



KAWARTHA LAND TRUST

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Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) Strategic Planning Terms of Reference: Connected Landscape

Why Connected Landscape?

Ecological integrity requires connected systems of natural cover. These systems must include connections (corridors) between deep habitats (cores) to ensure natural processes can take place to sustain biodiversity.

Connectivity is a critical piece of adaptation to the effects of climate change. The range of many species will change and connection ensures genetic exchange and species migration can take place. In the Kawarthas, connections are often disrupted and require restoration. Socially, many people are inspired by the idea of wildlife corridors.

We must intentionally focus on conserving whole connected systems, or we risk dispersing our protection across the landscape, creating small islands of refuge.

KLT's Background with Connected Landscape Conservation

- Kawarthas Naturally Connected (KNC) mapping guides our conservation priorities for land securement. This system, which identifies the top 30% of the landscape for conservation, is based on a cores and corridors connectivity analysis of the Kawarthas.
- Stewardship work is informed by a property's position on the landscape. Planting trees to enhance the size of a core area, or to create a corridor, are important considerations.
- KLT shares the KNC mapping through our landowner outreach program. We also share "baseline connectivity" mapping to show landowners the place their property has in the broader landscape.
- KNC is being adopted by Peterborough County's official plan. KLT assisted in a working group that made this happen.
- We have held walks and events in areas of importance identified by KNC. This and other acts of communication inform the public about the importance of connected landscape conservation.



Resources & Inspiring Connectivity Work in the Land Trust Sector

[Western New York Wildway project by Western New York Land Conservancy](#)

[Kawarthas Naturally Connected](#)

[Columbia Land Trust targeting regional conservation](#)

Your Participation

- We want your expertise and vision to plan what can be accomplished in the next eight years if we strategize around protecting a whole connected landscape.
- We want you to be bold and think creatively.
- We expect everyone to listen deeply. A simple protocol for careful listening and a process for making decisions will be presented by a facilitator at the first meeting of each group.
- You are not required to attend all meetings and can attend meetings for other strategies as you like. However, any decisions made at meetings where you are not present need to be considered final and will not be revisited due to any absences.
- We expect participants to also help research their topic, possibly interviewing key informants who cannot participate in the meeting. A basic interview tool and instructions will be provided.
- We request that everyone reads the information circulated in preparation for the meeting and participates in the discussions.

Outcome

The working group will create a recommendation to the KLT Board, related to how a connected landscape strategy will help us achieve our strategic objectives. It will address the following:

- Define the strategy. Include a metric that indicates what impact to a connected landscape KLT will have accomplished by 2030.
- Describe eight years of tactics that KLT might use to best implement the strategy.
- Use the “KLT Toolkit” to inform the tactics. Propose new tools if required.
- Connect the tactics to progress toward KLT’s strategic objectives. Often, a tactic will help achieve multiple strategic objectives.



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Milestones

- Mid-May: First meeting
- Late June: Draft circulated to the Board
- October: Wrap-up

Meetings

The Committee will meet bi-weekly starting mid-May and end in October. Meetings will be held in person in the KLT boardroom with an option to attend virtually if needed.

The designated KLT staff member will maintain written notes of all meetings, which will be shared with members of the Committee, KLT staff, Board members and other involved strategic planning committees and advisors.

Resources

The Committee will receive the necessary resources from the KLT to fulfil its mandate, including administrative support from the designated KLT staff member and technical expertise from the Director of Community Conservation and/or Executive Director.

KLT's Toolkit

When considering how we will create impact by enacting a connected landscapes strategy, consider the following toolkit.

Permanent Protection

We become owners of land to protect it forever against development. Donations of land and acquiring rights on land (CEAs) are major tools. Purchasing land is used to protect pieces of critical importance.

Land Stewardship

We manage our lands to minimize impact, enhance nature, and invite the public to experience nature. We work with other conservation organizations to steward and restore their protected land.



Volunteers

People power our impact. Boots in the mud or behind the scenes, our impact is because of the contributions of people who love the land.

Community Conservation

Finding synergy between land protection and the needs of the community can make conservation projects relevant to more people and grow our impact. This can be achieved by listening and responding to the needs of the community.

Support Landowners

Landowners will decide the future of our landscape. Our Partners in Conservation program thanks them for the care they take of their lands and helps them to take on stewardship and restoration projects.

Fundraising

We bring in government investments in conservation to this region and increase conservation-minded philanthropical efforts. Individuals are inspired to donate because of their connections to our cause.

Communication

We have a voice that can inspire and educate people on why land is worth protecting.

Partnerships

We work with others with skills in social services, education, research, technology, environment, agriculture, and business to expand the impact of our land conservation efforts.

Back End

Good governance, technology, and systems are all critical enablers of our work.