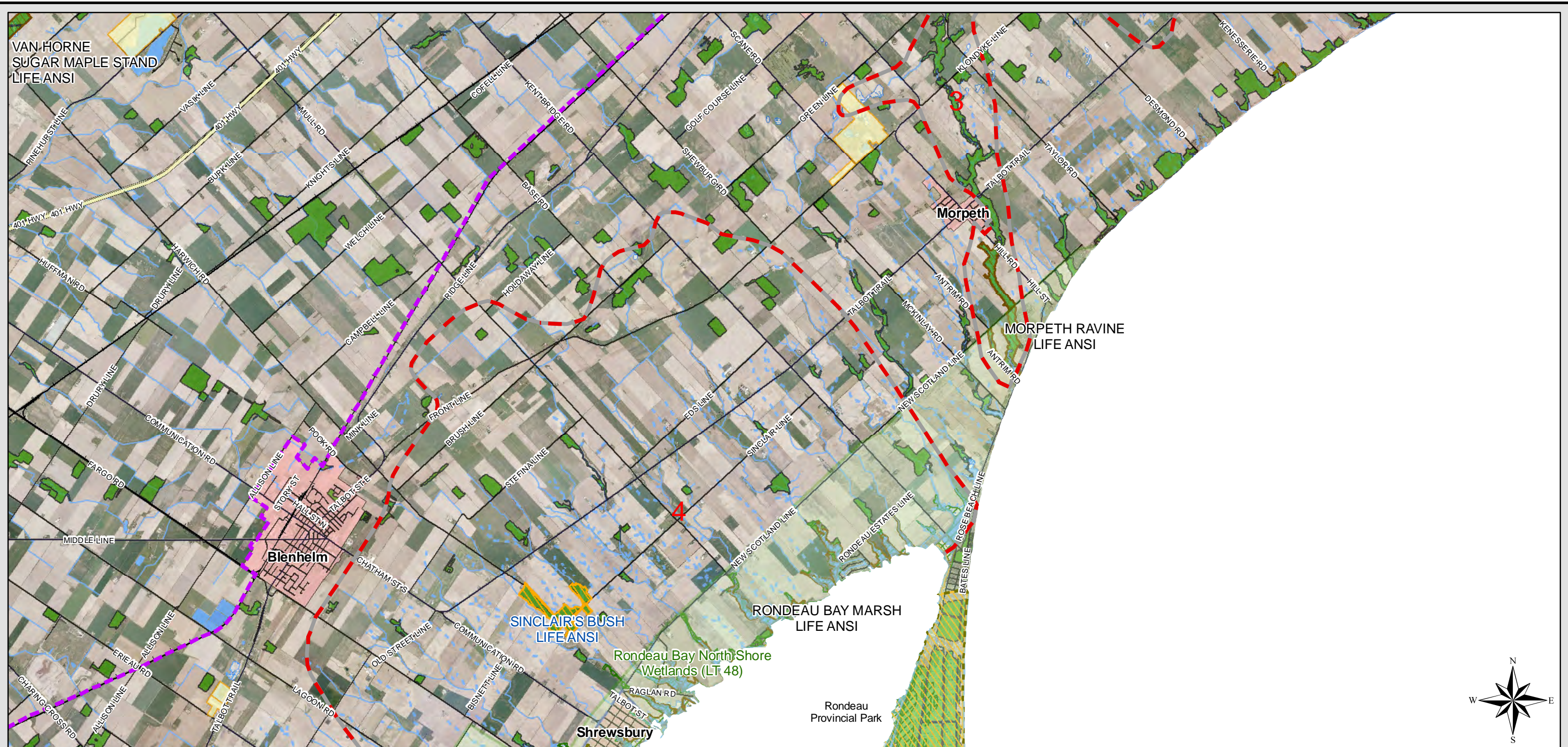


Legend					
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone		Wetland
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-1
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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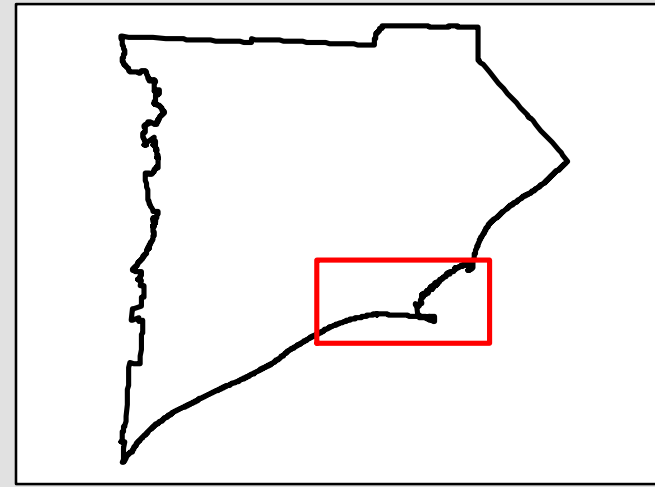
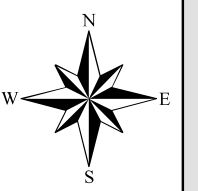
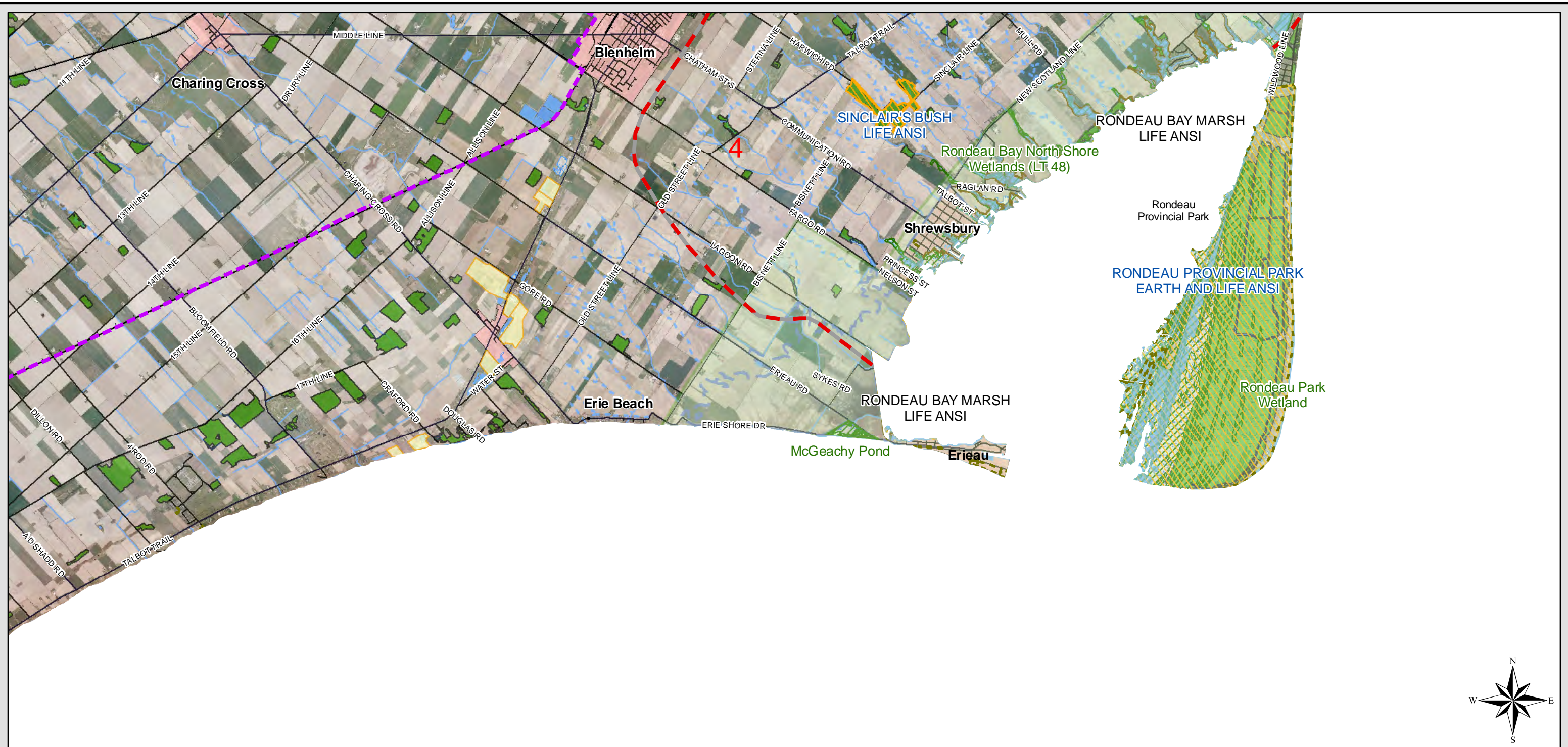
Legend					
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone		Wetland
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

