

Lower Parkhill

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

D



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

C



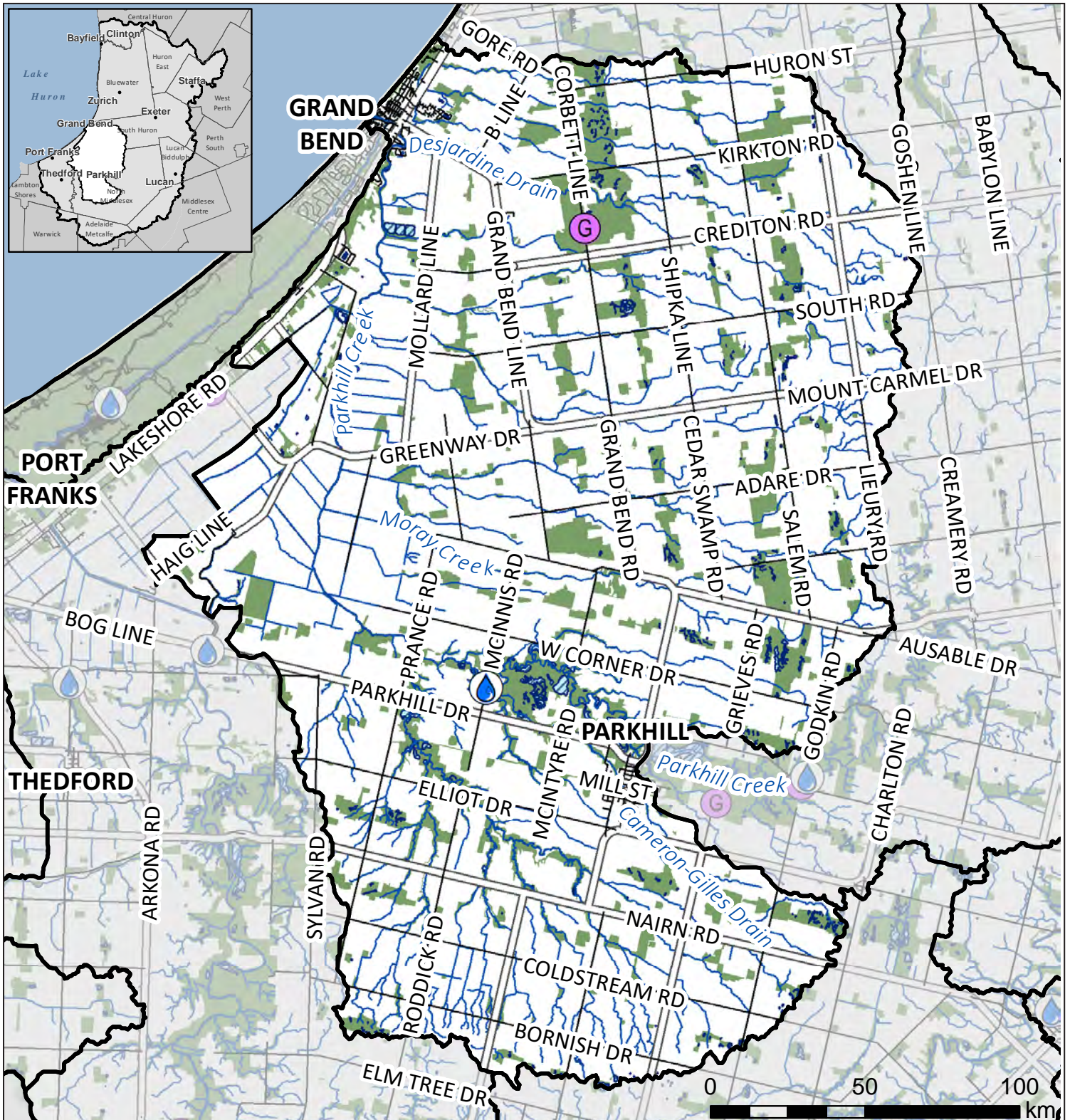
Thumbs Up!

To improve forest conditions, more than 15 acres of marginal farm land were retired and planted with 10,000 trees in partnership with **private landowners, Forests Ontario, Lambton County** and the **Government of Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program**.

These plantings, such as the one shown above, will help connect other forested areas and existing windbreaks.

