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# Appendix B1

## Ontario Line Project

## Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works – Natural Environment Early Works Report

Metrolinx

# Natural Environment Early Works Report

## Ontario Line Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works

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**Project Number:** 60611173

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*AECOM: 2015-04-13*

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# Executive Summary

## ES.1 Ontario Line Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works

The Ontario Line Project (the Project) is being assessed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project under the Environmental Assessment Act. Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project outlines a Project-specific environmental assessment process that includes an Environmental Conditions Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and an opportunity for Early Works Report(s) for assessment of works that are ready to proceed in advance of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The Environmental Conditions Report documents the local environmental conditions of the Ontario Line Study Area and provides a preliminary description of the potential environmental impacts from the Project. Information outlined in the Existing Conditions Report is used to inform the Early Works Reports(s) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which study environmental impacts in further detail and confirm and refine preliminary mitigation measures identified in the Existing Conditions Report.

Ontario Line early works are components of the Project that are proposed to proceed before the completion of the Ontario Line environmental impact assessment process. An overview of the Project is provided in **Section 1.2**. Early works are defined in Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project under the Environmental Assessment Act as follows:

> “any components of the Ontario Line Project that Metrolinx proposes to proceed with before the completion of the Ontario Line assessment process, such as station construction, rail corridor expansion, utility relocation or bridge replacement or expansion.”

Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works are considered to be of strategic importance in enabling the timely implementation of the Project. The early works are being advanced where the Project interfaces with GO Expansion. Advancing early works and supporting environmental and technical studies in this area provides planning and design efficiencies for the Project and GO Expansion and facilitates the timely implementation of both.

AECOM Canada Limited (AECOM) was retained by Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario to complete the Ontario Line Final Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report for the Project. This Natural Environment Early Works Report (this Report) supports the Ontario Line Final Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report and has been

prepared for the Project to document the assessment of Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works (**Figure ES-1**).

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works will include:

- construction of a new bridge north of the existing Lakeshore East rail corridor[1] bridge over the Lower Don River that will carry the Ontario Line tracks;
- shift of the nearby Union Station and Lakeshore East rail corridor GO tracks, including tracks on the existing rail bridge, to accommodate Ontario Line infrastructure within the Union Station rail corridor[2] and Don Yard;
- modifications to the existing Lakeshore East rail corridor bridge to accommodate Lakeshore East GO track shifts to accommodate Ontario line infrastructure; and
- utility and signal infrastructure relocation or protection.

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works components and construction activities are further described in **Section 1.3**.

Active transportation access across the Lower Don River will be facilitated via a bridge that will provide a multi-use connection across the river. This bridge is not within the scope of these early works, and will be assessed as part of the Ontario Line Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The purpose of this Report is to:

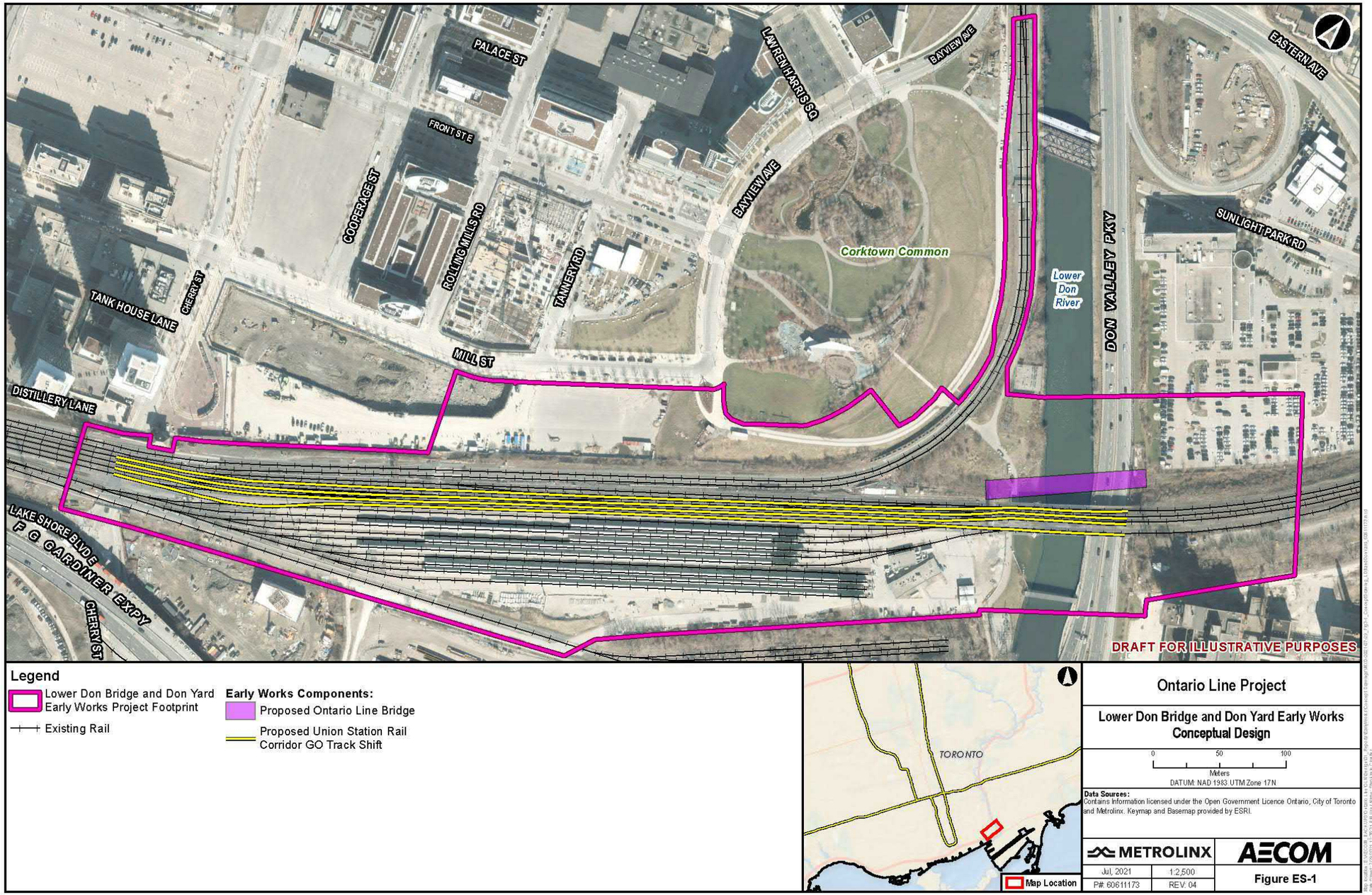
- Document the existing natural heritage features (aquatic and terrestrial resources) within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area;
- Conduct an impact assessment based on the identified natural heritage features, including criteria for assessment and evaluation of impacts;
- Develop applicable mitigation measures and monitoring requirements;
- Identify anticipated authorizations required for the Project; and
- Identify additional surveys to be completed in support of anticipated regulatory authorizations.

1. Lakeshore East rail corridor extends from the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto to the City of Oshawa.
2. Union Station Rail Corridor extends from approximately west of Bathurst Street to the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto.

This Report supports the Ontario Line Final Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report prepared for Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project.

Refer to **Section 1** of this Report for more information related to the Project and a detailed early works description.

## Figure ES-1: Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Conceptual Design



## ES.2 Methodology

This Report documents the assessment of Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction impacts. Impacts associated with Project operations will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report under a separate cover. Detailed methodology is provided in **Section 2**.

Local Environmental Conditions

AECOM has completed a desktop background review of secondary source information to establish local natural environment conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

Background review included information from a variety of sources such as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario GeoHub base mapping data (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020; Land Information Ontario, 2017; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2017a; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2017b) and the City of Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Open Data Portals.

Field investigations were not completed for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Study Area as lands within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Study Area were recently investigated in 2016 to support other Metrolinx projects (i.e., Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements and Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion [Don River to Scarborough GO Station]). The survey results were reviewed and summarized to supplement the established existing conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area and were deemed to be sufficient to support the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works natural environment impact assessment.

Field data such as general habitat conditions and habitat characteristics were collected from secondary sources to identify the presence of Significant Wildlife Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area based on the habitat criteria identified in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015). Confirmed Significant Wildlife Habitat was identified based on secondary sources. Candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat refer to potential habitats that meet the habitat criteria as defined in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) but have not been confirmed as significant through additional detailed studies.

The potential for Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern to occur within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area was determined by comparing species habitat requirements to the habitat conditions present on-site and using the results of

the background information review and field investigations (described in **Section 4**) to apply the following rankings:

- **Low Probability**: neither species nor suitable habitat observed through field investigations but there is a known species record in the general area;
- **Medium Probability**: species not observed; however, potentially suitable habitat identified through field investigations and there is a known species record in the general area; and
- **High Probability**: good quality Species at Risk habitat identified (e.g., sufficiently large areas of suitable vegetation and presence of key features such as nesting sites), and known species record in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (either through current or previous field investigations).

Impact Assessment

This early works impact assessment and development of mitigation measures and monitoring activities considered the following in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project under the Environmental Assessment Act:

- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works components as described in **Section 1.3.1**;
- The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint and Lower Don Bridge Study Area as described in **Section 1.3.2**;
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction activities as described in **Section 1.3.3**; and
- Local environmental conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area as described in **Section 4**.

For the purpose of this impact assessment, as a conservative approach, all vegetation communities and buildings overlapping with the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint were assumed to be permanently removed during the construction phase.

### ES.3 Local Environmental Conditions

The local natural environment conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are summarized below. Local environmental conditions are further described in **Section 4**.

Designated Natural Areas

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's GeoHub Mapping (2020), there are no Provincially Significant Wetlands, Locally Significant Wetlands, significant valleylands or provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. In addition, there are no woodlands or unevaluated wetlands within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area as mapped by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Planning Policy Areas

According to the City of Toronto's Interactive Map (City of Toronto, 2020a), the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint falls within the City of Toronto's Natural Heritage System (11.25 hectares) and portions fall within the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law Area (0.93 hectares), and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's regulation limits (6.16 hectares). The Lower Don River is designated as an Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan, of which 3.23 hectares overlaps the footprint. There are no Environmentally Significant Areas within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

Ecological Land Classification and Plant Inventory

All of the vegetation communities in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are generally disturbed as a result of anthropogenic activities and are largely limited to narrow vegetation strips within the existing rail corridor and along the Lower Don River, which are surrounded by heavily developed commercial, industrial and residential areas. These vegetation communities contain large proportions of non-native and invasive plant species and none were identified as being provincially significant (AECOM, 2017; AECOM, 2018; 4Transit, 2018b).

Fish and Fish Habitat

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area contains the Lower Don River which flows under the Lakeshore East rail bridge.

It was found that the Lower Don River within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area provides direct fish habitat important for migration, feeding and refuge. However, conditions are generally non-limiting throughout with no specialized (critically limiting spawning) habitat identified (AECOM, 2017; 4Transit, 2018b). No barriers to fish use were identified. Migratory species (e.g., Chinook Salmon) use the Lower Don River as a seasonal migratory corridor to and from Lake Ontario (AECOM, 2017).

Thirty-three species of fish are known to occur within the Lower Don River (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020a; HDR, 2018; AECOM, 2017). The fish community is composed of mainly tolerant warmwater fish species (HDR, 2018).

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Most of the bird species recorded in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area consisted of common species in Ontario that are tolerant to urban disturbances except for Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) and Chimney Swift, both Species at Risk birds protected under the Endangered Species Act, noted flying over the existing rail corridor (AECOM, 2017). It is important to note that isolated trees and shrubs, vegetation communities and anthropogenic structures (e.g., buildings, bridges) can provide nesting habitat for many migratory birds, which are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The general area likely supports a range of mammals often found in urban environments, including: Common Raccoon (Procyon lotor), Eastern Cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus), Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis), and a number of small mammals that often go undetected (e.g., shrews, voles, mice) (Dobbyn, 1994).

Significant Wildlife Habitat

Based on review of the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015), the following Significant Wildlife Habitat types may occur within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

- **Habitats of Species of Conservation Concern:**
  - **Confirmed Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern:**
    - Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)
  - **Candidate Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern:**
    - Common Nighthawk
    - Eastern Wood-pewee (Contopus virens)
    - Monarch (Danaus plexippus)
    - Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina)

There were no candidate or confirmed seasonal concentration areas, rare vegetation communities, specialized habitat for wildlife or animal movement corridors identified within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. Although the Lower Don River within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area acts as a movement corridor for some urban wildlife, it does not qualify as a candidate animal movement (amphibian or deer) corridor based on the criteria described in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) due to high levels of urbanization, fragmentation and barriers to animal movements (i.e., railways, roads, construction areas, fences).

Species at Risk Habitat Screening

The following Species at Risk have a high probability of occurring within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area:

- **Barn Swallow** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. According to 4Transit (2018b), Barn Swallows were observed foraging in the vicinity of the rail bridge crossing the Lower Don River suggesting that active nests may be present under this bridge. The buildings within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area were deemed to have limited potential to support nesting Barn Swallows, however field surveys will be required to determine if Barn Swallow nests are present on the buildings or bridge.
- **Chimney Swift** – Based on review of available online secondary source information, there is one confirmed Chimney Swift site within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. No chimneys or smokestacks are visibly present in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint based on background review sources.

The following Species at Risk have a medium probability of occurring within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area:

- Eastern Small-footed Myotis (Myotis leibii);
- Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus);
- Northern Long-eared Myotis (Myotis septentrionalis);
- Tri-colored Bat (Perimyotis subflavus*)*; and
- Butternut *(*Juglans cinerea*).*

## ES.4 Potential Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities

**Section 5** includes information related to potential impacts, mitigation measures, and monitoring activities for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works. Potential impacts may result from early works construction activities, including general vegetation and habitat loss, soil contamination, erosion and sedimentation, decrease of habitat connectivity for wildlife, and impacts to fish and fish habitat. Mitigation measures and monitoring activities are recommended to reduce the potential impacts during construction.

Refer to **Table ES-1** for a complete list of potential impacts, mitigation measures, and monitoring activities for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works.

**Section 6** provides a list of potential future surveys to be completed prior to construction of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works.

**Table ES-1: Potential Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works**

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Designated Natural Areas** | ▪ No potential impacts as there are no Designated Natural Areas within 120 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint | ▪ None Required | ▪ None Required |
| **Policy Area – City of Toronto Natural Heritage System** | ▪ Vegetation removal within the City of Toronto Natural Heritage System | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Consultation with City of Toronto. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Policy Area – City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection** | ▪ Tree removal within the City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law Area | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Tree Removal under Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Compensation for tree removals will be undertaken in accordance with provisions outlined in the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020). Adhere to all applicable by-laws and regulations for tree removals outside of Metrolinx properties. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Policy Area – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulation Areas** | ▪ Vegetation removal within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulated Areas | ▪ Further consideration to reduce potential impacts on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Terrestrial Natural Heritage System to the extent possible will be undertaken during detailed design. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Recommendations for additional monitoring related to vegetation removal within regulated areas may be determined through consultation with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. |
| **Policy Area – Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan** | ▪ Vegetation removal within the Urban River Valley | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Vegetation Communities, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Environment.<br>▪ Compensation for the removal of vegetation in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020) approach will consider maintaining or enhancing connectivity along the Lower Don River to the extent possible. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Environment. |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Removal of vegetation communities<br>▪ Damage to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities as a result of accidental intrusion | ▪ Vegetation removal will be reduced and limited to within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas.<br>▪ Construction fencing and/or silt fencing, where appropriate, will be installed and maintained to clearly define the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas and prevent accidental damage or intrusion to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities.<br>▪ Provide compensation for the removal of vegetation in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020).<br>▪ Temporarily disturbed areas will be re-vegetated using non-invasive, preferably native plantings and/or seed mix appropriate to the site conditions and adjacent vegetation communities. Seed mixes will be used in conjunction with an appropriate non-invasive cover crop as needed.<br>▪ Vegetation removals will also consider and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive species (e.g., migratory birds) and features (e.g., Significant Wildlife Habitat). Refer to the wildlife and wildlife habitat and Species at Risk mitigation measures described below. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Monitoring will include inspection of construction fencing/silt fencing to confirm appropriate installation, maintenance and rehabilitation to prevent accidental damage to vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities outside of the work construction area. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ If required, the approach to compensation monitoring will be developed in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020). |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ City and private tree removal | ▪ An Arborist Report by an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist will be prepared in accordance with the Ontario Forestry Act R.S.O. 1990, and other regulations and best management practices as applicable.<br>▪ The Arborist Report will include, but not be limited to the individual identification of all trees within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas including those that require removal or preservation, or trees that may be injured. Trees to be identified may include those on Metrolinx property, trees on public and private lands, and boundary trees. City of Toronto by-laws dictate the minimum area buffers to be inventoried and Diameter at Breast Height which requires inventory.<br>▪ Prior to the undertaking of tree removals, a Tree Removal Strategy/Tree Preservation Plan will be developed during detailed design to document tree protection and mitigation measures that follow the City of Toronto Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees Guidelines (2016b) and adherence with best practices, standards and regulations on safety, environmental and wildlife protections.<br>▪ Compensation for tree removals will be undertaken in accordance with provisions outlined in the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020).<br>▪ Pruning of branches will be conducted through the implementation of proper arboricultural techniques.<br>▪ Tree Protection Zone fencing will be established to protect and prevent tree injuries. Tree Protection Zones will be clearly staked prior to construction using barriers in accordance with local by-law requirements. | ▪ Regular inspection in areas of vegetation removal will be undertaken as required during construction to ensure that fencing is intact, only specified trees are removed and no damage is caused to the remaining trees and adjacent vegetation communities.<br>▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ If required, the approach to compensation monitoring will be developed in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020). |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Potential for the spread of emerald ash borer, associated with removal, handing and transport of ash trees | ▪ Removal of ash trees, or portions of ash trees, will be carried out in compliance with the Canada Food and Inspection Agency Directive 'D-03-08: Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Introduction into and Spread within Canada of the emerald ash borer. To comply with this Directive, all Ash trees requiring removal, including any wood, bark or chips, will be restricted from being transported outside of the emerald ash borer regulated areas of Canada. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Increased soil erosion and sedimentation | ▪ Construction fencing and/or silt fencing, where appropriate, will be installed and maintained to clearly define the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas and prevent accidental damage or intrusion to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2019), will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the vegetation communities.<br>▪ Stockpiled materials or equipment will be stored within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas but shall be kept at least 30 metres away from any watercourse to the extent possible. If not feasible, install a heavy-duty silt fence and Silt Soxx (or equivalent) around the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas where within 30 metres from a watercourse. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Soil or water contamination as a result of spills (e.g., grease and/or fuel) from equipment use<br>▪ Introduction or spread of invasive species | ▪ A Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan will be developed and adhered to. Spills will be immediately contained and cleaned up in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements and the contingency plan.<br>▪ Refuelling of equipment will occur at least 30 metres away from any watercourse.<br>▪ Refuelling shall be done within refuelling stations lined with appropriate material to prevent seepage and fuel discharge.<br>▪ All machinery, construction equipment and vehicles arriving on-site should be in clean condition (e.g., free of fluid leaks, soils containing seeds of plant material from invasive species) and be inspected and washed in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran et al., 2013) prior to arriving and leaving the construction site in order to prevent the spread of invasive species to other locations. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |
| **Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat – General** | ▪ Disturbance, displacement or mortality of wildlife | ▪ Prior to construction, investigation of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas for wildlife and wildlife habitat that may have established following the completion of previous surveys will be undertaken, as appropriate.<br>▪ If wildlife is encountered, measures will be implemented to avoid destruction, injury, or interference with the species, and/or its habitat. For example, construction activities will cease or be reduced, and wildlife will be encouraged to move off-site and away from the construction area on its own. | ▪ Regular on-site inspection by on-site environmental workers or construction staff should occur within the construction area to ensure that no wildlife is trapped within the construction area.<br>▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Northern Map Turtle and Snapping Turtle** | ▪ Disturbance of Northern Map Turtle and/or Snapping Turtle Habitat | ▪ Refer above to mitigation measures described for Wildlife.<br>▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Fish and Fish Habitat with respect to in-water works. | ▪ Refer above for monitoring requirements described for Wildlife. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Eastern Wood-pewee** | ▪ Removal of up to 0.32 hectares of candidate habitat for Eastern Wood-pewee | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. | ▪ Refer below for monitoring requirements described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Monarch** | ▪ Removal of up to 0.08 hectares of candidate habitat for Monarchs | ▪ Identify opportunities to promote pollinator species and habitat in accordance with the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020). This may include planting or seeding native flowering plants in temporarily disturbed areas. | ▪ Regular monitoring (site inspections) will be undertaken during construction to prevent unauthorized impacts to habitat used by Monarch. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Common Nighthawk** | ▪ Removal of candidate nesting habitat for Common Nighthawk | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests.<br>▪ Demolition of buildings should be scheduled outside of the breeding bird season of April 1 to August 31. If this is not possible and buildings must be demolished during this period, the following will be completed:<br>▪ The roofs will be checked for presence of gravel. If gravel is not present, then the building is unlikely to provide suitable nesting habitat for Common Nighthawk. If gravel is present, a search for eggs and nesting activity for Common Nighthawk on the roof will be conducted. If nests or nesting activity of Common Nighthawk are confirmed, the building cannot be demolished until it is confirmed by a Qualified Biologist that young have fully fledged and left the nest. | ▪ Refer below for monitoring requirements described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests** | ▪ Disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests | ▪ All works must comply with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, including timing windows for the nesting period (April 1 to August 31 in Ontario).<br>▪ If activities (i.e. vegetation clearing and building demolition) are proposed to occur during the general nesting period, a breeding bird and nest survey will be undertaken prior to required activities. Nest searches by an experienced searcher are required and will be completed by a qualified Biologist no more than 48 hours prior to vegetation removal.<br>▪ If a nest of a migratory bird is found outside of this nesting period (including a ground nest) it still receives protection. | ▪ Regular monitoring will be undertaken to confirm that activities do not encroach into nesting areas or disturb active nesting sites. |
| **Wildlife Habitat Connectivity** | ▪ Decrease of habitat connectivity for wildlife | ▪ Refer to the mitigation measures described above for Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan and Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ During detailed design, opportunities to enhance the natural environment and provide a connection to the surrounding natural areas will be explored to the extent feasible. | ▪ Refer to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Species at Risk – General** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Species at Risk | ▪ All requirements of the Endangered Species Act will be met. Species-specific mitigation measures will be implemented, in consultation with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ Species-specific monitoring activities will be developed in accordance with any registration and/or permitting requirements under the Endangered Species Act. |
| **Species at Risk – Barn Swallow** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Barn Swallow | ▪ Field surveys will be undertaken prior to construction to confirm the number of nests present at the known locations and whether the nests remain active.<br>▪ Where loss or disturbance cannot be avoided (e.g., due to work on bridge), all requirements under the Endangered Species Act will be met, including any registration, compensation, replacement structures and/or permitting requirements.<br>▪ If disturbance to structures confirmed to provide Barn Swallow habitat is scheduled during the nesting season for Barn Swallow (April 1 to August 31), a nest search will be undertaken to confirm that no Barn Swallow are nesting on structures that may be affected by construction activities on or near these areas. Exclusion measures will be implemented prior to nesting season to dissuade use of these areas for nesting. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. Additional monitoring measures will be developed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if required. |
| **Species at Risk – Bats** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Species at Risk Bats | ▪ All requirements of the Endangered Species Act will be met. Additional monitoring, mitigation and compensation for removal of suitable treed or anthropogenic roosting habitat may be required based on the results of additional surveys and consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. | ▪ If mitigation is required, on-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. Additional monitoring measures will be developed in consultation with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if required. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aquatic Environment – Wetlands and Waterbodies** | ▪ Removal or impacts to aquatic and riparian vegetation; erosion and sedimentation to waterbodies from construction; risk of contamination to waterbodies as a result of spills<br>▪ No impacts to wetlands, as none are present | ▪ Construction activities will maintain the buffers established during the design phase to reduce potential negative impacts to waterbodies.<br>▪ Shorelines or banks disturbed by construction activities will be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion and/or sedimentation, preferably through re-vegetation with native species suitable for the site.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2019), as amended from time to time, will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the waterbody.<br>▪ A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed before work commences to ensure procedures and policies are in place during construction to reduce impacts to watercourses. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions, if required. Corrective actions may include alteration of activities to reduce impacts and enhance mitigation measures.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |
| **Aquatic Environment – Fish and Fish Habitat** | ▪ Potential for direct, in-water impacts to fish and fish habitat | ▪ All requirements of the Fisheries Act will be met.<br>▪ If in-water and/or near water construction works are required, appropriate mitigation measures will be followed, as identified in Applicable Law and through consultation with the relevant authorities such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada.<br>▪ Shorelines or banks disturbed by construction activities will be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion and/or sedimentation, preferably through re-vegetation with native species suitable for the site.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (TRCA, 2019) as amended from time to time, will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the waterbody.<br>▪ A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed before work commences to ensure procedures and policies are in place during construction to reduce impacts to watercourses. Stockpiled material will be stored at a safe distance from the waterway to ensure that no deleterious substances enter the water.<br>▪ If required, sediment and erosion control measures (silt curtains, silt fence, temporary sedimentation basins) will be installed and will be maintained during the work phase and until the site has been stabilized.<br>▪ Any temporary mitigation measures will be installed prior to the commencement of any site clearing, grubbing, excavation, filling or grading works and will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.<br>▪ To the extent feasible, schedule work to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/or increase erosion and sedimentation.<br>▪ All equipment fuelling and maintenance will be done at a safe distance from the water (i.e., 30 metres or more) to ensure that no deleterious substances enter the waterway.<br>▪ Ensure that all in-water activities, or associated in-water structures, do not interfere with fish passage, constrict the channel width, or reduce flows. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | ■ Reduce the removal of natural woody debris, rocks, sand or other materials from the banks, the shoreline or the bed of the waterbody below the ordinary high-water mark.<br>■ Fish screens, if required, will be used to avoid entrainment of fish in pumps and hoses as per the End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Interim Standard and Code of Practice.<br>■ If dewatering is proposed, the need for a dewatering zone of influence assessment and dewatering monitoring plan should be evaluated during detailed design. The dewatering monitoring plan, should it be deemed required, will monitor for potential negative effects to adjacent vegetation communities if affected due to dewatering activities, and will provide an adaptive management plan should said negative effects be observed.<br>■ If dewatering, discharge should be directed into nearby municipal sanitary and storm systems. If this is not possible upon careful evaluation of the alternatives and potential impacts, should discharge into the watercourse be determined as the only feasible option, a staged-approach must be considered, such as on-site storage in ponds and reservoirs, evaporation ponds, and staged-release into the watercourse.<br>■ Design temporary and permanent water management system and dewatering operations, if required, to maintain downstream flows and to prevent erosion and/or release of sediment laden or contaminated water to the water feature.<br>■ If required, prior to dewatering isolated work areas, fish will be captured and relocated to suitable habitat outside of the work area under a Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. | |

Notes: Regulations, standards and guidance documents referenced herein are current as of the time of writing and may be amended from time to time.
If clarification is required regarding regulatory requirements, the appropriate regulatory agencies will be consulted.

## ES.5 Permits and Approvals

**Section 7** includes a list of permits that may be required for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction activities. These potential permitting requirements are summarized below.

Federal

Authorization under the Fisheries Act, 1985 may be required for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works if it is determined that the early works will result in death of fish and/or harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. No other federal authorizations are anticipated to be required.

Provincial

Metrolinx will comply with the conditions of the Permit CR-D-002-19 issued on August 7, 2020 under Section 17(1) in accordance with clause 17(2)(d) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 for Species at Risk that may be affected by the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works including Barn Swallow and bat Species at Risk.

Conservation Authority

Metrolinx will consult with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority with respect to construction activities in regulated areas for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works in relation to Ontario Regulation 166/06: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.

Municipal

A range of municipal permits and approvals (e.g., Permits to Injure or Remove Trees) may be required for the Project, particularly as pertaining to municipally owned lands and infrastructure. Metrolinx as a Crown Agency of the Province of Ontario is exempt from certain municipal processes and requirements. In these instances, Metrolinx will engage with the municipalities to incorporate municipal requirements as a best practice, where practical, and may obtain associated permits and approvals. Metrolinx shall continue to communicate and engage with the City of Toronto as planning progresses to address municipal concerns.

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# Appendices

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the Ontario Line Early Works

The Ontario Line Project (the Project) is being assessed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project under the Environmental Assessment Act. Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project outlines a Project-specific environmental assessment process that includes an Environmental Conditions Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and an opportunity for Early Works Report(s) for assessment of works that are ready to proceed in advance of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The Environmental Conditions Report documents the local environmental conditions of the Ontario Line Study Area and provides a preliminary description of the potential environmental impacts from the Project. Information outlined in the Environmental Conditions Report is used to inform the Early Works Report(s) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which study environmental impacts in further detail and confirm and refine preliminary mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Conditions Report.

Ontario Line early works are components of the Project that are proposed to proceed before the completion of the Ontario Line environmental impact assessment process. An overview of the Project is provided in **Section 1.2**. Early works are defined in Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project under the Environmental Assessment Act as follows:

> "any components of the Ontario Line Project that Metrolinx proposes to proceed with before the completion of the Ontario Line assessment process, such as station construction, rail corridor expansion, utility relocation or bridge replacement or expansion."

Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works are considered to be of strategic importance in enabling the timely implementation of the Project. The early works are being advanced where the Project interfaces with GO Expansion. Advancing early works and supporting environmental and technical studies in this area provides planning and design efficiencies for the Project and GO Expansion and facilitates the timely implementation of both. Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works are described in detail in **Section 1.3**.

### 1.1.1 Purpose of this Report

AECOM Canada Limited (AECOM) was retained by Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario to complete the Ontario Line Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report for the Project. This Natural Environment Early Works Report (this Report) supports the Ontario Line Final Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report and has been prepared for the Project to document the assessment of Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works (**Figure 1-1**). The early works components and construction activities are described in **Section 1.3**.