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APPENDIX A-2
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N

0 1 2 4 Kilometers

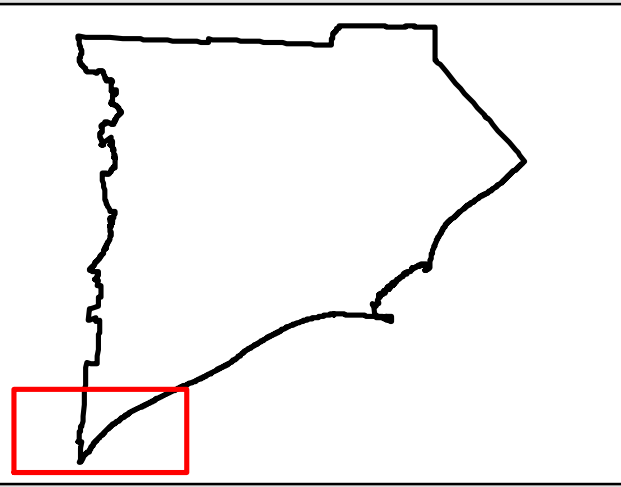
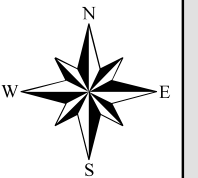


Legend			
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		Wetland
	Locally Significant Wetland		Intermittent Watercourse
			Permanent Watercourse
			Waterbody
			Settlement Area
			Aggregate Site

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-3
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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Legend

