

# 1 Wetlands

## A Natural Features and Areas



Forested Wetlands in Nature Areas, Trent University

Wetlands have retained a prominent place on the landscape of the UGN. They are part of a circulatory watershed system made up of streams, rivers, and lakes. Everything in the watershed is connected, and our actions upstream can affect conditions downstream. Trent University is committed to making sure the watershed is a national and global model of best practice for sustainability.

Many of the wetland communities present in the UGN are forested wetlands. Marshes are another prominent wetland type occurring across the Symons Campus (e.g., Wetland Complex Nature Area) and in association with inlets and bays along the Otonabee River. One Provincially Significant Wetland has been designated within the Symons Campus: the Nassau Mills Wetland Complex, with other wetlands occurring across the local landscape.

Wetlands play an important role as nature's sponge, reducing flooding by storing water and releasing it slowly during dry periods, and managing sediment, debris and ice in order to support natural river function and flood protection. Wetland plants act as filters and help remove contaminants from water. They also contribute to a healthy watershed by providing habitats. They are major accumulators of carbon stores, making them a sink for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. These features interact with and support surface features (e.g., watercourses) and have potential for interactions with local groundwater systems.

Maintaining and improving the health of the watershed is vital to accommodate changes resulting from climate change.



Wetland Plants in Nature Areas, Trent University



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