

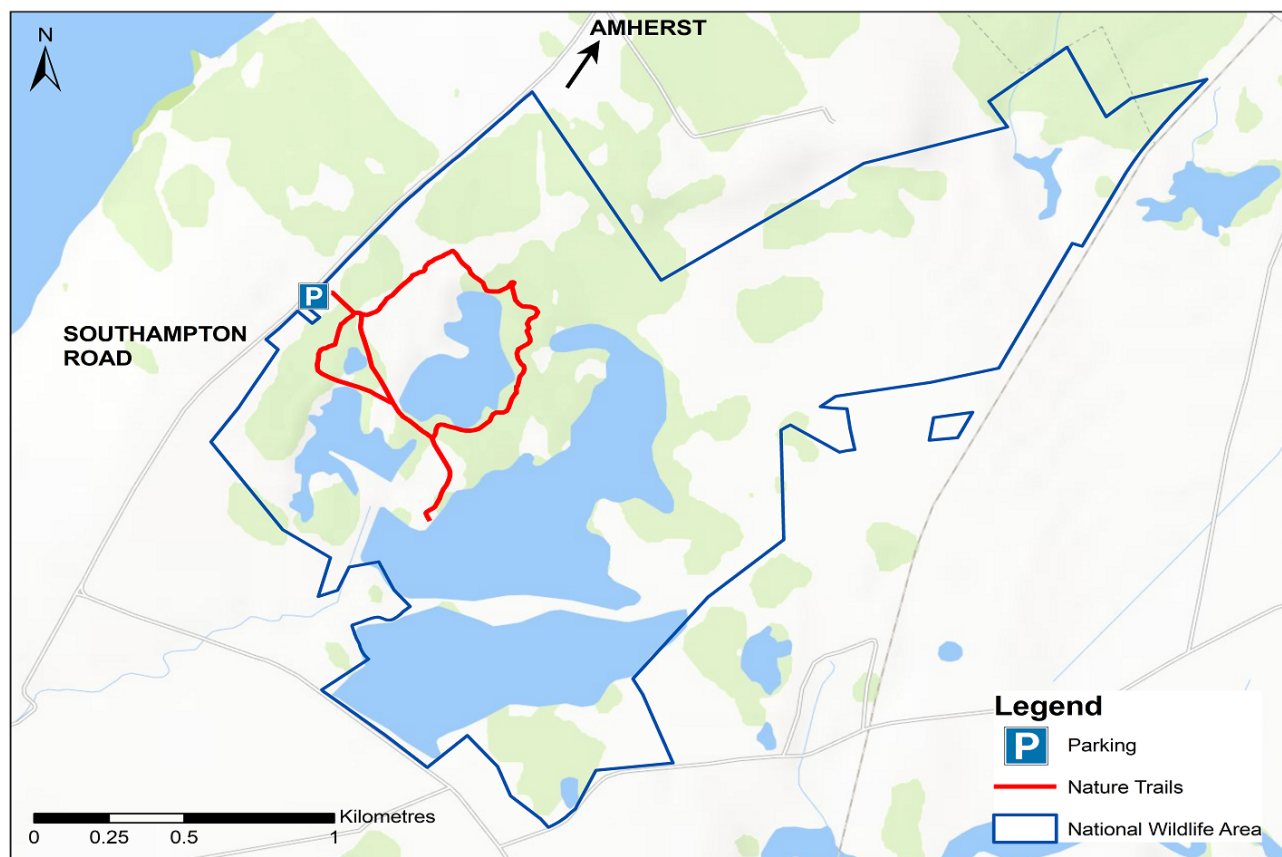
Chignecto National Wildlife Area

Family Activity Kit

What is a National Wildlife Area?

National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) are natural spaces that have been protected by the Government of Canada to help wildlife like migrating birds, endangered species, and other animals that call the area home! There are several NWAs across Atlantic Canada. Chignecto NWA includes a large area of forest and wetland at the very end of the Cumberland Basin in the Bay of Fundy.

This area is so important for wildlife and is near another important NWA- the John Lusby Marsh. Visit the Chignecto NWA by taking the Trans Canada Highway to Amherst: the entrance is at 946 Southampton Rd.



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What makes Chignecto National Wildlife Area so special?

The threatened Canada warbler



Yellow warbler



Ruby-throated hummingbird



The wide diversity of habitats within the Chignecto NWA can be partly explained by the area's **karst geology**, a kind of landscape where soluble rocks create little caves, sunken streams, and holes. In the case of the Chignecto area, localized deposits of a rock called gypsum are responsible for this landscape. These small areas also have alkaline (high pH) soil, resulting in different plant communities from the surrounding acidic (low pH) soils.

The Chignecto NWA includes a number of productive **freshwater wetlands** that are unique to the region. These wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of **bird species**, including some ducks that are uncommon in other areas of Nova Scotia like the Ruddy duck. Riparian habitats at the edge of the wetland also provide habitat for breeding songbirds like Canada warbler.

