

# QUEENSVILLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

## YORK REGIONAL FOREST

Public Information Session

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 • 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

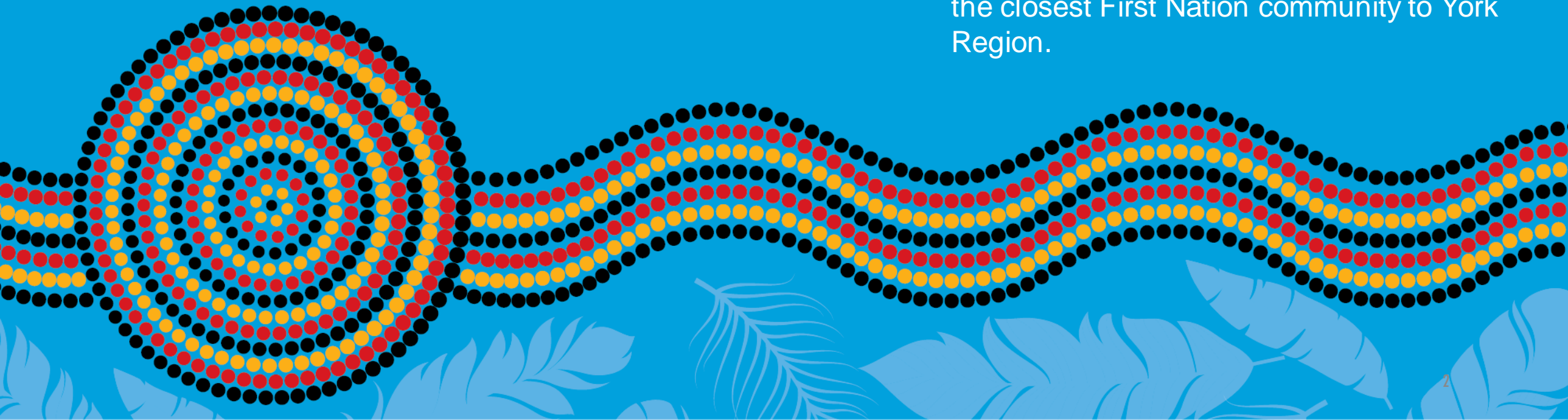


# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on today is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples such as: the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

York Region falls under the Nanfan Treaty, Treaty 13 and the Williams Treaties. There are also other land claims and treaty rights involving portions of York Region that have not been resolved.

The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is a Williams Treaty First Nation and the closest First Nation community to York Region.



# TONIGHT'S OBJECTIVES

- Share information about the new property:
  - Proposed restoration plans
  - Trail location and design
  - Parking lot location and design
  - Cultural heritage
- Answer your questions
- Share how you can provide input on the property management plan

# ABOUT THE YORK REGIONAL FOREST



- 24 tracts, totaling approximately 2,500 hectares
- 150+ kilometres of trails for public use
- Tracts in five towns in York Region

## Approved uses include

- Walking/hiking
- Dog walking
- Bird watching
- Horseback riding
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Mountain biking

