

**No.:** 2014-I17e**To:** Board of Directors**For:** INFORMATION**Date:** 2014-11-19**1. TITLE**

Greenbelt Master Plan Implementation

2. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

To inform the NCC Board of Directors on the approach to implement the 2013 Greenbelt Master Plan.

3. AUTHORITY

National Capital Act, sections 10 (1) (a) and 10 (2)

4. RECOMMENDATION**5. BACKGROUND**

With the Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) complete, the NCC shifted its focus on implementation. Staff assessed the 279 recommended actions from the GMP with the aim of identifying the highest priorities. Each was assessed according to: management type, timescale/status, financial and human resources requirements, and NCC Division(s) taking a lead or supporting role.

This assessment determined that many actions are currently on-going and will continue to be implemented within the existing management practices and procedures of the NCC. The assessment indicated that the Greenbelt Portfolio, Capital Stewardship Branch, will be leading or supporting 90% of the master plan recommendations as they relate to the management of the lands accessible to the public.

Current Scenario:

- The Greenbelt portfolio actively manages over 50% of the 206 km² Greenbelt, predominantly natural conservation lands and recreational assets. The Real Estate Management (REM) Division oversees the management of leased properties, accounting for 25% of Greenbelt lands, predominantly agricultural and residential properties. The remaining Greenbelt lands are held by other federal agencies.
- Greenbelt expenditures are funded under three existing funding sources: the MYCP budget, Design and Construction Operating budget, and the Greenbelt Goods and Services budget. It is anticipated that these budgets sources will be used to implement GMP as well as resources deriving from partnership initiatives.

6. ANALYSIS

The following Greenbelt Master Plan priority initiatives will be implemented over the next ten years:

1. Develop a Greenbelt visual identity at key entrances.
2. Prepare and implement a branding, communication and marketing strategy for the Greenbelt.
3. Improve visitor services and interpretation, and promote universal accessibility.
4. Maintain and restore core natural areas and strengthen natural links.
5. Develop partnerships for promoting regional ecological corridors that connect to the Greenbelt.
6. Complete the remaining 25 km of the Greenbelt Pathway (56 km in total).
7. Continue implementation of sustainable agriculture over time.

Implementation of priority initiatives

Benefits in implementing priority initiatives:

- Recognition of the Greenbelt within the Capital.
- Improvements to interpretation and public education.
- Greenbelt entrance enhancements will be established to increase the public profile of the Greenbelt in the Capital Region.
- Ecological features and functions found in Greenbelt natural environment designations will be maintained, and where possible, enhanced.
- Greenbelt visitor experience offerings, such as Greenbelt pathway and trails, interpretive products, agro-tourism, and hands-on learning experiences will be diversified.
- Conservation stewardship and partnership opportunities will be established.
- Public expectations will be met.

Specific projects that will be implement include:

1. Greenbelt Visual identity at entrances:
 - Greenbelt Visual identity at key entrances will be developed. Priority will be given to signage along provincial highways and along major municipal roads.
2. Greenbelt Branding, Communication and Marketing Strategy:
 - Development of Greenbelt Branding, Communication and Marketing Strategy in line with the new NCC Branding exercise.
3. Adjustment to visitor services and implementation of interpretation plan:
 - Development of a Greenbelt visitor experience and programming strategy;
 - Implementation of Greenbelt Interpretation Plan, including content development and design, for 30 sites identified as immediate and medium term projects in the Plan;
 - Development and implementation of a Greenbelt education program;
 - Identify and implement universal accessibility opportunities on Greenbelt Pathway.
4. Protection and Restoration of Natural Lands and development of partnerships:
 - Habitat restoration strategies prepared for all core natural areas.
 - Maintaining and where possible enhancing the habitat condition of core natural areas that

includes:

- Restoration of a natural link along Black Rapids Creek via between Greenbank Road and Merivale Road;
- Restoration of riparian habitats along watercourses at: Watts Creek, Stillwater Creek and Borthwick Creek;
- Restoration of a former wetland along Kizell Drain to address existing and future effects urban stormwater;
- Restoration of key habitats for target species and species at risk;
- Active forest management, through selective thinning, in Pine Grove, Pinhey Forest and Stony Swamp for long term forest health and conservation of biodiversity of plants and animals;
- Restoration of fragmented ecosystems in Natural Links such as implementation measures to mitigate the deficiencies of existing transportation corridors;
- Work with partners (REM, arm tenants and CFIA) to protect and restore Black Rapids;
- Development of partnership to pursue progressive stormwater management and best practices for upstream areas of KANATA, Bell's Corner, Crystal Beach and Green's Creek to restore water quality.

5. Development of partnerships for regional ecological corridors, which connect to the Greenbelt:
 - Sustain partnership with City of Ottawa and Nature Conservancy of Canada to pursue identification and protection of ecological corridors to natural lands located outside the Greenbelt toward the West, South and East.
6. Completion of the Greenbelt Pathway (subject to MYCP funding):
 - Construction of the remaining 25 km of pathway (56 km in total).
7. Continue implementation of sustainable agriculture:
 - Sustainable agriculture strategy will be implemented over time subject to market conditions and resource allocation.

7. STRATEGIC LINKS

- National Capital Act, sections 10 (1) (a) and 10 (2).
- 2013 Canada's Capital Greenbelt Master Plan.

8. CONSULTATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Extensive consultations occurred during the 5 year's Greenbelt Master Plan review process, involving a Public Advisory Committee and the public. Expectations raised during the Greenbelt Master Plan review process are high and the NCC should expect public scrutiny in the delivery of initiatives in the Greenbelt during the implementation phase.

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Summary of the 2013 Greenbelt Master Plan

Appendix 2: PowerPoint Presentation

10. SUBMISSION AUTHORS

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Appendix 1: Summary of the 2013 Canada's Capital Greenbelt Master Plan

The *2013 Canada's Capital Greenbelt Master Plan* states a new vision for the next 50 years:

"The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada's Capital Region".

The Greenbelt is now under four roles with a hierarchy:

- the primary role is Natural Environment.
- two secondary roles with Sustainable Agriculture and Capital Experience & Recreation.
- Facilities as the tertiary role.

The Natural Lands Network (Core Natural Area and Natural Link) coverage has increased from 50% in 1996 to 61% of the Greenbelt in the 2013 Greenbelt Master Plan. Management Actions and initiatives are identified for the Greenbelt and for each of the seven sectors:

1. Shirleys Bay
2. Stony Swamp
3. Southern Farm and Pinhey Forest
4. International Airport
5. Pine Grove
6. Mer Bleue
7. Green's Creek

The eight Master Plan Priority initiatives include:

1. Consolidation of Greenbelt territory: acquisitions and Greenbelt Limits.
2. Completion of the Greenbelt Pathway.
3. Protection and Restoration of Natural Lands and development of partnerships.
4. Development of partnerships for ecological corridors outside the Greenbelt.
5. Implementation of sustainable agriculture.
6. Adjustment to visitor services and implementation of interpretation plan.
7. Greenbelt Branding, Communication and Marketing Strategy.
8. Greenbelt Visual identity and entrances.

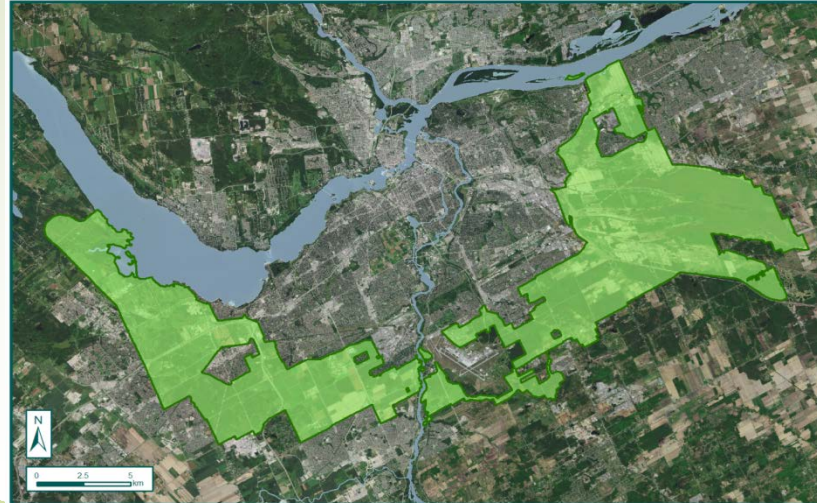
There are 279 actions recommended in the *2013 Canada's Capital Greenbelt Master Plan*.

Canada's Capital Greenbelt Master Plan Implementation

NCC Board of Directors
November 19, 2014



Photo: Robert McLean



GREENBELT VISION 2067

« The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada's Capital Region. »

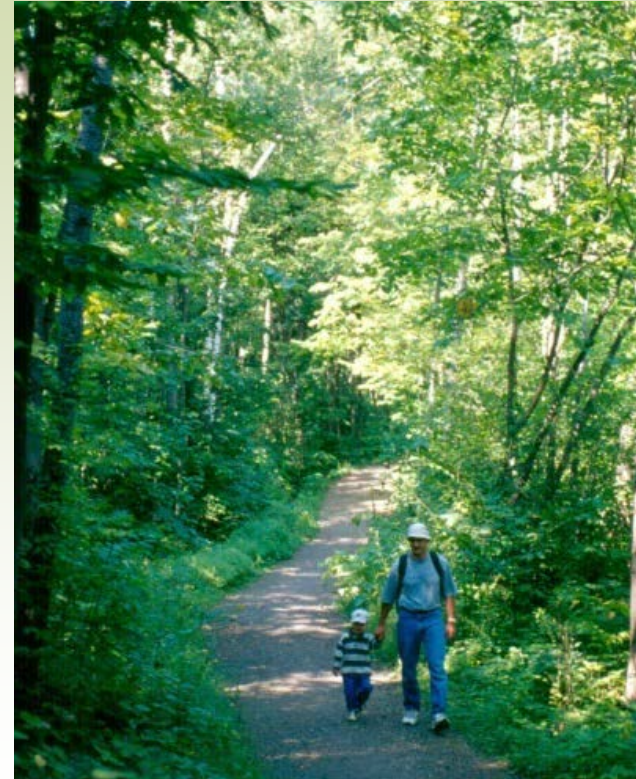


The Greenbelt will be...

- Better understood by visitors and residents
- + visibility ... + importance
- Connected to the regional ecosystem network
- Greener with Natural Environment as the priority
 - ▶ Natural Network from 50% to 61%
 - ▶ Connectivity biodiversity

