

Natural Heritage Evaluation

10604 Old Scugog Road

Township of Scugog

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Executive Summary

This report presents a Phase 1, desktop-based Natural Heritage Evaluation for the proposed development at 10604 Old Scugog Road, Township of Scugog, Regional Municipality of Durham. The purpose of this assessment is to identify key natural heritage features, applicable legislation, and potential environmental constraints using available federal, provincial, and regional policy frameworks and spatial datasets. The analysis is based solely on secondary sources and aerial imagery and no field surveys were conducted. A Phase 2 field-based evaluation is recommended to confirm these findings prior to detailed design or construction. The development in this area requires the completion of a Natural Heritage Evaluation. This report has been made to meet the requirements of Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP 2017), Green Belt Plan (2017), Township of Scugog and Durham region's Official Plan.

This report represents a Phase 1 desktop-based Natural Heritage Evaluation. Data collection relied on secondary sources including NHIC, GBIF, Birds Canada, Ontario GeoHub, and aerial imagery analysis. No on-site field verification was conducted. It is recommended that a qualified biologist conduct seasonal field surveys prior to detailed design to confirm habitat boundaries, species presence, and breeding activity.

The Proposed development will include a private 5-hole golf course and a minor storage unit for personal recreational use constructed in the area behind the existing houses.

Natural features in the property with 120m of area include woodlands, wetlands (non-significant), a creek and a man-made pond.

Based on the analysis, the future construction envelope is located in the area that would create the least amount of impact the key Natural heritage features of Oak Ridges Moraine, its functionality and biomechanism, Including the Woodlands, wetland and watercourse. The recommendations have also been proposed in this report to minimize the potential impacts during the development processes.

If the development is done in accordance with the proposed recommendations, no negative impact is anticipated on the oak ridges moraine features.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natural Heritage Evaluation report is prepared for the proposed development of 5 Hole golf course at 10604 Old Scugog Road in the Township of Scugog. The currently is used as agricultural land. The north of the construction envelope contains a woodland, non-significant wetlands and a creek called Blackstone creek that passes through the Natural key features. The proposed development is located within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation area therefore a Natural Heritage Evaluation report was mandatory to know more about the Impacts and mitigations measures that can be taken to minimize the loss in ecosystem. This report has been prepared in compliance with the Oak Ridges Conservation plan, the Township of Scugog Official Plan, Durham Region Official plan and other legislations.

The Proponent wishes to retain the residential development near the proposed site for future resale.

1.2 Location and Proposed area envelope

The Proposed area is located at 10604 Old Scugog, Township of Scugog, Lot 11 Concession 1 Cartwright. To the South of the Old Scugog Road is small town residential settlement and to the north is the Blackstock settlement. The Development proposal is located on a rectangular lot with a two residential houses and mostly agricultural land. The site also contains a man-made pond site and there are natural features including Wetland and woodland extending from northwest to northeast along the Blackstone creek.

The Proposed development is a 5-course golf hole, a storage and a cottage facility. The proposed golf course is about 1.23 ha in area and proposed storage and cottage facility will occupy about 0.33 ha of the land. The proposed development is about 11% of the

total area of the lot. The proposed will have transportation facility through already developed driveway.

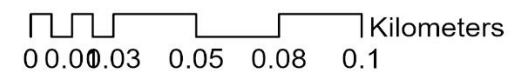


	Watercourses
	wetlands Buffer
	Development Area
	wetlands
	woodlands



10604 Old Scugog Road
Lot 11 Concession 1 Cartwright

Scale: 1:2,055



map 1: Development site

2. Study rationale

The government of Canada and Ontario has strong legislative framework that protects the key natural features and prevents any harm to these features due to development. The development and the developer must obey these legislations and determine if the development is feasible. In this case, there are numerous pieces of legislation that this report confirms that are:

Federal Laws and guidelines:

Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994

The Migratory birds and Convention Act outlines the Canada's legal framework for protecting migratory birds, detailing prohibitions against harming birds and their habitats.

Section 4: The purpose of this Act is to implement the Convention by protecting and conserving migratory birds — as populations and individual birds — and their nests. 1994, c. 22, s. 4; 2005, c. 23, s. 3.

(Government of Canada)

Other sections of the Act that prohibits the disposal of harmful substances to bird habitat are:

Section 5.1 (1) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance that is harmful to migratory birds, or permit such a substance to be deposited, in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.

(Government of Canada)

For developers:

Section 5.4 Every master, chief engineer, owner and operator of a vessel — and, if the owner or operator is a corporation, every director and officer of the corporation who is in a position to direct or influence its policies or activities relating to conduct prohibited by section 5.1 — shall take all reasonable care to ensure that the vessel and all persons on board the vessel comply with section 5.1. 2005, c. 23, s. 4.

(Government of Canada)

Part of Section 13.09 (what includes consequences of harming Bird habitat and migratory birds) states that:

Migratory Birds Convention, 1994 Convention concernant les oiseaux migrateurs (1994) Offences and Punishment Infractions et peines Sections 13.09-13.1 Articles 13.09-13.1

(a) to deter the offender and any other person from committing offences under this Act;

(b) to denounce unlawful conduct that damages or creates a risk of damage to migratory birds or their nests; and

(c) to reinforce the “polluter pays” principle and to re-store migratory birds and their habitats.

2009, c. 14, s. 102.

(Government of Canada)

Part of article IV also states that:

Article IV: Each High Contracting Power shall use its authority to take appropriate measures to preserve and enhance the environment of migratory birds. In particular, it shall, within its constitutional authority:

(a) seek means to prevent damage to such birds and their environments, including damage resulting from pollution;

(b) endeavour to take such measures as may be necessary to control the importation of live animals and plants which it determines to be hazardous to the preservation of such birds;

(Government of Canada)

Fisheries act, 1985

The Fisheries Act documents define the Minister’s roles and powers related to fishing and hydrology in Canada and this document also highlights the regulations concerning fish habitat and Pollution prevention.

Death of fish Mort du poisson

Section 34.4 (1) No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity, other than fishing, that results in the death of fish.

(Government of Canada)

However, the next line to this Section also gives certain exceptions.

Also,

Harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat

35 (1) No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.

