

Please briefly answer the questions below to help us write a newsletter article celebrating collaboration in the Wolastoq Priority Place. Feel free to spin-off from the questions if there's a key message you want to convey.

Riparian Stewardship

1. **Working Group Name** : Riparian and Shoreline Stewardship Workplan and Monitoring Plan Working Group (looking back, simply “Riparian Stewardship Operational Plan” would have been better)
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?** : We saw a need for consistent messaging in riparian Beneficial Management Practices and a strategic approach to outreach and engagement.
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?** : We defined short term objectives and divided up tasks so that we could have a common approach for outreach and engagement on riparian stewardship. We set up a NB BMP Library, a landholder engagement tracker, and prioritized properties for outreach (also known as the “Top 100 lists”).
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:** Opportunities to connect with others and to collaborate was reported by participants as the most valuable, as well as creating shared and consistent messaging.
5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?** Defining a specific goal helped narrow down the most relevant and impactful BMP messages. We also realized that by taking an ecosystem-based approach, it's challenging to identify existing species-specific BMPs that meet our needs.
6. **What's next?:** Shaylyn will continue to work on BMP messaging for the priority landholder lists.
7. **Anything else you would like to add?:**
8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** February 20, 2026
9. **For more information, contact:** Shaylyn Wallace - shaylyn.wallace@gnb.ca
10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):** [Riparian and Shoreline Target Google Drive - Wolastoq Priority Place](#)



Caption: Roundtable of existing actions in riparian areas at the first Wolastoq Priority Place Riparian and Shoreline workshop at the Unity Community Centre in Fredericton, September 2023

Land Stewardship

1. **Working Group Name** : Land Stewardship Working Group
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?:** Sharing resources, ideas and initiatives related to private land stewardship (recommendations, agreements, outreach practices, etc.)
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:**
 - Shared what each organization does
 - Inventoried resources and shared them with the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners (posted them in their online library)
 - Discussed how to coordinate services between groups
 - Provided input for a provincial survey of woodlot owners
 - Collaborated on the creation of some BMP resources (some groups)
 - Created a joint funding proposal (some groups)
 - Collaborated on the Private Protected Areas Program (some groups)
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:**
 - It was valuable to bridge the gap between conservation organizations and woodlot management organizations (e.g., marketing boards) - the participation of several marketing boards and the Federation of Woodlot Owners was very useful - their insights into conservation and outreach planning were very useful
 - It was surprising in 2026 to look back at the minutes from the initial meetings and to see how much progress was made on a number of topics
5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?**
 - Sharing resources and plans between organizations is critical to making progress. The networks created through Priority Place partnerships have been hugely beneficial and will continue to further the work of integrating conservation of species at risk into land management.
6. **What's next?:**
 - Forest extension pilot through marketing boards - hoping to support this and factor in species at risk
 - Anticipate continuing collaborations through other mechanisms
 - Not really a need to continue as a working group, since several of the other working groups cover many of the same topics. But this same group of organizations will continue to interact.
7. **Anything else you would like to add?:**
8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** March 17, 2026
9. **For more information, contact:** Kate Turner - kate.turner@ntnb.org
10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):**

Please submit 1 picture that complements your experience. Write a caption in the text document. Include photographer credits or a description of the photo, in the caption.



Meeting of the 3 working groups (Land Stewardship, AHF and Riparian Ecosystems) in Fredericton, March 2025.

Appalachian Hardwood Forest

1. **Working Group Name** : Appalachian Hardwood Forest (AHF) Working Group
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?:** Need for planned and driven engagement with the public and farmers regarding AHF conservation and how to prevent the loss of more habitat given its limited existence.
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:**
 - Situation analyses
 - Strategy identification and ranking
 - Discussion of who would take on the top strategies
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:**

The most valuable part of this working group was the connections made between local groups and conservation-minded landholders. These connections helped guide the situation analysis and strategy creation based on real obstacles both of these groups have encountered working with farmers and Appalachian hardwood forest. The working

group also noted the need for forest extension services to support conservation of sensitive habitats and collaboration among conservation, forestry, and other local groups.

5. Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?

Resource sharing is key to landholder engagement and conservation of sensitive habitats on private land, especially habitats like Appalachian Hardwood Forest that only has 1% remaining across the province and is located in a very specific region. Many strategies were noted that would need to take place at a federal or provincial level including increases in monetary incentives to farmers, regulation changes, and many more.

6. What's next?:

- Using the AHF rapid assessment tool to analyze restoration feasibility on Nature Trust and Conservation Partner sites

7. Anything else you would like to add?:

8. Date of most recent or next meeting: February 26, 2026

9. For more information, contact: Ilana Urquhart - ilana.urquhart@ntnb.org

10. Hyperlink (if applicable):

[The Appalachian Hardwood Forest: What makes it special? — Nature Trust of New Brunswick](#)



AHF working group on a tour of Bell Forest in spring of 2024, a protected Appalachian hardwood forest site owned by the Meduxnekeag River Association.

