**Map 1: Provincially Mapped Wetlands vs. Natural Cover**

Main Point:

This map illustrates what remains of the core natural heritage features left on the landscape in the Niagara watershed (NPCA jurisdiction). It is configured around wooded cover of which more than 50% is provincially significant slough forest swamps. As a result, much of the existing protections of this remaining natural heritage system is currently achieved through provincially significant wetland status.

Complementary Point:

This landscape has been quantitatively assessed as functioning in a degraded manner and cumulatively achieves 56% towards what conservation literature recommends as minimum objectives for high-risk performance. It consistently exhibits poor water quality and suffers from habitat fragmentation.

Additional Context:

Provincially inventoried minimum mapping unit for wetland features (a single polygon before complexing considerations) is 0.5 hectares based on simple map generalization principles for medium scale 1:10,000 mapping. It is mathematical, not biological or ecologically driven. The minimum size threshold for a wetland complex is 2 hectares. For example, at minimum a complex could be established based on a 0.5 and 1.5-hectare combination of wetland features, or up to four 0.5-hectare features.

Land use planning practices typically operate and require 1:2000 large scale mapping appreciating context is often a parcel at the property level.