

Biodiversity and Land Management

Why It Matters

Protecting natural ecosystems remains a constant priority for us. As our network extends to three North American coasts, it passes through a wide range of habitats, including national parks, forests, prairies and wetlands. These habitats are home to rich and diverse species that provide essential ecosystem and social benefits to the surrounding communities.

We are committed to improving the environment where we operate and conducting our activities and operations in a way that minimizes our disturbance of these ecosystems.



COLLABORATING TO RESTORE GOGAMA: CN and Mattagami First Nation teams are now collaborating on the restoration phase, bringing in clean soil and re-establishing lost vegetation on approximately 10 acres.

Our Initiatives

Conducting Impact Assessments

As part of our project approval process, we conduct detailed environmental and social impact assessments to understand risks and to identify mitigation measures. These assessments typically involve studies of ecosystems and habitat at risk, as well as stakeholder engagement activities to better understand impacts on local communities. For example, as part of our Voluntary Mitigation Agreements with 28 communities in the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJ&E) network that encircles Chicago, we spent roughly U.S.\$80 million on environmental and safety mitigation.

Preserving and Restoring Ecosystems

We have in place a broad range of programs to protect sensitive habitats and prevent and correct ecosystem impacts, particularly on aquatic life and wildlife. We continue to build fish culvert passages where railway track projects are located near water courses, and also have a wildlife management program, which includes mapping areas of high wildlife collision and strategies to prevent them.

Cleaning Up and Remediating Sites

Contaminated sites can result from railroad activities or accidental spills and releases. We are committed to clean-up and remediation related to present and past ownership, operation or control of real property and continue to proactively manage and reduce our risks.



STAKEHOLDERS ASK:

Q. What is CN doing to clean up and remediate Gogama?

A. In early March 2015, one of our trains carrying crude oil derailed near Gogama, Ontario. Immediately following the derailment, we activated our emergency response plan and an incident command system engaging the Mattagami First Nation, the Gogama Local Services Board and our Dangerous Goods and Public Affairs teams to handle issues, including safety and communication.

Within hours we installed containment booms to capture floating oil and started to remediate the site soon after. Clean-up and remediation of Gogama is an absolute priority for us.

FRÉDÉRIC GAUTHIER

Regional Manager, Environment



Environmental Impact Assessments – Protecting the Environment at Kirk Yard

Prior to starting construction projects, we routinely conduct environmental and social impact assessments to help us understand potential ecosystem and biodiversity risks and identify measures to mitigate those risks. The infrastructure project at Kirk Yard in Gary, Indiana, is a good example of how we are successfully balancing environmental considerations with infrastructure upgrades.

Prior to construction of new tracks, bridges and facilities at Kirk Yard, we conducted an impact assessment that showed the yard would impact seven acres, including some valuable wetland. To compensate, we created seven acres of high quality wetland, providing habitat for plants and wildlife. We are also enhancing several Kirk Yard properties and 15 acres of the Pine Station Nature Preserve in Gary, Indiana.

“For the seven acres that we impact, the overall acreage we are creating or enhancing totals 56 acres. It’s a great example of CN’s environmental stewardship and our efforts to protect natural ecosystems,” says Kari Harris, Environmental Impact Assessments Manager.

ABOVE:

Kari Harris
Manager, Environmental Impact Assessments
Kirk Yard, Gary, Indiana