

Lake Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail

2010 REFERENCE SHEET

Goals

- To develop a concept for a Lake Erie Coastal Stewardship Trail in Carolinian Canada and an accompanying trail guide
- To connect, promote and enhance rural and urban stewardship efforts along Lake Erie's north shore
- To enhance ecological integrity, and conserve coastal ecosystems and Species at Risk in the Coastal Zone of Carolinian Canada
- To enhance the enjoyment of coastal landscapes, and provide greater opportunities for access to and understanding of rare species and habitats

Stewardship Trail Best Practices

(Draft Oct 2009)

1. Protects and enhances natural and cultural heritage
2. Provides good access for all users and all abilities
3. Is enjoyable for tourism (for example, has vistas)
4. Provides research opportunities
5. Inspires and facilitates stewardship
6. Involves sustainable funding and governance
7. Provides a meaningful educational component
8. Inspires community support for the life of the trail
9. Involves, engages and empowers youth
10. Demonstrates and engenders respect for landowners, flora and fauna, other users

Coastal Themes (examples)

- Carolinian Canada & The Big Picture
- Lake Erie & Geomorphologic and lake process
- Species at risk & Biodiversity
- Private land stewardship and agro-tourism
- Habitat succession and restoration
- Birding
- Native species vs. Alien, Invasive species
- Resource use & Land use history
- Landscape resiliency and climate change
- Wetlands and riparian zones

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ABC Processes

We are collecting focal sites that illustrate the following ABC processes and features, particularly those that show diverse examples of stewardship, human/nature relationships or aquatic/terrestrial interactions.

Abiotic Processes

- **Landform** e.g. erosion, glaciation, soils, mining
- **Hydrologic** e.g. groundwater, sedimentation, dams/dykes, heated effluent
- **Climatic** e.g. climate change, changing water levels, extreme weather

Biotic Processes

- **Plants & Wildlife** e.g. species at risk, population shifts, migrations, hunting, native vs. invasive
- **Habitat** e.g. aquatic & terrestrial ecosystems, rare communities, habitat changes, stewardship
- **Natural landscapes** e.g. biodiversity hotspots, ecosystem functions, wildlife corridors, planning

Cultural Processes

- **Peoples** e.g. First Nations, peoples' movements, diverse communities, trends, landowners
- **Land Uses** e.g. agriculture, fishing, forestry, conservation, education, changes over time
- **Recreation** e.g. hunting, parks, tourism, camps, vistas, rock-climbing, cycling, trespass

Coastal Story (example)

I spent my childhood swimming in Lake Erie, at Thunder Bay beach, a popular recreation site (Site 1). I first started to get a sense of watersheds when my Dad explained that creek (Site 2) flowing into Lake Erie near the beach was the same creek at the end of our road, a few kilometers away. As I drive along the creek today, I notice a farm (Site 3) with a sign indicating that they are improving water quality by buffering the stream. I've also discovered that there are Provincially Significant Wetlands and Environmentally Sensitive Areas located along the creek. Learning more about the area has led me to understand my own property more. I now plan to plant native swamp species that will thrive here.

Find Out More... Download Factsheets... Take the CCoaST Survey... Join the Coastal Network

Explore Carolinian Canada
www.carolinian.org

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