subdivided by physiographic region. The best examples of each vegetation type were identified in each physiographic region and ecodistrict, and if minimum size and quality targets were met, identified as candidate ANSIs. The purpose of this analysis was to identify viable prairie and savannah remnants that fill the gaps in representation of these important ecological communities. A report which reviews the occurrence of Tallgrass Prairie and Savannah in Ontario, describes the gap analysis, summarizes natural features and species by site, and includes checksheets and mapping of candidate ANSIs, is nearing completion.

A Conservation Blueprint for Terrestrial Biodiversity in the Great Lakes

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Abstract

The Canadian portion of the Great Lakes ecoregion contains some of the largest and most intact natural landscapes in the ecoregion, although the southern Ontario portion has some of the most dramatically altered of Great Lakes landscapes. Some of the continent's most significant forests, alvars, cliffs, talus, fens and bogs are located here. The Great Lakes ecoregion is also one of the few areas of species endemism in glaciated North America. Significantly, there is no basin-wide, site-specific overview on the variety and extent of natural heritage resources in this important area, or an analysis of the geography of its biodiversity and its conservation priorities. The Nature Conservancy of Canada has partnered with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to analyse biodiversity across a number of spatial scales. A GIS-based analysis was undertaken to identify areas on the landscape to fill the gaps in representation of ecological systems and rare species of the current protected areas network in the province.