

Nairn 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

D



SURFACE WATER QUALITY

GRADE

C



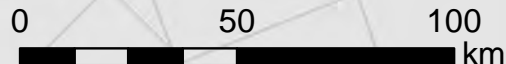
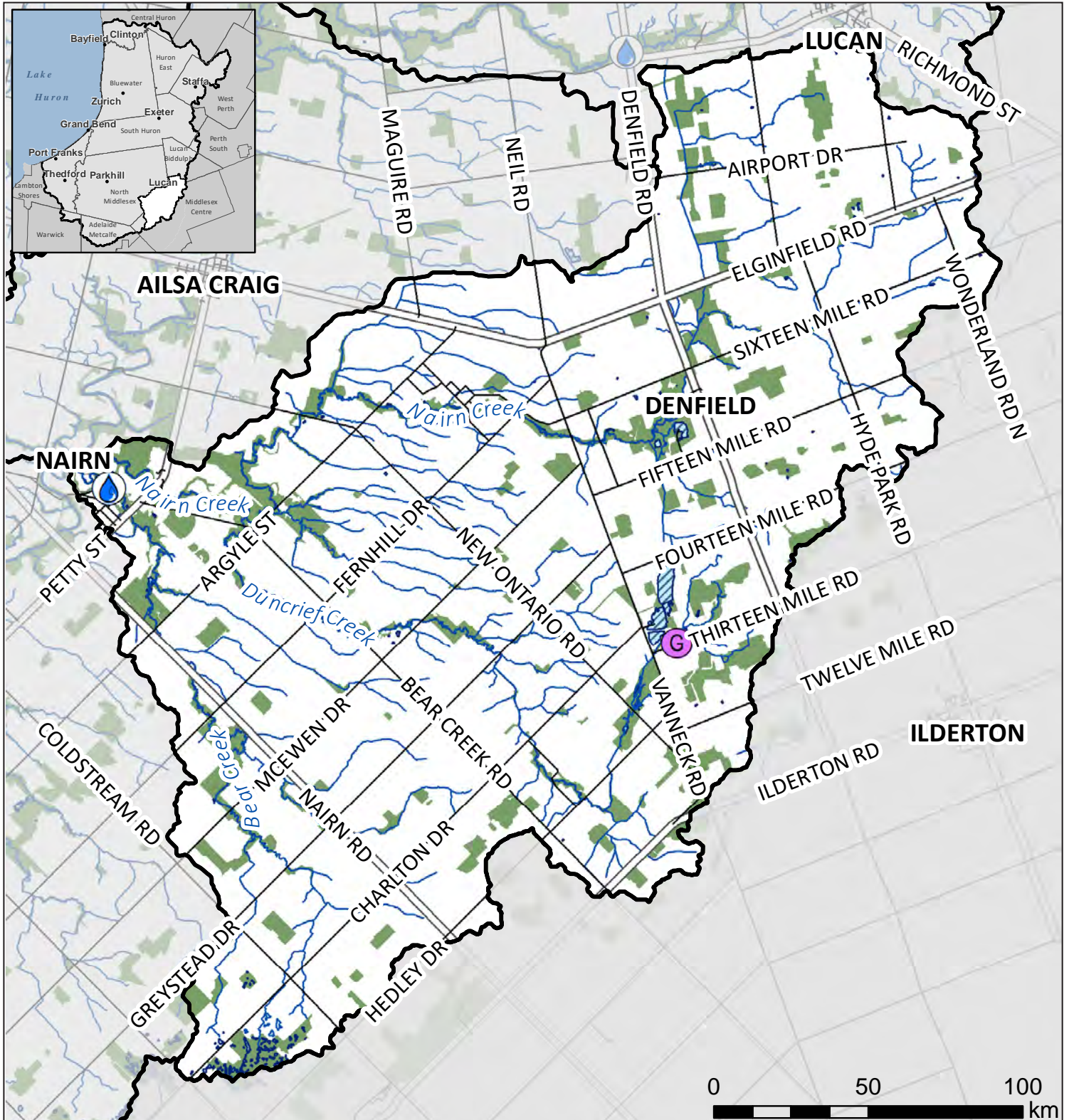
Thumbs Up!

To improve surface water quality, **local landowners** have been restoring wetlands in low-lying areas adjacent to woodlots and on marginal farmland (as shown above). Wetlands help improve water quality by slowing water down and allowing sediments to settle out and plants to filter nutrients.

Downstream erosion is also reduced as wetlands are able to hold onto stormwater during flood events and release needed water during drought events.