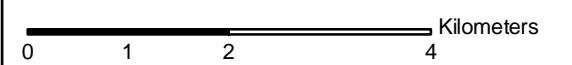
- Sustainable Shorelines Study Area
- Areas of Policy Interest
- Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Significant Woodland (>2 ha)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)
- Locally Significant Wetland
- Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone
- Provincial Park
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Road Network
- Conservation Authority Boundary
- Wetland
- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Settlement Area
- Aggregate Site

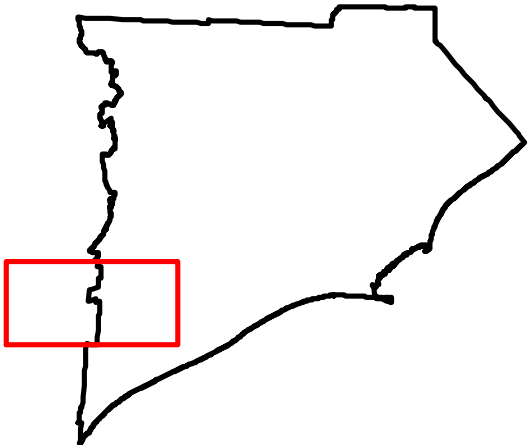
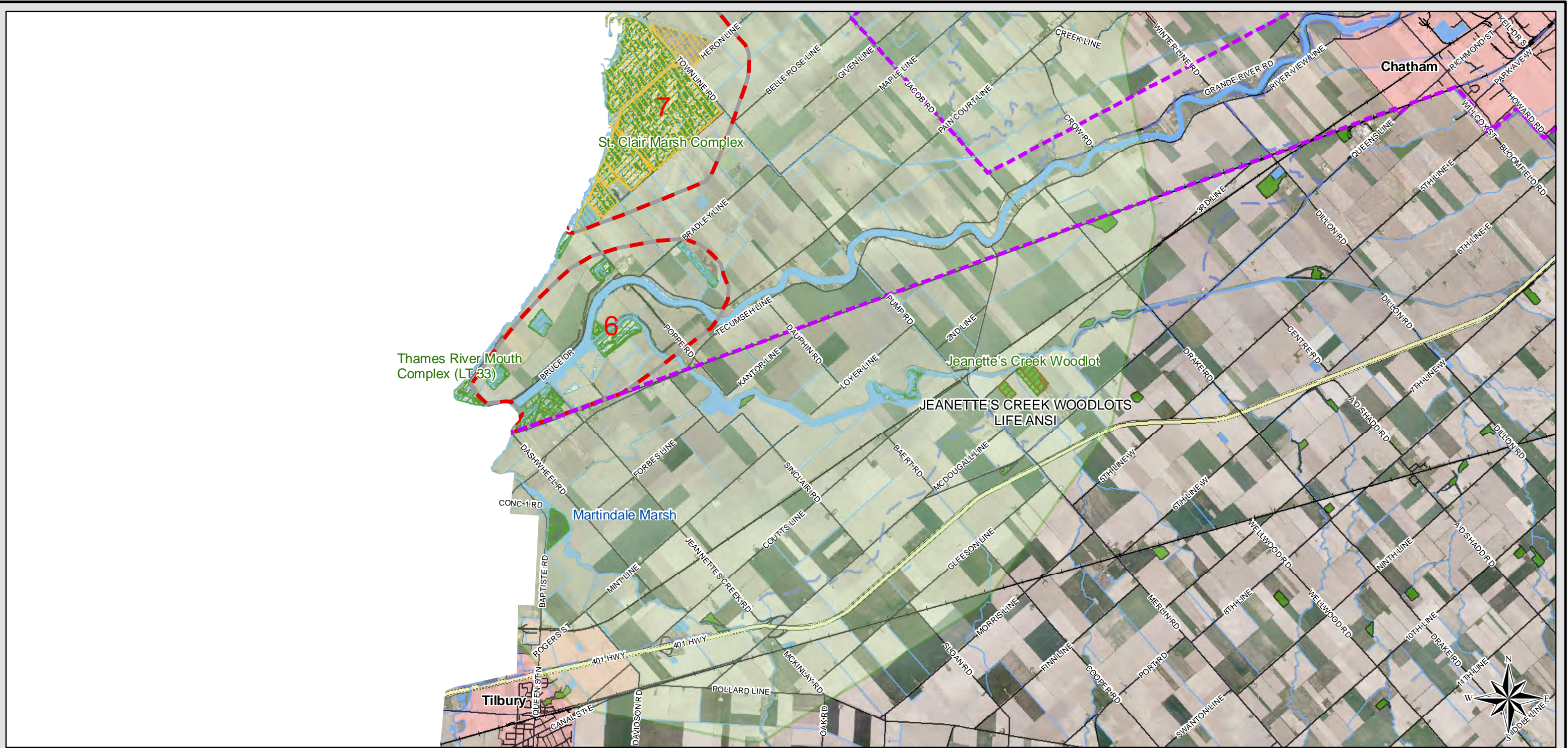
MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT



APPENDIX A-5
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
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Legend

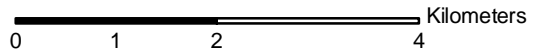
- Sustainable Shorelines Study Area
- Areas of Policy Interest
- Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Significant Woodland (>2 ha)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)
- Locally Significant Wetland
- Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone
- Provincial Park
- Railway
- Provincial Highway
- Road Network
- Conservation Authority Boundary
- Wetland
- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Settlement Area
- Aggregate Site

