



**SYDENHAM
FIELD NATURALISTS**



**Ontario
Nature**

Protect Your Share!

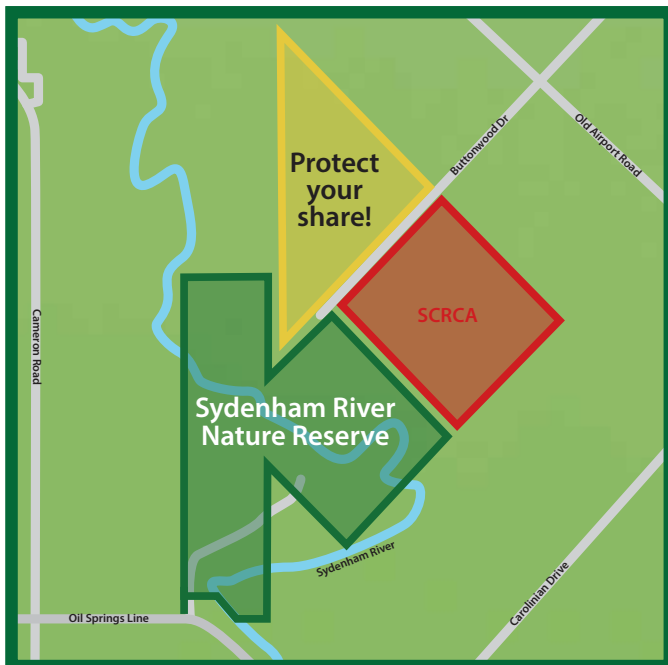


Here's your opportunity to take action to grow our Sydenham River Nature Reserve by over 50%! With your help, we'll protect more vulnerable Carolinian habitat forever.

We have an incredible opportunity right now to purchase a 100-acre piece of Carolinian habitat in southern Ontario to expand the Sydenham River Nature Reserve. **Habitat loss in this region is alarming: 98% of native Carolinian habitat is already gone forever.**

The property contains mostly mature forest and wetlands, along with a portion of disused farm field, much like the Sydenham River Nature Reserve. The farm field will be restored to a tall grass prairie meadow, and over time will mature into contiguous Carolinian forest and wetland habitat.

Protecting this property creates a natural buffer for the Sydenham River Watershed, the only major watershed that lies completely within the Carolinian zone. The Sydenham river is a biological treasure, supporting an incredible variety of aquatic life including rare freshwater mussels, fish, and turtles like the spiny softshell, making it one of the most species-rich watersheds in Canada. It is under immense threat from development and needs immediate protection.



- Protect your share!
- Sydenham River Nature Reserve
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)



Sydenham River

The 193-acre Sydenham River Nature Reserve was purchased in 2016, thanks to the generous support of Lambton Wildlife and the Sydenham Field Naturalists, along with many individuals, organizations, and corporations.

The reserve is some of Ontario's best remaining examples of imperiled habitats, with a 2km stretch of the Sydenham river winding through thick Carolinian forest.

The reserve contains disused farm field along with wetland, woodland, and meadow habitat. Purchasing this 100-acre piece of property will have a tremendous impact by growing the Sydenham River Nature Reserve by over 50%. **We hope you'll be a part of it!**

We have joined with Sydenham River Nature Reserve stewards from Lambton Wildlife and the Sydenham Field Naturalists for an ambitious multi-year habitat restoration project — crucial to the survival of many rare species that thrive in this unique area, like the Jefferson salamander and the cerulean warbler. You and all Ontario Nature members will be invited and encouraged to take part in planting and seed collection events at Sydenham River Nature Reserve this fall.



“Sydenham River Nature Reserve is filled with ridges and valleys that were carved out thousands of years ago by rivers formed when the glaciers were retreating. Home to species at risk, this is one of our most diverse nature reserves. With the help of our donors, partners and stewards, we are restoring four old farm fields to forest habitat. Once complete, this reserve will become the largest contiguous patch of forest along the Sydenham River! It will provide a refuge for at-risk species while allowing visitors to experience the wonder and beauty of the property.” – Gabby Zagorski, Nature Reserve Coordinator

This 100-acre piece of land is located in Southern Ontario's Carolinian zone—the most threatened ecological region in our province.