Wolastoq Agroecosystem

1. **Working Group Name :** Wolastoq Agroecosystems
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?** Working towards developing and implementing a Species at-risk conservation plan for agricultural areas of the Wolastoq watershed.
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:** We have refined our strategies and continued implementation with over 20 hectares of restoration activity, hundreds of farmers engaged through our programs, and strong partnerships between agricultural partners and conservation groups.
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:** Having the opportunity to pilot new ideas and tools – e.g. Bobolink habitat management, Bobolink habitat suitability, and nutrient analysis tools.
5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?**
6. **What's next?:**

- Nature NB and Nashwaak Watershed Association will continue to engage local farmers and landowners in adopting farming practices that will reduce nutrient inputs and improve the health of the Wolastoq with financial support from the Canada Water Agency.
 - Nature NB will continue facilitating the team hosting one in person field day each fall, and one team meeting (virtually) in the winter, as well as the Bobolink Working Group.
7. **Anything else you would like to add?:**
 8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** March 10, 2026
 9. **For more information, contact:** Adam Cheeseman - adam.cheeseman@naturenb.ca
 10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):** www.naturenb.ca/agriculture

Please submit 1 picture that complements your experience. Write a caption in the text document. Include photographer credits or a description of the photo, in the caption.

Restoration

1. **Working Group Name :**
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?**
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:**
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:**
5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?**
6. **What's next?:**
7. **Anything else you would like to add?:**
8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** February 4, 2026
9. **For more information, contact:** Lauren Stead - lstead@wwfcanada.org
10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):**

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Atlantic Canada Bank Swallow Working Group

1. **Working Group Name :** Atlantic Canada Bank Swallow Working Group
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?**
As a threatened species in Canada, many organizations were individually working on Bank Swallow conservation. The goal of the working group is to bring organizations together to create standardized outreach, monitoring protocols, and conservation goals. We hope this will lead to communities working together in the pursuit of Bank Swallow-filled skies and healthy habitats for generations to come.
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:**
The Working Group is Atlantic wide. These numbers are for all of the Atlantic.

- Updated or pit and quarry theory of change
 - Created 79 new routes for monitoring potential nesting habitat
 - Created and tested a new monitoring protocol for Bank Swallow roost sites
 - Monitored 322 routes and 368 colonies
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:**
The most valuable part is getting feedback, ideas, and expert knowledge from such a variety of people. We have folks who focus on rivers, folks who focus on coasts, folks who focus on aggregate pits, and we all come together for Bank Swallows
 5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?**
Sharing mistakes and learning from them is an important part of the process.
 6. **What's next?:**
Continue with conservation standards planning to continuously improve our methods and messages to the public.
 7. **Anything else you would like to add?:**
 8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** February 26, 2026 Next meeting is March 26, 2026
 9. **For more information, contact:** Heather Polowyk - hpolowyk@birdscanada.org
 10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):** <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/atlantic-bank-swallow>

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SAR Habitat Modelling Community of Practice

1. **Working Group Name :** Atlantic Canada Species At Risk Habitat Modelling Community of Practice
2. **What was the need or purpose that brought you together?**
Our goals were to facilitate data sharing processes, develop a set of modelling best practices through FAQs, and bring the Atlantic Canada SAR modelling community together via monthly meetings.
3. **What did you accomplish as a group?:** We developed a series of resources for SAR modellers, including a [data catalogue](#), [modelling best practices FAQs](#), and a summary of [existing external modelling resources](#). We also hosted a [Species Distribution Modelling workshop in 2023](#) and [15 speakers](#) for our monthly meetings. Our [blog](#) highlights some of the models developed throughout the course of the project.
4. **What part of the working group was the most valuable? OR Tell us about a surprising or unexpected experience:** Frequent connection with modelling practitioners improved collaboration in the region, increased AC CDC data submissions and literacy, and offered great learning opportunities for all participants.
5. **Are there any lessons learned you would like to share with other WPP Partners?** [Atlantic Canada Species At Risk Modelling Data Catalogue | Data Sharing Challenges](#)

6. **What's next?:** Exploring ways to merge this community of practice with other habitat modelling groups in Canada and streamline our resources onto a new website.
7. **Anything else you would like to add?:** We would like to thank all participants for being part of this initiative, ECCC, and our two facilitators Jocelyn Pender and Miranda Frison.
8. **Date of most recent or next meeting:** Tomorrow, March 13th will be our final meeting with speaker Justin Kreller, Nature Conservancy of Canada Weston Family Conservation Fellow.
9. **For more information, contact:** Katie Flowers – kathryn.flowers@accdc.ca
10. **Hyperlink (if applicable):** <https://atlantichabitatmodels.github.io/communityofpractice/>

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