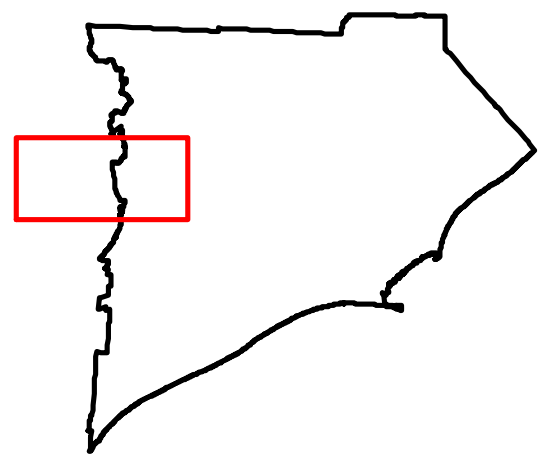
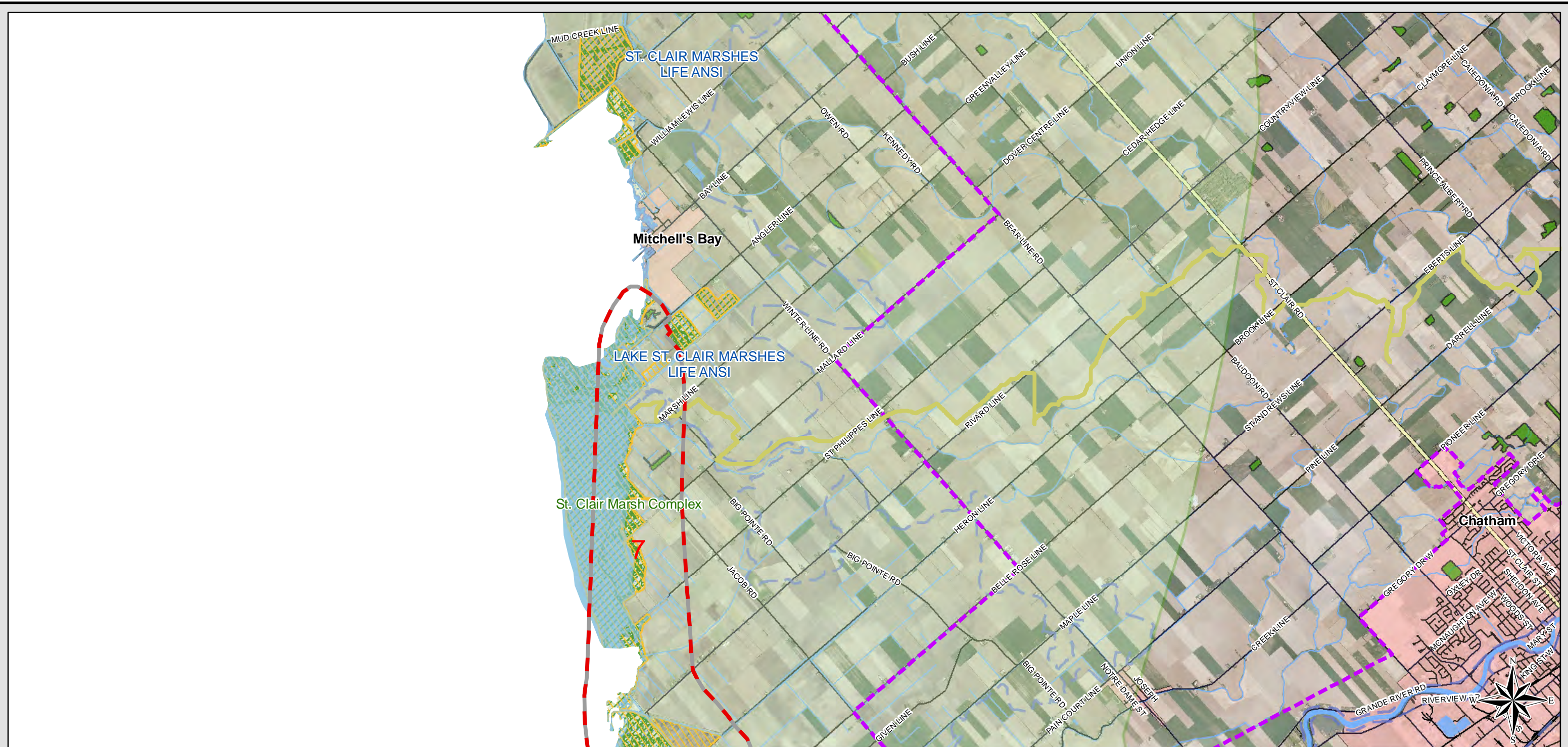
MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT



**APPENDIX A-6
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST**

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N



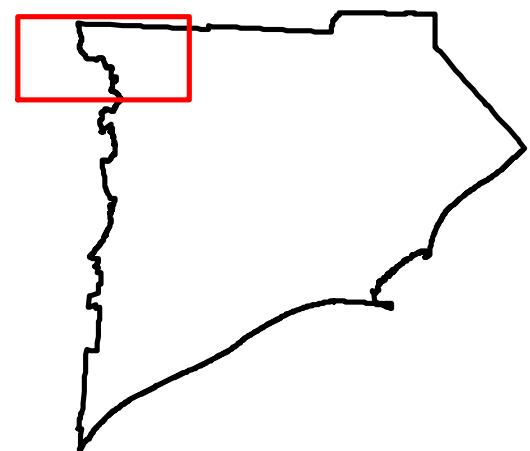
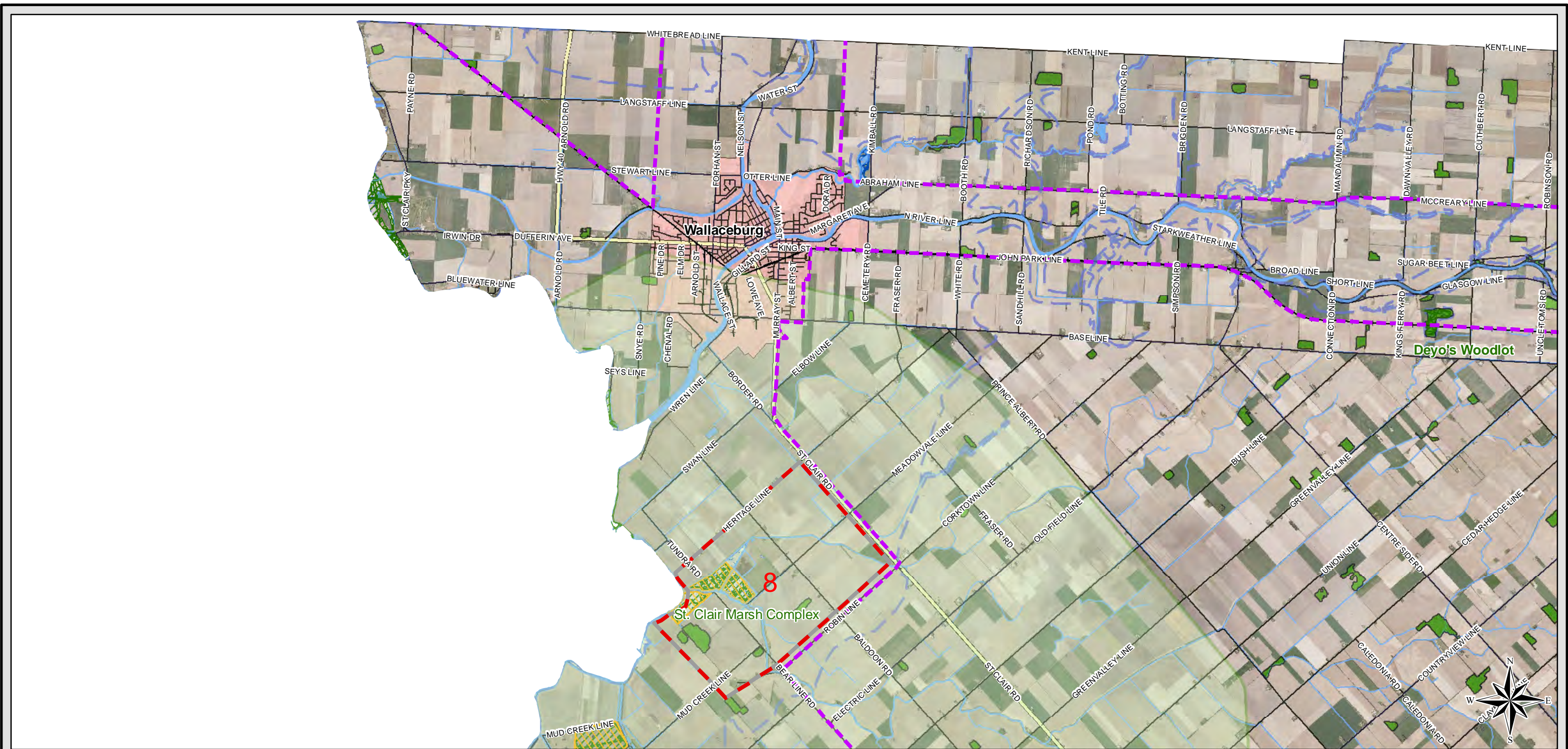


Legend					
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone		Wetland
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

**APPENDIX A-7
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST**

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N



Legend

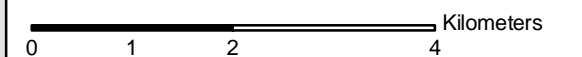
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sustainable Shorelines Study Area | Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone | Wetland |
| Areas of Policy Interest | Provincial Park | Intermittent Watercourse |
| Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada) | Railway | Permanent Watercourse |
| Provincially Significant Wetland | Provincial Highway | Waterbody |
| Significant Woodland (>2 ha) | Road Network | Settlement Area |
| Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial) | Conservation Authority Boundary | Aggregate Site |
| Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional) | | |
| Locally Significant Wetland | | |