The purpose of this Report is to:

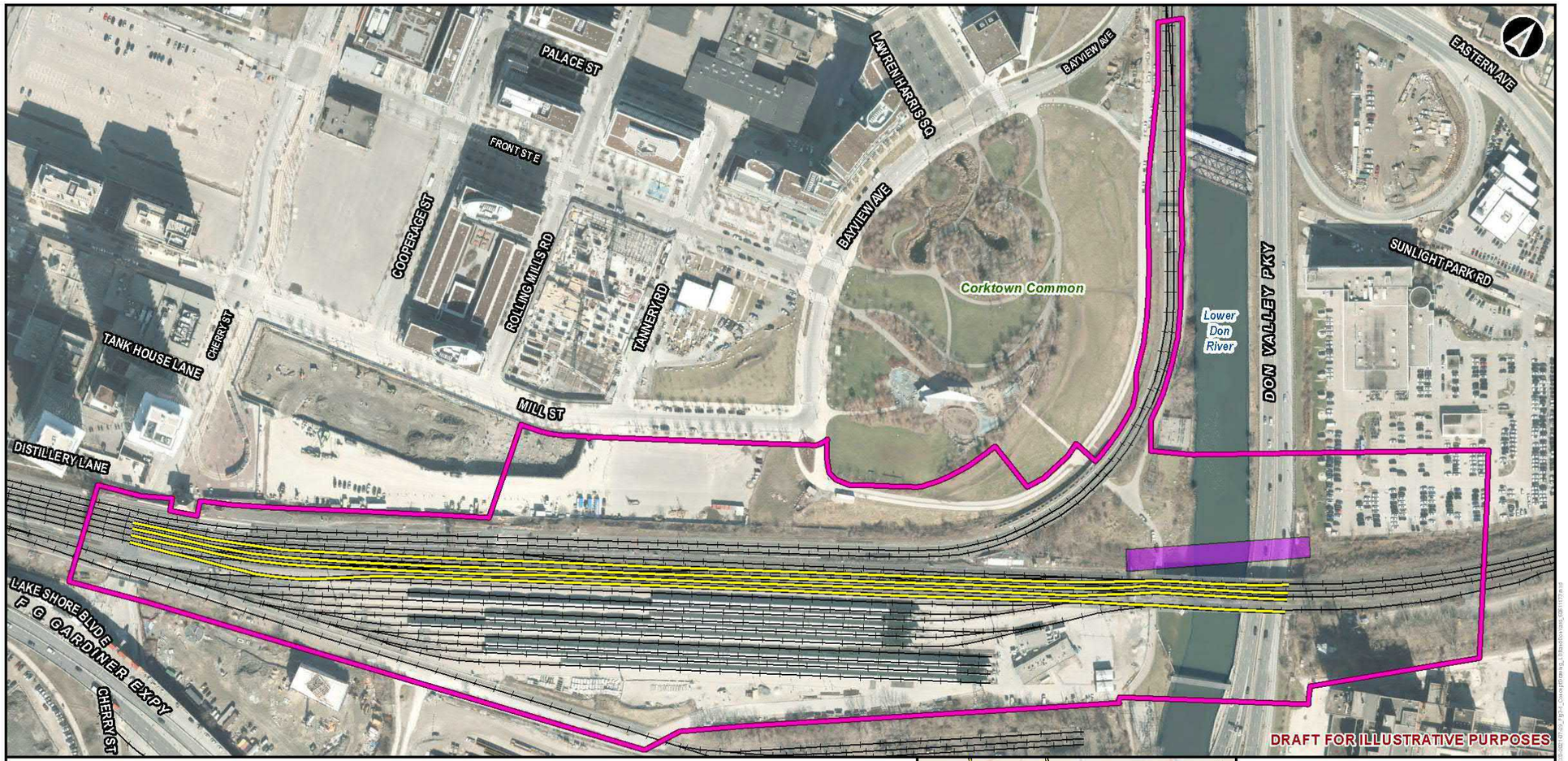
- Document the existing natural heritage features (aquatic and terrestrial resources) within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area;
- Conduct an impact assessment based on the identified natural heritage features, including criteria for assessment and evaluation of impacts;
- Develop applicable mitigation measures and monitoring requirements;
- Identify anticipated authorizations required for the Project; and
- Identify additional surveys to be completed in support of anticipated regulatory authorizations.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project and contains the information outlined in **Table 1-1**.

**Table 1-1: Report Contents in Accordance With Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project**

| Reg. Section | Requirement | Report Section |
|---|---|---|
| **Section 8(2)(2)** | The rationale for proceeding with the early works. | **Section 1.1** |
| **Section 8(2)(4)** | A description of the local environmental conditions at the site of the early works. | **Section 4** |
| **Section 8(2)(6)** | Metrolinx's assessment and evaluation of the impacts that the preferred method of carrying out the early works and other methods might have on the environment, and Metrolinx's criteria for assessment and evaluation of those impacts. | **Section 5** |
| **Section 8(2)(7)** | A description of any measures proposed by Metrolinx for mitigating any negative impacts that the preferred method of carrying out the early works might have on the environment. | **Section 5** |
| **Section 8(2)(8)** | A description of the means Metrolinx proposes to use to monitor or verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed. | **Section 5** |
| **Section 8(2)(9)** | A description of any municipal, provincial, federal or other approvals or permits that may be required for the early works. | **Section 7** |

## Figure 1-1: Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Conceptual Design




**Legend**

- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint
- Existing Rail

**Early Works Components:**

- Proposed Ontario Line Bridge
- Proposed Union Station Rail Corridor GO Track Shift


Ontario Line Project

Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Conceptual Design

0 50 100
Meters
DATUM: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

**Data Sources:**
Contains Information licensed under the Open Government Licence Ontario, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. Keymap and Basemap provided by ESRI.

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| P#: 60611173 | REV: 04 |

Figure 1-1

## 1.2 Ontario Line Project Overview

Metrolinx, an agency of the Province of Ontario, is proceeding with the planning and development of the Ontario Line, extending from Exhibition/Ontario Place to the Ontario Science Centre in the City of Toronto.

The Project is a new approximately 15.6-kilometre subway line with connections to Line 1 (Yonge-University) subway service at Osgoode and Queen Stations, Line 2 (Bloor-Danforth) subway service at Pape Station, and Line 5 (Eglinton Crosstown) light rail transit service at the future Science Centre Station. Fifteen stations are proposed, with additional connections to three GO Transit lines (Lakeshore East, Lakeshore West and Stouffville), and the Queen, King, Bathurst, Spadina, Harbourfront, and Gerrard/Carlton streetcar routes. The Project will reduce crowding on Line 1 and provide connections to new high-order rapid transit neighbourhoods. The Project will be constructed in a dedicated right-of-way with a combination of elevated (i.e., above existing rail corridor), tunnelled (i.e., underground), and at-grade (i.e., at grade with existing rail corridor) segments at various locations.

## 1.3 Early Works Description

### 1.3.1 Project Description

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works will include:

- construction of a new bridge north of the existing Lakeshore East rail corridor[3] bridge over the Lower Don River that will carry the Ontario Line tracks;
- shift of the nearby Union Station and Lakeshore East rail corridor GO tracks, including tracks on the existing rail bridge, to accommodate Ontario Line infrastructure within the Union Station Rail Corridor[4] and Don Yard;
- modifications to the existing Lakeshore East rail corridor bridge to accommodate Lakeshore East GO track shifts to accommodate Ontario line infrastructure; and
- utility and signal infrastructure relocation or protection.

Rail corridor and third-party utility relocations and protection will be completed to facilitate the work described above as well as the future Ontario Line tunnel facilities.

3. Lakeshore East rail corridor extends from the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto to the City of Ottawa.
4. Union Station Rail Corridor extends from approximately west of Bathurst Street to the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto.

Utilities to be relocated include, but are not limited to, Bell 360 and existing Canadian National/GO signal underground fibre optic cables.

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works components are shown in **Figure 1-1**.

Active transportation access across the Lower Don River will be facilitated via a bridge that will provide a multi-use connection across the river. This bridge is not within the scope of these early works, and will be assessed as part of the Ontario Line Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

### 1.3.2 Early Works Project Footprint and Study Area

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint, shown in **Figure 1-2**, is defined as the area of direct disturbance associated with the early works construction activities, including anticipated required construction staging and laydown areas[5] and construction access. Construction is anticipated to occur primarily within the existing Metrolinx right-of-way. The extent of lands anticipated to be temporarily impacted by construction staging/laydown and access will continue to be refined and reduced to the extent feasible as project planning progresses.

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint extends from approximately 150 metres east of the Don Valley Parkway in the east to approximately 400 metres west of the Lower Don River in the west, and from south of Eastern Avenue along the Richmond Hill rail corridor to approximately 100 metres south of the Lakeshore East rail corridor.

For the purpose of this Report, the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, also shown in **Figure 1-2**, includes the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint and a 120 metre buffer in accordance with the Natural Heritage Reference Manual for Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Policy Statement – Second Edition (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010). This buffer has been applied to evaluate the ecological function and potential impacts of proposed development on lands adjacent to natural heritage features protected under the Provincial Policy Statement (Provincial Policy Statement; Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2020).

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area assessed in this Report is specific to the natural environment impact assessment. The study areas for other environmental disciplines are outlined in the Ontario Line Final Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Report.

5. Staging and laydown areas are areas for the temporary storage of construction equipment and materials.

### 1.3.3 Construction Activities

**Table 1-2** provides a description of the anticipated construction activities for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works. These typical activities serve as the basis for the assessment of construction-related potential environmental impacts. These activities may be expanded, further refined, or found to be unnecessary as the Project progresses through detailed design and construction.

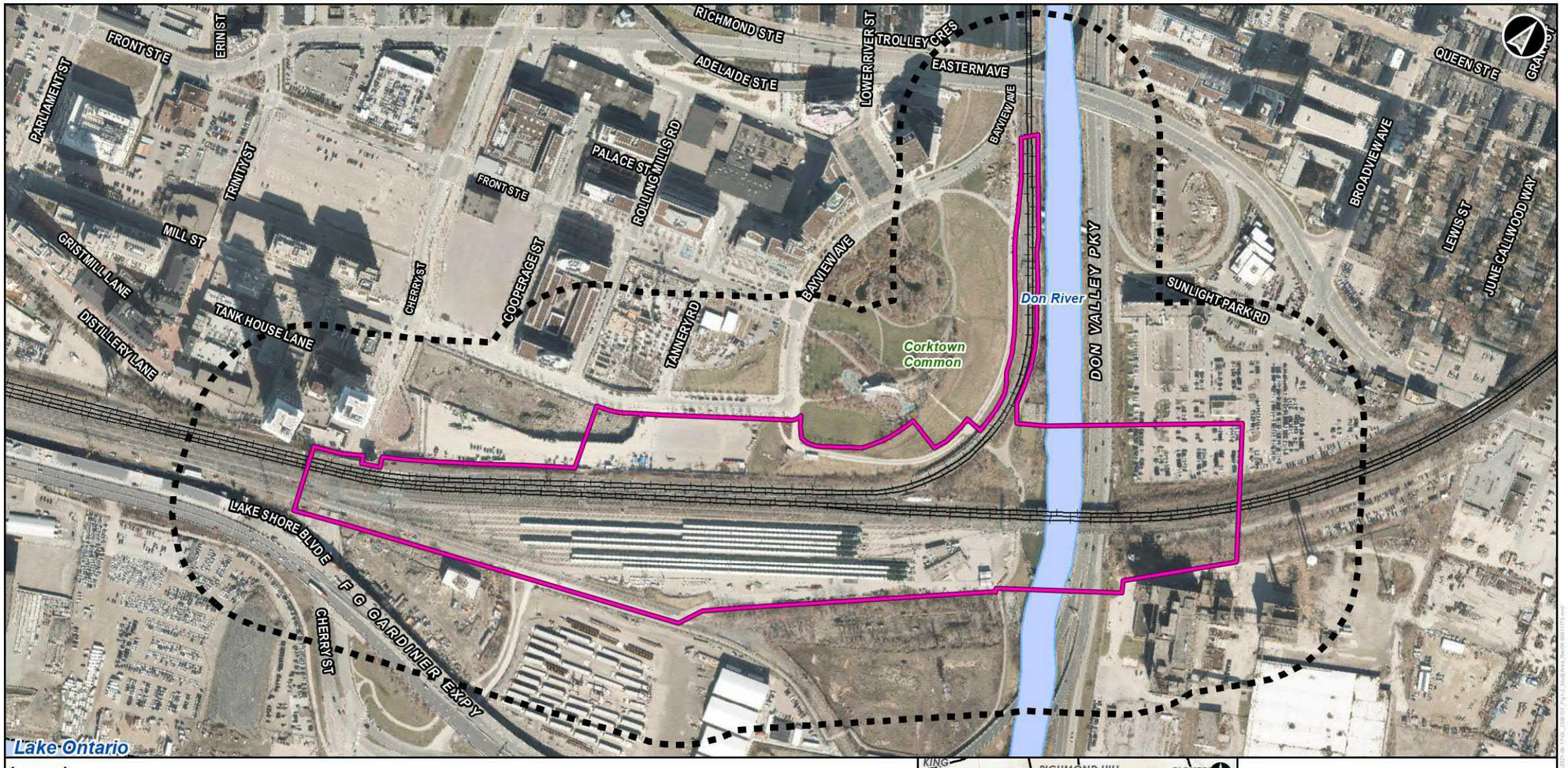
## Table 1-2: Anticipated Construction Activities for Ontario Line Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works

| Anticipated Construction Activity | Description | Associated Equipment |
|---|---|---|
| **Site Preparation** | ▪ Mobilization of equipment and temporary facilities to the site.<br>▪ Clearing and grubbing of vegetation, tree removal and protection.<br>▪ Erection of temporary and permanent fences.<br>▪ Installation of environmental management features (e.g., erosion and sediment controls).<br>▪ Dewatering works. | ▪ Site compaction equipment and grading equipment.<br>▪ Vegetation removal equipment.<br>▪ Excavation equipment.<br>▪ Haulage/dump trucks. |
| **Site Servicing / Removals / Demolition** | ▪ Relocation and/or extension of services and utilities on the site; which may include both underground and aerial services and utilities (e.g., sewers, water, electrical, communications, gas). This may also involve installation of utilities within the site. Includes utilities on the rail corridor and off the rail corridor.<br>▪ Demolition and removal of Metrolinx owned buildings in Don Yard.<br>▪ Removal and reinstatement of railway track. | ▪ Excavation equipment including backhoe, dump trucks, spoil removal equipment, jackhammers.<br>▪ Track stabilizer.<br>▪ Hand tools.<br>▪ Mobile crane.<br>▪ Flatbed trucks.<br>▪ Boom truck.<br>▪ Spreader for track work. |
| **Excavating and Grading** | ▪ Excavation and grading activities may involve earth-moving activities and stockpiling, as applicable. Excavated material will be accommodated on-site on the degree practicable; however, where necessary, surplus material will be disposed of off-site at an approved facility.<br>▪ Any off-site disposal shall be done in compliance with applicable regulations, including as it relates to contaminated material that may be encountered.<br>▪ Any groundwater encountered will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations and applicable by-laws | ▪ Site compaction equipment and general grading equipment, dump trucks, soil removal equipment.<br>▪ Groundwater pumping equipment.<br>▪ Excavation equipment including backhoe, dump trucks, soil removal equipment, jack hammers. |

| Anticipated Construction Activity | Description | Associated Equipment |
|---|---|---|
| **Construction, Rehabilitation and/or Alteration of Bridge** | ▪ All structures will be constructed using standard civil construction techniques.<br>▪ In-water works/works below high-water mark may be required.<br>▪ Includes grounding and bonding.<br>▪ Pile installation, foundations, abutments, retaining walls, bridge girders, decking, backfilling, concrete demolition.<br>▪ Driving / Installing Rock Bolts.<br>▪ Compaction / Backfilling / Grading. | ▪ Foundation placement equipment.<br>▪ Augured piles or rammed aggregate piers.<br>▪ Drill rigs.<br>▪ Mobile cranes and hoists.<br>▪ Concrete trucks, pumps and vibrators.<br>▪ Mobile cranes and hoists.<br>▪ Flatbed trucks, cranes.<br>▪ Augured piles or rammed aggregate piers.<br>▪ Drill rigs.<br>▪ Bulldozer and excavator.<br>▪ Jackhammer.<br>▪ Front End Loaders.<br>▪ Triaxles Dump Trucks.<br>▪ Concrete Trucks.<br>▪ Rock Bolt Equipment.<br>▪ Hydrovac Equipment. |
| **Construction of Ancillary Facilities** | ▪ Ancillary facilities may include electrical transformer/supply equipment. | ▪ Flatbed trucks, cranes, concrete trucks.<br>▪ Backhoe, pavement excavation equipment.<br>▪ Mobile cranes and hoists.<br>▪ Concrete trucks, pumps and vibrators, skid steer.<br>▪ Office trailers, generators, temporary hygienic facilities. |
| **Temporary Track Diversion/Permanent Track Shifts** | ▪ Grading.<br>▪ Temporary drainage.<br>▪ Relocation/installation of tracks, as required.<br>▪ Temporary relocation of signals, as required.<br>▪ Clear delineation and protection between active rail service and construction work zones.<br>▪ Provision of GO signal overhead bridge support/protection and temporary GO ballast track protection. | ▪ Site compaction equipment and general grading equipment, dump trucks, spoil removal equipment.<br>▪ Thermal welding.<br>▪ Tie placement (cranes, lifting equipment).<br>▪ Ballast placement equipment.<br>▪ Temporary concrete barriers.<br>▪ Surfacing Equipment, Stabilizers, Tampers |

| Anticipated Construction Activity | Description | Associated Equipment |
|---|---|---|
| **Temporary Road / Trail / Multi-Use Path Closures** | ▪ Temporary road/trail/multi-use path closures, as required. | ▪ Temporary traffic control devices such as signs, signals, barriers, traffic barrels, plate tampers. |
| **Management of Stormwater** | ▪ All precipitation falling within the site will be managed as stormwater within a designed system of collection, conveyance, retention and discharge features, as required. The system will be designed and operated in compliance with applicable standards and regulatory requirements. Surface flows within the site will be managed within the site to ensure discharge to off-site receivers (i.e., municipal storm sewers) is appropriate in terms of water quantity and quality. | ▪ Site compaction equipment and general grading equipment.<br>▪ Groundwater pumping. |

## Figure 1-2: Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint and Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area




**Legend**

- Existing Rail
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area


**Ontario Line Project**

**Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works**

0 50 100 200
Meters
DATUM: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

**Data Sources:**
Contains Information licensed under the Open Government Licence Ontario, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. Keymap and Basemap provided by ESRI.

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**Figure 1-2**

# 2. Methodology

This Report documents the assessment of Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction impacts related to the natural environment. Impacts associated with Project operations will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report under separate cover.

## 2.1 Local Environmental Conditions

### 2.1.1 Background Information Review

Background information and documentation relevant to the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area is contained within the Ontario Line Final Environmental Conditions Report (AECOM, 2020)[6] prepared for the Project and was reviewed prior to commencing the natural environment investigation within this Report. For the purpose of this background information review, terrestrial and aquatic features and functions were identified within the boundaries of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, as shown in **Figure 1-2**, through a desktop review of available secondary sources. The following sources were used to conduct the background information review as part of the Ontario Line Final Environmental Conditions Report (AECOM, 2020):

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Ontario GeoHub base mapping data, (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020; Land Information Ontario, 2017; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2017a; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2017b) for:
  - Designated natural areas (e.g., Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, wooded; areas, Provincially Significant Wetlands/Locally Significant Wetland/unevaluated wetlands, provincial parks);
  - Aquatic Resource Areas;
  - Wildlife habitats; and
  - Natural Heritage Information Centre provincially tracked species.
- Wildlife atlases:
  - Ontario Butterfly Atlas Online (MacNaughton et al., 2019);
  - Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Website (Bird Studies Canada et al., 2006);

6. The Ontario Line Final Environmental Conditions Report (AECOM, 2020) was published on November 30, 2020 in accordance with Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project.

  - Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Online (Ontario Nature, 2020);
  - Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario (Dobbyn, 1994);
  - Bat Conservation International Species Profiles (2020); and
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquatic Species at Risk on-line mapping (2020).
- Planning documents and guidelines:
  - Natural Heritage Information Request Guide (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2018);
  - Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2000);
  - Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015);
  - Natural Heritage Reference Manual for Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Policy Statement – Second Edition (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010);
  - City of Toronto Interactive Mapping Version 2 (2020a);
  - Species at Risk Act Public Registry (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2020);
  - Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine and Natural Feature Protection (City of Toronto, 2016a);
  - Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees (City of Toronto, 2016b); and
  - City of Toronto Official Plan (City of Toronto, 2019).
- Open Data Portals:
  - City of Toronto Open Data Portal (2020b); and
  - Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Open Data Portal (2020a).
- Reports:
  - Environmentally Significant Areas in the City of Toronto (North-South Environmental Inc. et al., 2012);
  - GO Transit Rail Network Electrification EA Natural Environment Baseline Conditions Report (Morrison-Hershfield, 2017);
  - Review of Provincially Significant Wetlands in the City of Toronto (North-South Environmental Inc. and Dougan & Associates, 2009); and
  - Ontario Line Final Environmental Conditions Report (AECOM, 2020).
- Aerial photography.

As of June 29, 2019, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks assumed responsibility for the Endangered Species Act, 2007, which was formerly the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. It is both the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Park's and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's current direction for proponents to conduct a desktop screening for Species at Risk and natural heritage records, respectively, using online secondary sources. Therefore, information requests were not sent to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks or Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in 2020 (given that Species at Risk records could be retrieved from online sources). AECOM requested additional natural heritage data within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on December 19, 2019 that were not available from their Open Data Portal, including regulation limits, watercourse thermal regimes and flora and fauna records. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority provided the requested natural heritage data on January 13, 2020, which have been incorporated into this Report. AECOM also requested herpetofauna records from Ontario Nature for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area on March 20, 2020 and received a response to the data request on May 19, 2020.

In addition to the secondary sources listed above, the following previously completed studies relevant to the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are contained in the Ontario Line Final Environmental Conditions Report (AECOM, 2020) and were reviewed in support of the background review:

- Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Natural Environment Report (AECOM, 2018);
- Natural Environment Existing Conditions – Relief Line South, Toronto, Ontario (Golder Associates, 2018);
- Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion (Don River to Scarborough GO Station) Project – Natural Environment Effects Assessment Report (AECOM, 2017); and
- East Harbour SmartTrack Station – Natural Environment Report (4Transit, 2018a).

Ecological Land Classification mapping from 2003 and 2017 was also downloaded from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's open data portal and used to supplement data gaps. Ecological Land Classification is the provincially accepted standard for classifying vegetation communities in Ontario. This protocol uses a series of six nested levels (Site Region, System, Community Class, Community Series, Ecosite and Vegetation Type) to describe the ecological form and function of a vegetation community in a spatial context, from largest to smallest scale. Ecological Land

Classification was generally limited to natural or naturalized areas that are defined as naturally vegetated areas that are greater than 0.50 hectares in size and do not include mowed lawns, manicured municipal parks or streetscapes. Figures showing Ecological Land Classification data include a combination of data sources and differentiate between source materials and primary data collection, as applicable to the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area Study Area, as follows:

- Ecological Land Classification vegetation communities received from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;
- Ecological Land Classification vegetation communities delineated based on supporting background environmental reports; and
- Ecological Land Classification vegetation communities delineated based on aerial photography interpretation only.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's local ranks for flora were used to identify species that are regionally rare within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority jurisdiction based on ecological criteria collected by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other agencies (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020b). Species with local ranks of L1 to L3 are considered by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to be Regional Species of Conservation Concern and are flagged as being at risk and highly sensitive to habitat loss due to changing landscapes within the entire Toronto and Region Conservation Authority jurisdiction over the long term even though some species may not be currently rare (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020b).

### 2.1.2 Field Investigations

Field investigations were not completed for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works, as lands within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area were recently investigated in 2016 to support other Metrolinx projects (i.e., Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements and Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion [Don River to Scarborough GO Station]). The survey results were reviewed and summarized to supplement the established existing conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area and were deemed to be sufficient to support an impact assessment. The field investigations previously completed within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are summarized in **Table 2-1**.

**Table 2-1: Summary of Previous Field Investigations Completed Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area**

| Name of Relevant Environmental Document | Description of Field Investigations Previously Completed Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area | Date of Field Investigations |
|---|---|---|
| ▪ **Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2018)** | ▪ Ecological Land Classification surveys following Lee et al. (1998).<br>▪ One-season vascular plant inventory.<br>▪ Aquatic habitat assessments of the Lower Don River.<br>▪ Incidental wildlife observations. | ▪ 2016 |
| ▪ **Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion (Don River to Scarborough GO Station) Project Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2017)** | ▪ Ecological Land Classification surveys following Lee et al. (1998).<br>▪ One-season vascular plant inventory.<br>▪ Breeding bird surveys following the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Guide for Participants (Bird Studies Canada, 2001).<br>▪ Aquatic habitat assessments of the Lower Don River.<br>▪ Incidental wildlife observations. | ▪ 2016 |

### 2.1.3 Significant Wildlife Habitat Screening

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area was assessed for the presence of candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat features (e.g., bat maternity roosting habitat in forested areas, Species of Conservation Concern) using the criteria described in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) as part of the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2000) against the results from the field investigations completed to date within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area as described in **Section 2.1.2**.

The Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) contains information and criteria for identifying Significant Wildlife Habitat, which are defined as areas that have important ecological features and functions, and which support sustainable populations of plants, wildlife and other organisms within this Ecoregion. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry generally categorizes Significant Wildlife Habitat into the following five categories:

- Seasonal Concentration Areas;

- Rare Vegetation Communities with a Provincial S-Rank[7] of S1-S3;
- Specialized Habitats for Wildlife;
- Habitats of Species of Conservation Concern; and
- Animal Movement Corridors.

Field data collected from relevant environmental reports (**Table 2-1**) such as general habitat conditions and habitat characteristics, were used to identify the presence of Significant Wildlife Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area based on the habitat criteria identified in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015). Confirmed Significant Wildlife Habitat were identified based on secondary sources. Candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat refer to potential habitats that meet the habitat criteria as defined in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) but have not been confirmed as significant through additional detailed studies. According to the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010), which was developed to provide technical guidance for implementing the natural heritage policies of the Provincial Policy Statement, Significant Wildlife Habitat includes the habitat of Species of Conservation Concern, which is defined as the following:

- Species with Provincial S-rank assigned by the Natural Heritage Information Centre as S1 (critically imperiled), S2 (imperiled) or S3 (vulnerable);
- Species listed as Special Concern under the Endangered Species Act; and
- Species identified as nationally Endangered or Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, which are not protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Although Species of Conservation Concern do not receive legal protection under the Endangered Species Act, their habitat is protected under the Provincial Policy Statement and they may also be afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994 or Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997. A screening for Species of Conservation Concern was completed as per **Section 2.1.4** below.

### 2.1.4 Species at Risk Habitat Screening

Special consideration was given to identifying any Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. For the

7. The Natural Heritage Information Centre and the NatureServe Network have developed standard methods to evaluate species and plant communities and assign conservation status ranks. S-rank is a sub-national conservation status assigned to a species or plant community within a particular province, territory or state (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019).

purpose of this Report, Species at Risk include species that are listed as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario list and receive both individual and habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. Aquatic Species at Risk also include those that are identified as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened and are afforded protection under both the provincial Endangered Species Act and the federal Species at Risk Act, 2002.

Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern with ranges overlapping with, or recent occurrence records within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area were identified using the sources listed in **Section 2.1.1.** Species with records greater than 20 years old were considered historical in accordance with the standard Conservation Status Assessment (NatureServe, 2019), which Natural Heritage Information Centre uses to evaluate a species' S-rank. Species with historical records were deemed unlikely to persist in the general area given the vast urbanization within the City of Toronto and for this reason were not included in the Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern screenings. The potential for Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern to occur within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area was determined by comparing species habitat requirements to the habitat conditions present on-site and using the results of the background information review (**Section 2.1.1**) and results from field investigations described in **Section 2.1.2** to apply the following rankings:

- **Low Probability:** neither species nor suitable habitat observed through field investigations but there is a known species record in the general area;
- **Medium Probability:** species not observed; however, potentially suitable habitat identified through field investigations and there is a known species record in the general area; and
- **High Probability:** good quality Species at Risk habitat identified (e.g., sufficiently large areas of suitable vegetation and presence of key features such as nesting sites), and known species record in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (either through current or previous field investigations).

## 2.2 Impact Assessment

This early works impact assessment and development of mitigation measures and monitoring activities considered the following:

- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works components as described in **Section 1.3.1**;

- The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint and Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area as described in **Section 1.3.2**;
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard construction activities as described in **Section 1.3.3**; and
- Local environmental conditions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area as described in **Section 4**.

For the purpose of the impact assessment, as a conservative approach, all vegetation communities and buildings overlapping with the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint were assumed to be permanently removed during the construction phase.

Mitigation measures and monitoring activities have been recommended to mitigate the identified potential negative impacts within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. The results of the impact assessment are provided in **Section 5**.

# 3. Relevant Policies and Legislation

## 3.1 Federal

### 3.1.1 Species at Risk Act, 2002

The federal Species at Risk Act protects and provides recovery strategies for Species at Risk listed as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened species under Schedule 1 of the Act. With respect to terrestrial Species at Risk, this legislation applies to federal lands, federally regulated projects or species with critical habitat on non-federal lands in specific circumstances unless they are aquatic species or migratory birds listed on Schedule 1. Critical habitat is identified in recovery strategies or action plants for species listed as Endangered and Threatened under the Species at Risk Act and is defined as habitat that is vital to the survival or recovery of a species. The majority of species listed under Schedule 1 of Species at Risk Act receive habitat protection on non-federal lands under the Endangered Species Act (refer to **Section 3.2.1**). Species that do not receive protection under the Endangered Species Act and do not have critical habitat identified may be afforded protection under other legislation such as the Migratory Birds Convention Act (refer to **Section 3.1.3**). In the case of aquatic Species at Risk, Species at Risk Act provides protection for aquatic species and habitat on both federal and non-federal lands.

Species that are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of Species at Risk Act receive management initiatives under Species at Risk Act to prevent them from becoming Endangered and Threatened, but do not receive individual or habitat protection.

Permits are required by those persons/organizations conducting activities that may affect species listed on Schedule 1 of Species at Risk Act, as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened and which contravene the Act's general or critical habitat prohibitions. The Act also contains a prohibition against the damage or destruction of their residences (e.g., nest or den). Under Section 73 of the Species at Risk Act, a permit may be issued to engage in an activity affecting a listed wildlife species or any part of its critical habitat or its residences.

### 3.1.2 Fisheries Act, R.S.C. 1985 (as amended)

On August 28, 2019, the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Provisions of the Amended Fisheries Act came into force. Changes to the Act include a return to the policies that were enforced prior to the 2012 amendments, focusing on the following key concepts:

- Protecting all fish and fish habitat (i.e., the focus is no longer on only protecting Commercial, Recreational and Aboriginal fisheries);

- Restoring the previous prohibition against ‘harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat’; and
- Restoring a prohibition against causing ‘the death of a fish by any other means than fishing’.

One of the Fish and Fish Habitat Protections includes the creation of Standards and Codes of Practice that will specify procedures, practices or standards in relation to works, undertakings and activities during any phase of their construction, operation, modification, etc. The Standards and Codes of Practice are anticipated to replace the Operational Statements that were in use, prior to the 2012 Fisheries Act amendments. Operational Statements included common works, undertakings and activities around water like Bridge Maintenance, Culvert Maintenance, Maintenance of Riparian Vegetation in Existing Right-of-Way, High-Pressure Directional Drilling, Isolated or Dry Open-Cut Stream Crossing, Punch and Bore Crossings etc. At the time of this Report, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has published two new Standards and Codes of Practice. These include the interim code of practice: end-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater and the interim code of practice: routine maintenance dredging. These have been referenced herein as applicable.

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program ensures compliance with relevant provisions under the Fisheries Act and Species at Risk Act. The program reviews proposed works, undertakings and activities that may impact fish and fish habitat. If a project is taking place in or near water, the proponent is responsible for understanding project related impacts on fish and fish habitat and applying measures to avoid and/or mitigate impacts (i.e., Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) to fish and fish habitat. In cases where Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction of fish and fish habitat cannot be avoided and/or mitigated, activities take place in a waterbody where Fisheries and Oceans Canada review is not required, or the scope of work cannot be covered under a Standard or Code of Practice, proponents are asked to submit a Request for Review to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

### 3.1.3 Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994

The federal Migratory Birds Convention Act is intended to protect migratory birds, their eggs and their active nests. The Migratory Birds Convention Act prohibits the possession, destruction and harm of migratory birds and/or their active nests and prohibits the release of harmful substances in areas frequented by migratory birds. Environment and Climate Change Canada administers the Act, but numerous other agencies are responsible for consideration of migratory birds under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, the nesting period for most migratory birds for Nesting Zone C1 that encompasses the Project is from April 1 to

August 31, during which vegetation removal is strongly discouraged to avoid contravention of the Migratory Birds Convention Act. However, if vegetation clearing must occur during this timing window, active nest searches may be conducted in simple habitats defined by Environment and Climate Change Canada (2020) as “often man-made settings with only a few likely nesting spots or small community of migratory birds. Examples of simple habitats include:

- an urban park consisting mostly of lawns with a few isolated trees;
- a vacant lot with few possible nest sites;
- a previously cleared area where there is a lag between clearing and construction activities (and where ground nesters may have been attracted to nest in cleared areas or in stockpiles of soil, for instance); or
- a structure such as a bridge, a beacon, a tower or a building (often chosen as a nesting spot by robins, swallows, phoebes, Common Nighthawks [Chaetura pelagica], gulls and others).”

Complex habitat includes woodlands and scrublands, where there are many potential nesting areas such that detection of nests, especially nests of cryptic songbirds, would be difficult and not effective (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2020).