# ABOUT THE QUEENSVILLE PROPERTY

## Location

20753 McCowan Road and  
4762 Queensville Sideroad  
in the Town of East  
Gwillimbury

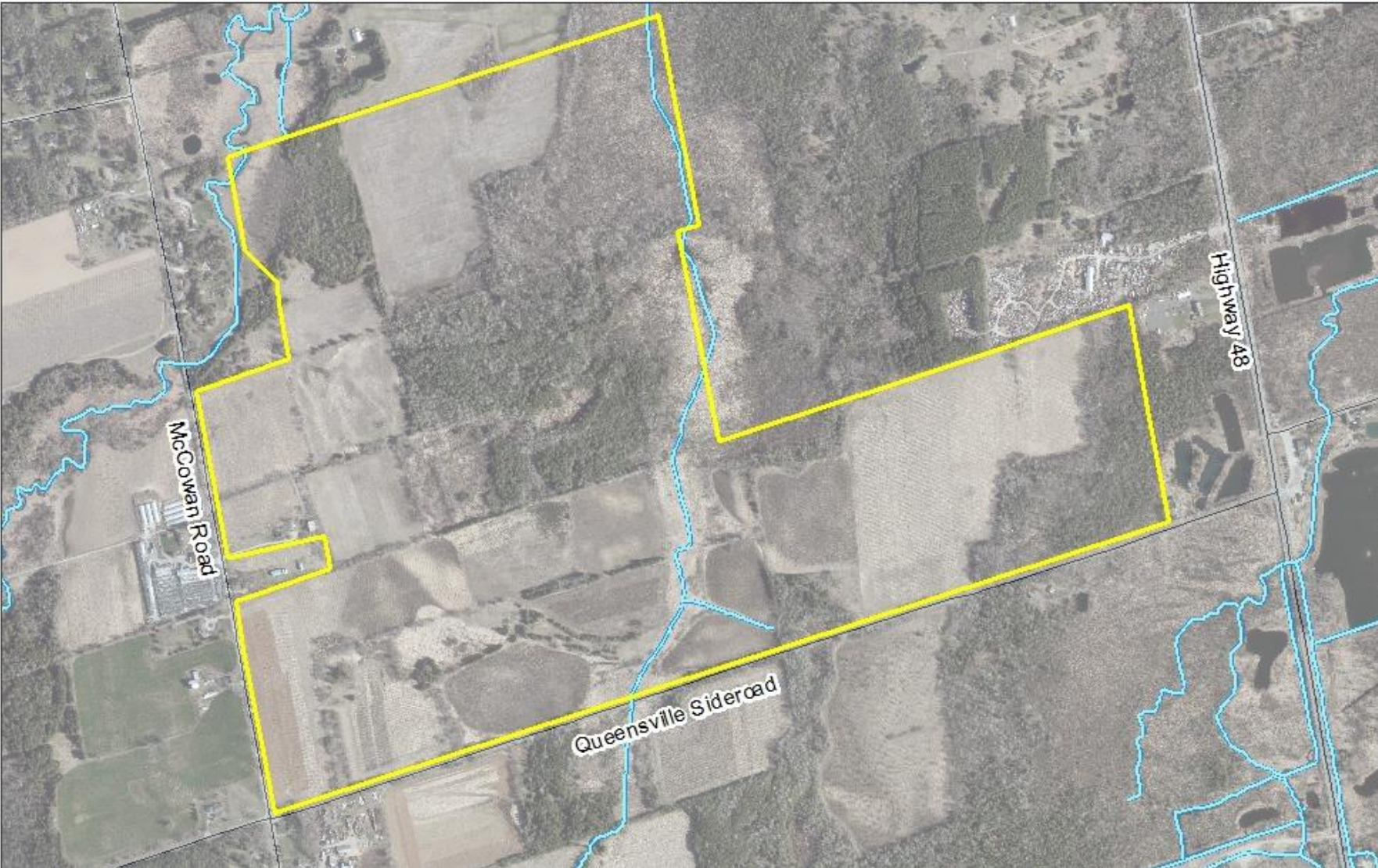
## Size

- 142 hectares (350 acres)







