

MIDDLE NOTTAWASAGA RIVER SUBWATERSHED

Health Check 2023

Adjala-Tosorontio | Bradford West Gwillimbury | Caledon |
CFB Borden | Essa | Innisfil | Mono | New Tecumseth



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is your public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment. As your partner, the NVCA provides the expertise to help protect our water, our land, our future.



WHAT IS A SUBWATERSHED HEALTH CHECK?

NVCA's 2023 Subwatershed Health Checks provide an overview of forests, wetlands, stream and groundwater health across the NVCA watershed between 2017 - 2021. They also identify stewardship priorities, future challenges and opportunities to improve environmental health.

Watershed health checks were completed for all nine of NVCA's subwatersheds in 2023, and are produced every five years. Our science monitoring staff collects samples from forests, wetlands, streams and groundwater for data analysis. Our stewardship staff uses this information to determine the success of past restoration projects and areas in need of improvement.

NVCA began producing Subwatershed Report Cards in 2007. In 2013, they were renamed to Watershed Health Checks in an effort to differentiate these reports from Conservation Ontario's province-wide Watershed Report Cards.

What is a subwatershed?

A subwatershed is a smaller watershed within a larger basin. The water from the subwatershed contributes to a stream connected to the main river. In the NVCA watershed, this river is the Nottawasaga River. Everything in a subwatershed is connected, meaning our actions upstream can affect conditions downstream.

Nottawasaga Valley Watershed's nine subwatersheds

Blue Mountains
Subwatershed

Middle Nottawasaga
River Subwatershed

Boyne River
Subwatershed

Pine River
Subwatershed

Innisfil Creek
Subwatershed

Upper Nottawasaga
River Subwatershed

Lower Nottawasaga
River Subwatershed

Willow Creek
Subwatershed

Mad River
Subwatershed



WHAT WE MEASURED

We measured the status and health of the forests, wetlands, streams and groundwater in each subwatershed. We also reported the number of stewardship projects that were completed from 2002 to 2021.



Forest Conditions



Wetland Conditions



Stream Health



Groundwater Quality



Watershed Stewardship

Why Measure?

Measuring helps us better understand our watershed. With this information, we can better target where planning and restoration is needed and track progress of watershed conditions.

OUR GRADING SYSTEM

VERY GOOD	An environment that is at or close to natural conditions
GOOD	An environment close to natural conditions with minor disturbance
FAIR	A disturbed environment
POOR	A highly disturbed environment
VERY POOR	An environment that lacks natural features
NO DATA	Not enough data to make a conclusion

WHERE ARE WE?



ABOUT THE MIDDLE NOTTAWASAGA RIVER SUBWATERSHED

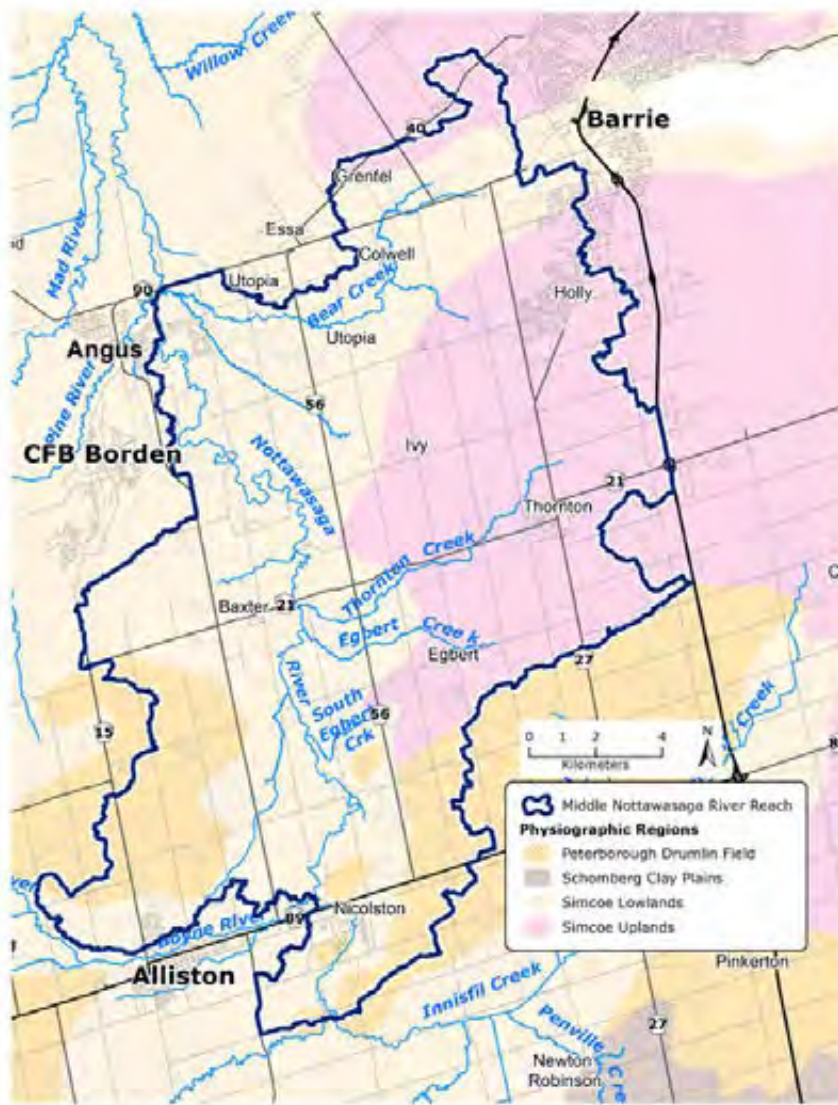
The Middle Nottawasaga River extends from the river confluence with Innisfil Creek (southeast of Alliston) downstream to Angus. Downstream of the Nicolston dam, the river flows through a steep, narrow, well-forested valley that cuts through the sand plains of the Simcoe Lowlands. The Boyne River, Pine River and Innisfil Creek enter the Nottawasaga River through this section.

Lands next to the valley are typically well-drained and support extensive potato and sod farms. Lands further away from the deep valley are generally imperfectly drained and support large tracts of lowland and swamp forest.