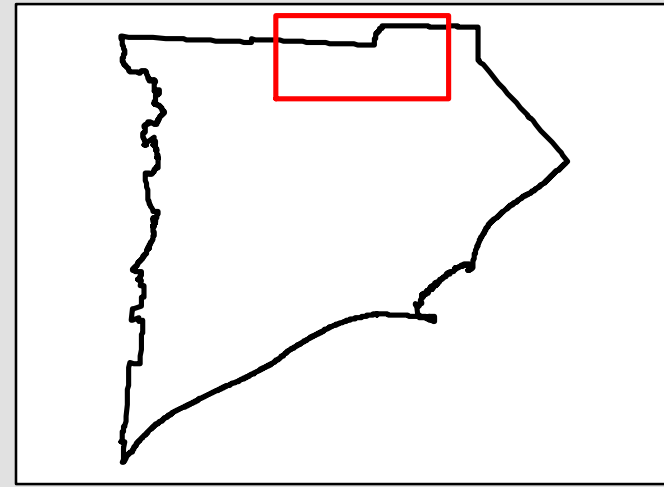
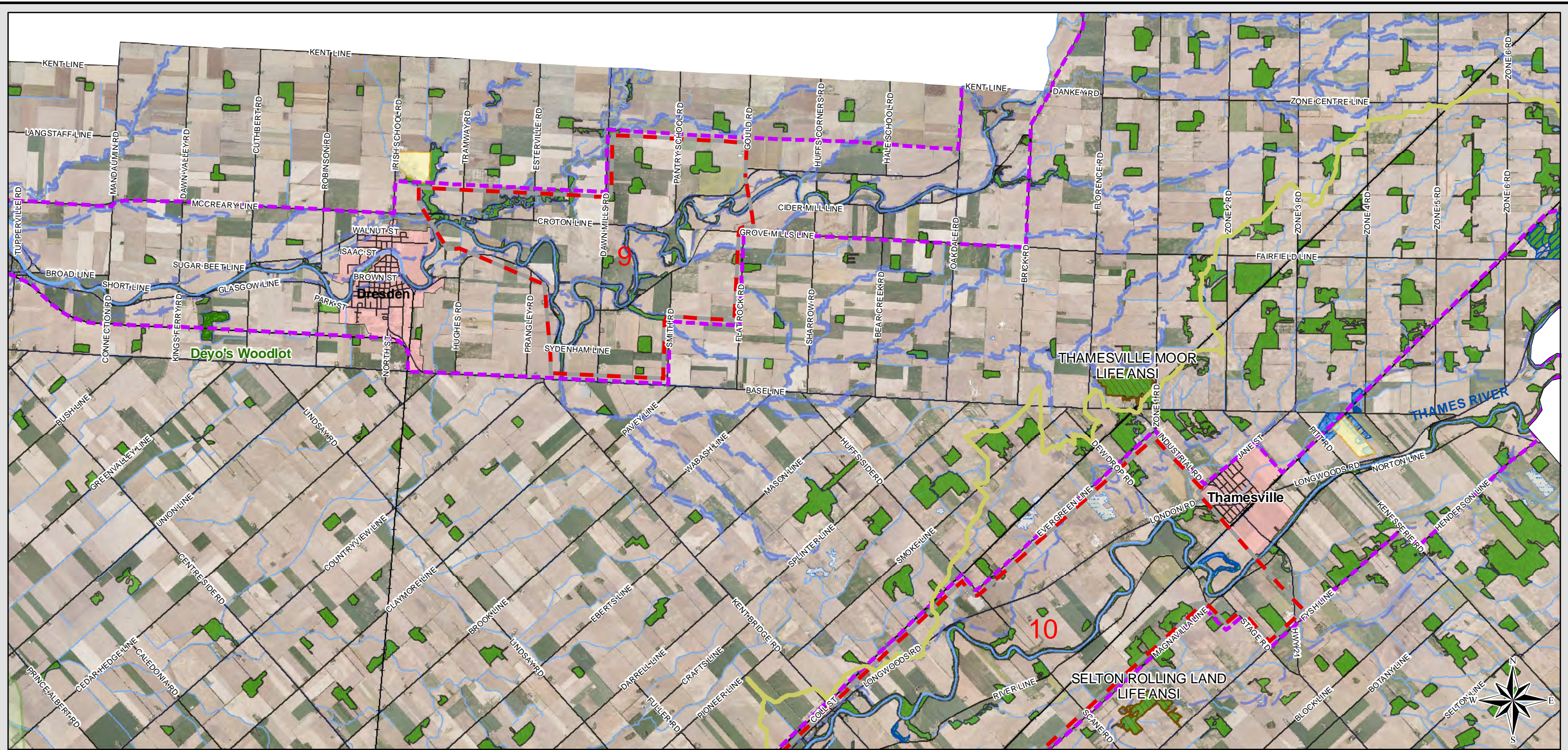
MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT



**APPENDIX A-8
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST**

Date Printed: April 11, 2011
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 17N





