Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

RESCUE, RESTORE AND REHABILITATE
LAKE SIMCOE - IMAGINE THE FUTURE

Lake Simcoe: Threats and Opportunities 2020

VOLUNTEER NAME

GROUP

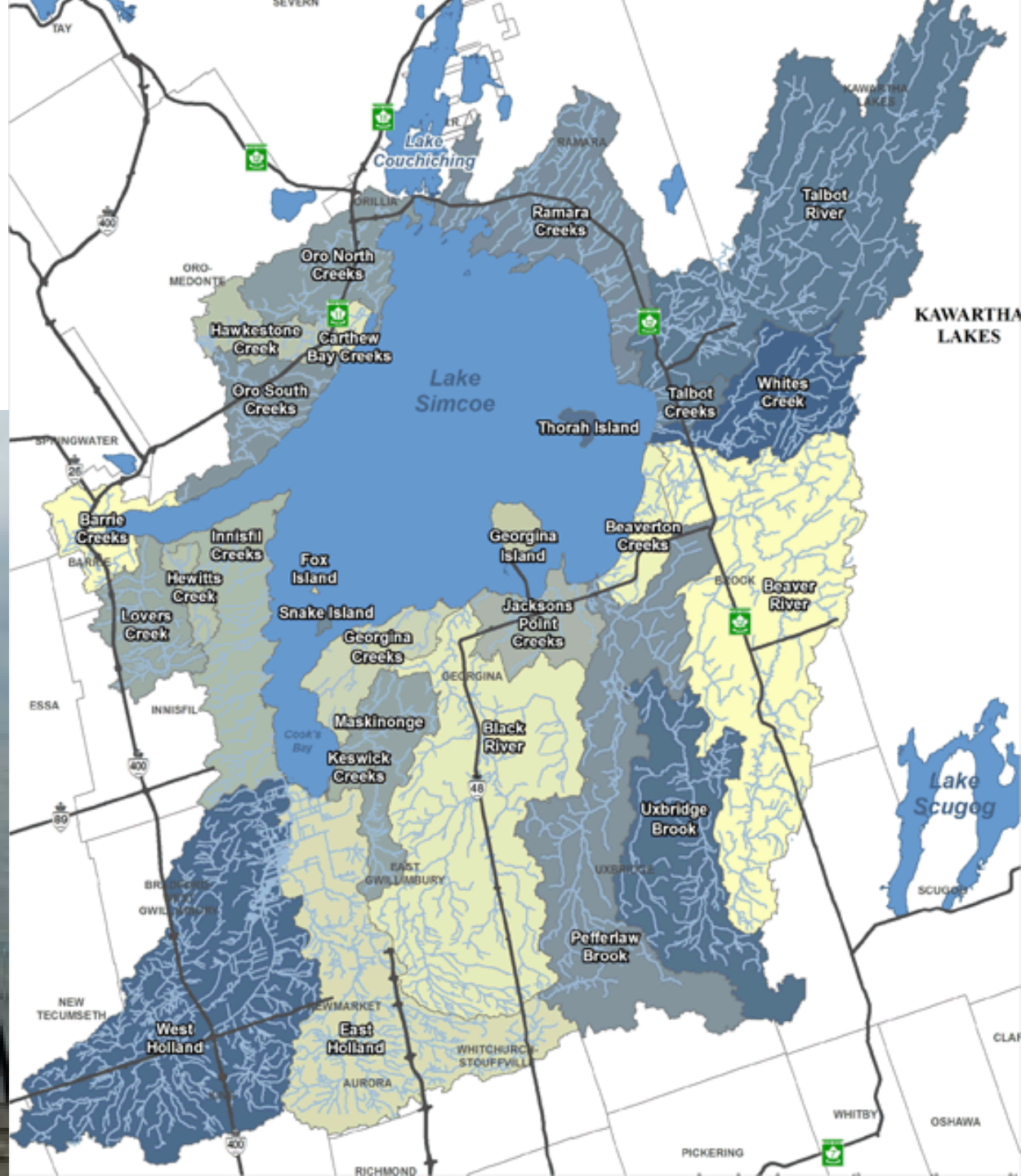
On behalf of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Outline

- Why should we care about Lake Simcoe?
- Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution and sources
- Lake Simcoe Protection Act and Plan
- Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Review in 2020
- Protect Our Plan asks

Lake Simcoe Watershed

Tourism and recreation bring an estimated $200 million each year for the local economy.