## 3.2 Provincial

### 3.2.1 Endangered Species Act, 2007

The provincial Endangered Species Act protects those species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened on provincial crown or private lands. Sections 9 and 10 of the Endangered Species Act prohibit the killing, harassment, capture or taking of living individuals of Species at Risk or damaging or destroying their habitat. Therefore, where a proposed activity will impact protected species or habitat, changes to timing, location and methods of the proposed activity should be considered, wherever feasible, to avoid impacts to Species at Risk. Where impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated, a permit process can be initiated.

The Act was formerly administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry but as of June 29, 2019, the provincial government officially transitioned all duties regarding administration of the Endangered Species Act to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks may grant a permit, or other authorization, for activities that would otherwise not be allowable under the Act. Several permit types are available, depending on the nature of the proposed work and may include conditions for the activity to meet with aid in protection or recovery of the targeted Species at Risk. Although listed as Species at

Risk under the Endangered Species Act, Special Concern species are not afforded species or habitat protection under the Act but receive protection under other acts such as the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and as Significant Wildlife Habitat (refer to **Section 3.2.2**) under the Provincial Policy Statement, and other planning documents (e.g., municipal official plans).

### 3.2.2 Provincial Policy Statement, 2020

The Provincial Policy Statement sets the policy framework for regulating development and use of land and is issued under the authority of the Planning Act, 1990. According to Section 2.0 of the Provincial Policy Statement, development and site alteration is not permitted in significant wetlands or coastal wetlands. However, development and site alteration may occur adjacent to significant wetlands and significant coastal wetlands, and in or adjacent to significant woodlands, significant valleylands, Significant Wildlife Habitat, and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest provided that it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions. Section 1.6.8.6 of the Provincial Policy Statement notes that “when planning for corridors and rights-of-way for significant transportation infrastructure facilities, consideration will be given to the significant resources in Section 2.0: Wise Use and Management of Resources”. If development of significant transportation infrastructure facilities occurs in or adjacent (50 metres or 120 metres) to natural heritage features (e.g., Significant Wildlife Habitat, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Provincially Significant Wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valleylands, fish habitat), Metrolinx must provide consideration to reduce effects, if any, on these features to the extent possible. This Report has been prepared to identify the natural heritage features present, if any, within 120 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint (i.e., the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area) through background information review and field investigations completed to date, identify the potential impacts (effects), and recommend mitigation measures to minimize effects on any affected natural heritage features.

### 3.2.3 A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 (Growth Plan) is a long-term plan for Ontario designed to promote economic growth, increase housing supply, create jobs, and build communities that make life easier, healthier, and more affordable for people of all ages. As one of the most dynamic and fast-growing regions in North America, the Greater Golden Horseshoe is a designation for many people and businesses from other parts of Canada and around the world. To accommodate such

growth, an integral part of the Plan's vision is focused on investing in transit infrastructure to support the regional transit network.

The Project is consistent with the relevant policies of the Growth Plan by extending the higher-order transit network into existing residential and employment areas, which optimizes the efficiency and viability of existing and planned transit and help develop more vibrant and complete communities.

The Growth Plan identifies Downtown Toronto as an "urban growth centre" and the GO Transit rail lines and subway lines within Downtown Toronto as "priority transit corridors" (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2019). The Growth Plan notes that urban growth centres will be planned:

a) as focal areas for investment in regional public service facilities, as well as commercial, recreational, cultural, and entertainment uses;

b) to accommodate and support the transit network at the regional scale and provide connection points for inter- and intra-regional transit;

c) to serve as high-density major employment centres that will attract provincially, nationally, or internationally significant employment uses; and

d) to accommodate significant population and employment growth.

Each "urban growth centre" is given a minimum density target to achieve by 2031. The minimum density target for Downtown Toronto is 400 residents and jobs combined per hectare. To support these growth and density targets, "priority transit corridors" are identified with policies for infrastructure development, such as requiring municipalities to recognize these areas in their official plans to implement the policies of the Growth Plan.

According to Section 3.2.5 (d), any impacts on key natural heritage features in the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, key hydrological features and key hydrologic areas should be avoided or, if not possible, reduced and mitigated to the extent possible as demonstrated through an environmental assessment completed by the Province when planning for the development, optimization or expansion of existing or planned infrastructure corridors. The Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan is not mapped for Downtown Toronto; however, the Natural Heritage System for the City of Toronto is mapped in the City of Toronto's Official Plan (City of Toronto, 2019).

The Project promotes the Growth Plan's policies by providing Downtown Toronto with improved regional connections that will accommodate the increased population and

employment to be achieved by the density targets while minimizing effects on natural heritage and hydrological features.

### 3.2.4 Greenbelt Plan, 2017

The Greenbelt Plan builds on the Provincial Policy Statement and provides a land use planning framework related to urban structure and future growth in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe while providing protection to the agricultural lands, ecological and hydrological features in the Greenbelt Area (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2020). Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, the Lower Don River is designated as an Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan. The Urban River Valley designation provides connectivity between the Greenbelt and Lake Ontario and directs land use planning in those areas where the Greenbelt occupies river valleys in an urban context (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2020). The lands are governed by municipal official plans, such as the City of Toronto Official Plan (City of Toronto, 2019). All publicly owned lands (i.e., by the Province, municipality or conservation authority) are subject to the policies of the Urban River Valley designation and all existing, expanded or new infrastructure subject to and approved under the Environmental Assessment Act (or similar approval) are permitted within the Urban River Valley Designations provided that the goals of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Greenbelt Plan are supported (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 2020).

### 3.2.5 Conservation Authorities Act, 1998

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area fall under the jurisdiction of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 166/06 under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act (1998), establishes regulated areas within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's jurisdiction where development could be subject to flooding, erosion or dynamic beaches, or where interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses might have an adverse effect on those environmental features. The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area falls within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's regulated area.

Metrolinx will consult with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority with respect to construction activities in regulated areas for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works in relation to Ontario Regulation 166/06: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.

## 3.3 Municipal

The City of Toronto Official Plan (City of Toronto, 2019) promotes strong communities and a competitive economy while protecting, restoring or enhancing the natural environment and urban forests. A range of municipal permits and approvals may be required for the Project, particularly as pertaining to municipally owned lands and infrastructure. Metrolinx will obtain all required permits and approvals. However, Metrolinx as a Crown Agency of the Province of Ontario is exempt from certain municipal processes and requirements. In these instances, Metrolinx will engage with the municipalities to incorporate municipal requirements as a best practice, where practical, and may obtain associated permits and approvals.

# 4. Local Environmental Conditions

## 4.1 Designated Natural Areas

Designated natural areas include valleylands, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, significant woodlands and significant wildlife habitat. According to Section 1.6.8.5 of the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement, consideration is to be given to designated natural areas when planning for corridors and rights-of-way for significant transportation and infrastructure facilities. Brief descriptions of the different types of designated natural areas are as follows:

- Valleylands refer to a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010). Significance is determined based on a variety of criteria including, but not limited to, hydrological, geomorphological and ecological function (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010).
- Provincially Significant Wetlands and Locally Significant Wetlands are wetlands that are seasonally or permanently flooded by shallow water, or areas where the water table is close to the surface, enabling the development of hydric soil, which supports primarily hydrophytic or water tolerant plants (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2014). Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry evaluates the significance of wetlands through the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System. Based on the resulting score of an evaluation, an evaluated wetland can fall into one of two classes: Provincially Significant Wetlands or Locally Significant Wetland (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2014). Until such a time, that an Ontario Wetland Evaluation System evaluation is completed and evaluated by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, unevaluated wetlands should be considered as significant for the purpose of assessing impacts.
- Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest include land and/or water containing natural landscapes or features that have been scientifically identified by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010). Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are designated as earth science (geological) or life science (biological) depending on the features present (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010). “Candidate Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest” are

those provincial-level Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest that Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has identified and recommended for protection but that have not been formally confirmed through a confirmation procedure (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010). For the purpose of the Provincial Policy Statement, an Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest is not considered provincially significant until it has been confirmed.

- Significant woodlands are woodlots that are identified as significant in a municipal official plan or woodlots that have been investigated and meet the criteria of significance as identified in the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2010).
- Significant wildlife habitats are areas that have important ecological features and functions which support sustainable populations of plants, wildlife and other organisms. Significant wildlife habitats are further described in **Section 4.6**.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's GeoHub Mapping (2020), there are no Provincially Significant Wetlands, Locally Significant Wetlands, significant valleylands or provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. In addition, there are no woodlands or unevaluated wetlands within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. Refer to **Section 4.6** for discussion on Significant Wildlife Habitat in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

## 4.2 Planning Policy Areas

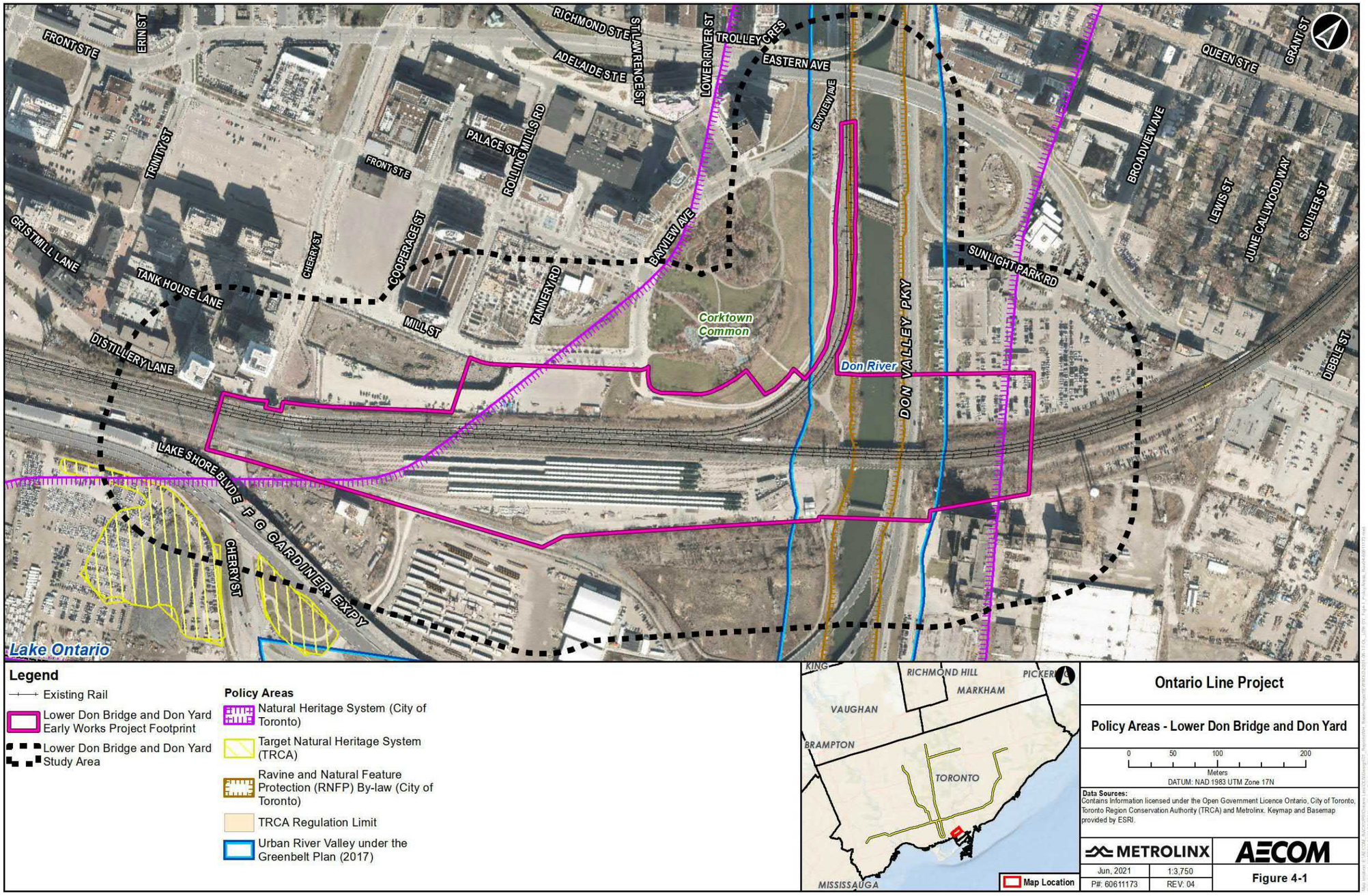
Planning Policy Areas include land use planning designations from provincial plans, upper and lower tier municipal official plans, and conservation authorities as described in **Section 3** and below. Planning Policy Areas related to the protection of the natural environment that are applicable to the early works are described below:

- **City of Toronto Natural Heritage System** – As described in Section 3.4 of the City of Toronto's Official Plan (City of Toronto, 2019), the Natural Heritage System is comprised of the following features:
  - Significant landforms and physical features;
  - Watercourses and hydrological features;
  - Valley slopes, riparian zones;
  - Terrestrial natural habitat types;
  - Significant aquatic features; and
  - Species of concern and significant biological features that are subject to the Provincial Policy Statement.

- **City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law** – This By-law is enforced by the City of Toronto and protects natural features that are vulnerable to degradation due to the removal of trees, changes in grade, or lack of management (City of Toronto, 2017). Typically, a permit would be required to conduct any work in a Ravine or Natural Feature area including removing a tree, placing fill, or altering the grade of the land (City of Toronto, 2017). Metrolinx as a Crown Agency of the Province of Ontario is exempt from certain municipal processes and requirements. In these instances, Metrolinx will engage with the municipalities to incorporate municipal requirements as a best practice, where practical, and may obtain associated permits and approvals.
- **Environmentally Significant Areas** – Environmentally Significant Areas are designated by the City of Toronto and form portions of the City's Natural Heritage System and include natural heritage areas that support high species diversity, habitats for wildlife, including rare species, rare landforms and important ecological function, which require additional protection to conserve their important ecological qualities and functions (North-South Environmental Inc. et al., 2012).
- **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Terrestrial Natural Heritage System** – The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has developed the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System to identify natural features and areas that need to be protected and expanded within their jurisdiction in order to protect ecological functions and biodiversity. Valley and stream corridors, wetlands, woodlands and meadows are key components of this target system. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority also sets targets for improving the quality, integrity, quantity and connectivity of terrestrial natural features within the system.
- **Urban River Valley Designation** – This designation is provided under the Greenbelt Plan as described in **Section 3.2.4** and applies to the Lower Don River Valley.

According to the City of Toronto's Interactive Map (City of Toronto, 2020a), there are no Environmentally Significant Areas within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, however the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint falls within the City of Toronto's Natural Heritage System (11.25 hectares), and portions fall within the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law Area (0.93 hectares) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's regulation limits (6.16 hectares) as shown in **Figure 4-1**. The Urban River Valley designation under the Greenbelt Plan occurs along the Lower Don River to its mouth at Lake Ontario and partially within the footprint (3.23 hectares).

## Figure 4-1: Policy Areas Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area



## 4.3 Ecological Land Classification and Plant Inventory

All of the vegetation communities in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are generally disturbed as a result of anthropogenic activities and are largely limited to narrow vegetation strips within the existing rail corridor and along the Lower Don River, which are surrounded by heavily developed commercial, industrial and residential areas. These vegetation communities contained large proportions of non-native and invasive plant species and none were identified as being provincially significant (AECOM, 2017; AECOM, 2018; 4Transit, 2018b). Descriptions of vegetation communities and their structural compositions within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are summarized in **Table 4-1** and mapped in **Figure 4-2**.

There were no butternuts (Junglans cinerea) or any other plant Species at Risk, provincially significant or Regional Species of Conservation Concern plants identified in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (AECOM, 2018).

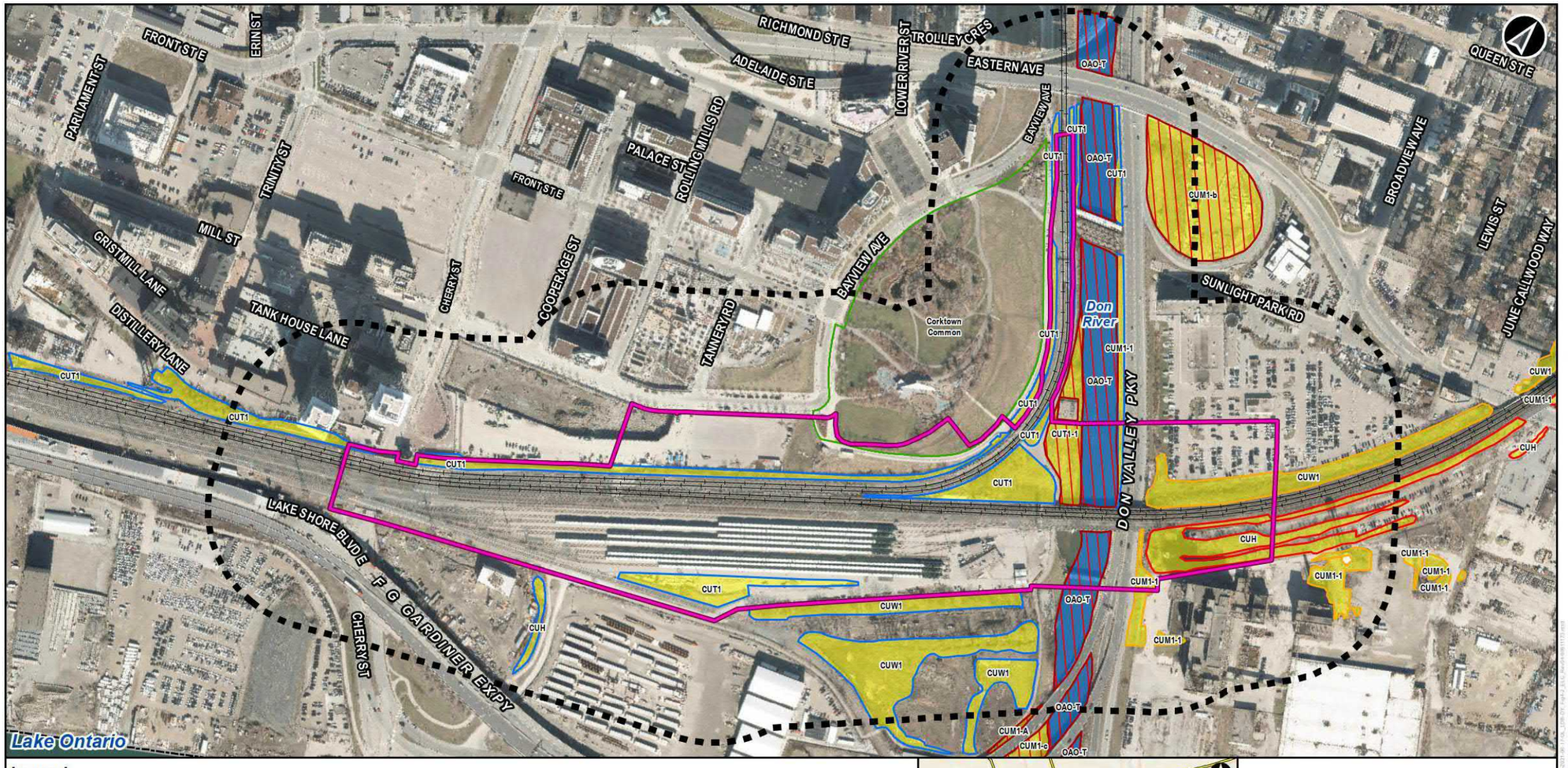
## Table 4-1: Ecological Land Classification Vegetation Communities Identified Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area

| Ecological Land Classification Code – Cultural Communities | Ecological Land Classification Name | Tree Canopy | Shrub Layer | Ground Layer | General Location | Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cultural Meadow (CUM) CUM1-1** | ▪ Dry-moist Old Field Cultural Meadow | ▪ No tree canopy layer identified in this community. | ▪ No shrub layer identified in this community. | ▪ Cultural meadows were identified through interpretation of aerial imagery. These communities were generally dominated by grasses, weeds, and other herbaceous species. | ▪ East of the Lower Don River | ▪ Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2018) |
| **Cultural Meadow (CUM) CUM1-1** | ▪ Dry-moist Old Field Cultural Meadow | ▪ No tree canopy layer identified in this community. | ▪ No shrub layer identified in this community. | ▪ Herbaceous and graminoid species covered 60% or more of the cultural meadow communities which were dominated by invasive species such as dog strangling vine (Cynanchum rossicum), garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata), and white sweet clover (Melilotus alba). | ▪ East of the Lower Don River | ▪ Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion (Don River to Scarborough GO Station) Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2017) |
| **CUM1-A** | ▪ Native Forb Meadow | ▪ Less than 10% tree cover consisting of Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia). | ▪ No shrub layer identified in this community. | ▪ Greater than 60% ground cover primarily dominated by goldenrods (Solidago spp.), grasses and Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense). | ▪ West of the Lower Don River | ▪ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (2003-2017) |
| **CUM1-b with a CUP1-A** | ▪ Exotic Cool-season Grass Graminoid Meadow with a Cultural Plantation inclusion | ▪ Less than 10% tree cover consisting of Austrian Pine (Pinus nigra), giant-toothed aspen (Populus grandidentata) and balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera). | ▪ No shrub layer identified in this community. | ▪ Greater than 60% ground cover primarily dominated by grasses, Canada thistle, wild carrot (Daucus carota) and common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca). | ▪ East of the Lower Don River | ▪ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (2003-2017) |
| **Cultural Thicket (CUT) CUT1** | ▪ Mineral Cultural Thicket | ▪ Less than 25% tree cover dominated by tree species such as Manitoba maple (Acer negundo), Norway maple (Acer platanoides) and tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima). Less common trees noted in the canopy included green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), white mulberry (Morus alba), Carolina poplar (Populus X canadensis) and wych elm (Ulmus glabra). | ▪ Between 25 and 60% shrub cover dominated by staghorn sumac (Rhus typhina), common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica), gray dogwood (Cornus racemosa), Russian olive and Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus). | ▪ Ground species made up more than 60% of this community, including tall goldenrod (Solidago altissima), dog strangling vine and mugwort (Artemisia vulgaris). | ▪ West of the Lower Don River | ▪ Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2018) |
| **Cultural Thicket (CUT) CUT1-1** | ▪ Sumac Deciduous Thicket | ▪ Less than 10% tree cover consisting of tree-of-heaven, Russian olive, Manitoba maple and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides). | ▪ Greater than 60% shrub cover dominated by staghorn sumac with lesser of white mulberry, choke cherry (Prunus virginiana), red-osier dogwood (Cornus sericea), common buckthorn and narrow-leaf willow (Salix exigua) | ▪ Greater than 60% ground cover dominated by grasses, stinging nettle (Urtica dioica), common milkweed, Canada thistle and bouncing bet (Saponaria offinaliz) | ▪ West of the Lower Don River | ▪ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (2003-2017) |

| Ecological Land Classification Code – Cultural Communities | Ecological Land Classification Name | Tree Canopy | Shrub Layer | Ground Layer | General Location | Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cultural Woodland (CUW) CUW1** | ▪ Mineral Cultural Woodland | ▪ The species composition of cultural woodlands varied depending on the location along the Union Station Rail Corridor. Tree canopy cover was 25 to 60% and mainly dominated by Manitoba maple, tree-of-heaven or eastern cottonwood. Less common tree species included black cherry (Prunus serotina) and green ash. | ▪ The shrub cover generally consisted of Tartarian honeysuckle (Lonicera tatarica), Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica), red-osier dogwood, and common buckthorn. | ▪ Ground cover was largely dominated by stinging nettle and garlic mustard, both highly invasive species. Other ground species consisted of thicket creeper (Parthenocissus inserta), riverbank grape (Vitis riparia), and common plantain (Plantago major). | ▪ West of the Lower Don River | ▪ Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2018) |
| **Cultural Woodland (CUW) CUW1** | ▪ Mineral Cultural Woodland | ▪ Less than 60% tree canopy was dominated by Manitoba maple, Siberian elm (Ulmus pumila) or black walnut (Juglans nigra). Less dominant trees included tree-of-heaven, Norway maple, green ash and black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). Red oak (Quercus rubra) was sometimes noted on the edge of city parks but was generally outside of the existing rail corridor. | ▪ The shrub cover generally consisted of choke cherry, Manitoba maple, honeysuckles, staghorn sumac and common buckthorn. | ▪ Ground species were largely either dominated by dog strangling vine or garlic mustard, both highly invasive species. Other ground species consisted of thicket creeper, wild carrot, riverbank grape, field horsetail (Equisetum arvense), goldenrods, bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum), common St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum) and sometimes to a lesser extent, false Solomon's seal (Maianthemum racemosum). | ▪ East of the Lower Don River | ▪ Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion (Don River to Scarborough GO Station) Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2017) |
| **Cultural Hedgerows**[8] | ▪ Cultural Hedgerows | ▪ The tree canopy was dominated by Manitoba maple, common buckthorn and Russian olive | ▪ No shrub layer identified in this community. | ▪ Ground cover consisted of the same herbaceous species described above for cultural thickets and woodlands. | ▪ West of the Lower Don River | ▪ Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2018) |
| **Cultural Hedgerows**[8] | ▪ Cultural Hedgerows | ▪ The tree canopy was dominated by Siberian elm, Manitoba maple, tree-of-heaven or black walnut depending on the location. Other less dominant tree species noted included poplar (Populus sp.), Norway maple and black locust. | ▪ The shrub layer was dominated by thicket creeper. Japanese knotweed was also noted at certain locations. | ▪ Ground cover consisted of the same herbaceous and grass species described above for cultural meadows. | ▪ East of the Lower Don River Bridge | ▪ Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Expansion (Don River to Scarborough GO Station) Environmental Project Report (AECOM, 2017) |

8. For the purpose of this investigation, cultural hedgerows were defined as narrow strips or rows of trees, either planted or natural growing as remnants of old vegetation communities that were removed in the past, with minimal vegetative cover underneath

## Figure 4-2: Ecological Land Classification Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area




**Legend**

- Existing Rail
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area

**ELC Collection Method**

- ELC Previously Reported (AECOM 2016, Lakeshore Segment 1)
- ELC Field Verified (AECOM 2016, Lakeshore Segment 1)
- ELC Field Verified (AECOM 2019 - 2020)
- ELC (TRCA 2003-2017)
- ELC Field Verified or by Roadside (AECOM 2016, USRC); ELC Field Verified (AECOM 2016, USRC)

**ELC Communities**

- Cultural (CU)
- Open Aquatic (OA)


**Ontario Line Project**

**Ecological Land Classification (ELC) - Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard**

0 50 100 200
Meters
DATUM: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

**Data Sources:**
Contains Information licensed under the Open Government Licence Ontario, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. Keymap and Basemap provided by ESRI.

METROLINX | AECOM

| Jun. 2021 | 1:3,750 |
|---|---|
| P#: 60611173 | REV: 03 |

Figure 4-2

## 4.4 Fish and Fish Habitat

A portion of the Lower Don River is located within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

### 4.4.1 Watershed Description

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area contains the Lower Don River, which is situated within the Don River Watershed and drains into the Lake Ontario waterfront (**Figure 4-3**). The Don River watershed is approximately 80% urbanized with almost half of the watershed dedicated to residential development (AECOM, 2017). As one of the most disturbed watersheds in Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's jurisdiction, the natural cover that remains is mostly along the larger valleys and in the headwaters, which serve as wildlife refuges and a recreational magnet for the 1.2 million residents that live within its boundaries (AECOM, 2017). The Don River Watershed has suffered extensive degradation as a result of the removal of natural cover and the alteration of the hydrologic system through the spread of agriculture and subsequent urbanization of the watershed. Lack of effective stormwater control has resulted in flooding, erosion, poor water quality and degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Rising population density has led to further development and expanded areas of impervious ground cover as well as heavy use of public greenspaces and natural areas (AECOM, 2017).

Previous assessments of the Lower Don River within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area showed evidence of prior re-alignment to accommodate urban transportation corridor development. The Lower Don River segment within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area is hardened, with little natural features present (AECOM, 2017) and slow flowing, turbid water (HDR, 2018). Banks were found to have narrow strips of riparian vegetation and steel support walls (HDR, 2018). Bankfull width and depth was approximately 40 metres and 2 metres, respectively, with wetted width approximately 36 metres (HDR, 2018).

It was found that the Lower Don River within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area provides direct fish habitat important for migration, feeding and refuge. However, conditions are generally non-limiting throughout with no specialized (critically limiting spawning) habitat identified (AECOM, 2017; 4Transit, 2018b). Migratory species (e.g., Chinook Salmon) use the Lower Don River as a seasonal migratory corridor to and from Lake Ontario as no barriers to fish use were identified (AECOM, 2017).

### 4.4.2 Aquatic Species Composition

There are 33 species of fish known to occur within the Lower Don River (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020a; HDR, 2018; AECOM, 2017). The fish community

is composed of mainly tolerant warmwater fish species (HDR, 2018). Pollution tolerant generalists are the most common species sampled in the watershed.

The section of the Lower Don River through the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area is classified as estuarine in the City of Toronto Natural Heritage Study (HDR, 2018) and has been identified as being of poor stream quality for fish habitat (HDR, 2018). The aquatic species composition represents a mix of generally common forage fish and sport fish that are intermittently tolerant to tolerant of environmental perturbation with few exceptions (AECOM, 2018). Coldwater species that are generally intolerant such as salmon and trout were identified, but are not anticipated to be resident fish, rather a result of sport fish restocking initiatives and/or seasonal migration to and from Lake Ontario (AECOM, 2018).

Fish records within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area were collected from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (AECOM, 2017; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020a). **Table 4-2** provides a summary of records including the number of fish species thermal regime and anticipated timing window for in-water works.

