

Strategic Plan 2024-2030

Approved by the TgO Board of Directors on:

MAY 9, 2024



Vision: Healthy tallgrass communities in Ontario that support wildlife and environmental health



Mission Statement: Tallgrass Ontario will identify and facilitate the conservation of tallgrass communities by coordinating programs and services to provide assistance to individuals, groups and agencies.

Strategic Priority #1:

Facilitate the creation and restoration of tallgrass communities

Strategies

1. Complete project commitments
2. Establish partnerships with other businesses and agencies doing restoration
3. Maintain landowner contact list
4. Coordinate restoration projects
5. Write grant applications

Action Items

TgO will:

- ✓ *Write grant applications as opportunities arise*
- ✓ *Seek and maintain contacts with land managers, landowners, other agencies, and developers doing restoration work*
- ✓ *Develop and maintain a list of sites that may benefit from tallgrass prairie development or enhancement*

Strategic Priority #2:

Increase public awareness and stewardship of tallgrass communities

Strategies

1. Develop information about conservation and restoration
2. Promote knowledge and information-sharing on social media, the TgO website, and other digital formats
3. Increase the distribution of Bluestem Banner
4. Work cooperatively with government agencies
5. Engage in discussions with landowners and partner organizations to promote information on conservation and restoration of tallgrass communities

Action Items

TgO will:

- ✓ *Publish Bluestem Banner at least two times a year*
- ✓ *Update and maintain active website*
- ✓ *Identify key social media platforms for TgO to focus on and publish new posts weekly*
- ✓ *Publish and disseminate research results through the website and the Banner*
- ✓ *Hold one conference/AGM yearly*
- ✓ *Coordinate or support at least two public field trips per year to tallgrass communities*
- ✓ *Send drafts of project proposals and funding proposals to government agency partners for their review and for them to provide comments and/or letters of support*
- ✓ *Write a discussion paper and/or Bluestem Banner article on the historical relationship between First Nations and tallgrass communities*

Strategic Priority #3:

Seek out and support measures to protect existing and potential tallgrass communities across the province

Strategies

1. Identify possible sites for the introduction/restoration of tallgrass communities
2. Contribute to cooperative mapping of tallgrass sites across the province
3. Maintain mapping of tallgrass sites across the province

Action Items

TgO will:

- ✓ *Maintain contact list of landowners with prairie or possible prairie land*
- ✓ *Maintain list of potential tallgrass prairie sites and continue to contribute data into the Tallgrass Ontario Geospatial Database*
- ✓ *Partner with other groups to facilitate the restoration and/or maintenance of tallgrass sites*
- ✓ *Identify a list of priority tallgrass communities that should be ground-truthed to assess their health and management needs*
- ✓ *Ground-truth tallgrass communities based on their priority as determined by the TgO Board of Directors and as resources allows*

Strategic Priority #4:

Support and promote research, knowledge, and best management practices associated with tallgrass communities

Strategies

1. Remain current on grassland habitat research
2. Facilitate research of tallgrass communities and species
3. Work with other organizations and researchers to compile an inclusive map of prairie in Ontario
4. Act as a clearinghouse for information, research, and funding sources, which partners and landowners may access

Action Items

TgO will:

- ✓ *Partner with academic institutions and government agencies to facilitate research of grassland habitat*
- ✓ *Identify hot spots for tallgrass restoration from existing mapping system*
- ✓ *Prepare a list of species dependent on tallgrass features*
- ✓ *Publicize research findings in the Bluestem Banner and TgO's website*
- ✓ *Have a Board Member or designate attend Rice Lake Plains Partnership meetings*
- ✓ *Collaborate and prioritize communications with organizations with similar goals applicable to tallgrass prairie communities such as Grasslands Ontario, The Ontario Invasive Plant Council, North American Native Plant Society, the Society of Ecological Restoration (Ontario Chapter), and the Field Botanists of Ontario*
- ✓ *Appoint (at least) one Board Member as Subject Matter Expert in charge of monitoring journals, academic institutions, and research agencies associated with new research applicable to tallgrass prairie species*
- ✓ *Write a discussion paper on how TgO might best support the tallgrass prairie community as a clearinghouse for research, field experience, and best management practices*
- ✓ *Consult with various prescribed burn stakeholders and write a discussion paper on how TgO might best support this sector in the future*

Strategic Priority #5:

Ensure Organizational Capacity

Strategies

1. Maintain effective board practices
2. Generate funds
3. Sustain and/or grow membership level by ensuring that TgO delivers value for members
4. Reduce organizational risk

Action Items

TgO will:

- ✓ *Balance budget each year, from 2024 through 2030*
- ✓ *Write a discussion paper on how to pursue sponsorship, grant proposals, in-kind contribution*
- ✓ *Actively pursue corporate sponsorship*
- ✓ *Create an Executive Director position and explore potential for hiring additional staff*
- ✓ *Write a discussion paper on how to support First Nations tallgrass prairie management initiatives and how to incorporate First Nations communities, knowledge, values, and history into TgO*
- ✓ *Create a Board Member Recruitment Discussion Paper, which will include a Board Member Education, and Training Package*