

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA
PROJECT

Serpentine

Wildlife Management Area



B.C. Coast Surrey, approximately 40 km south of Vancouver.



COMMON WILDLIFE

American Wigeon
American Coot
Bald Eagle
Barn Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Canada Goose
Cinnamon Teal
Common Merganser
Gadwall
Great Blue Heron
Green-winged Teal
Long-billed Dowitcher
Mallard
Marsh Wren
Northern Shoveler
Red-tailed Hawk
Red-winged Blackbird
Salmon
Wood Duck

Highlights

Designated as a wildlife management area (WMA) in 2009, the Serpentine WMA is 71.3 hectares of freshwater ponds, river marshes and managed farm fields providing critical resting and feeding areas for waterfowl and other wildlife. The WMA is one of many protected areas within the Fraser River Delta used annually by millions of migratory birds.

As one of the largest remaining floodplain marshes on the Serpentine River in Surrey, the Serpentine WMA has become a popular bird watching and outdoor recreation destination in Metro Vancouver. Trails and viewing towers are open year round and provide tremendous opportunities to observe and learn about coastal habitats and wildlife.

More than 200 wildlife species have been recorded at this destination. From fall to spring, the wetlands are alive with thousands of waterfowl.

The marsh and surrounding agriculture complex plays host to Project Webfoot classes, an award-winning wetland education program offered by Ducks Unlimited Canada. Annually more than 1200 local Grade 4 children tour the marsh, learning about wetland values and their importance as waterfowl and wildlife habitat.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Active by nature.

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Background

MANAGED IN COOPERATION BY:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ducks Unlimited Canada

In partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada:

- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Prior to 1961, the Serpentine WMA was privately owned and used for mixed farming. In 1961 the Ministry of Transportation and Highways purchased the land for construction of Highway 99.

In 1966, management of the area was transferred to the B.C. Ministry of Environment, formerly the Fish and Wildlife Branch. Public use and environmental studies of the area were encouraged from the outset.

Ducks Unlimited Canada became involved with habitat enhancement in the early 1970s and since then has co-managed the area with the Ministry of Environment.

Today, the Serpentine WMA has a system of interior dykes that allow for the adjustment of water levels in different portions of the marsh. Seasonal water draw-downs, combined with vegetation planting, have resulted in the establishment of productive waterfowl habitat, particularly for nesting and wintering birds. Old agriculture fields provide foraging opportunities for raptors. Hedgerows provide habitat for songbirds and perching sites eagles, barn owls and other raptors. Through collaborative efforts from the provincial government, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the local community, the Serpentine WMA is a great example of agriculture and wildlife co-existing in the midst of a bustling metropolitan area.



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