(Government of Canada)

Section **34.1**, before presenting the development to the Minister, the proponent should consider different factors like contribution to productivity of fisheries in fish habitat, management objectives, avoid or mitigate the death of fish or avoid, minimize and mitigate the disruption, alteration and disposal of waste into fish habitat.

Section 34.1 (1) (f) whether any measures and standards to offset the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat give priority to the restoration of degraded fish habitat;

(Government of Canada)

The above section of the Acts talks about the damage to hydrology and appropriate steps should be taken to compensate for these features

For the disposal of waste:

Disposal of remains, etc. Déchets

(2) Remains or offal described in subsection (1) may be buried ashore, above high water mark.

(2) Les déchets ou issues de poissons peuvent être enter-rés sur la grève, au-delà de la laisse de haute mer.

Deposit of deleterious substance prohibited Dépôt de substances nocives prohibé

(3) Subject to subsection (4), no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance or any other

(Government of Canada)

Provincial Legislations

Endangered Species Act, 2007

The Endangered Species Act protects the endangered and threatened species by prohibiting the development in the key natural heritage features. It provides mechanisms like permits and regulatory exemptions for activities (including development) that might impact habitat, but these mechanisms come with conditions often requiring mitigation, rehabilitation, restoration, or the provision of alternative habitat to ensure the protection and recovery of species at risk.

Prohibition on damage to habitat, etc.

Section 10 (1) No person shall damage or destroy the habitat of, (a) a species that is listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an endangered or threatened species; or (b) a species that is listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an extirpated species, if the species is prescribed by the regulations for the purpose of this clause. 2007, c. 6, s. 10 (1).

Under **Section 41 (1)** a person convicted of offence under this act, fines and imprisonment can be imposed.

(Government of Ontario, 2007)

Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

The Provincial Planning Statement provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The provincial Policy statement guides the development adjacent to the land as outlined in section 4.1.1, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.1.8 and suggests that the proponent should demonstrate no net negative impact on the Ecological function of the natural heritage features.

Section 4.1.1. Natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term.

Section 4.1.5. Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:

-
- a) significant wetlands in the Canadian Shield north of Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1;*
 - b) significant woodlands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and the St. Marys River)1;*
 - c) significant valleylands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and the St. Marys River)1;*
 - d) significant wildlife habitat;*
 - e) significant areas of natural and scientific interest; and*
 - f) coastal wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1 that are not subject to policy4.1.4.b), unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.*

Section 4.1.6. Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in fish habitat except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

Section 4.1.7. Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in habitat of endangered species and threatened species, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

(Government of Ontario, 2024)

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation plan, 2017

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is set out in O. Reg. 140/02 under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001. The purpose of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is to provide land use and resource management planning direction to provincial ministers, ministries, and agencies, municipalities, landowners and other stakeholders on how to protect Moraine's ecological and hydrological features and functions. Some of the sections from this plan also highlight the key natural features (stated below) and if development is to happen near these features it calls for a natural heritage evaluation report or EIS.

Section 22. (1) The following are key natural heritage features:

- 1. Wetlands.***
- 2. Habitat of endangered and threatened species.***
- 3. Fish habitat.***
- 4. Areas of natural and scientific interest (life science)***
- 5. Significant valleylands.***

6. Significant woodlands.

7. Significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species).

8. Sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies.

(2) All development and site alteration with respect to land within a key natural heritage feature or the related minimum vegetation protection zone is prohibited, except some of the development stated in the same section in the plan.

(3) An application for development or site alteration with respect to land within the minimum area of influence that relates to a key natural heritage feature, but outside the key natural heritage feature itself and the related minimum vegetation protection zone, shall be accompanied by a natural heritage evaluation under section 23.

A detailed guide to the Natural Evaluation report is highlighted in Section 23 of the plan.

(Government of Ontario, 2017)

Green Belt Plan, 2017

The green belt plan provides permanent protection to the natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in southcentral Ontario will be organized. Similar to the ORMCP, the section from the green belt plan also outlines the key natural features in the green belt area boundary and sets restrictions for the development in and adjacent land to the natural feature area.

Section 3.2.2.3. New development or site alteration in the Natural Heritage System (as permitted by the policies of this Plan) shall demonstrate that:

a) There will be no negative impacts on key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features or their functions;

b) Connectivity along the system and between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features located within 240 meters of each other will be maintained or, where possible, enhanced for the movement of native plants and animals across the landscape;

c) The removal of other natural features not identified as key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features should be avoided. Such features should be incorporated into the planning and design of the proposed use wherever possible;

Section 3.2.5 also Highlights the Key features and asks for an evaluation report showing no negative impact if development is to happen.

(Government of Onatrio, 2017)

Regional plans

Durham region official plan

The Durham region official plan (Upper tier) revised in 2024 protects the natural heritage features in the region through various policies stated in the Official plan. The Section 7.4 Regional Natural heritage system states its objective as ***Ensure the identification, protection, restoration and enhancement of the regional natural heritage system and its natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions.***

It is the policy of the Council to:

7.4.4 Prohibit development and site alteration within the regional natural heritage system, except as permitted by the applicable provincial plans.

7.4.5 Require an environmental impact study for development and site alteration within 120 meters of the natural heritage system.

7.4.10 Require that area municipalities identify individual key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and associated minimum vegetation protection zones within their official plans and zoning by-laws, informed by watershed plans and environmental impact studies that are prepared as part of development applications.

7.4.13 Require an environmental impact study, in accordance with Policy 7.4.15 or a natural heritage/hydrologic evaluation, for any development or site alteration outside of Urban Areas and Rural Settlements within 120 meters of a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature (except where the only feature is habitat of endangered and/or threatened species) to identify a vegetation protection zone

(Municipality of Durham, 2024)

Township of Scugog Official Plan, 2017

Township of Scugog official plan defines the intent of township in the direction of growth and development while safeguarding the key natural features in the area. The official plan guides the developers through development around the natural features while protecting them.

Section 2.2 Natural heritage features will be protected in the Township consistent with the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and other Natural Heritage Plans and Subwatershed Studies recognized by the Township to provide long term and sustainable environmental, economic and social benefits.

Section 3.7 Environmental Impact studies outline the need for Impact studies if the development is near the natural heritage features, it states:

Before development is approved in the area subject to the EIS, the EIS shall demonstrate that the relevant policies of this Plan are met. The EIS shall demonstrate that the use will:

- ***Not have a negative impact on significant natural heritage features and related ecological functions;***
- ***Not discharge any substance that could have an adverse effect on air quality, groundwater, surface water and associated plant and animal life;***
- ***Be serviced by an adequate supply of water and that the groundwater takings associated with the use will not have an adverse effect on existing water supplies, surface water features and associated plant and animal life;***
- ***Not cause erosion or siltation of watercourses or unacceptable changes to watercourse morphology; Not interfere with groundwater recharge to the extent that it would adversely affect groundwater supply for any use;***
- ***Not cause an increase in flood potential on or off the site; Maintain/enhance/restore/rehabilitate the natural condition of affected watercourses, and protect/enhance/restore/rehabilitate aquatic habitat;***
- ***Not encourage the demand for further development that would negatively affect wetland function or contiguous wetland areas;***
- ***Enhance and restore endangered terrestrial and aquatic habitat where appropriate and feasible;***

- *Not unduly interfere with the function of existing or potential natural corridors that are determined to be of significance;*
- *Not lead to a reduction to the extent of significant woodlands;*
- *and, Not lead to species loss or negative impacts on endangered, threatened or special concern species and/or their habitat.*

(Township of Scugog, 2017)

Kawartha region Conservation authority Plan Review and Regulation Policies, 2013

The primary purpose of this Plan Review and Regulation Policies manual is to update, consolidate and clearly articulate the policies that guide KRCA staff when providing planning advice to participating watershed municipalities and when evaluating applications for permission under the CA Act Section 28 Regulation administered by KRCA (O. Reg. 182/06).

For development near the wetlands the plan has provisions that says:

New Development and/or Site Alteration

Section 3.4.7(1) Further to Policy 3.3(1), for all new development proposals involving site alterations where a wetland is present on or adjacent to lands subject to the development proposal, KRCA may recommend an on-site wetland boundary delineation/staking. This boundary delineation shall be illustrated on a Reference Plan or Site Plan. In the case of provincially significant wetlands, where an approved Ministry of Natural Resources' boundary differs from that identified on-site, the proponent will be responsible for obtaining acceptance of the new provincially significant wetland boundary from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Section 3.4.7(2) For new development proposals adjacent to an unevaluated wetland, KRCA may recommend the submission of an Environmental Impact Study that provides an evaluation of wetland significance in accordance with the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System.

Section 3.4.7(3) In keeping with the provisions of the Provincial Policy Statement, KRCA will recommend that new development and/or site alteration not be permitted in provincially significant wetlands, except as may be permitted by the policies contained in Chapter 4.

Section 3.4.7(4) KRCA will recommend that a subdivision or condominium plan adjacent to a provincially significant wetland include protection of the wetland and applicable setback as determined in accordance with Policies 3.3.2(1) and 3.3.2(5).

KRCA will recommend that protected lands either be retained by the owner, held in common ownership, dedicated to a willing party (e.g., Conservation Authority, municipality, land trust organization, etc.) on a case-by-case basis depending on the interest of the respective parties, or at a minimum, zoned appropriately (e.g., Environmental Protection, Hazard Land, Open Space) to protect the feature.

Section 3.4.7(5) KRCA will recommend that a subdivision or condominium plan adjacent to all other wetlands (i.e., non-Provincially Significant) include protection of the wetland and an appropriate setback determined through the submission of a satisfactory Environmental Impact Study. KRCA will recommend that protected lands either be retained by the owner, held in common ownership, dedicated to a willing party (e.g., Conservation Authority, municipality, land trust organization, etc.) on a case-by-case basis depending on the interest of the respective parties, or at a minimum, zoned appropriately (e.g., Environmental Protection, Hazard Land, Open Space) to protect the feature.

(Kawartha Region Conservation authority, 2013)

Other Resources Used:

1. Aerial Imagery
2. Fish-On-Line Mapping from Ministry of natural resources
3. Bird mapping through Birds Canada's NatureCounts Mapping
4. Vegetation and wildlife mapping through GBIF database
5. iNaturalist species data using mapping

2. Study Methods

The study methods are divided into 2 phases:

1. Collecting data using aerial imagery and layering different layers in ArcGIS pro and google earth
2. Researching data within the web about plants, animals, fish, amphibians and other organisms

This study did not include field surveys due to project scope limitations. All feature boundaries, species occurrence data, and habitat assessments are based on publicly available spatial datasets, aerial imagery, and literature review. These results should be confirmed through ground surveys prior to final approvals.

Vegetation

The vegetation data is gathered using the aerial imagery from NHIC make a map and SOLRIS 3.0 Layers from Geohub, some vegetation species were also found on the GBIF website.

Bird and other wildlife

The bird data was found on the NatureCounts website by birds Canada and Ontario breeding bird atlas and mammals; amphibians and reptiles were found on the GBIF website.

Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH)

Research from different website data were collected using wildlife habitat layers from geo hub, Endangered fish species mapping through department of fisheries and oceans (DFO) aquatic species at risk mapping website

Key Natural Features

Wetlands

The aerial imagery was analyzed and compiled different layers (watercourses, wetlands) from Geohub and data from NHIC make a map was gathered.

The Boundary of the wetlands was marked based on data from different sources from different aerial layers and no site visit was conducted but a real project requires a site visit by different professionals.

Woodlands

Similar to the wetlands, the woodlands were also marked only based upon aerial imagery and spatial layers and analysis gathered from the NHIC make a map and woodland layer from Ontario Geohub.

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Fish and aquatic data were gathered from Ontario's Fish-On-Line and department of fisheries and oceans (DFO) aquatic species at risk mapping and using the flow of streams using watercourses data the aquatic habitat analysis has been made.

Fish Community

Using data from Fish-On-Line and stream direction, fish community data was gathered.

3. Study results

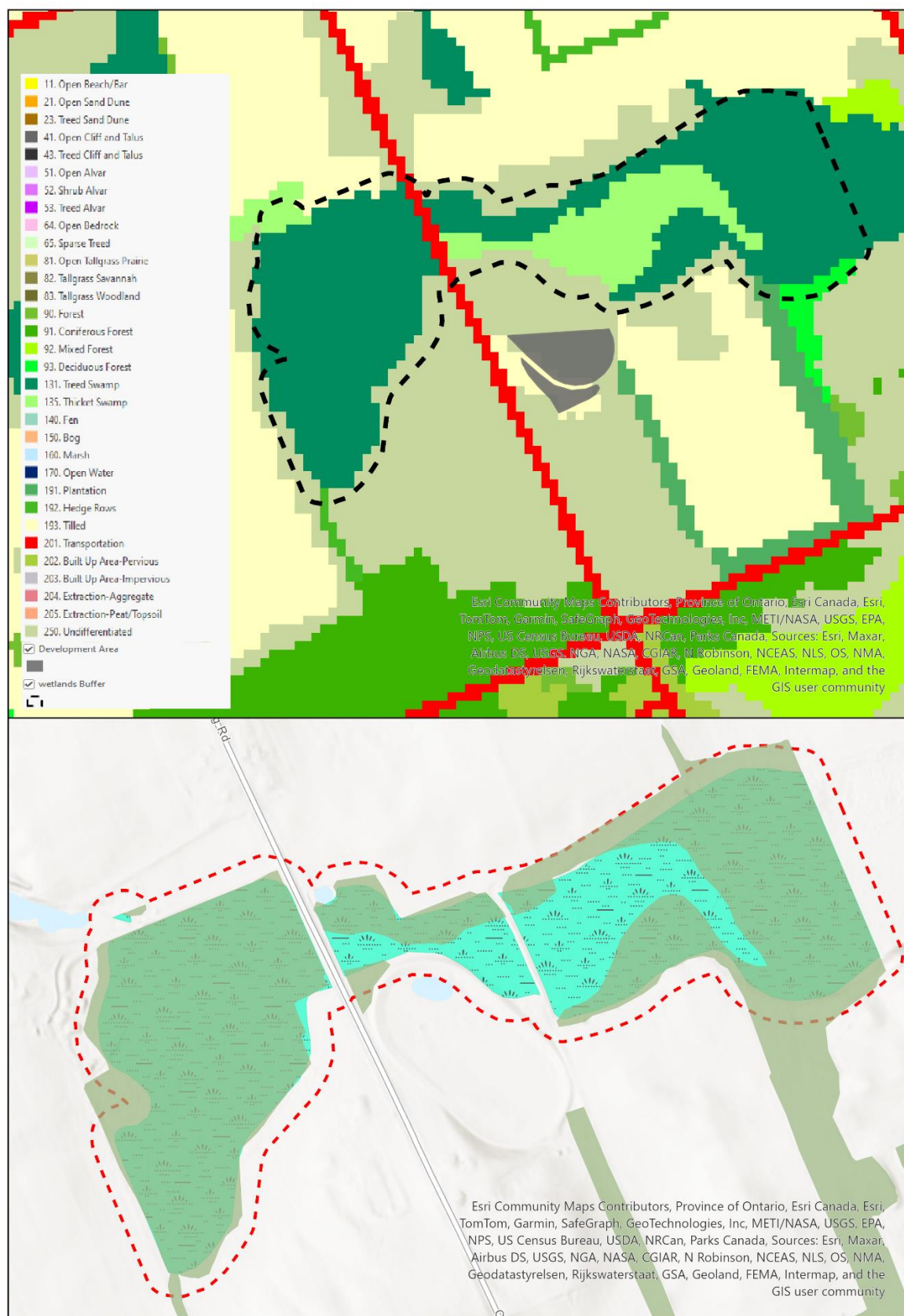
To the north of development parcel is a non-significant wetland and the development area is located on the area of influence (within 120 m of the Wetland) and the least distance between the development parcel and the wetlands is at least 60 m. The site studies were done, and results are as follows:

Vegetation

The vegetation studies were done based on the spatial imagery layers through different sources. The results show that the northern natural features to the development are the thicket swamp and treed swamp and watercourse flowing through the vegetation and to the southeastern side are Coniferous trees.



map 2: Wetlands and woodlands near the development area



The map illustrates the locations of wetlands, woodlands, and hydrological features within 120 m of the proposed development footprint, highlighting required vegetation protection zones.

The GBIF also gives information about the presence of the plantae species *Clematis virginiana* L. near the development area.



image 1: *Clematis virginiana* L.

OCCURRENCE | 31 OCTOBER 2020

Clematis virginiana L.

Devil's Darning Needles In English Observed in Canada


Plantae > Tracheophyta > Magnoliopsida > Ranunculales > Ranunculaceae > *Clematis*

DETAILS

Species: [Clematis virginiana](#) L.

Location: North America > Canada

Basis of record: Human observation



Dataset: [iNaturalist Research-grade Observations](#)

Publisher: [iNaturalist.org](#)

Reference: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/143471219>

Issues: Continent derived from coordinates Taxon ID not found

image 2. Data From GBIF

Birds and Other Wildlife

Data results from the GBIF, NatureCounts, NHIC and Ontario breeding bird Atlas show these results:

Birds:

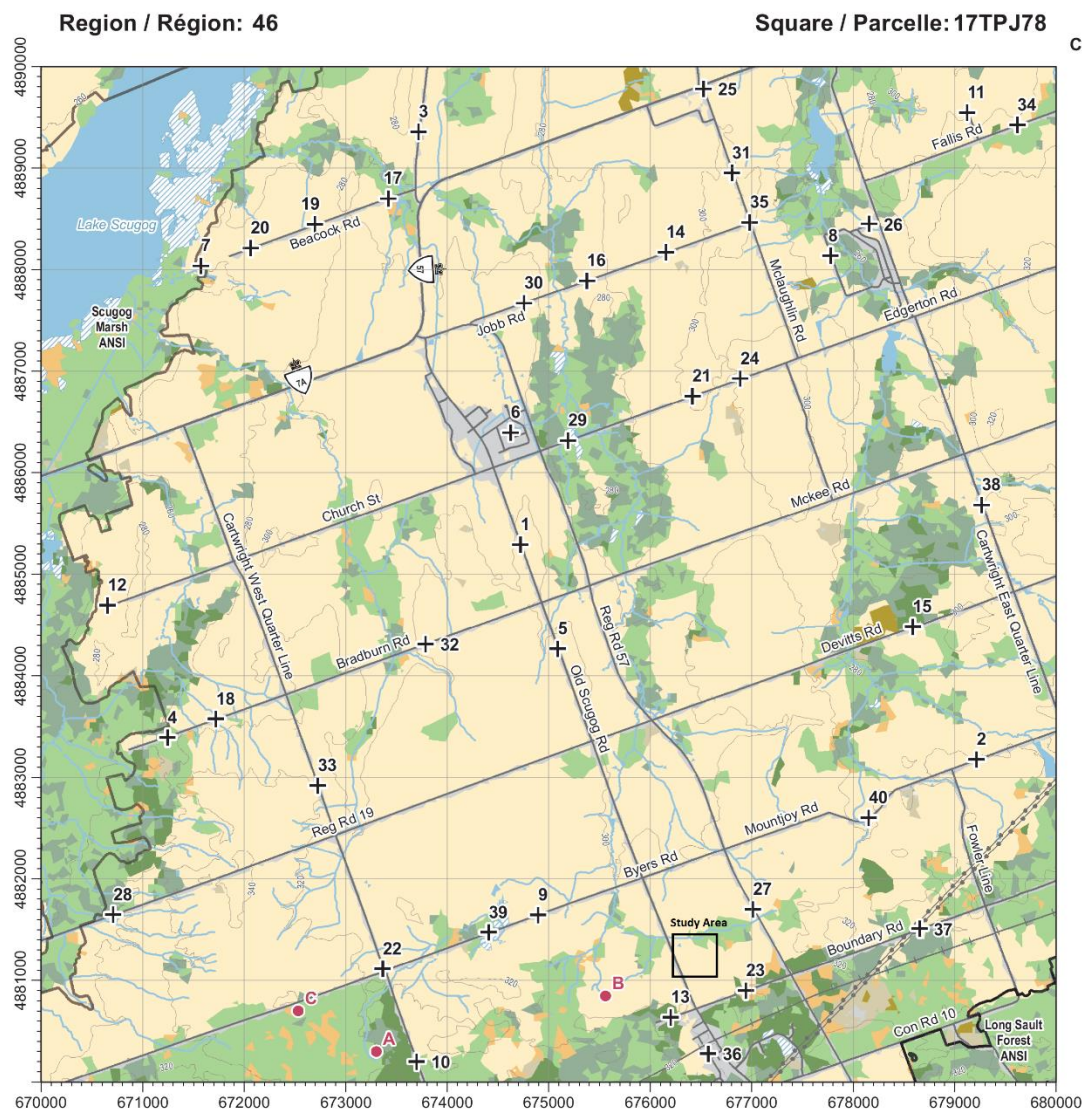
The Bird research results showed there are 27 Species of birds spotted in the area. That are as follows:

Record ID	Project	Dataset	Species name	Year	Month	Day	Site Code
3227882	Global Biodiversity Information Facility datasets	GBIF_50C9509D	Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	2022	5	17	null
231543836	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
232140934	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
233561202	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
233648067	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
233835659	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	gull sp. (<i>Larinae sp.</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
241922915	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
267955188	eBird Canada	EBIRD-CA-ON	American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	2020	4	26	L11332609
419078274	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419078377	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Vesper Sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419078384	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419078410	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419078448	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079160	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079167	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Ring-billed Gull (<i>Larus delawarensis</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079215	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079220	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78



419079228	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079242	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079286	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079322	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079327	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
419079338	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3PC*	Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>)	2023	7	10	17TPJ78
422410070	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas	ONATLAS3SS*	No observations (N/A)	2023	3	16	17TPJ78

Data 1: Bird species found around the development area



Predefined point count coordinates
Coordonnées des points d'écoute prédéterminés

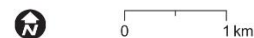
POINT +	EASTING UTM Est	NORTHING UTM Nord
1	674722	4885294
2	679214	4883175
3	673718	4889361
4	671244	4883390
5	675089	4884268
6	674623	4886395
7	671577	4888037
8	677776	4888138
9	674897	4881646
10	673700	4880200
11	679126	4889547
12	670653	4884693
13	676203	4880638
14	676156	4888173
15	678586	4884482
16	675373	4887892
17	673418	4888703
18	671721	4883574
19	672699	4888447
20	672061	4888215
21	676415	4886754
22	673366	4881113
23	676943	4880901
24	676890	4886928
25	676524	4889782
26	678160	4888451
27	677012	4881701
28	670709	4881647
29	675190	4886318
30	674758	4887671
31	676806	4888952
32	673790	4884313
33	672723	4882917
34	679617	4889426
35	676979	4888468
36	676571	4880278
37	678653	4881509
38	679265	4885684
39	674410	4881472
40	678154	4882603

Number of off-road point counts
Nombre de points d'écoute hors route

Broadleaf forest:	3	Grassland:	0
Coniferous forest:	1	Wetland:	0
Mixed forest:	1	Shrubland:	0

Predefined / Prédéterminés: 20
Off-road / Hors route: 5

Atlas-2 off-road point Point hors route
Atlas-2



Legend	Légende
Expressway or highway	Autoroute ou route nationale (asphaltée)
Regional or local road	Route régionale ou locale (asphaltée ou non)
Resource / Recreation	Ressource / route récréative
Rail line	Chemin de fer
Utility corridor	Ligne de transport d'énergie
Watercourse	Rivière ou ruisseau
Protected or conserved area	Zone protégée ou conservée
Fire disturbance since 2000	Incendie perturbé depuis 2000
Broadleaf forest	Forêt de feuillus
Coniferous forest	Forêt de conifères
Mixed forest	Forêt mixte
Shrubland	Milieu arbustif
Grassland	Prairie
Barren	Dénudé
Wetland	Milieu humide
Agriculture	Milieu agricole
Water	Eau
Developed area	Zone développée
Unclassified	Non classifié

The approximate percent coverage of each habitat type is indicated by the numbered box in the legend.

La couverture approximative est indiquée en pourcentage dans le rectangle coloré de la légende.

Cartographic production by Birds Canada
Production cartographique par oiseaux Canada

Note: The project partners are in no way responsible for any inaccuracies, mistakes or omissions in the information that appears on this map.
Avis : Les responsables du projet d'atlas ne peuvent être tenus responsables de toute inexactitude, erreur ou omission concernant les informations apparaissant sur cette carte.

6° Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Projection: Zone 17,
Central Meridian -81°; North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)

Projection universelle transverse de Mercator (UTM) 6°
Zone 17, méridien central -81°;

Système de référence géodésique nord-américain 1983 (NAD 83)



March 2021 / mars 2021

<https://www.birdsontario.org/>

17TPJ78

Durham

Region / Région: 46

Other Wildlife species

Data from different shows the other wildlife species present are:

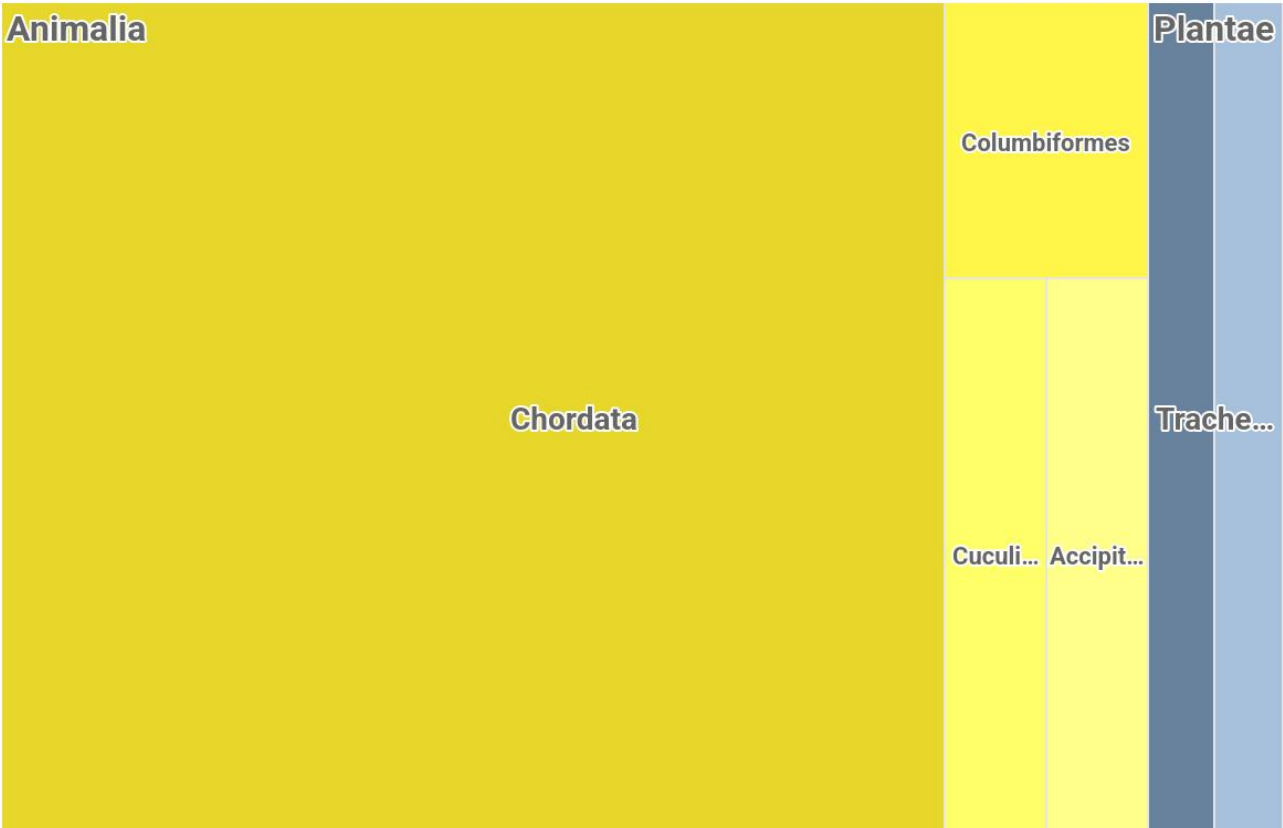


image 3: Distribution of Organisms

17 Animalia and 2 plantae species were found according to data from GBIF.

Occurrences	Scientific name	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Buteo platypterus (Vieillot, 1823)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	Buteo	Buteo platypterus
1	Corvus brachyrhynchos C.L.Brehm, 1822	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Corvidae	Corvus	Corvus brachyrhynchos
1	Sayornis phoebe (Latham, 1790)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	Sayornis	Sayornis phoebe
1	Molothrus ater (Boddaert, 1783)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Icteridae	Molothrus	Molothrus ater
1	Bombcilla cedrorum Vieillot, 1808	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Bombcillidae	Bombcilla	Bombcilla cedrorum
1	Sitta canadensis Linnaeus, 1766	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sittidae	Sitta	Sitta canadensis
1	Vireo olivaceus (Linnaeus, 1766)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Vireonidae	Vireo	Vireo olivaceus
1	Spizella passerina (Bechstein, 1798)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Passerellidae	Spizella	Spizella passerina
1	Melospiza melodia (A.Wilson, 1810)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Passerellidae	Melospiza	Melospiza melodia
1	Zenaida macroura (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Columbiformes	Columbidae	Zenaida	Zenaida macroura
1	Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (A.Wilson, 1811)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	Coccyzus	Coccyzus erythrophthalmus
1	Reynoutria japonica Houtt.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Caryophyllales	Polygonaceae	Reynoutria	Reynoutria japonica
1	Clematis virginiana L.	Plantae	Tracheophyta	Magnoliopsida	Ranunculales	Ranunculaceae	Clematis	Clematis virginiana
1	Contopus virens (Linnaeus, 1766)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	Contopus	Contopus virens
1	Troglodytes aedon Vieillot, 1809	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	Troglodytes	Troglodytes aedon
1	Spinus tristis (Linnaeus, 1758)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Fringillidae	Spinus	Spinus tristis
1	Setophaga pinus (Linnaeus, 1766)	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Parulidae	Setophaga	Setophaga pinus
1	Turdus migratorius Linnaeus, 1766	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Turdidae	Turdus	Turdus migratorius
1	Sturnus vulgaris Linnaeus, 1758	Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	Sturnus	Sturnus vulgaris

image 4: GBIF organisms' data

From NHIC:

NHIC Data

To work further with this data select the content and copy it into your own word or excel documents.

OGF ID	Element Type	Common Name	Scientific Name	SRank	SARO Status	COSEWIC Status	ATLAS NAD83 IDENT	COMMENTS
1046295	SPECIES	Henslow's Sparrow	Centronyx henslowii	S1B	END	END	17PJ7681	
1046295	SPECIES	Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	S3	END	END	17PJ7681	
1046295	SPECIES	Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna	S4B,S3N	THR	THR	17PJ7681	
1046295	SPECIES	Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	S4B	THR	SC	17PJ7681	
1046295	SPECIES	Eastern Wood-pewee	Contopus virens	S4B	SC	SC	17PJ7681	
1046295	SPECIES	Snapping Turtle	Chelydra serpentina	S4	SC	SC	17PJ7681	

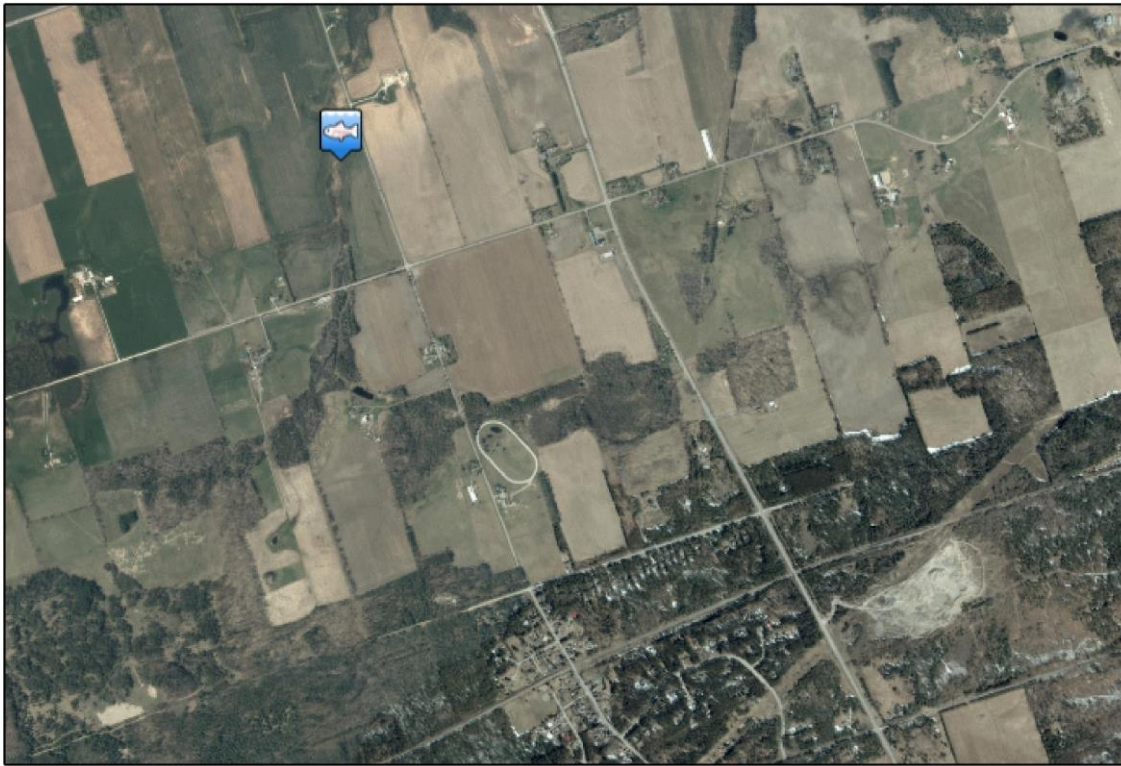
image 5: NHIC COSEWIC SAR Data

Aquatic life presence

The Data from Fish-On-Line and DFO showed that there is no Endangered aquatic habitat, and the results are as follows:

Blackstock Creek

Ontario 



Waterbody Information

Latitude: 44.074934
Longitude: -78.806565
Surface Area (ha): -
Maximum Depth (m): -
Average Depth (m): -
Fisheries Management Zone(s): 17
Bait Management Zone: Southern BMZ

Legend



Waterbody



Fish Sanctuary



Lake Depth Contours (m)



Fishing Access Points



Licence Issuer



Fisheries Management Zone



Bait Management Zone



Blackstock Creek



<u>Zone 17 Seasons & Limits</u>		
Species	Open Seasons	Limits
Atlantic Salmon*	4th Sat. in Apr. to Sept 30	S - 0 C - 0
Brook Trout*	4th Sat. in Apr. - Sept. 30	S - 2 C - 1
Brown Trout*	4th Sat. in Apr. - Sept. 30	S - 5 C - 2
Channel Catfish	4th Sat. in Apr. - Nov. 15	S - 12 C - 6
Crappie	Open all year	S - 30 C - 10
Lake Trout*	4th Sat. in Apr. - Sept. 30	S - 3 C - 1
Lake Whitefish	4th Sat. in Apr. - Nov. 15	S - 12 C - 6
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass or any combination	3rd Sat. in June - Dec. 15	S - 6 C - 2
Muskellunge	1st Sat. in June - Dec. 15	S - 1, must be greater than 112 cm (44 in.) C - 0
Northern Pike	Open all year	S - 6 C - 2
Pacific Salmon*	4th Sat. in Apr. - Sept. 30	S - 5 C - 2
Rainbow Trout*	4th Sat. in Apr. - Sept. 30	S - 2 C - 1
Sunfish	Open all year	S - 300, only 30 may be greater than 18 cm (7.1 in.) C - 15
Walleye and Sauger or any combination	2nd Sat. in May - Nov. 15	S - 4, must be between 35 - 50 cm (13.8 - 19.7 in.) C - 1, must be between 35 - 50 cm (13.8 - 19.7 in.)
Yellow Perch	Open all year	S - 50 C - 25

08/12/2025

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Blackstock Creek



C - 25

Exceptions to Zone Regulations

Description: Lake Scugog and Scugog River - All waters of Lake Scugog and Scugog River - including waters south of Highway 7A, Blackstock Creek, Nonquon River, as well as the Scugog River to the Trent Severn Dam in Lindsay, Mariposa Brook and East Cross Creek

Species	Open Seasons	Limits
Walleye	Closed all year	

Report a Violation

All Ontarians can play a part in protecting our natural resources from waste, abuse and depletion. If you are witness to a resource violation within Ontario, please call the Ministry of Natural Resources TIPS line at: 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

In order to investigate an occurrence, it will assist an officer to know the following information:

- o Nature of violation
- o Vehicle information
- o Location of violation (address, county, township, municipality, lot, concession)
- o Particulars of violation, other relevant information

The TIPS-MNR reporting line is not an emergency response telephone number. If you are calling to report public safety matters please call 911 or the police.

Disclaimer

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This is a summary of information dealing with fishing licences and fishing laws. This summary is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current regulations. It is meant to be a convenient reference only.

For details on the current regulations see:

- o Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and regulations
- o Federal Fisheries Act
- o Ontario Fishery Regulations
- o Close times, fishing quotas and limits on the size of fish established in the Ontario Fishery Regulations may be changed through Variation Orders which are available at [ontario.ca/fishing](https://www.ontario.ca/fishing) <<https://www.ontario.ca/fishing>>.

The maps presented in this summary are provided as a guide only. Due to the scale of the maps, the official plan (detailed information) for the boundaries of the Zones cannot be provided in this summary.



Blackstock Creek

Ontario 

You can obtain specific details of the regulations, including more detailed maps of Zone boundaries, from [ontario.ca/fishing](https://www.ontario.ca/fishing) <<https://www.ontario.ca/fishing>> or local MNR offices.

4. Study analysis and Discussion

Wetlands:

The Burketon Station North Wetland located in the north is a Provincially non-significant wetland that contains ticket swamps, treed swamps and creek named Blackstock creek. The Burketon Station North Wetland Complex serves important ecological services for flood attenuation and water quality downstream and serves as important nesting and feeding habitat for wildlife species, including turtles. The Wetlands, even though they are not significant but provide important functions and the ORMCP and the Greenbelt plan also recognize all wetlands as Key natural heritage feature present in the Oak ridges moraine and green belt. Therefore a 30 m Vegetation protection zone is provided (also shown in Map 1) and VPZ should be enhanced after the construction.

Woodlands:

The Woodland present to the southeastern side of the development area are non-significant woodlands and appropriate measures will be taken to reduce damage to them.

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

The Blackstock creek and the Burketon Station North wetland provided indirect migration for the aquatic species. Specifically, the habitat provides sources of hydrological and groundwater connections, cover and feeding habitat, nutrients, spawning and rearing habitat as well as food supply to fish.

Fish habitat in Ontario is managed federally by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and therefore, the Fisheries Act applies to the subject lands. No critical habitat for Aquatic Species at Risk (DFO, 2019) or sensitive spawning habitat was identified within the study area.

5. Recommendations

Groundwater Discharge and Recharge Functions

- Maintain the drainage pattern of the area.
- Downspouts should outlet onto grassed surfaces to allow for infiltration and recharging the groundwater.
- Use soak away pits, infiltration galleries, or other methods to promote infiltration.
- Buildings should be designed to collect precipitation and support groundwater recharge.

Sediment and Erosion Control

- Clearly define the development area and install fencing during construction.
- Install silt fences to minimize impacts on natural features.
- Limit grading to the site area to reduce erosion.
- Avoid construction during precipitation events to minimize sedimentation.

Fish and Fish Habitat (DFO Measures)

- Maintain a 30 m buffer from key natural features and waterbodies.
- No work near hydrological areas that could disrupt fish or wildlife habitat.
- Do not disrupt the flow of the creek (protected under the Fisheries Act).
- Respect fish timing windows as per MNRF guidance.
- No use of explosives in or near water.
- Enhance habitat in and near hydrological areas where feasible.

Concrete Leachate

- Prevent deposition of fine or large particles of concrete, cement, stones, or other chemicals into wetlands.

-
- Prevent concrete leachate from entering waterbodies due to its alkaline pH and toxicity to aquatic systems.

Operation of Machinery

- Prohibit heavy equipment from passing through natural heritage features and habitats.
- Prevent soil compaction by using mats and pads.
- Regularly check construction vehicles and equipment to prevent oil leakage into waterbodies.
- Ensure equipment is cleaned before use to avoid depositing invasive plant pollen or seeds on site.

Refueling and Spill Response

- Keep an emergency spill kit on site for machinery leaks or spills.
- Deploy spill kits immediately in case of a spill and notify the appropriate authorities.
- Do not allow deleterious substances (as defined in the Fisheries Act) to enter watercourses or lakes.

Vegetation

- Minimize destruction of woodland and other features during breeding season, conduct or review breeding surveys before removal.
- Enhance vegetation within VPZ zones.
- Plant native species of vegetation around the property wherever feasible.
- Implement an invasive species control program to prevent spread in and around the site.

Permits and Compliance

- Obtain all necessary permits from the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority and the Municipality before work begins.

Summary

This Phase 1, desktop-based Natural Heritage Evaluation assessed the potential environmental constraints and legislative considerations for the proposed recreational development at 10604 Old Scugog Road, Township of Scugog. The site lies within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area and is in proximity to key natural heritage features including a non-significant wetland, woodland, and Blackstock Creek. Using spatial datasets, aerial imagery, and existing species occurrence records, the assessment identified relevant federal, provincial, and municipal policy frameworks governing development in and near these features.

The study determined that the proposed development envelope has been situated to minimize encroachment into sensitive areas, maintaining at least a 30 m vegetated protection zone from wetlands and watercourses. Recommendations have been organized into operational categories addressing groundwater recharge, sediment and erosion control, fish habitat protection, concrete leachate management, machinery operation protocols, spill response, and vegetation management. These measures, combined with adherence to regulatory permitting processes, are designed to mitigate potential impacts during both construction and operation.

While this evaluation provides a comprehensive desktop analysis, it is recognized that no field verification was undertaken. A Phase 2 field-based assessment is recommended to confirm habitat boundaries, species presence, and seasonal wildlife use prior to detailed design or construction. This structured, policy-aligned approach is intended to support compliance, inform decision-making, and demonstrate a clear pathway toward environmental stewardship and sustainable development within the context of regulatory requirements.

References

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Government of Ontario. (2017). Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Government of Ontario. (2024). Provincial planning statement.

Kawartha Region Conservation Authority. (2013). Kawartha region Conservation Authority Plan Review and Regulation Policies.

Municipality of Durham. (2024). Durham region Official plan.

Township of Scugog. (2017). Township of Scugog Official Plan.

Mapping sources and research sources used:

- ArcGIS
- Ontario GeoHub
- NHIC Make a Map
- Fish-On-Line data
- GBIF databases
- iNaturalist database
- Ontario Bird Breeding Atlas

