



TOWNSHIP OF THE ARCHIPELAGO & GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE

Proposed 2025 Work Plan

The goal of the partnership between the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere (GBB) and the Township of The Archipelago (TOA) is to provide for high quality, accessible environmental information sharing and programming.

This specifically means working to increase environmental literacy and awareness among ratepayers within the Township of The Archipelago and increasing the capacity to address/respond to environmental issues, challenges, and opportunities.

Furthermore, this programming helps to meet the mandate of a UNESCO designated world biosphere and more specifically, the strategic objectives of Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere.

1. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM HEALTH Four Year Goal: Understand, educate, and communicate the condition of aquatic ecosystem health in eastern Georgian Bay and inland lakes.	2024 \$15,826	2025 \$
Four Year Objectives: A. Track conditions and trends. B. Build public awareness through outreach and education. C. Understand climate change impacts, adapt policy and programs accordingly. D. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations.		

2025 Deliverables

1. Review and update the TOA’s Water Quality Monitoring Program Outline.
2. Explore methods for ground-truthing assessments of nearshore fish habitat (i.e., identified Type 1 and Type 2 habitat).
3. Coordinate water quality monitoring program: compile and report on results; conduct benthic monitoring; recruit and train volunteers; and be the point of contact year-round.
4. Conduct enhanced monitoring at existing and/or new locations as needed.
5. Continue benthic monitoring on inland lakes (Healey, Kapikog, Blackstone, and Crane).

Ongoing Supports

1. Broaden the program when opportunities are available; differentiate bay/lake monitoring as needed, and integrate township approaches with provincial/federal/NGOs.
2. Continue with engagement and education.
 - o Engage ratepayers into the why/what and best practices.
 - o Educate through resource sharing at events and in communications.
3. Liaise with partners to address concerns.

2. TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Four Year Goal: Understand, educate, and communicate the condition of terrestrial ecosystem health in eastern Georgian Bay and inland regions.

2024
\$6,868

2025
\$

Four Year Objectives:

- A. Track conditions and trends.
- B. Build public awareness through outreach and education.
- C. Understand climate change impacts and adapt policies and programs accordingly.
- D. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations.
- E. Evaluate landscape connectivity to better understand high priority areas and actions (e.g., road ecology ‘hot spots’ and mitigation options).

2025 Deliverables

1. Partner with Westwind Forest Stewardship on forest health to respond to ratepayer concerns.
2. Collaborate on regional conservation projects:

- a. [Maamwi Anjakiwin](#) is a regional collaborative species at risk (SAR) conservation project with one of its goals being to engage in cross-cultural learning and apply a 'Two Eyed Seeing' approach to our SAR work. As part of this work, the TOA has participated in reconciliation training, developed innovative road mitigation projects, participated in staff training on public works best practices, supported local turtle populations through turtle egg incubation, and engaged the local community through turtle releases. The TOA's involvement in the project continues through discussions related to coastal initiatives, reconciliation, cross-cultural learning, road maintenance best practices, land-use planning, and more.
- b. GBB is coordinating a regional conservation project aligned with Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, contributing to Canada's goal of protecting 30% of terrestrial and inland waters by 2030. As part of this work, the TOA is participating in a Natural Asset Management Planning Project. This regional initiative aims to develop a geospatial database to improve understanding of natural assets and climate risks. The database will support evidence-based decision-making in biodiversity conservation, land use planning, and climate resilience.

Ongoing Supports

- 1. Continue with engagement and education.
 - a. Engage ratepayers into the why/what and best practices.
 - b. Educate through resource sharing at events and in communications.
 - c. Host webinars and/or events on best management practices.
- 2. Liaise with partners to address concerns.

3. EDUCATION Four Year Goal: Provide youth and general audiences with outdoor, environmental opportunities.	2024 \$24,862	2025 \$
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Four Year Objectives:

- A. Foster environmental literacy and ecological knowledge.
- B. Create unique opportunities for audiences of all ages.
- C. Build public awareness through outreach and education.
- D. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations.

2025 Deliverables

Youth (Kids in the Biosphere)

1. Facilitate a TOA-wide Kids in the Biosphere program.
2. Create up to 200 activity kits for registered families, first come, first served.
3. Continue to explore opportunities to engage children and youth in face-to-face, hands-on activities.
4. Continue to explore approaches for cost-sharing to expand the reach of these programs.
5. Engage volunteers in the program wherever possible.
6. Update the webpage as needed, provide regular communication with families, and be available on an ad hoc basis.
7. Update the distribution map to show reach.

General Audience

1. Host a hike/presentation/workshop with three targeted cottage associations.
2. Work with associations on volunteers, venues, etc.
3. Advertise through several communications channels.
4. Include best management practices resources.
5. Seek partner organizations to present/speak when applicable or requested.
6. Adapt to webinar-based programming as needed.

4. STEWARDSHIP

Four Year Goal: Engage people in hands-on stewardship activities.

