



Homeowner Stewardship Brochure

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Welcome to your new home in Cambridge! Where you can enjoy the beautiful natural areas while still being close to all the main attractions. This brochure encourages you to keep your neighbourhood clean and protected and provides an overview of the subdivision and ways to protect the natural environment.

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— CAMBRIDGE —



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Introducing Barrie's Lake

Fens are a rare and unique type of wetland composed of peatlands with deep organic deposits that receive water and nutrients from the groundwater. They develop over thousands of years and are considered unique wetlands that cannot be replaced once destroyed. Barrie's Lake is home to a fen environment that plays a significant role in supporting local biodiversity, making it a vital and delicate feature.

Barrie's Lake serves as a natural aquifer that yields water and allows for recharge when surface water slowly runs through the ground. The lake also aids in preventing flooding by collecting surface water.



We wish to inform you about Barrie's Lake, which is situated right next to our Black Oaks community.

Barrie's Lake is a vital natural feature in the Blair-Bechtel-Cruickston Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, with extensive wetlands and important habitat for a variety of wildlife, including Species at Risk. It also forms a significant part of the Barrie's Lake-Bauman Creek Provincially Significant Wetland complex, and contains several significant or regionally rare plant species.

Barrie's Lake serves as crucial habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fish.

Turtles, such as the Midland Painted and Snapping Turtle, are particularly vulnerable to vehicle collisions when crossing the nearby Roseville Road.

It's important to respect the sensitivity of the habitat and refrain from any activities that could disturb the wildlife.

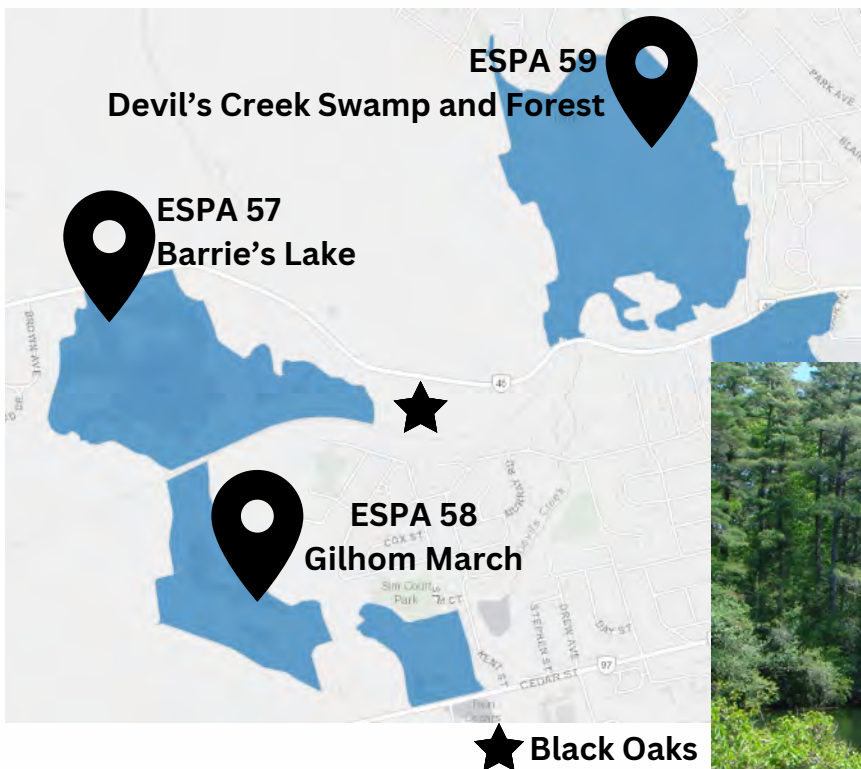
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Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas

An Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area (ESPA) is a high-quality natural area identified as meeting a number of scientific requirements. Three ESPAs surrounding the subdivision, Black Oaks, have been designated in the Regional Official Plan since 1976:

- ESPA 57 Barrie's Lake (Privately owned with no public access)
- ESPA 58 Gilhom Marsh (Privately owned with limited public access)
- ESPA 59 Devil's Creek Swamp and Forest (Public with some private areas)

This subdivision, Black Oaks is located directly beside Barrie's Lake ESPA #57. With careful planning and research, we have designed this subdivision to protect the ESPA and all of its wildlife habitats. Now it is your turn to be good stewards of the natural environment that makes your community a special place to live.