Nova Scotia is part of the **Atlantic Flyway**, a migration route that covers all of Eastern North America and parts of the Caribbean and South America. Chignecto NWA provides important breeding habitat for birds that winter in the South and stopover habitat for birds that breed as far away as the Arctic.

Red-winged black bird



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The freshwater wetlands at the Chignecto National Wildlife Area were constructed under a partnership between Ducks Unlimited Canada and ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service. These wetlands were created to improve waterfowl habitat within the landscape of the region. DUC and ECCC staff monitor the health of these wetlands annually and perform maintenance on the dykes to ensure that water levels remain optimal for waterfowl species. Researchers study these wetlands to help inform wetland managers on appropriate management practices for waterfowl and wetland birds.

A dragonfly nymph, great food for migratory ducks!



Damselfly



Activity 1: Birding through the seasons

How many of these birds can you spot?

Spring/Summer

Fall/Winter



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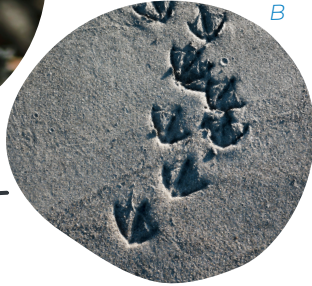
Activity 2: Animal tracks and other signs of life

Match these signs to the critter they came from. Can you find any of these signs along the NWA trails?

Signs



A



B



C



D



E



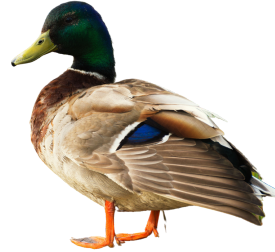
F



G

Critters

1.



2.



3.



4.



6.



7.



8.

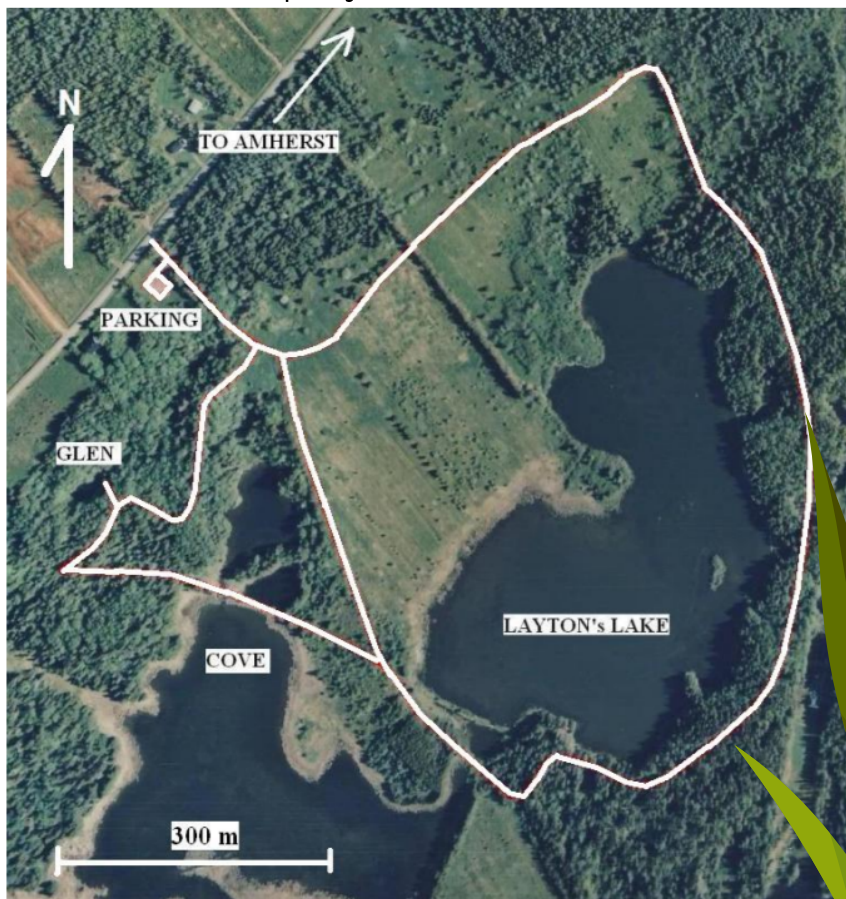


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Complete the Chignecto bucket list:

- Hike the full loop around Layton's Lake.
- See how many ducks you can spot from the observation deck on Glen Trail.
- Checkout all of the Chignecto interpretive panels and find the hidden loon (it's about the size of a loonie). Hint, the panel is about upland forests.
- Layton's Lake is approximately 10.5 m (34.5 ft) deep. That's about the height of a school bus standing vertically. Try to calculate how many of you it would take to reach the bottom. Hint: the lake's depth divided by your height.
- One of the trails at Chignecto used to be part of a rail line. See if you can figure out which one. Hint: it runs parallel to the Observation Deck and pedestrian bridge.

