



Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

Humber River Watershed Tour

**Additional Details &
Project Highlights**

October 6, 2026

Land and Water Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the lands and waters within the Humber River watershed are Treaty Lands and Traditional Territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Williams Treaties First Nations. These lands are also the Traditional Territories of the Wendat Nation and are now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

Through our work with lands and waters, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) appreciates and respects the history and diversity of these lands and is grateful to have the opportunity to work and be in relation with this territory. We are also grateful for the continued work of many First Nations and Indigenous peoples, who are the original and current caretakers of these lands and waters.

We humbly acknowledge our responsibility to respect First Nations' rights and Indigenous perspectives, elevate Indigenous voices, and honour our relationships with First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

Integrated Watershed Planning

Integrated Watershed Planning provides a comprehensive and collaborative framework for understanding the current and potential future conditions of the watershed and identifying priority actions to improve watershed health and build resilience to land use and climate change impacts. It focuses on four thematic areas that influence watershed health, including **natural hazards (flooding and erosion), natural heritage and urban forest, water resources, and water quality.**

While watershed plans do not make land use or infrastructure planning decisions, they provide critical watershed-based information that can help inform various planning processes and other municipal and TRCA initiatives such as managing flood and erosion risks, climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration and management, stormwater management, sustainable rural land use, urban revitalization, and low impact development and green infrastructure implementation.



Humber River Watershed Plan (HRWP)

The HRWP is a multi-year collaborative project between TRCA, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Humber River watershed municipalities, including the City of Brampton, City of Richmond Hill, City of Toronto, City of Vaughan, Dufferin County, Peel Region, Simcoe County, Town of Aurora, Town of Caledon, Town of Mono, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Township of King, and York Region. Engagement with other First Nations and Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the public is also an integral part of the process and helps inform the HRWP through valuable input.

The HRWP provides a realistic and action-oriented framework to support the long-term health, sustainability, and resilience of the watershed. It is based on robust science and meaningful engagement with collaborators, stakeholders, and the public. The HRWP will be finalized for approval/endorsement from collaborating partners in 2027. Collaborative implementation, tracking, and reporting on the success of the plan will continue over the next decade to create a safe, healthy, and resilient Humber River watershed for current and future generations.

