

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

Protected areas promote the diversification of local and regional economies. They also help to conserve renewable natural resources in order to maintain activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Protected environments are necessary to support the tourism and ecotourism industries in the region. They also play a crucial role in sustainable forest management. Finally, protected areas are places for outdoor recreation, which promotes both physical and mental well-being.

OTHER USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- **Programme des dons écologiques** ■ Environnement Canada
■ https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/CW66-238-7-1-2016-fra.pdf
- **Aires protégées au Québec** ■ Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs ■ www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/aires_quebec.htm

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Why protect the natural areas on your property ?

In 2009, Ambioterra began a project to educate private owners on the ways they could protect the biodiversity and natural areas on their land and create protected areas in the upper St. Lawrence River Valley.

Beauharnois-Salaberry, the Haut-Saint-Laurent, the Jardins-de-Napierville, Roussillon and Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION: WHAT IS IT ?

*Upper St. Lawrence
River Valley*



Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



Fondation
de la faune
du Québec

Fondation
ECHO
Foundation

THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE LESS THAN 6% OF THE TERRITORY OF THE UPPER ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY IS PROTECTED. THIS REGION IS HOME TO A GREAT DIVERSITY OF FLORA AND FAUNA.

Why ? The upper St. Lawrence River Valley has a mild climate and a wide variety of environments (aquatic, riparian, wetlands, forest and agricultural). It is also home to several endangered species. The biodiversity of this region, most of which can be found on private lands dedicated to agricultural production and logging, is threatened due to habitat fragmentation.

In addition, the majority of private land owners are unaware of the presence of these species. Therefore, they cannot take the necessary actions to protect plant and animal habitats. Fortunately, there are simple methods available to everyone that help to limit the negative impacts of human activities (development of private land, agriculture, forestry, etc.). In this leaflet, we will identify the means available to private land owners who wish to protect the natural heritage on their land.

MAP OF THE RCMS OF THE UPPER ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY



Did you know?



PROTECTED NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS ARE IMPORTANT FROM AN ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMICAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CULTURAL STANDPOINT. ECOLOGICALLY, PROTECTED AREAS ARE BENEFICIAL FOR:

- OXYGEN PRODUCTION
- CREATION AND PROTECTION OF SOILS
- ABSORPTION AND REDUCTION OF POLLUTANTS
- IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS
- CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER AQUIFERS
- REGULARIZATION AND PURIFICATION OF WATER SOURCES

Some of the endangered species in the upper St. Lawrence River Valley

PLANTS

- American Ginseng
- Black Maple
- Butternut
- Forked Three-awned Grass
- Green Arrow Arum
- Northern Maidenhair Fern
- Ostrich Fern
- Pitch Pine
- River Bank Wildrye
- Rock Elm
- Small White Leek
- Southern Wildrice
- Two-leaved Toothwort
- White Oak

ANIMALS

- American Eel
- Channel Darter
- Chimney Swift
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Sand Darter
- Golden Winged Warbler
- Milk Snake
- Mountain Dusky Salamander
- Northern Brook Lamprey
- Northern Dusky Salamander
- Rosyface Shiner
- Stonecat
- Western Chorus Frog
- Wood Turtle

How can you protect your natural heritage?

THE WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS: MORAL, LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL.

Do you wish to maintain ownership of the whole property?

Do you wish to partner with an environmental group to conserve your property?

Do you wish to exploit the forest or another natural resource on your property?

These are a few of the questions owners should ask themselves when they want to protect their land. Some options require a legal commitment, while others do not. For example, signing a declaration of intent carries no legal implications, since it is a moral commitment. However, should you wish to go further in your conservation efforts, there are other means of guaranteeing wildlife protection. Some of these options can provide the land owner with property tax exemptions and income tax reductions.

The following chart summarizes the different options available

| CONSERVATION OPTIONS | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| CONSERVATION OPTIONS | YOU MAINTAIN OWNERSHIP | FINANCIAL-FISCAL ADVANTAGES | LEGAL AGREEMENT | DESCRIPTION |
| Declaration of Intent | YES | NO | NO | The land owner makes a moral commitment to conservation that rests on their honour, asserting their desire to protect the natural elements of the property. |
| Management, development and enhancement agreement | YES | NO | NO | Agreement between a land owner and a conservation group to collaborate in the management, development and enhancement of the natural elements of the property. |
| Rental contract (lease) | YES | NO | YES | The land is rented to either a conservation group, or to an agricultural or forestry producer for a set number of years, with restrictions on its use. |
| Loan without charge | YES | NO | YES | The land is rented free of charge to either a conservation group or to an agricultural or forestry producer for a set number of years, with restrictions on its use. |
| Agreement between landowners | YES | NO | POSSIBLE | Agreement between neighbors whereby they agree on the sustainable management of their land. Everything can be done only between neighbors or with a conservation organization. A legal agreement may also be signed to ensure continuity of the agreement in the future, but it is not mandatory. |
| Conservation servitude | YES | POSSIBLE | YES | Agreement between the land owner and a conservation group whereby the land owner renounces all activities that could be harmful to the environment. |
| Sale | NO | POSSIBLE | YES | The land owner sells the property to a conservation group. |
| Donation | NO | POSSIBLE | YES | The land owner donates the property to a conservation group. |
| Réserve naturelle | YES | YES | YES | Legal agreement in which the land owner agrees to protect the natural elements of the property in accordance with the <i>Loi sur la protection du patrimoine naturel</i> . |

A PROTECTED AREA... WHAT IS IT?

One of the legal means available to a private landowner to protect the natural heritage of their property is known as a protected area. A protected area is a delimited territory in a terrestrial or aquatic environment in which the owner legally ensures the protection of the biological diversity and the natural resources found there.