Bear Creek emerges along the steep slopes of the Algonquin Bluffs south of Ardagh Road in Barrie. The rollicking springs combine and slow as they enter a series of wetlands, which extend into Essa Township. The creek flows downstream through the Tiffin Centre for Conservation and over the dam at

the Utopia Conservation Area before discharging to the Nottawasaga River at County Road 90 in Angus.

Thornton Creek and Egbert Creek originate near Thornton, flowing through deep, narrow, forested valleys before entering more extensive forest and swamp cover and then downstream to the Nottawasaga River. South Egbert Creek is a smaller system, arising just south of Egbert. It flows through agricultural lands before entering a forested valley as it nears the river.





FOREST CONDITIONS

Status: Fair

Trend: Declining

Forest cover in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed is moderately healthy, but varies by area. Large forests provide significant habitat for wildlife species that require forest interior habitat (deep, undisturbed forests) to thrive.

Sparse forest cover is found on the extensive agricultural lands of the Simcoe Uplands and well-drained portions of the Simcoe Lowlands. Larger forests are found along the Algonquin Bluffs and adjacent bottomlands, forming an arc of forest cover extending from Barrie through Colwell to just east of Baxter. A large swamp forest extends into the southeast corner of CFB Borden. Long but relatively narrow forests extend along the valley systems of the Nottawasaga River, Bear Creek, Thornton Creek and Egbert Creek.

The Algonquin Bluffs provide diverse forest habitats ranging from dry oak stands near the top of the bluffs to dense coniferous/mixed swamps fed by groundwater discharge along the base of the bluffs.

The interconnected habitats within this large forested area support a wide range of native plants and animals. Rare prairie-savannah habitats are occasionally associated with open oak woodlands.

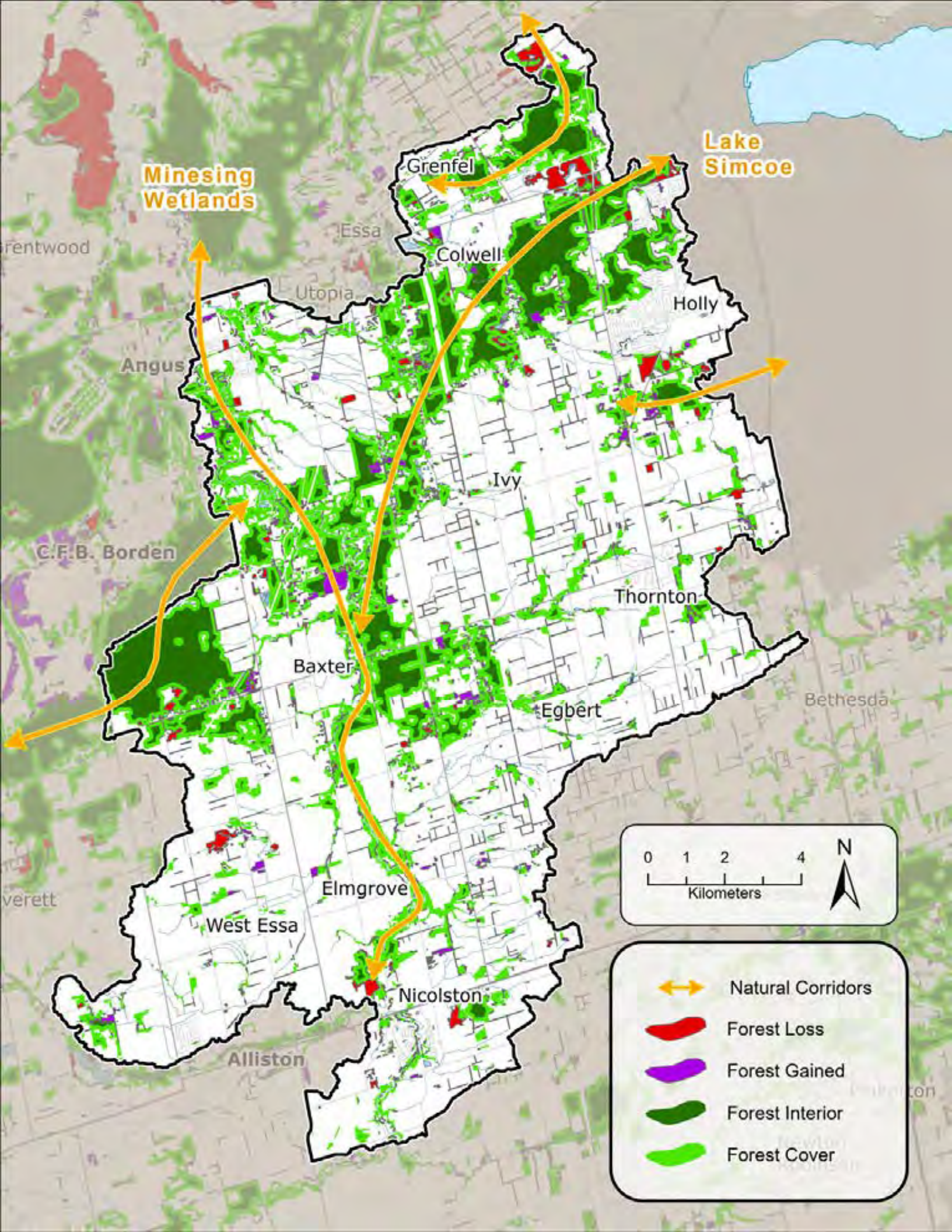
As shown with orange arrows in the map, forests in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed provide important natural connections to the Minesing Wetlands and to the Willow Creek subwatershed. Headwater forests south of Holly are connected to the Lovers Creek subwatershed in the Lake Simcoe watershed. The Algonquin Bluffs and Nottawasaga River forests are linked to a significant provincial-scale natural corridor. This corridor extends northeast from the Niagara Escarpment to the south edge of the Canadian Shield. You can see parts of the Canadian Shield as you're driving along Highway 11 north of Orillia into cottage country.

Subwatershed forest conditions are Fair and are in decline. Forest cover decreased by 3.5% (284.1 ha) between 2008 and 2018. Forest interior decreased by 2.5% (60.5 ha) over this time period.

