

Etobicoke Creek Watershed



DID YOU KNOW?

The name "Etobicoke" is derived from the native Algonkian word "Wah-do-be-kaug" meaning "place where the alders grow". Historically an abundance of black alder trees grew in the area.

About Etobicoke Creek Watershed



Etobicoke Creek is the most westerly watershed within the TRCA jurisdiction, encompassing parts of Caledon, Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Creek has a drainage area of approximately 211 km² (21,100 ha) and the watershed is generally long and narrow, with two principal tributaries. Little Etobicoke Creek is located along the western side of the watershed, with its headwaters just north of Highway 401. The second tributary, known as Spring Creek, joins the main creek approximately 13.5 km upstream from Lake Ontario and has its source within the Heart Lake complex of wetlands near Mayfield Road and Heart Lake Road in Brampton.

Etobicoke Creek is located within a highly urbanized watershed, and is characterized by steep stream gradients and impermeable soils that rapidly carry rainwater and snowmelt to the watercourse. More than half of the total length of Etobicoke Creek has been altered or channelized, and the entire system has been changed by urbanization. This has resulted in degradation of the quality and diversity of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

About 2000 ha of the watershed comprises of parks, conservation areas and trails that provide opportunities for recreation, wildlife and habitat restoration.

Visit our website for more information about the Etobicoke Creek watershed
www.trca.on.ca/emcreeks

Conservation Efforts

Greening Strategy

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

Community Stewardship and Education

TRCA offers events across the Etobicoke 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.

PROJECT TEAMS

Flowing out of the main Coalition are smaller Project Teams that implement the watershed management strategy at the local level by focusing on distinct initiatives. Project Teams also provide a forum for public input and help the TRCA set priorities and determine specific actions for targeted areas within the watershed.

GET INVOLVED

Here are four easy ways to get involved:

- **LEARN** more about the Etobicoke Creek watershed and programs by visiting : 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.trcastewardshipecvents.ca
- **DONATE** to The Living City Foundation to support conservation projects at www.trca.on.ca/support or call 416-667-6279

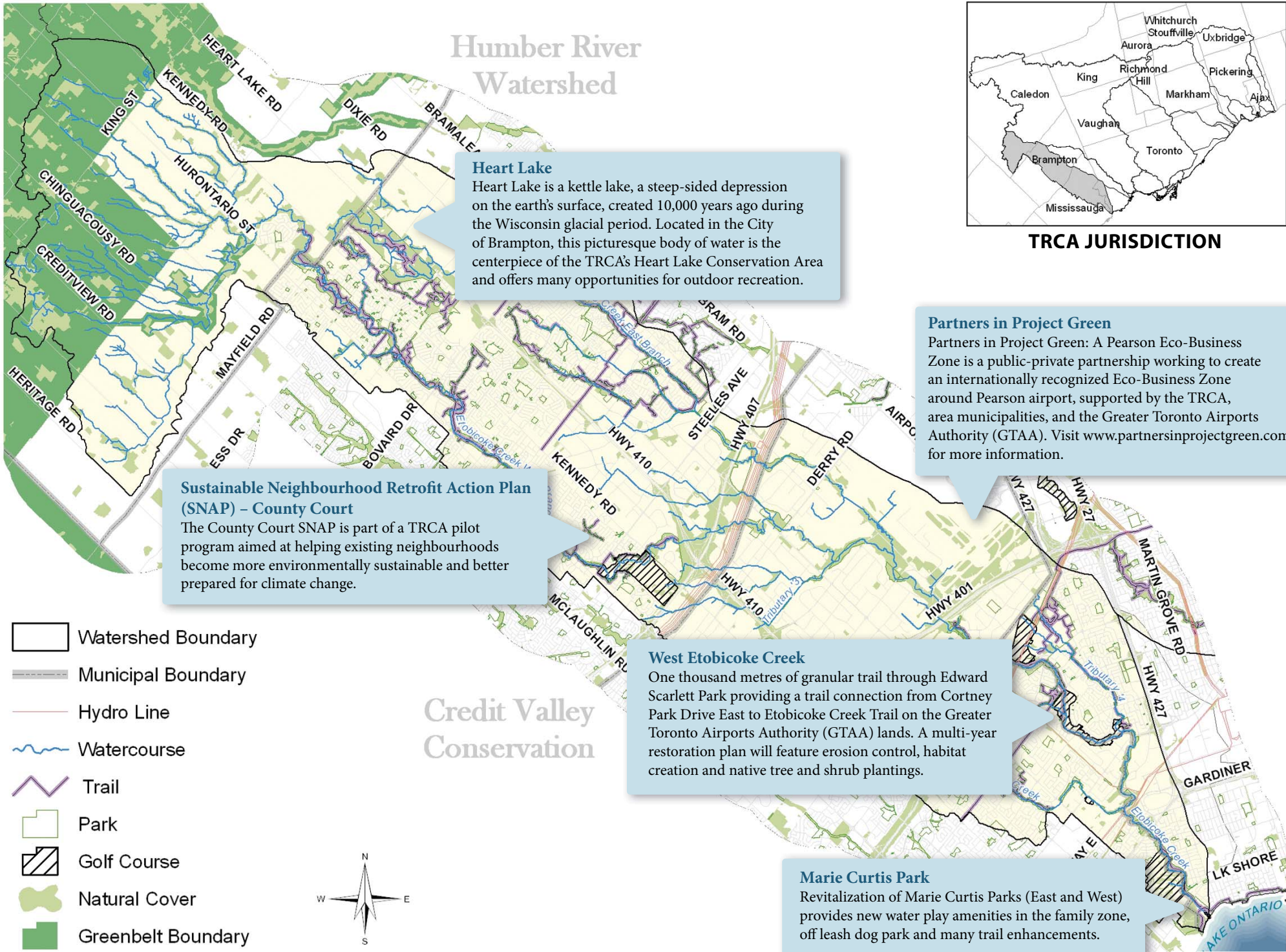
BECOME A NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPION

Here are a few simple 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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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

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