

Middle Ausable

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!

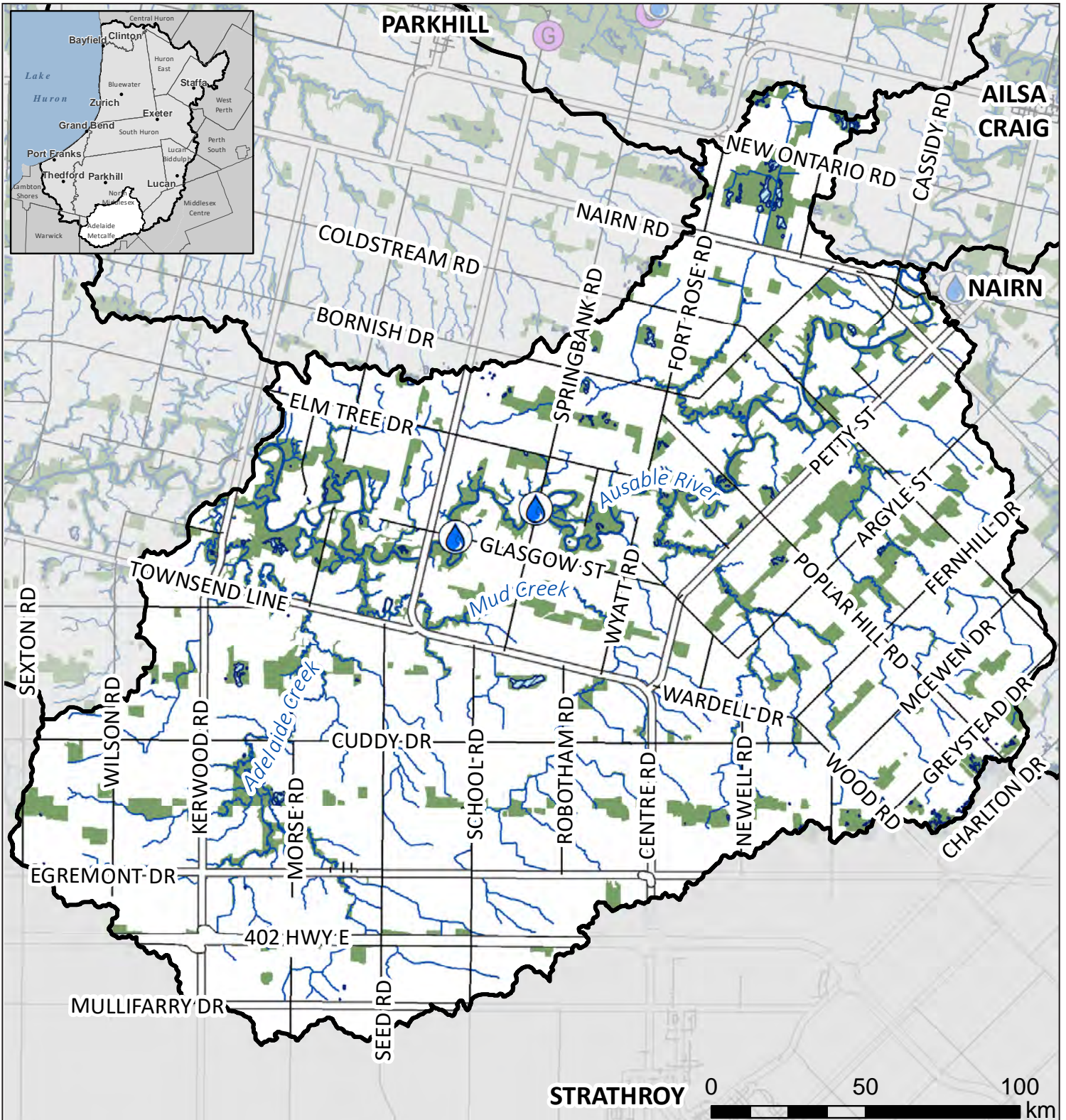
To improve forest conditions and surface water quality, **landowners planted more than 14,500 trees** to retire marginal farm land (farm land of little agricultural value) with support from several partners.

Restoring forests and natural borders along watercourses helps to improve water quality, improve connectivity between natural areas and builds resiliency in our watershed and natural systems.








We are fortunate to have so many watershed landowners who restore and protect natural areas, for the benefit of all.

