The Town of The Blue Mountains Natural Asset Inventory – Summary of Results

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Presentation prepared and delivered by Amy Taylor

Introduction

Green Analytics is a small national employee-owned consulting firm specializing in natural asset management.

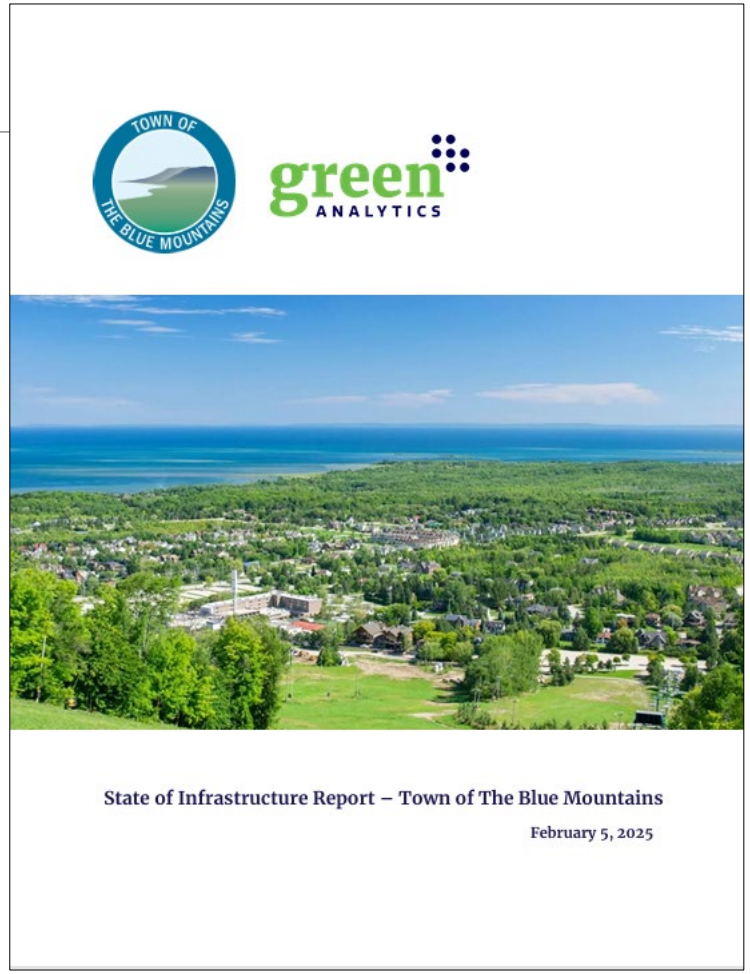
My name is Amy Taylor. I am the CEO of Green Analytics. My background is in environmental science and economics.

I live and work on the ancestral and traditional territories of the peoples of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta.

I am here to present a summary of the natural asset management work Green Analytics completed for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

I will present an overview of the work and results as well as highlight some priority next steps for continuing to advance natural asset management in the Town.

www.greenanalytics.ca



Asset Management Rationale

Municipal and regional governments across Canada provide services to local citizens.

Nature delivers a great number of services, sometimes at a reduced cost relative to built infrastructure.

The services provided by nature often go un-noticed or are undervalued. If nature degrades or deteriorates, service delivery can diminish.

To ensure ecosystem health and sustained service delivery, nature should be monitored and managed appropriately.

By conceptualizing nature as an asset, we can codify, measure and track the assets and the services they provide.

In this way, municipal and regional governments can make more informed decisions about the management and protection of natural assets.

green ANALYTICS

Natural Asset Management

Asset management provides a framework for making informed decisions related to natural assets to ensure long-term ecological health and sustained service delivery.

The first step is understanding what type of assets exist, where and in what quantities and condition. This is achieved through a natural asset inventory.

Once inventoried, we can quantify the services provided by the natural assets and gear management decisions towards achieving service provision objectives.

The objective of the project was to begin natural asset management within the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Drivers for Natural Asset Inventory Work

Ontario Regulation 588/17 requires municipalities to create asset management plans for municipal assets including green infrastructure assets.

This work directly supports Bold Action 5: Develop an action plan to create a natural asset inventory, in The Blue Mountains Future Story.