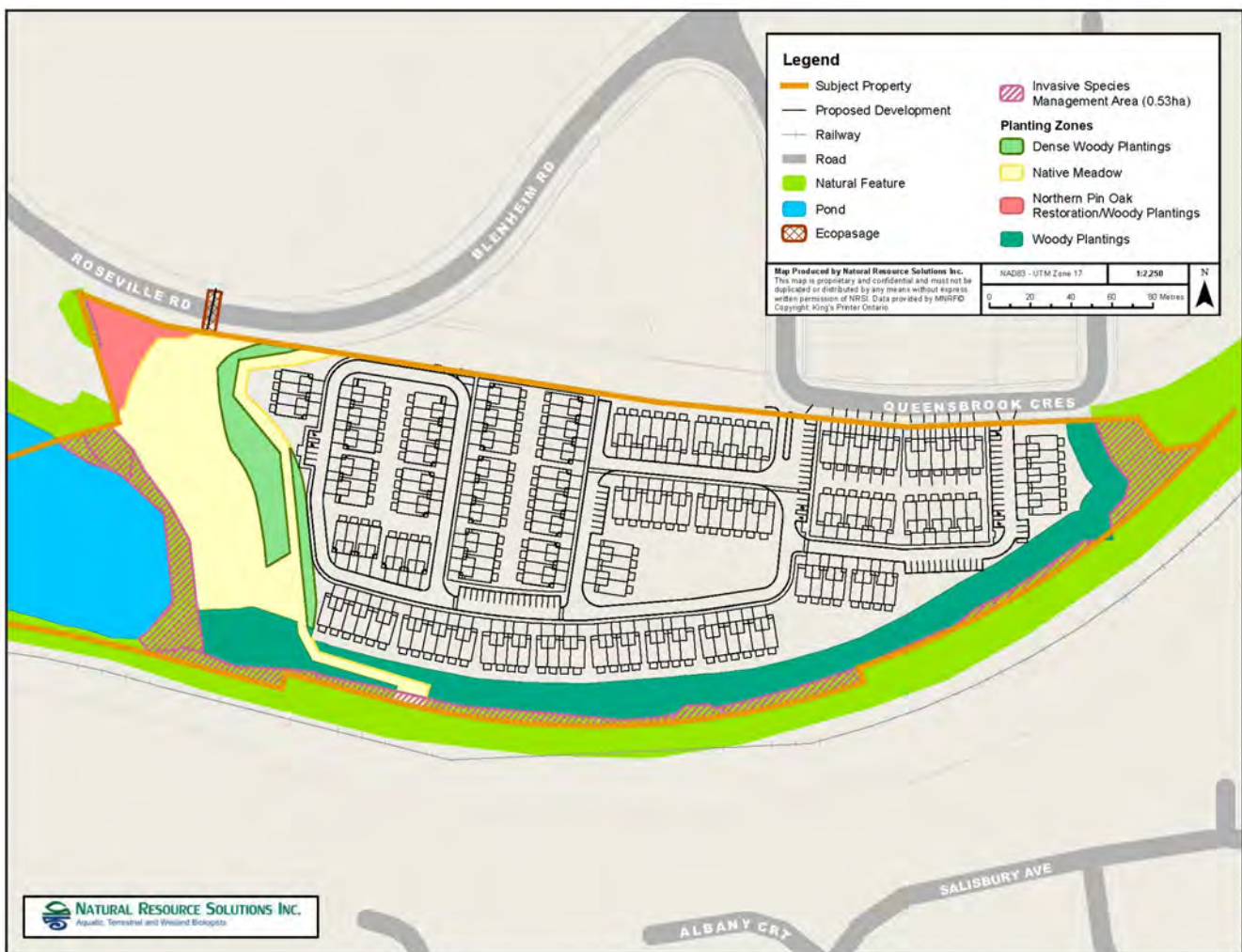
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Buffer Enhancement Measures

Buffer enhancement measures are important for preserving natural features and minimizing the impact of development. These measures include safeguarding vegetation and tree root zones, protecting surface water quality, enhancing habitat areas, boosting ecological linkages, and establishing specific buffer zones.

For Black Oaks, we've implemented a 70m buffer zone for the wetlands and a 15m buffer zone for the woodlands.



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Buffer Enhancement Measures Cont.

