

# CREATING CORRIDORS OF CONNECTED WILDERNESS

The Couchiching Conservancy has made major strides in preserving vital habitat, but the challenge has never been greater because of tremendous development pressure on our region. Ask yourself, what will be saved for future generations? How will our beloved species like Moose and Great Blue Heron sustain themselves? The Conservancy and our supporters are looking ahead with a detailed acquisition and protection strategy which focuses on creating corridors to make the biggest impact in protecting crucial habitat and threatened species.

The creation of wildlife corridors has also become more urgent in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Corridors of protected wilderness matter. These are the bridges for species to move. Corridors reduce fragmentation, which has a big impact on species survival and many Canadian provinces could become 'climate refuges' for animals heading north to escape rising temperatures. We are working towards connecting some of the wildest spaces left in Ontario.

The Corridors Campaign is a concentrated effort to protect and steward important natural habitat East of Lake Couchiching – the Black River Wildlands and Carden Alvar regions. This campaign is the largest capital campaign in the Conservancy's history with a goal to raise \$1.4 million and we are close to realizing that goal.

The purpose of the Campaign is to raise money today so that Conservancy is in a position to act quickly when opportunities arise in this area. Your donation or pledge to the Campaign secures your belief in this work, and trust in what we are working towards together.

**"I am very proud of our natural areas and our vast wilderness. I believe it is our responsibility as Canadians to preserve these natural areas for many reasons including – protecting biodiversity, reducing the impacts of climate change and protecting them for future generations to enjoy."**  
- Doug Varty, Development Committee Chair

**4,000**   
additional acres we  
are working to protect  
by 2025

**1,929**   
acres of wilderness  
protected since 2019

**\$1.4M**   
goal to raise to  
support acquisition  
efforts over four years

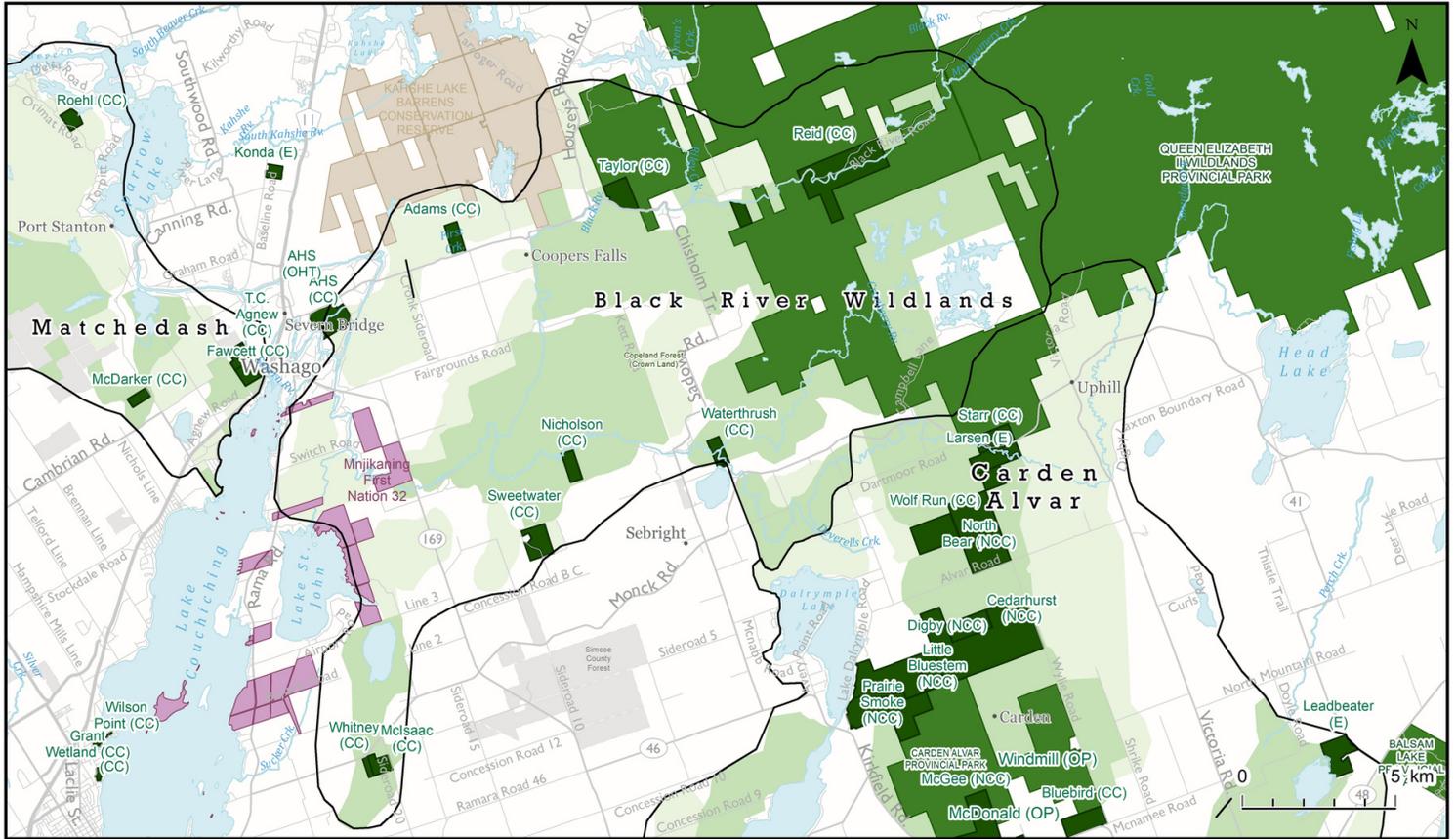
**49**   
species at risk of  
disappearing forever