What was once a nearly continuous forest in southern Ontario is now a patchwork of urban space, farms, and factories and the remaining fragments are virtual “islands of green”. To date, 38 species-at-risk and 28 rare species have been observed on or in the Sydenham River Nature Reserve, and this 100-acre expansion is home to many of them.

Here are a few of the endangered and cherished species that you'll help when protect your share today!



Butternut tree

Status: ENDANGERED

Butternut trees are disappearing at a tremendous rate due to canker—a fungal disease that acts quickly and can kill a mature tree in a few years. We are already hard at work restoring former farm fields on the Sydenham River Nature Reserve with seedlings grown from butternut seeds collected from trees on the reserve. With your help, we will be able to protect more land to plant more of these native species to aid in population recovery.



Cerulean warbler

Status: ENDANGERED

Nearly all Cerulean warblers breed in one of two places in Ontario—the Frontenac Arch and the Carolinian forest. Habitat loss from degraded and fragmented forests and agriculture has contributed to declining populations. Expanding the Sydenham River Nature Reserve will create large tracts of Carolinian forest—habitat needed for population recovery.

Green dragon

Status: SPECIAL CONCERN

This unique plant is found in the most heavily populated and developed parts of Ontario, where habitat destruction and forest clearing have contributed to the decline in populations. By expanding the Sydenham River Nature Reserve, you will help preserve more of the forested wetland habitat this species thrives in.

Bald eagle

Status: **SPECIAL CONCERN**

Bald eagles almost always nest near major lakes or rivers where they do most of their hunting. Populations were almost wiped out 50 years ago after the introduction of pesticides such as DDT. By protecting more forest habitat along the Sydenham River, you will create more nesting area to help recover populations of this majestic bird.

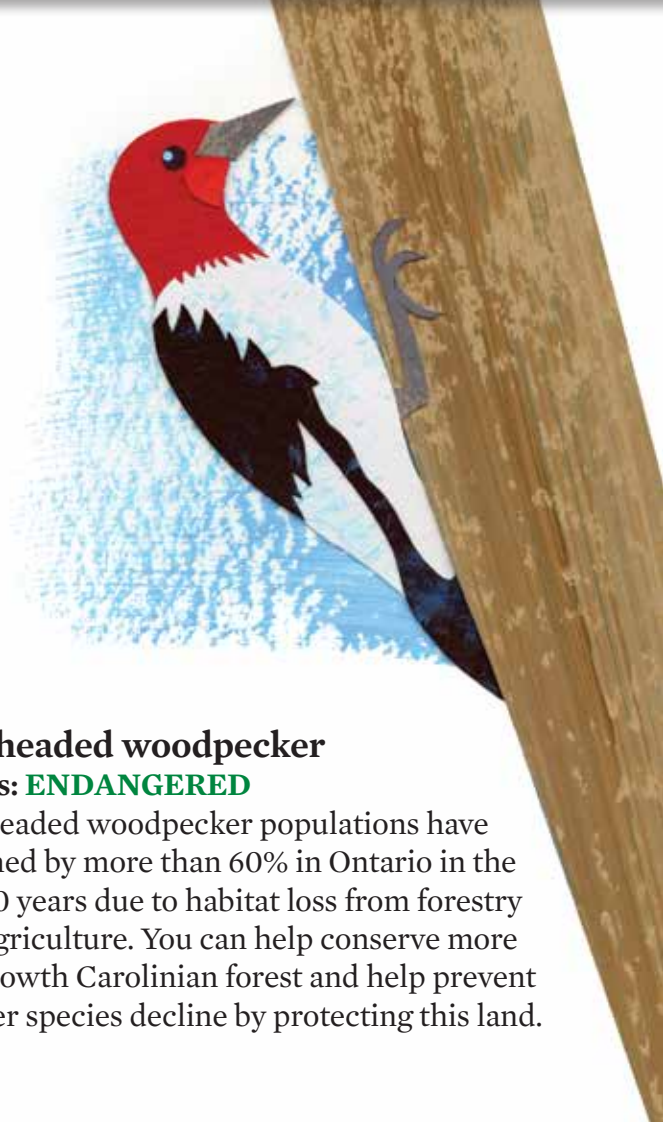
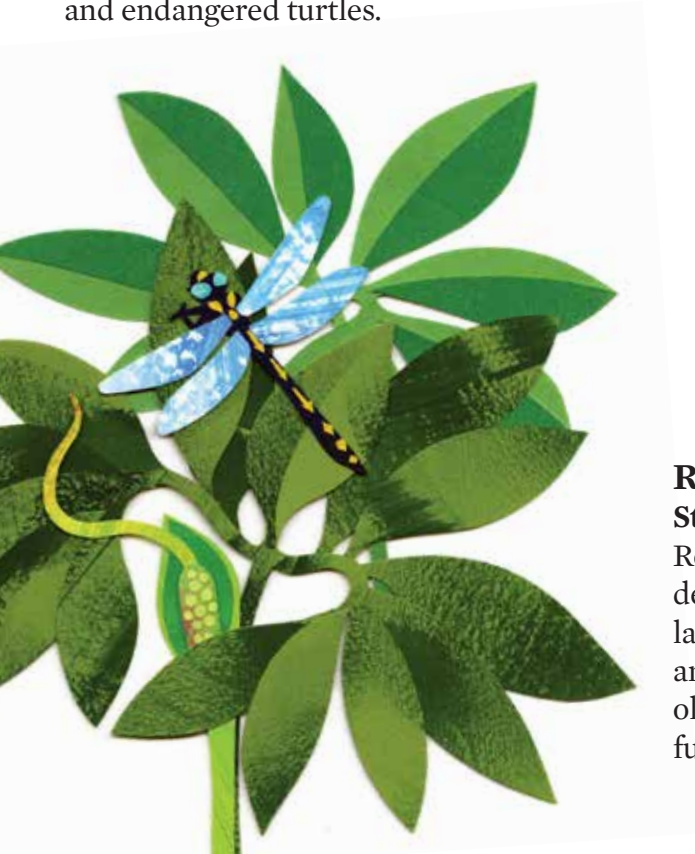
Northern map turtle