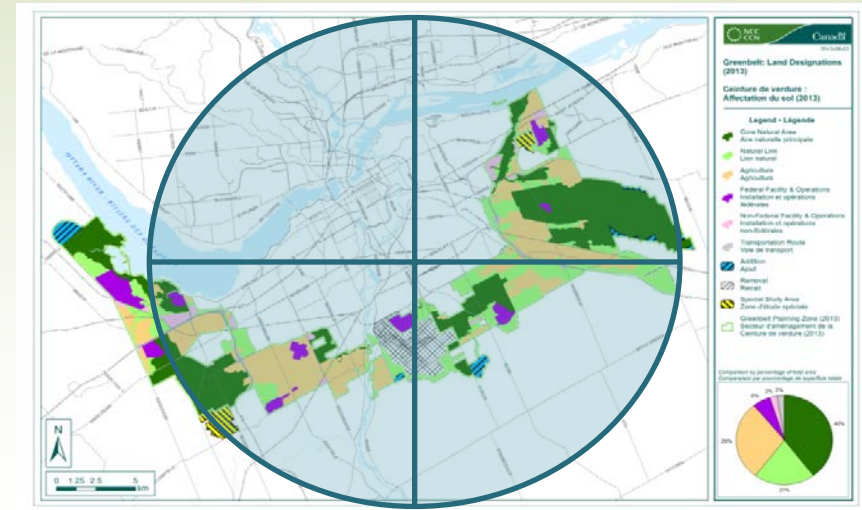
Focus

- Focus on Branding, Capital experience and recreation, Natural environment,
- 2013 Greenbelt Master Plan: 279 actions have been prioritized.
- Greenbelt Portfolio manage 50% of lands



Implement priority initiatives

1. Greenbelt Visual identity at entrances
2. Greenbelt Branding, Communication & Marketing Strategy
3. Visitor Services & Interpretation
4. Restore Natural Lands
5. Ecological Corridors
6. Greenbelt Pathway
7. Sustainable Agriculture



1. Greenbelt Visual Identity at Entrances



2. Greenbelt Branding, Communication and Marketing Strategy



Greenbelt
Ceinture de verdure



3. Visitor Services & Interpretation

- Development of a Greenbelt visitor experience and programming strategy



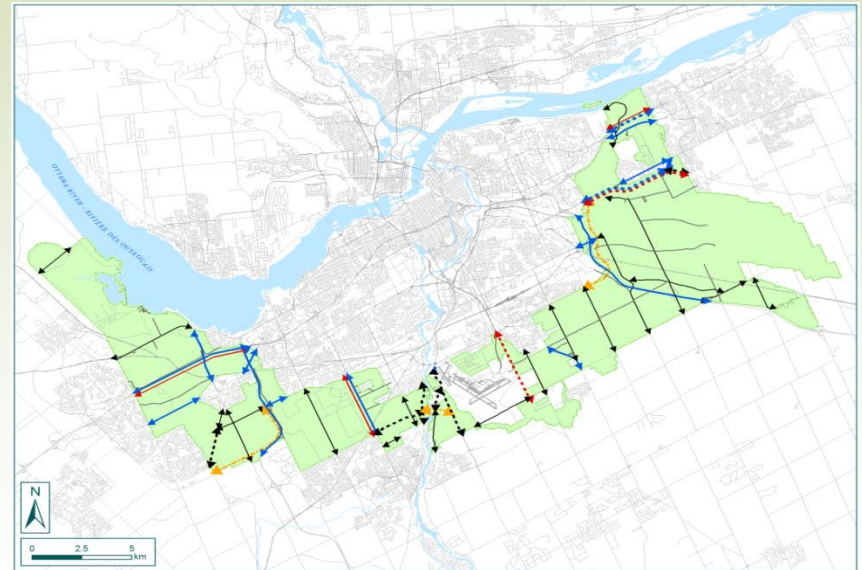
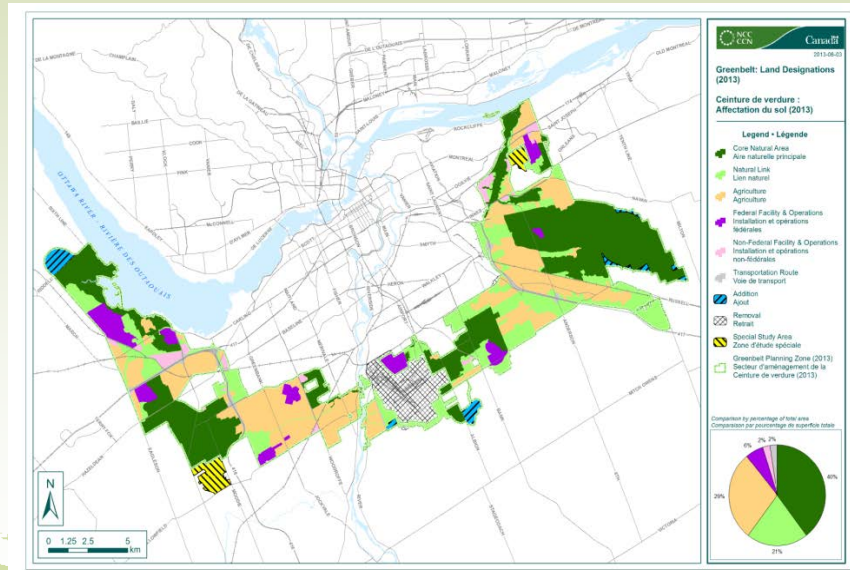
Visitor Services & Interpretation (con't)

