

About the GRCA

- Local agency organized on a watershed basis
- Integrated watershed management
- Balances human, environmental, and economic needs



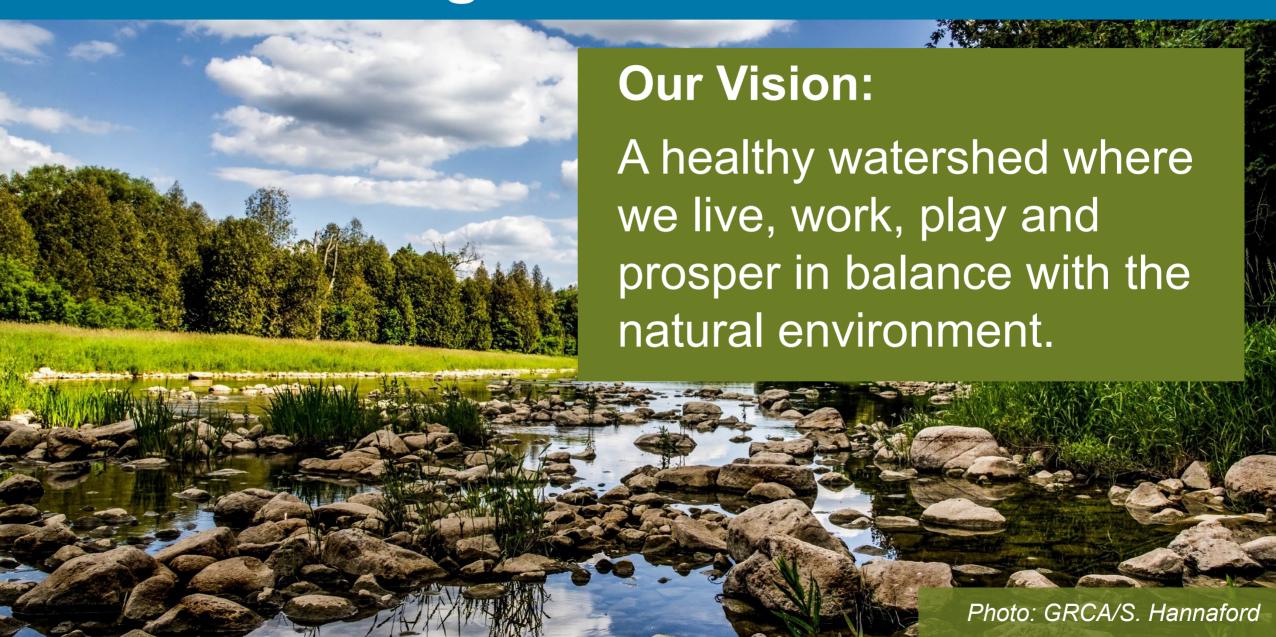
About the Grand River Watershed



Water Management Plan

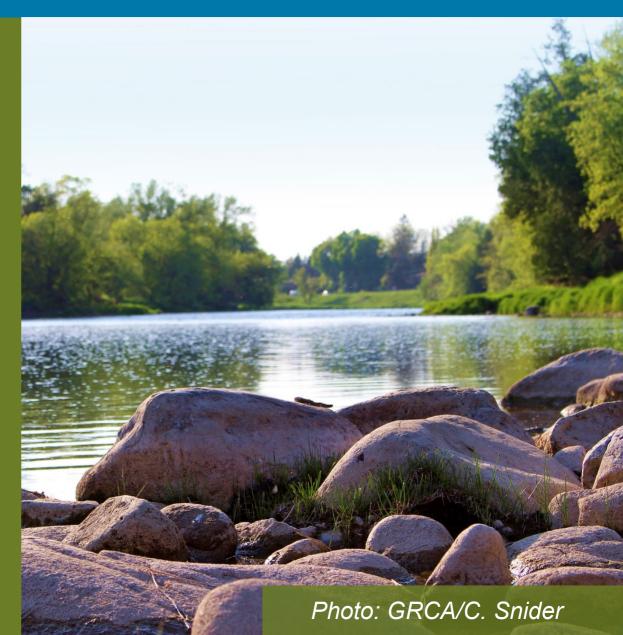
- Provides a framework for collective and collaborative action
- Goals are to ensure
 water supplies, improve
 water quality, reduce
 flood damage potential,
 and build resilience to
 climate change

GRCA Strategic Plan



GRCA Strategic Priorities

- 1. Protect life and minimize property damage from flooding an erosion.
- 2. Improve the health of the Grand River watershed.
- 3. Connect people to the environment through outdoor experiences.



