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ÎLES DE LA PAIX NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA



What makes Îles de la Paix NWA so special?

Îles de la Paix National Wildlife Area (NWA) was created in 1977 to preserve island habitat that is important to waterfowl. The approximately 120-hectare NWA occupies most of the Îles de la Paix archipelago in Lake Saint-Louis, a natural widening of the St. Lawrence River about 20 kilometres west of Montréal. These low-lying islands are covered with sparse maple stands, wetlands and extensive aquatic plant communities. The NWA is

- home to over 50 plant species and 150 animal species, some of which are at risk, including the **Green Dragon** wildflower and the **Snapping Turtle**;
- frequented by 130 bird species, about 20 of which are breeding, including the **Mallard** and **American Black Duck**;

Aerial view of Îles de la Paix National Wildlife Area in Spring



- a designated Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
- an important spring and fall staging area for various waterfowl species.

This protected area, established in a highly urbanized and industrialized region, has seen major disruptions in recent decades, including shoreline erosion and the submersion of a large portion of its wetlands. Environment Canada is endeavouring to protect these unique islands and the species that depend on them.

What are Environment Canada Protected Areas?

Environment Canada establishes marine and terrestrial NWAs for the purposes of conservation, research and interpretation. NWAs are established

to protect migratory birds, species at risk, and other wildlife and their habitats. NWAs are established under the authority of the *Canada Wildlife Act* and are, first and foremost, places for wildlife. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) are established under the authority of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, and provide a refuge for migratory birds in marine and terrestrial environments. The current Protected Areas Network consists of 54 NWAs and 92 MBSs comprising more than 12 million hectares across Canada.

What can I do at Îles de la Paix NWA?

Because of the fragility of the island environments and the species in the NWA, access to this protected area is restricted to persons who hold a special access permit issued by the Minister (e.g. for research, habitat management or restoration activities). For a complete list of NWAs, including those you can visit, please see our website.



Flooded forest on an island in the NWA



Who can I contact?

Environment Canada – Quebec Region
Canadian Wildlife Service
801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
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Where is Îles de la Paix NWA?



ISBN: 978-1-100-22793-1
Cat. No.: CW66-348/2013E-PDF
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