

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lynde Creek Watershed Plan is ***the definitive tool used by CLOCA, municipalities, planning authorities, agencies and all other stakeholders to guide decisions regarding the effective management of watershed resources in response to a changing environment.*** This Plan recognizes the existing conditions of the unique urban, rural and natural environment present in the watershed and considers future growth, planning policy and recommends specific measures to protect our resources.

This Watershed Plan does not prescribe land use. Rather, at a watershed scale, it informs municipalities and makes recommendations regarding the natural features and functions necessary to achieve watershed health, which in turn helps protect the natural, social, cultural and economic capital of the watershed. Implementation of the Watershed Plan will be carried out predominantly by CLOCA, the Region of Durham and the local municipalities through the Action Plans described herein. Watershed residents also have a key role in ensuring that the health of the Lynde Creek Watershed is protected for future generations.

ABOUT THE LYNDE CREEK WATERSHED

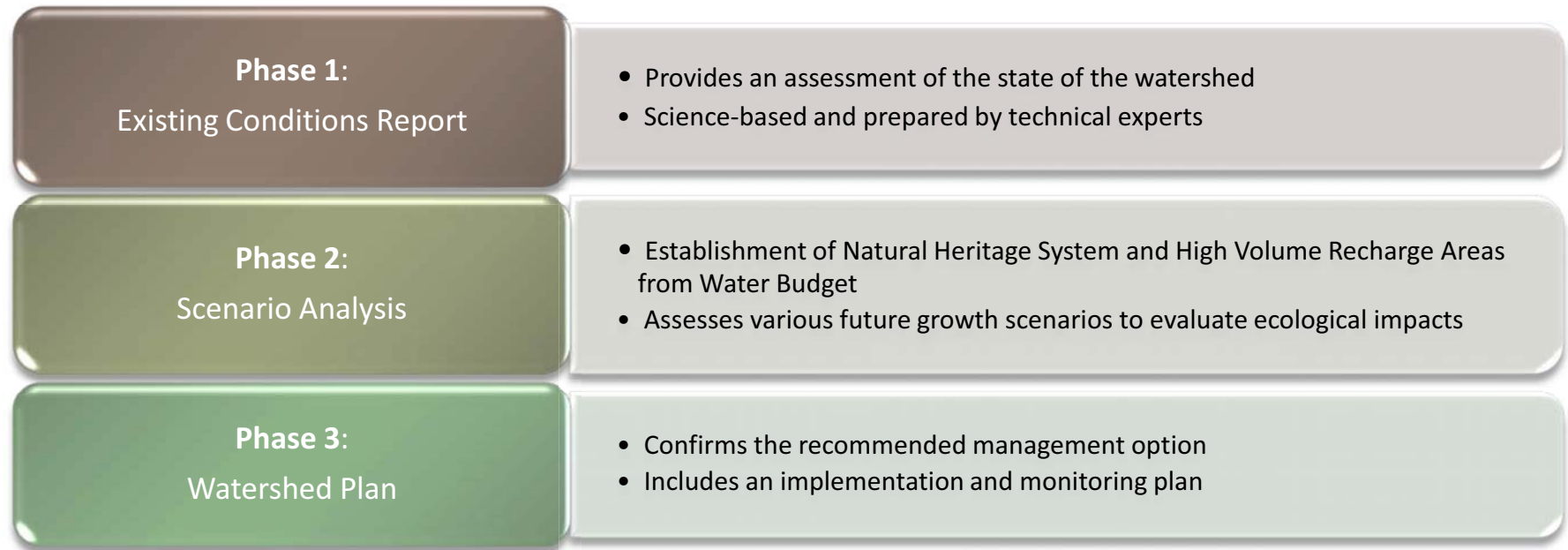
Lynde Creek and its tributaries drain an area of approximately 130 km². The watershed is located entirely within the Regional Municipality of Durham and traverses through five local municipalities: the Township of Uxbridge, Township of Scugog, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, and

the Town of Whitby. Lynde Creek's headwaters originate in the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) and the creek outlets into Lake Ontario through Lynde Creek Marsh. The Lake Iroquois Beach crosses in an east-west direction through the centre of the watershed. Directly south of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the landscape is dominated by farmland. The urban area of the Town of Whitby occupies most of the south portion of the watershed, with Lynde Shores Conservation Area forming the dominant open space on the Lake Ontario waterfront. The Village of Brooklin is located within the central portion of the watershed, and has seen tremendous growth within the last 15 years. Heber Down Conservation Area also lies within the middle of the watershed.

Lake Ontario is the ultimate drainage point of the entire watershed and provides 100% of our municipal drinking water supply as well as other economic, recreation, community and ecological benefits.