GRCA Strategic Priorities

- 4. Managing landholdings in a responsible and sustainable way.
- 5. Compliance and implementation of the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- 6. Enhance Indigenous awareness, understanding and relationships.



Water Management & Infrastructure

- Seven dams and reservoirs actively managed to reduce flood damages and maintain flows
- Flood peaks reduced 50 per cent or more; minimum flows maintained in dry months
- Completing an Asset
 Management Plan for Major
 Dams and Dikes





Planning and Permits – Role in Development

- In 2023, 27 permits issued; Q1 of 2024, 11 permits approved
- GRCA staff participating on the Expanded Project Team and Technical Advisory Group for the City-led Clythe Creek Subwatershed Study
- O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits now in force

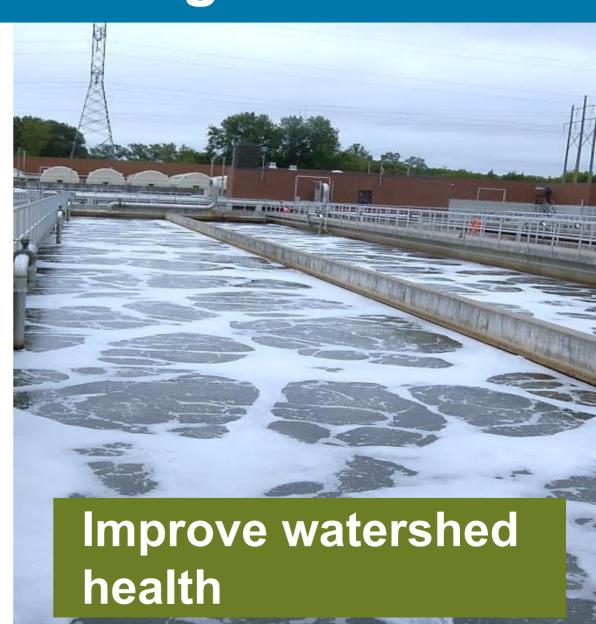
Water Quality Monitoring

- GRCA maintains 2 continuous water quality stations on the Speed River that monitor temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, and turbidity
- GRCA collects monthly samples from sites on the Speed and Eramosa rivers up and down stream of the City as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network



Wastewater Optimization

- The Guelph Wastewater
 Treatment Plant (WWTP)
 achieved a Silver Award
 Category for the Watershed-wide
 Wastewater Optimization
 Recognition Program in 2022
- Guelph WWTP achieved voluntary total phosphorus and total ammonia nitrogen targets in 11 of 12 months (92%) in 2022



Drinking Water Source Protection

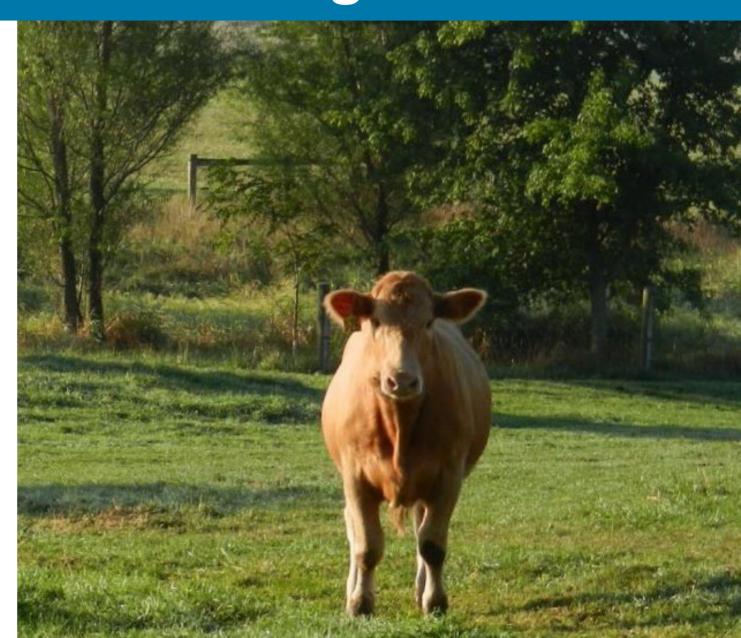
- Ensure Guelph's drinking water supplies are protected now and in the future
- In 2023, GRCA coordinated engagement to protect Guelph's drinking water from overuse due to activities under the Permit to Take Water Program and Aggregate Resources Act

