

## WHAT CONSERVATION AREAS CAN DO FOR US

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Conservation Areas can help buffer the effects of climate change. Many Conservation Areas in Torbay are peat-based wetlands. Peat is the surface layer of soil and is composed of decomposed organic matter. The composition of peat allows it to store carbon emissions, which reduces greenhouse gas levels. Conservation of these habitats also helps species adapt to the effects of climate change over time.

Conservation Areas can also contribute positively to the economy, drawing in eco-tourism and outdoor enthusiasts. Many people come to Torbay to take in the beauty of the natural environment. Enjoying these areas can also have an improvement on your mental health! Torbay has many natural spaces to offer and spending just 20 minutes in nature has been shown to improve your well-being.

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Since 1997, Torbay has worked in conjunction with the Stewardship Association of Municipalities Inc. (SAM) and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to conserve several special wildlife habitats found within the town boundaries.



## CONSERVATION AREAS IN TORBAY

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## SAFEGUARDING OUR WILDLIFE HABITATS

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[www.torbay.ca](http://www.torbay.ca)

[www.samnl.org](http://www.samnl.org)

## CONSERVATION AREAS IN TORBAY

### WHAT IS A CONSERVATION AREA?

Conservation Areas are municipal lands aimed at maintaining the integrity of the natural environment and the species that live there. These areas are designated under the Town of Torbay's Stewardship Agreement and its Municipal Plan, and include wetlands, indigenous preservation areas, marine habitats, uplands, coastal habitats, and more.



While some activities are restricted, these areas remain a great destination for Torbay residents and tourists to walk, bird watch, kayak, and more. The conservation and protection of these areas will ultimately be determined by the people that live or visit there and their respect for the land. Stewardship starts with you!



### YOUR ROLE IN PROTECTING CONSERVATION AREAS

In Conservation Areas you are **unable** to:

- Cut trees or alter the forested area within the riparian buffer zone (15+ meters) of a body of water.
- Build infrastructure such as cabins, sheds, bridges, wharfs, decks, etc.
- Use motorized vehicles in unapproved areas, such as bogs and other wetlands, that cannot easily recover from the damage caused to them.
- Use fire in any capacity.

Conservation Areas are open to the public for non-commercial public uses, such as berry-picking, hunting, and fishing, where legal to do so.



### TORBAY'S CONSERVATION AREAS

In Torbay, we have six designated Habitat Conservation Areas:

- Western Island Pond
- Gosse's Pond
- Upper Three Corner Pond
- Jones Pond
- The Gully
- The Shoreline Conservation Area

### WHY ARE CONSERVATION AREAS IMPORTANT?

Designating a Conservation Area contributes to conserving, maintaining, and enhancing biodiversity in our province. The conservation efforts we make today will decide the permanence of our natural spaces and help guarantee they will be enjoyed for generations to come.