Did you have fun exploring Chignecto National Wildlife Area? Discover more about nature and wildlife by visiting some of our other National Wildlife Areas, such as Cape Jourmain and Shepody.



Trails and access points at Chignecto NWA.
Layton's Lake Trail is 2.1km and the Glen Trail is 960m (Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2018.)



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Chignecto National Wildlife Area is designated under the Canada Wildlife Act and is administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada. For more information, visit: canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change

While visiting Chignecto, you can minimize your impact by:

- Packing in your supplies and packing them out.
- Staying on marked trails.
- Keeping your pet on a leash.
- Giving wildlife space by not getting too close.
- Respecting posted guidelines and regulations.

Thank you for helping to protect Chignecto and its wildlife.



Ermine



*Monarch
Caterpillar*



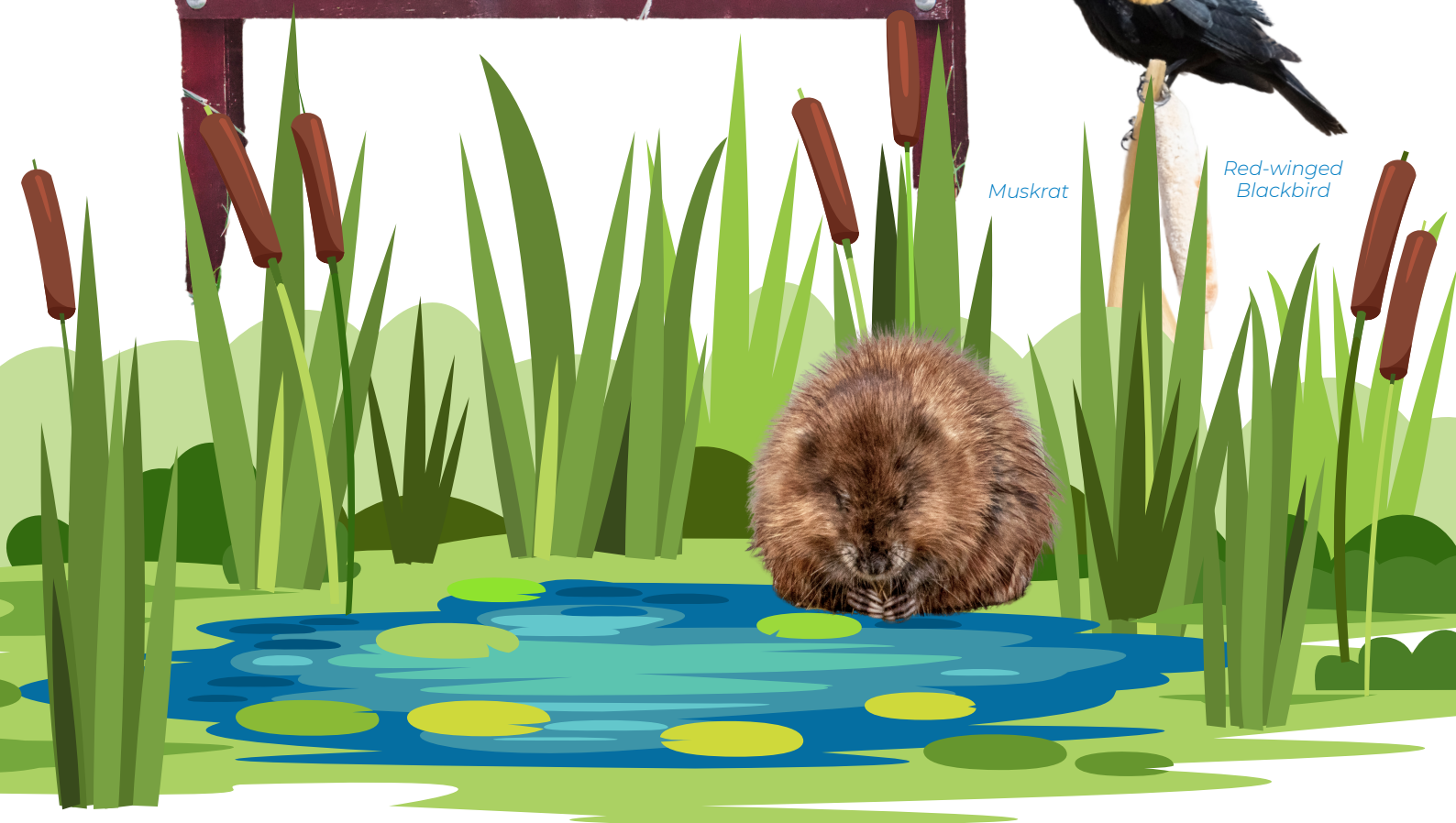
Damselfly

LEAVE NO TRACE



*Red-winged
Blackbird*

Muskrat



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