

# Mimico Creek Watershed



## DID YOU KNOW?

The name "Mimico" comes from the Algonkian word "Omimeca" meaning "resting place of wild pigeons". The now extinct passenger pigeon used the mouth of Mimico Creek as a migratory stopover.

## About Mimico Creek Watershed



The watershed is dominated by urban land uses, resulting in a "flashy" response to rainfall events. Mimico Creek winds its way through parts of Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. It is a long, narrow and relatively steep watershed with a total area of approximately 77 km<sup>2</sup> (7,700 ha). The headwaters of the creek are located in the City of Brampton south of Bovaird Drive on the south slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This means that when rain falls on the ground, it travels overland and reaches the watercourse quickly. Therefore, water levels within the watercourse can also rise quickly. As a result, there is too little water (or baseflow) in dry weather, and too much water (or peak flow) when it rains. Water quality is generally poor and there is a low diversity of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

About 500 ha of the watershed comprise parks, conservation areas and trails that provide important opportunities for recreation, wildlife and habitat restoration.

Visit our website for more information about the Mimico Creek watershed  
[www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks](http://www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks)

## Conservation Efforts

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) works with many partners to ensure the Toronto urban region is built on a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable communities. The Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition, a committee of TRCA that includes local government, businesses, colleges and universities, and residents, works with the community to help achieve these objectives.

The Coalition's work is guided by a watershed strategy called Greening Our Watersheds - Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks. The strategy helps residents, local businesses, environmental advocates, educators, elected representatives and staff at all levels of government make a difference in the health of the watershed.

The Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds Report Card was published by TRCA and the Coalition in 2006. The state of these watersheds is an important measure of environmental health in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It identifies problems with water quality and water flows, natural cover, and air quality, all of which have resulted from the absence of environmental priorities in urban development. The report card also demonstrates that although progress has been made towards restoration, further action is required to improve environmental health over the next 20 years. To view a copy of the watershed strategy or report card online, please visit our resources section at [www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks](http://www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks)

### Community Stewardship and Education

TRCA offers events across the Mimico watershed to help people contribute to the health of the watershed through everyday actions. Programs include healthy home and garden sessions, nature walks, planting and clean-up activities and hands-on demonstrations. Through these programs people are discovering how small community efforts can collectively make big improvements to the health of their local environment.



## How You Can Help

### THE ETOBICOKE-MIMICO WATERSHEDS COALITION

The Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition (Coalition) is a volunteer, watershed-wide advisory committee created by Toronto and Region Conservation to protect and regenerate the Etobicoke Creek and Mimico Creek watersheds. Through The Living City vision, the Coalition strives to achieve healthy rivers and shorelines, regional biodiversity, and sustainable communities.

### GET INVOLVED

Here are four easy ways to get involved:

- **LEARN** more about the Mimico Creek watershed and programs by visiting [www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks](http://www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks)
- **JOIN** one of the Coalition's project teams in your area
- **REGISTER** for an event or volunteer opportunity at [www.trcastewardshipevents.ca](http://www.trcastewardshipevents.ca)
- **DONATE** to The Living City Foundation to support conservation projects at [www.trca.on.ca/support](http://www.trca.on.ca/support) or call 416-667-6279

### BECOME A NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPION

Here are just a few ways to make a difference:

- Install a rain barrel to capture and reuse the water in your yard. Save water and money on your water bill.
- Expand bird habitat in your neighbourhood with community gardens, backyard plantings, or environmentally friendly landscaping.
- Plant native trees and shrubs in your backyard or volunteer for community tree planting events.
- Phantom power is costing you money - about 5% of your total household electricity. Plug your appliances into a power bar and simply turn it off when you are not using them. This could save you up to \$60 a year on electricity from your television alone!





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## Upper Mimico Creek Channel Naturalization

As part of an ongoing effort to restore natural ecosystems, TRCA renaturalized a 2 km stretch of Mimico Creek. The project enhanced wildlife habitat, restored aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, improved water quality and helped mitigate potential flood events. Building on this success, the project will be extended further north to continue revitalizing the creek valley.

## Partners in Project Green

Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone is a public-private partnership working to create an internationally recognized Eco-Business Zone around Pearson airport, supported by the TRCA, area municipalities, and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA). Visit [www.partnersinprojectgreen.com](http://www.partnersinprojectgreen.com) for more information.

## Humber River Watershed

## Mimico Fish Barrier Mitigation Project

Currently in the planning stages, the Mimico Creek Fish Barrier Mitigation Project focuses on the removal of the first barrier on the Mimico Creek located under the Gardner Expressway. The project is critical to restore fish movement within the watercourse and improve habitat opportunities.

## Mimico Creek Estuary

In an effort to re-establish a unique and critical natural environment on the waterfront, TRCA developed the Mimico Creek Estuary Wetland Project. Located at the mouth of Mimico Creek, the constructed wetland has enhanced the health of the Mimico waterfront by providing fish and wildlife habitat.



TRCA JURISDICTION

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Watersheds are the collectors, filters, conveyers, and storage compartments of our fresh water supply.



Cross section of a watershed.  
Courtesy of Conservation Ontario.

For more information on how to join a project team or to volunteer, contact us at [eminfo@trca.on.ca](mailto:eminfo@trca.on.ca)

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- Watershed Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Hydro Line
- Watercourse
- Trail
- Park
- Golf Course
- Natural Cover