Humber River Watershed Tour

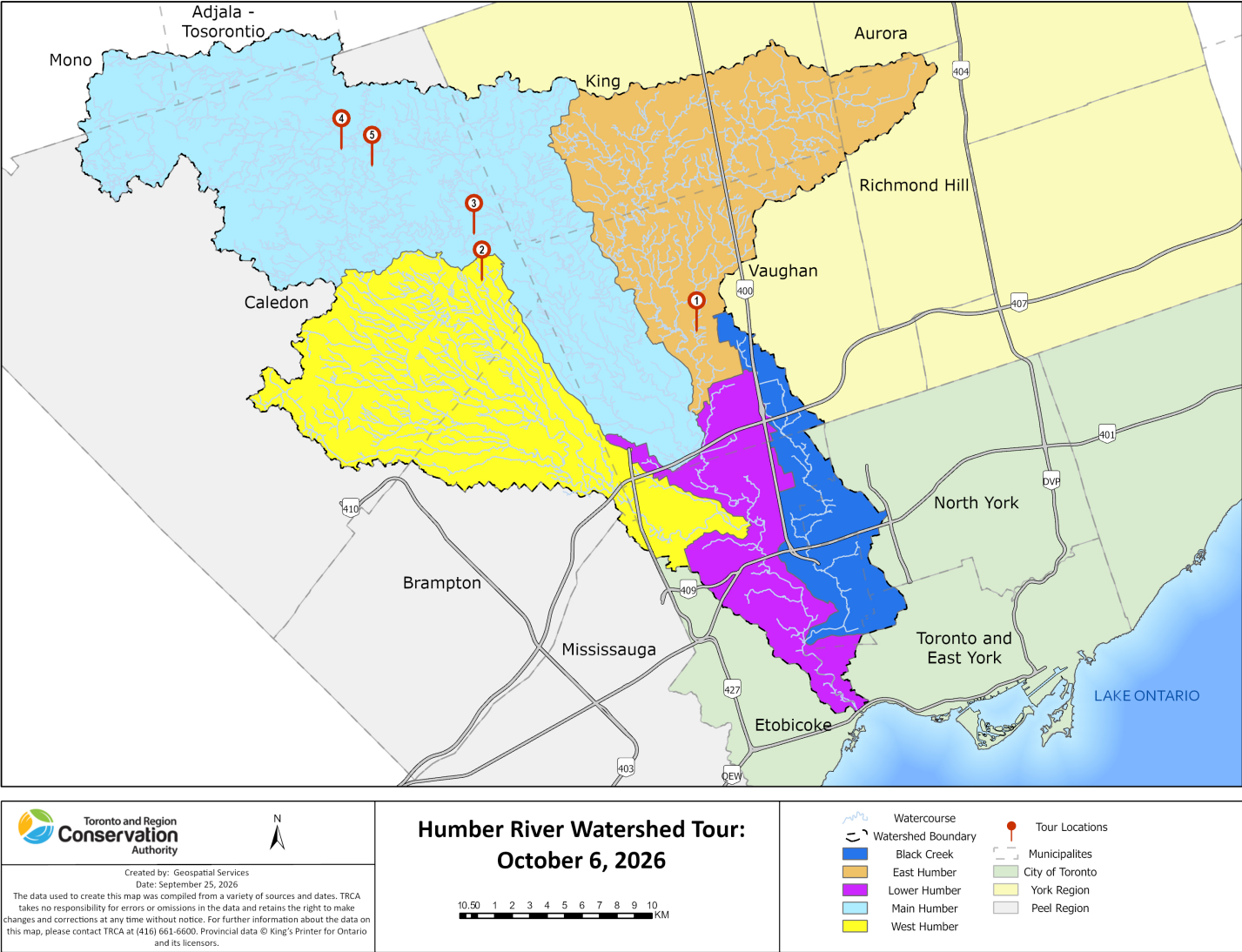
The Humber River Watershed Tour (October 6, 2026) is designed to showcase the key messages, partnerships, critical issues, and opportunities identified in the HRWP, which are also highlighted in the [**HRWP Factsheets**](#).

The tour consists of 5 key sites within the middle and upper portions of the watershed (in the Town of Caledon within Peel Region and within the City of Vaughan in York Region). They extend from the relatively rural headwaters in the north (e.g., Albion Hills Conservation Park) to urban areas in the south (e.g., Kortright Centre for Conservation).

Through these sites, and conversations enroute, we will explore the Humber River watershed and discuss the key issues and opportunities related to the four key thematic areas of watershed health, including managing natural hazards risks, protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural heritage and the urban forest, and improving water resources and water quality, as land use and climate continues to change.

This handout provides the details of the 5 sites included in the tour for your reference. In addition, it highlights several other significant projects and sites across the Humber River watershed that demonstrate the key messages of the HRWP. While these additional sites could not be included in the tour due to time constraints, they are included here for further reading and exploration at your leisure.

Humber River Watershed Tour Sites for October 6, 2026



SITE 1: Kortright Centre for Conservation (City of Vaughan)

SITE 2: Canadian Tire Bolton Distribution Centre (Town of Caledon)

SITE 3: Bolton Dike (Town of Caledon)

SITE 4: Albion Hills Conservation Park (Town of Caledon)

SITE 5: Albion Hills Conservation Park: Duffy's Lane Wetlands (Town of Caledon)

TOUR SITE 1



A wetland on the Kortright property that serves as an outdoor classroom for environmental education programs.