Indicators	Middle Nottawasaga River Subwatershed	NVCA Watershed	Indicator Description	Trend (2008-2018)
Forest Cover	26.6% (7,904 ha)	32.2%	Forest cover is the percentage of the watershed that is forested. Environment Canada suggests that 30% forest cover is the minimum needed to support healthy wildlife habitat; more coverage is beneficial.	-284.1 ha (-3.5%)
Forest Interior	7.9% (2,353 ha)	10.2%	Forest interior is the area of forest that lies more than 100 m from a forest edge – away from the windy, dry conditions and predators that are associated with the edge. Sensitive forest birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians require deep forest habitat for survival. Environment Canada suggests that 10% forest interior cover is the minimum needed to support a range of species.	-60.5 ha (-2.5%)
Riparian Cover	58.8% (1,585 ha)	68%	Streamside vegetation (riparian cover) filters pollutants and provides important fish and wildlife habitat. Environment Canada suggests that at least 30 m on each side of the stream (over 75% of its length) should be in natural cover to support healthy streams.	Insufficient data

Rating Scale:

VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	NO DATA
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WETLAND CONDITIONS

Status: Good
Trend: Declining

Wetlands play an important role in the ecological health of a subwatershed. They improve water quality by filtering runoff from agricultural and urban areas. Wetlands control flooding, reduce erosion and help maintain stream flows during dry periods by holding back water on the landscape. The wetland swamps, marshes and fens (an open wetland dominated by low shrubs, ferns, sedges and grasses) in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed provide habitat for a rich variety of plants and animals. Many animals that live in wetlands also depend on nearby upland habitats for nesting, foraging and hibernation.

Wetland conditions in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed meet Environment Canada's wetland habitat guidelines and are considered generally healthy. However, historical wetland loss has been significant. Data from Ducks Unlimited Canada indicate historical wetland loss of 38.8% within the subwatershed (1800 to 2002). From 2002 to 2016, an additional net wetland loss of 3.7% (139.3 ha) occurred.

Based on satellite photo interpretation, between 2016 and 2018 there was a net wetland loss of 13.9 hectares (ha). This represents a 0.3% decrease in wetland cover since 2016.

Wetland gains (9.5 ha) were associated with natural regeneration in low-lying areas. Wetland loss (23.4 ha) was associated with urban development and agricultural conversion.

Wetlands and lowland forests extend in an arc along the base of the Algonquin Bluffs from the Bear Creek Wetland through Tiffin Swamp to Baxter Swamp.

The East Borden Swamp extends into the southeast corner of CFB Borden. A smaller evaluated wetland grouping (Thornton Swamp) is connected to the mid-sections of Thornton and Egbert Creeks. Throughout the agricultural portions of the subwatershed, wetlands tend to be small and relatively isolated.

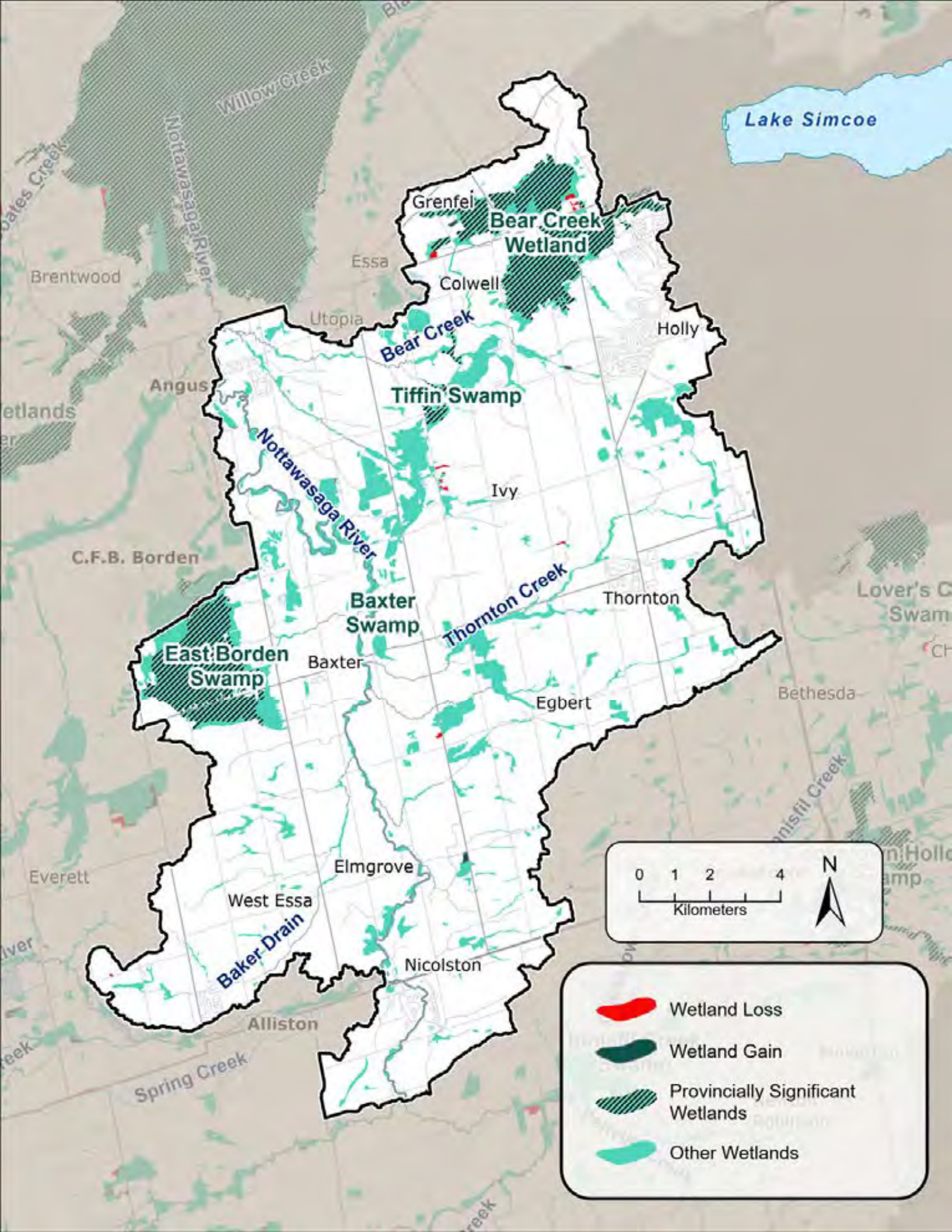
Mixed and coniferous swamps associated with the East Borden Swamp, Bear Creek Wetland and Baxter Swamp provide important winter habitat for deer. A regionally rare fen is found in the headwaters of Thornton Creek.