Council's motion on August 27 directed, among other things, "that the "Natural Asset Inventory & Natural Heritage Study Recommendations Report May 2024"... be the basis for further advancing implementation of natural asset management planning…"

Most of the Town's natural assets are privately owned making effective management of such assets and the community services they provide imperative for long-term service provision.

Green Analytics was commissioned to develop a State of Infrastructure Report for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

State of Infrastructure

Natural Assets	Enhanced Assets
• Forests • Wetlands • Swamps • Meadows • Watercourses • Lakes and ponds	• Street trees • Park trees • Manicured lawns • Naturalized stormwater ponds

Inventory the natural, enhanced and agriculture assets within the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Assess the condition of the natural assets within the inventory to rank the assets on a scale from very good to very poor.

Assess the risks the natural assets are prone to by identifying those that are relevant and ranking them for their relative impact and likelihood.

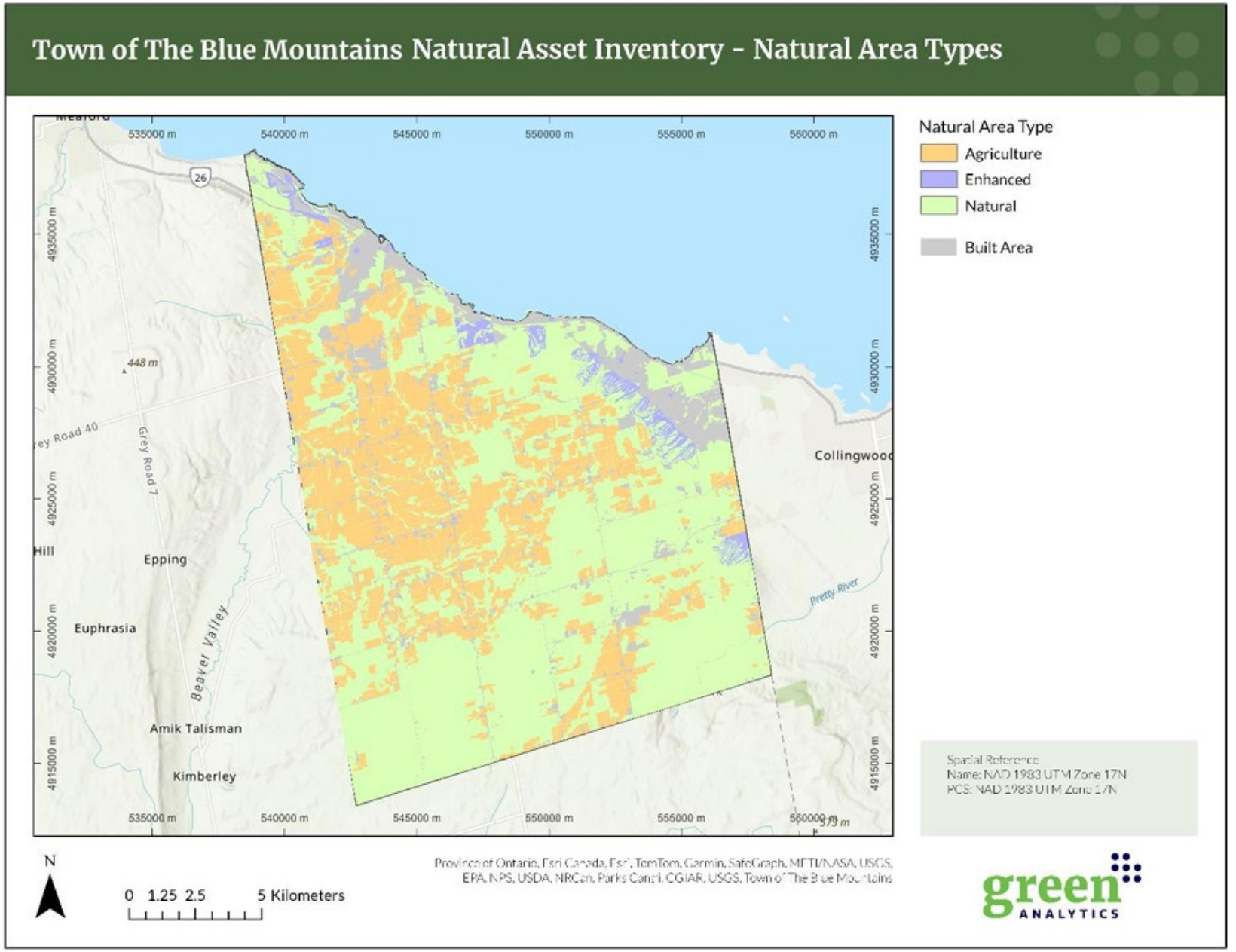
Assess the replacement cost for the natural assets.