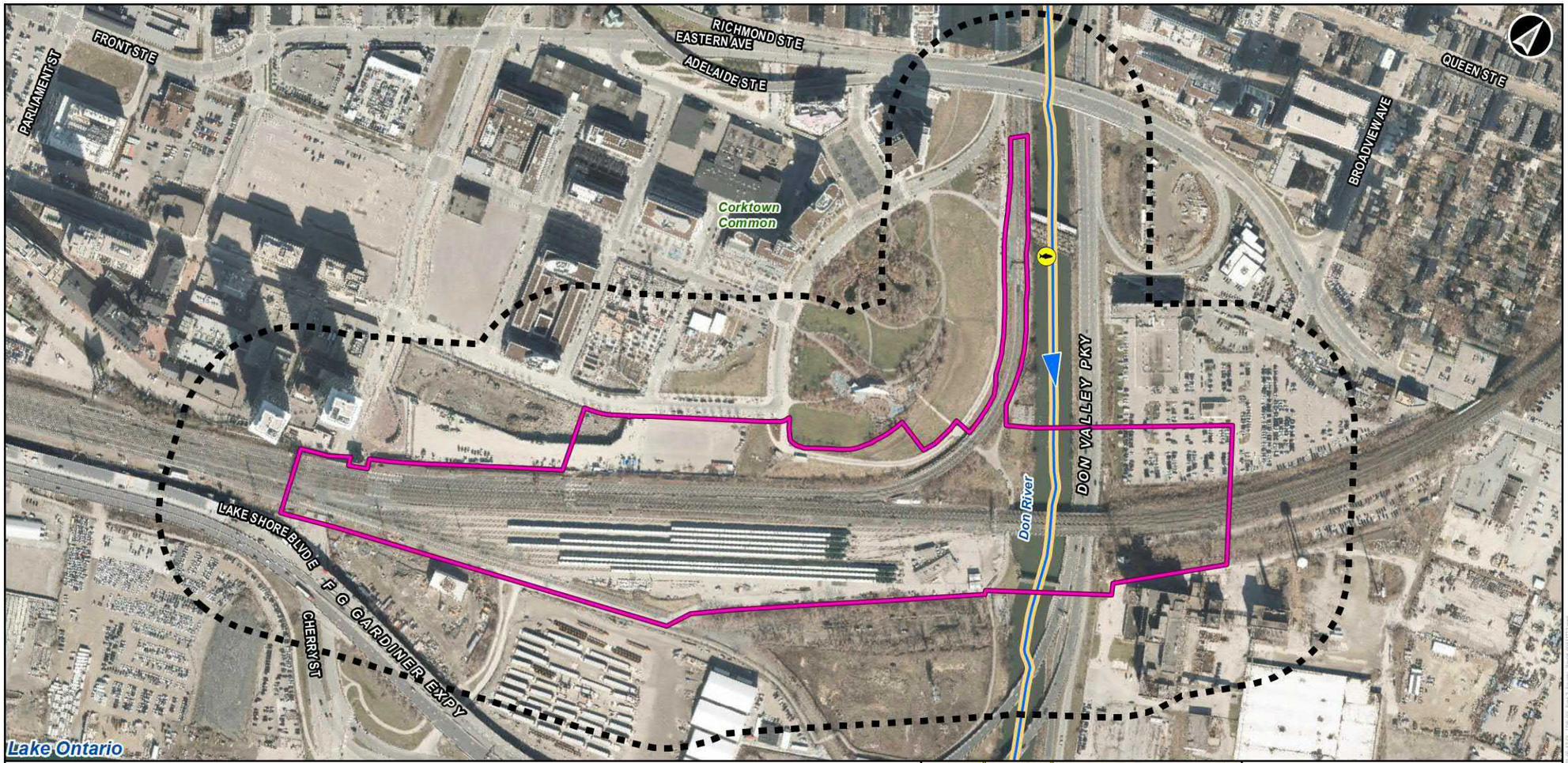
### Table 4-2: Fish Community Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area

| Official Name Label | Number of Fish Species | Thermal Regime[9] | Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Fish Community Records[10] 2011-2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Don River** | 33 | Warm[11] | Mixed Assemblage of Cold, Cool and Species[12] including:<br>**Cold:**<br>– Alewife (Alosa pseudoharengus)*<br>– Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)*<br>– Brown Trout (Salmo trutta)*<br>– Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)[13]<br>– Rainbow Trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss)* |

9. Thermal regime provided by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (2020a).
10. Source: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2020a
11. Coldwater species such as salmon and trout were identified; however, are not anticipated to be resident fish, rather a result of sport fish restocking initiatives and/or seasonal migration to and from Lake Ontario (AECOM, 2018). As such, thermal regime is based on resident fish community structure and has been confirmed through Toronto and Region Conservation Authority correspondence as a warmwater regime.
12. Thermal Regime by species (Source: The Ontario Freshwater Fishes Life History Database, Eakins, 2020).
13. Denotes non-native species (Source: Fish Communities of the Toronto Waterfront, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2008).

| Official Name Label | Number of Fish Species | Thermal Regime[9] | Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Fish Community Records[10] 2011-2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Cool:**<br>– Blacknose Dace (Rhinichthys atratulus)<br>– Common Shiner (Luxilus cornutus)<br>– Creek Chub (Semotilus atromaculatus)<br>– Emerald Shiner (Notropis atherinoides)<br>– Gizzard Shad (Dorosoma cepedianum)<br>– Northern Pike (Esox Lucius)<br>– Rock Bass (Ambloplites rupestris)<br>– Round Goby (Neogobius melanostomus)<br>– Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)<br>– Smallmouth Bass (Micropterus dolomieu)<br>– Spottail Shiner (Notropis hudsonius)<br>– Walleye (Sander vitreus)<br>– White Sucker (Catostomus commersonii)<br>– Yellow Perch (Perca flavescens)<br>– Quillback (Sebastes maliger)<br>**Warm:**<br>– Bigmouth Buffalo (Ictiobus cyprinellus)<br>– Bluntnose Minnow (Pimephales notatus)<br>– Brown Bullhead (Ameiurus nebulosus)<br>– Common Carp (Cyprinus carpio)*<br>– Fathead Minnow (Pimephales promelas)<br>– Freshwater Drum (Aplodinotus grunniens)<br>– Goldfish (Carassius auratus)*<br>– Goldfish x Common Carp hybrid*<br>– Koi (Cyprinus rubrofuscus)*<br>– Longnose Gar (Lepisosteus oculatus)<br>– Pumpkinseed (Lepomis gibbosus)<br>– Spotfin Shiner (Notropis hudsonius)<br>– White Bass (Morone chrysops) |

## Figure 4-3: Aquatic Habitat Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area



## 4.5 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Based on a review of wildlife atlases, the majority of the wildlife within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area are common in the City of Toronto and tolerant to anthropogenic disturbances, while a small proportion is comprised of sensitive or rare species (refer to **Section 4.6** and **Section 4.7** for discussion on Species of Conservation Concern and Species at Risk).

Refer to **Appendix A** for comprehensive species lists.

Forested ravines, City parks and open spaces that make up the City of Toronto's Natural Heritage System provide important habitats for wildlife in an urban setting (City of Toronto, 2012). The forested ravines of the Lower Don River act as important wildlife corridors and allow for the movement of mammals, herpetofauna, birds and insects including butterflies between different areas to seek food, shelter and mates within the City of Toronto's Natural Heritage System (City of Toronto, 2012). The Lower Don River also provides connectivity from Lake Ontario and the Greenbelt. In addition, the forested river valleys and ravines associated with the Lower Don River Valley support the movement of migratory breeding birds and provide shelter and food for migrant water-dependent birds such as Black-crowned Night-Herons (Nycticorax nycticorax), Spotted Sandpipers (Actitis macularius) and Belted Kingfishers (Megaceryle alcyon) among other bird species (Dougan & Associates and North-South Environmental Inc., 2009). In addition, City parks and open spaces, utility corridors and existing rail corridors may act as stepping stones that provide connectivity to major natural systems (e.g., forested ravines of the Lower Don River) and support wildlife movement (City of Toronto, 2018).

There is limited natural cover providing wildlife habitat within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area in the form of urban parks, trails and narrow strips of riparian vegetation along the Lower Don River and within the existing rail corridor (HDR, 2018; Golder Associates, 2018).

The Corktown Common Park is located within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area in the West Don Lands adjacent to the Lower Don River. It was previously converted from an industrial brownfield to a 7.30 hectare park, containing a system of restored urban prairie and marsh habitats situated on top of a flood protection landform (Waterfront Toronto, 2020). This park provides habitat for urban wildlife.

Areas that could potentially support herpetofauna tolerant of urban conditions, for example American Toad (Anaxyrus americanus), Dekay's Brownsnake (Storeria dekayi), and Eastern Gartersnake (Thamnophis sirtalis) were also identified close to the Lower Don River (4Transit, 2018a); however, small pockets of low-quality vegetation west of the Lower Don River supporting urban wildlife were documented but generally

lacked in amphibian breeding habitat (AECOM, 2018). There is limited wildlife habitat within the existing rail corridor as vegetation communities are largely disturbed, containing a high proportion of non-native and invasive plant species, and highly fragmented with low connectivity to other significant natural features (AECOM, 2017). Although the Lower Don River may function as a movement corridor for small to medium sized urban wildlife, there is low connectivity to other significant natural features with many barriers to animal movement (i.e., railways, roads, construction areas and fences). The existing rail corridor provides a low-quality movement corridor for some small mammals, birds and insects.

Most of the bird species recorded in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area consist of common species in Ontario that are tolerant to urban disturbances except for Barn Swallow and Chimney Swift, both Species at Risk birds protected under the Endangered Species Act, noted flying over the existing rail corridor (AECOM, 2017). Other bird species recorded included Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura), Rock Pigeon (Columba livia), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa), House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), and European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) (4Transit, 2018a). It is important to note that isolated trees and shrubs, vegetation communities and anthropogenic structures (e.g., buildings, bridges) can provide nesting habitat for many migratory birds, which are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

No observations or signs of any mammal species were recorded in the Study Area during the site investigations; however, the general area likely supports a range of mammals often found in urban environments, including: Common Raccoon (Procyon lotor), Eastern Cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus), Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis), Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis), and a number of small mammals that often go undetected (e.g., shrews, voles, mice) (Dobbyn, 1994).

## 4.6 Significant Wildlife Habitat

This section identifies candidate and confirmed Significant Wildlife Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. Significant Wildlife Habitat, including habitats for Species of Conservation Concern, receive protection under the Provincial Policy Statement and should thus be considered when corridors and rights-of-way for significant transportation are being planned according to Section 1.6.8.6 of the Provincial Policy Statement. Species of Conservation Concern may also be afforded protection under the Migratory Birds Convention Act or Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997.

Significant Wildlife Habitat screening and habitat screening for Species of Conservation Concern were completed for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area following

the methods described in **Section 2.1.3**. Species with historical records were deemed unlikely to persist in the general area given the vast urbanization within the City of Toronto and for this reason were not included in the Species of Conservation Concern screening. Refer to **Appendix B** for the complete Significant Wildlife Habitat screening and **Appendix C** for the complete Species of Conservation Concern habitat screening.

Based on review of the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015), the following Significant Wildlife Habitat types may occur within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area.

- **Habitats of Species of Conservation Concern:**
  - **Confirmed Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern** (refer to **Appendix C** for the complete Species of Conservation Concern habitat screening):
    - Northern Map Turtle (Graptemys geographica) – The Lower Don River may serve as a movement corridor for this species due to its moderate flow and less than 1 metre depth. A single record of this species within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area was reported by Ontario Nature in 2016; however, this species is considered unlikely to be hibernating within or in vicinity of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint due to the lack of suitable habitat present. The species may instead use the Lower Don River as a movement corridor.
  - **Candidate Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern** (refer to **Appendix C** for the complete Species of Conservation Concern habitat screening):
    - Common Nighthawk – This species may nest on the flat, gravel rooftops of buildings in urban areas (Brigham et al., 2011). There are two flat roofed buildings within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint, and others within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. This species is protected by Migratory Birds Convention Act.
    - Eastern Wood-pewee (Contopus virens) – Treed areas (e.g., cultural woodlands) may provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. This species is protected by Migratory Birds Convention Act.
    - Monarch (Danaus plexippus) – Cultural meadows may provide suitable foraging and rearing habitat for this species.

- Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina) – The Lower Don River may serve as a movement corridor for this species due to its moderate flow and less than 1 metre depth but is unlikely to provide suitable hibernation habitat within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint.

There were no candidate or confirmed seasonal concentration areas, rare vegetation communities, specialized habitat for wildlife or animal movement corridors identified within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (refer to **Appendix B** for the complete Significant Wildlife Habitat screening). Although the Lower Don River within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area acts as a movement corridor for some urban wildlife, it does not qualify as a candidate animal movement (amphibian or deer) corridor based on the criteria described in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2015) due to high levels of urbanization, fragmentation and barriers to animal movements (i.e., railways, roads, construction areas, fences).

## 4.7 Species at Risk Habitat Screening

This section provides a brief discussion on the likelihood of Species at Risk occurring within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. A habitat screening for Species at Risk was completed following the methods described in **Section 2.1.4** and is provided in **Appendix D**. Of note, species with historical records were deemed unlikely to persist in the general area given the vast urbanization within the City of Toronto and for this reason were not included in the Species at Risk screenings.

The following Species at Risk have a high probability of occurring within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area:

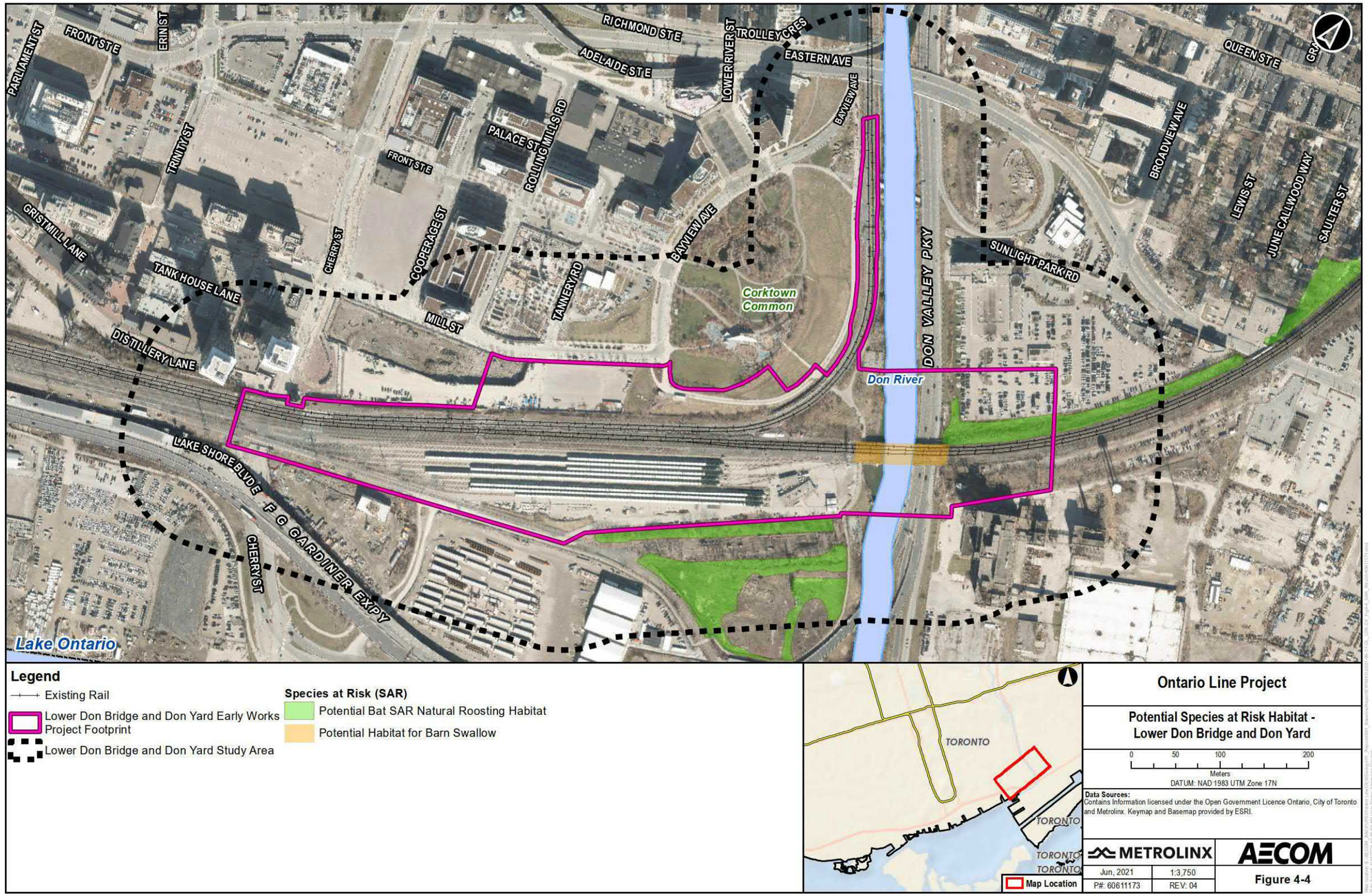
- **Barn Swallow** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. Barn Swallows are aerial insectivores and commonly forage over open areas such as waterbodies, pastures with livestock and woodlands edges (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2013a), and often live in close association with humans, building their cup-shaped mud nests, which are often reused from year to year, almost exclusively on human-made structures such as open barns, buildings, under bridges and in culverts (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2019a). Nesting Barn Swallows require proximity to suitable open habitat for foraging and generally also require access to mud for nest building (Heagy et al., 2014). According to 4Transit (2018b), Barn Swallows were observed foraging in the vicinity of the rail bridge crossing the Lower Don River suggesting that

active nests may be present under this bridge (**Figure 4-4**). In addition, the buildings within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area were deemed to have limited potential to support nesting Barn Swallows; however, field surveys will be required to determine if Barn Swallow nests are present on any buildings that may be removed or on the existing rail bridge.

- **Chimney Swift** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. Chimney Swifts are aerial insectivores and are typically concentrated in urban settlements where there are suitable chimneys for nesting and roosting (Steeves et al., 2014; Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, 2018). Buildings with suitable chimneys or standalone smokestacks may provide nesting or roosting habitat for Chimney Swifts within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. Suitable chimneys have the following characteristics (Bird Studies Canada, 2009; Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, 2018):
  - Chimneys with a wide diameter of at least 2.5 standard bricks (20 centimetres x 9 centimetres x 6 centimetres) in width or that have a minimum interior diameter of 25 to 30 centimetres (or 1 foot);
  - Chimneys built of brick, stucco, stone or concrete;
  - Chimneys lacking caps, spark protectors and animal guards that would otherwise prevent entry;
  - Chimneys lacking aluminum flues or metal linings that may prevent Chimney Swifts from clinging to the interior of the chimney;
  - Internal chimney temperatures between 13 degrees Celsius and 43 degrees Celsius; and
  - Chimney height extends beyond the roofline with a preferred height of 2.68 metres.

Based on review of available online secondary source information, there is one confirmed Chimney Swift site within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. According to 4Transit (2018b), Chimney Swift nests were confirmed in 2017 inside the chimney located at 21 Don Roadway, which is situated on the east bank of the Lower Don River, south of the existing rail corridor, within 120 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard, but outside of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint. No chimneys or smokestacks are visibly present in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint based on background sources review. Chimney Swifts have strong site fidelity (i.e., will return and use sites year after year) as long as the conditions of the nest and roost sites remain stable (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2013b).

## Figure 4-4: Potential Species at Risk Habitat Within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area




**Legend**

- Existing Rail
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint
- Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area

**Species at Risk (SAR)**

- Potential Bat SAR Natural Roosting Habitat
- Potential Habitat for Barn Swallow




**Ontario Line Project**

**Potential Species at Risk Habitat - Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard**

0 50 100 200
Meters
DATUM: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

**Data Sources:**
Contains Information licensed under the Open Government Licence Ontario, City of Toronto and Metrolinx. Keymap and Basemap provided by ESRI.

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Figure 4-4

The following Species at Risk have a medium probability of occurring within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area:

- **Bat Species at Risk, including Eastern Small-footed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Long-eared Myotis and Tri-colored Bat** – Bat Species at Risk are listed as Endangered and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act. Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis may roost in trees that are hollow, have cavities or loose bark. Tri-coloured bats are known to roost in dead leaf clusters while Eastern Small-footed Myotis are known to roost in rocky outcrops and talus slopes. All bat Species at Risk are known to roost in anthropogenic structures such as buildings in crevice-like spaces; under sidings, eves, roof tiles or shingles or behind shutters or sliding doors, between building wings, cracks and crevices in walls, wall coatings, hollow mortice joints, rain gutters and chimneys; and/or in attics (Bat Conservation Trust, 2012; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 1984; Humphrey, 2017; Humphrey and Fotherby, 2019). There were no hibernacula identified within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area; however, maternity roosting habitats may be present. Treed areas shown in **Figure 4-4**, including cultural woodlands within the existing rail corridor may provide suitable maternity roosting habitats for these species. The cultural woodlands south of the rail yard fall outside of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint and are not anticipated to be affected by Project activities. Buildings with potential entry/exit points within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area may also be used by bat Species at Risk for roosting (Humphrey, 2017; Humphrey and Fotherby, 2019; Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 1984). The rail bridge over the Lower Don River is not considered to be roosting habitat for bat Species at Risk as these species are not known to use bridges or rail overpasses as day roost habitats at northern latitudes (Keeley and Tuttle, 1999; Bennet et al., 2008; Bektas et al., 2018; Civjan et al., No Date; Adam and Hays, 2000). There are no documented cases of bats utilizing bridges as roosting habitat in Ontario or Michigan where studies have been completed, as bridges at these northern latitudes are not warm enough to meet bats' microclimatic conditions.
- **Butternut** – This species is listed as Endangered and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act. This species may occur within the cultural hedgerows within the existing rail corridor.

The remaining Species at Risk had low probability of occurrence due to lack of habitat identified within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (refer to **Appendix D** for full Species at Risk habitat screening).

- **Bank Swallow** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. There were no eroding river banks present in the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 2019).
- **Bobolink** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. There were no large hayfields, pastures or tallgrass meadows within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2019b).
- **Eastern Meadowlark** – This species is listed as Threatened and receives protection under the provincial Endangered Species Act, as well as the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act. There were no large hayfields, pastures or tallgrass meadows within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2019c).
- **Blanding's Turtle** - There are no suitable nesting, basking habitats or wetland habitats present within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area. There are reinforced retaining walls on either side of the Lower Don River at the Lower Don Bridge which do not provide suitable nesting habitat. Lake Ontario acts as a natural barrier to movement for Blanding's Turtle (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 2019d).

The Cherry Street Interlocking Tower, a small, brick building within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, but outside of the Project Footprint, was investigated for the presence of potentially suitable Species at Risk habitat in 2018 as part of consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks during the detailed design phase of the Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancements Transit Project Assessment Process. The building was surveyed for potential Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift and Bat habitat. A search for Barn Swallow nests resulted in no evidence of nests or nesting birds on the building. Upon close investigation of the brick chimney, it was evident that the chimney had been capped and provides no suitable nesting habitat. The building was also investigated for potential Bat roosting habitat by conducting exit surveys on two separate nights during the roosting season which showed no evidence of bats. It is anticipated that the Cherry Street Interlocking Tower is not suitable roosting habitat given that it is immediately next to the train tracks, currently occupied, and is subject to high noise levels from the adjacent busy train traffic, as well other urban noises from the area.

# 5. Potential Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities

In accordance with Sections 8(2)6, 8(2)7 and 8(2)8 of Ontario Regulation 341/20: Ontario Line Project, this section describes the potential impacts, mitigation measures, and monitoring activities to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures associated with the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works.

Potential impacts to the natural environment as a result of disturbances associated with the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area have been assessed and are presented in **Table 5-1** in addition to mitigation measures and monitoring activities. Additional recommended pre-construction surveys are also identified in **Section 6** and will be implemented as required.

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area generally lacks natural cover with vegetation limited to cultural communities along the existing rail corridor and riparian vegetation; however, up to 0.32 hectares of cultural woodland (CUW1), up to 0.08 hectares of cultural meadow (CUM1-1) and up to 0.40 hectares of cultural hedgerow (CUH) may be removed. In addition, up to 1.33 hectares of mineral cultural thicket (CUT1) and up to 0.22 hectares of sumac deciduous thicket (CUT1-1) may be removed. There is limited wildlife habitat within the existing rail corridor; however, urban wildlife may still enter the construction work area and become susceptible to accidental injury or mortality associated with construction machinery and equipment if not mitigated. Increased noise emissions from construction activities are not anticipated to affect urban wildlife that are already tolerant of existing anthropogenic sources of noise (i.e., trains and adjacent roads).

Northern Map and Snapping Turtle may use the Lower Don River as a movement corridor but are unlikely to be directly affected by the early works activities as their movement within the Lower Don River is not anticipated to be impeded. Mitigation measures applied during potentially required in-water works for fish and fish habitat in addition to general wildlife mitigation measures are expected to reduce any potential adverse effects to turtles.

Generally, there is a low probability for Common Nighthawk habitat to exist on the flat roof tops of the Don Yard buildings within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint; however, it should be checked if gravel is present on the roof if the Don Yard buildings are proposed to be demolished as described in **Table 5-1** below Eastern Wood-pewee may occur within treed areas (e.g., cultural woodlands) identified

within the existing rail corridor, of which up to 0.32 hectares may be removed. Monarchs may forage within cultural meadows identified within 120 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint, of which up to 0.08 hectares may be removed. Adverse effects to these species are anticipated to be minimal with the implementation of the mitigation measures identified herein.

If active Barn Swallow nests are confirmed under the Lakeshore East rail bridge, construction activities have the potential to disturb/displace nesting Barn Swallows or damage/destroy their nests and eggs as a result of bridge work if construction activities are conducted during the breeding bird season (April 1 to August 31). The buildings in the Don Yard located within Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint have limited potential to support Barn Swallow nests as these buildings do not have any overhanging ledges to provide overhead protection for nests.

Disturbance/displacement of other migratory birds protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act and/or damage or destruction of their nests and eggs may occur as a result of vegetation clearing (including removal of trees, shrubs and ground cover) or disturbance to buildings/structures if vegetation clearing or building demolition are conducted during the breeding bird season (April 1 to August 31).

Removal of up to 0.32 hectares of wooded areas that may contain suitable bat maternity roosting trees occupied by bat Species at Risk during their active season may cause bat Species at Risk to be killed, harmed or harassed. Potential bat Species at Risk habitat may be affected by vegetation removal and will require further field investigations if removal is required. The buildings in the Don Yard are unlikely to provide habitat for Bat Species at Risk as these appeared to be mainly intact (i.e., well maintained and in good form) and occupied.

The Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area contains the Lower Don River which flows under the Lakeshore East rail bridge. Early works include installation of one new bridge, on the north side of the existing Lakeshore East rail bridge and may involve in-water works, or works below the High Water Mark, which, in turn, may result in potential impacts to fish and fish habitat and will need to be assessed during the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard detailed design. This may include preparation of a Fisheries and Oceans Canada Request for Review (refer to **Section 7.1**). Effects of works below the High-Water Mark may include, but are not limited to, changes in channel morphology and substrate, and may result in Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction to fish or fish habitat. Measures to protect fish and fish habitat (i.e., environmental protection and mitigation measures) shall be applied and properly implemented, monitored and will be maintained for effectiveness for the duration of construction.

No aquatic Species at Risk are present within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area and therefore no effects to aquatic Species at Risk are anticipated.

## Table 5-1: Potential Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Designated Natural Areas** | ▪ No potential impacts as there are no Designated Natural Areas within 120 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint | ▪ None Required | ▪ None Required |
| **Policy Area – City of Toronto Natural Heritage System** | ▪ Vegetation removal within the City of Toronto Natural Heritage System | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Consultation with City of Toronto. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Policy Area – City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection** | ▪ Tree removal within the City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law Area | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Tree Removal under Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Compensation for tree removals will be undertaken in accordance with provisions outlined in the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020). Adhere to all applicable by-laws and regulations for tree removals outside of Metrolinx properties. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Policy Area – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulation Areas** | ▪ Vegetation removal within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulated Areas | ▪ Further consideration to reduce potential impacts on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Terrestrial Natural Heritage System to the extent possible will be undertaken during detailed design. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ Recommendations for additional monitoring related to vegetation removal within regulated areas may be determined through consultation with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. |
| **Policy Area – Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan** | ▪ Vegetation removal within the Urban River Valley | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Vegetation Communities, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests, Significant Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Environment.<br>▪ Compensation for the removal of vegetation in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020) approach will consider maintaining or enhancing connectivity along the Lower Don River to the extent possible. | ▪ Refer below to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Environment. |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Removal of vegetation communities<br>▪ Damage to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities as a result of accidental intrusion | ▪ Vegetation removal will be reduced and limited to within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas.<br>▪ Construction fencing and/or silt fencing, where appropriate, will be installed and maintained to clearly define the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas and prevent accidental damage or intrusion to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities.<br>▪ Provide compensation for the removal of vegetation in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020).<br>▪ Temporarily disturbed areas will be re-vegetated using non-invasive, preferably native plantings and/or seed mix appropriate to the site conditions and adjacent vegetation communities. Seed mixes will be used in conjunction with an appropriate non-invasive cover crop as needed.<br>▪ Vegetation removals will also consider and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive species (e.g., migratory birds) and features (e.g., Significant Wildlife Habitat). Refer to the wildlife and wildlife habitat and Species at Risk mitigation measures described below. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Monitoring will include inspection of construction fencing/silt fencing to confirm appropriate installation, maintenance and rehabilitation to prevent accidental damage to vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities outside of the work construction area. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ If required, the approach to compensation monitoring will be developed in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020). |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ City and private tree removal | ▪ An Arborist Report by an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist will be prepared in accordance with the Ontario Forestry Act R.S.O. 1990, and other regulations and best management practices as applicable.<br>▪ The Arborist Report will include, but not be limited to the individual identification of all trees within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas including those that require removal or preservation, or trees that may be injured. Trees to be identified may include those on Metrolinx property, trees on public and private lands, and boundary trees. City of Toronto by-laws dictate the minimum area buffers to be inventoried and Diameter at Breast Height which requires inventory.<br>▪ Prior to the undertaking of tree removals, a Tree Removal Strategy/Tree Preservation Plan will be developed during detailed design to document tree protection and mitigation measures that follow the City of Toronto Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees Guidelines (2016b) and adherence with best practices, standards and regulations on safety, environmental and wildlife protections.<br>▪ Compensation for tree removals will be undertaken in accordance with provisions outlined in the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020).<br>▪ Pruning of branches will be conducted through the implementation of proper arboricultural techniques.<br>▪ Tree Protection Zone fencing will be established to protect and prevent tree injuries. Tree Protection Zones will be clearly staked prior to construction using barriers in accordance with local by-law requirements. | ▪ Regular inspection in areas of vegetation removal will be undertaken as required during construction to ensure that fencing is intact, only specified trees are removed and no damage is caused to the remaining trees and adjacent vegetation communities.<br>▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ If required, the approach to compensation monitoring will be developed in accordance with Metrolinx's Vegetation Guideline (2020). |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Potential for the spread of emerald ash borer, associated with removal, handing and transport of ash trees | ▪ Removal of ash trees, or portions of ash trees, will be carried out in compliance with the Canada Food and Inspection Agency Directive 'D-03-08: Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Introduction into and Spread within Canada of the emerald ash borer. To comply with this Directive, all Ash trees requiring removal, including any wood, bark or chips, will be restricted from being transported outside of the emerald ash borer regulated areas of Canada. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Increased soil erosion and sedimentation | ▪ Construction fencing and/or silt fencing, where appropriate, will be installed and maintained to clearly define the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas and prevent accidental damage or intrusion to adjacent vegetation or Ecological Land Classification communities.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2019), will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the vegetation communities.<br>▪ Stockpiled materials or equipment will be stored within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas but shall be kept at least 30 metres away from any watercourse to the extent possible. If not feasible, install a heavy duty silt fence and Silt Soxx (or equivalent) around the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas where within 30 metres from a watercourse. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |
| **Vegetation Communities** | ▪ Soil or water contamination as a result of spills (e.g., grease and/or fuel) from equipment use<br>▪ Introduction or spread of invasive species | ▪ A Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan will be developed and adhered to. Spills will be immediately contained and cleaned up in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements and the contingency plan.<br>▪ Refuelling of equipment will occur at least 30 metres away from any watercourse.<br>▪ Refuelling shall be done within refuelling stations lined with appropriate material to prevent seepage and fuel discharge.<br>▪ All machinery, construction equipment and vehicles arriving on-site should be in clean condition (e.g., free of fluid leaks, soils containing seeds of plant material from invasive species) and be inspected and washed in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran et al., 2013) prior to arriving and leaving the construction site in order to prevent the spread of invasive species to other locations. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat – General** | ▪ Disturbance, displacement or mortality of wildlife | ▪ Prior to construction, investigation of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works construction areas for wildlife and wildlife habitat that may have established following the completion of previous surveys will be undertaken, as appropriate.<br>▪ If wildlife is encountered, measures will be implemented to avoid destruction, injury, or interference with the species, and/or its habitat. For example, construction activities will cease or be reduced, and wildlife will be encouraged to move off-site and away from the construction area on its own. | ▪ Regular on-site inspection by on-site environmental workers or construction staff should occur within the construction area to ensure that no wildlife is trapped within the construction area.<br>▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Northern Map Turtle and Snapping Turtle** | ▪ Disturbance of Northern Map Turtle and/or Snapping Turtle Habitat | ▪ Refer above to mitigation measures described for Wildlife.<br>▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Fish and Fish Habitat with respect to in-water works. | ▪ Refer above for monitoring requirements described for Wildlife. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Eastern Wood-pewee** | ▪ Removal of up to 0.32 hectares of candidate habitat for Eastern Wood-pewee | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. | ▪ Refer below for monitoring requirements described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Monarch** | ▪ Removal of up to 0.08 hectares of candidate habitat for Monarchs | ▪ Identify opportunities to promote pollinator species and habitat in accordance with the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020). This may include planting or seeding native flowering plants in temporarily disturbed areas. | ▪ Regular monitoring (site inspections) will be undertaken during construction to prevent unauthorized impacts to habitat used by Monarch. |
| **Significant Wildlife Habitat: Common Nighthawk** | ▪ Removal of candidate nesting habitat for Common Nighthawk | ▪ Refer below to mitigation measures described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests.<br>▪ Demolition of buildings should be scheduled outside of the breeding bird season of April 1 to August 31. If this is not possible and buildings must be demolished during this period, the following will be completed:<br>▪ The roofs will be checked for presence of gravel. If gravel is not present, then the building is unlikely to provide suitable nesting habitat for Common Nighthawk. If gravel is present, a search for eggs and nesting activity for Common Nighthawk on the roof will be conducted. If nests or nesting activity of Common Nighthawk are confirmed, the building cannot be demolished until it is confirmed by a Qualified Biologist that young have fully fledged and left the nest. | ▪ Refer below for monitoring requirements described for Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests. |
| **Migratory Breeding Birds and Nests** | ▪ Disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests | ▪ All works must comply with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, including timing windows for the nesting period (April 1 to August 31 in Ontario).<br>▪ If activities (i.e. vegetation clearing and building demolition) are proposed to occur during the general nesting period, a breeding bird and nest survey will be undertaken prior to required activities. Nest searches by an experienced searcher are required and will be completed by a qualified Biologist no more than 48 hours prior to vegetation removal.<br>▪ If a nest of a migratory bird is found outside of this nesting period (including a ground nest) it still receives protection. | ▪ Regular monitoring will be undertaken to confirm that activities do not encroach into nesting areas or disturb active nesting sites. |
| **Wildlife Habitat Connectivity** | ▪ Decrease of habitat connectivity for wildlife | ▪ Refer to the mitigation measures described above for Urban River Valley under the Greenbelt Plan and Vegetation Communities.<br>▪ During detailed design, opportunities to enhance the natural environment and provide a connection to the surrounding natural areas will be explored to the extent feasible. | ▪ Refer to monitoring described for Vegetation Communities. |
| **Species at Risk – General** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Species at Risk | ▪ All requirements of the Endangered Species Act will be met. Species-specific mitigation measures will be implemented, in consultation with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ Species-specific monitoring activities will be developed in accordance with any registration and/or permitting requirements under the Endangered Species Act. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Species at Risk – Barn Swallow** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Barn Swallow | ▪ Field surveys will be undertaken prior to construction to confirm the number of nests present at the known locations and whether the nests remain active.<br>▪ Where loss or disturbance cannot be avoided (e.g., due to work on bridge), all requirements under the Endangered Species Act will be met, including any registration, compensation, replacement structures and/or permitting requirements.<br>▪ If disturbance to structures confirmed to provide Barn Swallow habitat is scheduled during the nesting season for Barn Swallow (April 1 to August 31), a nest search will be undertaken to confirm that no Barn Swallow are nesting on structures that may be affected by construction activities on or near these areas. Exclusion measures will be implemented prior to nesting season to dissuade use of these areas for nesting. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. Additional monitoring measures will be developed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if required. |
| **Species at Risk – Bats** | ▪ Habitat loss, disturbance and/or mortality to Species at Risk Bats | ▪ All requirements of the Endangered Species Act will be met. Additional monitoring, mitigation and compensation for removal of suitable treed or anthropogenic roosting habitat may be required based on the results of additional surveys and consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. | ▪ If mitigation is required, on-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts. Additional monitoring measures will be developed in consultation with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if required. |
| **Aquatic Environment – Wetlands and Waterbodies** | ▪ Removal or impacts to aquatic and riparian vegetation; erosion and sedimentation to waterbodies from construction; risk of contamination to waterbodies as a result of spills<br>▪ No impacts to wetlands, as none are present | ▪ Construction activities will maintain the buffers established during the design phase to reduce potential negative impacts to waterbodies.<br>▪ Shorelines or banks disturbed by construction activities will be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion and/or sedimentation, preferably through re-vegetation with native species suitable for the site.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 2019), as amended from time to time, will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the waterbody.<br>▪ A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed before work commences to ensure procedures and policies are in place during construction to reduce impacts to watercourses. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions, if required. Corrective actions may include alteration of activities to reduce impacts and enhance mitigation measures.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |
| **Aquatic Environment – Fish and Fish Habitat** | ▪ Potential for direct, in-water impacts to fish and fish habitat | ▪ All requirements of the Fisheries Act will be met.<br>▪ If in-water and/or near water construction works are required, appropriate mitigation measures will be followed, as identified in Applicable Law and through consultation with the relevant authorities such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada.<br>▪ Shorelines or banks disturbed by construction activities will be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion and/or sedimentation, preferably through re-vegetation with native species suitable for the site.<br>▪ An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in accordance with the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction (TRCA, 2019) as amended from time to time, will be prepared prior to and implemented during construction to reduce the risk of sedimentation to the waterbody.<br>▪ A Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be developed before work commences to ensure procedures and policies are in place during construction to reduce impacts to watercourses. Stockpiled material will be stored at a safe distance from the waterway to ensure that no deleterious substances enter the water. | ▪ On-site inspection will be undertaken to confirm the implementation of the mitigation measures and identify corrective actions if required. Corrective actions may include additional site maintenance and alteration of activities to reduce impacts.<br>▪ All erosion and sediment control measures should be inspected weekly, after every rainfall and significant snow melt event, and daily during periods of extended rain or snow melt.<br>▪ All damaged erosion and sediment control measures will be repaired and/or replaced within 48 hours of the inspection. |