Three groups of wetlands have been evaluated as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry: Bear Creek Wetland Complex, Tiffin Swamp Complex and East Borden Swamp Complex. Provincial and municipal planning policies help protect these wetlands from development and site alteration. Large, unevaluated wetlands are present in the City of Barrie, south of Holly.

Indicators	Middle Nottawasaga River Subwatershed	NVCA Watershed	Indicator Description	Trend (2016-2018)
Wetland Cover	13.6% (4,038 ha)	14.5%	10% wetland cover has been identified as a minimum guideline for healthy watersheds (Environment Canada).	-13.9 ha (-0.3%)
Wetland Buffer (100m buffer area)	47.5% (2,280 ha)	49.6%	A buffer is a vegetated area next to a wetland or stream. Many wetland wildlife species require nearby upland areas for foraging, nesting and other activities. Only forest cover was available for buffer assessment through the 2018 Watershed Health Check.	Insufficient Data

Rating Scale:

VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	NO DATA
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STREAM HEALTH

Status: Poor

Trend: Declining

Stream health is determined by testing water chemistry and evaluating the health of benthic macroinvertebrates (water bugs). They are categorized as Unimpaired (very healthy), Below Potential (moderate health) and Impaired (very poor health). Final grades are determined by merging these two factors.

Stream health in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed ranges from Unimpaired to Impaired. The Nottawasaga River supports pike and bass and provides a migratory corridor for rainbow trout and Chinook salmon, which swim upstream over the Nicolston Dam on their way to prime spawning grounds. Lake Sturgeon (an endangered species) spawn in the river. Bear Creek, Thornton Creek and Egbert Creek also provide productive trout habitat.

The middle portion of the Nottawasaga River is Impaired primarily due to the significant release of nutrient and sediment from Innisfil Creek. The large stagnant head pond held back by the Nicolston dam also contributes to Impaired conditions by promoting algae growth and reducing oxygen levels. Downstream of Nicolston, conditions of the Nottawasaga River remain Impaired as nutrient and sediment from farmlands and development across the subwatershed feed into the river system. A partner study with McMaster University confirmed that the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed is Impaired with short localized improvements in areas with shallow, rocky riffle environments.

The formerly healthy spring-fed headwaters of Bear Creek have been downgraded from Unimpaired to Below Potential/Impaired as this area of Barrie continues to undergo urban development. Only one of the five headwater branches continue to provide trout habitat as temperatures rise in the creek. Downstream from Barrie, stream health in Bear Creek ranges from Below Potential to Impaired due to pollution and sediments flowing from roads, farms and residential land uses. The Utopia Conservation Area reservoir continues to impact Bear Creek and stream health is considered Impaired downstream to the Nottawasaga River.

Other Middle Nottawasaga tributaries originate in rural agricultural landscapes and stream health ranges from Below Potential to Impaired. As the tributaries approach the Nottawasaga River, they cut into deep, forested valley systems picking up groundwater discharge (springs) resulting in stream health improvements.

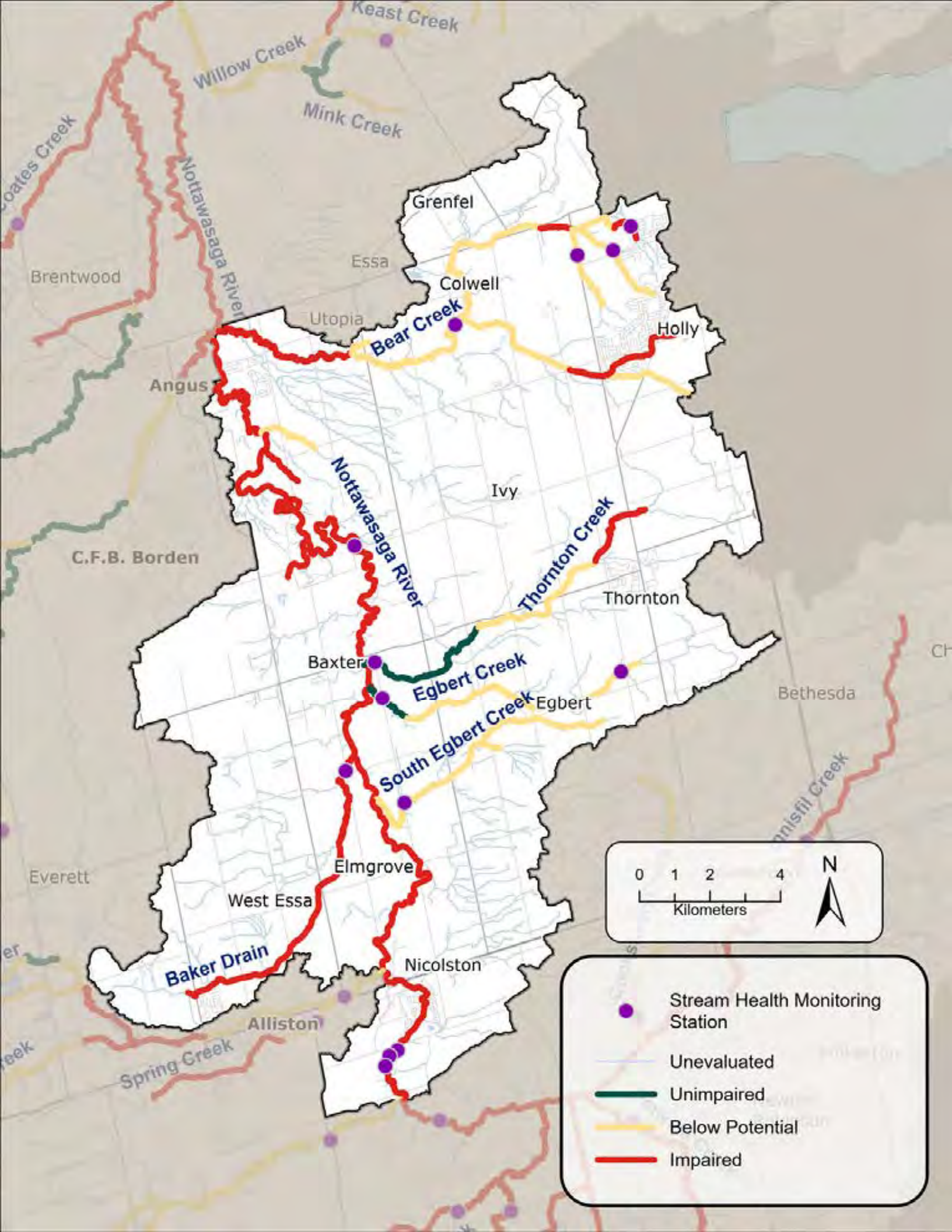
Nutrient concentrations (total phosphorus) are high in the Nottawasaga River, largely due to inputs from Innisfil Creek, but nutrient levels are generally below the provincial phosphorus objective.