Quantify the value of some of the ecosystem services provided by the natural assets.

Prioritize management actions for natural asset management considering the results of the previous tasks.

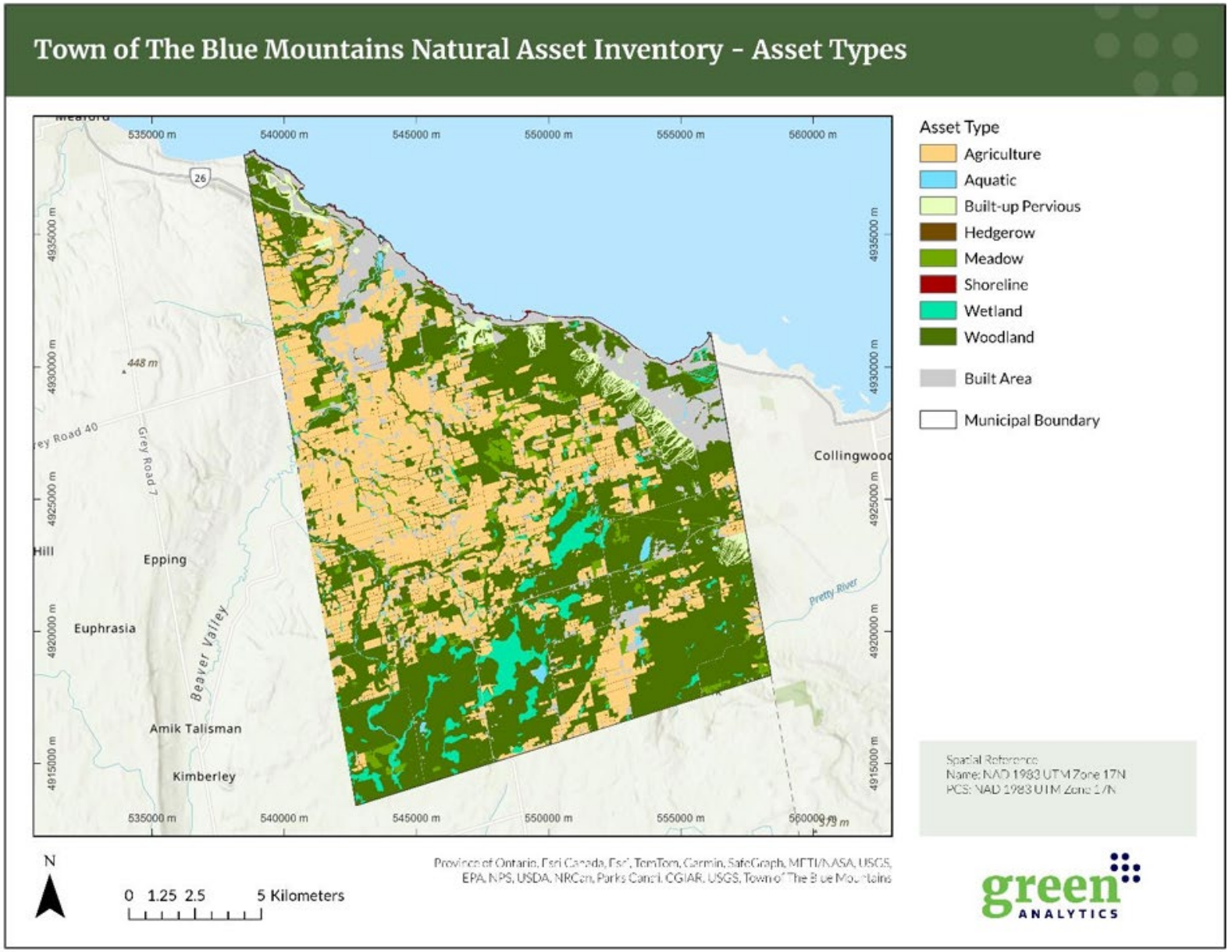
Inventory Outputs

Asset Class	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Agriculture	8,036	35.2
Enhanced	596	2.3
Natural	15,843	62.4
Total	**25,375**	**100**