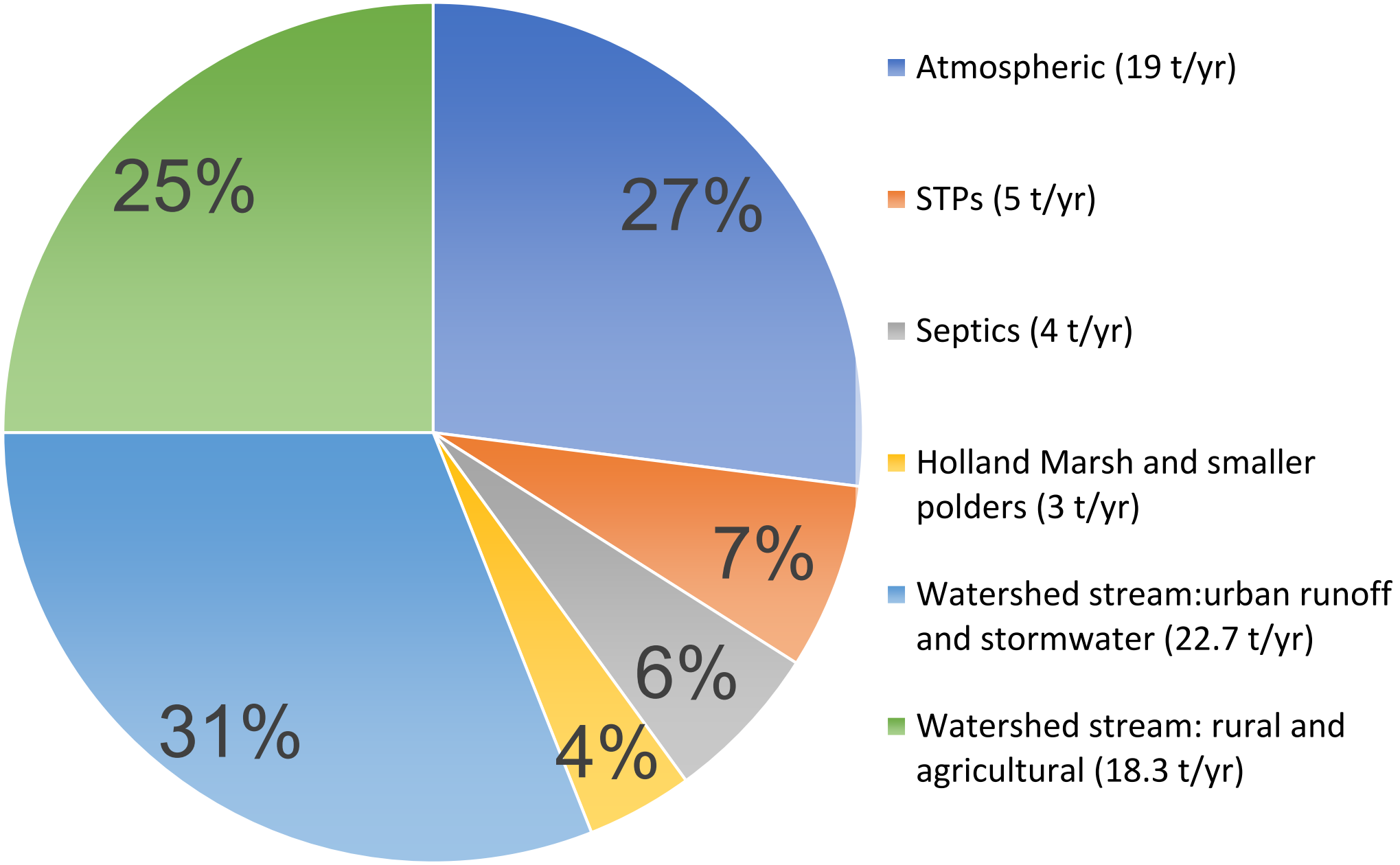
Natural Capital

The value of ecosystem goods and services provided by the Lake Simcoe watershed are worth more than $975 million per year.