Status: **SPECIAL CONCERN**

Map turtles are just one of the many species found in this area that rely on wetlands like those found around Sydenham River Nature Reserve. Protecting this land will preserve nesting and hunting habitat for this and many other of the area's threatened and endangered turtles.



Crowley Northern Map Turtle (female)



Red headed woodpecker

Status: **ENDANGERED**

Red headed woodpecker populations have declined by more than 60% in Ontario in the last 20 years due to habitat loss from forestry and agriculture. You can help conserve more old growth Carolinian forest and help prevent further species decline by protecting this land.



The Sydenham Field Naturalists and Lambton Wildlife were instrumental in purchasing the Sydenham River Nature Reserve in 2016 and act as stewards to the property. They contribute a tremendous amount of support to restoration planning and are involved every step of the way in seed collection and planting. They are the residents that live in the area and work to make their community a better place for all.



“I’ve been involved in protecting nature locally for years, and this is a high value Carolinian site and it’s very rare. The property itself is triangle-shaped and the southern point wedges right into the Sydenham River Nature Reserve. This property also includes a large stream feeding right into the river. And the Sydenham River is the most ecologically rich river in Canada! It always impresses me when I go for a paddle how many turtles I can see—it would be normal to see 30 or 40 different turtles! As for birds—herons, wood duck, wood thrush—and because the river valley runs north/south it acts like a migration corridor. Oh, and you almost always see a white-tailed deer and a bald eagle on every visit. I absolutely love the trees and plants from towering American Sycamore that can get up to 7 feet in diameter to plants like green dragon and jack-in-the-pulpit” – Larry Cornelis, Sydenham River Nature Reserve steward and member of Ontario Nature.



Virginia Bluebells

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Right now, the property is up for sale and we must purchase it to protect this precious property forever and save the abundant endangered and at-risk species that live here. Together with your support, we can protect more rare and vital contiguous Carolinian forest habitat. Together, we must raise \$625,000 by December.

WILL YOU PROTECT YOUR SHARE TODAY?