DEVELOPING THE WATERSHED PLAN

Our process for developing watershed plans involves three distinct stages as shown below. These stages are designed to allow us to gather all of the background, technical, policy and consultation information necessary to assess various management options for the watershed. This assessment led to the development of the recommendations, implementation and monitoring programs contained in this Watershed Plan. Throughout this process, public and other stakeholder participation and input was encouraged.

CLOCA'S WATERSHED PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

From an ecological perspective, the scenario analysis revealed that the protection and preservation of the NHS and protecting the recharge function of the HVRAs can maintain a healthy watershed in the context of full OP build-out + Whitebelt build-out. Management of the Lynde Creek Watershed will therefore focus on:

- ensuring the long-term protection, restoration and enhancement of the NHS;
- maintenance of groundwater recharge rates in HVRAs;
- supporting municipalities in their efforts to reduce the ecological impacts of existing urban areas, and

- supporting municipalities to ensure that new development and growth respects the recommendations of this Watershed Plan to protect watershed health in the long-term.

This Watershed Plan is based on the work completed in Phases 1 and 2 and is completed in compliance with provincial policies relating to watershed planning.

CLOCA ACTION PLANS

The following Action Plans have been identified for completion and represent undertakings that will help achieve specific watershed health objectives and contribute to the fundamental goal of a healthy and resilient watershed.

- #1: Natural Heritage System Restoration Plan
- #2: Lynde Creek Watershed Riparian Corridors Restoration Plan
- #3: CLOCA Communication, Marketing and Engagement Plan
- #4: CLOCA Regulation & Plan Review Policies and Procedures Manual
- #5: Lynde Creek Watershed Wildlife Corridor Protection and Enhancement Plan
- #6: Heber Down Conservation Area HVRA LID Case Study
- #7: CLOCA Data Needs and Coordination Assessment
- #8: CLOCA Water Monitoring Program Review and Needs Assessment
- #9: CLOCA Urban Land Use Low Impact Development (LID) Retrofits Plan
- #10: Lynde Creek Watershed Stewardship and Education Priorities and Plan
- #11: CLOCA Land Securement Strategy
- #12: Lynde Creek Watershed Imperviousness Report Card
- #13: CLOCA Connected Imperviousness Best Management Strategy
- #14: CLOCA Ecological Goods and Services Inventory
- #15: CLOCA Salt Management Plan
- #16: CLOCA Implementation of the Invasive Species Management Plan
- #17: Lynde Creek Watershed In-Stream Barriers Action Plan
- #18: CLOCA Ecological Compensation Protocol
- #19: CLOCA Lichen Pilot Project
- #20: CLOCA Climate Change Monitoring / Adaptive Management Strategy
- #21: CLOCA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

In addition to the Action Plans, watershed guiding principles have been developed to manage the protection, restoration and enhancement of ecological features and functions within the watershed.

CLOCA'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. Protect, Enhance and Restore the Lynde Creek Watershed to be a Resilient Ecosystem with Ecological Integrity
2. Implementation, Acceptance and Support of the Watershed Plan
3. Long-Term and Sustainable Funding
4. Consistent and Long-Term Monitoring
5. Engaging Stakeholders through Stewardship and Education
6. Filling Data Gaps

MUNICIPAL PARTNER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATERSHED PLAN

To support municipal implementation, watershed recommendations and targets have been translated to municipal planning policies for incorporation in to Official Plans.

OTHER PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATERSHED PLAN

Protecting, restoring and enhancing watershed health requires the cooperation of all impacted stakeholders. Every person has an impact on the environmental, social and economic health of the watershed through their everyday lives and actions. The Watershed Plan outlines the key ways in which our major stakeholder groups can work with us to achieve a healthy Lynde Creek Watershed.



MONITORING AND EVALUATING SUCCESS

Watershed Plans are updated every five years to reflect the constantly changing conditions, pressures and trends in a watershed. It is important to be able to determine if the recommendations and Action Plans contained in this Watershed Plan have been effective so that decisions can be made moving forward on how best to continue to protect, restore and enhance the watershed. The Watershed Plan provides monitoring and evaluation structures for:

- The achievement of Watershed Health Targets;
- The success and effectiveness of CLOCA Action Plans;
- The success and effectiveness of Municipal Policy Implementation; and
- The success and effectiveness of Other Partner and Stakeholder Engagement activities.

KEY WATERSHED PLANNING MESSAGES MOVING FORWARD

The Watershed Plan finishes with some key messages for every stakeholder in the watershed to carry with them moving forward towards a healthy watershed.

1. **Everyone plays a role in sustaining a healthy watershed**
2. **Implementation = Action = Success**
3. **This Watershed Plan Can Affect Change**