**Values**   
Carbon sink, species  
migration, linkages to  
other protected areas

**Habitat**   
Canadian Shield & the  
Great Lakes Lowlands,  
with rich wetlands,  
Alvar, Grasslands

# PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

The Conservancy is currently working with a number of land owners to protect these important pieces of the puzzle through various tools such as land donation, easements and more. Your donation to the Corridors Campaign empowers the Conservancy to move forward vital protection projects throughout this region.



- Nature Reserve - Couchiching Conservancy (CC), Easement (E), Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT)
- First Nations Reserve
- Conservation Reserve (Ontario Parks)
- Provincial Park (Ontario Parks)

- Simcoe County Forest Tract
- Priority 1 Zone
- Priority 2 Zone
- Conservation Corridor



Author: The Couchiching Conservancy, 8/31/2022. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM 17 N; Projection: Transverse Mercator Data: Land Information Ontario, Couchiching Conservancy/ 2021. Priority areas and conservation corridors conceptualized by Ron Reid and digitized by Kawartha Conservation and the Couchiching Conservancy. Contact for details. This is NOT a plan of Survey and is not for planning or legal use. Do not rely on for navigation.

## PROTECTED THANKS TO CORRIDORS CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS



# CURRENT OPPORTUNITY: THE MORTON PRAIRIE ALVAR

**400** 

acres, directly connected  
to 1,091-acres of  
protected wilderness

**\$632K** 

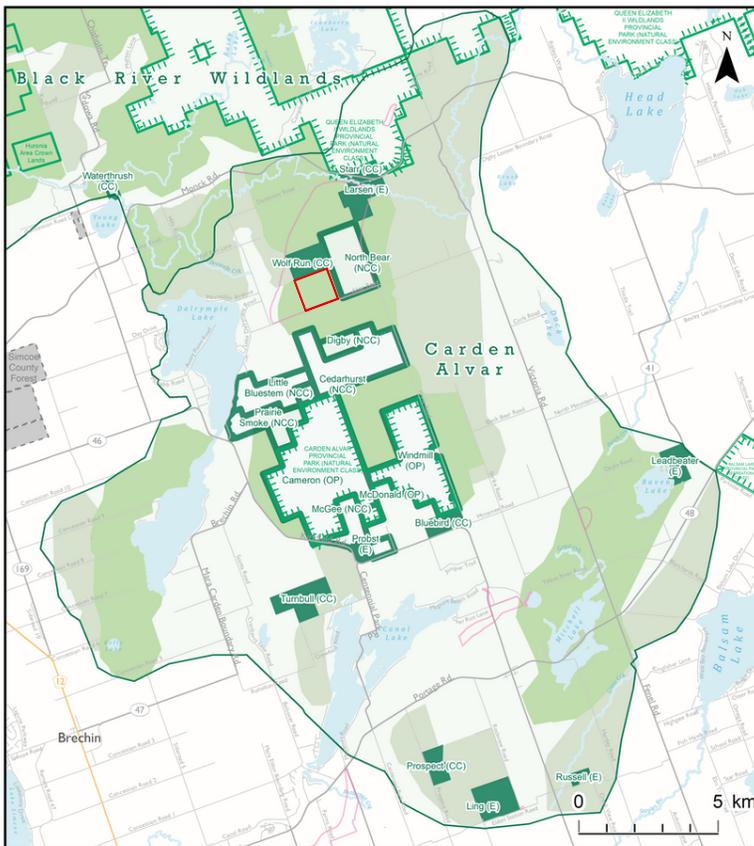
total project cost  
including stewardship  
endowment

**\$277K** 

Left to raise by  
August 2023

**\$1,600** 

Cost per  
acre



- Carden Alvar;
- In our priority 1 area for protection;
- an Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBBA), an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest and contains globally rare alvar habitat and species;
- directly adjacent to Wolf Run NR (CC) along the Northern boundary and North Bear NR (NCC) along the Eastern boundary.
- Home to a variety of Species-At-Risk, such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Eastern Milksnake, Western Chorus Frog and more;
- An important rest stop for migrating birds;
- Builds a stronger corridor of connected wilderness for large mammals;
- Carden Alvar hosts more than 230 bird species, 450 plants, and 140 butterfly/dragonfly species;
- Area is important for our communities - it helps reduce flooding, helps store carbon and is a nature-based solution to our changing climate.



## DONATE:

Contact Tanya Clark, Fundraising & Engagement Manager to make your gift. [tanya@couchconservancy.ca](mailto:tanya@couchconservancy.ca) or 705-326-1620

[couchichingconserv.ca](http://couchichingconserv.ca)