Ecosystem Services include:

- Carbon storage
- Water storage/flood prevention
- Water filtration
- Climate regulation
- Shade
- Prevention of soil erosion

Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Sources



Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy (Toronto: MECP, 2010) page 12. Online: https://www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and Ministry of the Environment Data Sets on phosphorus loading from 2002-2007.

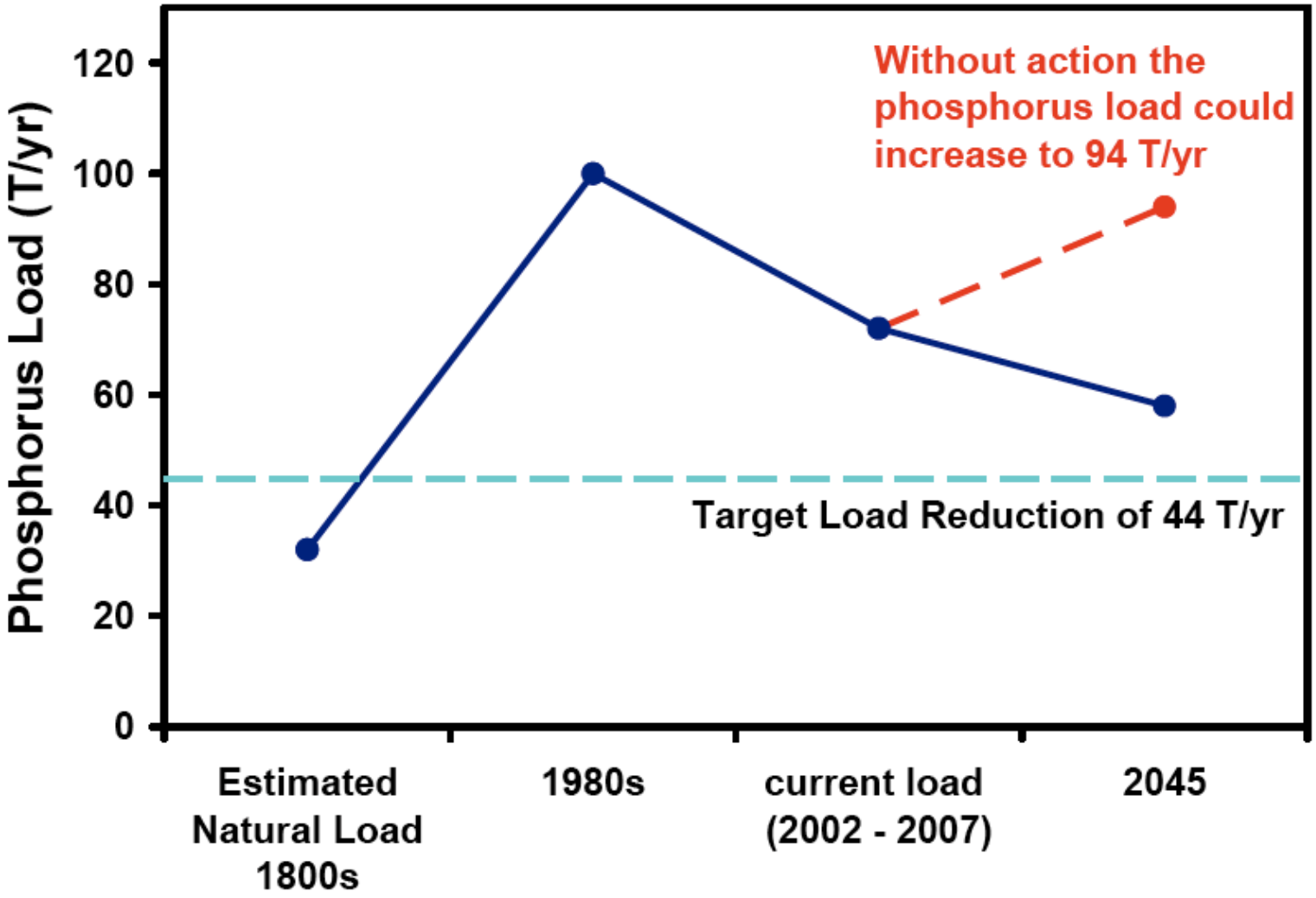
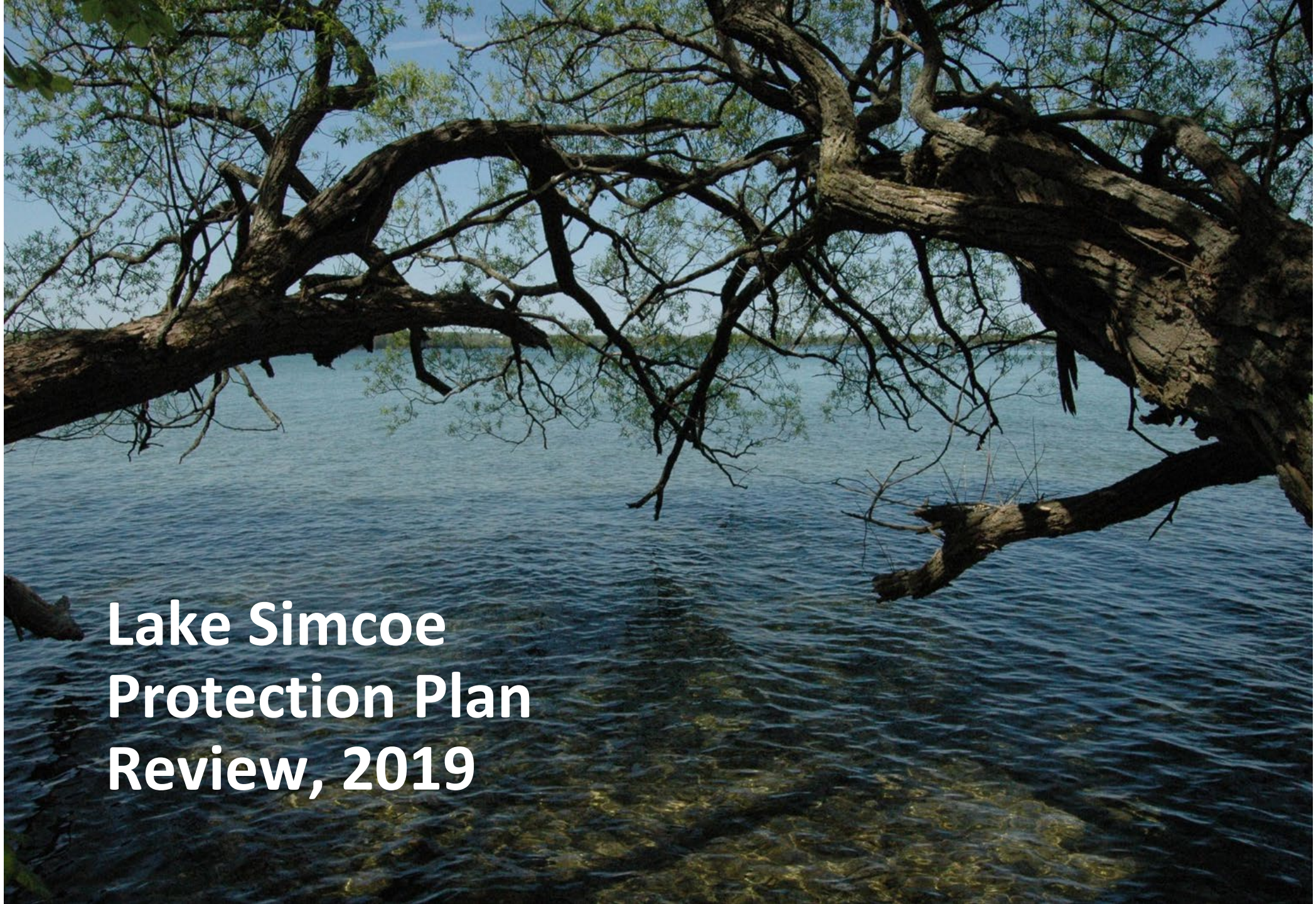


Figure 2: Past, Present and Future Phosphorus Loads to Lake Simcoe

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy (Toronto: MECP, 2010) page 7. Online: https://www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy

What was strengthened under the LSPP?