# ABOUT THE PROPERTY



## Legend

-  York Regional Forest Boundary
-  Watercourse



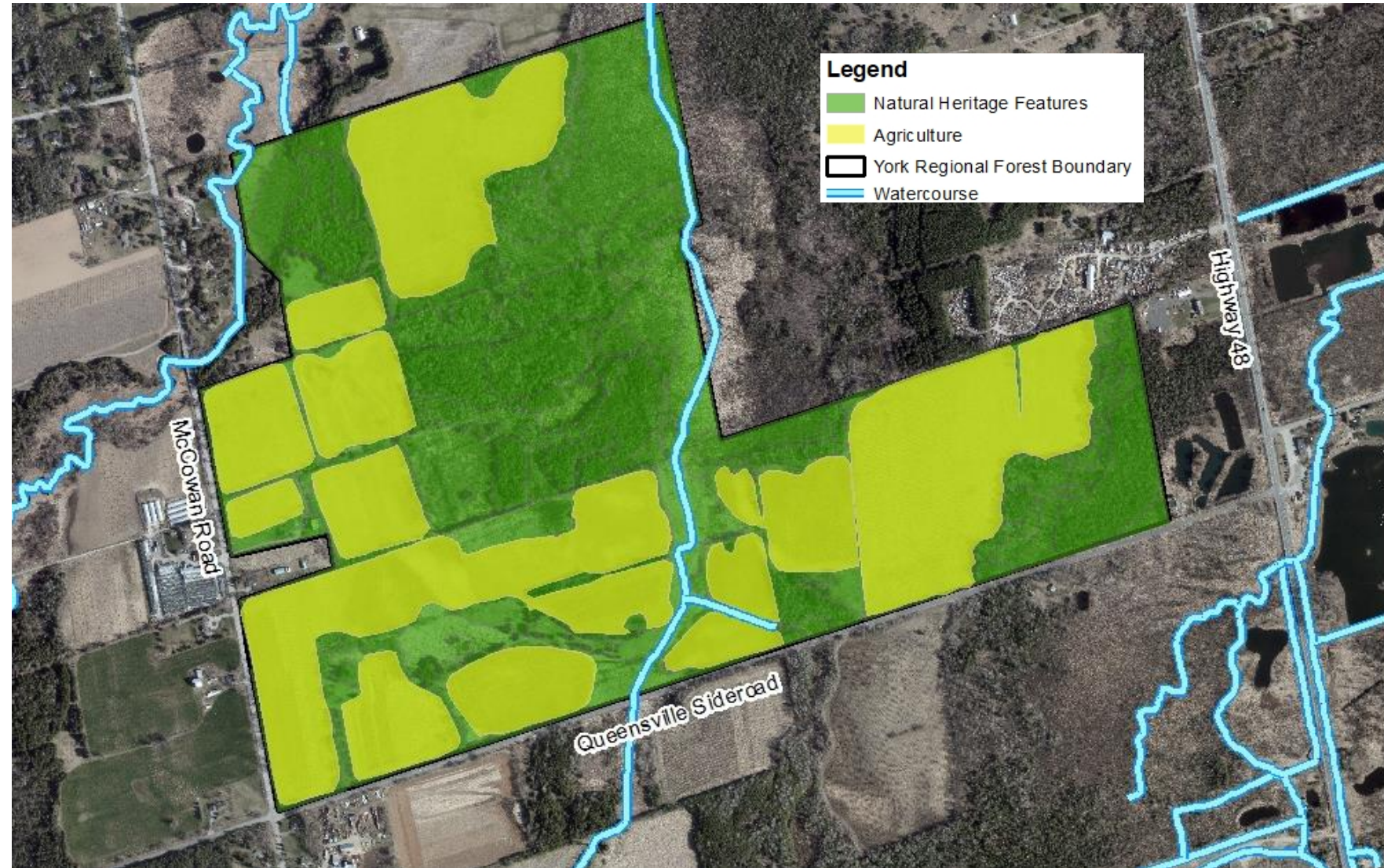
# ABOUT THE PROPERTY

## Property Use

- Agriculture/rural
- Natural heritage

## Natural Heritage Features

- Forests
- Wetlands
- Cultural meadows
- Watercourse

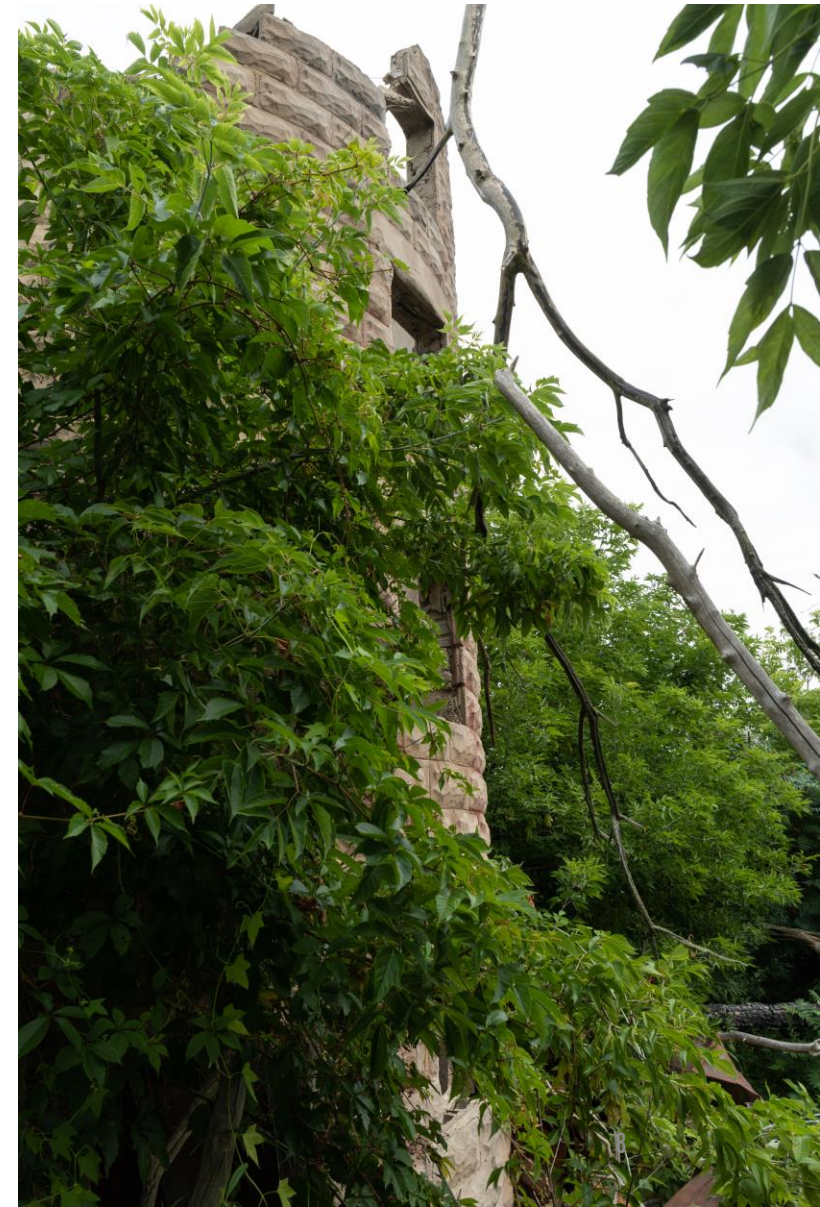




# ABOUT THE PROPERTY

## Cultural heritage

- Traditional territory of many Indigenous communities, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Mississaugas of the Credit
- The property is part of the original settlement of Birchardtown
- Initial Crown grants were issued in 1808
- Structures built between 1840s to 1860s