The overall stream health grade has remained unchanged since the 2013 Health Check. The 2023 Watershed Health Check assessed 28% of the river length in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed, down from 29% in 2013.

Indicators	Middle Nottawasaga River Subwatershed	Indicator Description	Indicator Trend (2012-2021)
Benthic Grade	1.52	Insects and other “bugs” that inhabit the streambed are excellent indicators of stream health. Healthy streams receive a score of “3” while unhealthy streams receive a score of “1”.	Declining
Total Phosphorus (low flow; mg/L)	0.023	Total phosphorus indicates nutrient levels within a stream. Our healthiest streams have levels less than 0.01 mg/L during low flow conditions. Middle Nottawasaga River range in all conditions: 0.011—0.547 mg/L. Provincial Water Quality Guidelines suggest that levels greater than 0.03 mg/L result in unhealthy stream conditions.	Declining

Rating Scale:

VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	NO DATA
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GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Data availability:
13 of 14 years
(2008-2021)

Status: Very Good

Groundwater is water that is stored underground in soils and bedrock fractures. When it rains or when snow melts, water absorbs into the ground, eventually feeding local streams and wetlands or filter down into aquifers. Aquifers may be separated into different layers. Sediments that are relatively impermeable, such as clay and silt, offer protection by limiting the amount of water to flow into the aquifer. This layer is called an aquitard. Aquifers located below aquitards are preferred drinking water sources.

It is important to keep contaminants out of groundwater because it supports a variety of uses including municipal and private water supplies, agricultural irrigation, and is a source for rivers and streams. Contaminants can come from both urban and rural areas. Chloride and nitrate are used as indicators for groundwater quality. In urban areas, groundwater is susceptible to chloride due to excessive application of winter salt on roads and parking lots. In rural areas, nitrate in groundwater can be due to excessive and improper use of crop fertilizers.

Staff from NVCA and the Province of Ontario have been working with municipalities, communities, and individual residents to reduce the potential for groundwater contamination. For opportunities to reduce these contaminants, please refer to the Watershed Stewardship section.

In the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed, there are 11 municipal wells providing drinking water to residents. Through the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, NVCA monitors water levels and water quality at five PGMN wells in this subwatershed. Groundwater monitoring began in 2003 and sampling has been conducted annually since 2008, allowing NVCA to track changes in groundwater levels and quality over time.

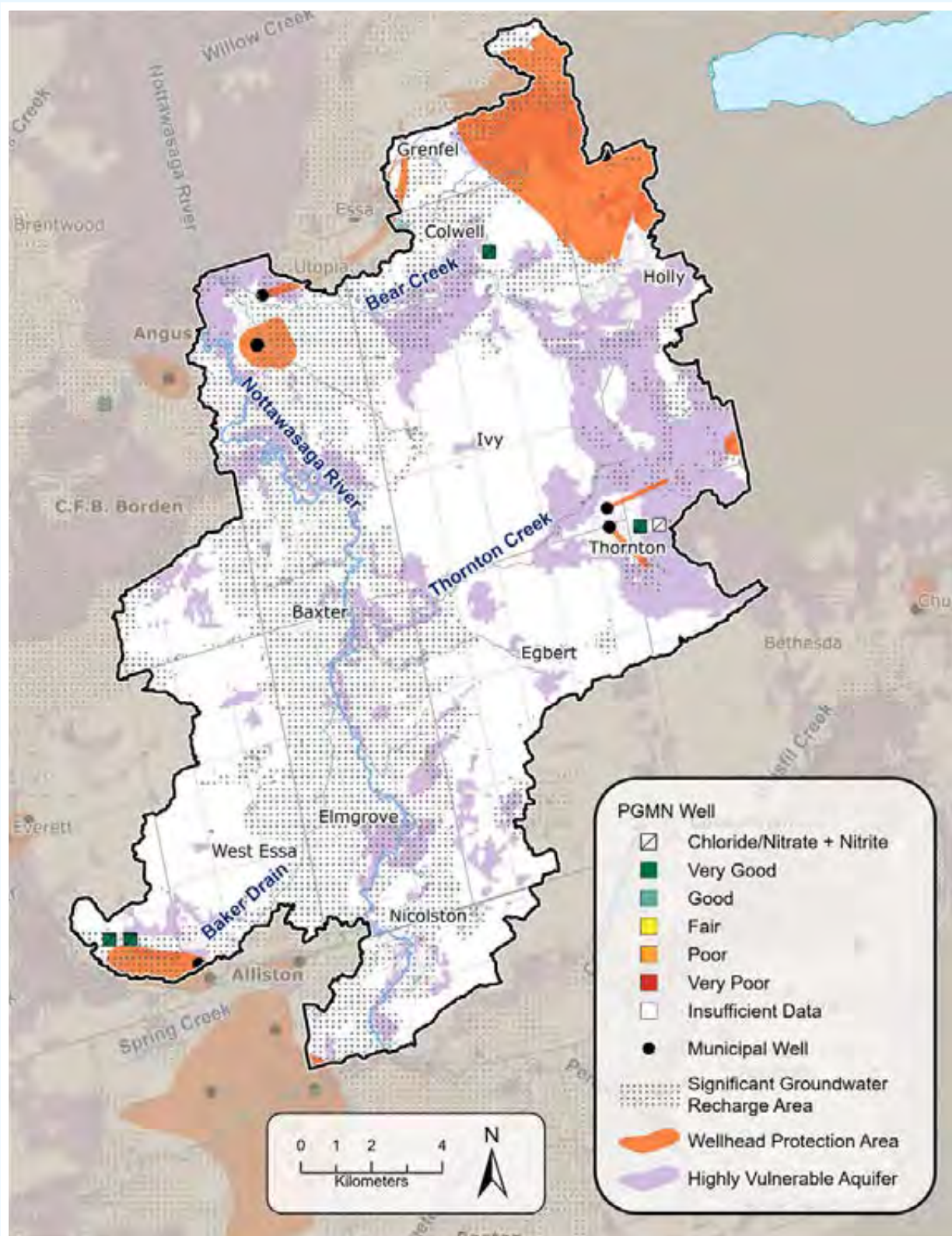
Results indicate that the PGMN monitoring wells meet Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. NVCA requires additional data to interpret trends in groundwater quality at the sampled wells. Since some wells are deeper than others and water chemistry differs from one aquifer to the other, individual samples do not necessarily reflect the broader groundwater quality in the area.