| Environmental Component | Potential Impacts | Mitigation Measure(s) | Monitoring Activities |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | ■ If required, sediment and erosion control measures (silt curtains, silt fence, temporary sedimentation basins) will be installed and will be maintained during the work phase and until the site has been stabilized.<br>■ Any temporary mitigation measures will be installed prior to the commencement of any site clearing, grubbing, excavation, filling or grading works and will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.<br>■ To the extent feasible, schedule work to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/or increase erosion and sedimentation.<br>■ All equipment fuelling and maintenance will be done at a safe distance from the water (i.e., 30 metres or more) to ensure that no deleterious substances enter the waterway.<br>■ Ensure that all in-water activities, or associated in-water structures, do not interfere with fish passage, constrict the channel width, or reduce flows.<br>■ Reduce the removal of natural woody debris, rocks, sand or other materials from the banks, the shoreline or the bed of the waterbody below the ordinary high-water mark.<br>■ Fish screens, if required, will be used to avoid entrainment of fish in pumps and hoses as per the End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Interim Standard and Code of Practice.<br>■ If dewatering is proposed, the need for a dewatering zone of influence assessment and dewatering monitoring plan should be evaluated during detailed design. The dewatering monitoring plan, should it be deemed required, will monitor for potential negative effects to adjacent vegetation communities if affected due to dewatering activities, and will provide an adaptive management plan should said negative effects be observed.<br>■ If dewatering, discharge should be directed into nearby municipal sanitary and storm systems. If this is not possible upon careful evaluation of the alternatives and potential impacts, should discharge into the watercourse be determined as the only feasible option, a staged-approach must be considered, such as on-site storage in ponds and reservoirs, evaporation ponds, and staged-release into the watercourse.<br>■ Design temporary and permanent water management system and dewatering operations, if required, to maintain downstream flows and to prevent erosion and/or release of sediment laden or contaminated water to the water feature.<br>■ If required, prior to dewatering isolated work areas, fish will be captured and relocated to suitable habitat outside of the work area under a Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. | |

Notes: Regulations, standards and guidance documents referenced herein are current as of the time of writing and may be amended from time to time.
If clarification is required regarding regulatory requirements, the appropriate regulatory agencies will be consulted.

# 6. Future Studies

The following surveys may be undertaken prior to construction of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works, as required.

- **Migratory Breeding Birds and Pre-Construction Nest Surveys:**
  - All structures that are anticipated to be demolished, modified or replaced to facilitate the construction of the early works shall be inspected for nests or nesting activity of Migratory Birds Convention Act protected birds. These surveys can occur at any time of year but must be completed prior to the onset of construction activities.
- **Tree Inventory:**
  - A tree inventory may be completed during detailed design for all City- or private-owned trees within 6 metres of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint or within 12 metres of where the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint overlaps with Ravine and Natural Feature Protection policy area. Tree inventories within Metrolinx-owned lands should be completed in accordance with the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline (2020). An Arborist Report will be completed to identify permitting requirements if removal and/or damage of woody vegetation is required on adjacent lands. Tree inventories are required to determine appropriate compensation and mitigation measures.
- **Bat Species at Risk Surveys:**
  - Species-specific surveys (i.e., acoustic monitoring) for bat Species at Risk following the Survey Protocol for Species at Risk Bats within Treed Habitats: Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2017c) or a newer protocol if it becomes available from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, will be required for tree removals proposed within potential bat Species at Risk habitat to confirm potential impacts and necessary level of compensation under the Endangered Species Act. Total tree removal areas (including both temporary and permanent removals) in suitable bat Species at Risk habitat are recommended to be calculated based on at least 60% detailed design to inform compensation requirements.

  - Although the Don Yard buildings are unlikely to provide suitable bat SAR roosting habitat, if demolition of potentially suitable buildings is required, detailed searches for potential entry points from all sides of the building and exit surveys following Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks protocols should be completed. Surveys should be completed prior to scheduled construction to confirm habitat use by bat Species at Risk and to identify potential for disturbance of the species during construction in order to confirm authorization requirements under the Endangered Species Act.

- **Barn Swallow Nest Surveys:**
  - All structures (i.e., bridges, rail overpasses, and buildings) identified as potential nesting habitat for Barn Swallow that are anticipated to be modified, replaced or disturbed shall be assessed for nesting Barn Swallow during detailed design in conjunction with the nest searches for Migratory Birds Convention Act protected birds.
- **Butternut Search:**
  - No butternuts were identified during tree inventories completed by 4Transit (2020) or AECOM (2018). If the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint is extended beyond that considered in the tree inventories, it is recommended that a search for butternuts be completed within at least 25 metres of the extended Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Early Works Project Footprint to confirm presence of any butternuts. If any butternuts are found within the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard Study Area, additional species-specific surveys (e.g., Butternut Health Assessment and DNA testing) should be undertaken prior to construction commencement for those butternuts where excavation or grading is required for temporary or permanent infrastructure within 25 metres of the identified specimens. A Butternut Health Assessment must be completed during the leaf-on season (May 15 to August 31) by a certified Butternut Health Assessor to determine the health of the butternut(s) and a DNA test is also recommended to confirm whether the specimen is a pure butternut or a hybrid.
- **Fish and Fish Habitat Assessment:**
  - A detailed fish habitat assessment may be completed at the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard in support of submission of a Fisheries and Oceans Canada Request for Review (see **Section 7.1**).

# 7. Permits and Approvals

The following sections outline the permits and approvals that may be required for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works. Permit and approval requirements will be confirmed during early works detailed design.

## 7.1 Federal

### 7.1.1 Fisheries Act, 1985

If in-water works in the Lower Don River are required as part of the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada Request for Review under the Fisheries Act, 1985 will be submitted. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's review will confirm permitting expectations and whether a Fisheries Act Authorization or Letter of Advice may be required in the event Project work is anticipated to result in death of fish and/or harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.

## 7.2 Provincial

### 7.2.1 Endangered Species Act, 2007

Metrolinx will comply with the conditions of the Permit CR-D-002-19 issued on August 7, 2020 under Section 17(1) in accordance with clause 17(2)(d) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 for Species at Risk that may be affected by the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works including Barn Swallow and bat Species at Risk.

### 7.2.2 Conservation Authorities Act, 1998

Metrolinx will consult with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority with respect to construction activities in regulated areas for the Lower Don Bridge and Don Yard early works in relation to Ontario Regulation 166/06: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.

## 7.3 Municipal

A range of municipal permits and approvals (e.g., Permit to Injure or Remove Trees) may be required for the Project, particularly as pertaining to municipally owned lands and infrastructure. Metrolinx will obtain all required permits and approvals. However,

Metrolinx as a Crown Agency of the Province of Ontario is exempt from certain municipal processes and requirements. In these instances, Metrolinx will engage with the City of Toronto to incorporate municipal requirements as a best practice, where practical, and may obtain associated permits and approvals.

Metrolinx shall continue to communicate and engage with the City of Toronto as planning progresses to address municipal concerns.

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# Appendix A

## Wildlife Records

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

## Table 1: Mammal Records Within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bat** | Little Brown Myotis | *Myotis lucifugus* | S4 | END | END | END |
| **Bat** | Hoary Bat | *Lasiurus cinereus* | S4 | - | | |
| **Bat** | Silver-haired Bat | *Lasionycteris noctivagans* | S4 | - | | |
| **Bat** | Eastern Red Bat | *Lasiurus borealis* | S4 | - | | |
| **Bat** | Eastern Small-footed Myotis | *Myotis leibii* | S2S3 | END | - | - |
| **Bat** | Northern Long-eared Myotis | *Myotis septentrionalis* | S3 | END | END | END |
| **Bat** | Big Brown Bat | *Eptesicus fuscus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Bat** | Tri-coloured Bat | *Perimyotis subflavus* | S3? | END | END | END |
| **Carnivore** | American Mink | *Mustela vison* | S4 | - | | |
| **Carnivore** | Common Raccoon | *Procyon lotor* | S5 | - | | |
| **Carnivore** | Coyote | *Canis latrans* | S5 | - | | |
| **Carnivore** | Striped Skunk | *Mephitis* | S5 | - | | |
| **Carnivore** | Red Fox | *Vulpes* | S5 | - | | |
| **Hare** | European Hare | *Lepus europaeus* | SNA | - | | |
| **Mole** | Star-nosed Mole | *Condylura cristata* | S5 | - | | |
| **Opossum** | Virginia Opossum | *Didelphis virginiana* | S4 | - | | |
| **Rabbit** | Eastern Cottontail | *Sylvilagus floridanus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Beaver | *Castor canadensis* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Deer Mouse | *Peromyscus maniculatus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Eastern Gray Squirrel | *Sciurus carolinensis* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Eastern Chipmunk | *Tamias striatus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Groundhog | *Marmota monax* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | House Mouse | *Mus musculus* | SNA | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Meadow Vole | *Microtus pennsylvanicus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Porcupine | *Erethizon dorsatum* | S4 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Norway Rat | *Rattus norvegicus* | SNA | - | | |
| **Rodent** | Muskrat | *Ondatra zibethicus* | S5 | - | | |
| **Rodent** | White-footed Mouse | *Peromyscus leucopus* | S5 | - | | |

### Table Legend

[1] ***S-rank:*** *The natural heritage provincial ranking system (provincial S-rank) is used by the MNRF NHIC to set protection priorities for rare species and natural communities.* The following status definitions were taken from NatureServe Explorer's (2015) National and Subnational Conservation Status Definitions available at http://explorer.natureserve.org/nsranks.htm:

**SX** - Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from the province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.

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**SH**- Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.
**S1** - Critically Imperiled — Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S2**-Imperiled—Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S3** - Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
**S4** - Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
**S5** - Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the nation or state/province.
**SNR** - Unranked—Province conservation status not yet assessed.
**SU** - Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
**SNA** - Not Applicable — A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
**S#S#** - Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).
*Breeding Status Qualifiers*
**B** - Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the province.
**N** - Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the province.
**M** - Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the province.
**Note:** A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").
*Other Qualifiers*
**?** -Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)

[2]***ESA Status:*** *The Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA) protects species listed as Threatened and Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List on provincial and private land. The Minister lists species on the SARO list based on recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), which evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario. The following are the categories of at risk:*

***END*** *(Endangered) – A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario.*
***THR*** *(Threatened) – Any native species that, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a large portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.*
***SC*** *(Special Concern) – A species that may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.*
***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

[3]***SARA Status****: The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before*

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

*they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:*

***END (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***THR (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***SC (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.*
***No Status (No Schedule)** – These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.*
***NAR (Not at Risk)**– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*
***Not Applicable (N / A)** – These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*
*Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm*

***[4]COSEWIC Status:** COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assigns a federal status ranking for all species that it assesses. Rankings include:*

***END** (Endangered) - A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction throughout its range.*
***THR** (Threatened) - A species likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction*
***SC** (Special Concern) - A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events, but does not include an extirpated, endangered or threatened species.*
***NAR** (Not at Risk) - A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*
***DD** (Data Deficient) - A wildlife species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction.*

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

## Table 2: Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Records within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Historical Record (> 20 years old) | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **American Bullfrog** | *Lithobates catesbeianus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **American Toad** | *Anaxyrus americanus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Blanding's Turtle** | *Emydoidea blandingii* | S3 | THR | THR | END | No | 2019 |
| **Dekay's Brownsnake** | *Storeria dekayi* | S5 | NAR | - | NAR | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Gartersnake** | *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Red-backed Salamander** | *Plethodon cinereus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Ribbonsnake** | *Thamnophis sauritus* | S4 | SC | SC | SC | Yes | 1913 |
| **Gray Treefrog** | *Hyla versicolor* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Green Frog** | *Lithobates clamitans* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Midland Painted Turtle** | *Chrysemys picta marginata* | S4 | - | No status | SC | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Milksnake** | *Lampropeltis triangulum* | S4 | NAR | SC | SC | No | 2019 |
| **Mudpuppy** | *Necturus maculosus* | S4 | NAR | - | NAR | No | 1913 |
| **Northern Leopard Frog** | *Lithobates pipiens* | S5 | NAR | - | NAR | No | 2017 |
| **Northern Map Turtle** | *Graptemys geographica* | S3 | SC | SC | SC | No | 2018 |
| **Queensnake** | *Regina septemvittata* | S2 | END | EN | END | Yes | 1858 |
| **Red-bellied Snake** | *Storeria occipitomaculata* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Red-eared Slider** | *Trachemys scripta elegans* | SE | - | - | - | No | 2017 |
| **Red-spotted Newt** | *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens* | S5 | - | - | - | Yes | 1913 |
| **Smooth Greensnake** | *Opheodrys vernalis* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Snapping Turtle** | *Chelydra serpentina* | S4 | SC | SC | SC | No | 2019 |
| **Spotted Salamander** | *Ambystoma maculatum* | S4 | - | - | - | Yes | 1929 |
| **Spring Peeper** | *Pseudacris crucifer* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2002 |
| **Western Chorus Frog - Great Lakes - St. Lawrence - Canadian Shield populati** | *Pseudacris maculata pop. 1* | S3 | NAR | - | THR | No | 1989 |
| **Wood Frog** | *Lithobates sylvaticus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2011 |

**Table Legend**

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***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

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***[3]SARA Status***: *The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:*

***END (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*

***THR (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*

***SC (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.*

***No Status (No Schedule)*** *– These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.*

***NAR (Not at Risk)*** *– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*

***Not Applicable (N / A)*** *– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*

*Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm*

***[4]COSEWIC Status:*** *COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assigns a federal status ranking for all species that it assesses. Rankings include:*

***END*** *(Endangered) - A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction throughout its range.*

***THR*** *(Threatened) - A species likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction*

***SC*** *(Special Concern) - A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events, but does not include an extirpated, endangered or threatened species.*

***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) - A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

***DD*** *(Data Deficient) - A wildlife species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction.*

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

**Table 3: 2001-2005 Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Records within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Year Last Recorded | MBCA Protected[5] | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **American Black Duck** | *Anas rubripes* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **American Crow** | *Corvus brachyrhynchos* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **American Goldfinch** | *Spinus tristis* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **American Kestrel** | *Falco sparverius* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **American Redstart** | *Setophaga ruticilla* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **American Robin** | *Turdus migratorius* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **American Woodcock** | *Scolopax minor* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Baltimore Oriole** | *Icterus galbula* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Bank Swallow** | *Riparia riparia* | S4B | THR | THR | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Barn Swallow** | *Hirundo rustica* | S4B | THR | SC | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Belted Kingfisher** | *Megaceryle alcyon* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Black-billed Cuckoo** | *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Black-capped Chickadee** | *Poecile atricapillus* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Black-crowned Night-Heron** | *Nycticorax nycticorax* | S3B,S3N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Blue Jay** | *Cyanocitta cristata* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** | *Polioptila caerulea* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Blue-winged Teal** | *Anas discors* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Bobolink** | *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* | S4B | THR | THR | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Brown Creeper** | *Certhia americana* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Brown Thrasher** | *Toxostoma rufum* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Brown-headed Cowbird** | *Molothrus ater* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Canada Goose** | *Branta canadensis* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Canvasback** | *Aythya valisineria* | S1B,S4N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Carolina Wren** | *Thryothorus ludovicianus* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Caspian Tern** | *Hydroprogne caspia* | S3B | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Cedar Waxwing** | *Bombycilla cedrorum* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Chestnut-sided Warbler** | *Setophaga pensylvanica* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Chimney Swift** | *Chaetura pelagica* | S4B,S4N | THR | THR | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Chipping Sparrow** | *Spizella passerina* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Clay-colored Sparrow** | *Spizella pallida* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Cliff Swallow** | *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Common Grackle** | *Quiscalus quiscula* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Common Nighthawk** | *Chordeiles minor* | S4B | SC | THR | SC | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Common Tern** | *Sterna hirundo* | S4B | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Year Last Recorded | MBCA Protected[5] | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Yellowthroat** | *Geothlypis trichas* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Cooper's Hawk** | *Accipiter cooperii* | S4 | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Double-crested Cormorant** | *Phalacrocorax auritus* | S5B | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Downy Woodpecker** | *Picoides pubescens* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Eastern Kingbird** | *Tyrannus tyrannus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Eastern Meadowlark** | *Sturnella magna* | S4B | THR | THR | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Eastern Phoebe** | *Sayornis phoebe* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Eastern Screech-Owl** | *Megascops asio* | S4 | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Eastern Wood-Pewee** | *Contopus virens* | S4B | SC | SC | SC | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **European Starling** | *Sturnus vulgaris* | SNA | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Field Sparrow** | *Spizella pusilla* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Gadwall** | *Anas strepera* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Gray Catbird** | *Dumetella carolinensis* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Great Black-backed Gull** | *Larus marinus* | S2B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Great Blue Heron** | *Ardea herodias* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Great Crested Flycatcher** | *Myiarchus crinitus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Great Egret** | *Ardea alba* | S2B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Great Horned Owl** | *Bubo virginianus* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Green Heron** | *Butorides virescens* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Green-winged Teal** | *Anas crecca* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Hairy Woodpecker** | *Picoides villosus* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Herring Gull** | *Larus argentatus* | S5B,S5N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Hooded Merganser** | *Lophodytes cucullatus* | S5B,S5N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Horned Lark** | *Eremophila alpestris* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **House Finch** | *Haemorhous mexicanus* | SNA | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **House Sparrow** | *Passer domesticus* | SNA | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **House Wren** | *Troglodytes aedon* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Indigo Bunting** | *Passerina cyanea* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Killdeer** | *Charadrius vociferus* | S5B,S5N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Least Flycatcher** | *Empidonax minimus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Mallard** | *Anas platyrhynchos* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Marsh Wren** | *Cistothorus palustris* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Mourning Dove** | *Zenaida macroura* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Mourning Warbler** | *Geothlypis philadelphia* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Mute Swan** | *Cygnus olor* | SNA | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Northern Cardinal** | *Cardinalis cardinalis* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Northern Flicker** | *Colaptes auratus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Year Last Recorded | MBCA Protected[5] | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Northern Harrier** | *Circus hudsonius* | S4B | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Northern Mockingbird** | *Mimus polyglottos* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** | *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Northern Saw-whet Owl** | *Aegolius acadicus* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Orchard Oriole** | *Icterus spurius* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Ovenbird** | *Seiurus aurocapilla* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Peregrine Falcon** | *Falco peregrinus* | S3B | SC | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Pileated Woodpecker** | *Dryocopus pileatus* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Purple Martin** | *Progne subis* | S3S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Red-bellied Woodpecker** | *Melanerpes carolinus* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Red-breasted Nuthatch** | *Sitta canadensis* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Red-eyed Vireo** | *Vireo olivaceus* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Redhead** | *Aythya americana* | S2B,S4N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Red-headed Woodpecker** | *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* | S4B | SC | THR | END | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Red-tailed Hawk** | *Buteo jamaicensis* | S5 | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Red-winged Blackbird** | *Agelaius phoeniceus* | S4 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Ring-billed Gull** | *Larus delawarensis* | S5B,S4N | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Rock Pigeon** | *Columba livia* | SNA | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** | *Pheucticus ludovicianus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** | *Archilochus colubris* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Savannah Sparrow** | *Passerculus sandwichensis* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Scarlet Tanager** | *Piranga olivacea* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Sharp-shinned Hawk** | *Accipiter striatus* | S5 | NAR | - | NAR | 2001-2005 | No | √ |
| **Song Sparrow** | *Melospiza melodia* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Sora** | *Porzana carolina* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Spotted Sandpiper** | *Actitis macularius* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Tree Swallow** | *Tachycineta bicolor* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Virginia Rail** | *Rallus limicola* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Warbling Vireo** | *Vireo gilvus* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **White-breasted Nuthatch** | *Sitta carolinensis* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Willow Flycatcher** | *Empidonax traillii* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Wood Duck** | *Aix sponsa* | S5 | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Wood Thrush** | *Hylocichla mustelina* | S4B | SC | THR | THR | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |
| **Yellow Warbler** | *Setophaga petechia* | S5B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Year Last Recorded | MBCA Protected[5] | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** | *Coccyzus americanus* | S4B | - | - | - | 2001-2005 | Yes | √ |

## Table Legend

[1] ***S-rank:*** *The natural heritage provincial ranking system (provincial S-rank) is used by the MNRF NHIC to set protection priorities for rare species and natural communities.* The following status definitions were taken from NatureServe Explorer's (2015) National and Subnational Conservation Status Definitions available at http://explorer.natureserve.org/nsranks.htm:

**SX** - Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from the province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
**SH**- Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.
**S1** - Critically Imperiled — Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S2**-Imperiled—Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S3** - Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
**S4** - Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
**S5** - Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the nation or state/province.
**SNR** - Unranked—Province conservation status not yet assessed.
**SU** - Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
**SNA** - Not Applicable — A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
**S#S#** - Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).
*Breeding Status Qualifiers*
**B** - Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the province.
**N** - Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the province.
**M** - Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the province.
**Note:** A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").
*Other Qualifiers*
**?** -Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

[2]***ESA Status:*** *The Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA) protects species listed as Threatened and Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List on provincial and private land. The Minister lists species on the SARO list based on recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), which evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario. The following are the categories of at risk:*

***END*** *(Endangered) – A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario.*
***THR*** *(Threatened) – Any native species that, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a large portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.*
***SC*** *(Special Concern) – A species that may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.*
***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

[3]***SARA Status****: The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:*

***END (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***THR (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***SC (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.*
***No Status (No Schedule)*** *– These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.*
***NAR (Not at Risk)****– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*
***Not Applicable (N / A)*** *– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*
*Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm*

[4]***COSEWIC Status:*** *COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assigns a federal status ranking for all species that it assesses. Rankings include:*

***END*** *(Endangered) - A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction throughout its range.*
***THR*** *(Threatened) - A species likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction*
***SC*** *(Special Concern) - A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events, but does not include an extirpated, endangered or threatened species.*
***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) - A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*
***DD*** *(Data Deficient) - A wildlife species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction.*

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

[5]***MBCA***: The federal Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA) protects most migratory birds and their nests in Canada. Bird families not protect under the act include grouse, quail, pheasants, ptarmigan, hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, cormorants, pelicans, crows, jays, kingfishers, and some species of blackbirds; however, these bird families have some level of protection under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997(FWCA)

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

## Table 4: Ontario Butterfly Atlas Records within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Historical Record (> 20 years old) | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Acadian Hairstreak** | *Satyrium acadica* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **American Copper** | *Lycaena phlaeas* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 1993 |
| **American Lady** | *Vanessa virginiensis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **American Snout** | *Libytheana carinenta* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Aphrodite Fritillary** | *Speyeria aphrodite* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 1959 |
| **Appalachian Brown** | *Lethe appalachia* | S4 | - | - | - | Yes | 1984 |
| **Azure sp.** | *Celastrina sp.* | | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Baltimore Checkerspot** | *Euphydryas phaeton* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Banded Hairstreak** | *Satyrium calanus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Black Dash** | *Euphyes conspicua* | S3 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Black Swallowtail** | *Papilio polyxenes* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Broad-winged Skipper** | *Poanes viator* | S4 | - | - | - | No | (year not recorded) |
| **Bronze Copper** | *Lycaena hyllus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2006 |
| **Cabbage White** | *Pieris rapae* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Canadian Tiger Swallowtail** | *Papilio canadensis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Checkered White** | *Pontia protodice* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2007 |
| **Clouded Sulphur** | *Colias philodice* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Cloudless Sulphur** | *Phoebis sennae* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2012 |
| **Columbine Duskywing** | *Erynnis lucilius* | S4 | - | - | - | Yes | 1904 |
| **Common Buckeye** | *Junonia coenia* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Common Ringlet** | *Coenonympha tullia* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Common Sootywing** | *Pholisora catullus* | S4 | - | - | - | Yes | 1991 |
| **Common Wood-Nymph** | *Cercyonis pegala* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Compton Tortoiseshell** | *Nymphalis l-album* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2015 |
| **Coral Hairstreak** | *Satyrium titus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2000 |
| **Crossline Skipper** | *Polites origenes* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2014 |
| **Delaware Skipper** | *Anatrytone logan* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Dun Skipper** | *Euphyes vestris* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Eastern Comma** | *Polygonia comma* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Giant Swallowtail** | *Papilio cresphontes* | | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Tailed Blue** | *Cupido comyntas* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** | *Papilio glaucus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Edwards' Hairstreak** | *Satyrium edwardsii* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 1981 |

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Historical Record (> 20 years old) | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **European Skipper** | *Thymelicus lineola* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Eyed Brown** | *Lethe eurydice* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Fiery Skipper** | *Hylephila phyleus* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Funereal Duskywing** | *Erynnis funeralis* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Gray Comma** | *Polygonia progne* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2003 |
| **Gray Hairstreak** | *Strymon melinus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2012 |
| **Great Spangled Fritillary** | *Speyeria cybele* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Green Comma** | *Polygonia faunus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2006 |
| **Harvester** | *Feniseca tarquinius* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **Hickory Hairstreak** | *Satyrium caryaevorus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2014 |
| **Hobomok Skipper** | *Poanes hobomok* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Horace's Duskywing** | *Erynnis horatius* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Least Skipper** | *Ancyloxypha numitor* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Leonard's Skipper** | *Hesperia leonardus* | S4 | - | - | - | Yes | (year not recorded) |
| **Little Glassywing** | *Pompeius verna* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2014 |
| **Little Wood-Satyr** | *Megisto cymela* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Little Yellow** | *Pyrisitia lisa* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2015 |
| **Long Dash Skipper** | *Polites mystic* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2015 |
| **Meadow Fritillary** | *Boloria bellona* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 1986 |
| **Midsummer Tiger Swallowtail** | *Papilio canadensis X glaucus* | | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Milbert's Tortoiseshell** | *Aglais milberti* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Monarch** | *Danaus plexippus* | S2N,S4B | SC | Special Concern | END | No | 2019 |
| **Mourning Cloak** | *Nymphalis antiopa* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Northern Azure** | *Celastrina lucia* | | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Northern Broken-Dash** | *Wallengrenia egeremet* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Northern Cloudywing** | *Thorybes pylades* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2005 |
| **Northern Crescent** | *Phyciodes cocyta* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Northern Pearly-Eye** | *Lethe anthedon* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 1987 |
| **Orange Sulphur** | *Colias eurytheme* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Orange-barred Sulphur** | *Phoebis philea* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 1987 |
| **Painted Lady** | *Vanessa cardui* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Pearl Crescent** | *Phyciodes tharos* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Peck's Skipper** | *Polites peckius* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Pipevine Swallowtail** | *Battus philenor* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2017 |