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

MIDDLE AUSABLE WATERSHED



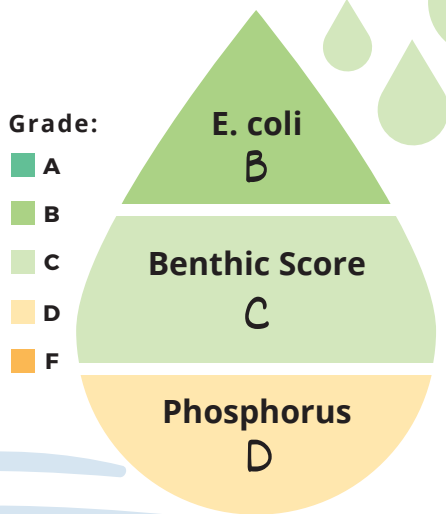
STRATHROY 0 50 100 km

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

Municipalities: Adelaide Metcalfe, Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex Area: 231 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**



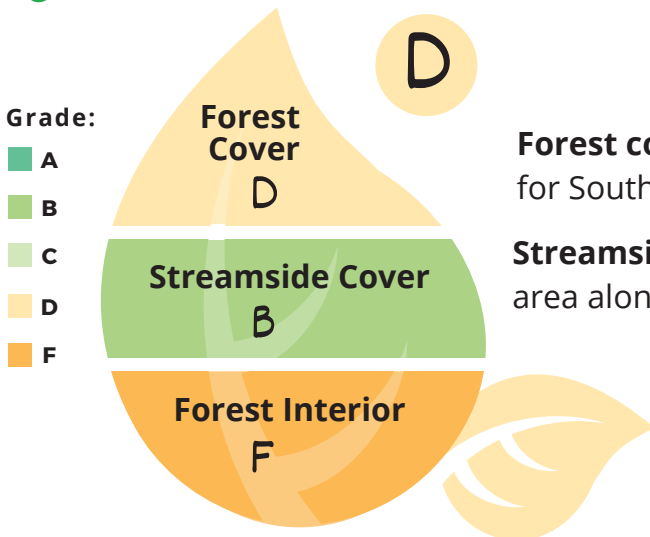
The complete report card, including an explanation of calculations and historic data, can be found at abca.ca/watershedreportcard.

E. coli was 76 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 5.13. 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 0.097 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**



Forest cover was 13.6%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 42.7%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 1.9%. 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**

12 - 25% 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% of the area in this watershed is wetland. Wetlands improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and provide habitat. An A is 11.5% or greater.

How can you help?

You can:

- Reforest less agriculturally productive land and extend forests along fencerows.

Your community can:

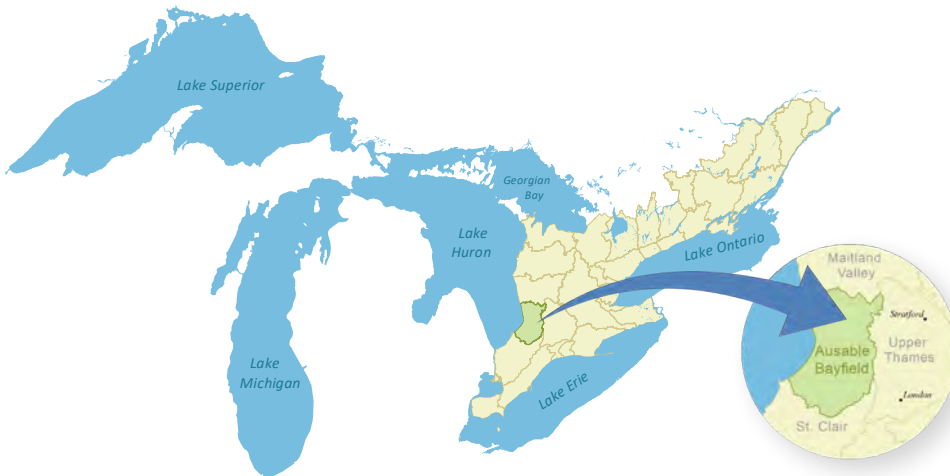
- Attend and participate in local events, such as the Ailsa Craig fishing derby, and Ailsa Craig Gala Days.

Local agencies can:

- Promote reintroduction of native species and other forest management practices such as prevention and control of invasive species.

TOP ACTION:

To improve water quality, plant cover crops, reduce tillage and rotate 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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