

# Bayfield North

## Watershed Report Card 2023

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into creeks, streams and rivers.

The watershed in which you live provides your link to the natural world. Watersheds connect our actions and accumulate to degrade or improve conditions.

### GRADING

**A** Excellent

**B** Good

**C** Fair

**D** Poor

**F** Very Poor



### FOREST CONDITIONS

GRADE

**B**



### SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

**C**

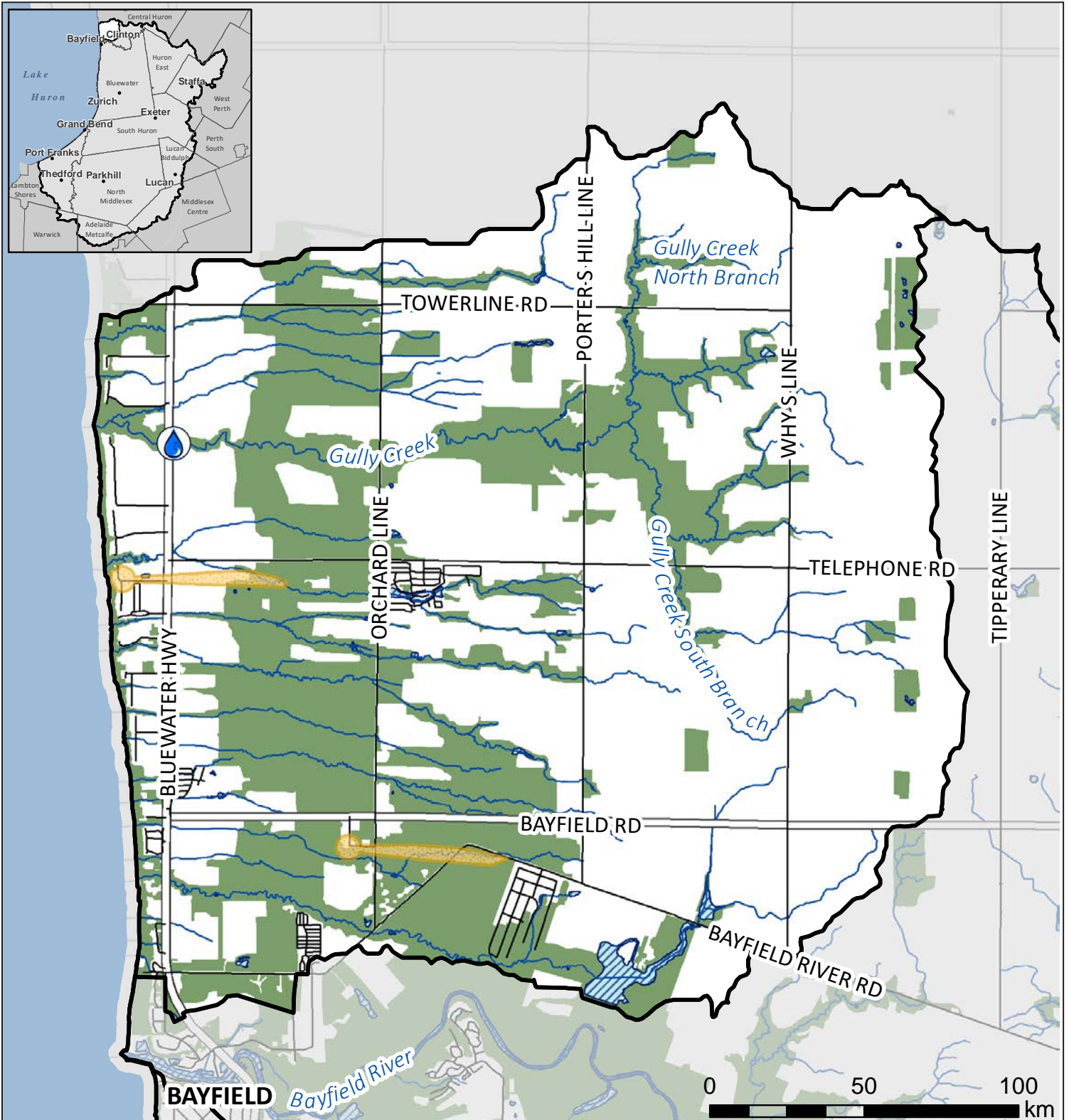


### Thumbs Up!

Ongoing monitoring (such as fish monitoring shown above), supported improved surface water quality. **Landowners in Gully Creek** have reduced tillage, implemented cover crops, used nutrient management plans and installed 50 Water and Sediment Control Basins. Ongoing monitoring, supported by Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, has helped to develop a broader awareness of the importance of cover crops, and how improved soil health through implementation of best management practices improves water quality.

*Report cards give residents information to protect and enhance their watershed.*

# BAYFIELD NORTH WATERSHED



N	Natural feature	Surface water monitoring station	Wellhead protection area
	Water body	Groundwater monitoring station	Watershed boundary

Municipalities: Central Huron Area: 40 sq. km

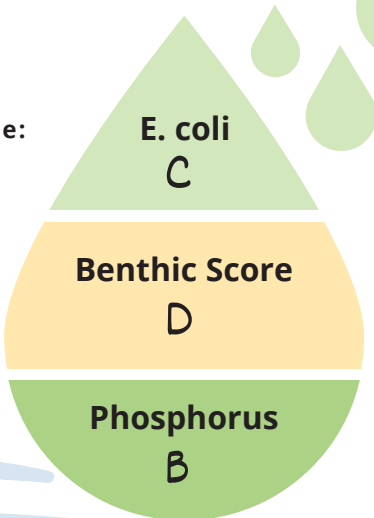
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 **SURFACE WATER**

Grade:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



The complete report card, including an explanation of calculations and historic data, can be found at [abca.ca/watershedreportcard](http://abca.ca/watershedreportcard).