- Natural heritage and hydrologic feature protection and setbacks;
- Mandatory septic system inspection within 100 m of water features;
- Protection for smaller wetlands;
- Tougher STP Phosphorus caps;
- Mandatory inclusion of subwatershed plans in municipal Official Plans;
- Better science, monitoring, and oversight by LSSC and LSCC;
- Provincial staff at MoECP and Provincial funding ($20million);
- Improved stormwater management guidelines;
- Enabled Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offset Program and Phosphorus Reduction Strategy.



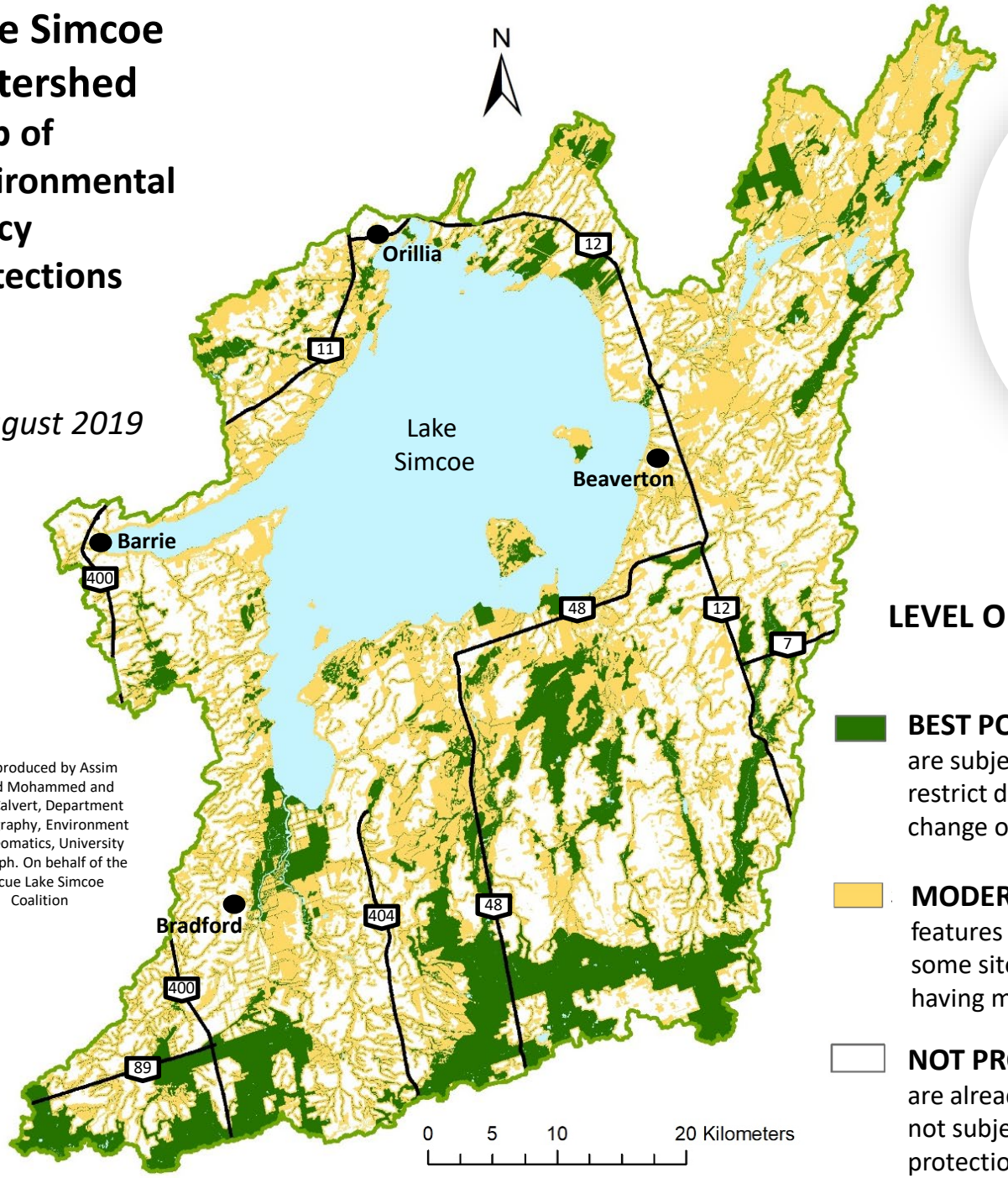
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Review, 2019

