# BIG REASONS TO LOVE BIG CREEK!

### WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

The Essex region is one of the most biodiverse regions in all of Canada! It is made up of many unique habitats, including wetlands. Wetlands are the most productive ecosystems in North America, providing a nursery for so many unique wildlife species. Big Creek is the largest wetland in Essex county and has been designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland, Woodland and Valleyland. Wetlands like these provide resilience against climate change by absorbing and storing carbon, and have the ability to reduce the effects of flooding. We need wetlands and we all have the power to protect this important habitat.

## POLLINATOR POWER!

When we talk about biodiversity, we have to talk about pollinators. Habitat is made up of plants, many of which rely on pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators depend on plants for food. Humans do too!

We need pollinators like hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies, but we also need native plants across our landscape. Native plants are adapted to a region's climate, and have evolved with our local wildlife. We can support pollinators by including native plants into our landscapes with native flower gardens and habitat restoration projects.

Together we can PRESERVE, SAVE and PROTECT this important area!









Clouded sulpher
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## HOMES FOR WILDLIFE!

In addition to wetlands, the Big Creek watershed is made up of over 100 different species of native trees, shrubs and grasses which provide homes for wildlife - also known as habitat. Big Creek is also a major stopover for over 200 species of birds and mammals migrating through the region. Unfortunately, habitat loss is one of the biggest causes of declines in wildlife populations. Three species at risk - the Prothonotary warbler, Eastern meadlowlark, and Eastern fox snake - rely in part on the Big Creek watershed for their continued survival.

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