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

| Common Name | Scientific Name | S-Rank[1] | ESA Status[2] | SARA Status[3] | COSEWIC[4] | Historical Record (> 20 years old) | 17PJ33 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Purplish Copper** | *Lycaena helloides* | S3 | - | - | - | No | 1953 |
| **Question Mark** | *Polygonia interrogationis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Red Admiral** | *Vanessa atalanta* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Red-spotted Purple** | *Limenitis arthemis astyanax* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Sachem** | *Atalopedes campestris* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2012 |
| **Silver-bordered Fritillary** | *Boloria selene* | S5 | - | - | - | Yes | 1960 |
| **Silver-spotted Skipper** | *Epargyreus clarus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Silvery Blue** | *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **Silvery Checkerspot** | *Chlosyne nycteis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 1988 |
| **Spicebush Swallowtail** | *Papilio troilus* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2017 |
| **Striped Hairstreak** | *Satyrium liparops* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2012 |
| **Summer Azure** | *Celastrina neglecta* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2016 |
| **Tawny Emperor** | *Asterocampa clyton* | S3 | - | - | - | No | 2015 |
| **Tawny-edged Skipper** | *Polites themistocles* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2017 |
| **Variegated Fritillary** | *Euptoieta claudia* | SNA | - | - | - | No | 2012 |
| **Viceroy** | *Limenitis archippus* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2019 |
| **White Admiral** | *Limenitis arthemis arthemis* | S5 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |
| **White M-Hairstreak** | *Parrhasius m-album* | | - | - | - | Yes | 1999 |
| **Wild Indigo Duskywing** | *Erynnis baptisiae* | S4 | - | - | - | No | 2018 |

## Table Legend

[1] ***S-rank:*** *The natural heritage provincial ranking system (provincial S-rank) is used by the MNRF NHIC to set protection priorities for rare species and natural communities.* The following status definitions were taken from NatureServe Explorer's (2015) National and Subnational Conservation Status Definitions available at http://explorer.natureserve.org/nsranks.htm:

**SX** - Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from the province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
**SH**- Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.
**S1** - Critically Imperiled — Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S2**-Imperiled—Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S3** - Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
**S4** - Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

**S5** - Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the nation or state/province.
**SNR** - Unranked—Province conservation status not yet assessed.
**SU** - Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
**SNA** - Not Applicable — A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
**S#S#** - Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).
*Breeding Status Qualifiers*
**B** - Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the province.
**N** - Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the province.
**M** - Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the province.
**Note:** A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").
*Other Qualifiers*
**?** -Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)

***[2]ESA Status:*** *The Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA) protects species listed as Threatened and Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List on provincial and private land. The Minister lists species on the SARO list based on recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), which evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario. The following are the categories of at risk:*

***END*** *(Endangered) – A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario.*
***THR*** *(Threatened) – Any native species that, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a large portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.*
***SC*** *(Special Concern) – A species that may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.*
***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

***[3]SARA Status****: The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:*

***END (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***THR (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.*
***SC (Schedule 1)*** *– These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.*

# Appendix A. Species Records from Wildlife Atlases

***No Status (No Schedule)*** *– These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.*

***NAR (Not at Risk)****– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*

***Not Applicable (N / A)*** *– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.*

*Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm*

[4]***COSEWIC Status:*** *COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assigns a federal status ranking for all species that it assesses. Rankings include:*

***END*** *(Endangered) - A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction throughout its range.*

***THR*** *(Threatened) - A species likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction*

***SC*** *(Special Concern) - A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events, but does not include an extirpated, endangered or threatened species.*

***NAR*** *(Not at Risk) - A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.*

***DD*** *(Data Deficient) - A wildlife species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction.*

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# Appendix B

## Significant Wildlife Habitat Screening

## SWH Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule

**Table 1.1 Seasonal Concentration Areas of Animals.**

| Wildlife Habitat | Wildlife Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite Codes | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas (Terrestrial)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Habitat important to migrating waterfowl. | American Black Duck<br>Northern Pintail<br>Gadwall<br>Blue-winged Teal<br>Green-winged Teal<br>American Wigeon<br>Northern Shoveler<br>Tundra Swan | CUM1<br>CUT1<br>- Plus evidence of annual spring flooding from melt water or run-off within these Ecosites.<br>- Fields with waste grain in the Long Point, Rondeau, Lk. St. Clair, Grand Bend and Pt. Pelee areas may be important to Tundra Swans. | Fields with sheet water during Spring (mid- March to May).<br>• Fields flooding during spring melt and run-off provide important invertebrate foraging habitat for migrating waterfowl.<br>• Agricultural fields with waste grains are commonly used by waterfowl, these are not considered SWH unless they have spring sheet water available.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Anecdotal information from the landowner, adjacent landowners or local naturalist clubs may be good information in determining occurrence.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities (CAs)<br>• Sites documented through waterfowl planning processes (eg. EHJV implementation plan)<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Ducks Unlimited Canada<br>• Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Waterfowl Concentration Area | Studies carried out and verified presence of an annual concentration of any listed species, evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects”<br>• Any mixed species aggregations of 100<br>• or more individuals required.<br>• The area of the flooded field ecosite habitat plus a 100-300m radius buffer dependant on local site conditions and adjacent land use is the significant wildlife habitat.<br>• Annual use of habitat is documented from information sources or field studies (annual use can be based on studies or determined by past surveys with species numbers and dates). | None Present |
| **Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas (Aquatic)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Important for local and migrant waterfowl populations during the spring or fall migration or both periods combined. Sites identified are usually only one of a few in the eco-district. | Northern Shoveler<br>American Wigeon<br>Gadwall<br>Green-winged Teal<br>Blue-winged Teal<br>Hooded Merganser<br>Common Merganser<br>Lesser Scaup<br>Greater Scaup<br>Long-tailed Duck<br>Surf Scoter<br>White-winged Scoter<br>Black Scoter<br>Ring-necked duck<br>Common Goldeneye<br>Bufflehead<br>Redhead<br>Ruddy Duck | MAS1<br>MAS2<br>MAS3<br>SAS1<br>SAM1<br>SAF1<br>SWD1<br>SWD2<br>SWD3<br>SWD4<br>SWD5<br>SWD6<br>SWD7 | <u>Information Sources</u><br>• Environment Canada<br>• Naturalist clubs often are aware of staging/stopover areas.<br>• OMNRF Wetland Evaluations indicate presence of locally and regionally significant waterfowl staging.<br>• Sites documented through waterfowl planning processes (eg. EHJV implementation plan)<br>• Ducks Unlimited projects<br>• Element occurrence specification by Nature Serve: http://www.natureserve.org<br>• Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Waterfowl Concentration Area | Studies carried out and verified presence of:<br>• Aggregations of 100 or more of listed species for 7 days, results in > 700 waterfowl use days.<br>• Areas with annual staging of ruddy ducks, canvasbacks, and redheads are SWH<br>• The combined area of the ELC ecosites and a 100m radius area is the SWH<br>• Wetland area and shorelines associated with sites identified within the SWHTG Appendix K are significant wildlife habitat.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects”<br>• Annual Use of Habitat is Documented from Information Sources or Field Studies (Annual can be based on completed studies or determined from past surveys with species numbers and dates recorded). | None Present |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Red-breasted Merganser<br>Brant<br>Canvasback<br>Ruddy Duck | | | | |
| **Shorebird Migratory Stopover Area**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>High quality shorebird stopover habitat is extremely rare and typically has a long history of use. | Greater Yellowlegs<br>Lesser Yellowlegs<br>Marbled Godwit<br>Hudsonian Godwit<br>Black-bellied Plover<br>American Golden-Plover<br>Semipalmated Plover<br>Solitary Sandpiper<br>Spotted Sandpiper<br>Semipalmated Sandpiper<br>Pectoral Sandpiper<br>White-rumped Sandpiper<br>Baird's Sandpiper<br>Least Sandpiper<br>Purple Sandpiper<br>Stilt Sandpiper<br>Short-billed Dowitcher<br>Red-necked Phalarope<br>Whimbrel<br>Ruddy Turnstone<br>Sanderling<br>Dunlin | BBO1<br>BBO2<br>BBS1<br>BBS2<br>BBT1<br>BBT2<br>SDO1<br>SDS2<br>SDT1<br>MAM1<br>MAM2<br>MAM3<br>MAM4<br>MAM5 | Shorelines of lakes, rivers and wetlands, including beach areas, bars and seasonally flooded, muddy and un-vegetated shoreline habitats.<br>Great Lakes coastal shorelines, including groynes and other forms of armour rock lakeshores, are extremely important for migratory shorebirds in May to mid-June and early July to October. Sewage treatment ponds and storm water ponds do not qualify as a SWH,<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Western hemisphere shorebird reserve network.<br>• Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Ontario Shorebird Survey.<br>• Bird Studies Canada<br>• Ontario Nature<br>• Local birders and naturalist clubs<br>• NHIC Shorebird Migratory Concentration Area | Studies confirming:<br>• Presence of 3 or more of listed species and > 1000 shorebird use days during spring or fall migration period. (shorebird use days are the accumulated number of shorebirds counted per day over the course of the fall or spring migration period)<br>• Whimbrel stop briefly (<24hrs) during spring migration, any site with >100 Whimbrel used for 3 years or more is significant.<br>• The area of significant shorebird habitat includes the mapped ELC shoreline ecosites plus a 100m radius area<br>• Evaluation methods to follow "Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" | None Present |
| **Raptor Wintering Area**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Sites used by multiple species, a high number of individuals and used annually are most significant | Rough-legged Hawk<br>Red-tailed Hawk<br>Northern Harrier<br>American Kestrel<br>Snowy Owl<br><br>**<u>Special Concern:</u>**<br>Short-eared Owl<br>Bald Eagle | **<u>Hawks/Owls</u>**<br>Combination of ELC Community Series; need to have present one Community Series from each land class;<br>Forest:<br>FOD, FOM, FOC.<br><br>Upland:<br>CUM; CUT; CUS; CUW.<br><br>**<u>Bald Eagle:</u>**<br>Forest community Series: FOD, FOM, FOC, SWD, SWM or SWC on shoreline areas adjacent to large rivers or lakes with open water (hunting areas). | The habitat provides a combination of fields and woodlands that provide roosting, foraging and resting habitats for wintering raptors.<br>Raptor wintering(hawk/owl) sites need to be > 20 ha with a combination of forest and upland..<br>Least disturbed sites, idle/fallow or lightly grazed field/meadow (>15ha) with adjacent woodlands<br>Field area of the habitat is to be wind swept with limited snow depth or accumulation.<br>Eagle sites have open water and large trees and snags available for roosting.<br><u>Information Sources</u>:<br>• OMNR Ecologist or Biologist<br>• Naturalist club<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) Raptor Winter Concentration Area<br>• Data from Bird Studies Canada, most notably for Short-eared Owls.<br>• Results of Christmas Bird Counts.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities. | Studies confirm the use of these habitats by:<br>• One or more Short-eared Owls or; One of more Bald Eagles or; At least 10 individuals and two of listed hawk/owl species.<br>• To be significant a site must be used regularly (3 in 5 years) for a minimum of 20 days by the above number of birds.<br>• The habitat area for an Eagle winter site is the shoreline forest ecosites directly adjacent to the prime hunting area.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow "Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" | None Present |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bat Hibernacula**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Bat hibernacula are rare habitats in all Ontario landscapes. | Big Brown Bat<br>Tri-colored Bat | Bat Hibernacula may be found in these ecosites:<br>CCR1<br>CCR2<br>CCA1<br>CCA2<br>(Note: buildings are not considered to be SWH) | Hibernacula may be found in caves, mine shafts, underground foundations and Karsts.<br>Active mine sites should not be considered as SWH.<br>The locations of bat hibernacula are relatively poorly known.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNR for possible locations and contact for local experts<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) Bat Hibernaculum<br>• Ministry of Northern Development and Mines for location of mine shafts.<br>• Clubs that explore caves (eg. Sierra Club)<br>• University Biology Departments with bat experts. | • All sites with confirmed hibernating bats are SWH.<br>• The area includes 200m radius around the entrance of the hibernaculum for most development types and 1000m for wind farms.<br>• Studies are to be conducted during the peak swarming period (Aug. – Sept.). Surveys should be conducted following methods outlined in the "Guideline for Wind Power Projects Potential Impacts to Bats and Bat Habitats". | None Present |
| **Bat Maternity Colonies**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Known locations of forested bat maternity colonies is extremely rare in all Ontario landscapes. | Big Brown Bat<br>Silver-haired Bat | Maternity colonies considered SWH are found in forested Ecosites.<br><br>All ELC Ecosites in ELC Community Series:<br>FOD<br>FOM<br>SWD<br>SWM | Maternity colonies can be found in tree cavities, vegetation and often in buildlings (buildings are not considered to be SWH). Maternity roosts are not found in caves and mines in Ontario.<br>• Maternity colonies located in Mature deciduous or mixed forest stands with >10/ha large diameter (>25cm dbh) wildlife trees<br>• Female Bats prefer wildlife tree (snags) in early stages of decay, class 1-3 or class 1 or 2.<br>• Silver-haired Bats prefer older mixed or deciduous forest and form maternity colonies in tree cavities and small hollows. Older forest areas with at least 21 snags/ha are preferred<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNR for possible locations and contact for local experts<br>• University Biology Departments with bat experts. | • Maternity Colonies with confirmed use by;<br>– >10 Big Brown Bats<br>– >5 Adult Female Silver-haired Bats<br>• The area of the habitat includes the entire woodland or the forest stand ELC Ecosite containing the maternity colonies.<br>• Evaluation methods for maternity colonies should be conducted following methods outlined in the "Bats and Bat Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects"". | None Present |
| **Turtle Wintering Areas**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Generally sites are the only known sites in the area. Sites with the highest number of individuals are most significant. | Midland Painted Turtle<br><br>**<u>Special Concern:</u>**<br>Northern Map Turtle<br>Snapping Turtle | Snapping and Midland Painted turtles; ELC Community Classes; SW, MA, OA and SA. ELC Community Series; FEO and BOO<br><br>Northern Map Turtle - Open Water areas such as deeper rivers or | For most turtles, wintering areas are in the same general area as their core habitat. Water has to be deep enough not to freeze and have soft mud substrates.<br>• Over-wintering sites are permanent water bodies, large wetlands, and bogs or fens with adequate Dissolved Oxygen.<br>• Man-made ponds such as sewage lagoons or storm water ponds should not be considered SWH.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• EIS studies carried out by Conservation Authorities.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• OMNRF Ecologist or Biologist | • Presence of 5 over-wintering Midland Painted Turtles is significant.<br>• One or more Northern Map Turtle or Snapping Turtle over-wintering within a wetland is significant.<br>• The mapped ELC ecosite area with the over wintering turtles is the SWH. If the hibernation site is within a stream or river, the deep-water pool where the turtles are over wintering is the SWH.<br>• Over wintering areas may be identified by searching for congregations (Basking Areas) of turtles on warm, sunny days during the fall (Sept. – Oct.) or spring (Mar. – May). Congregation of turtles is more common where wintering areas are limited and therefore | None Present |

| | | | | | |
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| | | streams and lakes with current can also be used as over-wintering habitat. | • Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) | significant. | |
| **Reptile Hibernaculum**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Generally sites are the only known sites in the area. Sites with the highest number of individuals are most significant. | **<u>Snakes:</u>**<br>Eastern Gartersnake<br>Northern Watersnake<br>Northern Red-bellied Snake<br>Northern Brownsnake<br>Smooth Green Snake<br>Northern Ring-necked Snake<br><br>**<u>Special Concern:</u>**<br>Milksnake<br>Eastern Ribbonsnake | For all snakes, habitat may be found in any ecosite other than very wet ones. Talus, Rock Barren, Crevice and Cave, and Alvar sites may be directly related to these habitats.<br><br>Observations of congregations of snakes on sunny warm days in the spring or fall is a good indicator. | For snakes, hibernation takes place in sites located below frost lines in burrows, rock crevices and other natural or naturalized locations. The existence of features that go below frost line; such as rock piles or slopes, old stone fences, and abandoned crumbling foundations assist in identifying candidate SWH. Areas of broken and fissured rock are particularly valuable since they provide access to subterranean sites below the frost line. Wetlands can also be important over-wintering habitat in conifer or shrub swamps and swales, poor fens, or depressions in bedrock terrain with sparse trees or shrubs with sphagnum moss or sedge hummock ground cover.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• In spring, local residents or landowners may have observed the emergence of snakes on their property (e.g.old dug wells).<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• University herpetologists.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) | Studies confirming:<br>• Presence of snake hibernacula used by a minimum of five individuals of a snake sp. or; individuals of two or more snake spp.<br>• Congregations of a minimum of five individuals of a snake sp. or; individuals of two or more snake spp. near potential hibernacula (eg. foundation or rocky slope) on sunny warm days in Spring (Apr/May) and Fall (Sept/Oct).<br>• Note: If there are Special Concern Species present, then site is SWH<br>• Note: Sites for hibernation possess specific habitat parameters (e.g. temperature, humidity, etc.) and consequently are used annually, often by many of the same individuals of a local population [i.e. strong hibernation site fidelity.]. Other critical life processes (e.g. mating) often take place in close proximity to hibernacula. The feature in which the hibernacula is located plus a 30 m buffer is the SWH | None Present |
| **Colonially - Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank and Cliff)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Historical use and number of nests in a colony make this habitat significant. An identified colony can be very important to local populations. All swallow population are declining in Ontario. | Cliff Swallow<br>Northern Rough-winged Swallow (this species is not colonial but can be found in Cliff Swallow colonies). | Eroding banks, sandy hills, borrow pits, steep slopes, and sand piles, cliff faces, bridge abutments, silos, barns (Cliff Swallows).<br><br>Habitat found in the following ecosites:<br>CUM1 CUT1<br>CUS1 BLO1<br>BLS1 BLT1<br>CLO1 CLS1<br>CLT1 | • Any site or areas with exposed soil banks, undisturbed or naturally eroding that is not a licensed/permitted aggregate area.<br>• Does not include man-made structures (bridges or buildings) or recently (2 years) disturbed soil areas, such as berms, embankments, soil or aggregate stockpiles.<br>• Does not include a licensed/permitted Mineral Aggregate Operation.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities<br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas.<br>• Bird Studies Canada; *NatureCounts* http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs. | Studies confirming:<br>• Presence of 1 or more nesting sites with 8or more cliff swallow pairs and/or rough-winged swallow pairs during the breeding season.<br>• A colony identified as SWH will include a 50m radius habitat area from the peripheral nests<br>• Field surveys to observe and count swallow nests are to be completed during the breeding season (May-June). Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | None Present |
| **Colonially - Nesting Bird** | Great Blue Heron<br>Black-crowned Night- | SWM2 SWM3<br>SWM5 SWM6 | • Nests in live or dead standing trees in wetlands, lakes, islands, and peninsulas. Shrubs and | Studies confirming:<br>• Presence of 2 or more active nests of Great Blue | None Present |

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| **Breeding Habitat (Tree/Shrubs)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Large colonies are important to local bird population, typically sites are only known colony in area and are used annually. | Heron<br>Great Egret<br>Green Heron | SWD1 SWD2<br>SWD3 SWD4<br>SWD5 SWD6<br>SWD7 FET1 | occasionally emergent vegetation may also be used.<br>• Most nests in trees are 11 to 15 m from ground, near the top of the tree.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas , colonial nest records.<br>• Ontario Heronry Inventory 1991 available from Bird Studies Canada or NHIC (OMNRF).<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) Mixed Wader Nesting Colony<br>• Aerial photographs can help identify large heronries.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities<br>• MNRF District Offices.<br>• Local naturalist clubs. | Heron or other listed species..<br>• The habitat extends from the edge of the colony and a minimum 300 m radius or extend of the Forest Ecosite containing the colony or any island <15.0ha with a colony is the SWH [1]<br>• Confirmation of active heronries are to be achieved through site visits conducted during the nesting season (April to August) or by evidence such as the presence of fresh guano, dead young and/or eggshells | |
| **Colonially - Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Ground)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Colonies are important to local bird population, typically sites are only known colony in area and are used annually. | Herring Gull<br>Great Black-backed Gull<br>Little Gull<br>Ring-billed Gull<br>Common Tern<br>Caspian Tern<br>Brewer's Blackbird | Any rocky island or peninsula (natural or artificial) within a lake or large river (two-lined on a 1;50,000 NTS map).<br><br>Close proximity to watercourses in open fields or pastures with scattered trees or shrubs (Brewer's Blackbird)<br><br>MAM1 – 6;<br>MAS1 – 3;<br>CUM CUT<br>CUS | • Nesting colonies of gulls and terns are on islands or peninsulas associated with open water or in marshy areas.<br>• Brewers Blackbird colonies are found loosely on the ground in or in low bushes in close proximity to streams and irrigation ditches within farmlands.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas , rare/colonial species records.<br>• Canadian Wildlife Service<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area<br>• MNRF District Offices.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs. | Studies confirming:<br>• Presence of > 25 active nests for Herring Gulls or Ring-billed Gulls, >5 active nests for Common Tern or >2 active nests for Caspian Tern.<br>• Presence of 5 or more pairs for Brewer's Blackbird<br>• Any active nesting colony of one or more Little Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull is significant.<br>• The edge of the colony and a minimum 150m radius area of habitat, or the extent of the ELC ecosites containing the colony or any island <3.0ha with a colony is the SWH [1]<br>• Studies would be done during May/June when actively nesting. Evaluation methods to follow "Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" | None Present |
| **Migratory Butterfly Stopover Areas**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Butterfly stopover areas are extremely rare habitats and are biologically important for butterfly species that migrate south for the winter. | Painted Lady<br>Red Admiral<br><br><u>Special Concern</u><br>Monarch | Combination of ELC Community Series; need to have present one Community Series from each landclass:<br><br><u>Field</u>:<br>CUM CUT<br>CUS<br><br><u>Forest</u>:<br>FOC FOD<br>FOM CUP | A butterfly stopover area will be a minimum of 10 ha in size with a combination of field and forest habitat present, and will be located within 5 km of Lake Erie and Ontario.<br>• The habitat is typically a combination of field and forest, and provides the butterflies with a location to rest prior to their long migration south.<br>• The habitat should not be disturbed, fields/meadows with an abundance of preferred nectar plants and woodland edge providing shelter are requirements for this habitat [2]<br>• Stopover areas usually provide protection from the elements and are often spits of land or areas with the shortest distance to cross the Great Lakes<br><u>Information Sources</u> | Studies confirm:<br>• The presence of Monarch Use Days (MUD) during fall migration (Aug/Oct). MUD is based on the number of days a site is used by Monarchs, multiplied by the number of individuals using the site. Numbers of butterflies can range from 100-500/day, significant variation can occur between years and multiple years of sampling should occur.<br>• Observational studies are to be completed and need to be done frequently during the migration period to estimate MUD<br>• MUD of >5000 **or** >3000 with the presence of Painted Ladies or Red Admiral's is to be considered significant. | None Present |

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| | | Anecdotally, a candidate sight for butterfly stopover will have a history of butterflies being observed. | • MNRF district Offices<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC)<br>• Agriculture Canada in Ottawa may have list of butterfly experts.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Toronto Entomologists Association<br>• Conservation Authorities | | |
| **Landbird Migratory Stopover Areas**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Sites with a high diversity of species as well as high numbers are most significant. | All migratory songbirds.<br><br>Canadian Wildlife Service Ontario website: http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=421B7A9D-1<br><br>All migrant raptors species:<br><br>Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997. Schedule 7: Specially Protected Birds (Raptors) | All Ecosites associated with these ELC Community Series;<br>FOC<br>FOM<br>FOD<br>SWC<br>SWM<br>SWD | Woodlots need to be >5 ha in size and within 5 km of Lake Ontario and Erie. If woodlands are rare in an area of shoreline, woodland fragments 2-5ha can be considered for this habitat.<br>•<br>• If multiple woodlands are located along the shoreline those Woodlands <2km from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are more significant<br>• Sites have a variety of habitats; forest, grassland and wetland complexes.<br>• The largest sites are more significant<br>• Woodlots and forest fragments are important habitats to migrating birds, these features located along the shore and located within 5km of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are Candidate SWH.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Bird Studies Canada<br>• Ontario Nature<br>• Local birders and naturalist club<br>• Ontario Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program | Studies confirm:<br>• Use of the woodlot by >200 birds/day and with >35 spp with at least 10 bird spp. recorded on at least 5 different survey dates. This abundance and diversity of migrant bird species is considered above average and significant.<br>• Studies should be completed during spring (March to May) and fall (Aug to Oct) migration using standardized assessment techniques. Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | None present. There are no field or forest combinations of sufficient size (> 10 ha). However, Monarch butterflies may still be present and use the habitat in the Lower Don River Crossing Study Area for foraging and egg-laying but not at significant numbers to qualify as a candidate Migratory Butterfly Stopover Area. |
| **Deer Winter Congregation Areas**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Deer movement during winter in the southern areas of Ecoregion 7E are not constrained by snow depth, however deer will annually congregate in large numbers in suitable woodlands to reduce or avoid the impacts of winter conditions. | White-tailed Deer | All Forested Ecosites with these ELC Community Series;<br>FOC<br>FOM<br>FOD<br>SWC<br>SWM<br>SWD<br><br>Conifer plantations much smaller than 50 ha may also be used. | • Woodlots >100 ha in size or if large woodlots are rare in a planning area woodlots>50ha.<br>• Deer movement during winter in the southern areas Ecoregion 7E are not constrained by snow depth, however deer will annually congregate in large numbers in suitable woodlands.<br>• Large woodlots > 100ha and up to 1500 ha are known to be used annually by densities of deer that range from 0.1-1.5 deer/ha.<br>• Woodlots with high densities of deer due to artificial feeding are not significant.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• MNRF District Offices.<br>• LIO/NRVIS | Studies confirm:<br>• Deer management is an MNRF responsibility, deer winter congregation areas considered significant will be mapped by MNRF.<br>• Use of the woodlot by white-tailed deer will be determined by MNRF, all woodlots exceeding the area criteria are significant, unless determined not to be significant by MNRF<br>• Studies should be completed during winter (Jan/Feb) when >20cm of snow is on the ground using aerial survey techniques , ground or road surveys, or a pellet count deer density survey | None Present |

**Table 1.2.1 Rare Vegetation Communities**.

| Rare Vegetation Community | CANDIDATE SWH | | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
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| | **ELC Ecosite Code** | **Habitat Description** | **Detailed Information and Sources** | **Defining Criteria** | |
| **Cliffs and Talus Slopes**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Cliffs and Talus Slopes are extremely rare habitats in Ontario. | Any ELC Ecosite within Community Series:<br><br>TAO CLO<br>TAS CLS<br>TAT CLT | A Cliff is vertical to near vertical bedrock >3m in height.<br><br>A Talus Slope is rock rubble at the base of a cliff made up of coarse rocky debris | Most cliff and talus slopes occur along the Niagara Escarpment.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• The Niagara Escarpment Commission has detailed information on location of these habitats.<br>• OMNRF Districts<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location information available their website<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Conservation Authorities | • Confirm any ELC Vegetation Type for Cliffs or Talus Slopes | None Present |
| **Sand Barren**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Sand barrens are rare in Ontario and support rare species. Most Sand Barrens have been lost due to cottage development and forestry | ELC Ecosites:<br><br>SBO1<br>SBS1<br>SBT1<br><br>Vegetation cover varies from patchy and barren to continuous meadow (SBO1), thicket-like (SBS1), or more closed and treed (SBT1). Tree cover always <u>≤</u> 60%. | Sand Barrens typically are exposed sand, generally sparsely vegetated and caused by lack of moisture, periodic fires and erosion. Usually located within other types of natural habitat such as forest or savannah. Vegetation can vary from patchy and barren to tree covered but less than 60%. | A sand barren area >0.5ha in size.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location information available on their website<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Conservation Authorities | • Confirm any ELC Vegetation Type for Sand Barrens [iii]<br>• Site must not be dominated by exotic or introduced species (<50% vegetative cover exotics). | None Present |
| **Alvar**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Alvars are extremely rare habitats in Ecoregion 7E. | ALO1<br>ALS1<br>ALT1<br>FOC1<br>FOC2<br>CUM2<br>CUS2<br>CUT2-1<br>CUW2<br><br>**Five Alvar Indicator Species:**<br><br>1)*Carex crawei*<br>2)*Panicum philadelphicum* | An alvar is typically a level, mostly unfractured calcareous bedrock feature with a mosaic of rock pavements and bedrock overlain by a thin veneer of soil. The hydrology of alvars is complex, with alternating periods of inundation and drought. Vegetation cover varies from sparse lichen-moss associations to grasslands and shrublands and comprising a number of characteristic or indicator plant. Undisturbed alvars can be phyto- and zoogeographically diverse, supporting many uncommon or are relict plant and animals | An Alvar site > 0.5 ha in size.<br>Alvar is particularly rare in Ecoregion 7E where the only known sites are found in the western islands of Lake Erie.[cxcix]<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Alvars of Ontario (2000), Federation of Ontario Naturalists.<br>• Ontario Nature – Conserving Great Lakes Alvars.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location information available on their website<br>• OMNRF Staff.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs.<br>• Conservation Authorities. | Field studies identify four of the five **Alvar Indicator Species** at a Candidate Alvar site is Significant.<br><br>• Site must not be dominated by exotic or introduced species (<50% vegetative cover exotics).<br><br>• The alvar must be in excellent condition and fit in with surrounding landscape with few conflicting land uses. | None Present |

| Rare Vegetation Community | CANDIDATE SWH | | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
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| | **ELC Ecosite Code** | **Habitat Description** | **Detailed Information and Sources** | **Defining Criteria** | |
| | 3)*Elocharis compressa*<br>4)*Scutellaria parvula*<br>5)*Trichostema brachiatum*<br><br>These indicator species are very specific to Alvars within Ecoregion 7E. | species. Vegetation cover varies from patchy to barren with a less than 60% tree cover [iii]. | | | |
| **Old Growth Forest**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Due to historic logging practices and land clearance for agriculture, old growth forest is rare in Ecoregion 7E. | Forest Community Series:<br>FOD<br>FOC<br>FOM<br>SWD<br>SWC<br>SWM | Old-growth forests are characterized by heavy mortality or turnover of over-storey trees resulting in mosaic of gaps that encourage development of multi-layered canopy and an abundance of snags and downed woody debris. | • Woodland area is >0.5 ha.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF Forest Resource Inventory mapping<br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Conservation Authorities<br>• Sustainable Forestry Licence (SFL) companies will possibly know locations through field operations.<br>• Municipal forestry departments | Field Studies will determine:<br>• If dominant trees species of the ecosite are >140 years old, then area containing these trees is Significant Wildlife Habitat.<br>• The forested area containing the old growth characteristics will have experienced no recognizable forestry activities (cut steps will not be present)<br>• The area of forest ecosites combined or an eco-element within an ecosite that contain the old growth characteristics is the SWH.<br>• Determine ELC vegetation types for the forest area containing the old growth characteristics. | None Present |
| **Savannah**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Savannahs are extremely rare habitats in Ontario. | TPS1<br>TPS2<br>TPW1<br>TPW2<br>CUS2 | A Savannah is a tallgrass prairie habitat that has tree cover between 25 – 60%.<br><br>In ecoregion 7E, known Tallgrass Prairie and savannah remnants are scattered between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, near Lake St. Clair, north of and along the Lake Erie shoreline, in Brantford and in the Toronto area (north of Lake Ontario). | No minimum size to site<br>Site must be restored or a natural site. Remnant sites such as railway right of ways are not considered to be SWH.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location data available on their website.<br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Field Naturalists Clubs.<br>• Conservation Authorities. | Field studies confirm one or more of the Savannah indicator species listed in Appendix N should be present. Note: Savannah plant spp. list from Ecoregion 7E should be used<br><br>• Area of the ELC Ecosite is the SWH.<br>• Site must not be dominated by exotic or introduced species (<50% vegetative cover exotics). | None Present |
| **Tallgrass Prairie**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Tallgrass Prairies are extremely rare habitats in Ontario. | TPO1<br>TPO2 | A Tallgrass Prairie has ground cover dominated by prairie grasses. An open Tallgrass Prairie habitat has < 25% tree cover.<br><br>In ecoregion 7E, known Tallgrass Prairie and savannah remnants are scattered between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, near Lake St. Clair, north of and along the Lake Erie shoreline, in Brantford and in the Toronto area | No minimum size to site. Site must be restored or a natural site. Remnant sites such as railway right of ways are not considered to be SWH.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location data available on their website.<br>• Field Naturalists Clubs.<br>• Conservation Authorities | Field studies confirm one or more of the Prairie indicator species listed in Appendix N should be present. Note: Prairie plant spp. list from Ecoregion 7E should be used<br><br>• Area of the ELC Ecosite is the SWH<br>• Site must not be dominated by exotic or introduced species (<50% vegetative cover exotics). | None Present |

| Rare Vegetation Community | CANDIDATE SWH | | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
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| | **ELC Ecosite Code** | **Habitat Description** | **Detailed Information and Sources** | **Defining Criteria** | |
| | | (north of Lake Ontario). | | | |
| **Other Rare Vegetation Communities**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Plant communities that often contain rare species which depend on the habitat for survival. | Provincially Rare S1, S2 and S3 vegetation communities are listed in Appendix M of the SWHTG. Any ELC Ecosite Code that has a possible ELC Vegetation Type that is Provincially Rare is Candidate SWH. | Rare Vegetation Communities may include beaches, fens, forest, marsh, barrens, dunes and swamps. | ELC Ecosite codes that have the potential to be a rare ELC Vegetation Type as outlined in appendix M<br><br>The OMNRF/NHIC will have up to date listing for rare vegetation communities.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br><br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) has location data available on their website.<br>• Field Naturalists Clubs.<br>• Conservation Authorities | Field studies should confirm if an ELC Vegetation Type is a rare vegetation community based on listing within Appendix M of SWHTG.<br><br>• Area of the ELC Vegetation Type polygon is the SWH. | None Present |