Kortright Centre for Conservation (City of Vaughan)

The **Kortright Centre for Conservation** is a 325-hectare natural and education facility located on the edge of urban development in the City of Vaughan within the East Humber subwatershed. The site protects wetlands, meadows, stream corridors, and a large forest ecosystem that support many plant and wildlife species of conservation concern. However, terrestrial monitoring data indicates that several sensitive species have been lost over recent decades, likely due to increased site use, including off-leash pets and a rise in predators that have access to food and shelter from surrounding neighbourhoods.

Kortright has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to two larger priority subwatershed restoration sites (Boyd North Corridor and **Boyd Conservation Park**), with opportunities to enhance and restore habitat, increase connectivity, and support biodiversity as the plan is implemented.

Kortright is one of Canada's leading outdoor centres for environmental education and sustainable technology demonstration. It plays a key role in advancing watershed objectives by connecting people to nature and showcasing practical solutions for climate resilience, energy efficiency, and habitat restoration. Through partnerships, research, and hands-on learning, Kortright fosters environmental stewardship and helps strengthen ecosystem connectivity across the watershed.

Seed-Barker Site (nearby)

Five hundred years ago, the Seed-Barker Site was a thriving Woodland Period Village located along the Carrying Place Trail. Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of 20 longhouses enclosed by an eight-row wooden palisade, along with more than one million artifacts that offer remarkable insight into daily life, community, and trade. Between 1975 and 2005, the site also became an outdoor classroom, where more than 1,000 high school and university students learned archaeological methods and is now one of the few archaeological sites in Ontario to have been excavated entirely by hand.

TOUR SITE 2



The Canadian Tire Bolton Distribution Centre stormwater pond is designed for a regional (i.e., Hurricane Hazel level) storm.

Canadian Tire Bolton Distribution Centre (Town of Caledon)

The **Canadian Tire Bolton Distribution Centre**, located in the West Humber subwatershed in Bolton (Town of Caledon), is a large, LEED® Gold–certified facility designed to prioritize sustainability, efficiency, and environmental stewardship. The project integrates green strategies across key LEED categories, including sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy performance, materials, flood control, and indoor environmental quality.

A priority of the Canadian Tire Bolton Distribution Centre was to limit the disruption of natural hydrology and eliminate on-site contaminants. As such, the project implemented a thorough stormwater management plan through criteria outlined by TRCA to increase on-site infiltration and reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. This was accomplished through many strategies including rooftop storage, control flow strategies, and a large stormwater management pond. Prior to construction, contaminated soils were remediated to reduce the exposure of both humans and wildlife to potentially hazardous materials.

Overall, the facility was designed and constructed with sustainability in mind, incorporating measures to reduce environmental impacts, improve energy and water efficiency, support sustainable transportation, and enhance occupant well-being. Sustainable building materials, waste reduction practices, and operational initiatives further contribute to the facility's long-term environmental performance and demonstrate a commitment to responsible resource management.

This site has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Clarkway Drive Tributary-South) for the West Humber subwatershed where there are potential opportunities for future habitat enhancement and restoration.

TOUR SITE 3



The Bolton Dike underwent substantial upgrades after an ice jam caused significant flooding in 2021.

Bolton Dike (Town of Caledon)

The **Bolton Dike**, located in the Main Humber subwatershed, lies within the Bolton Core Flood Vulnerable Cluster (FVC) - one of seven FVCs located in the watershed. The dike stands as a vital piece of flood protection infrastructure along the Humber River in the heart of downtown Bolton. Constructed in the early 1980s by TRCA, this system was designed to safeguard the community by preventing floodwaters from overtopping the south bank and entering the town's core. The dike is in the Village of Bolton Heritage Conservation District, Caledon's first heritage conservation district and designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2017.

In recent years, the dike has undergone significant upgrades to strengthen its resilience. Between 2021 and 2022, the dike, approximately 800 metres long, was raised and reinforced to meet modern engineering standards. Today, the system is built to withstand a 1-in-500-year flood event, offering a high level of protection for surrounding neighbourhoods and businesses.