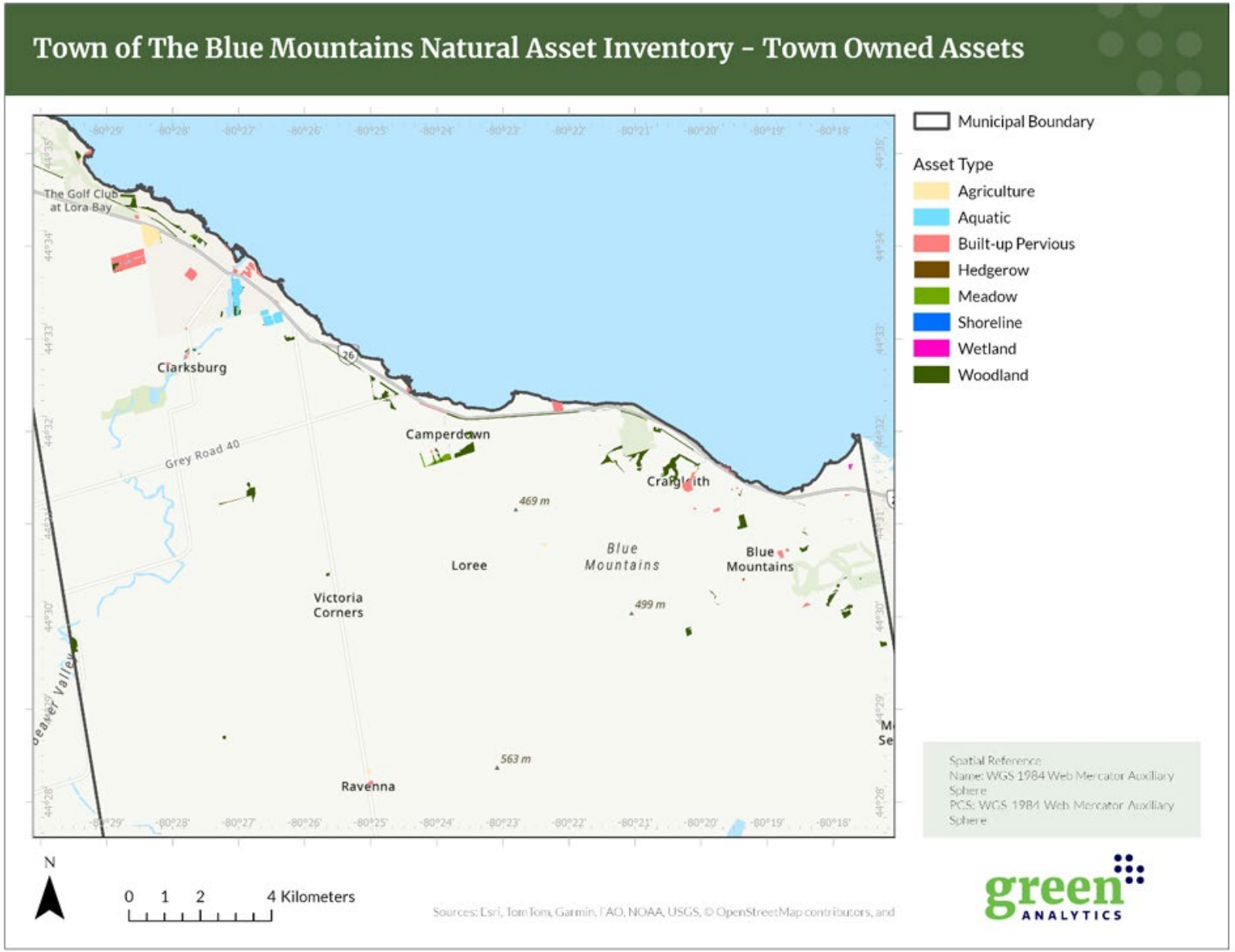
Inventory Outputs

Asset Class	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Agriculture	8,036	35.2
Enhanced	596	2.3
Natural	15,843	62.4
Total	**25,375**	**100**



