



# Time for Nature



## Good neighbours

### Saint Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada

St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada is small in land area, but widely spread out. It includes over 20 islands scattered along the St. Lawrence River between Brockville and Kingston, Ontario. Located in the heart of the Thousand Islands tourist area, the park receives over 80,000 visitors per year.



The park includes over 20 islands scattered along the St. Lawrence River. © Parks Canada, Morin, B., 1994.

Because its holdings are spread over this large and busy area, Parks Canada must work with adjacent landowners, municipalities, and other stakeholders to maintain the park's ecological integrity and that of the larger region. Fortunately, the park has excellent neighbors in the Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve.

## What is a biosphere reserve?

A biosphere reserve is an area designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to demonstrate innovative approaches to living and working in harmony with nature. There are over 400 biosphere reserves worldwide.



At the core of the biosphere reserve, St. Lawrence Islands National Park plays a central role in conserving the region's biodiversity. © Parks Canada, McCloskey, P., 1975.

## How the biosphere and park work together: Three interrelated zones

A biosphere reserve consists of three concentric zones. The core, a national park or similar area, protects ecosystems and habitats. A buffer zone protects the core, allowing nature-compatible activities such as research, education and low-impact recreation. The large outer part of a biosphere reserve is an area of cooperation where people use natural resources sustainably for agriculture, commerce, industry and housing.

## Parks Canada's contribution

At the core of the biosphere reserve, St. Lawrence Islands National Park plays a central role in conserving the region's biodiversity. For example, the park is home to species at



risk such as the eastern ratsnake, the Henslow's sparrow and the cerulean warbler. But the park does not contain enough habitat to ensure the species' survival. Parks Canada must work with other landowners to achieve this goal.

## Help from 70 partners

There are some 70 partners in the Thousand Islands - Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, including Parks Canada, the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ontario Parks, Queen's University, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and local chambers of commerce and historical societies.



The park is home to species at risk such as the eastern ratsnake. © Parks Canada, Sutherland, D., 1982.

## How partners team up to save species at risk

Through the biosphere reserve, Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are conducting an ambitious ecological study. They are compiling data on climate, soils, landforms, flora and fauna.

The researchers will blend this information with our growing scientific knowledge of the habitat needs of various species. Then biologists can pinpoint suitable habitat within the biosphere reserve.

## Why habitat research is critical

It's very important that Canadians understand what our wild species need to survive. Good land use planning depends on it.

In the biosphere, much of the land is privately held. Landowners and municipalities require strong, scientific information, to encourage them to protect and recover species.

## Setting an example

By pooling resources, Parks Canada and its partners are making the biosphere reserve a showcase of conservation know-how.

For more information visit [www.pc.gc.ca/sli](http://www.pc.gc.ca/sli)