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

LOWER PARKHILL WATERSHED



N ■ Natural feature 💧 Surface water monitoring station ▨ Wellhead protection area
📍 Water body Ⓜ Groundwater monitoring station 🗺 Watershed boundary

Municipalities: North Middlesex, Lambton Shores, South Huron Area: 334 sq. km

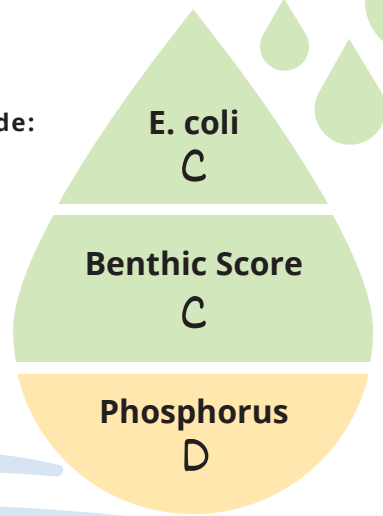
This map has been compiled from various sources and is for information purposes only. The ABCA takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of all the information contained in the map. Copyright King's Printer, 2023.

 **SURFACE WATER**

C

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 134 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 5.75. 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).

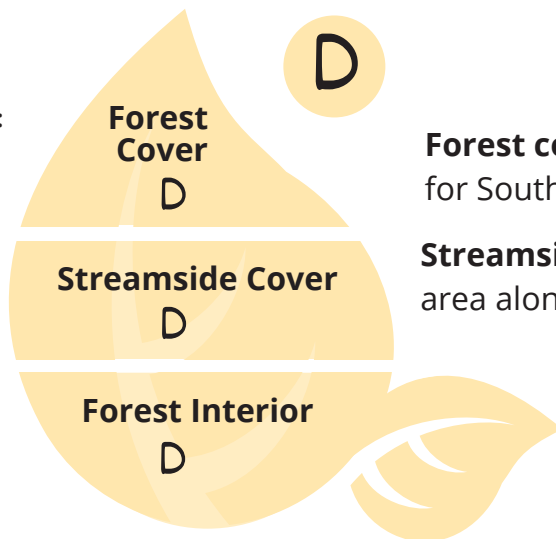
Total phosphorus was 0.153 mg/L. High phosphorus concentrations can lead to excess algae and low oxygen in streams. An A is 0.020 mg/L or less.

 **FOREST CONDITIONS**

D

Grade:

-  A
-  B
-  C
-  D
-  F



Forest cover was 14.7%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 26.0%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 3.6%. 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 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

16 - 20% 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 76% of the land in this watershed.



WETLANDS

F

1.6% 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:

- Practise conservation tillage and plant row crops across the slope of the land on erosion-prone soils.

Your community can:

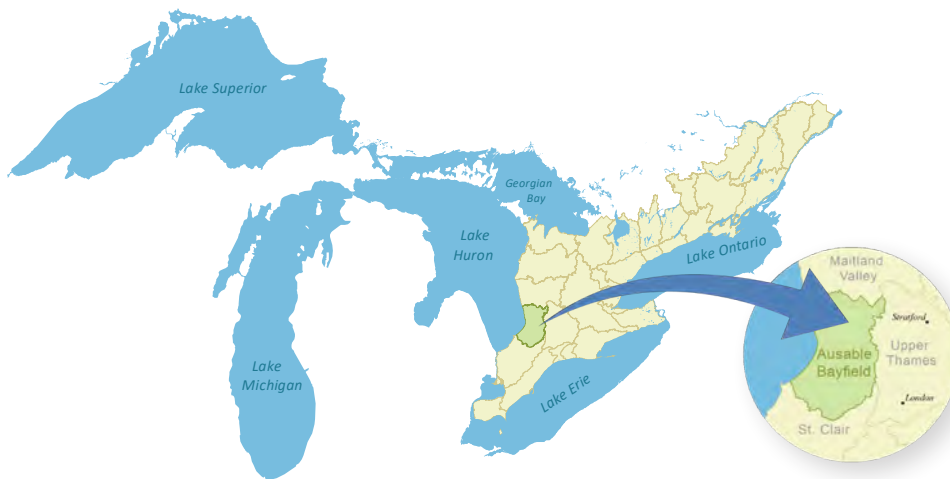
- Continue to undertake environmental awareness programs, like the Yellow Fish Road™.

Local agencies can:

- Encourage proper electronic and hazardous waste disposal by promoting these services.

TOP ACTION:

To improve forest conditions and water quality, plant trees around farms, along watercourses and existing woodlots, and on less productive farmland.



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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