

Rondeau Provincial Park Marsh © P.A. Woodliffe

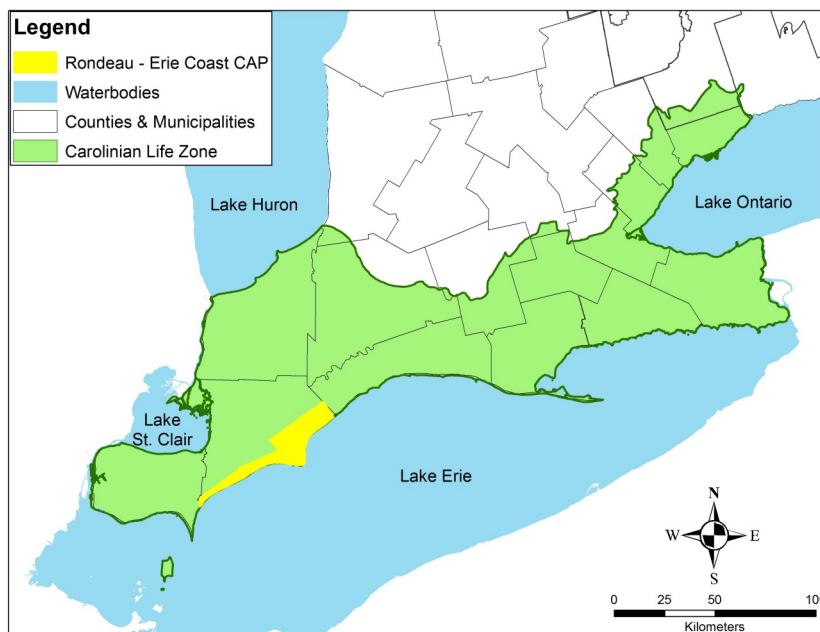
Rondeau—Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan

The Rondeau—Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan (CAP) area is located in Canada's 'deep south', in the ecological region known as the Carolinian life zone. The great variety of habitats in this region support more native species than any other place in the country, many of them found nowhere else in Canada, and many of them provincially, nationally and globally rare. Home to forests, prairies and savannahs, marshes and streams, and vast coastal wetlands, the Rondeau-Erie Coast area is an important part of Carolinian Canada's natural heritage. The diversity of these natural areas evolved over millennia, but their health and survival depends on conservation actions taken by people who care about the unique nature of this region and the many essential services its ecosystems provide. For these reasons, Carolinian Canada and numerous local community groups have worked together to create the Rondeau—Lake Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan.

What is Conservation Action Planning? Used throughout the world, Conservation Action Planning is an effective and efficient way to conserve many species and habitats at the same time. The approach brings together local partners to set conservation objectives and strategies through sharing of knowledge, collaboration and consensus.

Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) in Carolinian Canada focus on biodiversity hotspots—areas with a high concentration of biological and ecological diversity that are home to many rare species and habitats.

CAPs provide a common vision and strategy to protect biodiversity that communities can implement together.



To view the full Rondeau—Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan please visit our website at:
caroliniancanada.ca/caps-carolinian-canada

You can also view Conservation Action Plans for neighbouring areas such as:

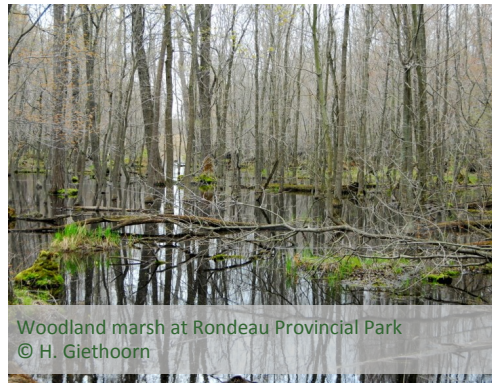
- Lake St. Clair Coastal CAP
- Elgin Greenway CAP
- Sydenham River CAP



Carolinian Canada Coalition

www.caroliniancanada.ca

*Rondeau—Erie Coast CAP Fact Sheet
Page 1*



Vision Statement

The Rondeau—Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan (CAP) aims to enhance biodiversity, resilience, and adaption to climate change, ecosystem services, productive soils and agriculture, and tourism and recreation opportunities. This will result in more prosperous communities, healthier citizens and improved quality of life in Chatham-Kent. The vision will be achieved through engaged citizens working together toward a common, mutually-beneficial cause: a healthier environment for all.

