



Our Forest, Our Future:
Dufferin County Forest Management Plan
2016-2036
Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dufferin County Forest is a 1,054 hectare (2,606 acre) multi-tract forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities.

This twenty-year management plan (2016-2036) outlines how environmental, economic, and social sustainability will be achieved for the Dufferin County Forest, building on the County's strategies as outlined in the previous management plan (1995-2015). This plan includes an integrated five year operating plan for the period 2016-2021. As part of the development of the three subsequent five year operating plans, an assessment of the twenty year management plan will occur. As with any planning document, regular analysis will take place to ensure that current circumstances are being sufficiently addressed in the plan.

The goal of the management plan has not changed: *To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.*

In order to achieve this goal, the following key actions will be taken in each of the three areas of sustainability:

Environmental Sustainability

- ❖ provide proper environmental conditions for wild life;
- ❖ protect against floods and erosion;
- ❖ maintain natural forest characteristics as much as possible and;
- ❖ protect the Forest from the threats of invasive species and climate change by maintaining, and, where possible, increasing, biodiversity.

Economic Sustainability

- ❖ maintain sustainable levels of timber harvesting throughout the planning period;
- ❖ seek forest certification to increase the demand for timber products from the County Forest and;
- ❖ continue to develop alternative revenue streams that will not compromise environmental sustainability.

Social Sustainability

- ❖ maintain an active relationship with users and other stakeholders;
- ❖ promote the benefits of forest protection/conservation;
- ❖ continue to inform residents of Dufferin County, in particular, youth, about the County Forest and;
- ❖ develop a separate detailed recreation policy, that is consistent with the overall forest management plan, to manage recreational use, in particular in the Main Tract.