# ABOUT THE PROPERTY

## **Property was purchased in September 2021 to:**

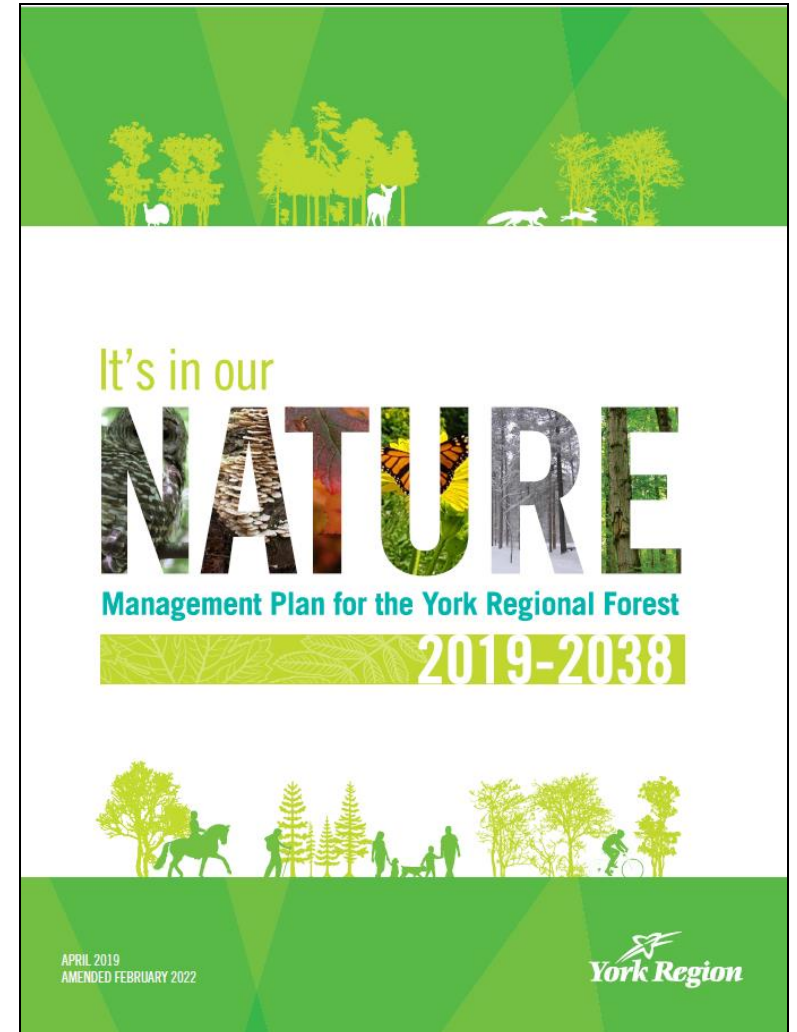
- Increase woodland cover in York Region
- Reduce impacts of extreme heat and flooding
- Protect and restore natural habitats
- Provide more outdoor recreational opportunities for residents



# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

## Documents guiding Queensville Property management

- It's in our Nature: Management Plan for the York Regional Forest 2019-2038
  - Goal 1: Strengthen Ecological Integrity
  - Goal 2: Foster an Understanding of the Broader Benefits
  - Goal 3: Inspire People
- Queensville Property Management Plan
  - Public input





# FOREST RESTORATION

## What is forest restoration?

- Restoring the landscape to its natural state
- Planting primarily native species - trees and shrubs
- York Regional Forest has a rich history of restoration
- Long-term goal of 25% woodland cover

## Why do we restore forests?

- Environmental conservation
- Recreational opportunities
- Education and research