The dike works as part of an integrated flood management system. A parallel flood control channel downstream of Humber Lea Road helps divert excess water during peak flows, reducing the risk of ice jams in the river's oxbow. Ongoing monitoring, including drone inspections, allows TRCA to track water levels and ice conditions, ensuring the dike continues to perform effectively during extreme storm events.

Beyond flood protection, the Bolton Dike demonstrates how engineered infrastructure can work alongside natural infrastructure to improve community resilience, public safety, property, and local economy. It is one component of TRCA's watershed-based flood risk management program, which combines science, engineering, environmental stewardship, and emergency planning to reduce flood hazards across the Humber River watershed.

In addition, this area has been identified as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Bolton-Cold Creek Corridor) in the Main Humber subwatershed, with opportunities to enhance and restore habitat, increase connectivity, and support biodiversity in this area as the plan is implemented. A weir is also found at this site, which has been identified in the HRWP as one of the top 20 priority in-stream aquatic barriers for mitigation or removal to restore instream habitat connectivity in the watershed.

TOUR SITE 4



Today, the site offers renewed opportunities for learning, recreation, and quiet appreciation, with trails and viewing areas inviting visitors to experience a healthier, more natural environment.

Albion Hills Conservation Park (Town of Caledon)

Albion Hills Conservation Park lies in the headwaters of the Main Humber subwatershed, an area recognized for its high value habitat. The headwaters are considered high quality coldwater habitat making them particularly valuable for species such as Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon.

Created in the 1950s with the construction of Albion Dam, Albion Pond was once a popular destination for swimming and boating. Over time, however, the pond faced growing environmental challenges. Sediment accumulated, water quality declined, and recreational use became limited. At the same time, studies revealed that the aging dam was deteriorating and would be complex and costly to replace.

In 2016, TRCA undertook a transformative restoration project, removing the dam and returning Centreville Creek to its natural state through the installation of a large concrete box culvert. This approach revitalized the landscape, improving water flow and reducing the watercourse temperature. New wetlands formed, fish and wildlife habitat expanded, and aquatic systems were reconnected.



Before (left) and after (right) decommissioning of the Albion Hills Pond.



TOUR SITE 5

Newly created wetlands in acquired agricultural lands near Duffy's Lane Hiking Trailhead.

Albion Hills Conservation Park: Duffy's Lane Wetlands (Town of Caledon)

Albion Hills Conservation Park, was Ontario's first conservation area designed for active public use when it opened in 1955. Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Caledon, this 558-hectare park welcomes more than 80,000 park and campground visitors and more than 13,000 trail users annually.

Its forests and headwaters play a critical role in protecting ecological health within the the Humber River watershed. Mature forests support diverse plant communities and forest-dependent birds such as Black-throated Green Warbler and American Redstart , while the high-quality coldwater habitat supports sensitive Brook Trout.

Restoration work at the park has supported nature and flood management objectives since its opening. Notable past restoration projects include the Albion Hills Dam and Pond Decommissioning Project, Bring Back the Salmon planting events, and large-scale invasive species management.

With funding support from Peel Region, TRCA **acquired 62.6 hectares of land** at the south end of the park, including former agricultural lands. Restoration efforts have included the creation of four new wetlands, enhancements to an existing wetland through culvert replacement, large-scale reforestation, invasive species management, and active management of more than 11 hectares of meadow habitat through prescribed burns and native seeding.

Additional current and future works at Albion include the replacement of culverts on the Humber River to improve fish passage and climate resilience.

Albion Hills has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Bolton-Cold Creek Corridor) within the Main Humber subwatershed (and as a top 10 priority restoration site for the entire watershed). Also within this broader area are two berms that have been identified in the HRWP as two of the top 20 priority in-stream aquatic barriers for mitigation or removal to restore instream habitat connectivity in the watershed (with one of the berms already having undergone mitigation).

