

## OAK RIDGES MORaine

The Oak Ridges Moraine takes its name from the many fine oaks that once grew along the ridge – the geological land form that extends 160 kilometres from the Trent River to the Niagara Escarpment.

### About The Oak Ridges Moraine:

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is an ecologically based plan that provides land use and resource management direction for the 190,000 hectares of land and water within the Moraine. The Oak Ridges Moraine is one of Ontario's most significant landforms. This irregular ridge stretches 160 kilometres from the Trent River in the east to the Niagara Escarpment in the west. The Escarpment, the Moraine and the Greenbelt Plan's Natural Heritage System together form the foundation of south-central Ontario's natural heritage and green space systems. Strategically located north of and parallel to Lake Ontario, the Moraine divides the watersheds draining south into western Lake Ontario from those draining north into Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe and the Trent River system. The Moraine shapes the present and future form and structure of the Greater Toronto region, and its ecological functions are critical to the region's continuing health. The Moraine has a unique concentration of environmental, geological and hydrological features that make its ecosystem vital to south-central Ontario, including: • clean and abundant water resources; • healthy and diverse plant and animal habitat; • an attractive and distinct landscape; • prime agricultural areas; and • sand and gravel resources close to market.

Source: Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017)

[OAK RIDGES MORaine CONSERVATION PLAN \(2017\) \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

**STORM Coalition**, founded in 1989 as a non-profit organization, was the first collective voice articulating the need for provincial legislation to protect the entire Oak Ridges Moraine and for integrated land use planning that acknowledges the fragility of watershed and headwater regions. This grassroots movement was initiated in response to development pressures on the moraine and a need for a planning system that would protect this fragile and environmentally significant landform. STORM, in collaboration with its member groups spanning the Oak Ridges Moraine, is committed to ensuring that the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Plan are vigorously implemented and, where possible, strengthened. [Source: Oak Ridges Moraine Compiled by the STORM Coalition, The Boston Mills Press, 1997; description edit by Debbe Crandall, 2004]

Save The Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition [Home | Mysite 1 \(stormcoalition.com\)](#)

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**The Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA)** is also a non-profit organization, formed in 1992 with two main functions: a) To plan, promote, and create recreational trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine for the recreational and educational use, benefit and enjoyment of the general public off road where possible and b) To promote, support and engage in public education regarding the appreciation, renewal and protection of the natural environment surrounding the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system, and to encourage ecologically responsible attitudes towards it. [Source: Constitution of the Oak Ridges Trail Association]

Oak Ridges Trail Association

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**The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT)** was founded in 1999 by residents on the Moraine to identify, protect and restore the natural environment of the Oak Ridges Moraine through strategic land securement. The Land Trust works in co-operation with landowners, the government and other organizations to secure environmentally significant properties through the use of conservation easements or land donations. To date, the Land Trust has secured over 1800 acres across the Moraine. Once a property is secured the Land trust works with the landowner to restore and monitor the property. The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is a charitable bon-profit organization which is supported by foundations, individuals and through events. Together with caretakers and donors the Land Trust has protected 60 properties on the Oak Ridges Moraine, totaling 4,480 acres of precious habitat.

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

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**The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF)** was created by the Ontario government in March 2002 to help preserve, protect, and restore the environment of the Oak Ridges Moraine and support a trail along it. The Foundation was funded with an initial grant of \$15.0 million from the government of Ontario. [Source: Towards a Three Year Strategic Plan for the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Sept 2002; update by J Arsenault, ORMF March 23, 2004] The Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act was passed on May 17, 2001, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act on December 13, 2001 and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan was released in April 2002. These form the context for the municipalities on the moraine and for all the Oak Ridges Moraine organizations as they plan for future use and enjoyment of the moraine. Unfortunately the ORMF has shelved its operation as funding could not be secured.

[Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation - Wikipedia](#)

[Oak Ridges Moraine | Ontario.ca](#)

**The Greenbelt Foundation's** natural resources and river valleys provide tremendous benefits to rural and urban residents in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, as well as a return of over \$3.2 billion annually in flood protection, fresh water, clean air, and the enjoyment of nature. The world-renowned Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment are the ecological building blocks of the Greenbelt. Ensuring the ecosystems that call these landforms home remain healthy and protected is integral for them to continue to deliver the ecosystem services we depend on, while providing unique habitat for endangered species. This is a pressing challenge in the Canada's most densely populated region, and the Foundation works to restore and enhance the Greenbelt's natural systems, while investigating and finding solutions for challenges facing the landscape. Source: [https://www.greenbelt.ca/natural\\_systems](https://www.greenbelt.ca/natural_systems)

[https://www.greenbelt.ca/oak\\_ridges\\_blog](https://www.greenbelt.ca/oak_ridges_blog)