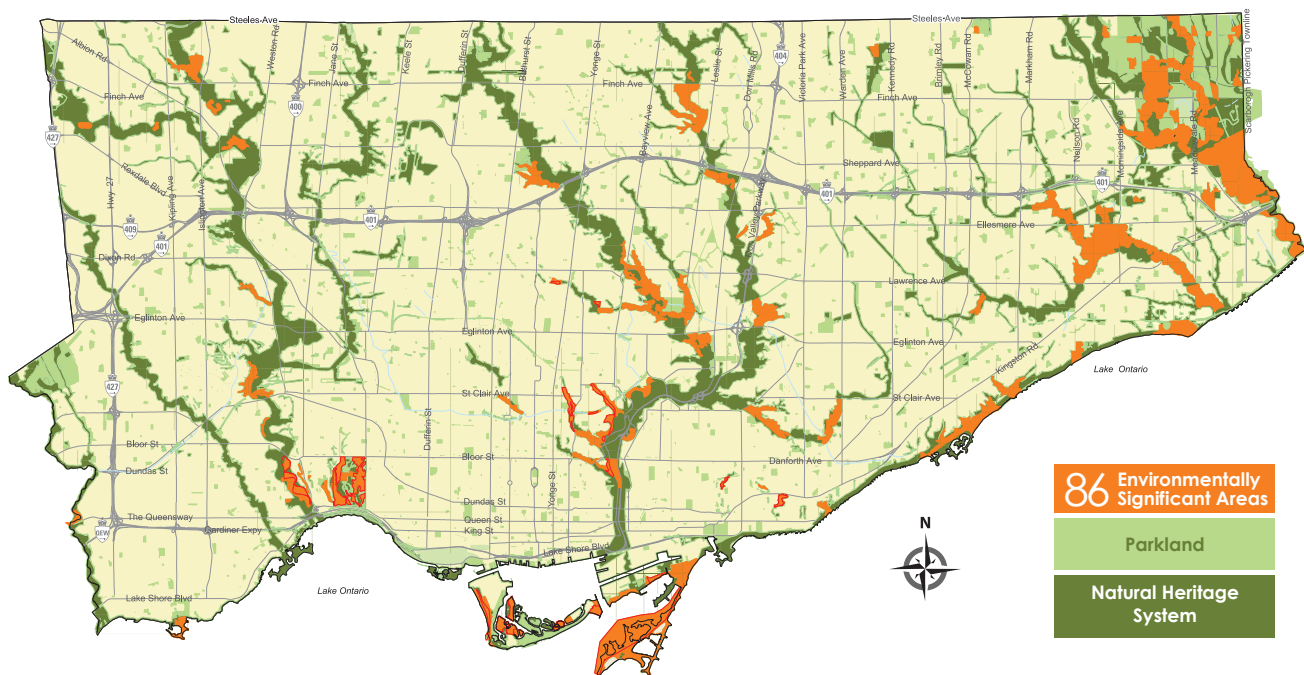









ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS



Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are areas of land or water within Toronto's natural heritage system that have unique environmental qualities

A: ESAs contribute more to the biodiversity of the City than any other areas:

	Over 369 significant plant species, including rare forest vegetation types and species associated with prairie and savannah habitats
	128 species of breeding birds
	16 species of reptiles and amphibians
	wetland dependant mammal species such as muskrat and sensitive mammal species such as hairy-tailed and star-nose mole, as well as several bat species
	Large, diverse and relatively undisturbed areas which many plants and animals need to survive and reproduce
	Rare, unusual or high quality landforms that help us understand how Toronto's landscape formed
	Ecological functions that contribute to the health of ecosystems beyond their boundaries, such as migratory bird stopovers

Like other natural areas, ESAs also help to filter air and water, prevent flooding and keep the city cooler in summer.

Q: What Makes ESAs Special?

Q: How are ESAs Protected?

Q: What Can You Do?

- Stay on official trails
- Do not remove plants/animals
- Keep dogs on leash
- Do not dump debris on slopes
- Landowners can plant native species and encourage regeneration of native species

A:
ESAs are protected by the Official Plan and the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection bylaw. Development is not permitted in ESAs and activities are limited to those that are compatible with the preservation of their natural features and ecological functions such as managed trails and viewing areas.

Questions?

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