# FOREST RESTORATION

Mature forest →

30-year-old trees →

10-year-old trees →

Newly-planted trees →





# FOREST RESTORATION



Newly-planted trees



10-year-old trees



# FOREST RESTORATION



Conifer-dominated forest



Mixed-wood forest



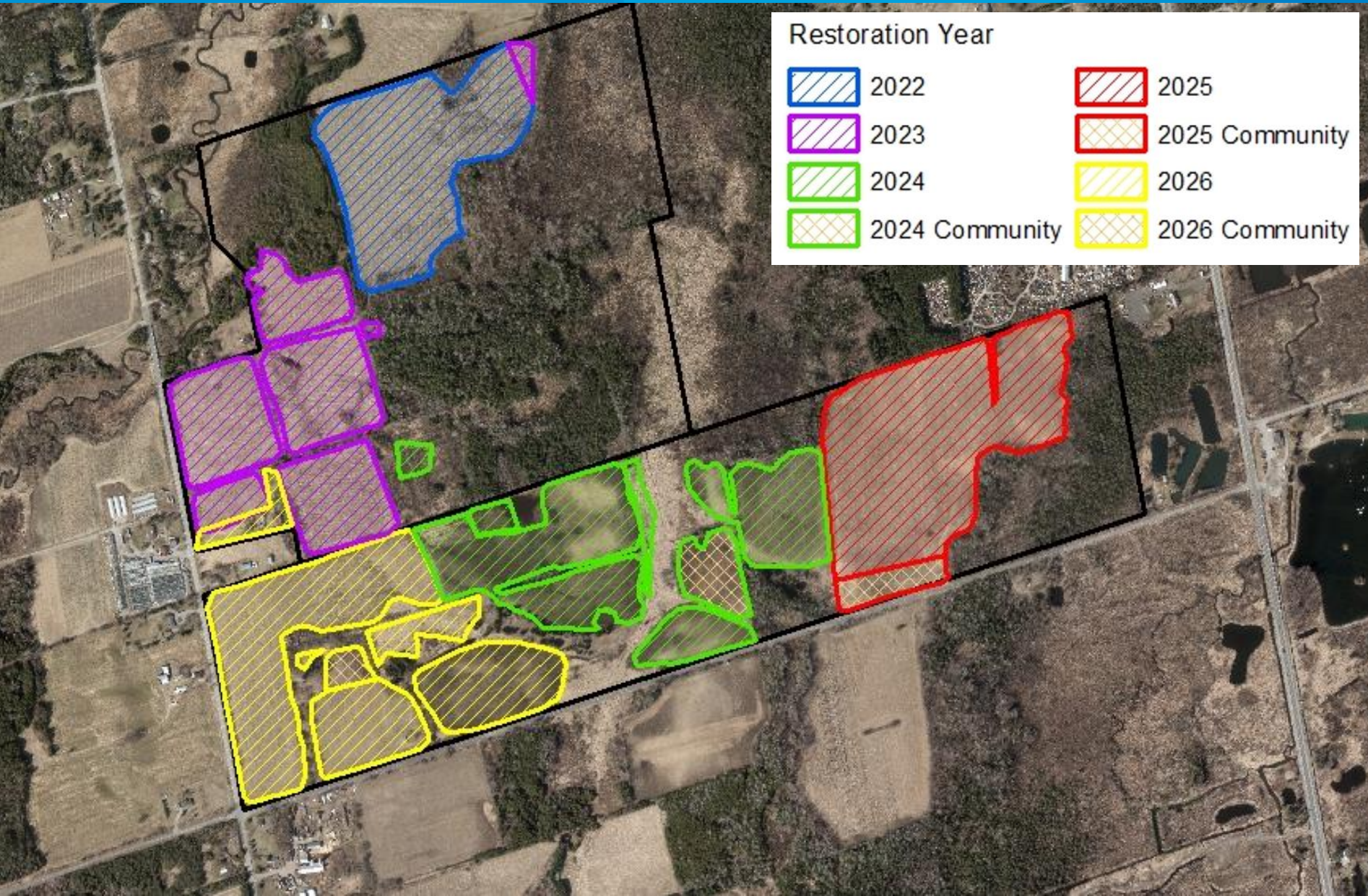
