

## **High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF): Saugeen Valley CA Forest**

### **Summary**

The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) owns 8,808.79 hectares of forested land. The location of these properties can be found on the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) website at [svca.on.ca](http://svca.on.ca). The Community Forest also maintains a detailed GIS inventory of the forests and natural heritage values for each property. The SVCA Forest is managed according to the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®). FSC® certification provides the assurance that the forests are sustainably managed to a world-recognized standard.

FSC principle 9 addresses High Conservation Value Forests. It states that “Management activities in High Conservation Value Forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests.” The Forest Manager has evaluated the Community Forest using a framework which identifies six potential categories of HCVF. Sources of information for identifying HCVF include the OMNRF’s Forest Resource Inventory and Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS), Natural Heritage Information Centre (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/natural-heritage-information-centre>), natural heritage inventories, Endangered Species Act, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/07e06> and the knowledge of the forest manager and members of the community. The HCVF report has been reviewed by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Forestry Committee of the Board of Directors, the EOMF Certification Working Group and peer reviewed by an independent expert. The Forest Management Plan provides guidance for conservation of HCVFs when a timber harvest operation is planned and are consistent with OMNR habitat guidelines, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-management-guides>. HCVF include a mapped area of 8,808.79 hectares, and additional unmapped areas of species at risk habitat. The full HCVF report is available for review at the office of the SVCA. The results are summarized in the following table.

### **Appendix E High Conservation Value Forest Assessment Framework – GLSL**

This framework is designed to be used in order to help identify potential High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) in the context of achieving certification to FSC Canada’s Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Standard. It is based on a framework originally developed by ProForest and since that time it has been applied in many forest regions around the world.

The framework is organized as a table covering six categories derived from the definition of HCVFs from the FSC standards. The six categories are:

Category 1: Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia);

Category 2: Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;

Category 3: Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems;

Category 4: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control);

Category 5: Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health); and,

Category 6: Forest areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). Each

category has a question or questions (the left-hand column below) that aim to identify whether the management unit contains any of the values relevant to each category. Negative answers to these questions mean that the forest operation likely does not include High Conservation Values (HCV) in that category. Positive answers lead to further investigation. The second column explains the rationale for the conservation of the particular value. The third column provides sources of information on these values (e.g., COSEWIC lists in Canada, Conservation Data Centre lists, etc.). The fourth column provides further guidance to help determine whether or not a particular area might be considered a High Conservation Value Forest.

Scale and diversity in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region: This toolkit is designed to be used across the GLSL region, and applied in small private forests, on community forests and in large public forests. The manager may be operating in a highly fragmented landscape, where the stands with exceptionally high conservation value may be very small and require a high degree of protection, or in a much more intact landscape, where the HCVF toolkit can help to identify relatively broad features across the landscape in which the changes to management activities may be relatively modest although nevertheless significant at the landscape level. Furthermore, these diverse management regimes occur across a range of ecosystem types, from the Carolinian forests of southwestern Ontario through the mixed wood forests of southern Ontario and Québec and northwards to forests that are in the boreal transition zone. This diversity means that HCVF assessments will be carried out differently on these various forests, and will produce vastly different results. In developing a toolkit that is intended to apply across this diversity it is not possible to provide specific thresholds or numerical responses to questions such as “What is the minimum size of a HCVF area?” or “What percentage of a management unit should be designated as HCVFs?” “Critical habitat” and “Essential Habitat.” In this Toolkit, and elsewhere in this standard, the term “Critical habitat” is used only in the context of Species at Risk that have been listed by federal or provincial agencies. It is used in this narrow sense in order to align the use of the term in this Standard with the legal requirements that exist in federal and provincial legislation pertaining to maintaining and restoring critical habitat for species at risk. “Essential habitat” has the same meaning as “critical habitat,” but applies to all wildlife species, and not only to rare, threatened or endangered species.

<b>HCV Summary for the <u>Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority</u></b>		<b>Approximate Total (Hectares)</b>
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	8698.52
HCV2	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	0.00
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	80.32
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	0.00
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	0.00
HCV6	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	29.95
	Total Area	8808.79

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
1. Does the forest contain concentrations of species at risk as listed by international, national or provincial authorities?		Natural Heritage Information Centre	Government of Canada Species at Risk Public Registry: Species List  Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)	Portions Of Tract #'s	Species at Risk	Ongoing	SVCA	SVCA Forest Management Plan	Ongoing as Required	
		Department of Fisheries and Oceans		23-41-05	Massasauga Scarlet Beebalm Snapping Turtle			Under AOC's, Botanical Resources, and Significant Flora and Fauna Sections		35.21
		Ministry of Natural Resources – Landowner Information Centre- ANSI mapping		23-41-10	Massasauga Scarlet Beebalm Snapping Turtle			OMNR Regulations and Guidelines		40.47
		Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Species Lists		Woods	Canada Warbler Cerulean Warbler Eastern Small-footed Bat Little Brown Myotis Northern Myotis Ribbonsnake Snapping Turtle			Department of Fisheries and Oceans Regulations and Guidelines		94.52
		Rare and Endangered Species of Grey and Bruce Counties, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, 2001		Martyn	Eastern Small-footed Bat Little Brown Myotis Northern Myotis Butternut Snapping Turtle					40.26
				Greer & Powers Props	Bald Eagle Canada Warbler Wood Thrush Eastern Small-					6.76 & 15.00

