

Black Creek

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

C



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

D



Thumbs Up!

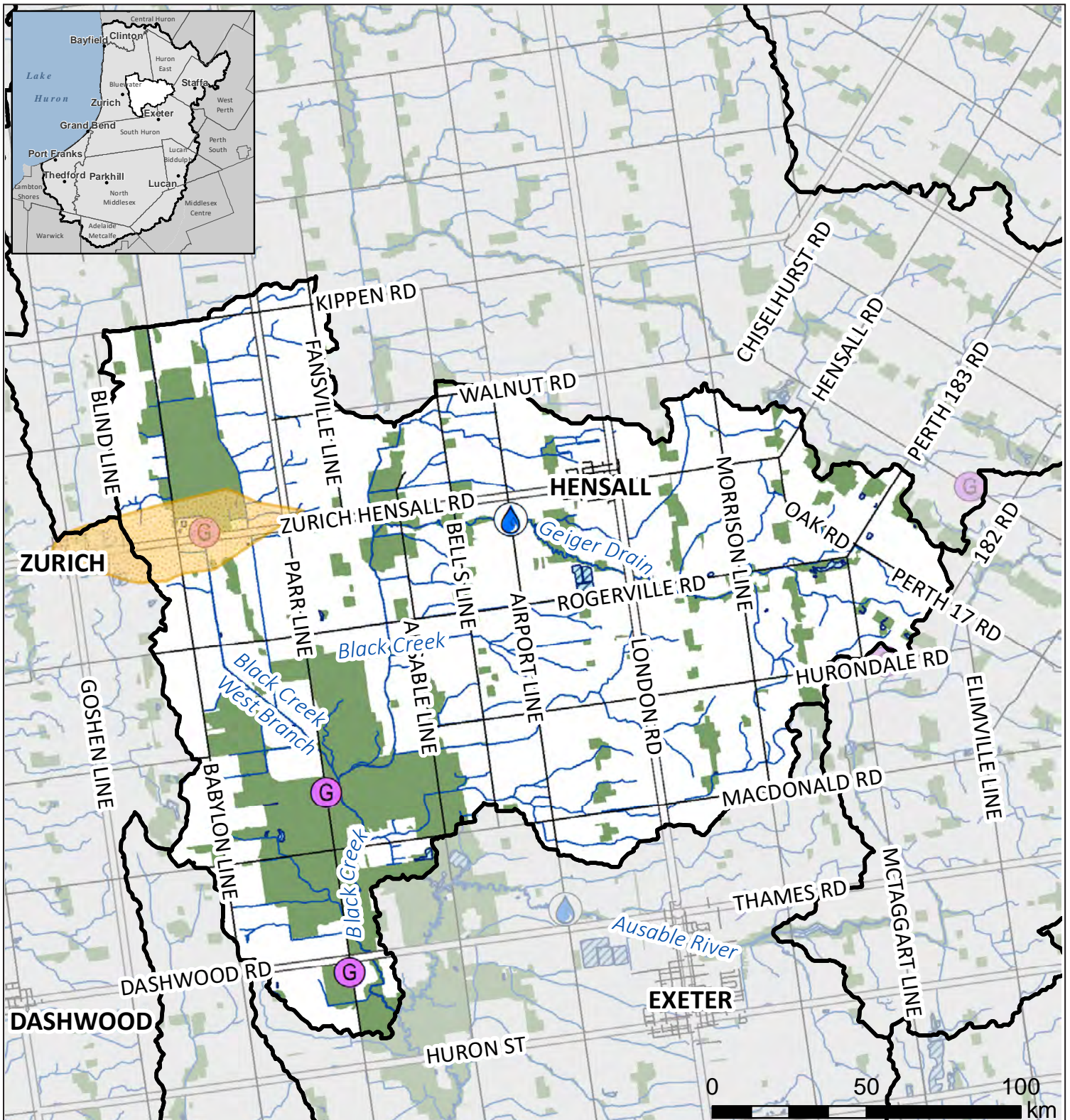
To improve forest conditions and surface water quality, 100 acres of provincially significant wetland were acquired, with the support of a local family, near Zurich.

This will leave a living legacy and help ensure a healthy watershed for generations to come.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation owns land for permanent, long-term protection of needed natural infrastructure.