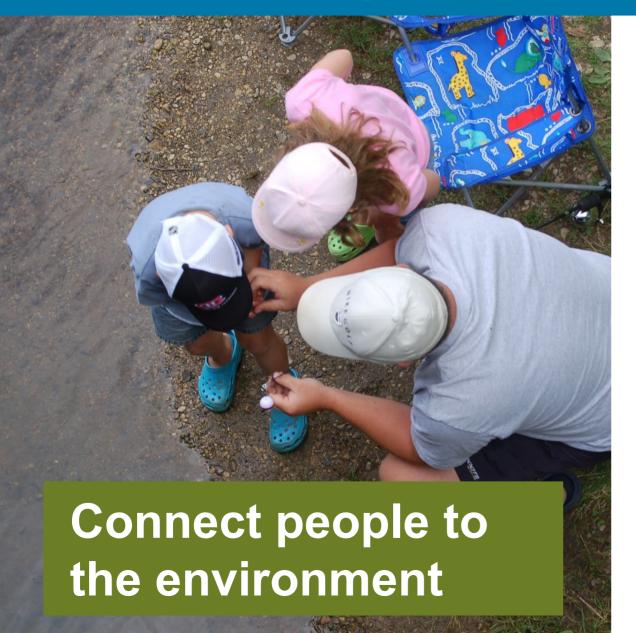


Rural Water Quality Program

In the last 5 years in the City's WHPAs:

- 227 projects
- \$416,000 in grants
- Total investment in water quality -\$680,000





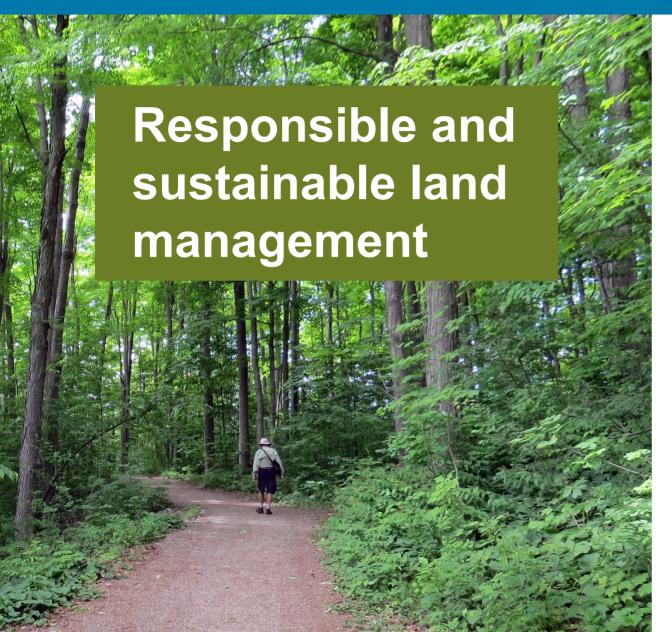
Guelph Lake Conservation Area

- 12.7 km of trails
- 300 camp sites
- Hosts large events, e.g. Hillside Festival, Triathlons, etc.
- Rowing and Sailing Clubs
- 2023 66,000 day use visitors



Guelph Lake Nature Centre

- New nature centre now under construction – to be completed by 2025
- Provides outdoor education programs to students and community groups from the City of Guelph as well as Wellington County



Conservation Lands

- 48,000 acres of land, consisting of 430 parcels
- Current initiatives include preparation of a Conservation Area Strategy and Land Inventory

Compliance and implementation of the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act.

 GRCA staff updating and developing policies and guidelines; work plans underway to ensure the completion of regulatory deliverables

Enhancing Indigenous awareness, understanding, and relationships.

 Working with our First Nations partners to facilitate mutual learning, sharing of information, and establishing stronger working relationships



- Our programs balance human, environmental, and economic needs
- We build relationships and trust with our watershed partners to achieve our common goals

Questions?