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
					footed Bat Little Brown Myotis Northern Myotis Butternut Dwarf Lake Iris Eastern Ribbonsnake Snapping Turtle					
				41-010-10	Eastern Meadowlark Snapping Turtle					20.43
				41-010-15	Beaked Spike-rush					10.41
				41-060-05	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					15.70
				41-060-10	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					
				41-060-15	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Rigid Sedge Snapping Turtle					59.69
				41-060-20	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					14.57

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				41-210-05	Ram's-head Lady's-slipper					36.42
				41-210-10	Great Lakes Wild Rye Low Nutrush Ram's-head Lady's-slipper					18.71
				41-210-15	Great Lakes Wild Rye Low Nutrush Pitcher's Thistle Prairie Dropseed Ram's-head Lady's-slipper					7.98
				41-260-05	Dwarf Lake Iris Eastern Meadowlark Eastern Ribbonsnake Loggerhead Shrike Low Nutrush Milksnake Prairie Dropseed Queensnake Ram's-head Lady's-slipper Snapping Turtle					20.23
				41-260-10	Beaked Spike-rush Eastern Ribbon Snake Great Lakes Sand					46.40

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				41-310-05	Reed Low Nutrush Milksnake Ram's-head Lady's-slipper Snapping Turtle Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					74.52
				41-310-10	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					40.24
				41-310-15	Beaked Spike-rush Snapping Turtle					640.08
				41-310-20	Snapping Turtle					
				41-310-25	Bobolink Large Round-leaved Orchid					
				41-310-30	Snapping Turtle					948.08
				41-310-35	Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark Large Round-leaved Orchid Snapping Turtle					365.23

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				41-310-40	Beaked Spike-rush Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					255.36
				41-310-50	Snapping Turtle					202.34
				41-310-55	Beaked Spike-rush Snapping Turtle					42.93
				41-310-60	Beaked Spike-rush					
				41-310-65	Beaked Spike-rush					152.97
				41-310-75	Beaked Spike-rush					157.02
				41-310-80	Snapping Turtle					30.35
				41-310-85	Milksnake Snapping Turtle					223.35
				41-310-90	Snapping Turtle					
				41-310-95	Snapping Turtle					282.05
				41-340-05	Snapping Turtle					20.73
				41-340-10	Eastern Meadowlark Scarlet Beebalm Snapping Turtle					25.90
				41-380-05	Bobolink					

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				41-380-10	Bobolink					133.34
				41-380-20	Northern Brook Lamprey					54.30
				41-440-05	Bobolink Eastern Meadowlark Snapping Turtle Tuberous Indian-plantain					112.38
				42-010-05	Scarlet Beebalm					32.38
				42-010-10	Scarlet Beebalm					67.42
				42-010-15	Scarlet Beebalm					86.03
				42-010-20	Scarlet Beebalm Snapping Turtle					2.14
				42-060-05	Clamp-tipped Emerald					22.84
				42-060-10	Clamp-tipped Emerald Eastern Meadowlark Snapping Turtle					40.47
				42-090-05	Bobolink Snapping Turtle					
				42-090-10	Bobolink Snapping Turtle					225.37
				42-090-15	Snapping Turtle					19.82



Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				42-090-25	Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					40.06
				42-090-30	Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					40.06
				42-090-40	Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					40.06
				42-090-45	Clamp-tipped Emerald Snapping Turtle					40.06
				42-090-55	Snapping Turtle					41.68
				42-140-05	Snapping Turtle Redside Dace					
				42-140-10	Snapping Turtle Redside Dace					
				42-140-15	Snapping Turtle Redside Dace					
				42-140-20	Bobolink Snapping Turtle					676.33
				42-180-05	Bobolink					33.18
				42-180-10	Bobolink Snapping Turtle					64.75

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				42-220-05	Eastern Ribbonsnake Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					121.40
				42-220-10	Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					40.47
				42-220-15	Eastern Meadowlark Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					40.47
				42-220-20	Eastern Meadowlark Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					40.47
				42-220-25	Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					41.47
				42-220-30	Bobolink Hart's Tongue Fern Scarlet Beebalm					37.92
				42-220-35	Clamp-tipped Emerald Redside Dace					34.40
				42-220-40	Bobolink Clamp-tipped Emerald Eastern Meadowlark					29.14

