



## **BlueBelt + Grand River Conservation and Stewardship, A Haldimand Treaty Restoration Project**

Promised to the Mohawk descendants of the old Villages of Canojaharie, Tikondarago, and Aughugo and their posterity to enjoy forever. The Haldimand Tract is 950,000 acres or 3,844 square kilometers. The Grand River watershed is the largest inland river system in Oniatari:io ("beautiful lake"). It has a total area of 6,800 square kilometers. This acquired territory extends to the mouth of the Lake Erie shoreline establishing riparian rights.

Land conservancies, also known as land trusts, are community-based, nonprofit organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural and working lands for the beneficiaries and public good.

Land conservancies are positioned to act swiftly and professionally to help landowners and communities protect the endangered places important to us all—open spaces that define our sense of place, connect us to the natural world, and provide real services such as water quality protection, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and agri-sources of food and timber.

How does a Land Conservancy Work? Land conservancies are better suited than any other organization to safeguard Grand River's natural beauty and the conservation values of our most important lands. To do this, land conservancies use the following suite of tools to protect and steward land forever:

- **Nature Preserves or Sanctuaries** – Haldimand Tract Lands are acquired through reversion, repossession, and expropriation, donation or purchase to be used as a nature preserve or sanctuary. Often, these lands are open to the general public to visit and enjoy.
- **Conservation Easements** – A voluntary legal tool that allows the land to remain in private ownership but permanently limits development to protect the conservation values of the property.
- **Government Assists** – Conservancies often help local communities or the Mohawk University acquire public parkland and open space. Assistance can range from grant writing support to leading fundraising campaigns.
- **Stewardship** – For the lands that are owned and managed by conservancies or for the conservation easements they hold, stewardship is the term used for ongoing management and monitoring to protect the conservation values of those properties.
- **Education** – Whether providing education to landowners about conservation options or engaging community members in the stewardship of natural areas, conservancies educate people about the values of participating within our own natural environment.

How do you inherently participate within your own environments? "Karén:na" The Mohawk name of the force, principle, or magic power which is ... to be inherited in everybody and being in nature and in every personified attribute, property, or activity, belonging to each of these and conceived to be the active cause or force, or dynamic energy, involved in every operation or phenomenon of nature, in any manner affecting or controlling the welfare of man.

BlueBelt + Grand River, The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy is commissioned by The Mohawk Charitable Foundation for Grand River and learning organization ("Mohawk University"). The first charitable foundation to be formed under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country. The Trust is managed by Mohawk University for the benefit of the U.E.L. Mohawk Descendants. [info@bluebelt.org](mailto:info@bluebelt.org) [www.bluebelt.org](http://www.bluebelt.org)