

# Environmental Stewardship

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) is one of Ontario's original environmental organizations. Since its founding in 1885, the NPC has served a mandate that includes the preservation of natural habitat along the Niagara River corridor from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

Today, the NPC's environmental stewardship mandate is at the very centre of its mission as the Commission works to protect, conserve and promote the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara River corridor. That mandate now includes the pursuit of innovative conservation practices along with building an organization that is itself sustainable in its policies, plans and activities.

## An Iconic Ecology

Provincial, national and international organizations have recognized the Niagara River corridor as a distinctive and significant natural environment.

**World Biosphere Reserve:** On April 4, 1990, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the Niagara Escarpment to be a World Biosphere Reserve in recognition of the escarpment's significant and unique biodiversity.

**Carolinian Life Zone:** The Niagara Peninsula is part of the northern limit of the Carolinian Life Zone, supporting the most productive and endangered assortment of plant and animal species in Canada.

**Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI):** The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources identifies the Niagara Gorge as an ANSI because of the gorge's rich, varied and significant vegetation patterns and flora.



## PLANNING FOR THE DECADE AHEAD

**“BY 2028, NIAGARA PARKS WILL BE AN INNOVATIVE EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINABILITY AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STEWARDS OF THE NIAGARA RIVER CORRIDOR.”**

-NIAGARA PARKS VISION STATEMENT

The Niagara Parks Strategic Plan 2018-2028 will guide the Niagara Parks Commission's next decade. The plan focuses on high-level goals that connect to and support the Niagara parks' environmental stewardship vision and provide the strategic foundation for specific environmental targets and habitat management approaches. In turn, Niagara Parks has also created a number of tactical plans that guide the management of individual habitats and the pursuit key stewardship goals.

These plans apply to specific locations such as Queen Victoria Park and also to specific issues such as urban forestry. Each of these targeted plans features prominent environmental stewardship goals and describes tactics that address issues including invasive species, wetland and grassland restoration, species at risk, public education, environmental research/monitoring, public access, species inventories and biodiversity.