

***Where is your project located?***

You have selected WETLAND.

Wetlands are land types that are commonly referred to as swamps, fens, mires, marshes, bogs, sloughs and peatlands. They occur intermittently across the landscape along lakes, rivers and streams, and in other areas where the water table is close to the surface. They vary in size from a fraction of a hectare to many thousands of hectares. As areas where land and water come together, wetlands provide unique and specialized habitat for a great variety of species that can live nowhere else.



Example of a wetland in the  
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve  
Photo credit: Meg Wallace Photography



Example of a wetland in the  
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve  
Photo credit: Muskoka Heritage Foundation



Example of a wetland in the  
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve  
Photo credit: Muskoka Heritage Foundation



Example of a wetland in the  
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve  
Photo credit: Rebecca Pollock

In the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, many species at risk rely on wetlands. Some species like the Whip-poor-will may forage over wetlands, while other species like the Spotted Turtle spend most of their life in a wetland.

If your project is located within or immediately adjacent to a wetland, do not proceed. Please contact the Parry Sound MNR office (705-746-4201) to discuss your proposed project.

If your activity is unlikely to damage or destroy the habitat of endangered and/or threatened species it will be allowed to proceed without modifications. An authorization permit from MNR would be required if your project presents a risk to species at risk habitat. To mitigate impacts, the authorization permit may require the construction activity to take place within a defined timing period or require modifications to the building footprint.

### ***About the Habitat Screening Tool***

The Georgian Bay coast is home to more than 1,100 native plant and animal species. Most have stable populations, but some are experiencing significant declines and therefore have protection under the Provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA). The loss of biodiversity has many consequences that we understand, and many that we do not. The loss of species may reduce the environment's resistance to disturbances which can lead to a decrease in available natural resources. Currently, over 40 species are "at risk" in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) due to a variety of factors including habitat loss and fragmentation, road mortality, competition from invasive species, pollution and over-harvesting. Much of GBBR offers excellent habitat for species at risk, especially reptiles.

It is your responsibility to ensure your building project is in compliance with the ESA. Local Townships are not responsible for verifying if you are compliant under the ESA, and do not have the authority to consider the ESA provisions in their decision to issue a building permit.

This habitat screening tool has been created to help you determine how the ESA may be applicable to your proposed building project. Essentially the screening tool helps you determine the potential for species at risk habitat on, or adjacent to, your proposed building site. This is best completed as early as possible in your planning process. This screening tool has been designed for small scale building projects.

Please note that this screening tool does not replace an ESA permit or absolve the user of any responsibility under the Endangered Species Act. Please contact the Parry Sound MNR Species at Risk Biologist at 705-773-4205 with any questions or clarifications about the ESA.