



Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY: Gord Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

DATE: October 1, 2020

RE: Specific Agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors approve the attached agreement allowing for a deer harvest in an area of Dundas Valley Conservation Area as identified on Schedule 'A', and generally bounded by Martin Road to the east, Jerseyville Road to the south, Paddy Green Road to the west, and Powerline Road to the north and; as identified on Schedule 'B' and generally bounded by 50 metres into HCA lands between Weir's Lane to the east, the CN rail line to the north, the lot line of private properties along the south and west only on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 9 and December 3, 2020, inclusive for 2020 and further,

THAT the agreement extends to 2021 for the same locations only on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 8 to December 2, 2021, inclusive.

BACKGROUND

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors at its meeting of November 3, 2011 authorized entering into an agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWA) to establish a protocol for recognizing the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee respecting hunting on HCA owned lands. The protocol continues in place. At the same meeting, the Board of Directors authorized entering into a Specific Agreement allowing hunting in the west end of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

The specific agreement is recommended on a two-year cycle based on the ongoing relationship with the HWHA and with the field experience of the deer harvest since 2011.

This report details the proposed specific agreement to allow deer harvesting in the west end of the DVCA for the 2020 season and additionally for the 2021 season.

STAFF COMMENT

As a result of discussions between HWHA members and HCA staff, the specific agreement (attached) allows for deer harvesting in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area in two locations.

The agreement is similar to last year providing for the taking of up to 60 deer, notification to Hamilton Police Services and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry officials and notification to the public and trail closures.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiatives – Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners and Indigenous Peoples

- **Strategic Priority Area – Education and Environmental Awareness**
 - Initiatives – Identify and support outreach opportunities within all of our program areas

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee, and the successful relationship the HCA has developed with the HWHA, it is appropriate that the HCA enter into the Specific Agreement attached to this report.

2020 and 2021 Specific Agreement:

Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority and Hamilton Conservation Authority

This agreement is to be read jointly with the Protocol made between the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWHA) and the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) on November 3, 2011.

This agreement addresses the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA), which is administered by the HCA and specifically those parts of the Area illustrated on the attached two maps, Schedule "A" and Schedule "B".

We are reaffirming that the attached maps are the only maps to which we are referring, and that our agreement is intended to facilitate a deer harvest that is consistent with Haudenosaunee treaty rights, and is consistent with our shared standards of safety and conservation. It does not and cannot affect or diminish Haudenosaunee rights.

The following factors have helped to establish some parameters for the harvesting of deer:

1. This Specific Agreement, like the Protocol that authorizes it, has been developed in the spirit of a growing relationship between the HCA and the HWWHA based upon respect, trust, and friendship.
2. HCA staff and HWWHA members will continue to make observation of the ground conditions of the DVCA with respect to deer habitat, over grazing, and potential damage to other native species.
3. The conservation lands identified in Schedule A and Schedule B of the DVCA are permitted for deer harvesting ensuring public and harvester safety as the overriding priority. Private property land holdings outside of the scheduled conservation lands is strictly prohibited for the deer harvest.
4. HWWHA will continue to provide the deer harvest communication with all harvesters. HWWHA will also continue to provide the final tally of the harvest per each scheduled area indicating the number of deer harvested following the completion of the harvest.

For the 2020 and 2021 season, the number of deer harvested from the areas identified as Schedules "A" and "B" combined shall not exceed sixty deer in either year.

Deer harvesting within the Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" will take place only on HCA owned lands, and only on weekdays, excluding Fridays, between November 9 and December 3, 2020, inclusive and November 8 to December 2, 2021, inclusive. The HCA and the HWWHA will monitor the deer harvest and will remain in consistent contact throughout the harvesting period.

The HCA and the HWHA will contact the Hamilton Police Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to inform them of the intent and provisions and of this agreement, and to secure their co-operation and involvement in ensuring public and harvester safety. A Task Agency meeting will be held within two weeks of the harvest commencement.

Haudenosaunee harvesters will use the safest means possible to take deer humanely. They will use archery equipment, including compound bows and crossbows. They will not use firearms, rifles, or shotguns. They will not use dogs, feed bait, or jack-lighting. They will not harvest before dawn or after dark. They will as often as possible use tree stands and blinds, such use to be determined by factors of safety and effectiveness. They may also wear blaze orange clothing to ensure they are aware of one another's presence.

