

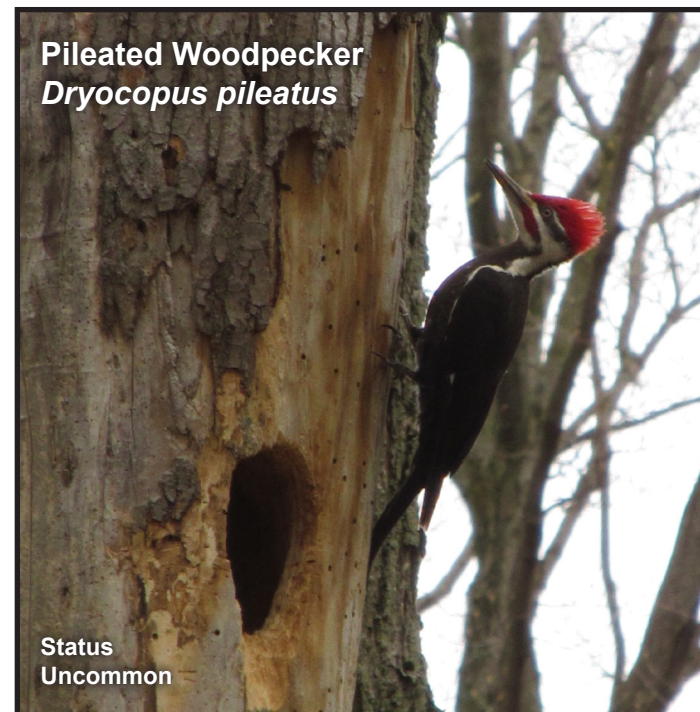
Did you know...

Oshawa Creek Watershed



Watershed Flora and Fauna

When you explore local parks and natural areas in the Oshawa Creek Watershed, look for these flora and fauna. You can cut these cards to create a handy identification kit.



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land drained by a river or creek and its' tributaries into a body of water like a lake. In the Central Lake Ontario Conservation (CLOCA) jurisdiction, an area of 627 square kilometres, we manage 24 watersheds, each one associated with a specific creek. The Oshawa Creek Watershed is shown in the map below.



Oshawa Creek Watershed and Subwatersheds

The tributaries that make up the Oshawa Creek Watershed drain an area of approximately 120 km², beginning in the Oak Ridges Moraine. From there these tributaries flow through rural and urban communities, eventually draining into Lake Ontario at the Oshawa Harbour.

Each individual tributary creates a subwatershed within the overall watershed of Oshawa Creek. The eight sub-watersheds which include 1) Raglan, 2) Enfield, 3) Windfields, 4) Kedron, 5) Goodman, 6) Oshawa Main, 7) Montgomery and 8) the Harbour.

Oshawa Creek Watershed

The Oshawa Creek supports a healthy, resilient watershed with an important and diverse resident and migratory fish community. Every spring and fall, mature trout and salmon enter the creek from Lake Ontario and travel upstream to spawn. When the fish eggs hatch they find this creek an important nursery habitat providing food, shelter and a place to grow before returning to Lake Ontario. The migrating fish attract many hikers and anglers to the creeks where they can experience this life cycle and enjoy nature.

The creeks in this watershed are further enhanced by natural features like forests, meadows, thickets, wetlands and valleys. Collectively these natural features provide a variety of ecological goods and services. These include, but are not limited to, regulating the impacts of climate change, controlling floods, improving water quality, providing habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for people. How we manage these lands in concert with adjacent land uses like subdivisions and farm lands, has a direct impact on overall watershed health. Protecting, enhancing and restoring these natural features on a watershed scale, is a priority for CLOCA's watershed plans.



Alternate Leaf Dogwood

Watershed Plans

Since 1958, CLOCA has been a leader in watershed management planning, working collaboratively to balance human activities and the natural environment, ensuring watershed health for today and tomorrow.

Watershed plans provide a framework to guide our decisions and actions to protect, restore and enhance natural resources to support healthy and resilient communities. The current Oshawa Creek watershed plan is a living document that requires regular review in a constantly changing environment.

To find out more details about our watershed plans and progress on this undertaking, please visit our website.

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Oshawa Creek Watershed

Monitoring

To achieve and maintain a healthy Oshawa Creek Watershed, targets have been set for some of these resources, which involve measuring and documenting terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) indicators to determine overall health. A human indicator is also targeted, which is the amount of paved, or impervious surfaces like our roads, driveways and parking lots, capturing the impacts of urbanization. The table below summarizes the results of our monitoring

efforts and the resulting targets achieved in 2012 and 2017.

Note we continue to exceed the imperviousness surface target. Efforts to use pervious paving technology in the future, that allows stormwater to infiltrate into the ground instead of running off and impacting water quality, can greatly improve this target.

Oshawa Creek Watershed	Target	2012	2017
Natural Cover	30.00%	23.00%	24.57% ↑
Wetland Cover	10.00%	7.00%	7.23% ↑
Riparian Cover	75.00%	Not Comparable	36.00%
Imperviousness	>10.00%	13.00%	14.30% ↑

Success Story: Consortium Watercourse Monitoring Program

Since 2013 the City of Oshawa, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and CLOCA have collaborated on the Consortium Watercourse Monitoring Program (CWMP) to improve our understanding of water quality issues for the Oshawa Creek Watershed. Sampling efforts collect data for water levels, temperature, conductivity and algae growth at each monitoring station.

water quality in the Oshawa Creek Watershed, further informing decisions around watershed management action plans.

There are now fifteen surface water quality monitoring stations in 7 of the 8 subwatersheds, where samples are collected annually by UOIT students, from May to October. Data from this program has helped enhance our baseline for



Eastern Redback