

Conservation Authorities Watershed Report Card



95%

Ontario's Conservation Authorities 2023 Watershed Report Cards provide a 'checkup' on the health of many of Ontario's watersheds. They track and report on the surface and groundwater quality as well as the conditions of our forests.

Approximately 95% of Ontario Residents Live in a Watershed Managed by a Conservation Authority.

Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards provide a snapshot of conditions in these watersheds.

36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario

83% of Conservation Authorities are producing Watershed Report Cards
WatershedCheckup.ca

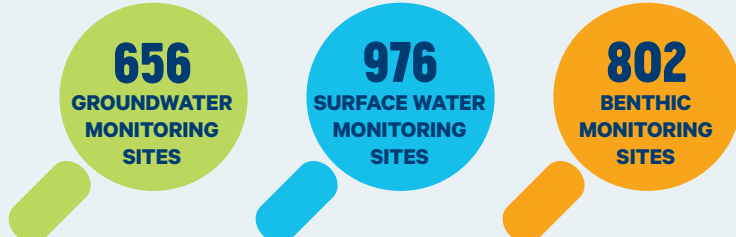
What Are We Monitoring?



Watershed monitoring helps us:

- > To identify issues, project future conditions,
- > Focus natural resource management actions where they are needed most, and track progress over time

Healthy land and water resources ensure safe drinking water and resilient forests, wetlands and wildlife



Conservation Authorities collect data using a combination of their own monitoring sites and information from outside sources and partnerships.

- > Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)
- > Provincial Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network (PGMN)
- > Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)
- > GIS Mapping Data
- > Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System (SOLRIS) MNR
- > Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP)
- > Ontario Base Maps
- > Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- > Other sources: municipalities, Environment Canada

Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards

As a group, conservation authorities have been publishing watershed report cards once every five years since 2013. These report cards are a management and evaluation tool that allow CAs and their partners to better target programs and measure environmental change.

Technological advances, additional resources and regular monitoring and analysis, help conservation authorities to build on their knowledge and understanding of local conditions and how they are changing.

If you would like to learn more, Conservation Ontario's Story Map provides an overview of the results from all the report cards.

StateofOntarioWatersheds.ca

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Homes, farms, cottages, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross municipal, provincial and even international borders. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes and can vary from millions of acres, like the land that drains into the Great lakes, to a few acres that drain into a pond.

Benefits of Healthy Watersheds



BENEFITS

- ✓ Drinking Water
- ✓ Reduced Flood Risk
- ✓ Healthy Soils and Food Security
- ✓ Raw Materials for Industry
- ✓ Recreational Activities
- ✓ Climate Change Adaptation



Climate Change Resilient Environment



Healthy People



Sustainable Economy

Parks Rx

Walking in nature provides actual measurable mental and physical benefits. It can provide stress relief, reduce brain fatigue and improve memory, mood, attention span and physical condition.

Physical Activity in Nature can **Reduce the Risk** of stress and anxiety by

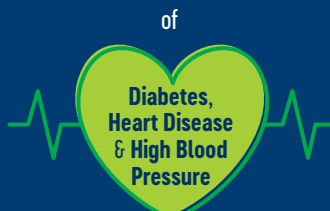


Daily Walks in Nature

Can help to reduce symptoms of **Stress** and **Depression**



Reduced Risk of



Clean, Sustainable Water is Essential

The Great Lakes supply 80% of Ontarians with drinking water.
Over 6 million people visit beaches in Ontario annually spending \$1.6 billion.



Our Food Relies on Healthy Soils

Over half a million earthworms can live in a healthy acre of soil. Earthworms help to improve productivity by creating nutrients and improving drainage.



Keep Cool

Trees, wetlands, greenspaces and other green infrastructure reduce the demand for heating and cooling by reflecting light and heat, releasing water vapour into the air through transpiration and providing shade.



Getting More Done by Collaborating with Others

Conservation Authorities work with Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments, other Agencies and Landowners to:



Protect important natural features and functions



Reduce flood risk



Build resilience to growing climate change impacts

Find Your Report Card at WatershedCheckup.ca

Conservation Authorities: Monitoring & Reporting on Conditions in Ontario Watersheds



Report Cards help us to:

- > Evaluate the state of our environment
- > Target our efforts to improve conditions
- > Track progress on improvements

#WatershedCheckup2023 #StepIntoNature #NaturalChampions