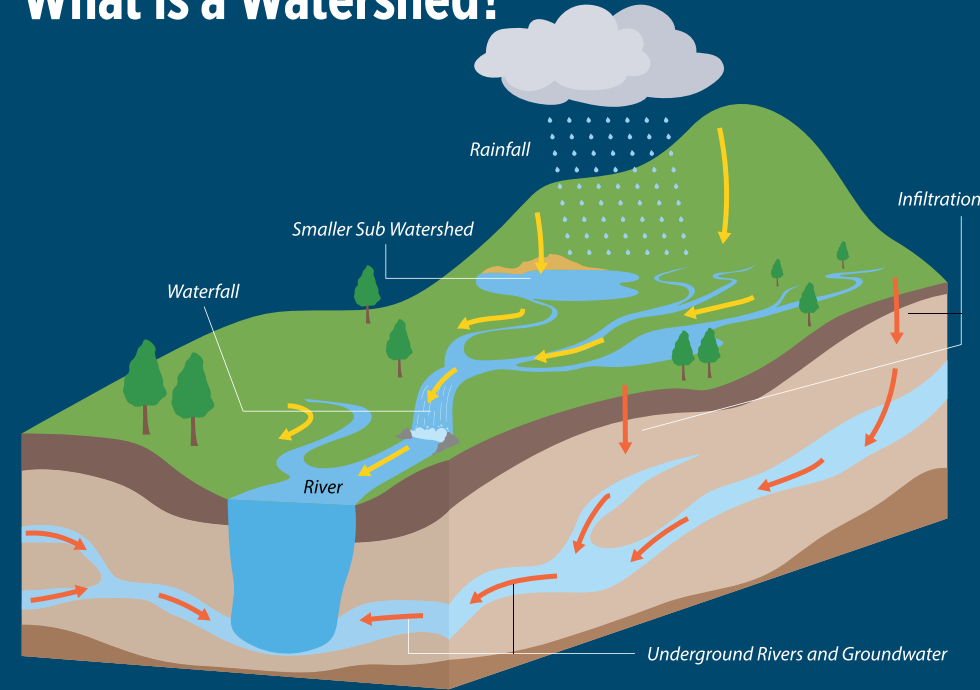


What is a Watershed?



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 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (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 results indicate most of the watersheds jurisdiction have poor water quality.
- The high concentrations of total phosphorus, E. coli and chlorides within surface water continue to be a major cause of poor water quality.
- The sources of these pollutants are from both urban areas (combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff) and rural areas (agricultural runoff and faulty septic systems).
- 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?

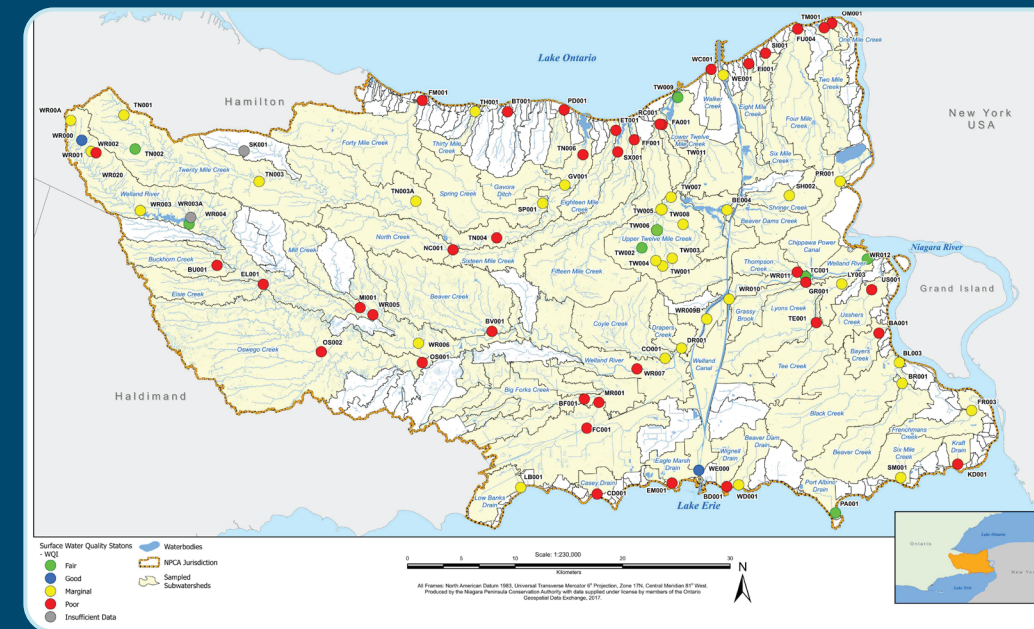
- The groundwater quality was found to be highly variable depending on the aquifer where it was found.
- The natural groundwater conditions from its host rocks and sediments and local human contaminant sources can contribute to poor groundwater quality.
- Private well owners are responsible for having 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

- 84** Surface Water Monitoring Stations
- 730** Surface Water Samples
- 17** Benthic Macroinvertebrate Samples
- 11,204** Surface Water Samples Collected Since 2001
- 46** Groundwater Monitoring Wells
- 41** Groundwater Samples
- 5** Abandoned Water Wells Decommissioned for Watershed Landowners



WATER QUALITY RATINGS : 2019 - 2023



NPCA SURFACE WATER MONITORING STATIONS






- 48%** Rated Poor
- 40%** Rated Marginal
- 10%** Rated Fair
- 2%** Rated Good

NPCA Restoration Program



NPCA's Restoration cost sharing program aims to collaborate with the watershed community and partners on approaches and solutions to protect and restore water quality, diverse wildlife habitat, and forest cover. NPCA provides funding and expertise to help landowners undertake restoration projects in priority areas.

2023 Restoration Program by the Numbers

-  **24.6**
Hectares Reforested
-  **3.9**
Hectares of Wetland Restored
-  **3.9**
Hectares of Riparian Habitat
-  **70,370**
Trees Planted
-  **4,347**
Shrubs Planted



Working Together to Improve Water



What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees, wildflowers, shrubs, and/or rainwater gardens.
- Reduce the amount of mown grass on your property.
- Reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- Conserve water by using low-flow fixtures and high efficiency washing machines 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 use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.



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 a NPCA volunteer: step into nature to learn new skills, network, and support local conservation projects.

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 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.

Cost Sharing Programs

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

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

More Information

[Annual Water Quality Report](#)

[Watershed Report Cards](#)

Learn more about water quality and NPCA's important programs and services. Visit npca.ca for the full report or contact us for more information: info@npca.ca

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WATER QUALITY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



3350 Merrittville Highway, Unit 9
Thorold, Ontario, L2V 4Y6

WATER QUALITY RATINGS : 2019 - 2023



- Surface Water Quality Stations - WQI
- Fair
 - Good
 - Marginal
 - Poor
 - Insufficient Data
- ▭ Waterbodies
 - NPCA Jurisdiction
 - Sampled Subwatersheds

