

Natural Assets Checklist

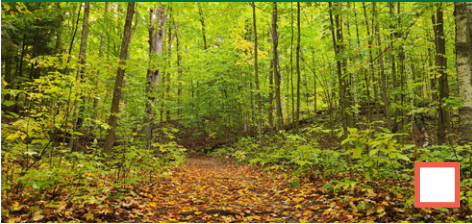


Possibility grows here.



Use this list to identify which natural assets you have within your community on municipally owned or managed properties:

Forests, woodlands



Grasslands, meadows, prairies



Wetlands



Savannahs, thickets



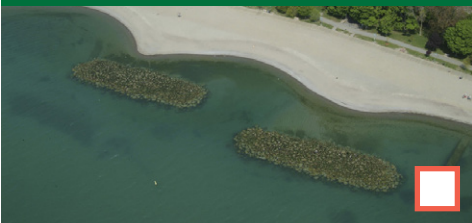
Rivers, streams, ditches, creeks



Lakes, ponds, reservoirs



Beaches



Sand dunes



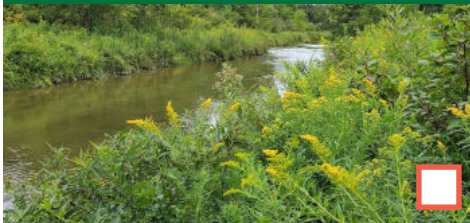
Rocky shorelines



Escarpment, bluffs



Riparian areas



Aquifers



Alvars*



Street and park trees



Parks



Natural Assets Checklist



Possibility grows here.



Forests, woodlands

- Areas dominated by dense stands of trees with greater than 35% canopy cover

Grasslands, meadows, prairies

- Grasslands include meadows, tallgrass prairies, and (manicured) lawns**
- Areas with less than 25% tree canopy cover, instead dominated by non-woody herbaceous plants

Wetlands

- Lands covered seasonally or permanently by water, at or near ground surface
- Poorly drained soils
- Includes swamps, marshes, bogs, fens, and open water

Savannahs, thickets

- Successional ecosystems with woody plants
- Savannahs have 25–35% tree cover, thickets have greater than 25% shrub cover

Rivers, streams, ditches**, creeks

- Watercourses with flow at least some of the year

Lakes, ponds, reservoirs

- Inland standing waterbodies
- Lakes are larger than 2 hectares, ponds are smaller than 2 hectares
- Waterbodies can be natural or humanmade**

Beaches

- Sandy shorelines of lakes/rivers at water level

Sand dunes

- Hills of accumulated sand near the sandy shorelines of a lake

Rocky shorelines***

- Non-sandy terrestrial edges of lakes, ponds, and other waterbodies

Escarpment, bluffs

- High and steep landforms separating areas of different heights
- Bluffs are found along shorelines of waterbodies and watercourses

Riparian areas

- Vegetation communities adjacent to, or associated with, rivers, streams, and other watercourses

Aquifers

- Groundwater captured underground in layers of bedrock/sediment

Alvars

- Relatively flat, bedrock habitats with thin/no soil
- Sparse shrub or herbaceous cover

Street and park trees**

- Individual trees along streets or in parks
- Often planted, may receive regular maintenance

Parks**

- Public lands with natural/cultural environments
- May contain other assets (e.g., forests, grasslands, lakes)

** Technically enhanced green infrastructure assets (created through human intervention) but often included with natural assets

*** Generally engineered/hardened coastal shorelines not included, except where nature-based features or hybrid designs integrate natural elements to enhance ecological and coastal resilience