Protect Our Plan: Priorities for the Review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

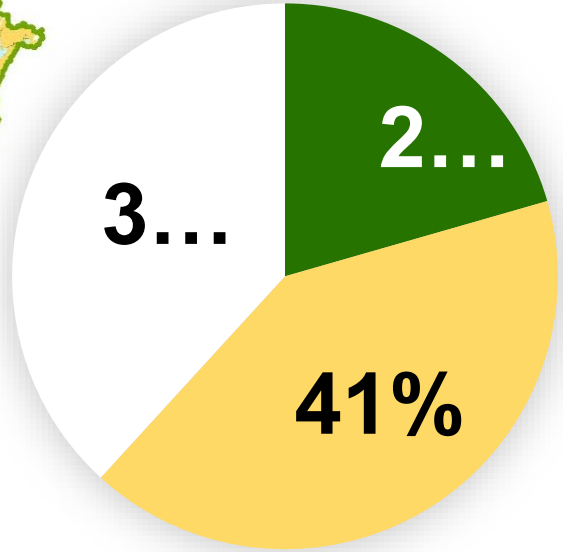
1. Develop sector-specific interim targets to achieve the 44 tonnes per year phosphorus loading target of the LSPP. Measure, monitor and adapt through an improved Phosphorus Reduction Strategy;
2. Protect 40% of the watershed's greenspace, using a variety of tools, to achieve the high-quality natural cover target of the LSPP;
3. Add the Lake Simcoe Climate Change Adaptation Strategy policies to the LSPP in order to reduce phosphorus loads, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and increase natural cover;

Lake Simcoe Watershed Map of Environmental Policy Protections

August 2019



Map produced by Assim Sayed Mohammed and Kirby Calvert, Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Guelph. On behalf of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition



Proportion of total land area in each 'level of protection'.

LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROTECTION

BEST POLICY PROTECTION: These features are subject to policies that prevent or tightly restrict development or other land cover change on them.

MODERATE POLICY PROTECTION: These features are subject to policies that allow some site alterations or land cover change, having met criteria and conditions.

NOT PROTECTED: These areas are already developed and / or are not subject to environmental protections.