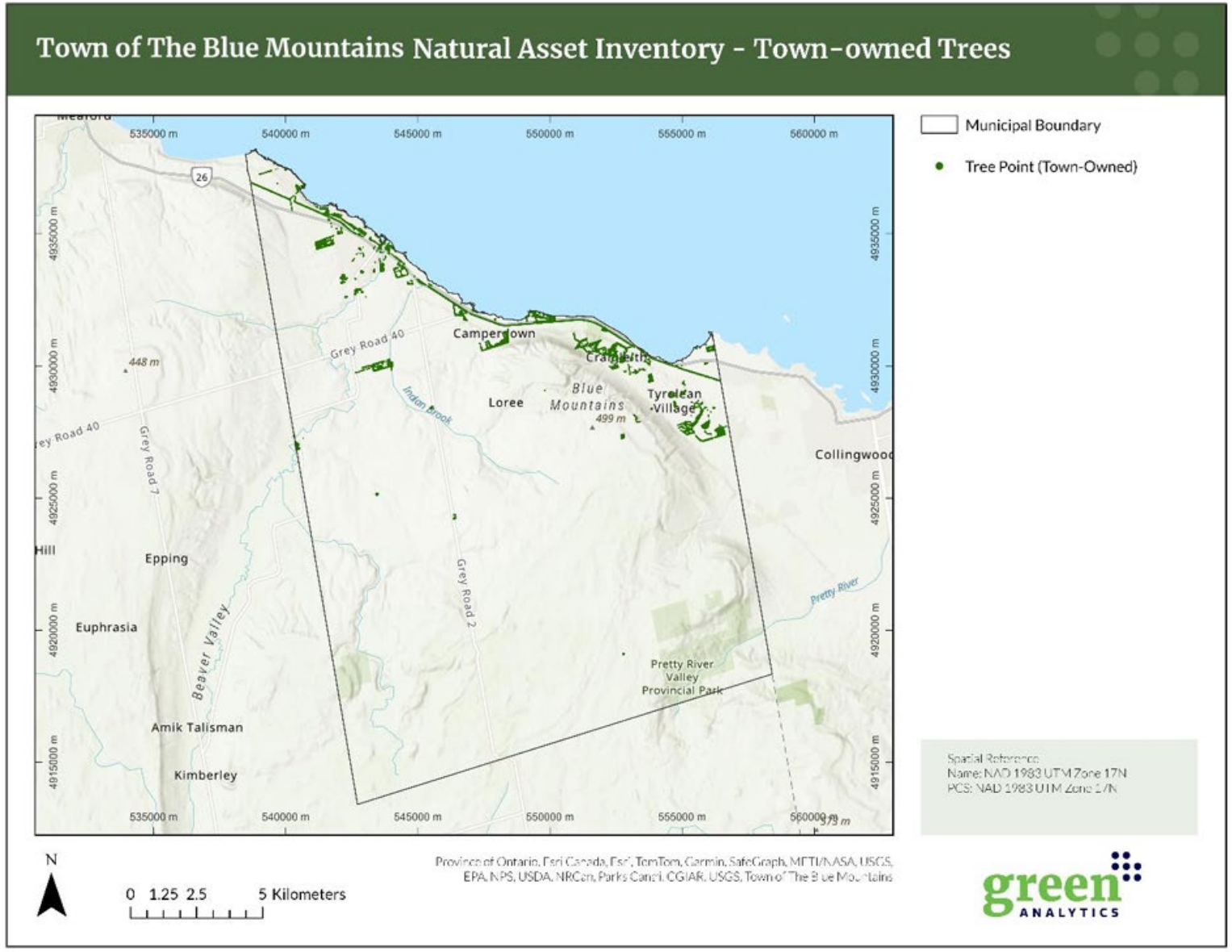
Inventory Outputs

Asset Type	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Agriculture	15	8.2
Enhanced	48	26.2
Natural	120	65.6
Total	**183**	**100**

