Ecosystem Compensation Program

2025 Summary Report

SPOTLIGHT PROJECT

Nashville Bat Habitat Project

- TRCA managed 3.0 ha of invasive species, restored 7.0 ha of forest ecosystem, and installed 8 rocket boxes and 2 rock piles, to restore habitat for Species at Risk (SAR) bats including Little Brown Myotis *(Myotis lucifugus)*, Northern Myotis *(Myotis septentrionalis)*, Tri-colored Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus)*, and Eastern Small-footed Myotis *(Myotis leibii)*.
- Invasive species management included the control of Common *(European)* Buckthorn *(Rhamnus cathartica)* following Best Management Practices while creating a minimum of 7.0 ha of treed habitat by planting species with naturally exfoliating or peeling bark such as Shagbark Hickory *(Carya ovata)* and Paper Birch *(Betula papyrifera)* to provide further habitat options for bats.
- In addition to natural restoration, habitat structures were strategically placed to maximize solar exposure, proximity to forest cover, and connectivity to suitable roosting and foraging corridors to offset the loss of roosting and foraging habitat.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMPENSATION PROGRAM:

- received **$3,362,000** in natural feature compensation funds from **12** compensation projects.
- received **$965,000** in land based compensation funds from **1** compensation project.
- TRCA has spent **$3,436,000** in ecosystem compensation funds received, which includes funds from previous years, to plan and implement, and monitor **144** restoration projects.

Completed and commenced implementation on 144 restoration projects, totalling:

0 m
of aquatic/riparian habitat

54
monitoring reports

26 ha
invasive species managed

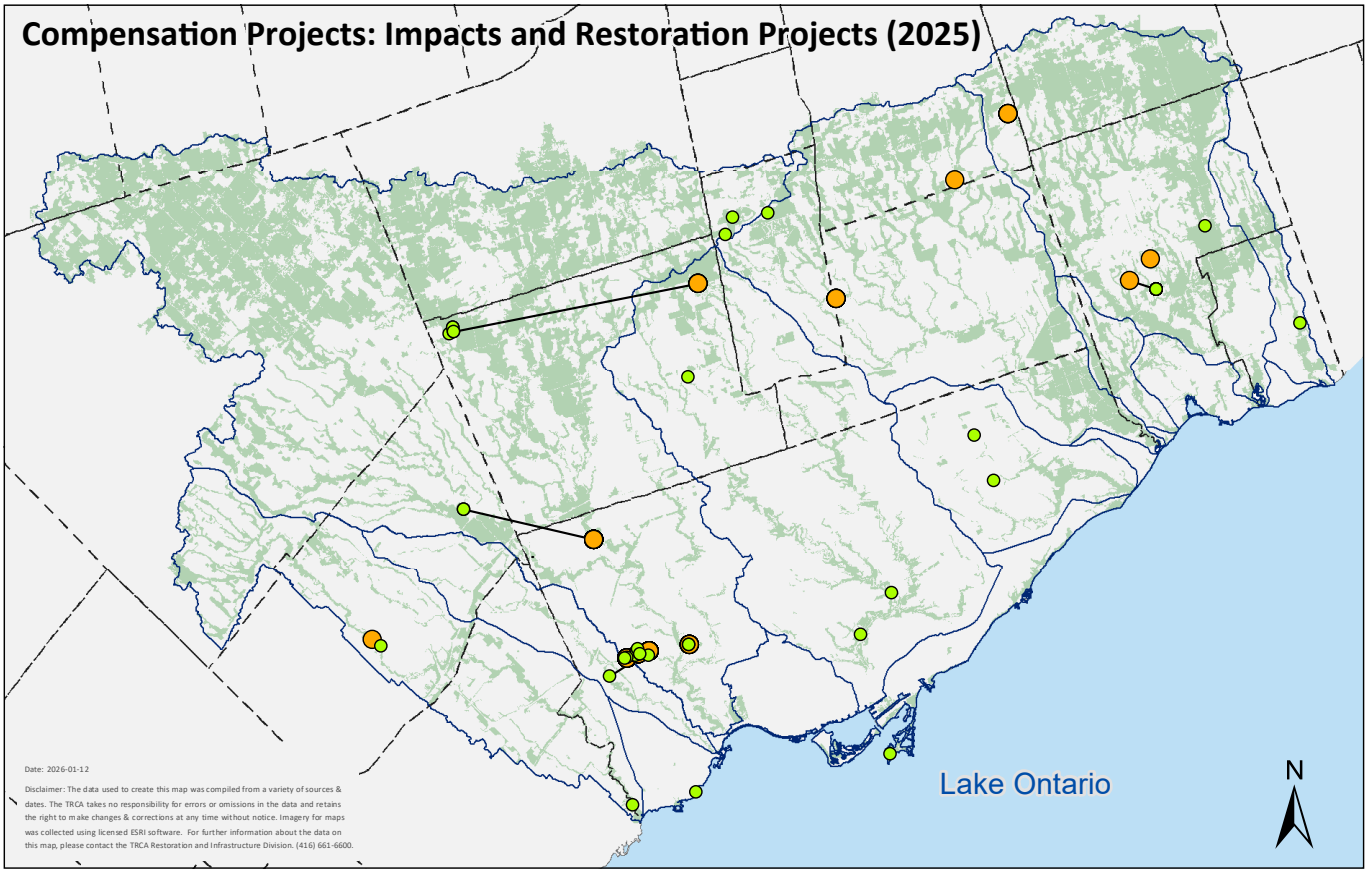
46,183
woody stems planted

34 ha
of terrestrial habitat

20 kg
of native seed

54
nest boxes and structural habitat installation

6,400 m
of deer fence



GOAL 1 NO NET LOSS – 2017-2025 RESTORATION TOTALS

Terrestrial Natural Features

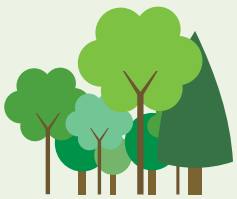
Target: 117.4 ha

Restored and proposed

139.5 ha

Resulting gain or loss

+22.1 ha



Land Base Features

Target: 2.7 ha

Restored and proposed

+64.8 ha

Resulting gain or loss

+62.1 ha

Aquatic Natural Features

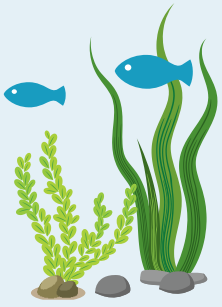
Target: 362.7 m

Restored and proposed

604.3 m

Resulting gain or loss

+241.6 m



Species at Risk Compensation

Butternut Trees Planted: **490**

Bat Habitat Plantings: **10.7 ha**

Bat Structures: **249**

Barn Swallow Cups: **117**

Redside Dace Stream: **81 m**

Bobolink and Meadowlark meadow: **11.3 ha**

Compensation funds have been leveraged to secure larger tracks of land outside the urban boundary. Of the acquired lands, **28.9 ha** do not hold natural features and will be restored and added into the natural heritage system.

GOAL 2 ACCOUNTABILITY

- Annual report prepared and presented
- 100% of funds received in 2025 have been allocated to restoration.

GOAL 3 TRANSPARENCY

- TRCA continues to meet with Conservation Authorities and other interested parties to raise awareness of TRCA's Compensation Program Governance.
- TRCA shares information publicly through Board communications and website postings

GOAL 4 CONSISTENCY (WITH THE GUIDELINE DIRECTION)

Funding (2017 - 2025)

Of ecosystem compensation resulting from a TRCA permit, **100%** aligned with guideline.

TRCA aims to keep restoration close to the impact site by restoring within the same municipality and within the same watershed. The average distance between the impact and restoration sites in 2025 was 3.7 km.

Of the restoration projects implemented between 2017 and 2025, **89%** of restoration projects were undertaken in the same municipality as the losses and **85%** were in the same watershed. In 2025, four out of five restoration projects funded by cash-in-lieu funds as the result of a TRCA Permit were allocated in the same municipality and watershed as the loss. The one outlier was allocated within proximity to the watershed border.

Projects allocated outside of municipal or watershed boundaries are associated with provincial legislation allowing for larger distances between impacts and restoration sites.

GOAL 5 EFFICIENCY AND TIMELINESS

Time from receipt of cash-in-lieu funds:

TARGET 1: to starting or initiating projects should be within 1 year

96% ↑ up from 94% in 2024 report

TARGET 2: to implementing project should be within 2 years

80% ↑ up from 77% in 2024 report

TARGET 3: to completing project should be within 7 years

71% ↓ down from 78% in 2024 report

Some projects, such as meadows and SAR bat projects, require non-standard monitoring periods of 5 to 20 years and do not fit the standard target timelines.

GOAL 6 ADAPTABILITY

TRCA continues to use standard post-implementation assessments and monitoring to understand project successes and challenges and to inform adaptive management practices that support ecosystem function and sustainability.

TRCA continues to be adaptive in modernizing internal processes as well, with the adoption of Feature Manipulation Engines (FME) to produce formated reporting more quickly.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority