

Summary

Nine plant and wildlife Species-At-Risk were positively identified on the property.

All nine species “**have the potential to be affected by development** of the natural areas” within the property. “The potential adverse effects on the proposed development on all Species-At-Risk and their habitats should be addressed thoroughly under the Environmental Assessment process.”

Further surveys are required. Fall migration surveys “were not comprehensive” and the over-wintering period was not covered. Supplementary analysis assessed a high probability that an additional eight bird Species-At-Risk use the property.

Highlights

- Field investigations were undertaken on twelve different dates between June 16 and October 6, 2009 following standard methods. Fall migration surveys were incomplete. Surveys for the over-wintering and breeding periods were not conducted.
- The following **Species-At-Risk**, designated **Special Concern**, were found: **Snapping Turtle, Eastern Milksnake, Monarch Butterfly, Shumard Oak**
- The following **Species-At-Risk**, designated **Threatened**, were found: **Chimney Swift, Hooded Warbler, White Wood Aster**
- The following **Species-At-Risk**, designated **Endangered**, were found: **Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Butternut**
- The following Species-At-Risk, designated Special Concern, were assessed as high probability: Horned Grebe, Bald Eagle, Rusty Blackbird
- The following Species-At-Risk, designated Threatened, were assessed as high probability: Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler
- The following Species-At-Risk, designated Endangered, were assessed as high probability: Acadian Flycatcher
- The following Provincially Rare species were found: Windflower, Black Gum, Pin Oak
- Over-wintering surveys are required for the following Species-At-Risk: Bald Eagle, Short-eared Owl, Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker
- Further study is required to assess where the Snapping Turtles are nesting.

- Four Mile Creek Estuary is a Provincially Significant Wetland. Two Mile – Four Mile Creek Plan is a provincially significant ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest).
- **“The lakeshore property is an important part of the regional matrix of wildlife movement corridors.”**
- Avian Species-At-Risk migrating through the property “have the potential to be affected.” **“Many bird species are attracted to and disoriented by artificial light.”**
Noise pollution is also a concern, particularly during breeding season.
- “Even though the Carolinian zone is quite small, making up only 1% of Canada’s total land area, it contains a greater number of both plant and animal species than any other ecosystem in Canada. **The Carolinian zone is Ontario’s most threatened ecological region with over 125 species considered as vulnerable, special concern, threatened or endangered** by either the federal or provincial government.” “Over 500 species of plants and animals in the Carolinian zone are considered rare” by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- “Both the **federal and provincial Species-At-Risk legislations prohibit destroying critical or essential habitat** for threatened and endangered SAR (Species-At-Risk).”
- A Provincial Policy Statement “states that development is not permitted in significant habitats of endangered species.”
- The following **Species-At-Risk are not likely to be affected by Project Niagara development: Butternut, Shumard Oak**
- The following **Species-At-Risk may be affected by Project Niagara development: Eastern Flowering Dogwood, White Wood Aster, Hooded Warbler, Chimney Swift, Eastern Milksnake**
- The following **Species-At-Risk will be affected by Project Niagara development: Snapping Turtle, Monarch Butterfly**
- Comments on the current management of the property:
 1. Garlic mustard is threatening the White Wood Aster and should be removed.
 2. Carp are threatening Two and Three Mile Creeks, and need to be eradicated.
 3. Mowing should be reduced as it can harm snakes.