

AT THE ECONOMIC LEVEL

Protected wildlife areas promote the diversification of local and regional economies. They contribute to the protection of renewable natural resources and to the maintenance of activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Protected areas are essential to tourism and ecotourism in the region. They are also one of the key components to sustainable forestry management. And finally, they are places for outdoor recreational activities, thereby promoting physical and mental well-being.

OTHER USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Programme des dons écologiques ■ Environnement Canada ■ <https://www.canada.ca/fr/environnement-change-ment-climatique/services/financement-environnement/programme-dons-ecologiques/apercu.html>

Les réserves naturelles ■ Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs ■ <https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/depliant.htm>

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Why protect the natural features of your property ?

In 2009, Ambioterra started a project to raise awareness among private land owners about protecting biodiversity and wildlife areas on their land in the English River watershed zone.

The municipalities located in this territory are Hemmingford, Havelock, Saint-Chrysostome, Saint-Sacrement, Howick, Franklin, Sainte-Clotilde-de-Châteauguay, Saint-Patrice- Sherrington and Saint-Michel.

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION... WHAT IS IT ?

The English River watershed



Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



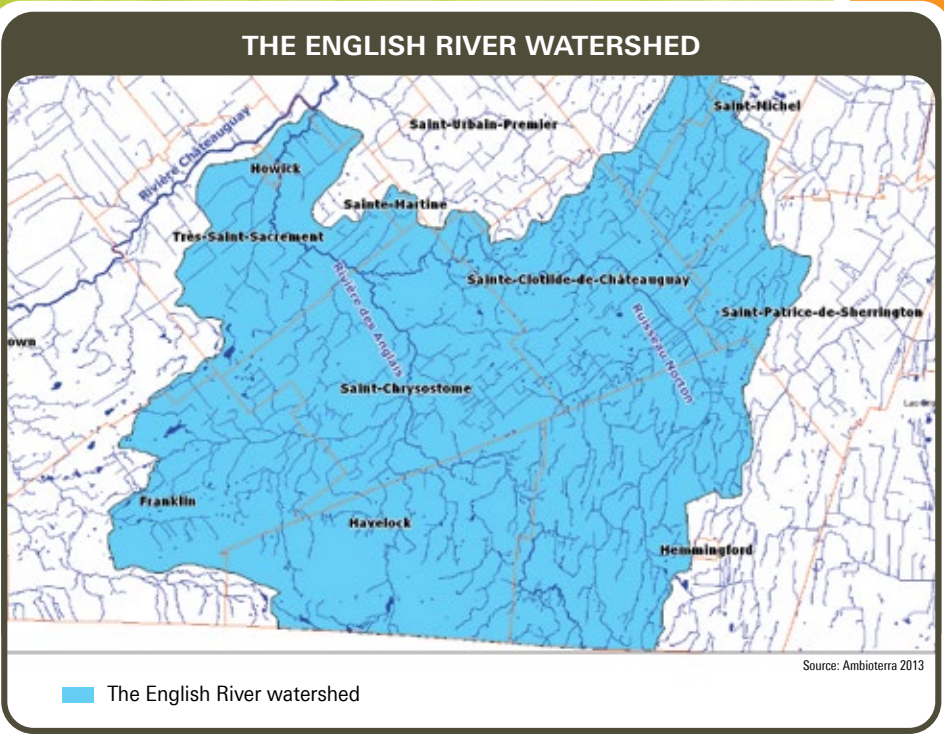
Fondation **ECHO** Foundation

➤ THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE PROTECTED AREAS ON PRIVATE LAND IN THIS TERRITORY ARE RARE. HOWEVER, IN THIS TERRITORY, MORE THAN 95% OF THE LAND IS PRIVATELY OWNED AND THERE IS A GREAT BIODIVERSITY OF FAUNA AND FLORA.

WHY? This area enjoys a favourable climate as well as a great diversity of ecosystems including aquatic, water-front and agricultural zones, wetlands and forests. Several endangered species are also found here. However, this biodiversity is threatened, since most of these species live on private lands devoted to agriculture and forestry where there is significant habitat fragmentation.

Also... most land owners are unaware that these plant and animal species live on their properties, and are therefore unable to take appropriate measures to protect their habitats. There are many simple ways to limit the negative impacts of human activities (development and construction on private properties, agriculture, forestry, etc). In this pamphlet, we will explore the means available to private land owners who want to protect their natural heritage.

Species at risk in the English River watershed area



Le saviez-vous?



Protected wildlife areas are important on many levels: ecological, health, economic, scientific, educational, social and cultural. **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- THE PRODUCTION OF OXYGEN
- THE CREATION AND PROTECTION OF SOIL
- THE ABSORPTION AND REDUCTION OF POLLUTANTS
- THE IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS
- THE CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER AQUIFERS
- THE FLOW CONTROL AND PURIFICATION OF WATERCOURSES

ESPÈCES FLORISTIQUES	ESPÈCES FAUNIQUES
Butternut	Cutlip minnow
Pitch pine	Stonecat
White oak	Channel darter
Swamp white oak	American eel
Black maple	Rosyface shiner
Southern wild rice	Allegheny mountain dusky salamander
Two-leaved Toothwort	Northern dusky salamander
Canada lily	Spring salamander
Mild water-pepper	Four-toed salamander
Hiddenfruit bladderwort	Western chorus frog
Downy rattlesnake plantain	Blanding's turtle
Ladies'-tresses	Wood turtle
Wild garlic	Snapping turtle
Ostrich fern	Ring-necked snake
Large-flowered bellwort	Smooth green snake
	Milk snake

How can you protect your natural heritage?

➤ THE DIFFERENT METHODS OF PROTECTING YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS AND VARY DEPENDING ON THEIR MORAL, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

- Do you want to maintain ownership of the entire property?
- Are you interested in entering a partnership with an environmental group to conserve your property?
- Do you wish to exploit the forest or other natural resources on your land?

Land owners interested in protecting the natural heritage of their property must ask these types of questions. Some options require a legal commitment, while others do not. For example, signing a declaration of intent has 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 chart below summarizes the different options available:

CONSERVATION OPTIONS TYPES OF CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS				
CONSERVATION OPTION	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 his honour, asserting his 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 where 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 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.
Gift/donation	NO	Possible	YES	The land owner donates the property to a conservation group.
Nature reserve	YES	YES	YES	Legal agreement in which the land owner agrees to protect the natural elements of the property in accordance with the Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel.



PROTECTED WILDLIFE AREA... WHAT IS IT?

The creation of a protected area is one of the legal means available to private land owners interested in conserving their natural heritage. A protected area is a defined territory, terrestrial or aquatic, where the land owner commits to legally ensure the protection of its biological diversity and natural resources.