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

BLACK CREEK WATERSHED



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

Municipalities: West Perth, Huron East, South Huron, Bluewater Area: 124 sq. km

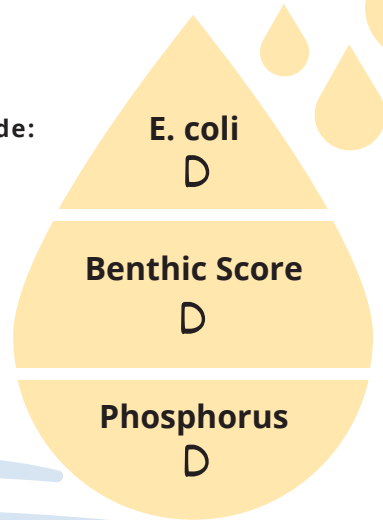
This map has been compiled from various sources and is for information purposes only. The ABCA takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of all the information contained in the map. Copyright King's Printer, 2023.

 **SURFACE WATER**

D

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.

E. coli was 481 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 5.80. 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).

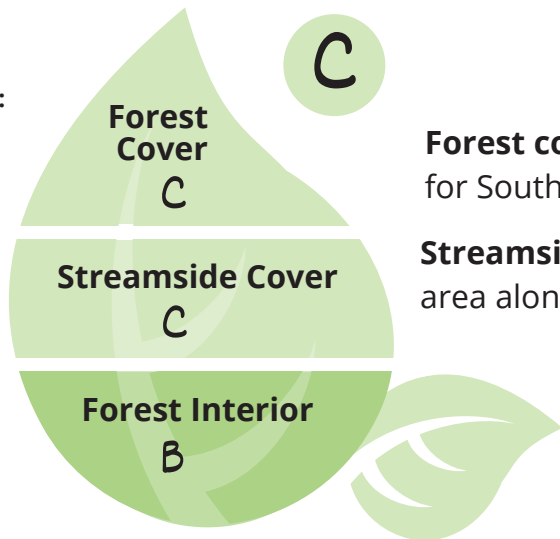
Total phosphorus was 0.114 mg/L. High phosphorus concentrations can lead to excess algae and low oxygen in streams. An A grade is 0.020 mg/L or less.

 **FOREST CONDITIONS**

C

Grade:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F



Forest cover was 20.6%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A grade is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 31.7%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 9.6%. 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: Less than 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**

18 - 23% 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 72% of the land in this watershed.

 **WETLANDS** **A**

11.7% 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:

- Restrict livestock access from waterways by installing livestock fencing.

Your community can:

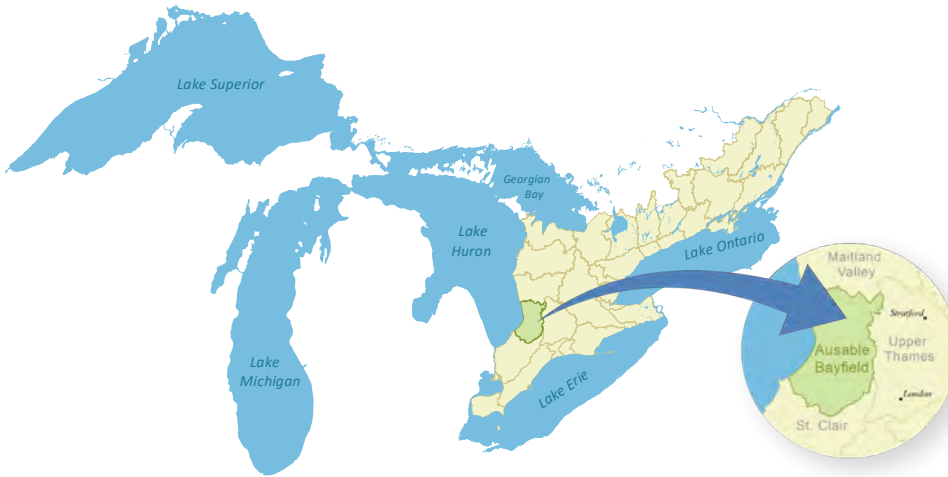
- Support improvements to wastewater treatment plants, local landfill facilities, and stormwater management.

Local agencies can:

- Protect wetlands. Drainage works should be reviewed to ensure baseflow is not diverted, storage in the wetland is not reduced, and channelization does not reduce habitat features.

TOP ACTION:

To improve forest conditions and water quality, plant native trees, shrubs and cover crops.



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

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