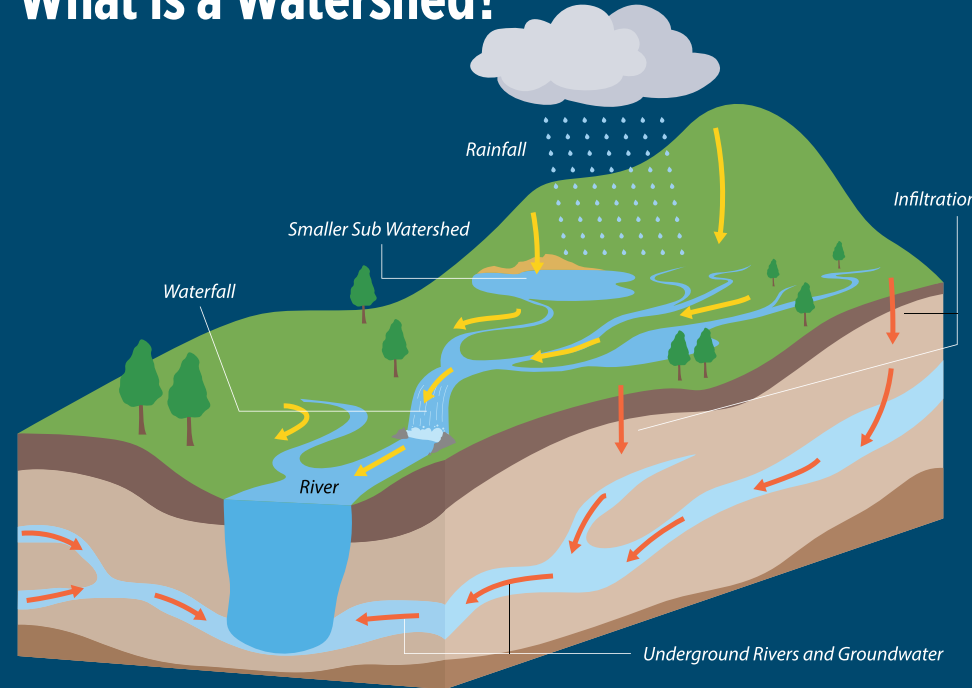


# 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet

## 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.

The NPCA regularly collects and tests surface water and groundwater samples (non-drinking water) at stations located throughout our watershed jurisdiction.

### SURFACE WATER: WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

- Surface Water monitoring results indicate most of the watersheds in the NPCA's jurisdiction have poor water quality.
- The high concentrations of total phosphorus, E. coli and chlorides within the surface water continue to be a major cause of poor water quality.
- The sources of these pollutants are generally from both rural areas (agricultural runoff and faulty septic systems) and urban areas (combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff).
- The best water quality is found in watercourses where water is introduced from Lake Erie and the Niagara River, in watercourses with significant groundwater discharges and in watersheds with substantial natural landscapes.

### GROUNDWATER: WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

- The groundwater quality in NPCA's jurisdiction was found to be highly variable depending on the aquifer where it was found.
- The natural groundwater conditions from its host rocks and sediments and local human contaminant sources can contribute to poor groundwater quality.
- Private well owners are responsible for having their well water tested regularly and to ensure their well is properly maintained and in good condition.

## NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program by the Numbers



**81**  
Surface Water Monitoring Stations



**980**  
Surface Water Samples Collected



**26**  
Macroinvertebrate Samples



**10,474**  
Surface Water Samples Collected Since 2001



**46**  
Groundwater Monitoring Wells



**36**  
Groundwater Samples



**5**  
Decommissioned Abandoned Water Wells for Watershed Landowners

### NPCA SURFACE WATER MONITORING STATIONS

**59%** are rated as poor  
**31%** are rated as marginal  
**9%** are rated as fair  
**1%** is rated as good

WATER QUALITY RATINGS : 2018 - 2022





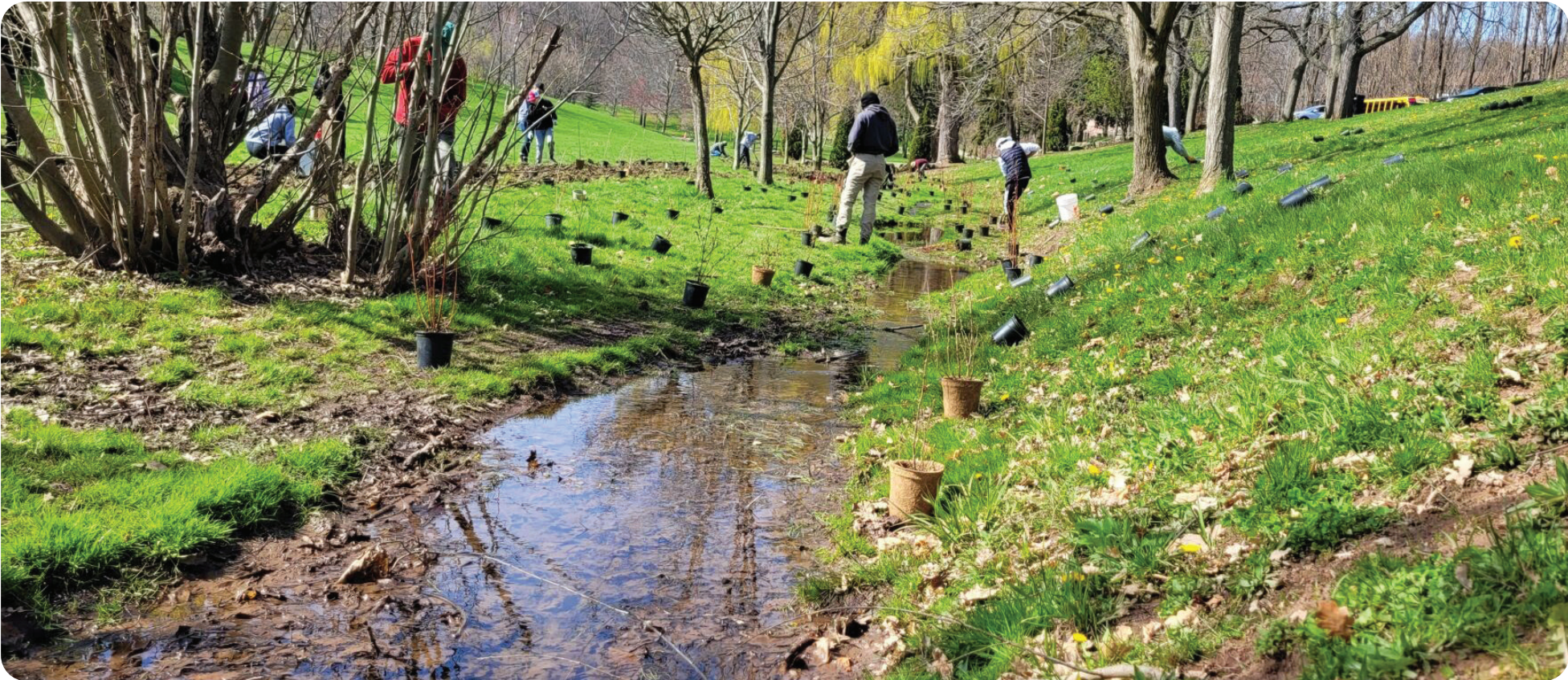
# NPCA Restoration Program



The NPCA has developed a watershed restoration grant program that is geared specifically towards working with area residents to develop projects that will improve water quality, increase habitat diversity and expand forest cover. This program provides funding and expertise to help landowners to undertake restoration projects in priority areas.

## 2022 Restoration Program by the Numbers

- 26.7**  
Hectares Reforested
- 1.21**  
Hectares of Wetland Restored
- 3.9**  
Hectares of Riparian Habitat
- 70,000**  
Trees Planted
- 4,347**  
Shrubs Planted



## What we can do to help?



### What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees, wildflowers, shrubs, and/or rainwater gardens.
- Reduce the amount of mown grass on your property.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- Conserve water by using low flow showers and toilets, high efficiency clothes washers and dishwashers.
- Install rain barrels to collect water for use around your yard.



### What Can Your Community Do?

- Sponsor community clean ups to keep waste out of natural areas.
- Look for ways to expand the existing urban tree canopy.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used.



### What Can Your Business Do?

- Establish a corporate volunteering program to support local initiatives such as tree plantings.
- Invest in 'greener' alternatives to current practices.
- Encourage recycling and composting in the workplace.
- Donate towards water quality and habitat improvement programs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental programs.

## NPCA Corporate Programs and Initiatives

**Become an NPCA volunteer:** learn new skills, network, support local conservation projects, and step into nature.

**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation:** is a registered charity, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to raising funds that aid in the conservation of our natural environment for present & future generations. Donate today!

**Land Securement:** NPCA's new Land Securement Strategy lays the foundation for an ambitious and technically sound acquisition program that will address priorities for greenspace access, climate change, and protection of natural and cultural heritage across the watershed.

### Grant Programs

**Restoration:** fostering collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA.

**Water Well Decommissioning:** the NPCA is pleased to offer a grant program to watershed residents for the plugging and sealing of abandoned or unused water wells.

## More Information

**Annual Water Quality Report**

**Watershed Report Cards**

Do you have questions not answered by this summary document? Visit [npca.ca](http://npca.ca) for the full report or contact us for more information: [info@npca.ca](mailto:info@npca.ca)

**Property owners can scan this QR code for more information on Water Quality Best Management Practices**



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# WATER QUALITY RATINGS : 2018 - 2022