**Table 1.2.2 Specialized Habitats of Wildlife considered SWH**.

| Specialized Wildlife Habitat | Wildlife Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
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| | | ELC Ecosite Codes | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Waterfowl Nesting Area**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Important to local waterfowl populations, sites with greatest number of species and highest number of individuals are significant. | American Black Duck<br>Northern Pintail<br>Northern Shoveler<br>Gadwall<br>Blue-winged Teal<br>Green-winged Teal<br>Wood Duck<br>Hooded Merganser<br>Mallard | All upland habitats located adjacent to these wetland ELC Ecosites are Candidate SWH:<br>MAS1 MAS2<br>MAS3 SAS1<br>SAM1 SAF1<br>MAM1 MAM2<br>MAM3 MAM4<br>MAM5 MAM6<br>SWT1 SWT2<br>SWD1 SWD2<br>SWD3 SWD4<br><br>**Note: includes adjacency to Provincially Significant Wetlands** | A waterfowl nesting area extends 120 m from a wetland (> 0.5 ha) or a wetland (>0.5 ha) with small wetlands (<0.5ha) within 120m or a cluster of 3 or more small (<0.5 ha) wetlands within 120 m of each individual wetland where waterfowl nesting is known to occur.<br>• Upland areas should be at least 120m wide so that predators such as racoons, skunks, and foxes have difficulty finding nests.<br>• Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers utilize large diameter trees (>40cm dbh) in woodlands for cavity nest sites.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Ducks Unlimited staff may know the locations of particularly productive nesting sites.<br>• OMNRF Wetland Evaluations for indication of significant waterfowl nesting habitat.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities | Studies confirmed:<br>• Presence of 3 or more nesting pairs for listed species excluding Mallards , or;<br>• Presence of 10 or more nesting pairs for listed species including Mallards<br>• Any active nesting site of an American Black Duck is considered significant.<br>• Nesting studies should be completed during the spring breeding season (April - June). Evaluation methods to follow "Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects"<br>• A field study confirming waterfowl nesting habitat will determine the boundary of the waterfowl nesting habitat for the SWH, this may be greater or less than 120 m from the wetland and will provide enough habitat for waterfowl to successfully nest. | None Present |
| **Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting, Foraging and Perching Habitat**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Nest sites are fairly uncommon in Ecoregion 7E and are used annually by these species. Many suitable nesting locations may be lost due to increasing shoreline development pressures and scarcity of habitat. | Osprey<br><br>**Special Concern**<br>Bald Eagle | ELC Forest Community Series: FOD, FOM, FOC, SWD, SWM and SWC directly adjacent to riparian areas – rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands | Nests are associated with lakes, ponds, rivers or wetlands along forested shorelines, islands, or on structures over water.<br>• Osprey nests are usually at the top a tree whereas Bald Eagle nests are typically in super canopy trees in a notch within the tree's canopy.<br>• Nests located on man-made objects are not to be included as SWH (e.g. telephone poles and constructed nesting platforms).<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) compiles all known nesting sites for Bald Eagles in Ontario.<br>• MNRF values information (LIO/NRVIS) will list known nesting locations, Note: data from NRVIS is provided as a point and does not represent all the habitat.<br>• Nature Counts, Ontario Nest Records Scheme data.<br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Check the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas or Rare Breeding Birds in Ontario for species documented<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities<br>• Field naturalist Clubs | Studies confirm the use of these nests by:<br>• One or more active Osprey or Bald Eagle nests in an area.<br>• Some species have more than one nest in a given area and priority is given to the primary nest with alternate nests included within the area of the SWH.<br>• For an Osprey, the active nest and a 300 m radius around the nest or the contiguous woodland stand is the SWH , maintaining undisturbed shorelines with large trees within this area is important.<br>• For a Bald Eagle the active nest and a 400-800 m radius around the nest is the SWH. Area of the habitat from 400-800m is dependant on site lines from the nest to the development and inclusion of perching and foraging habitat<br>• To be significant a site must be used annually. When found inactive, the site must be known to be inactive for > 3 years or suspected of not being used for >5 years before being considered not significant.<br>• Observational studies to determine nest site use, perching sites and foraging areas need to be done from mid March to mid August.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow "Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects" | None Present |

| Specialized Wildlife Habitat | Wildlife Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite Codes | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Woodland Raptor Nesting Habitat**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Nests sites for these species are rarely identified; these area sensitive habitats are often used annually by these species. | Northern Goshawk<br>Cooper's Hawk<br>Sharp-shinned Hawk<br>Red-shouldered Hawk<br>Barred Owl<br>Broad-winged Hawk | May be found in all forested ELC Ecosites.<br><br>May also be found in SWC, SWM, SWD and CUP3 | All natural or conifer plantation woodland/forest stands combined >30ha or with >4 ha of interior habitat [i].<br>Interior habitat determined with a 200m buffer<br>• Stick nests found in a variety of intermediate-aged to mature conifer, deciduous or mixed forests within tops or crotches of trees. Species such as Coopers hawk nest along forest edges sometimes on peninsulas or small off-shore islands.<br>• In disturbed sites, nests may be used again, or a new nest will be in close proximity to old nest.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF Districts.<br>• Check the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas or Rare Breeding Birds in Ontario for species documented.<br>• Check data from Bird Studies Canada.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities | Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of 1 or more active nests from species list is considered significant.<br>• Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Goshawk – A 400m radius around the nest or 28 ha habitat area would be applied where optimal habitat is irregularly shaped around the nest ).<br>• Barred Owl – A 200m radius around the nest is the SWH.<br>• Broad-winged Hawk and Coopers Hawk,– A 100m radius around the nest is the SWH.<br>• Sharp-Shinned Hawk – A 50m radius around the nest is the SWH.<br>• Conduct field investigations from mid-March to end of May. The use of call broadcasts can help in locating territorial (courting/nesting) raptors and facilitate the discovery of nests by narrowing down the search area. | None Present |
| **Turtle Nesting Areas**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>These habitats are rare and when identified will often be the only breeding site for local populations of turtles. | Midland Painted Turtle<br><br><u>Special Concern Species</u><br>Northern Map Turtle<br>Snapping Turtle | Exposed mineral soil (sand or gravel) areas adjacent (<100m) or within the following ELC Ecosites:<br>MAS1<br>MAS2<br>MAS3<br>SAS1<br>SAM1<br>SAF1<br>BOO1<br>FEO1 | • Best nesting habitat for turtles are close to water and away from roads and sites less prone to loss of eggs by predation from skunks, raccoons or other animals.<br>• For an area to function as a turtle-nesting area, it must provide sand and gravel that turtles are able to dig in and are located in open, sunny areas. Nesting areas on the sides of municipal or provincial road embankments and shoulders are not SWH.<br>• Sand and gravel beaches adjacent to undisturbed shallow weedy areas of marshes, lakes, and rivers are most frequently used.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Use Ontario Soil Survey reports and maps to help find suitable substrate for nesting turtles (well-drained sands and fine gravels).<br>• Check the Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas records (or other similar atlases) for uncommon turtles; location information may help to find potential nesting habitat for them.<br>• Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC)<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs | Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of 5 or more nesting Midland Painted Turtles<br>• One or more Northern Map Turtle or Snapping Turtle nesting is a SWH.<br>• The area or collection of sites within an area of exposed mineral soils where the turtles nest, plus a radius of 30-100m around the nesting area dependant on slope, riparian vegetation and adjacent land use is the SWH.<br>• Travel routes from wetland to nesting area are to be considered within the SWH as a part of the 30-100m area of habitat.<br>• Field investigations should be conducted in prime nesting season typically late spring to early summer. Observational studies observing the turtles nesting is a recommended method. | None Present |
| **Seeps and Springs**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Seeps/Springs are typical of headwater areas and are often at the source of coldwater streams. | Wild Turkey<br>Ruffed Grouse<br>Spruce Grouse<br>White-tailed Deer<br>Salamander spp. | Seeps/Springs are areas where ground water comes to the surface. Often they are found within headwater areas within forested | Any forested area (with <25% meadow/field/pasture) within the headwaters of a stream or river system.<br>• Seeps and springs are important feeding and drinking areas especially in the winter will typically support a variety of plant and animal species<br><br><u>Information Sources</u> | Field Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of a site with 2 or more seeps/springs should be considered SWH.<br>• The area of a ELC forest ecosite or ecoelement within ecosite containing the seeps/springs is the SWH. The protection of the recharge area considering the slope, vegetation, height of trees and groundwater condition | None Present |

| Specialized Wildlife Habitat | Wildlife Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite Codes | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| | | habitats. Any forested Ecosite within the headwater areas of a stream could have seeps/springs. | • Topographical Map.<br>• Thermography.<br>• Hydrological surveys conducted by Conservation Authorities and MOE.<br>• Field Naturalists Clubs and landowners.<br>• Municipalities and Conservation Authorities may have drainage maps and headwater areas mapped. | need to be considered in delineation the habitat. | |
| **Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland).**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>These habitats are extremely important to amphibian biodiversity within a landscape and often represent the only breeding habitat for local amphibian populations | Eastern Newt<br>Blue-spotted Salamander<br>Spotted Salamander<br>Gray Treefrog<br>Spring Peeper<br>Western Chorus Frog<br>Wood Frog | All Ecosites associated with these ELC Community Series;<br>FOC<br>FOM<br>FOD<br>SWC<br>SWM<br>SWD<br><br>Breeding pools within the woodland or the shortest distance from forest habitat are more significant because they are more likely to be used due to reduced risk to migrating amphibians | • Presence of a wetland, pond or woodland pool(including vernal pools) >500m$^2$ within or adjacent (within 120m) to a woodland (no minimum size).· Some small wetlands may not be mapped and may be important breeding pools for amphibians.<br>• Woodlands with permanent ponds or those containing water in most years until mid-July are more likely to be used as breeding habitat<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary Atlas (or other similar atlases) for records<br>• Local landowners may also provide assistance as they may hear spring-time choruses of amphibians on their property.<br>• OMNRF Districts and wetland evaluations<br>• Field Naturalist Clubs<br>• Canadian Wildlife Service Amphibian Road Call Survey<br>• Ontario Vernal Pool Association: http://www.ontariovernalpools.org | Studies confirm;<br>• Presence of breeding population of 1 or more of the listed salamander species or 2 or more of the listed frog species with at least 20 individuals (adults, juveniles, eggs/larval masses) or 2 or more of the listed frog species with Call Level Codes of 3.<br>• A combination of observation study and call count survey will be required during the spring (March-June) when amphibians are concentrated around suitable breeding habitat within or near the woodland/wetlands.<br>• The habitat is the wetland area plus a 230m radius of area. If a wetland area is adjacent to a woodland, a travel corridor connecting the wetland to the woodland is to be included in the habitat.<br>. | None Present |
| **Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Wetlands)**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Wetlands supporting breeding for these amphibian species are extremely important and fairly rare within Central Ontario landscapes. | Eastern Newt<br>American Toad<br>Spotted Salamander<br>Four-toed Salamander<br>Blue-spotted Salamander<br>Gray Treefrog<br>Western Chorus Frog<br>Northern Leopard Frog<br>Pickerel Frog<br>Green Frog<br>Mink Frog<br>Bullfrog | ELC Community Classes SW, MA, FE, BO, OA and SA.<br><br>Typically these wetland ecosites will be isolated (>120m) from woodland ecosites, however larger wetlands containing predominantly aquatic species (e.g. Bull Frog) may be adjacent to woodlands. | • Wetlands>500m2 (about 25m diameter) ) ,supporting high species diversity are significant; some small or ephemeral habitats may not be identified on MNRF mapping and could be important amphibian breeding habitats .<br>• Presence of shrubs and logs increase significance of pond for some amphibian species because of available structure for calling, foraging, escape and concealment from predators.<br>• Bullfrogs require permanent water bodies with abundant emergent vegetation.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary Atlas (or other similar atlases)<br>•Canadian Wildlife Service Amphibian Road Surveys and Backyard Amphibian Call Count. | Studies confirm:<br><br>•Presence of breeding population of 1 or more of the listed newt/salamander species or 2 or more of the listed frog/toad species with at least 20 individuals (adults or eggs masses) or 2 or more of the listed frog/toad species with Call Level Codes of 3. or; Wetland with confirmed breeding Bullfrogs are significant. | None Present |

| Specialized Wildlife Habitat | Wildlife Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite Codes | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| | | | •OMNRF Districts and wetland evaluations.<br>•Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities. | • The ELC ecosite wetland area and the shoreline are the SWH.<br>• A combination of observational study and call count surveys [i] will be required during the spring (March-June) when amphibians are concentrated around suitable breeding habitat within or near the wetlands.<br>• If a SWH is determined for Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Wetlands) then Movement Corridors are to be considered as outlined in Table 1.4.1 of this Schedule. | |

**Table 1.3. Habitats of Species of Conservation Concern considered SWH.**

| Wildlife | Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Woodland Area-Sensitive Bird Breeding Habitat**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Large, natural blocks of mature woodland habitat within the settled areas of Southern Ontario are important habitats for area sensitive interior forest song birds. | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker<br>Red-breasted Nuthatch<br>Veery<br>Blue-headed Vireo<br>Northern Parula<br>Black-throated Green Warbler<br>Blackburnian Warbler<br>Black-throated Blue Warbler<br>Ovenbird<br>Scarlet Tanager<br>Winter Wren<br>Pileated Woodpecker<br><br><u>Special Concern:</u><br>Cerulean Warbler Canada Warbler | All Ecosites associated with these ELC Community Series;<br>FOC<br>FOM<br>FOD<br>SWC<br>SWM<br>SWD | • Habitats where interior forest breeding birds are breeding, typically large mature (>60 yrs old) forest stands or woodlots >30 ha.<br>• Interior forest habitat is at least 200 m from forest edge habitat.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Local birder clubs.<br>• Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for the location of forest bird monitoring.<br>• Bird Studies Canada conducted a 3-year study of 287 woodlands to determine the effects of forest fragmentation on forest birds and to determine what forests were of greatest value to interior species<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities | Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of nesting or breeding pairs of 3 or more of the listed wildlife species.<br>• <u>Note:</u> any site with breeding Cerulean Warblers or Canada Warbler is to be considered SWH.<br>• Conduct field investigations in spring and early summer when birds are singing and defending their territories.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | None Present |
| **Marsh Breeding Bird Habitat**<br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Wetlands for these bird species are typically productive and fairly rare in Southern Ontario landscapes. | American Bittern<br>Virginia Rail Sora<br>Common Moorhen<br>American Coot<br>Pied-billed Grebe<br>Marsh Wren<br>Sedge Wren<br>Common Loon<br>Green Heron<br>Trumpeter Swan<br>**Special Concern:**<br>Black Tern<br>Yellow Rail | MAM1<br>MAM2<br>MAM3<br>MAM4<br>MAM5<br>MAM6<br>SAS1<br>SAM1<br>SAF1<br>FEO1<br>BOO1<br>For Green Heron: All SW, MA and CUM1 sites. | • Nesting occurs in wetlands.<br>• All wetland habitat is to be considered as long as there is shallow water with emergent aquatic vegetation present cxxiv.<br>• For Green Heron, habitat is at the edge of water such as sluggish streams, ponds and marshes sheltered by shrubs and trees. Less frequently, it may be found in upland shrubs or forest a considerable distance from water.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF District and wetland evaluations.<br>• Field Naturalist clubs<br>• Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Records.<br>• Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities.<br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. | Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of 5 or more nesting pairs of Sedge Wren or Marsh Wren **or** breeding by any combination of 4 or more of the listed species.<br>• Note: any wetland with breeding of 1 or more Black Terns, Trumpeter Swan, Green Heron or Yellow Rail is SWH.<br>• Area of the ELC ecosite is the SWH.<br>• Breeding surveys should be done in May/June when these species are actively nesting in wetland habitats.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | None Present |
| **Open Country Bird Breeding Habitat**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>This wildlife habitat is declining throughout Ontario and North America. Species such as the Upland Sandpiper have declined | Upland Sandpiper<br>Grasshopper Sparrow<br>Vesper Sparrow<br>Northern Harrier<br>Savannah Sparrow<br><br>**Special Concern**<br>Short-eared Owl | CUM1<br>CUM2 | Large grassland areas (includes natural and cultural fields and meadows) >30 ha<br><br>• Grasslands not Class 1 or 2 agricultural lands, and not being actively used for farming (i.e. no row cropping or intensive hay or livestock pasturing in the last 5 years).<br>• Grassland sites considered significant should have a history of longevity, either abandoned fields, mature hayfields and pasturelands that are at least 5 years or older. | Field Studies confirm:<br><br>•Presence of nesting or breeding of 2 or more of the listed species.<br>• A field with 1 or more breeding Short-eared Owls is to be considered SWH.<br>• The area of SWH is the contiguous ELC ecosite field areas.<br>• Conduct field investigations of the most likely areas in spring and early summer when birds are singing and | None Present |

| Wildlife | Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| significantly the past 40 years based on CWS (2004) trend records. | | | • The Indicator bird species are area sensitive requiring larger grassland areas than the common grassland species.<br>• Information Sources<br>• Agricultural land classification maps, Ministry of Agriculture.<br>• Local bird clubs.<br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas<br>• EIS Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities. | defending their territories.<br>• Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | |
| **Shrub/Early Suessional Bird Breeding Habitat**<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>This wildlife habitat is declining throughout Ontario and North America. The Brown Thrasher has declined significantly over the past 40 years based on CWS (2004) trend records. | <u>Indicator Spp</u>:<br>Brown Thrasher<br>Clay-coloured Sparrow<br><br><u>Common Spp.</u><br>Field Sparrow<br>Black-billed Cuckoo<br>Eastern Towhee<br>Willow Flycatcher<br><br>**Special Concern:** Yellow-breasted Chat<br>Golden-winged Warbler | CUT1<br>CUT2<br>CUS1<br>CUS2<br>CUW1<br>CUW2<br><br>Patches of shrub ecosites can be complexed into a larger habitat for some bird species | Large field areas succeeding to shrub and thicket habitats >10ha in size.<br><br>• Shrub land or early successional fields, not class 1 or 2 agricultural lands, not being actively used for farming (i.e. no row-cropping, haying or live-stock pasturing in the last 5 years).<br>• Shrub thicket habitats (>10 ha) are most likely to support and sustain a diversity of these species cli.<br>• Shrub and thicket habitat sites considered significant should have a history of longevity, either abandoned fields or pasturelands.<br><br>Information Sources<br>Agricultural land classification maps, Ministry of Agriculture.<br>Local bird clubs.<br>Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas<br>Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities. | Field Studies confirm:<br>• Presence of nesting or breeding of 1 of the indicator species and at least 2 of the common species.<br>• A habitat with breeding Yellow-breasted Chat or Golden-winged Warbler is to be considered as Significant Wildlife Habitat.<br>• The area of the SWH is the contiguous ELC ecosite field/thicket area.<br>• Conduct field investigations of the most likely areas in spring and early summer when birds are singing and defending their territories<br>• Evaluation methods to follow “Bird and Bird Habitats: Guidelines for Wind Power Projects” | None Present |
| **Terrestrial Crayfish**;<br><br>**<u>Rationale:</u>**<br>Terrestrial Crayfish are only found within SW Ontario in Canada and their habitats are very rare. | Chimney or Digger Crayfish; (*<u>Fallicambarus fodiens</u>*)<br><br>Devil Crawfish or Meadow Crayfish; (*<u>Cambarus Diogenes</u>*) | MAM1<br>MAM2<br>MAM3<br>MAM4<br>MAM5<br>MAM6<br>MAS1<br>MAS2<br>MAS3<br>SWD<br>SWT<br>SWM | Wet meadow and edges of shallow marshes (no minimum size) should be surveyed for terrestrial crayfish.<br>• Constructs burrows in marshes, mudflats, meadows, the ground can’t found far from water.<br>• Both species are a semi-terrestrial burrower which spends most of its life within burrows consisting of a network of tunnels. Usually the soil is not too moist so that the tunnel is well formed.<br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• Information sources from “Conservation Status of Freshwater Crayfishes” by Dr. Premek Hamr for the WWF and CNF March 1998 | Studies Confirm:<br>•Presence of 1 or more individuals of species listed or their chimneys (burrows) in suitable meadow marsh, swamp or moist terrestrial sites<br>• Area of ELC ecosite or an Habitat ecoelement area of meadow marsh or swamp within the larger ecosite area is the SWH.<br>• Surveys should be done April to August in temporary or permanent water. Note the presence of burrows or chimneys are often the only indicator of presence, observance or collection of individuals is very difficult | None Present |
| **Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species** | All Special Concern and Provincially Rare (S1-S3, SH) plant and animal | All plant and animal element occurrences | • When an element occurrence is identified within a 1 or 10 km grid for a Special Concern or provincially Rare species; linking candidate habitat on the site | Studies Confirm:<br>• Assessment/inventory of the site for the identified special concern or rare species needs to be completed during the | A comprehensive screening for each SOCC record |

| Wildlife | Species | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Ecosite | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Rationale:**<br>These species are quite rare or have experienced significant population declines in Ontario. | species. Lists of these species are tracked by the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). | (EO) within a 1 or 10km grid.<br><br>Older element occurrences were recorded prior to GPS being available, therefore location information may lack auracy | needs to be completed to ELC Ecosites<br>• Information Sources<br>• Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) will have Special Concern and Provincially Rare (S1-S3, SH) species lists with element occurrences data.<br>• NHIC Website “Get Information” : http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca<br>• Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas•<br>• Expert advice should be sought as many of the rare spp. have little information available about their requirements. | time of year when the species is present or easily identifiable.<br>• The area of the habitat to the finest ELC scale that protects the habitat form and function is the SWH, this must be delineated through detailed field studies. The habitat needs be easily mapped and cover an important life stage component for a species e.g. specific nesting habitat or foraging habitat. | identified within the Lower Don Bridge - Don Yard Study Area is provided in Appendix C. |

**Table 1.4 Animal Movement Corridors**

| Habitat | SPECIES | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Eco-sites | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **Amphibian Movement Corridors**<br><br>**<u>Rationale;</u>**<br>Movement corridors for amphibians moving from their terrestrial habitat to breeding habitat can be extremely important for local populations. | Eastern Newt<br>American Toad<br>Spotted Salamander<br>Four-toed Salamander<br>Blue-spotted Salamander<br>Gray Treefrog<br>Western Chorus Frog<br>Northern Leopard Frog<br>Pickerel Frog<br>Green Frog<br>Mink Frog<br>Bullfrog | Corridors may be found in all ecosites associated with water.<br>• Corridors will be determined based on identifying the significant breeding habitat for these species in Table 1.1 | Movement corridors between breeding habitat and summer habitat<br><br>Movement corridors must be determined when Amphibian breeding habitat is confirmed as SWH from Table 1.2.2 (Amphibian Breeding Habitat –Wetland) of this Schedule.<br>Information Sources<br>•MNRF District Office.<br>•Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC).<br>•Reports and other information available from Conservation Authorities.<br>•Field Naturalist Clubs. | • Field Studies must be conducted at the time of year when species are expected to be migrating or entering breeding sites.<br>• Corridors should consist of native vegetation, with several layers of vegetation. Corridors unbroken by roads, waterways or bodies, and undeveloped areas are most significant<br>• Corridors should have at least 15m of vegetation on both sides of waterway or be up to 200m wide of woodland habitat and with gaps <20m.<br>• Shorter corridors are more significant than longer corridors, however amphibians must be able to get to and from their summer and breeding habitat. | None Present |

**Table 1.5 Significant Wildlife Habitat Exceptions for Ecodistricts within Eco-Region 7E**

| Habitat | SPECIES | CANDIDATE SWH | | CONFIRMED SWH | Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ELC Eco-sites | Habitat Criteria and Information Sources | Defining Criteria | |
| **7E-2** | **Bat Migratory Stopover Area**<br>Rationale: Stopover areas for long distance migrant bats are important during fall migration.<br>Hoary Bat<br>Eastern Red Bat<br>Silver-haired Bat | No specific ELC types. | • Long distance migratory bats typically migrate during late summer and early fall from summer breeding habitats throughout Ontario to southern wintering areas. Their annual fall migration may concentrate these species of bats at stopover areas.<br>• This is the only known bat migratory stopover habitats based on current information.<br><br><u>Information Sources</u><br>• OMNRF for possible locations and contact for local experts<br>• University of Waterloo, Biology Department | • Long Point (42°35'N, 80°30'E, to 42°33'N, 80°03'E) has been identified as a significant stop-over habitat for fall migrating Silver-haired Bats, due to significant increases in abundance, activity and feeding that was documented during fall migration.<br>• The confirmation criteria and habitat areas for this SWH are still being determined. | Not Applicable |

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# Appendix C

## Species of Conservation Concern Screening

# Appendix C. Species of Conservation Concern Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amphibian | Western Chorus Frog - Great Lakes - St. Lawrence - Canadian Shield population | *Pseudacris maculata pop. 1* | 2016 | S3 | NAR | THR | THR | The Western Chorus Frog is primarily a lowland terrestrial species. In marshes or wooded wetland areas, it is found on the ground or in low shrubs and grass. It is a poor climber. Like all other frogs, the Western Chorus Frog requires both terrestrial and aquatic habitats in close proximity. For breeding and tadpole development, it requires seasonally dry temporary ponds devoid of predators, particularly fish. The Western Chorus Frog is very rarely found in permanent ponds. Although it uses aquatic habitat during the breeding season, the Western Chorus Frog is a poor swimmer. The species hibernates in its terrestrial habitat, under rocks, dead trees, or leaves, or in loose soil or animal burrows, even though these sites are sometimes flooded. | MAS, SW | ORAA | Low - no suitable habitat is present. |
| Birds | Black-crowned Night-Heron | *Nycticorax nycticorax* | 2001-2005 | S3B,S3N | - | - | - | This species can be found in deciduous woodland swamps, cattail marshes, islands, wooded rivers and lake banks, coastal wetlands, bottomland hardwood forests and thickets, rocky cliffs, various habitats except in dense vegetation. This species roosts in tall live or dead trees with tree limbs greater than 18 inches in diameter. | SWD, MAS, FOD, SW, CL | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. |
| Birds | Canvasback | *Aythya valisineria* | 2001-2005 | S1B,S4N | - | - | - | This species can be found in large marshes for nesting and prefers deep, permanent waterbodies for feeding and courtship. | MA, OAO | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. This species likely occurs within Lake Ontario which is located outside of the study area. |
| Birds | Caspian Tern | *Hydroprogne caspia* | 2001-2005 | S3B | - | - | - | This species can be found in open habitat near large lakes or rivers, beaches, shorelines, rocky or sandy beaches and offshore islands. | OAO, BB | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. This species likely occurs within Lake Ontario and its shorelines which are located outside of the study area. |
| Birds | Common Nighthawk | *Chordeiles minor* | 2016 | S4B | SC | THR Schedule 1 | SC | Traditional Common Nighthawk habitat consists of open areas with little to no ground vegetation, such as logged or burned-over areas, forest clearings, rock barrens, peat bogs, lakeshores, and mine tailings. Although the species also nests in cultivated fields, orchards, urban parks, mine tailings, and along gravel roads and railways, they tend to occupy natural sites.<br><br>The Common Nighthawk nests in a wide range of open, vegetation-free habitats, including dunes, beaches, recently harvested forests, rocky outcrops, grasslands, pastures, marshes, river banks and flat buildings with gravel rooftops in urban centres. This species also inhabits mixed and coniferous forests. The Common Nighthawk probably benefited from the newly-opened habitats created by the massive deforestation associated with the arrival of European settlers in eastern Canada and United States. In urban areas, Common Nighthawk prefers to nest on flat, gravel rooftops of buildings (Brigham et al., 2011). | SD, BB, RB, CUM, BO, FOM, FOC and FOD with openings with little vegetation. | TRCA, OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Medium - buildings with flat, gravel filled rooftops may provide suitable nesting habitat for this species as well as the riverbanks of the Don River. |
| Birds | Eastern Wood-pewee | *Contopus virens* | 2016 | S4B | SC | SC Schedule 1 | SC | The Eastern Wood-pewee lives in the mid-canopy layer of forest clearings and edges of deciduous and mixed forests. It is most abundant in intermediate-age mature forest stands with little understory vegetation.<br><br>During migration, a variety of habitats are used, including forest edges and early successional clearings. | FOC, FOM, FOD, SWD, SWM and CUW. | TRCA; OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33); NHIC | Medium - treed areas (e.g., cultural woodlands) may provide suitable nesting habitat. |
| Birds | Great Black-backed Gull | *Larus marinus* | 2001-2005 | S2B | - | - | - | This species can be found in flat rocky, coastal islands, moorlands, rocky beaches and cliffs. | OAO, BB, CL | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. This species likely occurs within Lake Ontario and its shorelines which are located outside of the study area. |
| Birds | Great Egret | *Ardea alba* | 2001-2005 | S2B | - | - | - | This species can be found in open swamp woods or willow thickets, offshore islands and mudflats for feeding. This species nests in standings trees in open water, thickets and sometimes in low vegetation on islands or in rookeries with other herons. | SWD, SWC, SWM, SWT | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - suitable habitat is not present. |
| Birds | Peregrine Falcon | *Falco peregrinus* | 2008 | S3B | SC | No Status | Not At Risk | Peregrine Falcons usually nest on tall, steep cliff ledges close to large bodies of water. Although most people associate Peregrine Falcons with rugged wilderness, some of these birds have adapted well to city life. Urban peregrines raise their young on ledges of tall buildings, even in busy downtown areas. | CLO | NHIC, OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, | Low – there are no high-rise buildings present. |