# QUEENSVILLE PROPERTY FOREST RESTORATION

- Proposed restoration areas
- 70 hectares
- 145,000 trees





# QUEENSVILLE PROPERTY FOREST RESTORATION





# QUEENSVILLE PROPERTY FOREST RESTORATION



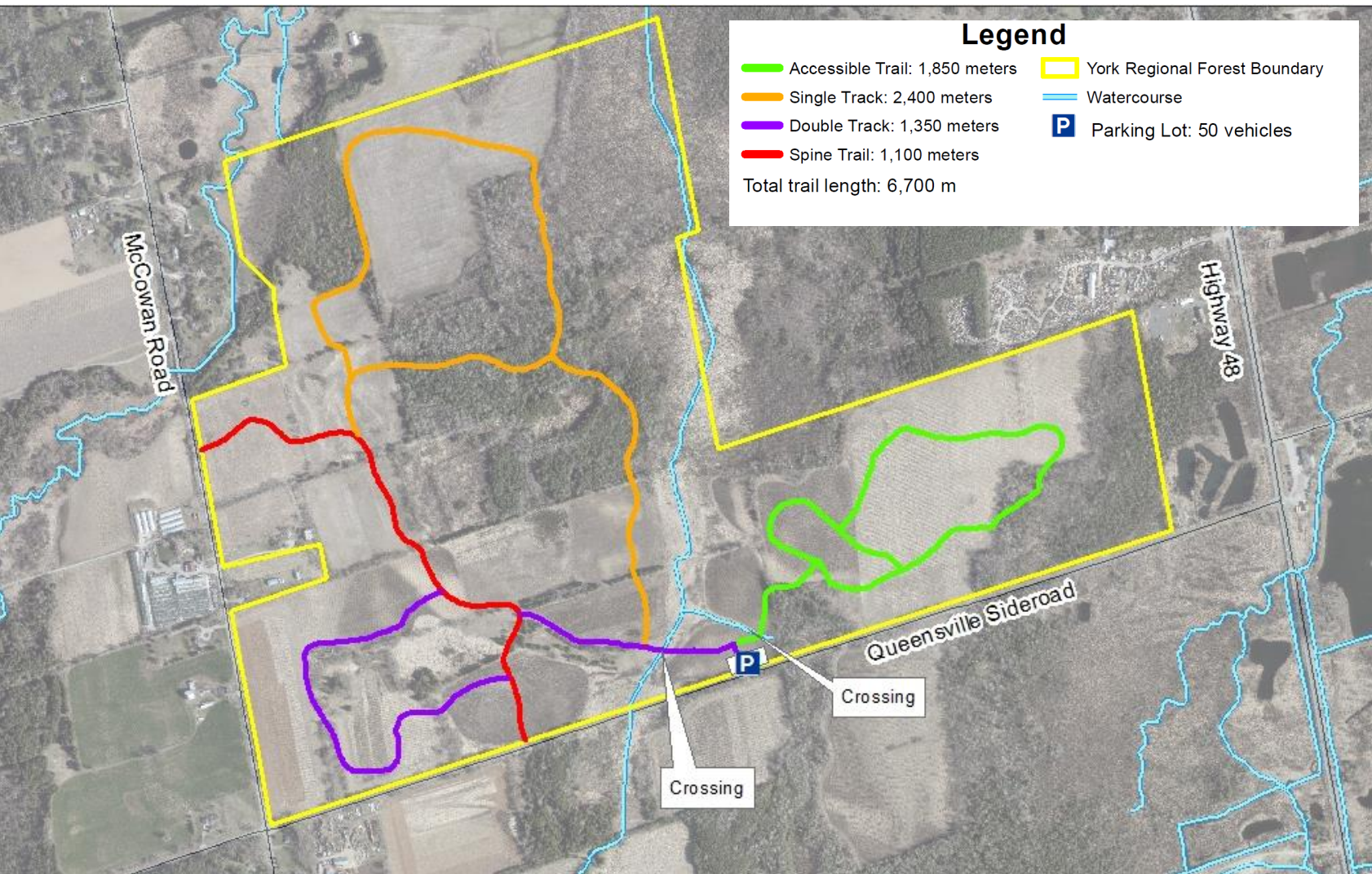
Queensville Property's  
newly-planted trees