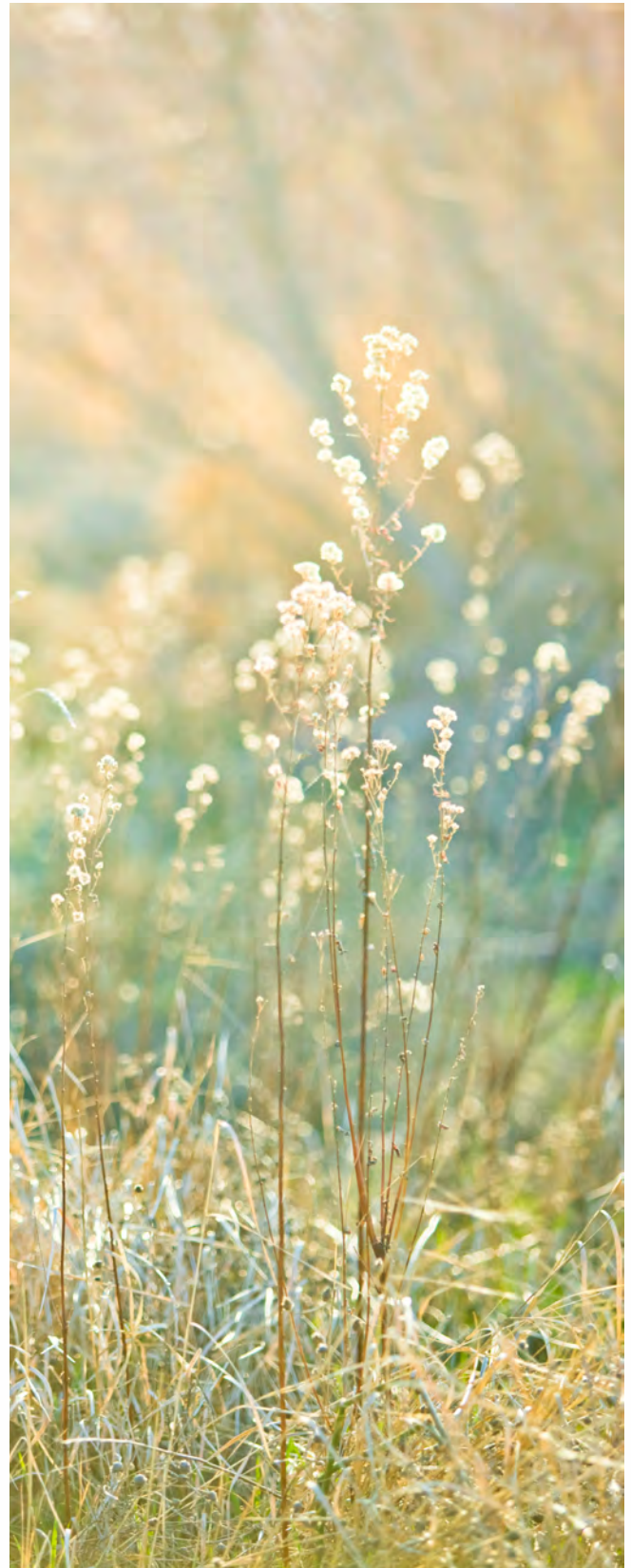
70m Wetland Buffer

This area is home to various rare and provincially significant species. To support continued nesting activity, the current turtle nesting core must remain open. Here are the buffer management objectives:

- ***Preserve existing vegetation***
- ***Minimize disturbances to breeding and migratory waterbirds***
- ***Reduce negative impacts on future land uses***
- ***Address water quality concerns***
- ***Clear small areas of shrubs surrounding the wetland to allow turtles to move in and out.***

15m Woodland Buffer

The existing ecological linkage #4 must be maintained and enhanced to ensure **improved connectivity between core natural features for a variety of wildlife and plant species.**



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Ecological Linkages

Here are some key points about the ecological linkages:

- **Ecological Linkage #4** involves implementing a 15m buffer to allow native plantings to enhance the MESP (Master Environmental Servicing Plan). This will improve connectivity between natural features and improve plant migration, benefiting various wildlife species.
- **Ecological Linkage #7b** is to improve the movement of herpetofauna, allowing easier access to breeding habitats, foraging sites, and nesting grounds.