# Appendix C. Species of Conservation Concern Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Cities offer peregrines a good year-round supply of pigeons and starlings to feed on.<br><br>The Peregrine Falcon is found in various types of habitats, from Arctic tundra to coastal areas and from prairies to urban centres. It usually nests alone on cliff ledges or crevices, preferably 50 to 200 m in height, but sometimes on the ledges of tall buildings or bridges, always near good foraging areas. Suitable nesting sites are usually dispersed, but can be common locally in some areas. The natural nesting habitat has not changed significantly since the population crash and is still largely available. In addition, structures built by humans in both rural and urban areas provide the Peregrine Falcon with other potential nesting sites. And though urbanization and other land uses have had a significant impact on some areas where they feed, Peregrine Falcons can usually modify their diet based on the prey species present in a given area. | | 17PJ34), TRCA | |
| Birds | Purple Martin | *Progne subis* | 2001-2005 | S3S4B | - | - | - | This species can be found in open and treed areas such as farmlands, parks, yards, marshes usually near large bodies of water. This species most commonly nests in artificial nest boxes and request open space for foraging. | CUM, CUT, MA | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33) | Low - no suitable habitat (i.e., nest boxes) is present. |
| Birds | Redhead | *Aythya americana* | 2001-2005 | S2B,S4N | - | - | - | This species can be found in shallow cattail / bulrush marshes, lakes and ponds and fens, preferred nesting usually close to shallow water. | MAS, OAO, FE | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. This species likely occurs within Lake Ontario and its shorelines which are located outside of the study area. |
| Birds | Red-headed Woodpecker | *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* | 2001-2005 | S4B | SC | THR Schedule 1 | END | The Red-headed Woodpecker lives in open woodland and woodland edges, and is often found in parks, golf courses, and cemeteries. These areas typically have many dead trees, which the bird uses for nesting and perching. A few of these birds will stay the winter in woodlands in southern Ontario if there are adequate supplies of nuts.<br><br>The Red-headed Woodpecker is found in a variety of habitats, including oak and beech forests, grasslands, forest edges, orchards, pastures, riparian forests, roadsides, beaver ponds, and burns. | TPS, TPW, CUW, FOD1, FOD2, FOD4-1, FOD6, FOD7, and FOD9 that are open and have an abundance of dead trees. | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low – although small deciduous woodlands occur these are likely too small in size and do not have high density of dead trees to provide suitable habitat for this species. |
| Birds | Red-necked Grebe | *Podiceps grisegena* | 2001-2005 | S3B,S4N | - | - | - | This species can be found in permanent freshwater lakes with a fringe of aquatic emergent vegetation, marshes, impoundments or sewage lagoons with greater than 4 ha of open water. | OAO, MA | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. This species likely occurs within Lake Ontario and its shorelines which are located outside of the study area. |
| Birds | Wood Thrush | *Hylocichla mustelina* | 2016 | S4B | SC | THR Schedule 1 | THR | The Wood Thrush lives in mature deciduous and mixed (conifer-deciduous) forests. They seek moist stands of trees with well-developed undergrowth and tall trees for singing perches. These birds prefer large forests, but will also use smaller stands of trees. They build their nests in living saplings, trees, or shrubs, usually in Sugar Maple or American Beech.<br><br>In Canada, the Wood Thrush nests mainly in second-growth and mature deciduous and mixed forests, with saplings and well-developed understory layers. This species prefers large forest mosaics, but may also nest in small forest fragments. | FOD and FOM that are greater than 1 ha in size. | TRCA, OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33) | Low - no suitable habitat is present. |
| Insect | Monarch | *Danaus plexippus* | 2019 | S2N,S4B | SC | SC Schedule 1 | END | Throughout their life cycle, Monarchs use three different types of habitat. Only the caterpillars feed on milkweed plants and are confined to meadows and open areas where milkweed grows. Adult butterflies can be found in more diverse habitats where they feed on nectar from a variety of wildflowers.<br><br>Milkweeds (numerous species) are the sole food plant for Monarch caterpillars. These plants grow predominantly in open and periodically disturbed habitats | AI, TP, and CUM where milkweed plants are present. | OBA | Medium - cultural meadows may provide suitable foraging and rearing habitat. |

# Appendix C. Species of Conservation Concern Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | such as roadsides, fields, wetlands, prairies, and open forests. Milkweeds are often planted outside their native range, and sometimes wayward Monarchs are observed at these patches. Monarchs require staging areas which are used to rest, feed, and avoid inclement weather during migration. In Canada, they are found along the north shores of the Great Lakes where Monarchs roost in trees before crossing large areas of open water. | | | |
| Insect | Black Dash | *Euphyes conspicua* | 2016 | S3 | - | - | - | This species can be found in boggy marshes, wet meadows, and marshy stream banks. | MA, BO | OBA | Low - suitable habitat is not present. |
| Insect | Hackberry Emperor | *Asterocampa celtis* | 2017 | S3 | - | - | - | This species can be found along wooded streams and deciduous forests with the host plant, Hackberry (*Celtis*). | FOD4-3 | OBA | Low - suitable habitat is not present. |
| Insect | Tawny Emperor | *Asterocampa clyton* | 2015 | S3 | - | - | - | This species can be found along wooded streams and deciduous forests with the host plant, Hackberry (*Celtis*). | FOD4-3 | OBA | Low - suitable habitat is not present. |
| Reptiles | Northern Map Turtle | *Graptemys geographica* | 2018 | S3 | SC | SC Schedule 1 | SC | The Northern Map Turtle inhabits rivers and lakeshores where it basks on emergent rocks and fallen trees throughout the spring and summer. In winter, the turtles hibernate on the bottom of deep, slow-moving sections of river. They require high-quality water that supports the female's mollusc prey. Their habitat must contain suitable basking sites, such as rocks and deadheads, with an unobstructed view from which a turtle can drop immediately into the water if startled.<br><br>The Northern Map Turtle inhabits both lakes and rivers, showing a preference for slow moving currents, muddy bottoms, and abundant aquatic vegetation. These turtles need suitable basking sites (such as rocks and logs) and exposure to the sun for at least part of the day. | OAO, SA with emergent rocks and fallen trees suitable habitat for prey. | ORAA | High - the Don River is a moderately flowing river with depths ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 m. One record of this species supplied by Ontario Nature indicates its presence within the Study Area and that the Don River may serve as movement corridor for this species to Lake Ontario. However, there are no suitable nesting, or basking habitats present. There are reinforced retaining walls on either side of the Don River at the Lower Don Bridge which do not provide suitable nesting habitat. |
| Reptiles | Snapping Turtle | *Chelydra serpentina* | 2019 | S4 | SC | SC Schedule 1 | SC | Snapping Turtles spend most of their lives in water. They prefer shallow waters so they can hide under the soft mud and leaf litter, with only their noses exposed to the surface to breathe. During the nesting season, from early to mid summer, females travel overland in search of a suitable nesting site, usually gravelly or sandy areas along streams. Snapping Turtles often take advantage of man-made structures for nest sites, including roads (especially gravel shoulders), dams, and aggregate pits.<br><br>Although Snapping Turtles have been observed in shallow water in almost every kind of freshwater habitat, the preferred habitat of the species is characterized by slow-moving water with a soft mud bottom and dense aquatic vegetation. Established populations are most often located in ponds, sloughs, shallow bays or river edges, and slow streams, or areas combining several of these wetland habitats. Individual turtles will persist in urbanized water bodies, such as golf course ponds and irrigation canals, but it is unlikely that a population could become established in such habitats. The Snapping Turtle can occur in highly polluted waterways, but environmental contamination is known to reduce the already low reproductive output of this species. Basking on offshore logs and protruding rocks can be common in Snapping Turtles, depending on environmental temperature. Females generally nest on sand or gravel banks along waterways. Upon emergence from the nest in early fall, hatchling Snapping Turtles usually move to water, after which they bury themselves under leaf litter or debris. Snapping Turtles overwinter underwater, buried beneath logs, sticks or overhanging banks in small streams that flow continuously throughout the winter. They can also hibernate buried in deep mud in marshy areas or beneath floating mats of vegetation. Snapping Turtle habitat is diminishing in both quantity and quality in Canada, with losses primarily due to conversion of wetlands to agriculture and urban development. | OAO, SA near gravelly or sandy areas. | ORAA; TRCA; NHIC | Medium- the Don River is a moderately flowing river with depths ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 m and may serve as movement corridor for this species to Lake Ontario. However, there are no suitable nesting, or basking habitats present. There are reinforced retaining walls on either side of the Don River at the Lower Don Bridge which do not provide suitable nesting habitat. |
| Plants | Old -field Toadflax | *Nuttallanthus canadensis* | n/a | S2 | | | | Dry, open, sandy or rocky, barren ground; oak and sassafras savanna and jack pine plains; beds of dried lakes (Michigan Flora, 2011) | TPW, RBO, RBS | NHIC | Low - suitable habitat is not present. |

# Appendix C. Species of Conservation Concern Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

## Glossary and Notes

**1 S-rank:** **The natural heritage provincial ranking system (provincial S-rank) is used by the MNRF NHIC to set protection priorities for rare species and natural communities. The following status definitions were taken from NatureServe Explorer's (2015) National and Subnational Conservation Status Definitions available at http://explorer.natureserve.org/nsranks.htm:**

**SX** - Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from the province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
**SH**- Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.
**S1** - Critically Imperiled — Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S2**-Imperiled—Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S3** - Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
**S4** - Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
**S5** - Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the nation or state/province.
**SNR** - Unranked—Province conservation status not yet assessed.
**SU** - Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
**SNA** - Not Applicable — A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
**S#S#** - Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).

**Breeding Status Qualifiers**

**B** - Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the province.
**N** - Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the province.
**M** - Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the province.
**Note:** A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").

**Other Qualifiers**

**?** -Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)

**2 ESA Status:** **The Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA) protects species listed as Threatened and Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List on provincial and private land. The Minister lists species on the SARO list based on recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), which evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario. The following are the categories of at risk:**

**END** (Endangered) – A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario.
**THR** (Threatened) – Any native species that, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a large portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.
**SC** (Special Concern) – A species that may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.
**NAR** (Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.

**3 SARA Status:** **The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:**

**END (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.
**THR (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.
**SC (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.
**No Status (No Schedule)** – These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.
**NAR (Not at Risk)**– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.
**Not Applicable (N / A)** – These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.
**Schedule 2 -** Species listed in Schedule 2 are species that had been designated as endangered or threatened, and have yet to be re-assessed by COSEWIC using revised criteria. Once these species have been re-assessed, they may be considered for inclusion in Schedule 1.
**Schedule 3 -** Species listed in Schedule 3 are species that had been designated as special concern, and have yet to be re-assessed by COSEWIC using revised criteria. Once these species have been re-assessed, they may be considered for inclusion in Schedule 1.
**Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm**

**4 COSEWIC:** **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada - a committee of experts that assesses and designates which wild species are in some danger of disappearing from Canada.**

**5 Preferred Habitat / Known Species Range: The following references were used to describe preferred habitat and/or known species ranges:**

- Species at Risk . Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/index.html. © Queens Printer For Ontario, 2013.
- Species at Risk Status Reports. Committed on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/search/advSearchResults_e.cfm?stype=doc&docID=18.
- Evans, Melissa, Elizabeth Gow, R. R. Roth, M. S. Johnson and T. J. Underwood. 2011. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology;

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# Appendix C. Species of Conservation Concern Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

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doi:10.2173/bna.245

**6 Sources Identifying Species Record: Records of species were identified from the following secondary sources unless otherwise stated:**

**BCI** -Bat Conservation International (BCI), 2019: Species Profiles. Accessed from:http://www.batcon.org/resources/media-education/species-profiles
**OBBA** -Bird Studies Canada (BSC), Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS), Ontario Nature, Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), 2006: Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA) website. Accessed 2019 from: http://www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp
**NHIC** - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), 2019: Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Rare Species Database. Accessed 2019 from: http://www.giscoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/Mamnh/Index.html?site=MNR_NHLUPS_NaturalHeritage&viewer=NaturalHeritage&locale=en-US
**ORAA** - Ontario Nature, 2017: Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Program. Accessed 2017 from: http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/herpetofaunal_atlas.php
**OBA** - Macnaughton, A., Layberry, R., Jones, C. and B. Edwards, 2020: Ontario Butterfly Atlas Online. Accessed 2020 from: http://www.ontarioinsects.org/atlas_online.htm
**DFO** - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). 2020: Aquatic Species at Risk Mapping. Accessed 2020 from: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/fpp-ppp/index-eng.htm
**TRCA** - flora and fauna records received from TRCA on February 27, 2018
**MNRF** - records from MNRF based on email correspondence on January 30 2018

**Other References Used:**

Lee, H.T., W.D. Bakowsky, J. Riley, J. Bowles, M. Puddister, P. Uhlig and S. McMurrary, 1998: Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and its Application. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Science Section, Science Development and Transfer Branch. SCSS Field Guide FG-02.

MICHIGAN FLORA ONLINE. A. A. Reznicek, E. G. Voss, & B. S. Walters. February 2011. University of Michigan. Web. January 14, 2020. https://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=1950.

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# Appendix D

## Species at Risk Screening

# Appendix D. Species at Risk Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | Bank Swallow | *Riparia riparia* | 2017 | S4B | THR | THR Schedule 1 | THR | Bank Swallows nest in burrows in natural and human-made settings where there are vertical faces in silt and sand deposits. Many nests are on banks of rivers and lakes, but they are also found in active sand and gravel pits or former ones where the banks remain suitable. The birds breed in colonies ranging from several to a few thousand pairs.<br><br>The Bank Swallow breeds in a wide variety of natural and artificial sites with vertical banks, including riverbanks, lake and ocean bluffs, aggregate pits, road cuts, and stockpiles of soil. Sand-silt substrates are preferred for excavating nest burrows. Breeding sites tend to be somewhat ephemeral due to the dynamic nature of bank erosion. Breeding sites are often situated near open terrestrial habitat used for aerial foraging (e.g., grasslands, meadows, pastures, and agricultural cropland). Large wetlands are used as communal nocturnal roost sites during post-breeding, migration, and wintering periods. | N/A | NHIC; OBBA (17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - there is no suitable habitat present. The banks of the Don River include a hardened bank, impervious surfaces and lack of sandy vertical banks. |
| **Birds** | Barn Swallow | *Hirundo rustica* | 2001-2005 | S4B | THR | THR Schedule 1 | THR | Barn Swallows often live in close association with humans, building their cup-shaped mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures such as open barns, under bridges, and in culverts. The species is attracted to open structures that include ledges where they can build their nests, which are often re-used from year to year. They prefer unpainted, rough-cut wood, since the mud does not adhere as well to smooth surfaces.<br><br>Before European colonization, Barn Swallows nested mostly in caves, holes, crevices, and ledges in cliff faces. Following European settlement, they shifted largely to nesting in and on artificial structures, including barns and other outbuildings, garages, houses, bridges, and road culverts. Barn Swallows prefer various types of open habitats for foraging, including grassy fields, pastures, various kinds of agricultural crops, lake and river shorelines, cleared rights-of-way, cottage areas and farmyards, islands, wetlands, and subarctic tundra. | TPO, CUM1, MAM, MAS, OAO, SAS1, SAM1, SAF1; containing or adjacent structures that are suitable for nesting. | OBBA (17PJ33, 17PJ34) | High - buildings, bridges and other structures with suitable nesting attachment sites may provide suitable nesting habitat. According to 4Transit (2018), Barn Swallows were observed foraging in the vicinity of the rail corridor bridge crossing the Don River, suggesting that nests may be present under the bridge. |
| **Birds** | Bobolink | *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* | 2001-2005 | S4B | THR | THR Schedule 1 | THR | Historically, Bobolinks lived in North American tallgrass prairie and other open meadows. With the clearing of native prairies, Bobolinks moved to living in hayfields. Bobolinks often build their small nests on the ground in dense grasses. Both parents usually tend to their young, sometimes with a third Bobolink helping.<br><br>Most of this prairie was converted to agricultural land over a century ago, and at the same time the forests of eastern North America were cleared to hayfields and meadows that provided habitat for the birds. Since the conversion of the prairie to cropland and the clearing of the eastern forests, the Bobolink has nested in forage crops (e.g., hayfields and pastures dominated by a variety of species, such as clover, Timothy, Kentucky Bluegrass, and broadleaved plants). The Bobolink also occurs in various grassland habitats including wet prairie, graminoid peatlands, and abandoned fields dominated by tall grasses, remnants of uncultivated virgin prairie (tall-grass prairie), no-till cropland, small-grain fields, restored surface mining sites, and irrigated fields in arid regions. It is generally not abundant in short-grass prairie, Alfalfa fields, or in row crop monocultures (e.g., corn, soybean, wheat), although its use of Alfalfa may vary with region. | TPO, TPS, CUM1 and MAM2. | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - suitable breeding habitats in the form of hayfields or tall grass meadows of sufficient size were not present. |
| **Birds** | Chimney Swift | *Chaetura pelagica* | 2016 | S4B,S4N | THR | THR Schedule 1 | THR | Before European settlement, Chimney Swifts mainly nested on cave walls and in hollow trees or tree cavities in old growth forests. However, due to the land clearing associated with colonization, hollow trees became increasingly rare, which led Chimney Swifts to move into house chimneys. Today, they are more likely to be found in and around urban settlements where they nest and roost (rest or sleep) in chimneys and other manmade structures. It is likely that a small portion of the population continues to use hollow trees. They also tend to stay close to water as this is where the flying insects they eat congregate.<br><br>The Chimney Swift spends the major part of the day in flight feeding on insects. In the northern part of the breeding range, the Chimney Swift favours sites where the ambient temperature is relatively stable. | TPO, CUM1, MAM, MAS, OAO, SAS1, SAM1, SAF1 containing or adjacent structures with suitable nesting habitat (i.e. chimneys). | OBBA (17PJ33, 17PJ34) | High - buildings with suitable chimneys may provide nesting and roosting habitat. According to 4Transit (2018), Chimney Swift nests were confirmed at a chimney located at 21 Don Roadway which is within the Study Area but outside of the Project Footprint. |

# Appendix D. Species at Risk Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | Eastern Meadowlark | *Sturnella magna* | 2001-2005 | S4B | THR | THR Schedule 1 | THR | Eastern Meadowlarks breed primarily in moderately tall grasslands, such as pastures and hayfields, but are also found in alfalfa fields, weedy borders of croplands, roadsides, orchards, airports, shrubby overgrown fields, or other open areas. Small trees, shrubs, or fence posts are used as elevated song perches.<br><br>Eastern Meadowlarks prefer grassland habitats, including native prairies and savannahs, as well as non-native pastures, hayfields, weedy meadows, herbaceous fencerows, and airfields. | TPO, TPS, CUM1, CUS, and MAM2 with elevated song perches. | OBBA (17PJ23, 17PJ33, 17PJ34) | Low - suitable breeding habitats in the form of hayfields or tall grass meadows of sufficient size were not present. |
| **Mammals** | Eastern Small-footed Myotis | *Myotis leibii* | N/A | S2S3 | END | N/A | N/A | In the spring and summer, Eastern Small-footed Bats will roost in a variety of habitats, including in or under rocks, in rock outcrops, in buildings, under bridges, or in caves, mines, or hollow trees. These bats often change their roosting locations every day. At night, they hunt for insects to eat, including beetles, mosquitos, moths, and flies. In the winter, these bats hibernate, most often in caves and abandoned mines. They seem to choose colder and drier sites than similar bats and will return to the same spot each year. | FOC, FOM, FOD, SWC, SWM, and SWD where suitable roosting (i.e. cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available. | BCI | Medium - treed areas including cultural woodlands may provide suitable roosting habitat. In addition, buildings with potential entry and exit holes may also provide anthropogenic roosting habitat for this species. |
| **Mammals** | Little Brown Myotis | *Myotis lucifugus* | N/A | S3 | END | END Schedule 1 | END | Bats are nocturnal. During the day they roost in trees and buildings. They often select attics, abandoned buildings, and barns for summer colonies where they can raise their young. Bats can squeeze through very tiny spaces (as small as six millimetres across) and this is how they access many roosting areas. Little Brown Bats hibernate from October or November to March or April, most often in caves or abandoned mines that are humid and remain above freezing.<br><br>Their specific physiological requirements limit the number of suitable sites for overwintering. In the east, large numbers (i.e., >3000 bats) of several species typically overwinter in relatively few hibernacula. In the west, there are fewer known hibernacula, and numbers appear lower per site. Females establish summer maternity colonies, often in buildings or large-diameter trees. Foraging occurs over water, along waterways, and forest edges. Large open fields or clearcuts generally are avoided. In autumn, bats return to hibernacula, which may be hundreds of kilometres from their summering areas, swarm near the entrance, mate, and then enter that hibernaculum, or travel to different hibernacula to overwinter. | FOC, FOM, FOD, SWC, SWM, and SWD where suitable roosting (i.e. cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available. | BCI | Medium - treed areas including cultural woodlands may provide suitable roosting habitat. In addition, buildings with potential entry and exit holes may also provide anthropogenic roosting habitat for this species. |
| **Mammals** | Northern Long-eared Myotis | *Myotis septentrionalis* | N/A | S3 | END | END Schedule 1 | END | Northern Long-eared Bats are associated with boreal forests, choosing to roost under loose bark and in the cavities of trees. These bats hibernate from October or November to March or April.<br><br>The Northern Long-eared Bat overwinters in cold and humid hibernacula (caves / mines). Their specific physiological requirements limit the number of suitable sites for overwintering. In the east, large numbers (i.e., >3000 bats) of several species typically overwinter in relatively few hibernacula. In the west, there are fewer known hibernacula, and numbers appear lower per site. Females establish summer maternity colonies in buildings or large-diameter trees. Foraging occurs along waterways, forest edges, and in gaps in the forest. Large open fields or clearcuts generally are avoided. In autumn, bats return to hibernacula, which may be hundreds of kilometres from their summering areas, swarm near the entrance, mate, and then enter that hibernaculum, or travel to different hibernacula to overwinter. | FOC, FOM, FOD, SWC, SWM, and SWD where suitable roosting (i.e. cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available. | BCI | Medium - treed areas including cultural woodlands may provide suitable roosting habitat. In addition, buildings with potential entry and exit holes may also provide anthropogenic roosting habitat for this species. |
| **Mammals** | Tri-coloured Bat | *Perimyotis subflavus* | N/A | S3? | END | END Schedule 1 | END | During the summer, the Tri-colored Bat is found in a variety of forested habitats. It forms day roosts and maternity colonies in older forest and occasionally in barns or other structures. They forage over water and along streams in the forest. Tri-colored Bats eat flying insects and spiders gleaned from webs. At the | FOC, FOM, FOD, SWC, SWM, and SWD where | BCI | Medium - treed areas including cultural woodlands may provide suitable roosting habitat. In addition, buildings with potential entry and exit holes may also |

# Appendix D. Species at Risk Habitat Screening for the Early Works Study Area

| Taxon | Common Name | Scientific Name | Year Last Observed | S-Rank (See Note 1) | ESA Status (See Note 2) | SARA Status (See Note 3) | COSEWIC Status (See Note 4) | Preferred Habitat (See Note 5) | Associated ELC Communities (based on Lee et. al., 1998) | Source (See Note 6) | Probability of Occurrence Based on Presence of Suitable Habitat within the Lower Don Bridge – Don Yard Study Area |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | end of the summer they travel to a location where they swarm; it is generally near the cave or underground location where they will overwinter. They overwinter in caves where they typically roost by themselves rather than part of a group.<br><br>The Tri-colored Bat overwinters in cold and humid hibernacula (caves / mines). Their specific physiological requirements limit the number of suitable sites for overwintering. In the east, large numbers (i.e., >3000 bats) of several species typically overwinter in relatively few hibernacula. In the west, there are fewer known hibernacula, and numbers appear lower per site. Females establish summer maternity colonies in buildings or large-diameter trees. Foraging occurs over water, along waterways, and forest edges. Large open fields or clearcuts generally are avoided. In autumn, bats return to hibernacula, which may be hundreds of kilometres from their summering areas, swarm near the entrance, mate, and then enter that hibernaculum, or travel to different hibernacula to overwinter. | suitable roosting (i.e. cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available. | | provide anthropogenic roosting habitat for this species. |
| **Plant** | Butternut | *Juglans cinerea* | 2004 | S2? | END | END Schedule 1 | END | In Ontario, Butternut usually grows alone or in small groups in deciduous forests. It prefers moist, well-drained soil and is often found along streams. It is also found on well-drained gravel sites and rarely on dry, rocky soil. This species does not do well in the shade, and often grows in sunny openings and near forest edges.<br><br>Butternut occurs primarily in neutral to calcareous soils of pH 5.5 to 8, often in regions with underlying limestone, and is generally absent from acidic regions. It tends to reach greatest abundance in rich well-drained mesic loams in floodplains, streambanks, terraces, and ravine slopes, but can occur in a wide range of other situations. In closed-canopy stands, it must be in the overstory to thrive. Seedling establishment, growth, and survival to maturity are most frequent in stand openings, riparian zones, and forest edges. | FOD and mature hedgerows; Soil: dry rocky or moist (4, 5, 6) to fresh (2, 3). | NHIC | Medium - Butternuts may occur within the hedgerows within the Metrolinx rail corridor. However a tree inventory conducted in 2016 did not document any occurrences of the species. |
| **Reptiles** | Blanding's Turtle | *Emydoidea blandingii* | 2017 | S3 | THR | THR Schedule 1 | END | Blanding's Turtles live in shallow water, usually in large wetlands and shallow lakes with lots of water plants. They can also be occur in slow flowing rivers and creek and artificial channels (MECP, 2019). It is not unusual, though, to find them hundreds of metres from the nearest water body, especially while they are searching for a mate or traveling to a nesting site. Blanding's Turtles hibernate in the mud at the bottom of permanent water bodies from late October until the end of April.<br><br>In the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence population, Blanding's Turtles are often observed using clear water, eutrophic wetlands. Blanding's Turtles have strong site fidelity but may use several connected water bodies throughout the active season. Females nest in a variety of substrates including sand, organic soil, gravel, cobblestone, and soil-filled crevices of rock outcrops. Adults and juveniles overwinter in a variety of water bodies that maintain pools averaging about 1 m in depth; however, hatchling turtles have been observed hibernating terrestrially during their first winter. Reported mean home ranges generally fall between 10-60 ha (maximum 382 ha) or 1000-2500 m (maximum 7000 m); however, most studies likely underestimate Blanding's Turtle home range size because few have utilized GPS loggers to track daily movements throughout one or more entire active seasons. | SWT2, SWT3, SWD, SWM, MAS2, SAS1, SAM1, where open water is present. | ORAA | Low - suitable habitat is not present. Study Area is largely urbanized and this species is not likely present in moderately flowing waters of the Don River. |

## Glossary and Notes

**1 S-rank:** **The natural heritage provincial ranking system (provincial S-rank) is used by the MNRF NHIC to set protection priorities for rare species and natural communities. The following status definitions were taken from NatureServe Explorer's (2015) National and Subnational Conservation Status Definitions available at http://explorer.natureserve.org/nsranks.htm:**

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**SX** - Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from the province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
**SH**- Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for.
**S1** - Critically Imperiled — Critically imperiled in the province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S2**-Imperiled—Imperiled in the province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the province.
**S3** - Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
**S4** - Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
**S5** - Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the nation or state/province.
**SNR** - Unranked—Province conservation status not yet assessed.
**SU** - Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
**SNA** - Not Applicable — A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
**S#S#** - Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).

**Breeding Status Qualifiers**

**B** - Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the province.
**N** - Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the province.
**M** - Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the province.
**Note:** A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").

**Other Qualifiers**

**?** -Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)

**2 ESA Status:** **The Endangered Species Act 2007 (ESA) protects species listed as Threatened and Endangered on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List on provincial and private land. The Minister lists species on the SARO list based on recommendations from the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), which evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario. The following are the categories of at risk:**

**END** (Endangered) – A species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario.
**THR** (Threatened) – Any native species that, on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, is at risk of becoming endangered throughout all or a large portion of its Ontario range if the limiting factors are not reversed.
**SC** (Special Concern) – A species that may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.
**NAR** (Not at Risk) – A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.

**3 SARA Status:** **The Species at Risk Act (SARA) protects Species at Risk designated as Endangered, Threatened and Extirpated listed under Schedule 1, including their habitats on federal land. Schedule 1 of SARA is the official list of wildlife species at risk in Canada and includes species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and of Special Concern. Once a species is listed on Schedule 1, they receive protection and recovery measures that are required to be developed and implemented under SARA. Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC before SARA need to be reassessed based on the new criteria of the Act before they can be listed under Schedule 1. These species that are waiting to be listed under Schedule 1 do not receive official protection under SARA. Once the species on other schedules (2 and 3) have been reassessed, the other schedules are eliminated and the species is either listed under Schedule 1 or is not listed under the Act. The following are definitions of the SARA status rankings assigned to each species in the table above:**

**END (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.
**THR (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive species and habitat protection under SARA, as well as recovery strategies and action plans.
**SC (Schedule 1)** – These species are listed as Special Concern under Schedule 1 of SARA and receive management initiatives under SARA to prevent them from becoming endangered and threatened.
**No Status (No Schedule)** – These species are evaluated and designated by COSEWIC but are not listed under Schedule 1 and therefore do not receive protection under SARA.
**NAR (Not at Risk)**– These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.
**Not Applicable (N / A)** – These species have either been assessed by COSEWIC as Not at Risk or there is not enough data to assess the status ranking of the species and therefore these are not listed on Schedule 1 nor do they receive protection under SARA.
**Schedule 2 -** Species listed in Schedule 2 are species that had been designated as endangered or threatened, and have yet to be re-assessed by COSEWIC using revised criteria. Once these species have been re-assessed, they may be considered for inclusion in Schedule 1.
**Schedule 3 -** Species listed in Schedule 3 are species that had been designated as special concern, and have yet to be re-assessed by COSEWIC using revised criteria. Once these species have been re-assessed, they may be considered for inclusion in Schedule 1.
**Source: Government of Canada, 2009: Frequently Asked Questions: What are the SARA schedules? Accessed on January 2017. Available: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/faq/faq-eng.htm**

**4 COSEWIC:** **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada - a committee of experts that assesses and designates which wild species are in some danger of disappearing from Canada.**

**5 Preferred Habitat / Known Species Range: The following references were used to describe preferred habitat and/or known species ranges:**


- Species at Risk . Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/index.html. © Queens Printer For Ontario, 2013.
- Species at Risk Status Reports. Committed on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/search/advSearchResults_e.cfm?stype=doc&docID=18.
- Evans, Melissa, Elizabeth Gow, R. R. Roth, M. S. Johnson and T. J. Underwood. 2011. Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology;

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doi:10.2173/bna.245


**6 Sources Identifying Species Record: Records of species were identified from the following secondary sources unless otherwise stated:**

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**BCI** -Bat Conservation International (BCI), 2019: Species Profiles. Accessed from:http://www.batcon.org/resources/media-education/species-profiles
**OBBA** -Bird Studies Canada (BSC), Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS), Ontario Nature, Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), 2006: Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA) website. Accessed 2019 from: http://www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp
**NHIC** - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), 2019: Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Rare Species Database. Accessed 2019 from: http://www.giscoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/Mamnh/Index.html?site=MNR_NHLUPS_NaturalHeritage&viewer=NaturalHeritage&locale=en-US
**ORAA** - Ontario Nature, 2017: Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Program. Accessed 2017 from: http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/herpetofaunal_atlas.php
**OBA** - Macnaughton, A., Layberry, R., Jones, C. and B. Edwards, 2020: Ontario Butterfly Atlas Online. Accessed 2020 from: http://www.ontarioinsects.org/atlas_online.htm
**DFO** - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). 2020: Aquatic Species at Risk Mapping. Accessed 2020 from: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/fpp-ppp/index-eng.htm
**TRCA** - flora and fauna records received from TRCA on February 27, 2018
**MNRF** - records from MNRF based on email correspondence on January 30 2018

**Other References Used:**

Lee, H.T., W.D. Bakowsky, J. Riley, J. Bowles, M. Puddister, P. Uhlig and S. McMurrary, 1998: Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and its Application. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Science Section, Science Development and Transfer Branch. SCSS Field Guide FG-02.

MICHIGAN FLORA ONLINE. A. A. Reznicek, E. G. Voss, & B. S. Walters. February 2011. University of Michigan. Web. January 14, 2020. https://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=1950.