



NATURE  
CONSERVANCY  
CANADA

Safeguarding critical habitats for nature and people

# Conservation in Ontario

Join us in our effort to protect and care for Ontario's  
most important natural spaces

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society (SOOS) supports the conservation work of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) in protecting, restoring and caring for lands and waters across the province. Please consider joining NCC in unlocking nature's power so life on earth can thrive.

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Saugeen Bruce Peninsula, ON. Photo by Esme Batten/NCC staff.

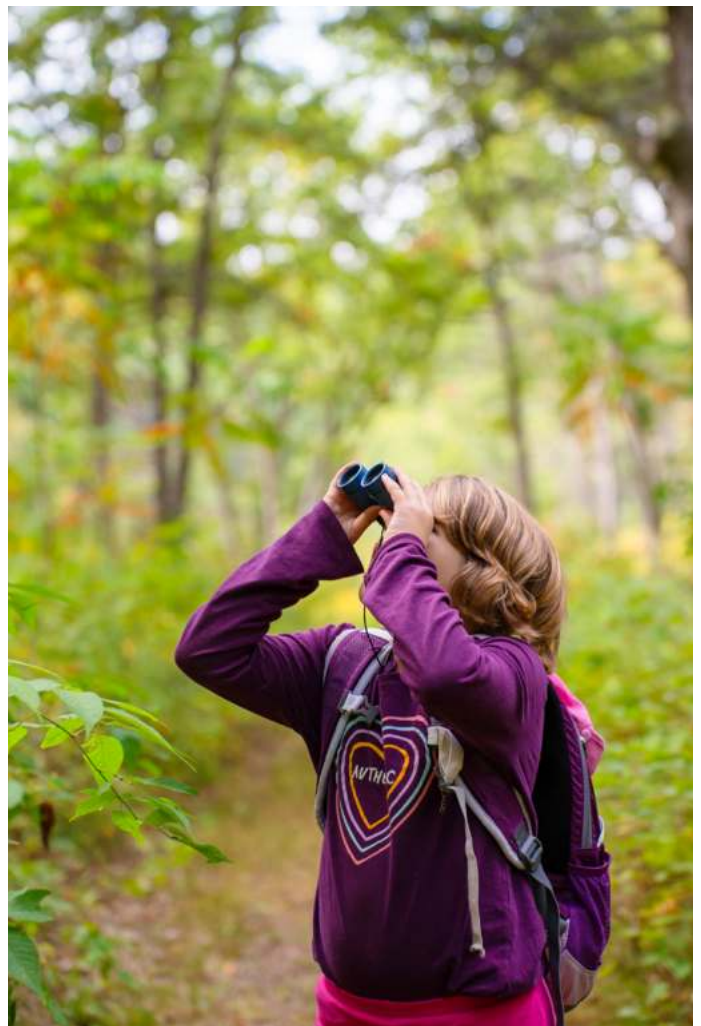
# Protecting Ontario's natural beauty and biodiversity

Boreal Wildlands, ON. Photo by Adam Bialo.

Ontario is a province of unparalleled natural beauty, home to vast forests, unique prairie and alvar habitats, thriving wetlands, and thousands of kilometers of shoreline along its more than 250,000 lakes. From the remote, majestic boreal forests in the north to the rich Carolinian deciduous forests in the south, Ontario's landscapes are hubs of biodiversity to be treasured. However, these habitats are under threat. Climate change and development are accelerating biodiversity and habitat loss at an alarming rate. The urgency to act has never been greater.

By conserving critical habitats, we can protect the rich biodiversity that makes Ontario so special. This is not just for nature, but for people too. Healthy ecosystems provide clean air and water, sustain agriculture and communities, and offer recreational opportunities that enhance our quality of life.

Your support can make a significant impact. By donating to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), you can help safeguard these vital habitats for future generations. Together, we can ensure that Ontario's natural beauty and biodiversity are preserved. **Join us in this effort to protect Ontario's most important natural places.**



Rice Lake Plains, ON. Photo by Chelsea Marcantonio/NCC staff.

# Conservation priorities

NCC has an ambitious goal to conserve an additional 1 million hectares by 2030, with 323,500 hectares protected over the next three years to further expand wildlife corridors, protect sensitive habitats, and provide opportunities for people to connect with nature. NCC works across Ontario in places where our conservation activities can have the greatest impact on protecting native species and restoring habitats.

Photo by Mike Dembeck.



## Frontenac Arch

An ancient granite ridge on which critical wetland and forest corridors link Algonquin in Eastern Ontario to the Adirondacks in upstate New York, the Frontenac Arch is one of Canada's UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. A meeting place of five different forest types, the area is home to tremendous plant and wildlife diversity, including several species at risk. 8,450 hectares of the Frontenac Arch is currently conserved or under provincial or federal regulation. NCC continues to work to conserve additional lands and waters in this area to protect the largest wildlife corridor east of the Rocky Mountains.

Photo by Esme Batten/NCC staff.



## Saugeen Peninsula

World-renowned for its diversity of plants and wildlife, clear turquoise waters along stunning rocky and sandy shorelines, and its rich forests, the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula is a 'hot spot' for biodiversity in the Great Lakes basin. With our partners, NCC has helped conserve over 7,100 hectares of habitat here. As well as caring for existing protected lands, NCC is working to conserve additional lands to enhance connectivity and support thriving and resilient landscapes.

Photo by Adam Bialo.



## Boreal Forest

Canada's boreal forest is often called "The Lungs of the Earth." Spanning 300 million hectares, it is the Earth's largest terrestrial carbon sink, has some of the most intact forest left on Earth, and provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals, including over 300 species of birds. Much of the boreal forest is crown land, but many large private landholdings also exist across the landscape. NCC is committed to caring for Boreal Wildlands and exploring new opportunities to protect Ontario's boreal forest.

Photo by Liv Monck-Whipp.



## Habitat restoration and stewardship

When it comes to conserving Canada's most important natural areas, protecting land is just the beginning. Stewardship — caring for the land for the long term — is at the heart of what we do. Every property we protect is monitored and managed so that the ecosystems are maintained, and species thrive. Habitat restoration is key to reversing degradation, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and improving biodiversity. Healthy ecosystems filter our drinking water and clean our air, reduce flooding, sequester carbon, and support diverse species. In Ontario, NCC's habitat restoration team collaborates with partners to restore lands through habitat creation, invasive species management, and succession management, including prescribed burns.

## Priority conservation projects

1. Boreal Forest
2. Saugeen Bruce Peninsula
3. Frontenac Arch
4. Habitat restoration and stewardship



Photo credits: (1) Moose. Photo by Mike Dembeck., (2) China Cove, ON. Photo by Esmé Batten/NCC staff., (3) Blanding's turtle. Photo by Ryan M Bolton., (4) NCC staff in Long Point, ON., Photo by Joel Rodriguez.

## Impact from coast to coast

NCC is Canada's leading national land conservation organization, delivering results at a scale like no other. A private, non-profit organization, we partner with individuals, corporations, other non-profit organizations and governments at all levels to protect our most important natural treasures – the natural areas that sustain Canada's plants and wildlife. We secure properties (through donation, purchase, conservation agreement and the relinquishment of other legal interests in land) and manage them for the long term. Since 1962, NCC and our partners have helped to protect more than 15 million hectares, from coast to coast to coast.



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