2024
\$5,295

2025
\$

Four Year Objectives:

- A. Leverage stewardship opportunities for other grants, events, and programs.
- B. Build public awareness through outreach and education.
- C. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations.
- D. Increase understanding of what hands-on action is needed and can be done.

Ongoing Supports

1. Promote monitoring and engagement as part of hands-on stewardship action.
2. Promote Citizen Science engagement tools (i.e., Monarch tagging, Bumblebee Watch, Bioblitzes & iNaturalist).
3. Support residents in protecting/enhancing shoreline and water quality.
4. Investigate stewardship action planning with ratepayer associations.
5. Facilitate shoreline stewardship workshops as requested (i.e., Life on the Bay).
6. Steward the PaB Monarch Garden as needed with Public Works Department.

<p>5. CLIMATE CHANGE Four Year Goal: Continue to work with partners on a collaborative regional approach; ICECAP (Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plans).</p>	<p>2024 \$16,150</p>	<p>2025 \$16,945</p>
<p>Four Year Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 2. Improve energy efficiency. 3. Reduce the use of fossil fuels. 4. Adapt to a changing climate by building greater resilience. 		
<p>2025 ICECAP Membership Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use FCM’s Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) framework to work on milestone 4 implementing climate action plans and measure and record the results and impacts of actions. 2. Provide individual and collective capacity support in the TOA’s efforts to implement its climate action plans. 3. Use FCM’s Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) framework to work on milestone 5 and build emission and energy trends to monitor progress towards targets. 4. Work with community partners to advance community climate action education through climate and energy related communications, workshops, and/or projects. 5. Continue to work with GBB on Natural Assets Management Planning (NAMP) and climate adaptation funding and programming. <p>Additional Climate Programming</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write grant application for the GHG Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study program. The program provides funding for assessing the feasibility to support near-term and long-term projects that reduce energy and GHGs, extend asset life, and reduce cost of ownership for local recreational and cultural facilities. 		
<p>6. SEPTICS Four Year Goal: Work to ensure that septic pollution is minimized.</p>	<p>2024 \$9,997</p>	<p>2025 \$</p>
<p>Four Year Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Increase education and understanding of septic system health. B. Support ratepayer compliance with Ontario Building Code. C. Increase understanding of what hands-on action is needed and can be done. D. Assess re-inspection needs and opportunities. 		

<p>2025 Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch and support an initiative to engage members of ratepayer associations in voluntary septic health assessments. 2. Continue to promote and disseminate communication tools for best practices. 3. Work with Township staff to track and report the status of septic systems as it relates to the risk that they do or do not pose. 4. Continue to scan research and monitoring options for impact assessment. 		
<p>7. PUBLIC WORKS (PW) Four Year Goal: Support Public Works as needed pertaining to environmental topics and concerns (i.e., species at risk).</p>	<p>2024 \$1,010 (remainder subsidised by CNPP)</p>	<p>2025 \$</p>
<p>Four Year Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Leverage stewardship opportunities for other grants, events, and programs. B. Build public awareness through outreach and education. C. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations. 		
<p>2025 Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with PW on their needs for training and support. 2. Provide ad-hoc support and advice on environmental topics. 3. Identify opportunities to better utilize grants to complete PW projects. 4. Train PW staff on safe movement and monitoring of species at risk. 5. Provide support to PW to interpret and meet obligations under ESA. 6. Work together to implement best management practices for species at risk. 7. Provide staff with training, information, and resources they can relay to the public. 		
<p>8. COMMUNICATION Goal: Engage in regular and clear communication with TOA, residents, and other parties.</p>	<p>2024 \$8,438</p>	<p>2025 \$</p>
<p>Four Year Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Improve communication systems with the TOA and ratepayer associations. B. Build public awareness through outreach and education. C. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations. 		

2025 Deliverables

- 1. Be present at events, advertise on social media, and through newsletters.
- 2. Explore environmental communications and review increased effectiveness.

TOA Environment Report

- 1. Continue Environment Report.
- 2. Update ArcGIS StoryMap version of Environment Report (i.e. publicly available web-based version of the report).
- 3. Host a webinar specific to results of the Environment Report, include partner organizations and TOA council/staff.

9. COORDINATION

Four Year Goal: Ensure that TOA is meeting its strategic plan goals with respect to the environment through planning, action, monitoring, and partnerships.

2024
\$12,505

2025
\$

Four Year Objectives:

- A. Ensure TOA’s environmental programs are delivered effectively.
- B. Support TOA partnerships with other organizations.
- C. Respond to TOA staff and ratepayers’ concerns and questions.

Ongoing Supports

- 1. Continue to engage with the Environment Committee.
- 2. Report results regularly.
- 3. Evaluate outcomes related to the TOA’s environmental programs.
- 4. Provide support and advice to staff and Council on an ad hoc basis.
- 5. Share coastal initiatives and opportunities for collaboration of interest.
- 6. Prepare formal project proposals on additional opportunities as requested by Council or staff or brought to GBB (ie. fish community monitoring & assessment; water quality communications specific to Great Lakes Ecology work by the Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch; invasive species staff training and/or public education programs).

Total Budget 2024: \$99,941

Draft Budget 2025: \$