Together, these past and current initiatives are enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, strengthening climate resilience, and supporting the long-term health of the watershed.

Exploring More of the Watershed: Additional Sites and Project Highlights

While not part of the tour, the following sites highlight points of interest and projects across the watershed.

Claireville Conservation Area (City of Brampton)

After the flooding caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954, 1300 acres were acquired to form the [Claireville Conservation Area](#). In 1964 the Claireville Dam was opened, and the Claireville Reservoir Lake now exists for flood control as well as for recreational purposes.

Claireville CA located in the West Humber subwatershed within the Cities of Brampton and Toronto, is one of the largest natural greenspaces in the area. Its forests, wetlands, meadows, and extensive trail system provide habitat for wildlife, support biodiversity, manage flooding, and connect residents with nature in an urbanizing region.

Claireville CA is home to 95 wildlife species, including the largest known population of the federally threatened Western Chorus Frog in Toronto and region. Other sensitive ground-nesting birds, such as Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink, depend on meadows here. These species are part of the Humber's rich biodiversity including 198+ birds and frogs (100 are of regional concern) and 343+ different kinds of vegetation communities (160 are of regional concern).

Since the 1990s, TRCA and partners have invested in extensive restoration and management efforts. Since 2009, more than 14,000 trees and shrubs have been planted, supported by community stewardship programs. More than 34 hectares of invasive species have been removed over the past 5 years to control invasive spread and help native plants flourish. Wetland restoration has improved habitat connectivity and biodiversity by removing agricultural tile drains, re-establishing basins, and creating ephemeral wetlands that support species like the Western Chorus Frog. A meadow restoration project initiated in 2015 at the Highway 50 fill site further enhances habitat for pollinators and grassland birds.

Claireville CA is identified as one of the priority restoration sites for the West Humber subwatershed in the HRWP. If achieved, this site has the potential to increase natural heritage by adding approximately 137 hectares of habitat.

[Wet Meadow Pocket that supports wildlife, including the Western Chorus Frog.](#)



Claireville Dam (City of Toronto and City of Brampton)

The [Claireville Dam](#), located on the border of Toronto and Brampton in the West Humber subwatershed, is owned and operated by TRCA. Constructed in 1964 as part of TRCA's Flood Control Works Program, the dam was built in response to the devastating impacts of [Hurricane Hazel](#) in 1954, which highlighted the need for coordinated flood management across the Humber River watershed.

The dam plays a critical role in protecting communities along the West Humber and Lower Humber Rivers. During major storm events, it temporarily stores floodwaters and releases them in a controlled manner, reducing downstream flood peaks and helping protect residents, businesses, transportation corridors, and critical infrastructure from flooding.

To ensure continued public safety and reliable flood protection, TRCA conducts regular dam safety inspections, engineering assessments, and preventative maintenance. The dam (identified in the HRWP as one of the top 20 priority in-stream aquatic barriers for mitigation) is classified as a **Very High Hazard Dam**, a designation that reflects the potential consequences of failure, not its current condition or likelihood of failure. The dam is undergoing major capital works to address gate operability and spillway stability, with completion anticipated in 2028.

Claireville Dam reflects the HRWP's commitment to protecting people, property, and natural systems through integrated, science-based watershed management, working alongside floodplain management, natural heritage conservation, wetland restoration, and flood forecasting and warning systems. Together, these structural and nature-based solutions help reduce flood risk and improve resilience to increasingly frequent and intense storms associated with a changing climate.



Claireville Dam under construction in 1962

Glen Haffy Conservation Park (Town of Caledon)

Glen Haffy Conservation Park, in the Main Humber subwatershed in the Town of Caledon, is known for its rolling hills, forests, and fishing ponds. Visitors enjoy hiking trails, including access to the Bruce Trail, picnic areas, and year-round outdoor recreation. Located where the Niagara Escarpment meets the **Oak Ridges Moraine**, the park protects important headwater habitats that support water quality, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

Its forests form part of one of the largest continuous natural cover areas in the region, supporting Regional Species of Conservation Concern and thriving populations of neotropical migrant songbirds, including Blackburnian and Black throated Green Warblers.

