

PROTECT CANADA'S WETLANDS



Watersheds
CANADA

Canada is home to 25% of the world's wetlands! ¹



There are approximately **1.29 million km²** of wetlands, covering **13%** of Canada's terrestrial area.¹¹

In Southern areas of Canada, about 70% of wetlands have been lost or degraded.¹¹¹

Why are wetlands important?



Critical Habitat

Wetlands are important natural features that provide critical habitat for endangered and at-risk species. They act as spawning grounds for many fish species and offer great nesting, resting, and foraging places for birds and animals.



Ecological Services and Climate Change Resiliency

Wetlands play an important role in our global climate. They promote climate change resiliency by acting as a natural defence against floods and drought. Wetlands act as a carbon sink which reduces carbon emissions by storing carbon in the soil long-term.

Wetlands provide many ecosystem services, such as filtering toxic substances and sediments, groundwater recharge, water quality regulation, and much more.



Health and Recreation

Wetlands give many benefits to human well-being, such as providing clean water for us to drink and swim in. They also support recreational activities such as fishing, waterfowling, boating, paddling, and birdwatching.

Help protect our wetlands!

Visit watersheds.ca to learn how you can help protect Canada's freshwater and wetlands.

References

1. Government of Canada. (2022). Government of Canada invests in Indigenous-led Natural Climate Solutions across the country.
 11. Government of Canada. (2016). Extent of Canada's Wetlands.
 111. Ducks Unlimited Canada. (2007). Dedicated to Wetland and Wildlife Conservation.
- Photos: Simon Lunn (Heron, Painted Turtle), Soley Nikola & Jay Fish (flood sign, dock photo).