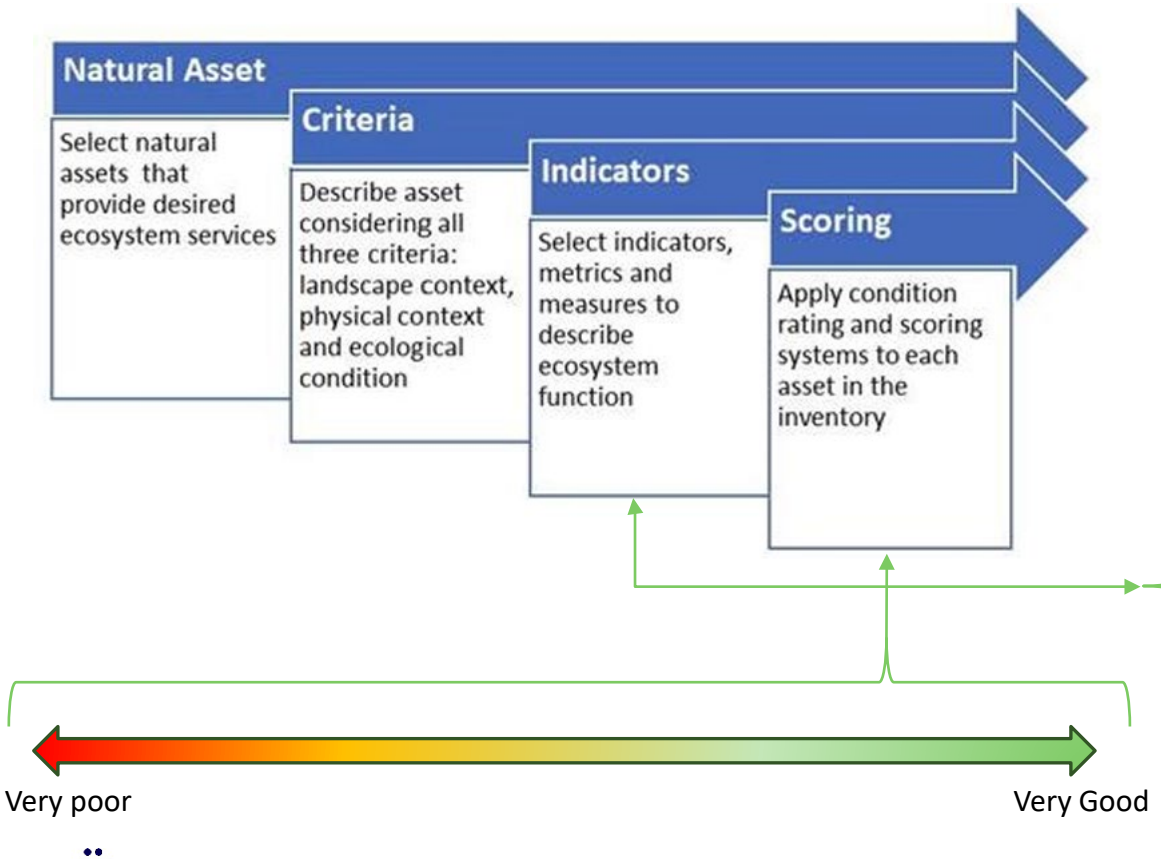


Inventory Outputs

6,994 trees within the road right of way in settlement areas



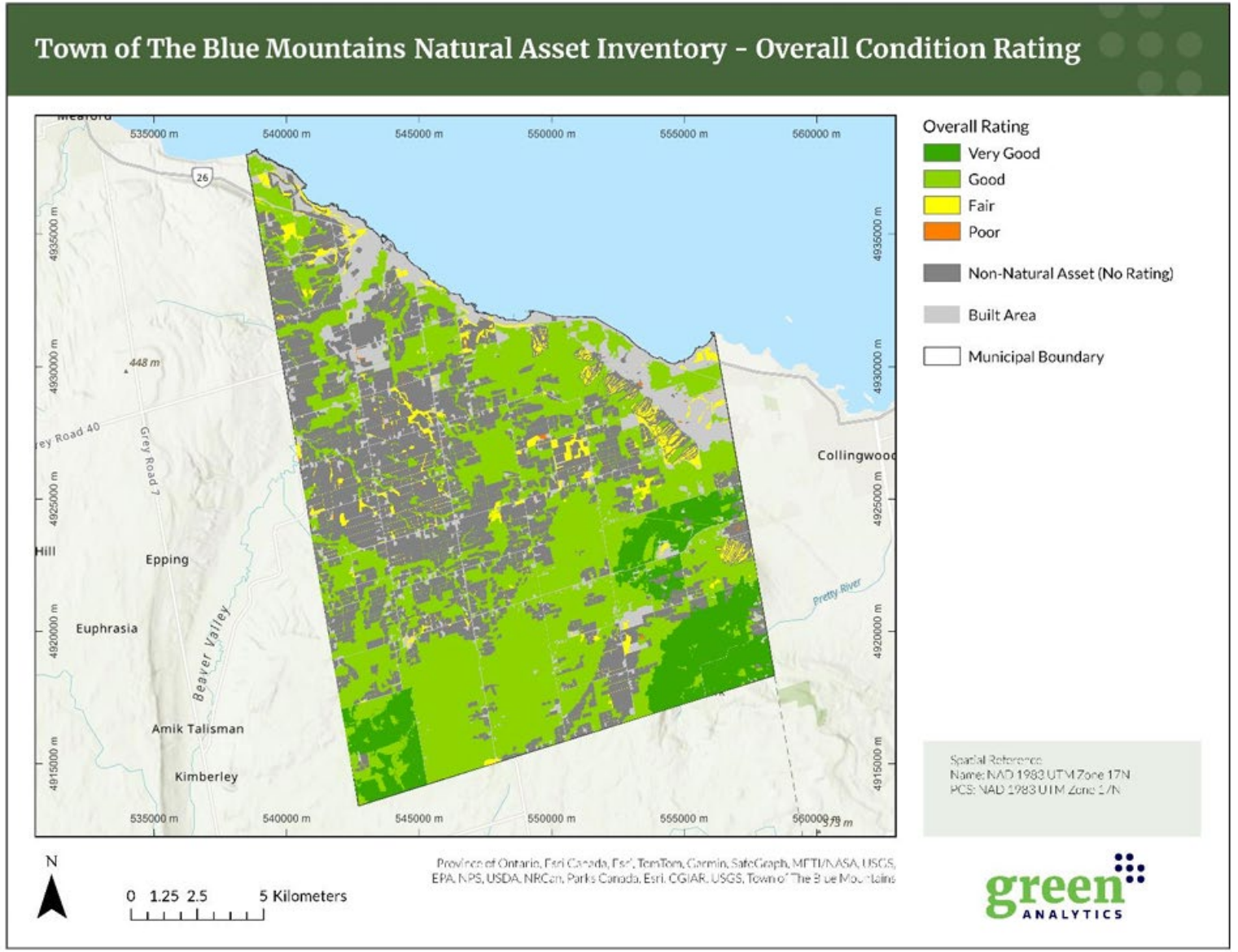
Condition Assessment



- Natural area patch size
- Natural area patch shape
- Interior habitat
- Proximity to watercourses
- Woodland proximity to other assets
- Wetland proximity to other assets
- Permeability of adjacent land uses
- Percent woodland cover in subwatersheds
- Percent wetland cover in subwatersheds

Condition Results

Rating	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Very Good	2,713	17.2
Good	12,099	76.5
Fair	969	6.1
Poor	29	0.2
Very Poor	0	0
Total	**15,809**	**100**