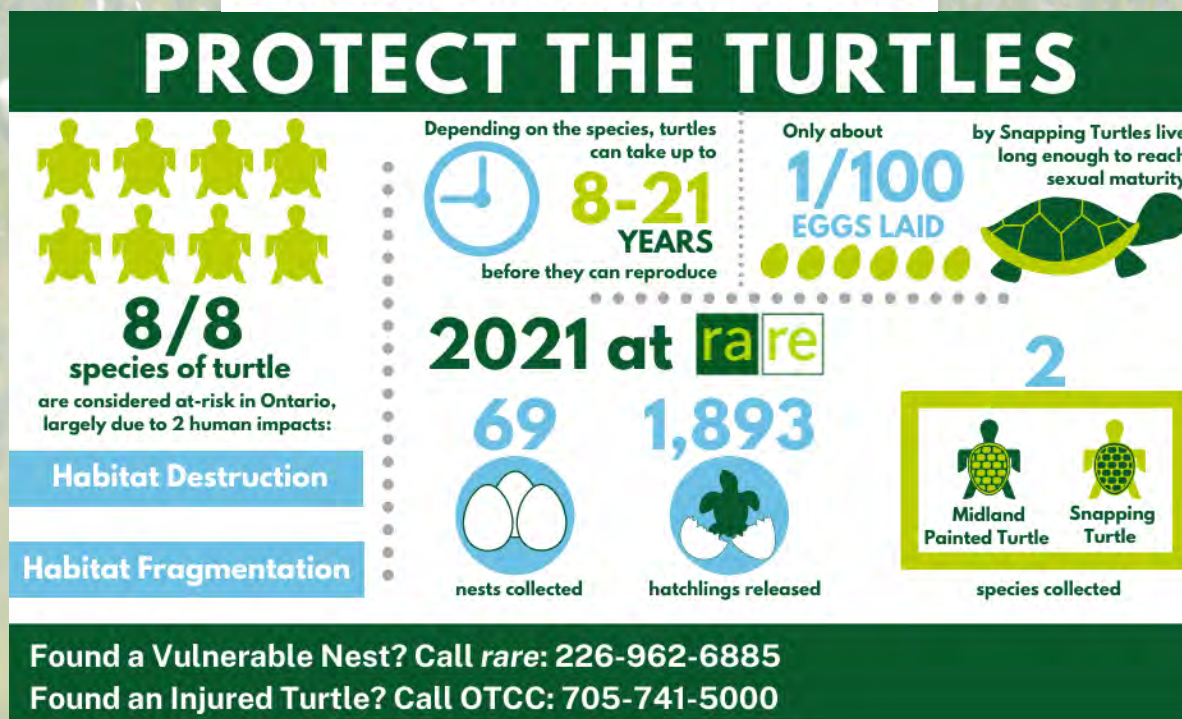


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Preserving the Wetlands and Woodlands for Turtles

Barrie's Lake is a Provincially Significant Wetland that is known to provide significant habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. **An example of this is the important habitat that it provides for turtles, including nesting habitats along the adjacent shoreline.** It is essential to understand the impact you could have on the turtles and their nesting activities.

Volunteer with **rare Charitable Research Reserve** to help protect the turtles and all the natural environments. For more information, contact them at **rare@raresites.org** or **519-650-9336**



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Protecting Wildlife from Road Hazards

The Region of Waterloo is taking action to address the issue of wildlife affected by road crossings, particularly turtles. To mitigate the risks of road traffic to wildlife, they will construct ecopassages and funnel fencing at three different locations. This project is set to take place in the near future!

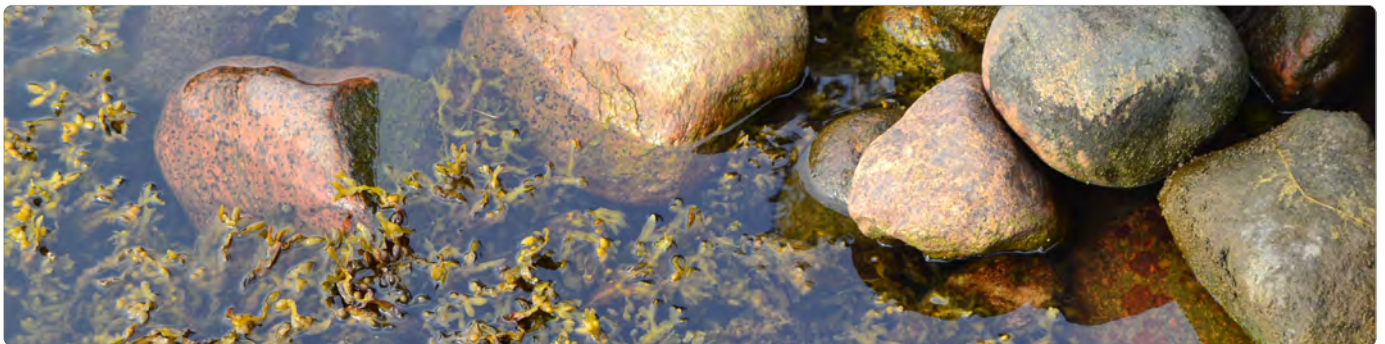


An example of a road crossing
on Roseville Road in Cambridge



The Buffer Restoration Management Plan aims to maintain and enhance wildlife movement around wetlands by establishing basking habitats for turtles and snakes, and placing basking objects near the water's edge.

The plan also includes buffer restoration plantings using native herbaceous seed mix and removal of invasive species.



Basking Objects- Rocks, Logs etc.

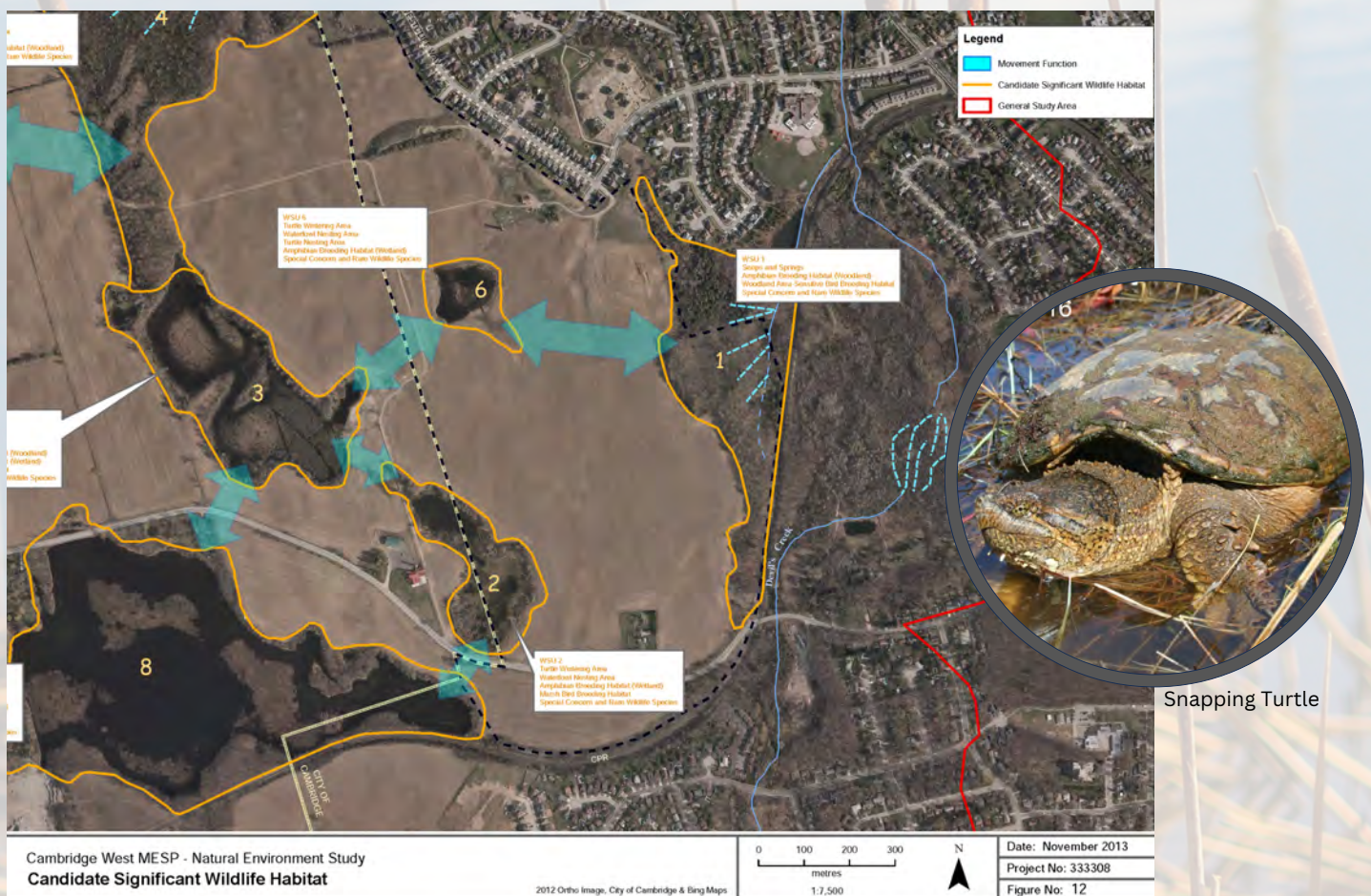
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Designated Local Wildlife Habitat (SWH)

The City has officially recognized this area as a Locally Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) due to its significance as a sanctuary for the Northern Pin Oak and a safe haven for turtles. The western end of the property has been identified as a Turtle Nesting Area SWH, with several documented nests for the Midland Painted Turtle and the Snapping Turtle.

At Barrie's Lake, SWHs have been identified as: Turtle Wintering Area, Waterfowl Nesting Area, Turtle Nesting Area, Amphibian Breeding Habitat (woodland & wetland), Marsh Bird Breeding Habitat, Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species and Amphibian Movement Corridor



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Understanding the Importance of Turtle Nesting Habitat

In provincial areas, Turtle Nesting Habitat is considered crucial when at least five **Midland Painted Turtles** or **Snapping Turtles** are confirmed to have nested. Multiple Nesting Areas were found on the property. ***This highlights the significance of Barrie's Lake as a turtle habitat and serves as a reminder to preserve it.***



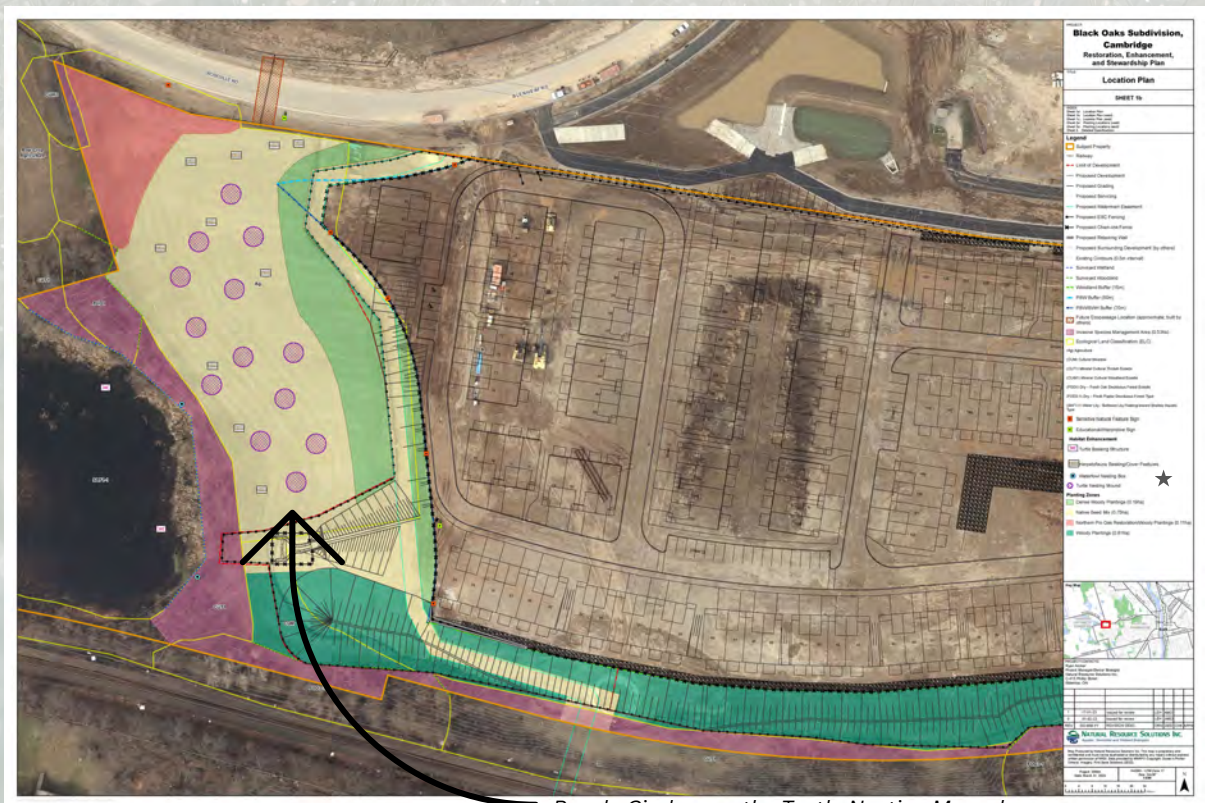
Midland Painted Turtle



Snapping Turtle

Improving Turtle Nesting Habitat

Turtles typically seek out agricultural field edges near aquatic habitats to lay their eggs. It is critical to develop specialized nesting habitats in these areas to improve the success rates of nesting and hatching. Accommodating these changes will require leaving a 70m buffer in an open condition to maintain and enhance the habitats of these creatures.



Purple Circles are the Turtle Nesting Mounds

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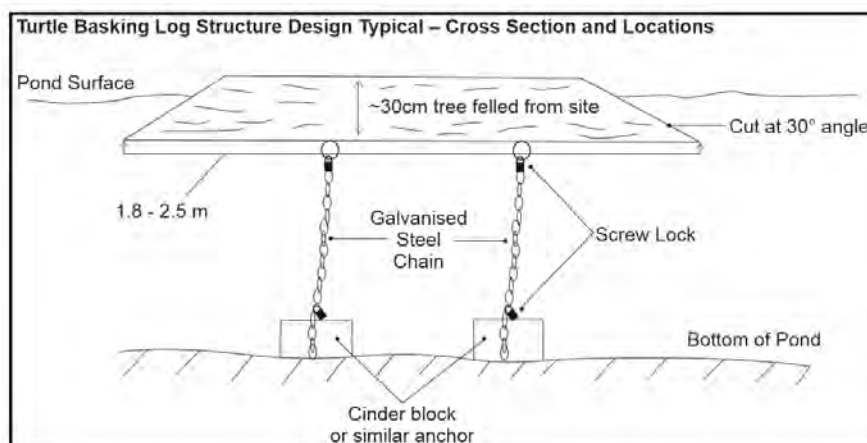
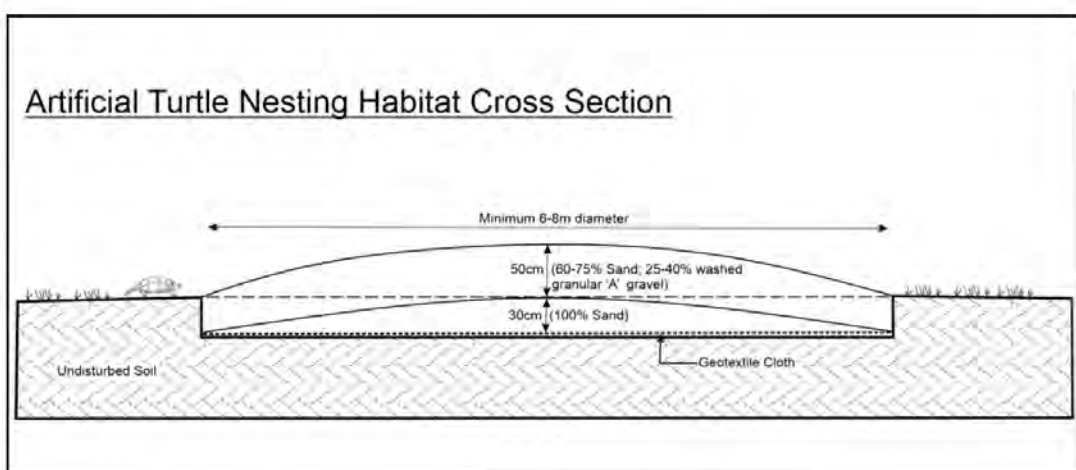
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Creating Turtle Nesting Mounds

If you're on the lookout for turtle nesting areas, keep an eye out for mounds ranging from 0.5m to 6m in diameter. These mounds are strategically placed in sunny areas. We again, ask you to avoid these areas and visit a local trail to enjoy the wildlife and natural environment!

Preparing Turtle Nesting Zone for Habitat Maintenance

In order to make nesting areas more accessible to turtles, native low-growing grasses will be planted in open areas of the buffer. This land is intended to be donated by Freure Homes to the **rare Charitable Research Reserve** to ensure that the nesting habitat is well-maintained and managed effectively.



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Species of Trees and Wetlands Found in Black Oaks Subdivision Buffers

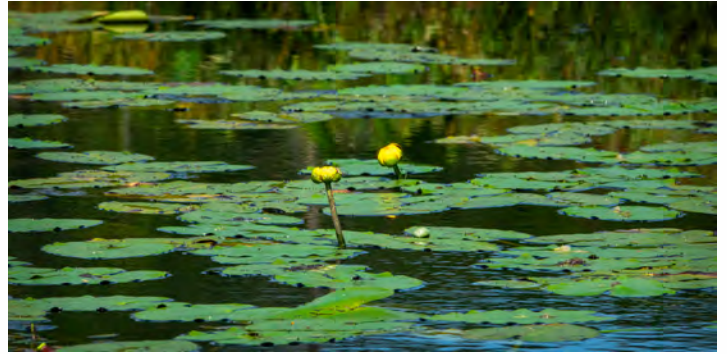
The buffers surrounding the Black Oaks subdivision have been restored with tree and shrub plantings that are native to the local area:

Woodlands - Red Maple, Eastern White Pine, Black Cherry, Alternate-leaved Dogwood, Red Oak, American Hazelnut, Common Hackberry, Staghorn Sumac, Northern Pin Oak, Trembling Aspen, Bur Oak, Gray Dogwood, Eastern Red Cedar, Nannyberry and American Basswood

Wetlands - Portions of the buffer next to Barrie's Lake have been restored as open habitat to benefit sun-loving species such as turtles. This area has been seeded with native herbaceous species such as Common Milkweed, New England Aster, Canada Anemone, Heath Aster, Canada Wild Rye, Wild Bergamot, and Black-eyed Susan.

Preserving Ontario's Natural Treasures

In Ontario, both the Northern Pin Oak and the Large Yellow Pond Lily are regarded as rare species. It is imperative that we take steps to protect these valuable plant species, as well as the habitats of local wildlife.



Large Yellow Pond Lily



Northern Pin Oak

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Living in Harmony with Nature

General rules to follow when or if you see wildlife:

- Leave all wildlife alone when you encounter them! They may be cute, but can become aggressive if threatened or cornered!
- Do not feed wildlife; not only will it encourage more wild visitors, it can do more harm than good.
- Always clean up garbage and food items from parks, playgrounds, and public places. Keep food scraps in closed green bins so as not to attract wildlife.
- Don't feed your pet outside. Keep your cats indoors to avoid disrupting the ecosystem and disturbing the wildlife.
- Always keep your dogs on a leash when off your property. It's safer for both your pet and wildlife, and it is also the law.
- Although the natural lands by Black Oaks are incredibly scenic and calming, we kindly request that you explore the various trails that the City of Cambridge has to offer. This will help preserve the nesting turtles and their natural habitat near Black Oaks, preventing any unnecessary disruption.

Sandhill Crane



Barn Swallow



Barrie's Lake: A Vital Habitat for Various Bird Species

Barrie's Lake is recognized as a significant bird habitat that houses over 80 species within a 10km radius of Black Oaks. Additionally, it serves as a critical stop-over and staging habitat for migrating waterfowl species.

