CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES
Partners for a More Resilient Ontario

Conservation ONTARIO

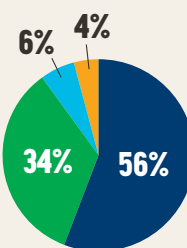## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Protect Ontarians and their property from flooding and erosion hazards. They protect natural areas and open space; restore and protect aquatic and natural habitats and provide recreational and educational opportunities to local residents.

Are governed by a board of municipally appointed members, **80%** of whom are also elected municipal councillors.

Provide science-based advice and services within their watersheds. This includes review of municipal Official Plans and input into the planning processes of the majority of Ontario's municipalities.

More than 13 million people, almost **95% of Ontario's Population**, live in the watersheds managed by Conservation Authorities

95%

FUNDING
- Municipalities **56%**
- Self Generated **34%**
- Provincial **6%**
- Federal **4%**

$67 / Year per Household

PROGRAM SERVICES INCLUDE:
Watershed planning, flood management, flood warnings, stormwater management, conservation areas, habitat restoration, water protection, monitoring watersheds and much, much more.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Conservation Authorities deliver programs and services totaling almost **$390 MILLION ANNUALLY**

AND EMPLOY **3,902** full time, seasonal and part time staff

On the ground delivery agencies in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as landowners and other groups, to deliver community-based, practical solutions to a range of natural resource challenges.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY AGAINST FLOODING

Conservation Authorities manage **$3.8 BILLION** worth of flood control and prevention infrastructure including **900** dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures.

Protect Lives & Prevent more than $150 MILLION/YEAR in flood damages and business disruptions.

Programs and services to prevent and control flooding offered by Conservation Authorities include:
- Monitoring conditions
- Modeling and forecasting flooding
- Issuing of flood warnings
- Regulation of development in flood prone areas
- Providing planning support and advice to municipalities to minimize the impacts of flooding
- Protecting significant ecosystems such as wetlands and forests that help to control flooding
- Educating the public about flooding hazards.

LANDHOLDINGS

Collectively Conservation Authorities are the *second biggest landholders* in Ontario, and own and protect almost

150,000 Hectares INCLUDING:
- Forests
- Wetlands
- Areas of Natural & Scientific Interest
- Recreational Lands
- Natural Heritage
- Cultural Sites
- Land for Floor & Erosion Control

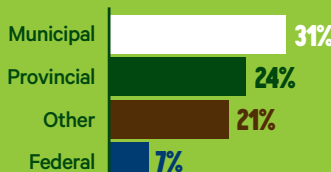## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO BUILD RESILIENCY

Conservation authorities implement activities such as tree planting, agricultural stewardship, rural water quality projects, green infrastructure and habitat restoration activities to improve watershed health and build resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

Tree Planting Programs

2,000,000 Trees Planted with **1,859 Landowners**
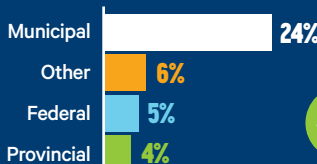
Funding Partnerships
- Municipal 31%
- Provincial 24%
- Other 21%
- Federal 7%

40% of the projects were AGRICULTURAL

Water Quality Improvement Projects

$2M in grants FROM
- Municipal 24%
- Other 6%
- Federal 5%
- Provincial 4%

to carry out **702** Water Quality Improvements

535 Landowners Engaged & provided **$4.9M in grants**

88% of the projects were AGRICULTURAL

Habitat Rehabilitation / Restoration Projects

321 Landowners Engaged → Resulting in **643 Projects**
- 105 Wetland Projects
- 262 Habitat Projects
- 206 Shoreline Riparian Projects
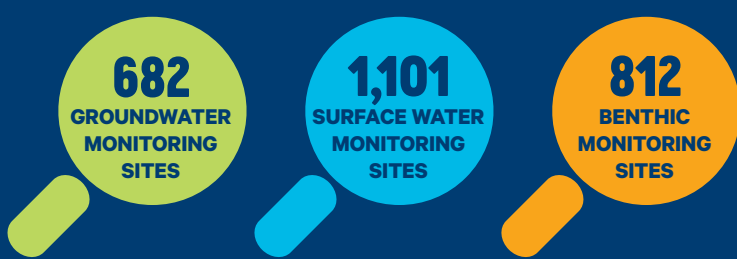- 70 Stream / Fish Habitat Projects

Of the Habitat-Restoration / Reforestation Projects Listed
- **82** aimed at INVASIVE SPECIES
- **173** aimed at SPECIES AT RISK

400 hectares **1,123 km** of stream Restored or Rehabilitated

MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERSHEDS

- **682** GROUNDWATER MONITORING SITES
- **1,101** SURFACE WATER MONITORING SITES
- **812** BENTHIC MONITORING SITES

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

33 Conservation Authorities have produced

WATERSHED Report Cards

Watershed Checkup

StateofOntarioWatersheds.ca

Step Into Nature **Healthy Hikes** Join us at HealthyHikes.ca

- **299** Conservation Areas
- **3,551 km** of Trails
- **9,124,024** Visitors
- **7,767** Campsites

Conservation Areas improve our mental and physical health. Visitors provide spillover economic benefits to nearby towns and cities.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

In partnership with the Province and Municipalities, Conservation Authorities support Source Protection Committees (SPC) in

19 REGIONS PROTECTING MORE THAN **10,000,000** People through the *Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Plan*

EDUCATION

Conservation Authority outdoor education programs are aligned with Ontario's curriculum Programs and delivers programs to

485,000 Ontario Students at more than

+ **4,000 Schools** for

= **$7** / student per year *(average)*

#StepIntoNature   #HealthyHikes   #NaturalChampions

conservationontario.ca

@con_ont   @conont   Ontario's Conservation Areas Conservation Ontario

*Statistics based on 2019 Conservation Ontario CA Survey