Risk Assessment

1. Identify range of relevant hazards

2. Rate hazards for impact

3. Rate hazards for likelihood

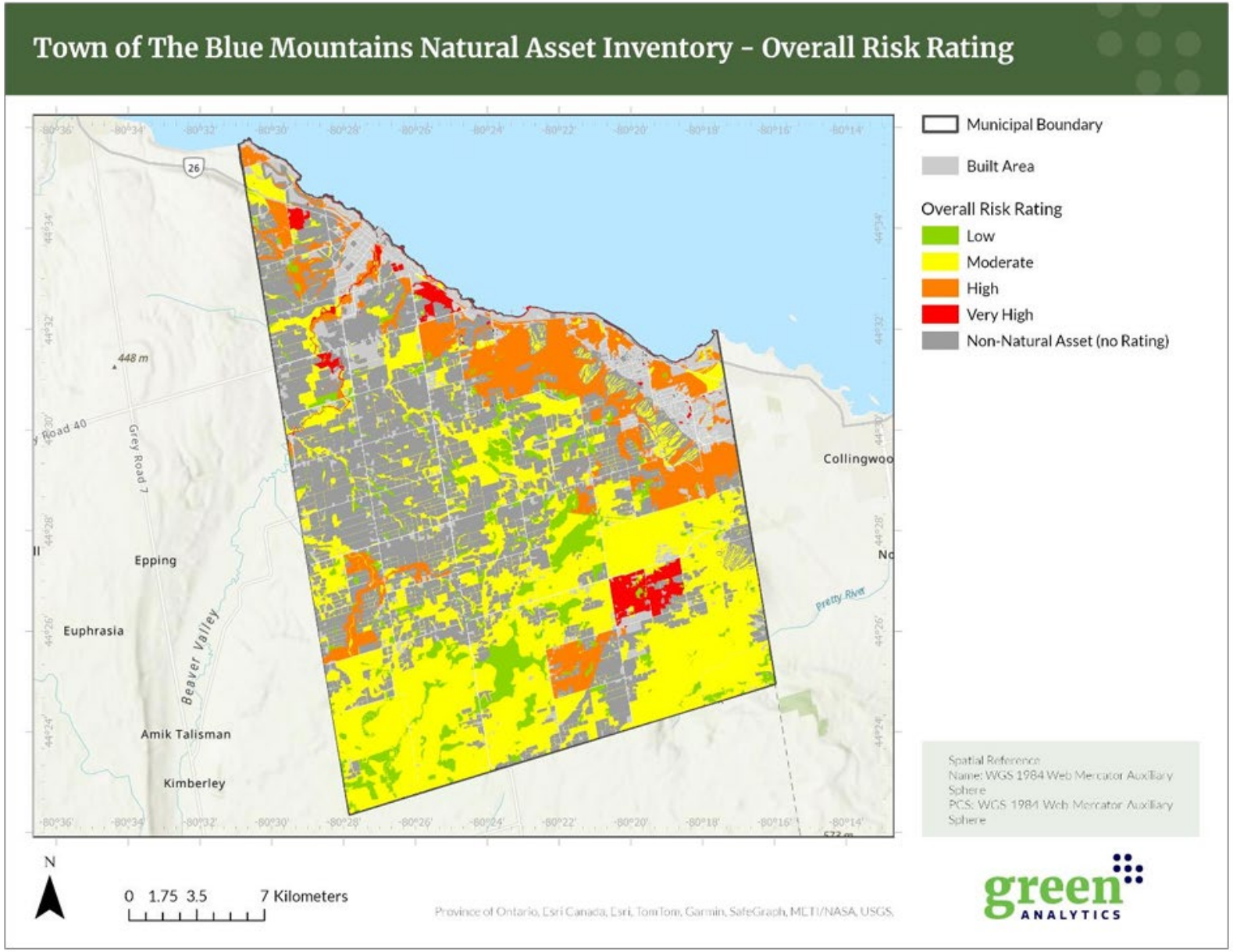
4. Calculate risk scores for each hazard

5. Allocate risk scores to natural assets

- Invasive species
- Pests and diseases
- During construction impacts
- Unauthorized encroachment/disturbances
- Flooding
- Erosion
- Extreme wind
- Ice storms / freezing rain
- Extreme heat / drought
- Contamination / pollution
- Fire
- Poor management practices
- Sedimentation

Risk Results

Rating	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Very Low	0	0
Low	1,947	12.2
Moderate	10,035	63.3
High	3,248	20.5
Very High	613	3,8
Total	**15,843**	**100**



Total Annual Ecosystem Service Value

Ecosystem service value of Town-Owned assets: $15.5 M - $16.6 M per year

Replacement cost of Town-Owned assets: $146 M

Town of The Blue Mountains

Annual Ecosystem Service Value

$75 - $92 Million

Recreation

$11.8M/Year

Carbon Sequestration

$5M - $22M/Year

Air Quality Regulation

$0.37 M/Year

Stormwater Regulation

$30 M/Year

Habitat Preservation

$11 M/Year

Extreme Heat Regulation

$0.37 - $0.70 M/Year

Contribution to Crop Productivity

$16.3M/Year

Conclusion and Priority Actions

Natural and Enhanced Assets

Provide services to residents including stormwater management, water filtration, carbon storage, recreation, air quality improvements and urban heat reduction.

Conserve and Protect

Leverage asset management to conserve and protect high priority assets. Focus on assets in good and very good condition with a high-risk profile to maintain their service.

Enhance and Restore

Leverage asset management to enhance and restore high priority assets. Target assets in fair, poor, or very poor condition to improve service delivery.

Immediate Priority

Start with the street trees within ’s urban settlement boundary and conduct a field-based inventory and condition assessment.