Indicators	Shallow Wells (0-20m)	Intermediate Wells (21-60 m)	Deep Wells (>60m)	Indicator Description
Number of PGMN wells	1	2	2	
Chloride (mg/L)	36.9	10.6	6.2	The Ontario guideline for chlorides in drinking water is 250 mg/L and is based on aesthetic objectives. Drinking water should not exceed this level.
Nitrite & Nitrate (mg/L)	0.2	1.2	0.1	The Ontario standard for nitrite and nitrate is 10 mg/L and is based on the maximum allowable concentration. Drinking water should not exceed this level.

Results reflect health at the well and should not replace testing at private wells.

Rating Scale:

VERY GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	VERY POOR	NO DATA
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Ontario's Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Focuses on protecting municipal drinking water sources, including:

Wellhead Protection Areas

areas that contribute water to municipal wells,

Highly Vulnerable Aquifers areas where groundwater is close to ground surface

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas

areas which feed the aquifers.



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP



What is Watershed Stewardship?

Watershed Stewardship and Restoration is the responsible and sustainable care of our natural resources and wildlife within a watershed.

Protecting what we have, and enhancing and restoring where possible helps the environment, and protects human uses as well. As caretakers of our environment, we all need to implement stewardship practices that protect and restore natural resources.

We all depend on good stewardship of private and public lands to achieve healthy waters and sustainable ecosystems. With almost 96% of land in our watersheds privately owned, residents can play a critical role.

Landowner Grant Assistance

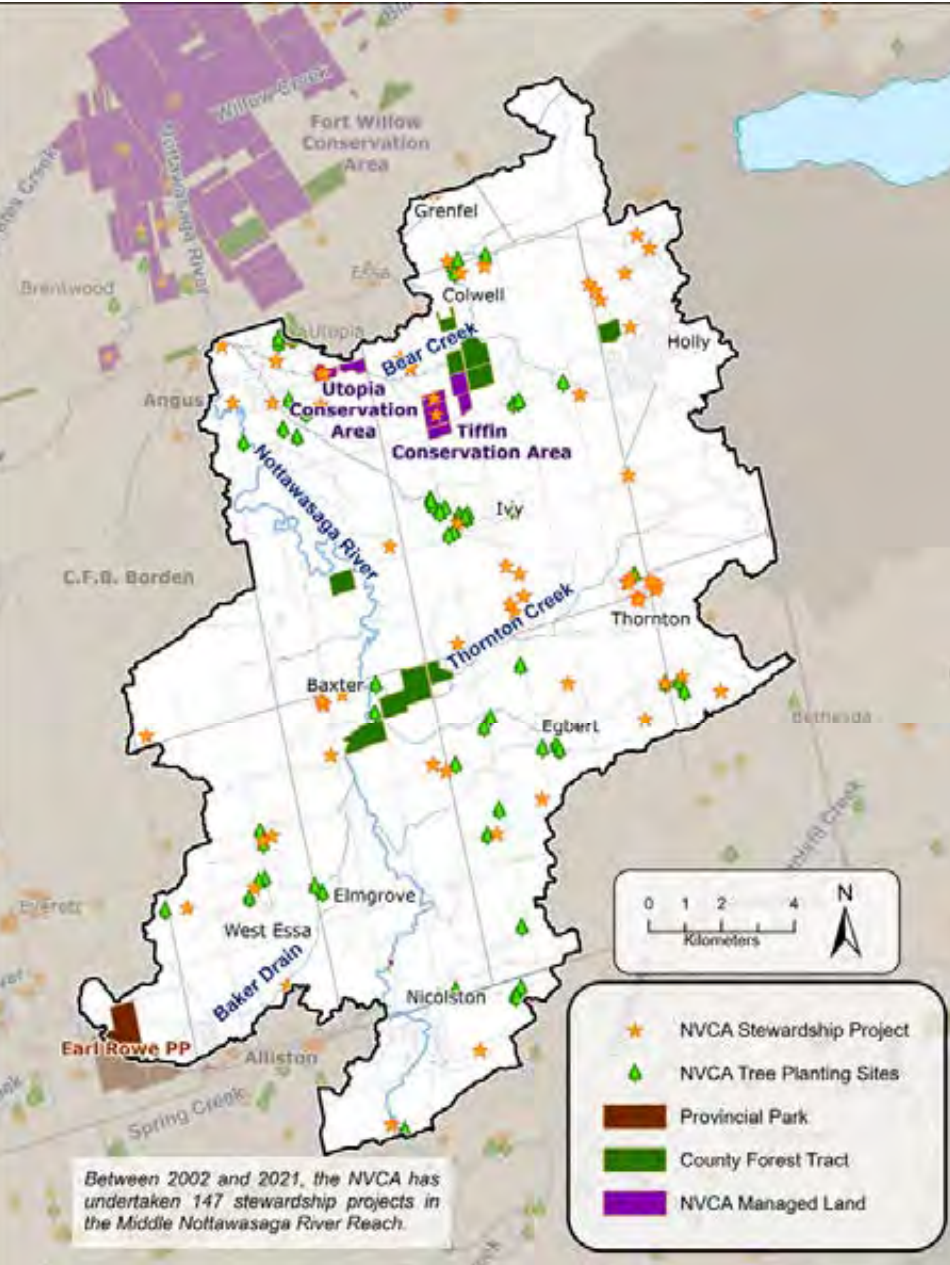
To assist landowners with protecting the environment, NVCA's Stewardship and Forestry Programs provide technical assistance and a range of grant incentives to help offset the cost of projects on private property.