- Greenbelt Interpretation Plan
- Greenbelt Education Program
- More universal accessibility on Greenbelt Pathway



4. Restoration of Natural Lands

■ Restoration plan for Core Natural Areas



Restoration of Natural Lands (con't)

- Restoration of Natural Link at Black Rapids Creek
- Work with partners (REM, farm tenants, CFIA)



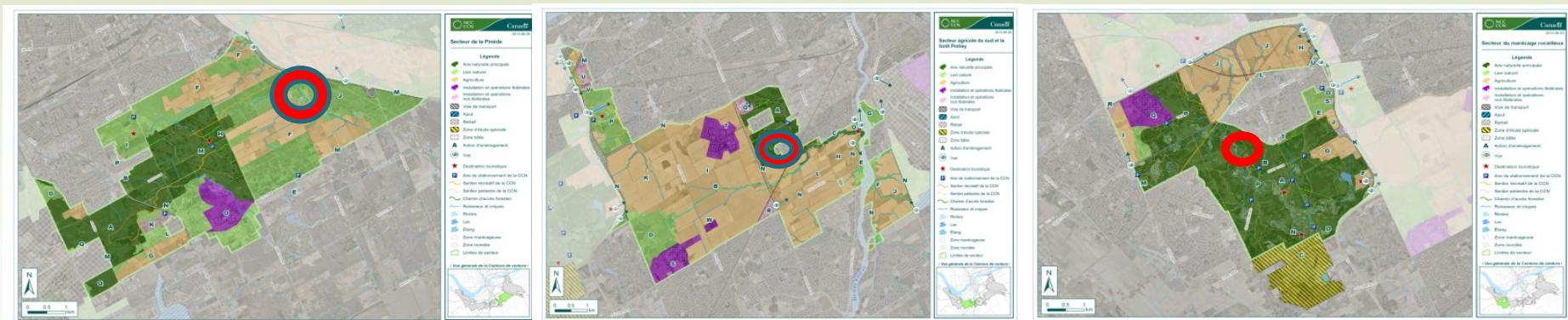
Restoration of Natural Lands (con't)

- Restoration of riparian habitats along creeks
- Restoration of habitats for target species, species at risk habitats



Restoration of Natural Lands (con't)

- Active plantation forest management – selective thinning
- Restoration of 10,000 year old sand dune.