The HCA will use the "Conservation Alert and Trail Closure Protocol" approved by its Board on February 3, 2011 as a basis for informing the public of the harvesting of deer pursuant to this agreement.

Specifically, public notification of "Trail Closure" will be:

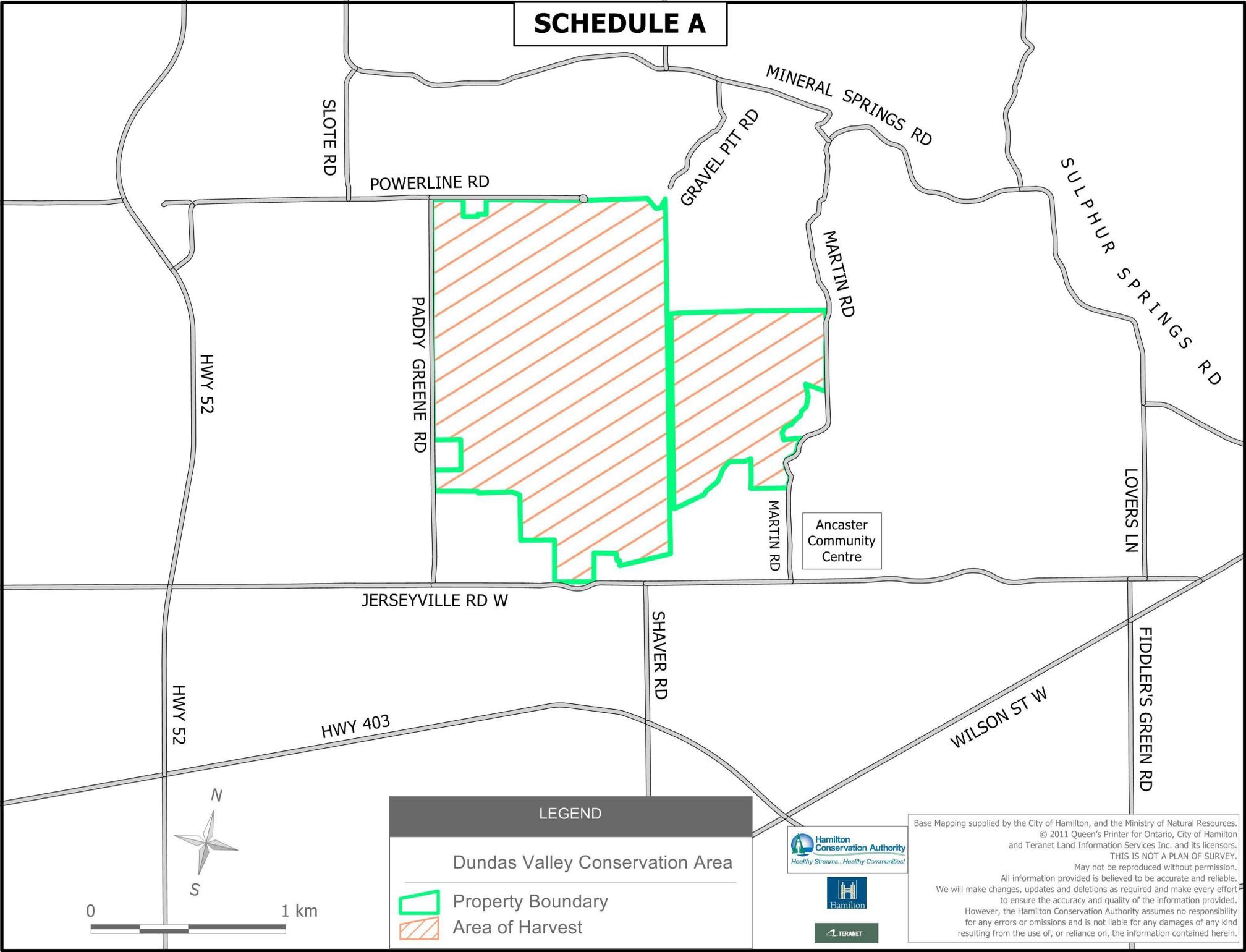
- A media release to local radio, television and newspapers.
- Notification to the Board of the HCA, City Council, and the office of the City Manager of Hamilton by way of the written media release.
- Hand delivery of notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the harvest area. The notice will include telephone numbers and contacts for the HCA staff, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Hamilton Police Service.
- Posting of the "Public Notice of Trail Closure" on the HCA website.
- Posting of "Public Notice of Trail Closure" at the Dundas Valley Trail and Conservation Area gatehouse.
- Posting of "Public Notice of Trail Closure" at main trail entry points.