Grant rates range from 25% to 100% of eligible project costs.

**To discuss your
land management and
stewardship goals**

**Call us at
705-424-1479**





Forestry Program

NVCA's Forestry Program provides trees, planting services and forest management advice for landowners throughout the watershed. Between 2002 and 2021, more than 2.3 million trees have been planted on 669 properties, reforesting 1,384 hectares of land in the NVCA watershed. These future forests will help to moderate the effects of both drought and flooding, reduce soil erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality and groundwater recharge, and mitigate climate change.

Healthy Waters Program

NVCA's Healthy Waters Program provides landowners with free site visits, technical and financial support for eligible projects, such as tree planting, well decommissioning, stream bank stabilization, exclusion of livestock from streams and wetlands, prevention of manure runoff and nutrient management. From 2002 to 2021, landowners in the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed have undertaken 147 stewardship projects on their properties through the support of this program. These projects have improved water quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, protected species at risk, and prevented toxic algae blooms & fish kills.





WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

RESTORATION PRIORITIES

Each subwatershed in the Nottawasaga Valley encompasses unique landforms and land uses. As a result, restoration priorities differ across subwatersheds to their local needs. Healthy waters depend on a healthy watershed; the lands that drain into them.

Engaging landowners, farmers and volunteers in voluntary, hands-on stewardship projects to restore and protect natural infrastructure creates climate resilient landscapes and communities. Habitat

restoration of wetlands, rivers, forests, native grasslands and certain farming practices help create carbon-rich, 'spongy' soils. Healthy soils increase flood attenuation, drought resilience, and reduce pollution-runoff. Other benefits include including reduced water pollution and maintaining cool river temperatures.

The implementation of the restoration priorities would not be possible without support from our partners including local municipalities, environmental groups, landowners and funders.

Restoration Priorities for the Middle Nottawasaga Subwatershed

1. Improve water quality downstream of Hwy 89 by working with local landowners and government agencies to explore opportunities to manage the Nicolston Dam and its head pond at a lower water control elevation.
2. Improve stream health and enhance brook trout habitat in Bear Creek by re-aligning the creek out of the road-side ditch along County Road 27 into adjacent forested lands.
3. Reduce flooding by increasing soil infiltration rates across the watershed by increasing natural vegetation cover, protecting and restoring wetlands, encouraging farm soil health practices, and adopting low impact development techniques in urban areas.
4. Reduce soil erosion and runoff of nutrients (e.g. phosphorus) and fecal bacteria, to protect streams, lakes and groundwater through agricultural stewardship practices, streambank stabilization and good septic care, particularly along the tributaries streams feeding the Nottawasaga River.
5. Improve bank stability and water quality by creating natural stream buffers, planting stream-side with native trees, shrubs and meadows, and wetlands to filter agriculture runoff, particularly along the tributaries streams feeding the Nottawasaga River.
6. Improve resilience to extreme erosive storm events and water quality by constructing floodplain shelves, rock bottom habitats and meanders in sections of altered stream channel to promote rapid drainage.

During (2017)

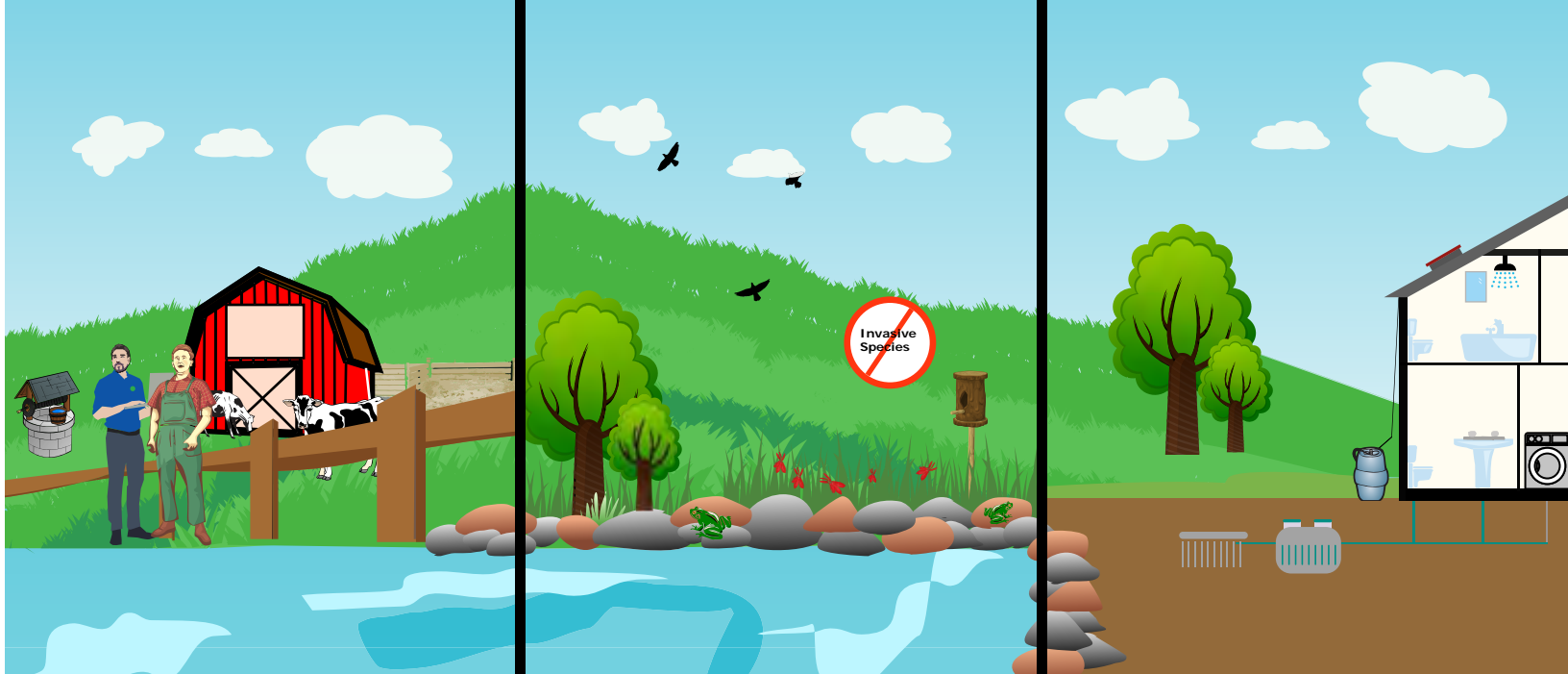


After (2017)