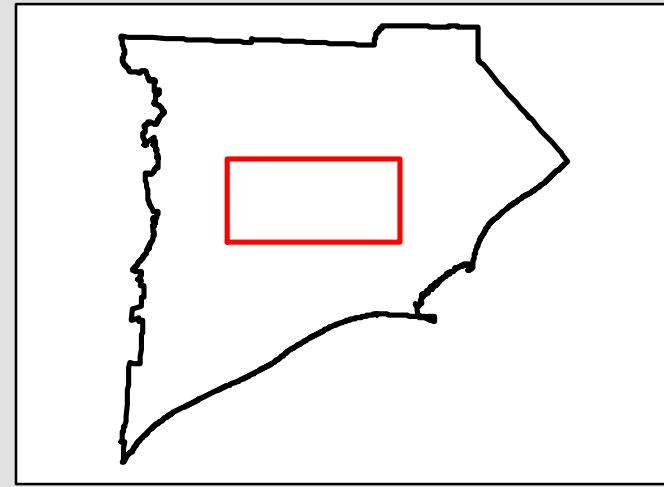
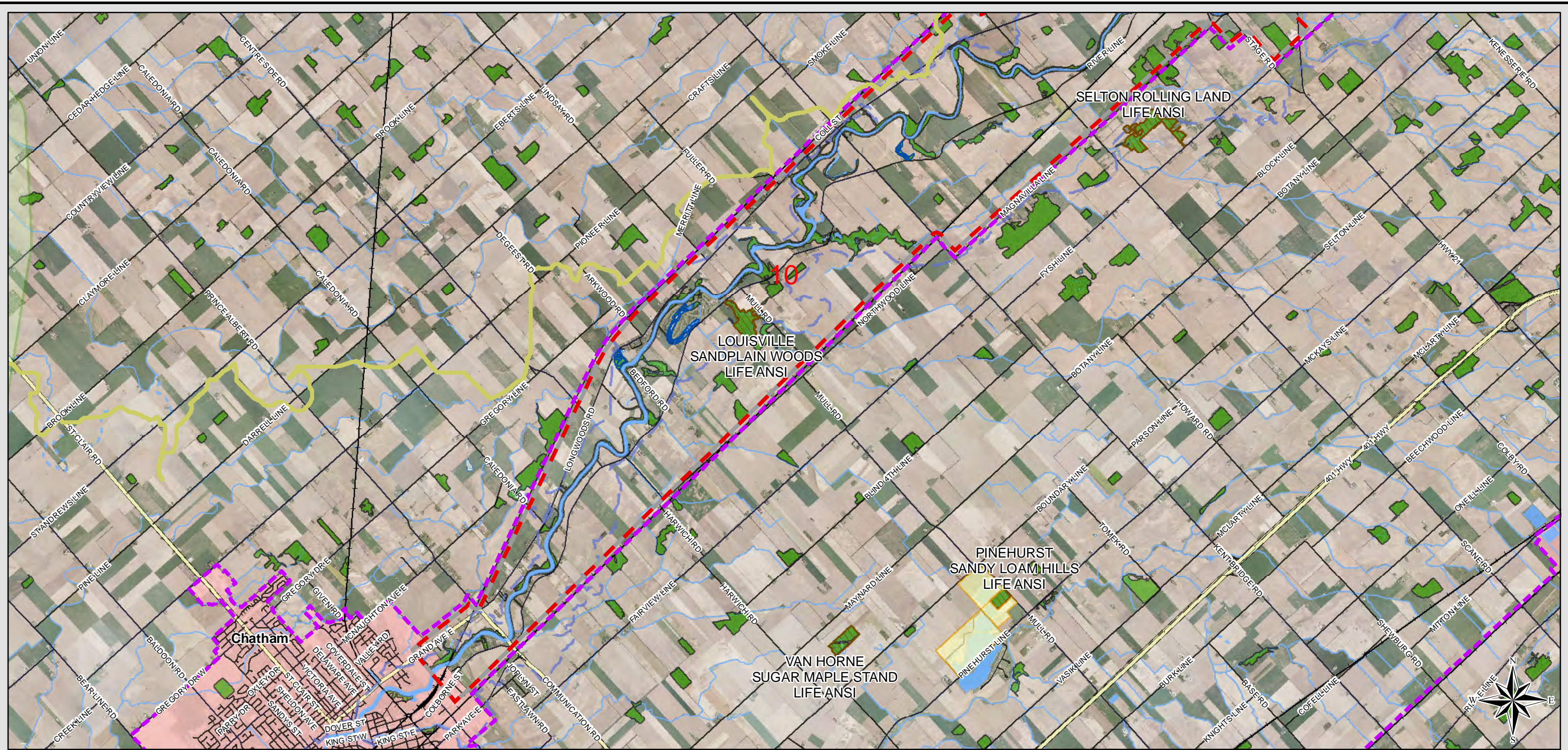
Legend

Sustainable Shorelines Study Area	Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone	Wetland
Areas of Policy Interest	Provincial Park	Intermittent Watercourse
Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)	Railway	Permanent Watercourse
Provincially Significant Wetland	Provincial Highway	Waterbody
Significant Woodland (>2 ha)	Road Network	Settlement Area
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)	Conservation Authority Boundary	Aggregate Site
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		
Locally Significant Wetland		