Through the **CLIMAFOR** project, Glen Haffy is at the forefront of climate adaptation research. Experimental forest management treatments are testing how pine plantations can better withstand climate change while supporting biodiversity, carbon cycling, and heat mitigation. This work is supported by partnerships with government agencies, academic institutions, municipalities, and community organizations.

As part of the **Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System**, Glen Haffy provides significant ecological value. TRCA estimates its natural assets deliver about \$65 million each year through services such as stormwater retention, cleaner air and water, climate cooling, and public health benefits, while storing an estimated \$127 million in carbon.

Glen Haffy has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site in the Main Humber subwatershed with the potential to enhance and restore forest, riparian, wetland, and meadow habitat as the watershed plan is implemented.

Glen Haffy exemplifies the HRWP's vision of protecting and restoring natural systems through science-based, watershed-scale planning. By conserving critical headwaters, enhancing ecological connectivity, and investing in nature-based solutions, the park helps build a healthier, more resilient watershed for future generations.

Spring fed coldwater streams provide the right conditions to support a local fish hatchery that stocks fishing ponds with Rainbow Trout.



West Bolton Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

(Town of Caledon)

Located in the Main Humber subwatershed, the [West Bolton Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program \(SNAP\)](#) highlights over a decade of collaborative environmental action for watershed health in Caledon. It was led by TRCA in partnership with the Town of Caledon, Peel Region, local organizations, and community members.

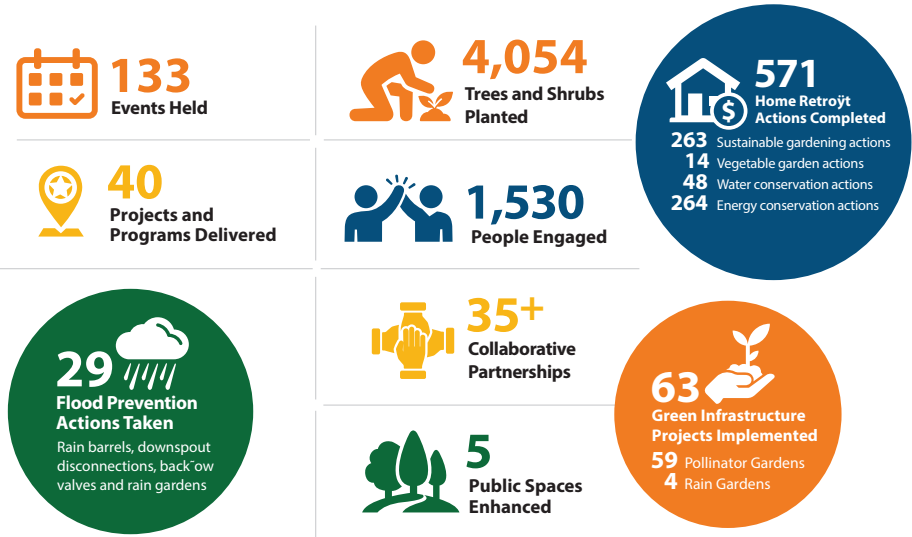
This initiative included 105 [Green Home Program](#) consultations which resulted in 571 sustainable home retrofit actions, helping households reduce energy use and environmental impact. Across the community, more than 3,800 trees and shrubs were planted through habitat restoration projects, contributing to healthier ecosystems and increased biodiversity.

The West Bolton SNAP is located just west of the [Bolton Core \(West Tributary\) FVC](#) (one of seven FVCs in the watershed). Restoration along Jaffary’s Creek has stabilized streambanks, reduced erosion, and improved downstream flood resilience. Meanwhile, park enhancements, such as rain gardens, pollinator plantings, and natural play spaces, support stormwater infiltration and reduce runoff, while creating vibrant, accessible greenspaces.