**E. coli was 138 cfu/100 mL.** *E. coli* are bacteria that may indicate contaminated water. An A is 30 cfu/100 mL or less. The recreational guideline is 200 cfu/100 mL or less.

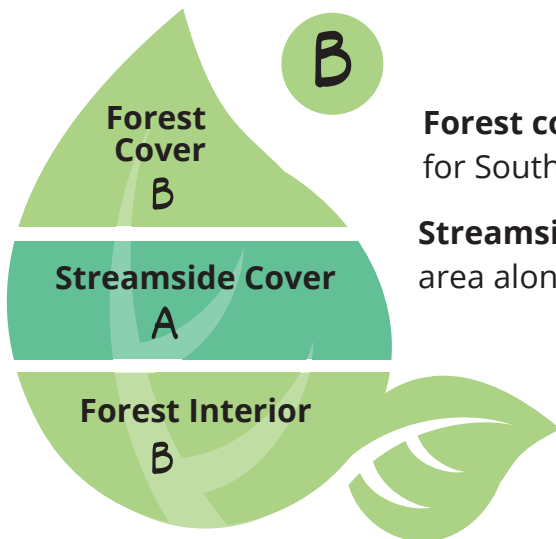
**Benthic Score was 5.96.** Benthic invertebrates are small animals that live in stream sediments. This score summarizes their numbers and types in a sample to rate stream health from healthy (1) to poor (10).

**Phosphorus (total) was 0.029 mg/L.** High phosphorus concentrations can lead to excess algae and low oxygen in streams. An A grade is 0.020 mg/L or less.

 **FOREST CONDITIONS**

Grade:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



**Forest cover was 30.5%.** The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A grade is 35% or greater.

**Streamside cover was 63.9%.** This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

**Forest interior was 9.0%.** This is the percentage of forest at least 100 m from the forest edge. Interior forest is required as breeding habitat for some bird species. An A grade is 11.5% or greater.

 **GROUNDWATER**

**Chloride: A**  
**Nitrate: A**

Groundwater from wells is the municipal drinking water source in Brucefield, Clinton, Seaforth, Varna, and Zurich. Your drinking water quality may be different from monitoring wells.

 **OVERWINTER VEGETATION on Agricultural Land**

**25 - 36%** of farmland had wheat, forages, or hay as winter groundcover. At least 30% overwinter cover is expected if in a corn-soy-wheat rotation. Overwinter cover helps prevent soil erosion. Agriculture covers 59% of the land in this watershed.

 **WETLANDS** F

**2.4%** of the area in this watershed is wetland. Wetlands improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and provide habitat. An A grade is 11.5% or greater.

## How can you help?

### You can:

- Look for areas for planting and protection – look for ‘save, seed, and steward’ opportunities on your property.

### Your community can:

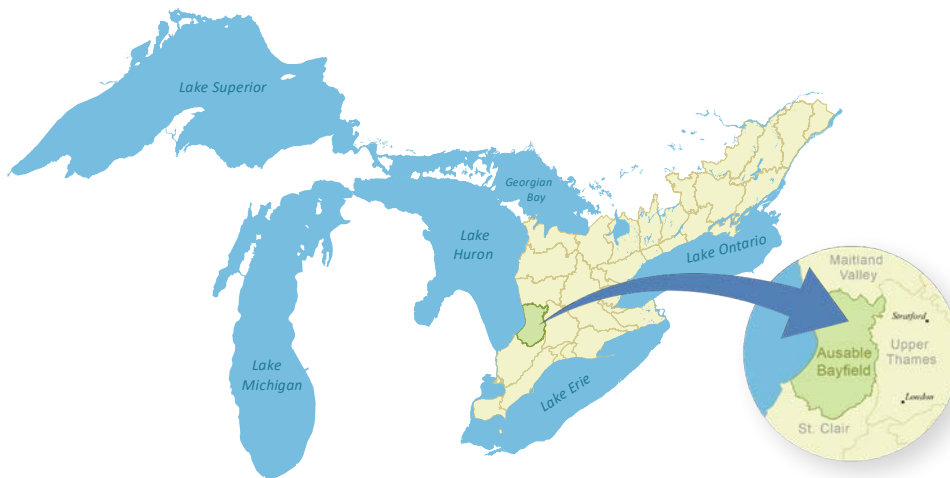
- Continue to implement practices to improve soil health (e.g., plant cover crops and reduce tillage).

### Local agencies can:

- Continue to monitor the environmental and economic effectiveness of rural best management practices (BMPs) in this area.

### TOP ACTION:

To improve forest conditions protect existing woodlots and replant areas affected by forest pests.



### Links to the Great Lakes

No matter where you live in the watershed, you are linked to the Great Lakes.

We rely on the lake as a source of drinking water, economic activity, and recreation.

Your personal actions, whether you live in a town or in the country, can make a difference for Lake Huron.

Visit [lakehuroncommunityaction.ca](http://lakehuroncommunityaction.ca)

### Ausable Bayfield Conservation

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