What makes the Rondeau—Erie Coast CAP area special?

- Among the highest concentrations of globally rare species and communities in Ontario.
- Habitat for over 60 species listed as nationally Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern.
- Globally and provincially significant prairie habitats representing some of the rarest ecosystems in southern Ontario.
- A number of Provincially Significant Wetlands.
- Only about 1% of the region is protected in regulated parks, and 2% in conservation lands. This is the lowest proportion of protected areas in any region of Ontario.
- The eight kilometre long Rondeau peninsula, host to vast coastal wetlands, sand dunes, savannahs, old-growth woodlands, a major Provincial Park, and a globally significant Important Bird Area renowned for its diversity of migratory and breeding birds.
- One of the most temperate climates in Ontario, supporting an array of southern flora and fauna, many of them at the northern limits of their ranges.
- The Canada South Rail Trail provides opportunities to restore a natural heritage and recreation trail corridor linking natural areas across the breadth of Chatham-Kent.

Conservation Targets

- Upland Forests
- Moist Forests and Swamps
- Native Prairies and Savannahs
- Thickets, Hedgerows, Fencerows, Shelterbelts, Abandoned Fields
- Lake Erie Sand Spit and Shorelines
- Coastal Wetlands
- Inland Riparian and Wetland
- Species at Risk Reptiles and Amphibians
- Sustainable Agricultural Practices



Endangered Eastern Foxsnake © C. McCreary



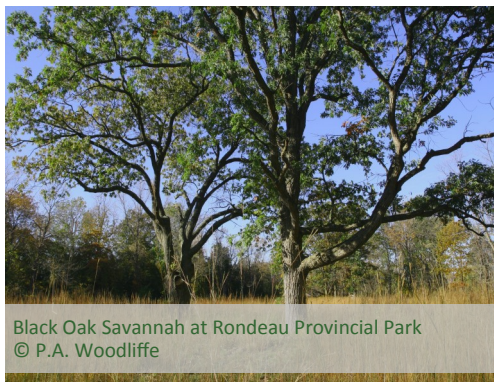
Beach dunes along Lake Erie © P.A. Woodliffe



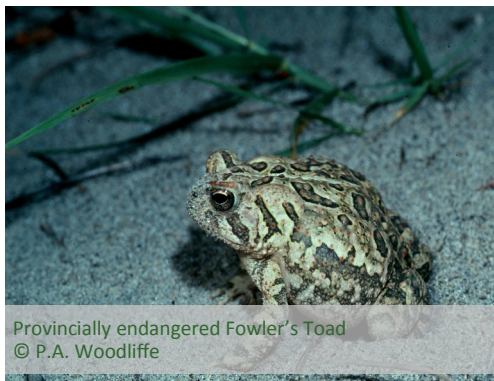
Endangered Prothonotary Warbler © B. Mann



Provincially threatened Spiny Softshell Turtle
© R. McArthur



Black Oak Savannah at Rondeau Provincial Park
© P.A. Woodliffe



Provincially endangered Fowler's Toad
© P.A. Woodliffe

Conservation Objectives

1. Communicate the reasons for the Conservation Action Plan, its goals and objectives, and get input from stakeholders and landowners on how to best implement it.
2. Support natural heritage systems planning in Chatham-Kent.
3. Retain existing forest cover, increase extent of healthy forest and plant strategic forest buffers.
4. Establish new hedgerows.

You can become a Landowner Leader and protect and enhance habitat for rare species on your property.