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-9
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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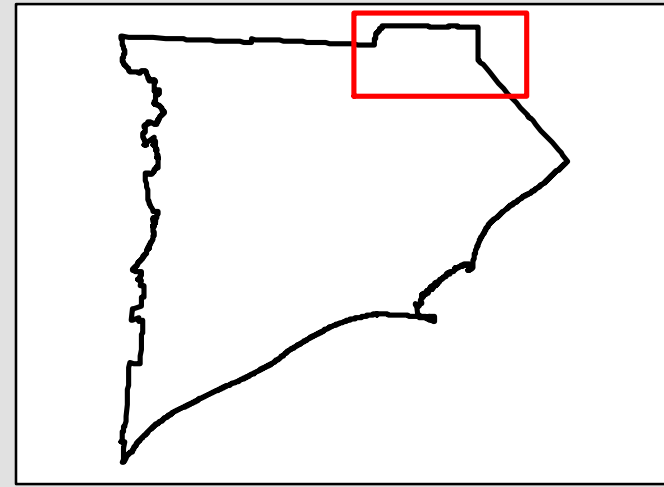
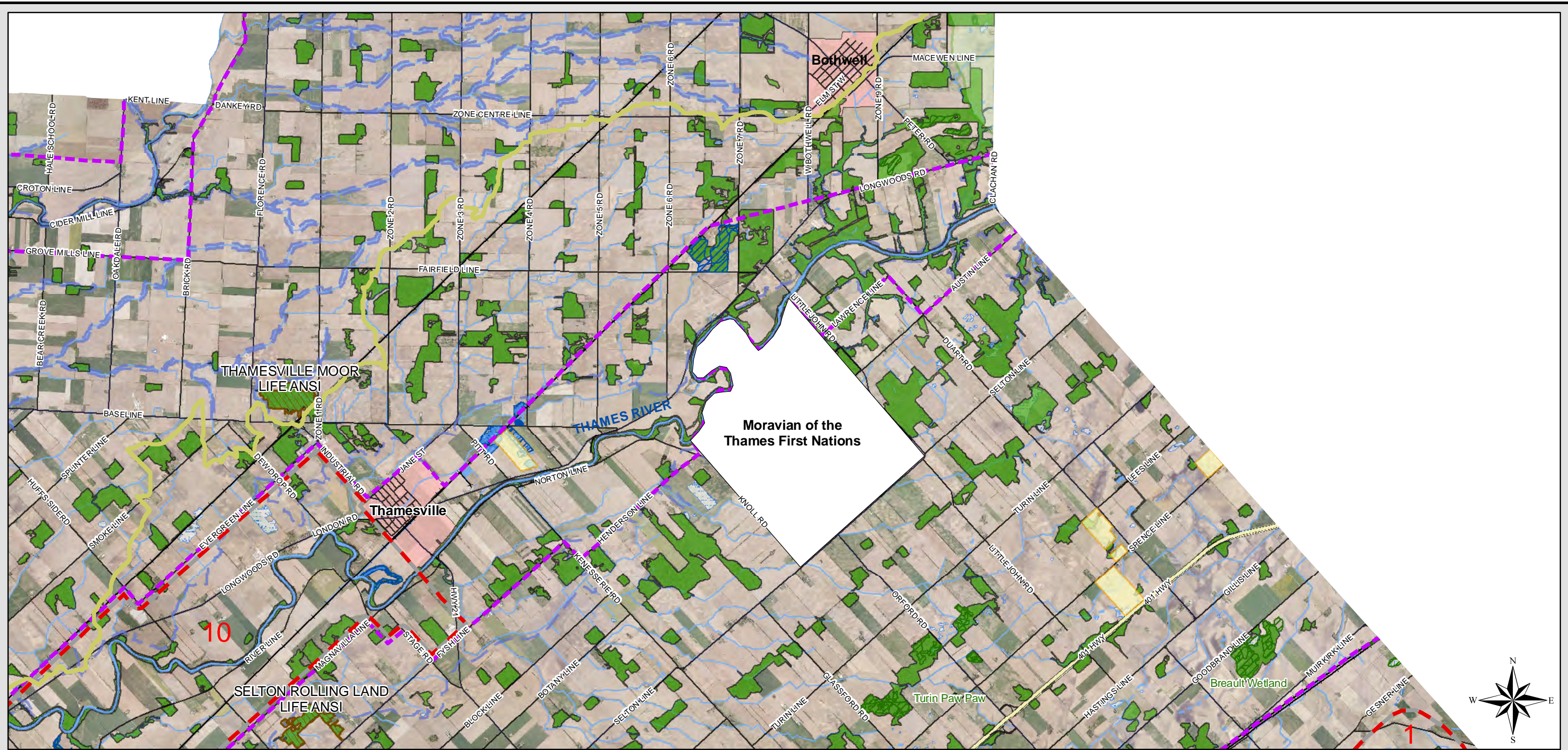


Legend					
	Sustainable Shorelines Study Area		Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone		Wetland
	Areas of Policy Interest		Provincial Park		Intermittent Watercourse
	Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)		Railway		Permanent Watercourse
	Provincially Significant Wetland		Provincial Highway		Waterbody
	Significant Woodland (>2 ha)		Road Network		Settlement Area
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)		Conservation Authority Boundary		Aggregate Site
	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)				
	Locally Significant Wetland				

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APPENDIX A-10
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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Legend

Sustainable Shorelines Study Area	Critical Floodplain Areas/Flood Prone	Wetland
Areas of Policy Interest	Provincial Park	Intermittent Watercourse
Important Bird Area (Bird Studies Canada)	Railway	Permanent Watercourse
Provincially Significant Wetland	Provincial Highway	Waterbody
Significant Woodland (>2 ha)	Road Network	Settlement Area
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Provincial)	Conservation Authority Boundary	Aggregate Site
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (Regional)		
Locally Significant Wetland		

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM - KENT

APPENDIX A-11
NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE
AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

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0 1 2 4 Kilometers