

Objective

The original assessment of the natural areas occurred in 1996, and thus, the current status of the areas is unknown. The evaluation of Peterborough Natural Areas 20 years later is aiming to determine the net gains and losses in the key natural heritage features. A net loss would support the need for a comprehensive natural heritage management plan, and therefore, the creation of a city/staff position, citizen advisory board, or other authoritative body to monitor and manage these areas.

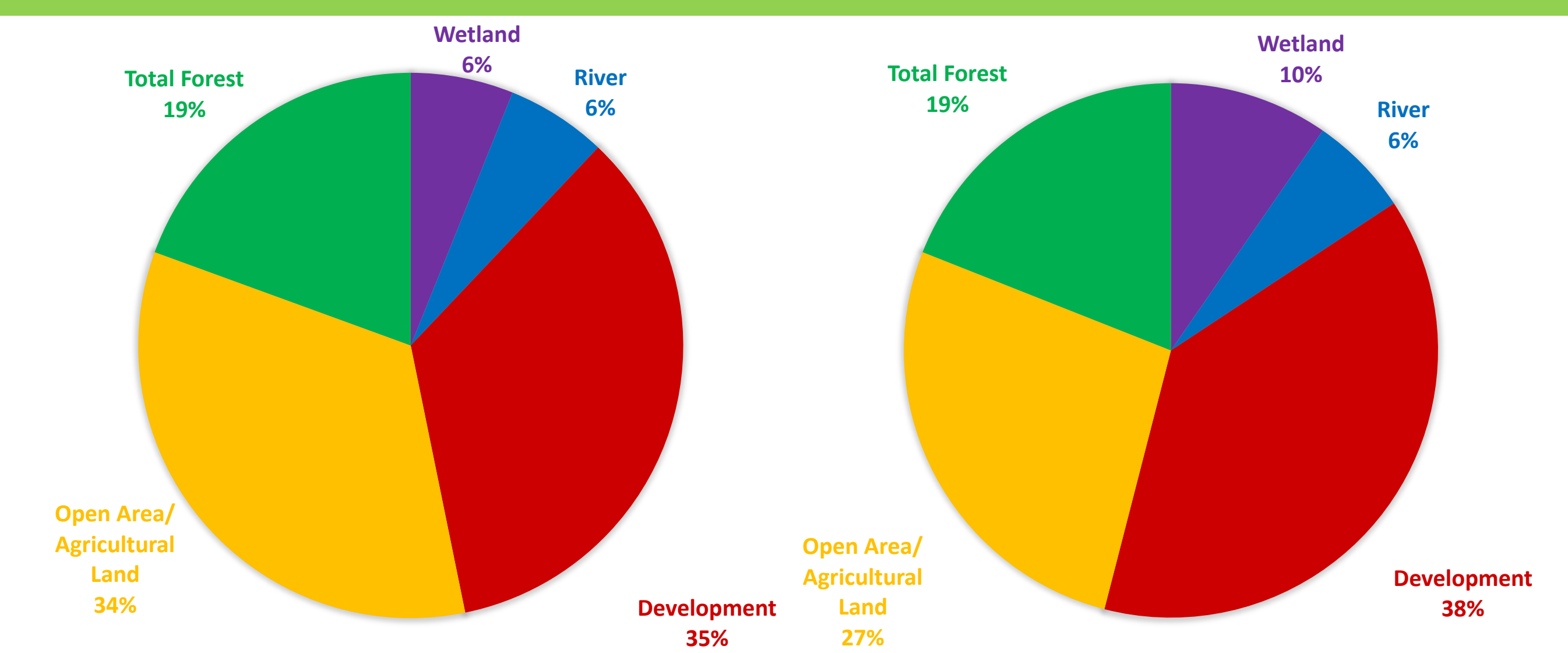
Methods

ArcGIS was used to create the natural area maps. Through examination of the maps from the original strategy (A) in collaboration with the orthographic imagery of the city of Peterborough in 1996 (B) and 2016, new maps were created. Each of the core areas within each natural area were outlined, classifying a variety of features (C and D). 52 points were chosen throughout the city, and were visited to determine if the classification given to that particular location was correct. If it was not, the map would be adjusted accordingly. A map analysis then took place using a variety of ArcGIS tools to determine the size of the natural areas, and the difference between 1996 and 2016.

Research Questions

- What are the changes that have occurred over the last 20 years in the natural heritage features of the Peterborough natural areas?
- Is it economically, environmentally, and financially viable to create a natural areas corridor through the city of Peterborough?
- Is a staff position needed to manage and monitor the ecology and biodiversity of the natural areas on a continuous basis?

Results



Results of the study indicated there was no significant difference in the natural areas between 1996 (left) and 2016 (right).

The Duty to Keep Peterborough's Beauty!

The Net Gains & Losses in Natural Heritage Features from 1996-2016

Natural Areas

1. Otonabee River System
2. Trent Severn Waterway
3. Jackson Creek System
4. Byersville Creek System
5. Meade Creek System
6. Bear's Creek System
7. Riverview Creek System
8. Curtis Creek System
9. Whitlaw Creek System
10. Parkway Belt System