The [Hidden Creek Walk](#) further connects residents to their surroundings, offering a five-stop audio experience that highlights local natural and cultural heritage.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how community-driven initiatives can achieve meaningful climate action while strengthening the resilience of local landscapes to flood and erosion risk and enhancing natural heritage systems.

This area has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Bolton-Cold Creek Corridor) within the Main Humber subwatershed (and also as a top 10 priority restoration site for the entire watershed) so there are opportunities for additional habitat enhancement and restoration in this area in the future.



Alto Meadow (Village of Mono Mills, Town of Mono)

Near the Village of Mono Mills in the Main Humber subwatershed, TRCA's **Alto Meadow** stands as a compelling example of ecological restoration in progress. Forest and meadow restoration efforts helped revitalize this landscape, enhancing native habitats and supporting long-term biodiversity.

Through targeted invasive plant management and a controlled burn completed in 2023, natural processes have been reintroduced, allowing native grasses and wildflowers to re-establish and thrive. These efforts are transforming Alto Meadow into a resilient ecosystem that supports pollinators and other wildlife essential to a healthy environment.

With major restoration works now complete, invasive species management and adaptive management continue across the site to maintain ecological health, build on restoration success, and support the long-term resilience of plant communities.

The broader area has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Main Humber Headwaters - North) within the Main Humber subwatershed (and also as a top 10 priority restoration site for the entire watershed) so there are opportunities for additional habitat enhancement and restoration in this area in the future.



View of the meadow post-restoration.

Bolton Resource Management Tract (Town of Caledon)

Stretching across nearly 800 hectares in the rolling landscapes of Caledon, the [Bolton Resource Management Tract](#) in the Main Humber subwatershed is one of the TRCA's most significant natural assets. Located along the main branch of the Humber River and partially within the ecologically sensitive [Oak Ridges Moraine](#), this expansive property is a rich mosaic of forests, wetlands, and valley lands.

Much of the Tract was assembled in the years following Hurricane Hazel in 1954, as part of a broader effort to reduce flood risk and protect water resources. Today, those early conservation measures continue to shape a landscape that supports both environmental resilience and community well-being.

It contains provincially significant wetlands and diverse wildlife habitat, playing a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and water quality across the watershed. It functions as an important ecological corridor, allowing species to move and thrive. The Tract also offers opportunities for recreation such as hiking, cycling, and birdwatching, demonstrating the lasting value of protecting and stewarding the region's natural heritage.

In addition, the broader area has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Bolton-Cold Creek Corridor) within the Main Humber subwatershed (and also as a top 10 priority restoration site for the entire watershed) so there are opportunities for additional habitat enhancement and restoration in this area in the future. It is also adjacent to the Bolton Core FVC (West Tributary).