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

NAIRN CREEK WATERSHED



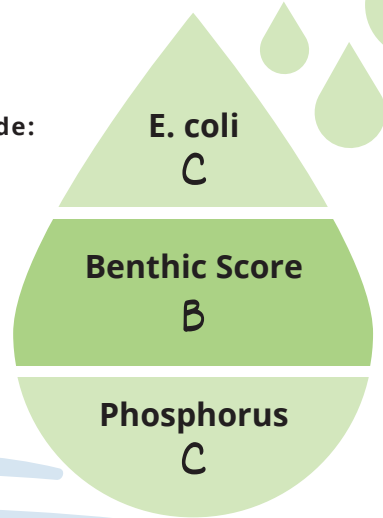
- N
- Natural feature
- Surface water monitoring station
- Wellhead protection area
- Water body
- Groundwater monitoring station
- Watershed boundary

Municipalities: Lucan Biddulph, Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex Area: 139 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**

- 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.

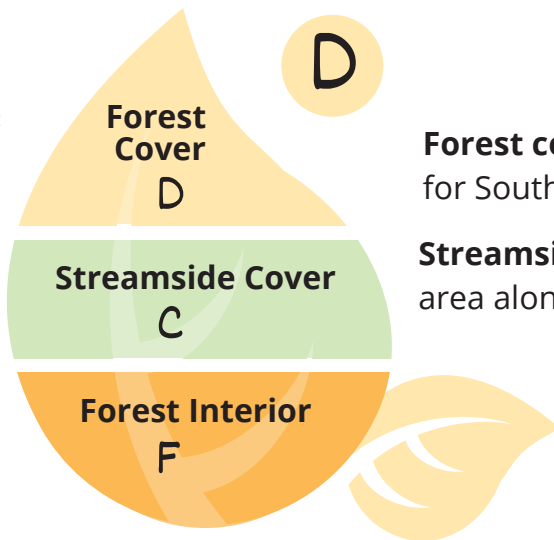
E. coli was 120 cfu/100 mL. *E. coli* are bacteria that may indicate contaminated water. An A is 30 cfu/100 mL or less. The recreational guideline is 200 cfu/100 mL or less.

Benthic Score was 4.92. 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 0.039 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**

- Grade:
- A
 - B
 - C
 - D
 - F



Forest cover was 9.7%. The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A is 35% or greater.

Streamside cover was 28.8%. This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

Forest interior was 0.9%. 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: A
Nitrate: Less than 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**

14 - 35% 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 78% of the land in this watershed.

 **WETLANDS** F

0.7% 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:

- Plant streamside vegetation.

Your community can:

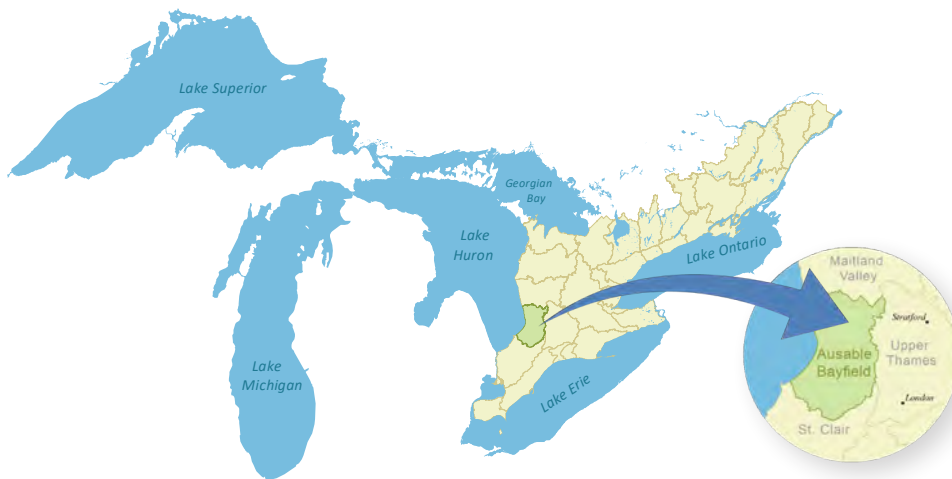
- Protect wetlands and investigate the purchase of key wetlands that preserve coldwater flow.

Local agencies can:

- Evaluate areas of significance to enhance coldwater.

TOP ACTION:

To improve forest conditions, plant windbreaks and connect woodlots on less agriculturally productive land.



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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