5. Decrease shoreline hardening structures or major alterations to Lake Erie coast and Rondeau Bay.
6. Upgrade faulty and obsolete septic systems on the Rondeau peninsula and around Rondeau Bay.
7. Reduce beach grooming, landscaping, encroachment, littering and dumping impacts.
8. Initiate Phragmites control at coastal wetland sites in Rondeau Bay.
9. Reduce and then maintain lower nutrient inputs to Rondeau Bay.
10. Promote ecologically appropriate management of drains.
11. Include sediment basins and two-stage ditches in new engineers' reports and in drain maintenance projects.
12. Promote use of reptile-friendly vegetation mats in drain maintenance and road and bridge upgrades.
13. Apply turtle-friendlier drain maintenance practices.

You can learn more about rare species and habitat and help protect the unique nature of Carolinian Canada.

14. Establish buffers of native vegetation along open watercourses and include in all new engineers' reports.



Marsh Marigold © P.A. Woodliffe



Tulip tree flower © P.A. Woodliffe

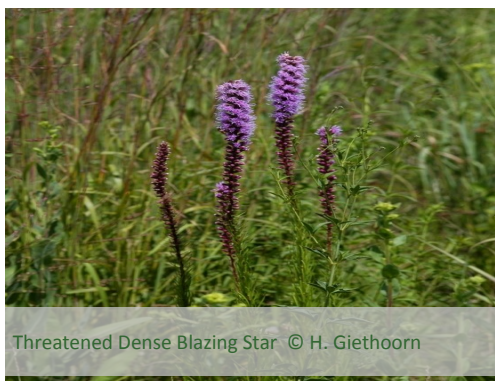


Spicebush Trail at Rondeau Provincial Park
© H. Giethoorn

Since 1984, Carolinian Canada Coalition (CC), now a registered charity, has been a leading ecoregional group in Canada. Stretching from Toronto to Windsor, the Carolinian Life Zone of southern Ontario is among North America's most vibrant and fragile ecoregions. CC brings together diverse sectors, people and governments to collaboratively steward southern Ontario's unique habitat network, the green infrastructure needed to support thriving wild and human communities in harmony for generations.



Special Concern Monarch Butterfly © N. Harrison



Threatened Dense Blazing Star © H. Giethoorn

The Big Picture

The 'Big Picture' is Carolinian Canada Coalition's vision of a network of green across the southern Ontario landscape. Healthy landscapes need large natural 'core habitats' connected by 'habitat corridors' to keep our air and water clean for human and wild communities. Existing natural areas such as forests, wetlands and prairies, form the backbone of the system. These are connected by streams, rivers, drains, hedgerows, smaller woodlots and even backyard habitat. All told, 'The Big Picture' identifies 140 core natural areas in Carolinian Canada and provides a vision for a sustainable landscape in which everyone can participate.

The Big Picture is science-based and was developed in collaboration with many conservation partners, similar to the Conservation Action Plans. Although it works at a large scale, it offers a method for local communities to develop their own Big Picture vision. Achieving the objectives contained in each Conservation Action Plan will contribute to the sustainable natural heritage system identified by the Big Picture.

To find out how you can assist with meeting the CAP Conservation Objectives visit the Landowner Leaders section of our webpage at: <https://caroliniancanada.ca/landowner-leaders>

Assistance for this project was provided by the Government of Ontario & Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program.



Ontario



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



Carolinian Canada Coalition

www.caroliniancanada.ca

Rondeau—Erie Coast CAP Fact Sheet
Page 4

Many thanks to our partners who were involved in the development of the Rondeau-Erie Coast Conservation Action Plan:

- Carolinian Canada Coalition
- Chatham-Kent Wind Action Group
- Delaware Nation (Moravian of the Thames First Nation)
- Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Friends of Rondeau
- Kent Federation of Agriculture
- Lambton Woodlot Owners Association
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- National Farmers Union
- Ontario Parks
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Ridgetown Rejuvenation Association
- Rondeau Cottagers Association
- Shrewsbury Community Association
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
- Transition Town Chatham-Kent