**Greenbelt Concept
Capital Context**

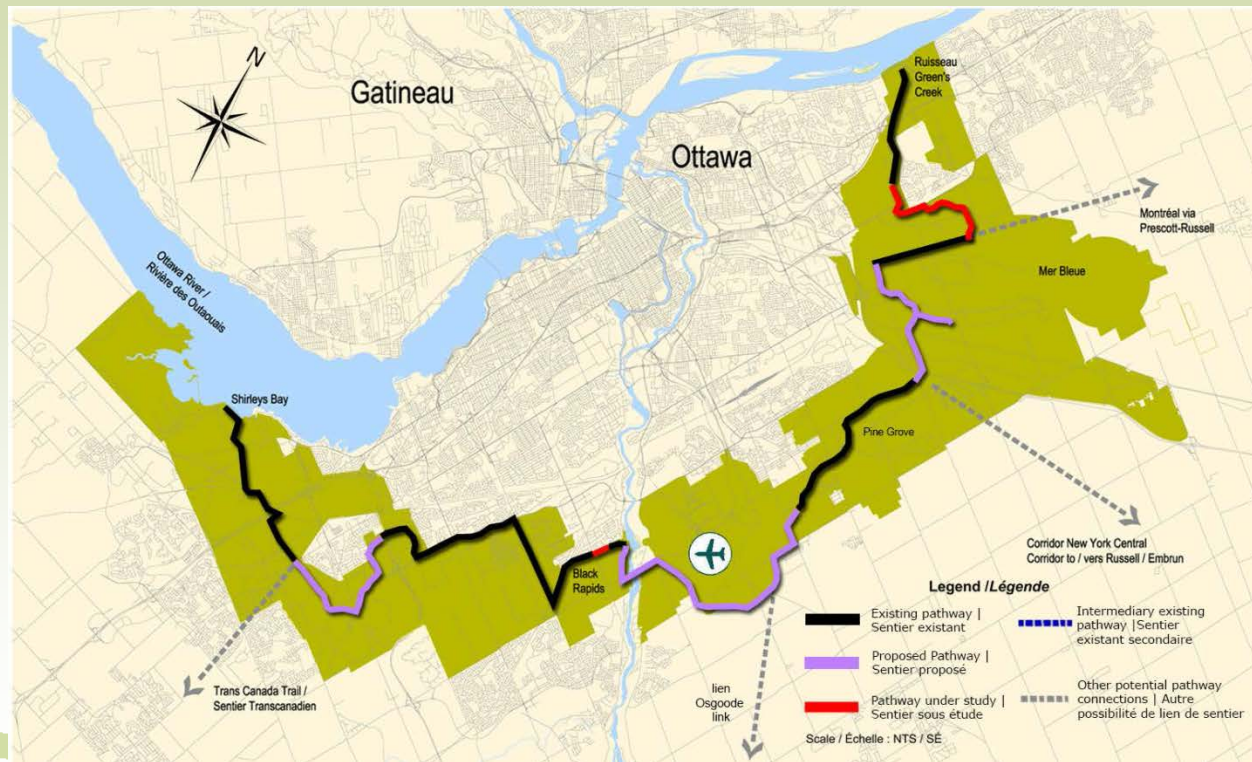
**Concept de la
Ceinture de verdure
Contexte de la capitale**

- Capital Arrival & Scenic Entry
Accès à la capitale et entrée panoramique
- Capital Pathways
Sentiers de la capitale
- Additions
Ajouts
- Special Study Areas
Zones d'étude spéciale
- Urban Area
Zones urbaines
- Connecting Natural Areas
Zones naturelles connectées
- Agriculture / Rural
Agriculture / Rural
- Ecological Corridors
Corridors écologiques
- Proposed Greenbelt Boundary
Limite proposée de la Ceinture de verdure
- National Capital Region Boundary
Limite de la région de la capitale nationale

0 2.5 5 10 Km

* NCC's Partners - Existing and Proposed
* CCN et partenaires - existants et proposés

6. Greenbelt Pathway



7. Sustainable Agriculture

- A diversified agriculture
- Relevant to the community
- Subject to market conditions and resource allocation

Benefits

Implement priority initiatives:

- Recognition of the Greenbelt within the Capital
- Improvement to interpretation & public education
- Increased Core Natural Areas restored
- Better connections between Core Natural Areas
- Real shift to natural environment as 1st role
- Public expectations met

A scenic landscape photograph featuring a wooden boardwalk that leads from the foreground into a vast field of low-lying, reddish-brown vegetation. In the background, a line of trees, including several tall evergreens, is visible against a soft, hazy sky with a hint of pink and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter, and the text "Thank you!" is prominently displayed in the upper right corner.

Thank you!