Example of past  
community events



# TRAIL LOCATIONS AND DESIGN



## Accessible trails

- Wide, flat, firm surface to support users with various accessibility needs

## Spine trail

- Supports vehicle access for maintenance and emergencies

## Single-track trails

- Approximately one-person wide
- Low impact, often dirt surface

## Double-track trails

- Supports side-by-side walking



# PROPOSED TRAILS



Accessible trail



Spine trail



# PROPOSED TRAILS



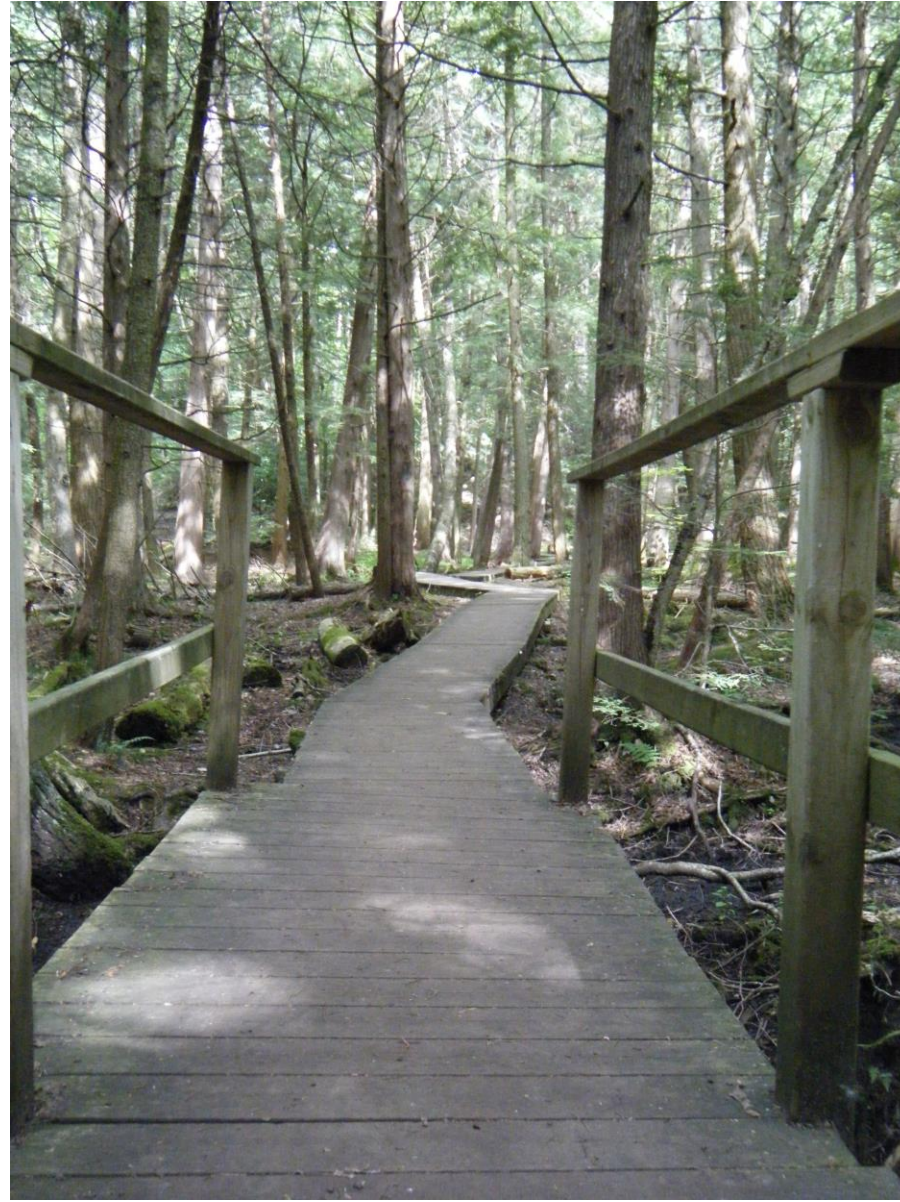
Double-track trail



Single-track trail



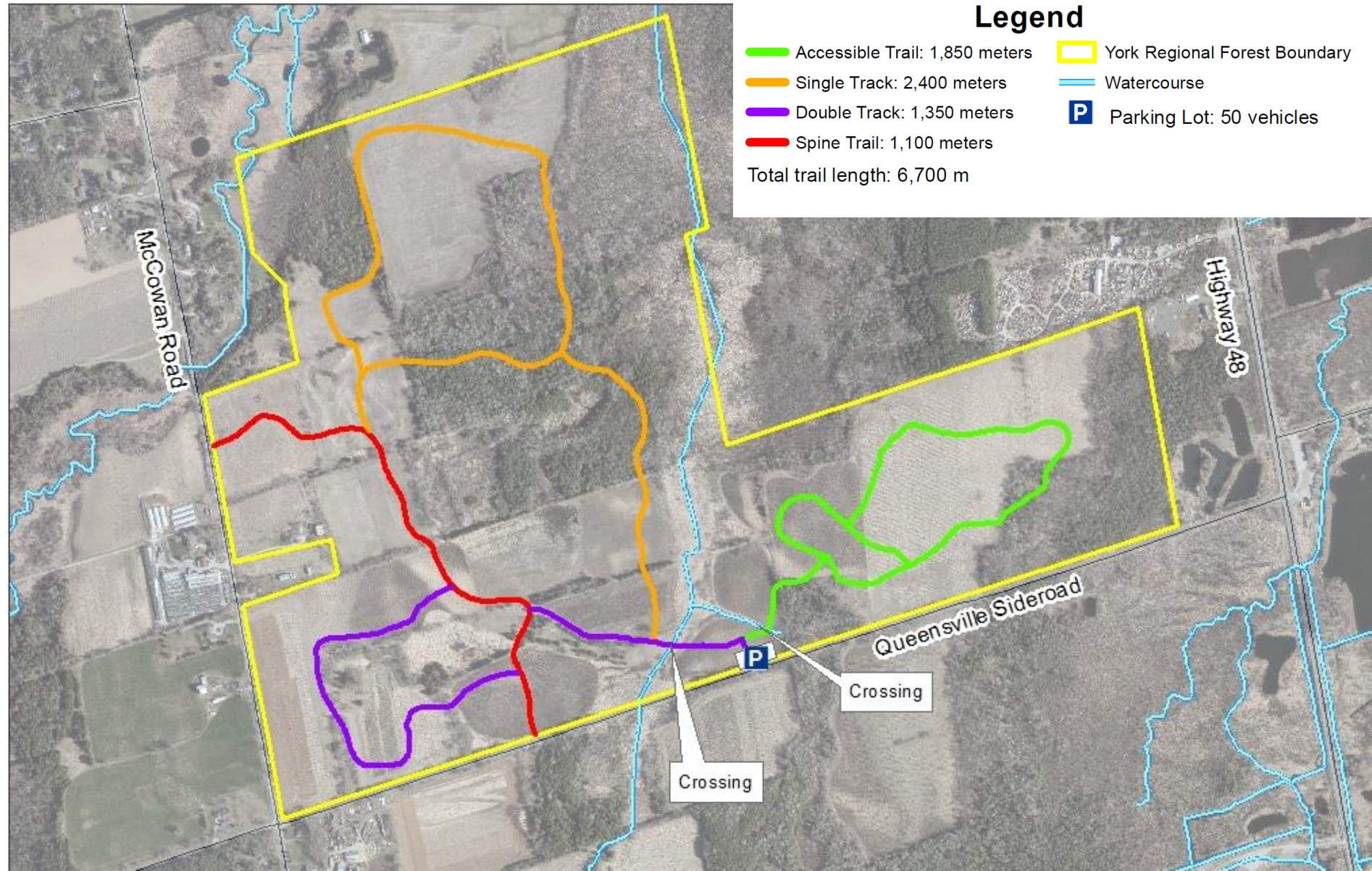
# PROPOSED TRAILS



Typical boardwalks



# PARKING LOT DESIGN AND LOCATION



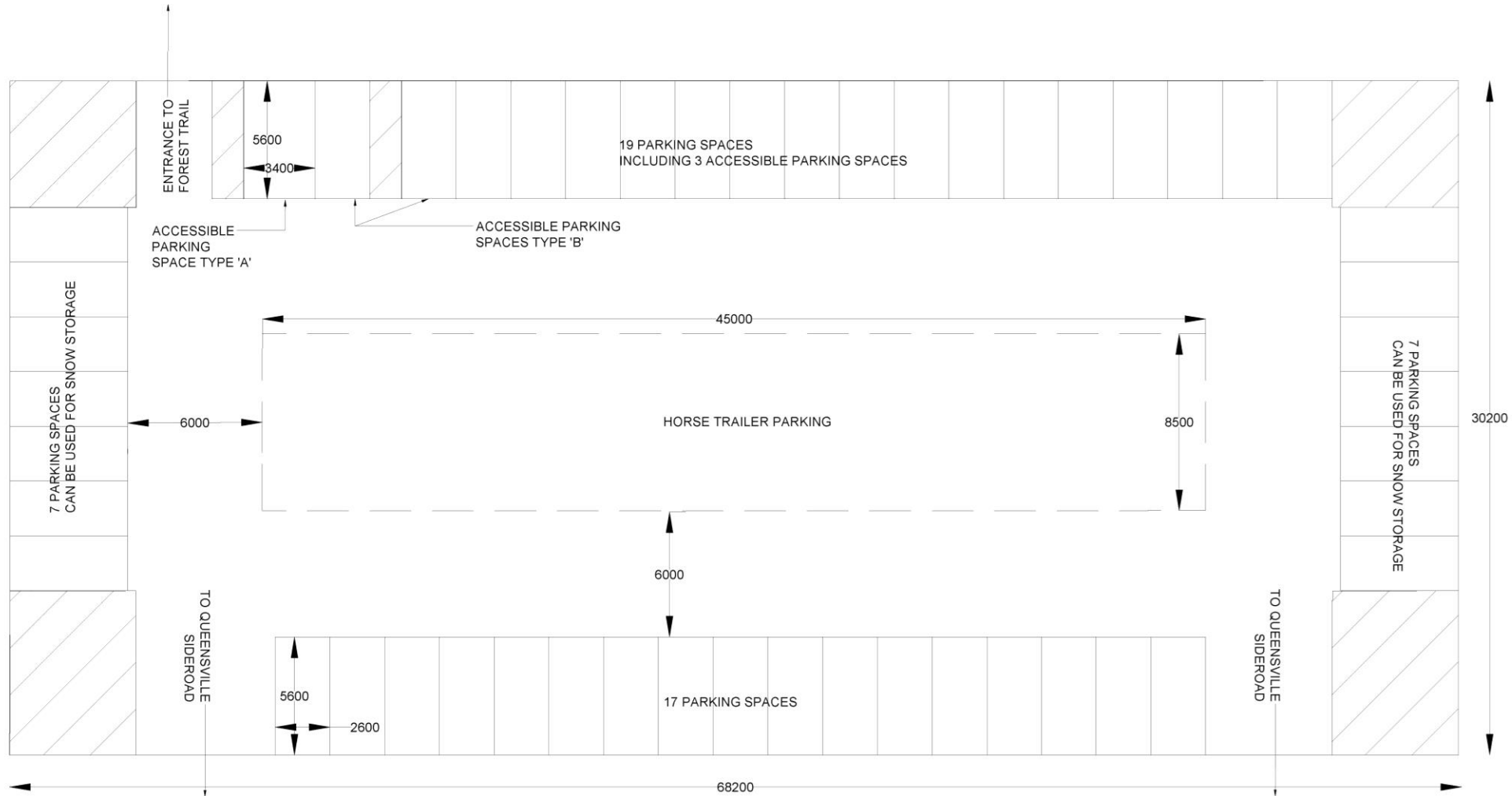


# PARKING LOT DESIGN AND LOCATION





# PARKING LOT DESIGN AND LOCATION



- Queensville Sideroad
- Two entrances
- 50 parking spots



# PARKING LOT DESIGN AND LOCATION



Example of existing parking lot at Davis Drive Tract



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Historical elements of the property will be maintained

- Repurposing salvaged wooden barn beams
- Repurposing salvaged stones from barn foundation
- Including signage that speaks to cultural heritage
- Exploring opportunities to preserve remaining foundations





# ABOUT THE PROCESS



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✓ Participate in tonight's Q&A
- ✓ Go to [york.ca/queensvilleforest](http://york.ca/queensvilleforest) to see an interactive map of the proposed plan and leave comments. We are looking for input on:
  - Restoration plans
  - Trails design and location
  - Parking lot location and design
- ✓ The online interactive map will be available for feedback September 13 to October 4
- ✓ If you prefer, call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 (TTY 1-866-512-6228) or send an email to [greening@york.ca](mailto:greening@york.ca) with your comments



# WHAT'S NEXT?

- A report back to participants will be shared later this year
- Input received tonight, from the map, and via phone and email will help inform the final Queensville Property Management Plan where possible



