

## Land Acquisition Criteria

### Principles

In making a recommendation to the Board, the Land Acquisition Committee must consider these goals for land acquisition:

- to conserve and protect ecologically significant areas, flora and fauna
- to conserve and enhance biological diversity
- to undertake an ecological restoration of a natural environment as appropriate
- to protect areas with unique or representative natural features or ecosystems
- to protect areas that provide habitat to species of special concern or threatened or endangered species identified under provincial or federal laws or by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
- to connect existing protected areas or expand a natural corridor.

### Other considerations

In making a recommendation to the Board, the Land Acquisition Committee may also take these factors into consideration:

- the eligibility of the property as an EcoGift
- the public profile of the property
- the support for acquisition from neighbours, other land conservation organizations, the municipal, local and township governments, and others
- the size of the property
- the importance of the property to water quality
- the financial resources available to acquire and pay expenses for the property
- the likely use of the property if it is not acquired.
- the trade or sale value of the property, if appropriate

The Land Acquisition Committee must also assess any difficulties the acquisition of the property may pose with respect to monitoring, public access, liability, future stewardship obligations, and other risks for the Land Conservancy.

These are lower priorities for acquisition:

- property within the urban boundary of the City of Kingston (as defined in the city's Urban Growth Strategy), with the exception of donations of buildings or land for re-sale. Areas connected to protected areas within the urban boundary may be of higher interest.
- property within the boundary of any local land trust whose boundaries overlap those of the Land Conservancy unless the Board of one of those organizations makes a request asking the Land Conservancy to acquire the property. If after being referred to an "overlapping" land trust the property owner requests this Land Conservancy to be the recipient, the Board will consider it.
- agricultural lands unless they are to be rehabilitated through a stewardship plan or provide a buffer to an ecologically significant area
- lands with heritage buildings unless another organization is taking responsibility for the buildings.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors June 20, 2005*