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
<b>Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)</b>										
				42-220-45	Clamp-tipped Emerald					22.65
				42-220-50	Harlequin Darner Hart's Tongue Fern Snapping Turtle Bobolink					
				42-220-55	Harlequin Darner Hart's Tongue Fern					
				42-220-60	Hart's Tongue Fern Harlequin Darner Snapping Turtle					498.73
				42-280-05	Eastern Ribbonsnake Hart's-tongue Fern Snapping Turtle					77.47
				42-280-10	Eastern Ribbonsnake					20.23
				42-280-15	Eastern Ribbonsnake Scarlet Beebalm Snapping Turtle Bobolink					173.40
				42-280-20	Scarlet Beebalm					50.99
				42-320-05	Eastern Ribbonsnake					39.25
				42-320-10	Eastern Ribbonsnake Hart's-tongue Fern					94.90

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				42-320-15	Bobolink Eastern Ribbonsnake Hart's-tongue Fern					161.86
				42-320-20	Eastern Ribbon Snake					128.92
				42-320-25	Eastern Ribbonsnake Snapping Turtle					10.23
				42-360-05	Eastern Ribbonsnake Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					40.47
				42-360-10	Eastern Ribbonsnake Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern Snapping Turtle					40.47
				42-360-15	Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern Snapping Turtle					
				42-360-20	Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern					121.41
				42-360-25	Harlequin Darner Hart's-tongue Fern Snapping Turtle					40.47
				42-360-30	Snapping Turtle					80.94

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
<b>Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)</b>										
				42-360-35	Hart's Tongue Fern Schweinitz's Sedge Snapping Turtle					75.26
				42-360-40	Harlequin Darner Hart's Tongue Fern					83.90
				42-360-45	Bobolink Harlequin Darner Hart's Tongue Fern Snapping Turtle					
				42-360-50	Harlequin Darner Hart's Tongue Fern					392.71
				42-390-05	Bobolink					
				42-390-10	Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid Snapping Turtle					151.76
				42-390-15	Snapping Turtle					30.35
2. Does the forest contain a concentration of species having a restricted geographical range?	Ensures the maintenance of vulnerable and/or irreplaceable elements of biodiversity.	Ministry of Natural Resources – Landowners Information Centre Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Species Lists OMNRF Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 6E		A portion of the Tract #'s		Ongoing	SVCA	SVCA Forest Management Plan – Significant Flora & Fauna, and AOC sections	As Required	
				41-310-45	Deer Yard Area					20.03
				41-310-70	Deer Yard Area			OMNRF Biologists or Ecologists as Required		25.08

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: SVCA						
<b>Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)</b>				<b>Comp.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Year Completed</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Management Guidance</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>
3. Does the forest include regionally significant seasonal concentration of species?	SVCA GIS Database	Forests that contains a minimum of 100 meter radius without edge	41-010-05	Forest Interior Habitat	Ongoing	SVCA	SVCA Forest Management Plan	As Required	132.33	
			41-090-20	Forest Interior Habitat					40.06	
			41-090-35	Forest Interior Habitat					40.06	
4. Does the forest support regionally significant species (e.g., species declining regionally, culturally important species)?			None							
5. Does the forest support concentrations of species at the edge of their natural ranges or outlier populations?			None							
6. Does the forest lie within, adjacent to, or contain a conservation area: a) designated by an international authority, b) legally designated or proposed by relevant federal/provincial/ territorial legislative body, or c) identified in regional land use plans or conservation plans?			Lockerby	SVCA Conservation Area	Ongoing	SVCA	SVCA Forest Management Plan	As Required	2.27	

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
<b>Category 2) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance</b>				<b>Comp.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Year Completed</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Management Guidance</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>
			None							

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 3) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
9. Does the forest contain naturally rare ecosystem types?				None						
10. Are there ecosystem types within the forest or ecoregion that have significantly declined?				None						
11. Are there sites with unique or exceptional ecological characteristics?				A portion of Tract #'s		Ongoing	SVCA	SVCA Forest Management Plan	As required	40.26
				41-260-15	PSW & ANSI			Ministry of Natural Resources		40.06
				42-090-50	PSW					

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 4) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				None						

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 5) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
				None						

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
<b>Category 6) Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)</b>										
16. Is the traditional cultural identity of the local community particularly tied to a specific forest area?				A Portion of Tract # 41-540-05	Native Burial Ground/ Archaeological site	Ongoing	SVCA/ First Nations People	SVCA FMP - Wildlands	None	29.95
17. Is there a significant overlap of values (ecological and/or cultural) that individually did not meet HCV thresholds, but collectively constitute HCVs?				None						