Some of the birds that can be found in the area are the Belted Kingfisher, Sandhill Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Red-Winged Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, Sora, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow and Eastern Wood-Pewee

The Barn Swallow is designated as threatened in Ontario and nationally by COSEWIC, and is protected under the ESA. Barrie's Lake provides an excellent source of insect prey for these birds due to its open waters and wetlands.

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Discover the Fauna: Mammals & Amphibians in the Vicinity

Here are some of the interesting creatures you can find in the area:
Spring Peeper, Northern Leopard Frog, Green Frog, Bullfrog, American Toad, Eastern Milksnake, White-Tailed Deer, Raccoon, Grey Squirrel and Eastern Chipmunk

Eastern Milksnake



White-Tailed Deer



Northern Leopard Frog



Eastern Chipmunk

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Maintaining a Clean and Safe Subdivision

Let's work together to keep our community healthy and safe for everyone. Here are some simple ways to help:

- Avoid spilling gasoline, solvents, pool chemicals, or oil as our local soils are very porous and can contaminate groundwater.
- Use fewer pesticides and chemicals to reduce environmental impact.
- Separate recyclable waste in blue boxes and green bins.
- Consider carpooling, using public transportation, biking, or walking to reduce carbon footprint.
- Plant a garden with native species to prevent non-native/invasive species from entering the natural areas.
- Conserve electricity and water by using them sparingly.
- Teach your family how they can help preserve the environment!



Watering times as per the Region of Waterloo:

The Water Conservation By-Law is in effect from May 1 to September 30, annually. Watering days are based on the last digit in your municipal address/ house number. (0 or 1 Monday, 2 or 3 Tuesday, 4 or 5 Wednesday, 6 or 7 Thursday, or 8 or 9 Friday).

All watering must take place between the restricted hours of 5:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

- Residents are permitted to irrigate gardens, trees, shrubs, and other outdoor plants on alternate days. Municipal addresses ending in even numbers are permitted to water gardens, etc. on even-numbered dates of the month and odd addresses may water gardens on odd-numbered dates within the time restrictions.
- The washing of cars with a controlled hose will be permitted on alternate days within the time restrictions.
- Topping up of permanent residential pools is allowed on alternate days within the time restrictions.
- Residents with new sod or seed must obtain a sign from the Region by calling 519.575.4495.
- Watering with a watering can is permitted any day.

Provided by the Region of Waterloo.



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Is it okay to use a deicer?

The short answer is NO. Salt is corrosive to concrete and will eventually, if not immediately cause damage to many types of concrete. Dissolved salt can also percolate down to our groundwater.

What about “Environmentally Friendly” deicers?

There are four primary types of deicing salts that all have different characteristics and are each designed to work in certain temperature ranges.

1. The most common deicing salt is regular rock salt or sodium chloride. It is widely available and can melt snow and ice until the temperature drops below -8C. Below these temperatures, the rock salt stops melting snow and ice. Rock salt also releases the highest amount of chloride ions when it dissolves. Chloride can pollute waterways, rivers, lakes and can cause metal to corrode. Sodium chloride is also toxic to plants. eg. Use sparingly to avoid killing your landscaping.

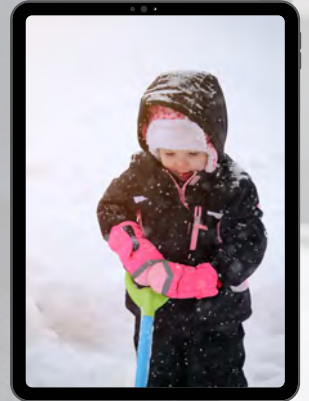
2. Calcium chloride is another deicing salt that is commonly marketed in tiny white pellets.

It can melt snow and ice well below -17C. It can irritate your hands if they are moist when using it and will chemically attack concrete.

3. Potassium chloride is another deicing salt that is now available. It is not a skin irritant and will not harm your vegetation, but will only melt ice and snow when the temperature is -9C or above.

4. The newest deicing salt is magnesium chloride. It will continue to melt snow and ice well below -25C. This salt releases about 40 percent less chloride into the environment than either rock salt or calcium chloride. It can be less damaging to concrete surfaces.

Deicers can harm the environment and damage concrete by increasing freeze/thaw cycles. Sand or fine gravel can be used instead of deicers. If deicers are used, it's important to remove ice and residue immediately after melting and use a salt-resistant sealer to protect the surface. Some sealants have grip additives to increase traction.



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Contacts & References

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www.cambridge.ca

Region of Waterloo

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Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3
Phone: 519-575-4400
regionalinquiries@regionofwaterloo.ca
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/sustainability

Grand River Conservation Authority

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Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Phone: 519-621-2761
grca@grandriver.ca
www.grandriver.ca

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