Date: _____

CAO: Hamilton Conservation Authority

Haudenosaunee Wildlife
and Habitat Authority

SCHEDULE A



LEGEND

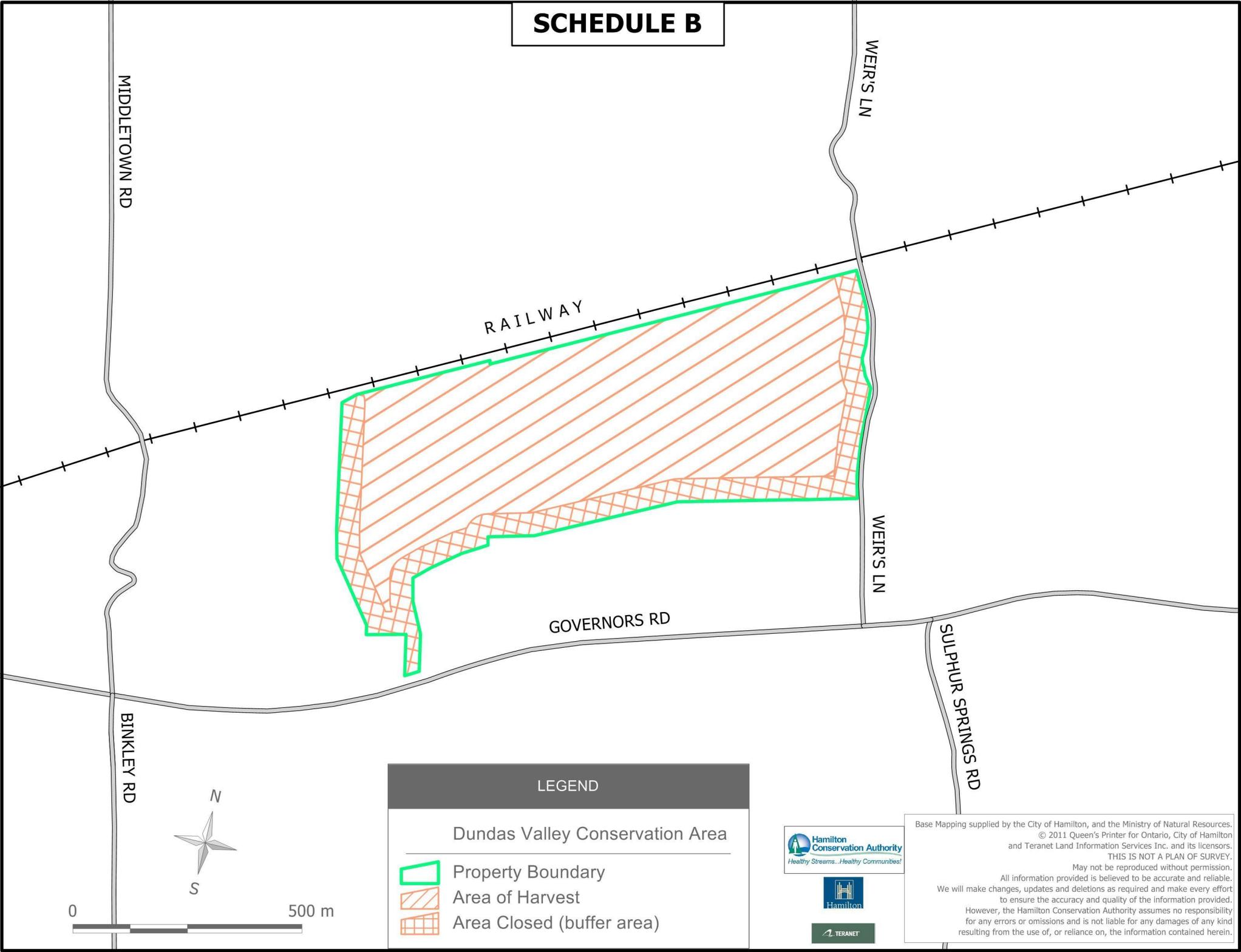
Dundas Valley Conservation Area

-  Property Boundary
-  Area of Harvest



Base Mapping supplied by the City of Hamilton, and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
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SCHEDULE B



LEGEND

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

-  Property Boundary
-  Area of Harvest
-  Area Closed (buffer area)



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