

# SALISBURY EAST WETLANDS, NEW BRUNSWICK

SECURING NATURE WE LOVE



Photo: Brian Stone

## OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA BASED CONSERVATION MEASURE (OECM)

Located in the Fundy Biosphere Region along the Petitcodiac River in New Brunswick, naturalized portions of the Salisbury Wastewater Treatment Facility property are now recognized as the East Wetlands Other Effective Conservation Measure (OECM), highlighting the significant ecological value found within a working municipal landscape. The site contains high-quality wetlands that support a range of plant, amphibian, and bird species, including many species at risk.

The OECM recognition celebrates a unique collaboration between municipal operations and conservation efforts. While the site continues to serve its critical function in managing wastewater for the town, the wetlands and river-adjacent habitats are now formally protected for their biodiversity, ecosystem services, and ecological connectivity within the Petitcodiac watershed.

Situated in a zone that regularly floods along the river, these wetlands serve as a vital buffer that protects the community's critical wastewater infrastructure. The wetlands and riparian areas also act as natural sponges, filtering water, mitigating runoff and reducing impacts from peak flood events while supporting a wide range of wildlife. Together,

these features show how ecological and municipal functions can successfully coexist.

The property demonstrates that meaningful conservation outcomes do not require remote or undeveloped wilderness. Instead, it shows how municipal lands—when managed thoughtfully—can deliver substantial ecological benefits alongside their primary operational roles. The Salisbury East Wetlands site is actively guided by a biodiversity management plan that outlines measures to monitor, protect, and enhance these natural features, ensuring long-term conservation results.

Through this recognition, the site becomes part of a growing network of conserved areas across New Brunswick. It illustrates the potential of municipal stewardship to contribute to provincial conservation targets while strengthening climate resilience and community infrastructure. The Salisbury East Wetlands OECM stands as a forward-looking example of how nature and essential public services can work together for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



## HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE SALISBURY EAST WETLANDS IS AN OECM?

### Does the property have a defined geographical space?

Yes! The boundaries of Salisbury East Wetlands are well identified and can be found on regional and municipal maps.

### Is there an effective way of ensuring that biodiversity will continue to be conserved into the future?

Yes! Biodiversity is protected through multiple mechanisms, including municipal ownership and stewardship, zoning as “Open Space Conservation”, and designation as a Provincially Significant Wetland, which together restrict incompatible activities. A Conservation Recognition Agreement further formalizes the commitment to maintain these conservation outcomes.

### Is there an expectation that the biodiversity on the site will be conserved for the long term?

Yes! The site benefits from strong municipal stewardship, with conservation embedded in local planning and management frameworks. Ongoing oversight, combined with community support and established protections, provides confidence that its biodiversity and ecological functions will be maintained over the long term.

### Is biodiversity conservation the primary objective of the area?

No – and that's okay! The primary objective of this site is the management and maintenance of municipal infrastructure. While part of the property houses important facilities for town services, the remaining wetlands, forests and natural features incidentally support quality habitat and ecological resilience, contributing meaningful biodiversity value even though conservation is not the site's central objective.

#### Quick tip

If this answer was “yes” for the Salisbury East Wetlands, it would likely be assessed as a Protected Area. Both types of areas are important and both achieve biodiversity conservation.

### Is biodiversity on the site conserved?

Yes! Intact wetlands, Wabanaki (Acadian) forest and riparian areas support diverse species, including migratory species and species at risk. A site-specific biodiversity management plan also guides actions to conserve and enhance the site's ecological values.