An example of projects to improve water quality in the Middle Nottawasaga subwatershed

Clean water diversion from livestock yards and manure storages to protect drinking water sources, streams and lakes



HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Farm Stewardship

- Upgrade manure storages; divert clean water from barnyards with eaves and berms
- Improve stream health by fencing out livestock
- Buffer streams from cropland and pasture (5-30m)
- Reduce soil erosion through conservation tillage, residue management and cover crops
- Reduce nutrient runoff and save money by implementing nutrient management planning
- Use water conservation measures and work with neighbours to coordinate water takings
- Urban Stewardship
- Conserve water in the home – install low flow toilets and showerheads; and in the garden with rain barrels, mulch and rain gardens
- Reduce use of fertilizers
- Don't pour anything down storm drains as these drains flow untreated into rivers and lakes
- Plant neighbourhood trees to moderate the effect of extreme heat and enhance urban spaces
- Support Low Impact Development to increase groundwater recharge and reduce urban flooding

Habitat Restoration

- Protect and create stream and wetland buffers
- Plant natural vegetation between the water and adjacent land use practices
- Stabilize eroding stream banks
- Plant native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses to support birds, pollinators and wildlife
- Learn to identify, safely remove and reduce spread of invasive species

Drinking Water Protection

- Decommission unused wells to prevent surface contaminants from reaching groundwater unfiltered
- Test your well for bacteria at least 3 times per year (your local health unit provides free testing)
- Regularly service your septic system (every 2-5 years) and avoid using cleaning products (like bleach) that kills the beneficial bacteria, on which your sewage treatment depends
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste and pharmaceuticals
- Clean debris from around your well and ensure the lid is vermin proof
- Reduce micro-plastic contamination by installing a filter on you laundry machine

NVCA'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NVCA's Environmental Education Program has been delivering high-quality programming for over 40 years. During 2009-2022, we have collectively interacted with more than 132,000 students whom have visited us at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, or we have been invited to visit school yards and green spaces to deliver outdoor programming within their communities.

Our current inventory of over 40 different programs cover topics of Science and Technology, Art, Cultural History, Geography, Survival Skills and Outdoor Recreation which increasingly incorporates Indigenous ways of knowing. Further, the NVCA Education Program has always kept step with provincial curriculum while addressing real time environmental issues, opportunities and solutions.

As such, the most recent program developments have included a climate change program for elementary students, and will soon include one for secondary schools.

We hire professionals from a wide variety of expertise including Ontario College of Teachers educators, and graduates from science, environmental studies, music, art and recreation, creating a team rich in diverse skills, abilities and knowledge. This enables NVCA to provide watershed students with the best knowledge and opportunities from the most qualified educator for the subject.

‘Fostering a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world through experiential learning and outdoor exploration’



PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT

NVCA's land acquisition program focuses on strategic land securement for the long-term protection of natural features and functions. These properties also provide valuable recreational opportunities to watershed residents. NVCA manages three properties within the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed totaling 168 ha.

County Forests are managed for a variety of environmental, social and economic purposes. There are six Simcoe County Forest tracts, totaling 427 ha within the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed.

Ontario Parks' mandate is "to protect significant natural and cultural resources in a system of parks and protected areas that is sustainable and provides opportunities for inspiration, enjoyment and education: now and for future generations." Ontario Parks manages one park areas (119 ha) within this subwatershed.

Many local municipalities also acquire and manage lands in the public trust.

IMPROVE YOUR ECOHEALTH IN OUR CONSERVATION AREAS

Natural areas clean our air, protect our water and can have a moderating effect on extreme weather. New research indicates that spending time in nature also provides important benefits that support mental health and emotional well-being.

NVCA owns and manages over 5,000 ha of land in the Nottawasaga River watershed, including 11 conservation areas with opportunities to hike, paddle, and fish. Here are some highlights of our conservation areas (in this sub-watershed?).

Tiffin Centre for Conservation (in this subwatershed)

Located between Barrie and Angus, the Tiffin Conservation Area is home to NVCA's John Hix Conservation Administration Centre, and home to our Environmental Education Program. There are approximately 10 km of looped trails that meander through a mixture of wetlands, forests, and open meadows. NVCA manages a portion of the Tiffin Conservation Area on behalf of its partner, Ontario Heritage Trust.

Minesing Wetlands

Minesing Wetlands acts as an important natural flood control reservoir. During periods of high water levels, the wetland fills up with water and slowly releases it into downstream rivers and into Georgian Bay, protecting downstream communities including Wasaga Beach.

In addition to being a flood control mechanism, Minesing Wetlands is recognized as an internationally significant wetland because of its unique plant communities and diverse wildlife. Visitors can paddle, snowshoe or cross-country ski in this conservation area.

Utopia Conservation Area (in this subwatershed)

Utopia Conservation Area is one of the properties NVCA owns within the Middle Nottawasaga River subwatershed. This property is managed in partnership with the Friends of the Utopia Mill and Park. Over the past few years, the 'Friends' have worked on the restoration of the mill and the development of a trail network on the property.

Through Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, NVCA has the responsibility to regulate activities in natural and hazardous areas in order to prevent the loss of life and property due to flooding and erosion, and to conserve and enhance natural resources. For more information, please visit our website at nvca.on.ca.



Did you know...

Land donations to Conservation Authorities may be eligible for tax benefits?

Contact NVCA about leaving a legacy gift of land.



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

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Member of



Conservation
ONTARIO

Thank you to all of our landowners,
community groups, schools, businesses,
municipalities and other government agencies
who support stewardship activities in our
watershed!