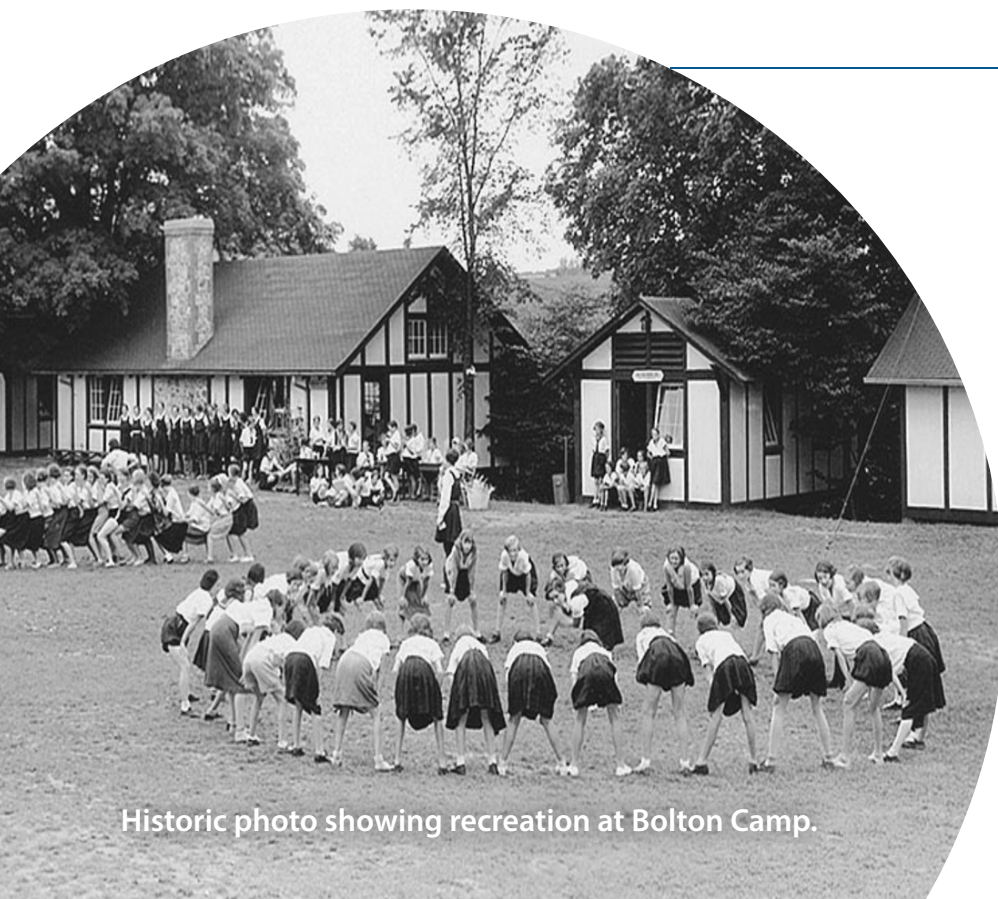
Bolton Camp Project (Town of Caledon)

Bolton Camp, in the Main Humber subwatershed, was established in 1922 and has long been a place where nature, community, and opportunity intersect. For more than 75 years, it welcomed families from low-income neighbourhoods across Toronto, offering a peaceful retreat where children and parents could stay in cozy cabins, explore the outdoors, and create lasting memories in the 254 acres of scenic greenspace of the Humber River valley.

Though the site eventually fell into disrepair, its legacy endured. In 2011, TRCA acquired the property and began to re-envision Bolton Camp as a vibrant community hub, one that honours its history while creating new pathways for learning, creativity, and connection. Today, the greenspace and some of the historic buildings are being revitalized to support year-round programming that blends environmental education, team-building, and outdoor education.

A key part of this vision is **Girls Can Too**, a program that empowers female-identifying youth to explore trades and environmental careers. Through hands-on projects in construction and ecology, participants gain practical skills, mentorship, and up to 35 community service hours while contributing to sustainable community initiatives. It is also home to the Jays Care Diamond, an inclusive and fully accessible baseball field, primarily serving the **Caledon Challenger Baseball** program. Together, Bolton Camp and its programs continue to inspire future generations, offering a place to learn, grow, and connect with both Humber watershed, nature, and communities.

The broader area has been identified in the HRWP as part of/adjacent to a larger priority restoration site (Bolton-Cold Creek Corridor) within the Main Humber subwatershed (and also as a top 10 priority restoration site for the entire watershed) so there are opportunities for additional habitat enhancement and restoration in this area in the future. It is also close to the Bolton Core Flood Vulnerable Area.



Historic photo showing recreation at Bolton Camp.

The Humber River watershed is a living system shaped by people, nature, and history. The key messages from the HRWP, partnerships, and projects highlighted on this tour and in this booklet demonstrate how collaboration, innovation, and stewardship can protect, enhance, and restore this vital resource for generations to come.

For more information about the HRWP please visit trca.ca/humber or email us at humber@trca.ca.