



## Existing Conditions Fact Sheet: Vegetation

Issued: October 2023

The Local Study Area for the Community Access Road is divided into several different vegetation communities, including Upland, Wetland, and Riparian ecosites, designated areas, traditional use plants, plant species at risk, plant species of conservation concern, and invasive plant species have also been considered in the study. Vegetation communities are categorized based on the types of plants present in each community.

### Our Studies

Our studies looked at vegetation in the area close to the footprint of the proposed Community Access Road, plus an additional 3 km from the proposed route to study to learn what the direct impacts will be, and an additional 11 km from the proposed route options and segments to learn what the indirect impacts will be.

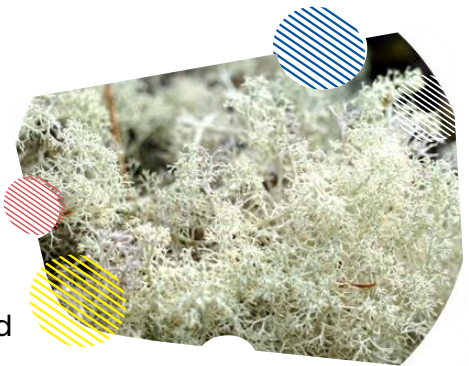
### Our Findings

#### *Upland Ecosystems*

- Upland ecosites in the study area include: coniferous forests; deciduous forests; mixed forests; rock / barren areas; and, young, sparsely treed areas. They are found throughout the Local Study Area, but are more common south of Dusey Lake.
- Coniferous forests cover 22.8% of the study area, while deciduous forests cover 2.6%.

#### *Wetland Ecosystems*

- Wetland ecosite types were identified as swamp, marsh, fen, and bog. Generally, wetland ecosites are more frequent north of Dusey Lake.
- Fen plant communities cover 37.7% of the Local Study Area, swamp communities cover 29.7%. and marsh and bog communities comprise approximately 3%.



## Study Areas

Study areas identify the geographic limit where potential effects of the road may occur. The existing conditions are documented for three study areas:

- Project Development Area (PDA): the area of direct disturbance
- Local Study Area (LSA): the area where direct effects of the road are likely to take place
- Regional Study Area (RSA): the area where indirect effects are likely to occur





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## Riparian Ecosystems

- Riparian habitat is characterized as being a transition between water and land-based ecosystems. Riparian habitat occurs alongside rivers, lakes, and streams, and can include both wetland and upland vegetation. A total of 4.4% of the Local Study Area is classified as riparian, the majority being made up of wetland vegetation.

## Traditional Use Plants

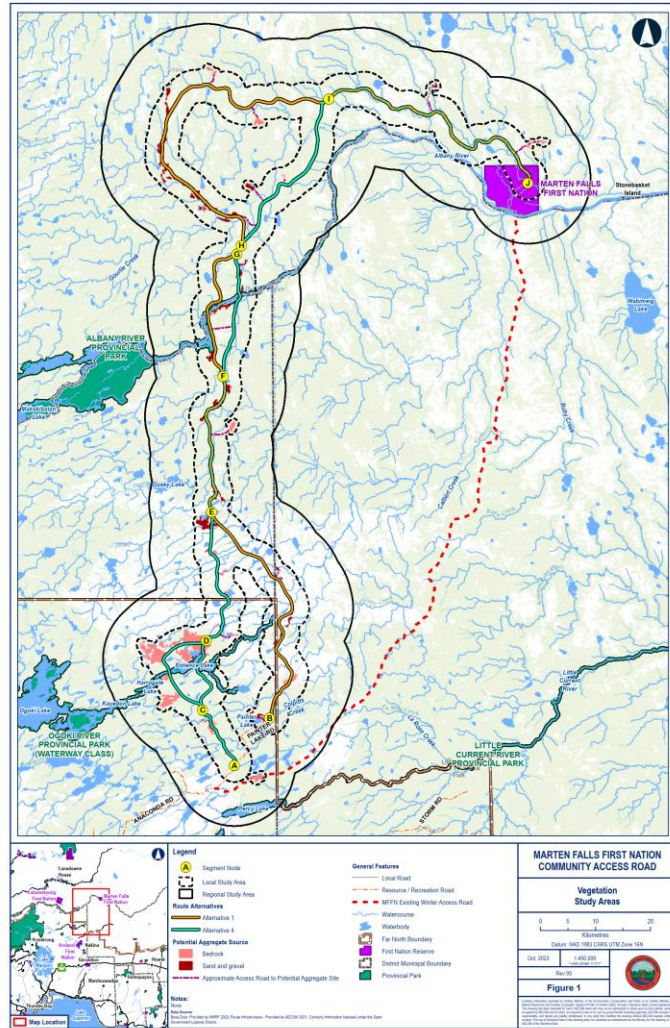
- Traditional use plants include plants that have been historically used by Indigenous People for food, materials, medicinal or spiritual purposes, and are still of particular interest to Indigenous communities within the region. These species are generally well distributed across the region; however, most of the plant harvesting occurs close to access routes like large waterbodies or watercourses.

## Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern

- Three plant species that are listed as Species at Risk and / or Species of Conservation Concern may be found within the Local Study Area: Black Ash, Pitcher's Thistle, and Northern Marsh Violet. Of these, only Black Ash was confirmed during field surveys, and was found in the south limits of the Local Study Area.

## Invasive Plant Species

- No invasive plant species were identified during field investigations.



## Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

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