

Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)

Given the very specific conditions found in Sudbury, it is useful to have information about local plants, fish and animals. We cannot look at everything in an area this large, so we have selected a number of species (VECs) that represent a general cross-section of the natural ecosystem.

List of candidate VECs

Obtained from public input at open houses, discussions with local environmental and naturalist groups, and reviews of previous studies in the Greater Sudbury area.



Screened against the following:

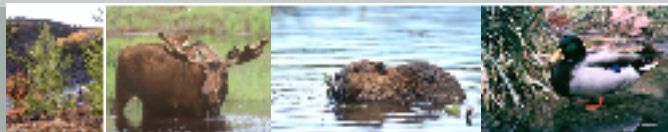
1. Has the species been given special protection status (threatened or endangered species, for example)?
2. Has the species been identified as important to the residents of the Sudbury area or is there a link to human health concerns?
3. Does the species represent an important part of the food chain, or provide habitat for other species in the area?
4. Is the species exposed to the Chemicals of Concern (CoCs) in the study area?
5. Is there information on local populations?



This process identified the following VECs for the Sudbury Soils Study:

Common Loon
Mallard Duck
American Robin
Peregrine Falcon
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)
Forest communities
Red fox
Soil dwelling invertebrate communities (e.g., earthworms)

American beaver
White-tailed deer
Mink
Meadow vole
Northern Short-tailed shrew
Blueberries
Moose



Note: The ecological risk assessment for the Sudbury Soils Study is focusing on terrestrial ecosystems. Aquatic plants and animals will be considered separately.