

# Did you know...

# Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed Plan



## Watershed Flora and Fauna

When you explore local parks and natural areas in the Bowmanville/Soper 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 Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed is shown in the map below.



## Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed and Subwatersheds

The Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed drains an area of approximately 170 km<sup>2</sup> and makes up over 25% of CLOCA's jurisdiction. With the exception of a very small area located in the Township of Scugog, this watershed lies exclusively in the Municipality of Clarington.

There are nine sub-watersheds that make up the larger watershed including 1) Hampton, 2) Haydon, 3) Tyrone, 4) Mackie, 5) Soper North, 6) Bowmanville Main, 7) Soper Main, 8) Soper East and 9) Bowmanville Marsh.



# Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed Plan

Of all the watersheds within CLOCA's jurisdiction, the Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed contains the largest area of natural resources including forests, wetlands, successional habitats like meadows and creek valleylands. Beginning in the Oak Ridges Moraine, the tributaries of this watershed flow south, emptying in the Bowmanville Coastal Wetland Complex and then into Lake Ontario.

CLOCA's role in maintaining healthy watersheds ensures local municipalities receive important ecological services and benefits. When a watershed functions well, we can mitigate climate change impacts, control flooding, improve drinking water quality, provide critical wildlife habitat for common and endangered species and greenspaces to benefit people's mental and physical well-being. Land uses across the watershed include urban, agriculture, transportation and greenspace, all of which requires sound environmental management practices to directly benefit the Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed's overall health.



Pileated Woodpecker

## 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 Bowmanville/Soper 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 us online at [cloca.com](http://cloca.com) or contact the conservation office.**



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## Monitoring

At CLOCA we have an Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program to measure watershed health using targets for natural resources to better understand land use impacts imposed on the natural system by humans. This table highlights some of the targets and our monitoring results from 2012 to 2017 for this specific watershed.

Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed	Target	2012	2017
Natural Cover	46.00%	37.00%	37.51% ↑
Wetland Cover	10.00%	8.00%	10.47% ↑
Riparian Cover	75.00%	Not Comparable	49.00%
Imperviousness	>10.00%	5.50%	6.00% ↑

## Success Story: Storoshchuk Pit Restoration

Within the headwaters of this watershed, are several CLOCA properties that make up the Enniskillen Conservation Area. One of these is the Storoshchuk Tract, which has an abandoned aggregate pit in need of restoration. Past sand and gravel extraction have resulted in the creation of a steep, eroding bank that cannot sustain vegetation.

As part of the Enniskillen Conservation Area Stewardship Plan, this abandoned pit is being restored to its original state. This project will re-establish the original topography, creating a more gradual 'rolling hills' landscape to help in establishing a native plant community that reflects what would have been typical of this terrain historically. This will help to improve overall habitat connectivity and local biodiversity as per the recommendations in the Bowmanville/Soper Creek Watershed Plan.

To ensure the success of the project, a long term-monitoring program will be initiated by CLOCA to assess plant health, slope stability and the presence of Species at Risk (SAR) and invasive species.



Storoshchuk Pit