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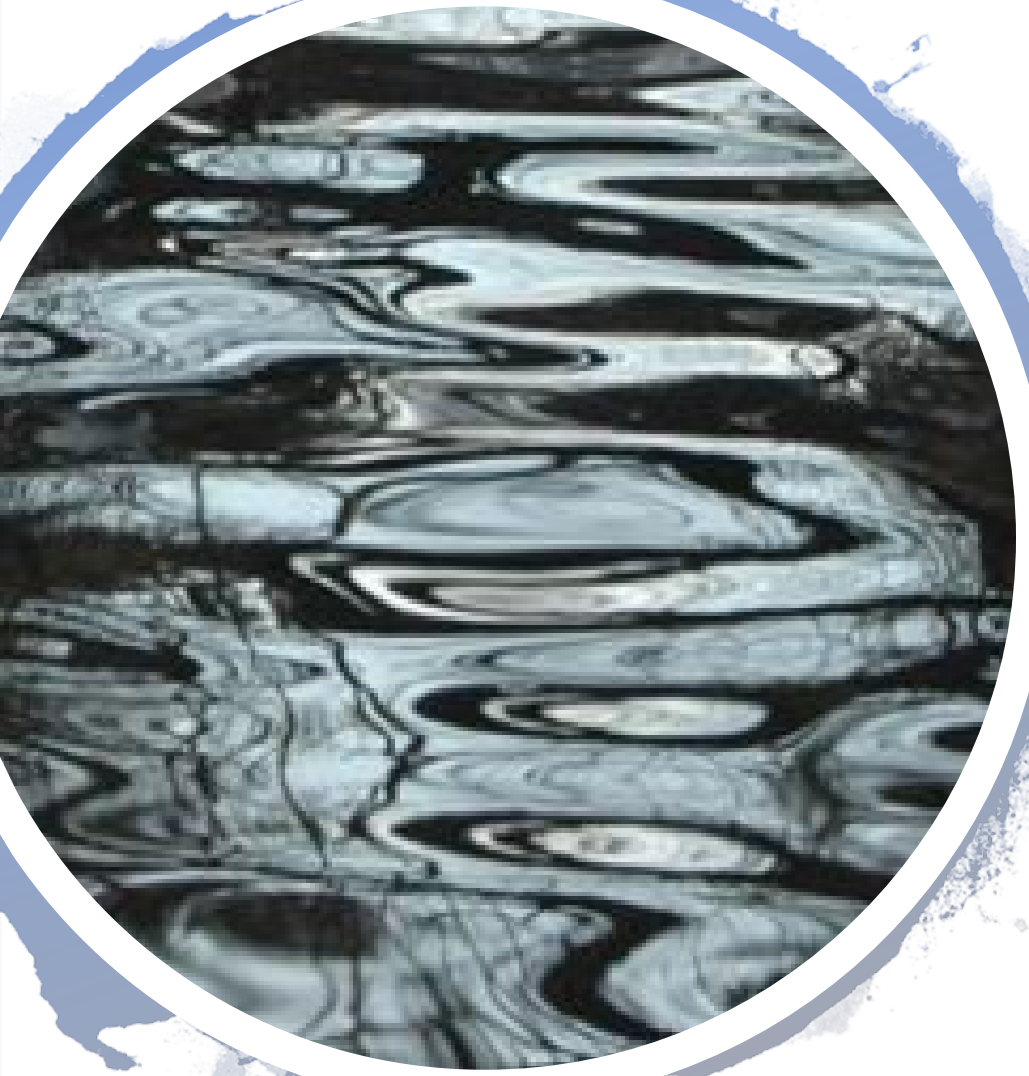
Helpful municipal actions – protecting nature

- Use and enforce an ambitious tree cover bylaw
- Increase naturalization of public space
- Proactively protect wetlands

Helpful municipal actions - development

- Enforce sediment and erosion bylaws
- Continually improve stormwater management
- Insist on Low Impact Development



Helpful municipal actions – water quality

- Water conservation and reuse
- Maintain or lower STP loads

MODEL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Councils can demonstrate their commitment to protecting the health of Lake Simcoe by passing the following resolution:

WHEREAS a healthy environment provides the foundation for healthy communities, healthy people, and a healthy economy; and
WHEREAS the passage of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act received unanimous, all party support in the Ontario legislature in 2008;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Town of [***] calls on the Ontario Government to demonstrate its commitment to clean water and protecting what matters most in the provincial statutory review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, by ensuring that provisions in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan that protect water quality are not weakened and that policies protecting natural heritage be strengthened, in order to meet the targets of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan; and
THAT the Ontario Government be requested to work collaboratively with affected Provincial Ministries and all levels of government, including First Nations and Métis, to achieve the goals and targets of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to resource the programs that improve Lake Simcoe's water quality during the provincial statutory review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan; and
THAT copies of this resolution be provided to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Official Opposition Leader Andrea Horvath, MPP John Fraser, MPP Mike Schreiner, [local electoral district] MPP [***], and MPP Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

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