

# Upper 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**



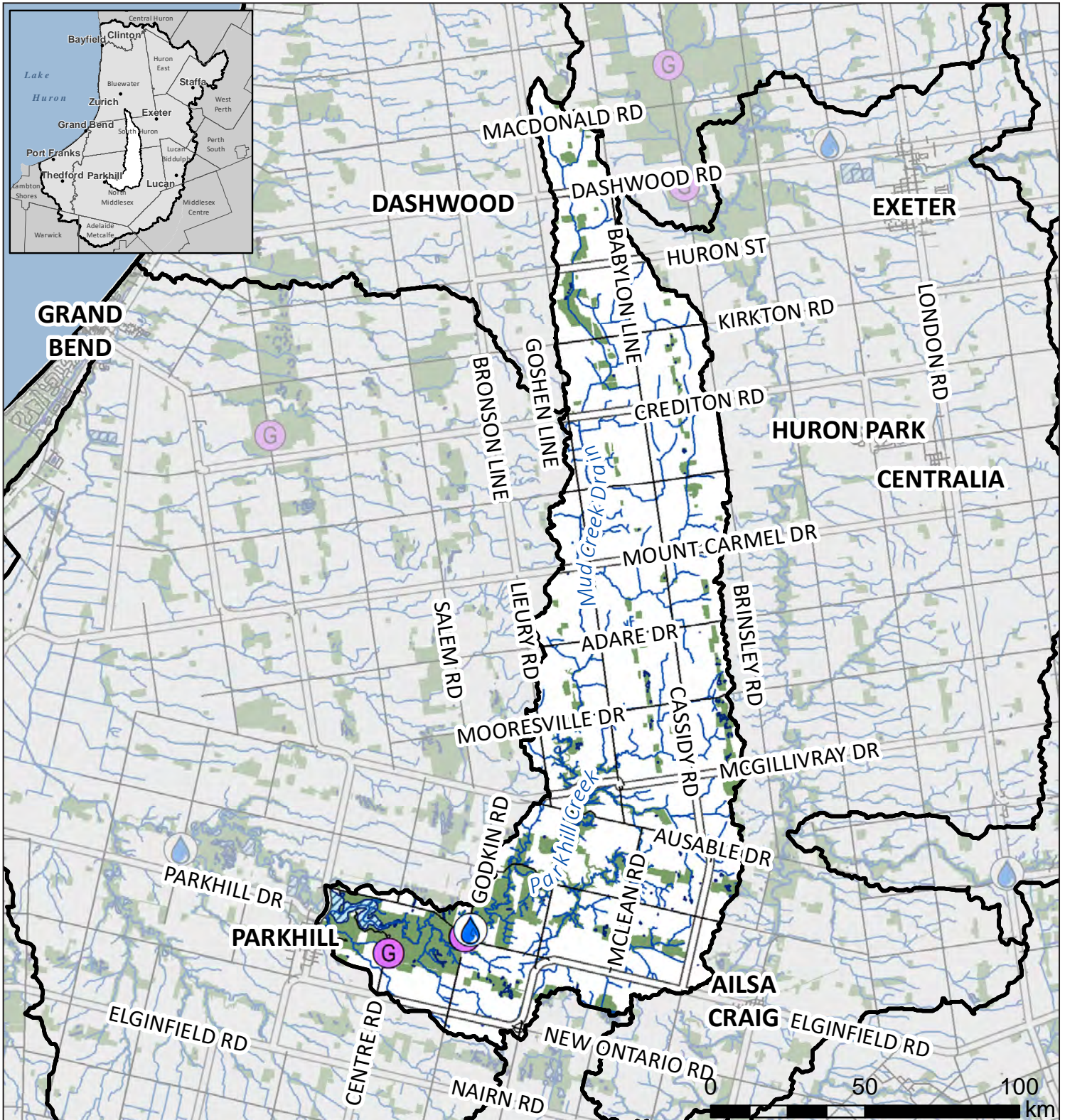
### Thumbs Up!








Part of the construction of the Parkhill Dam in 1969 included a diversion channel (shown above) to reduce flood flows of the Cameron-Gillies Drain through the town of Parkhill. In May of 2019, heavy rainfall put the diversion channel, which is dry most of the time, to the test. Had the channel not been there, localized areas could have experienced even more significant flooding.

Flood control structures and regulation limits help protect public safety and property when it comes to natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

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

# UPPER PARKHILL WATERSHED



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

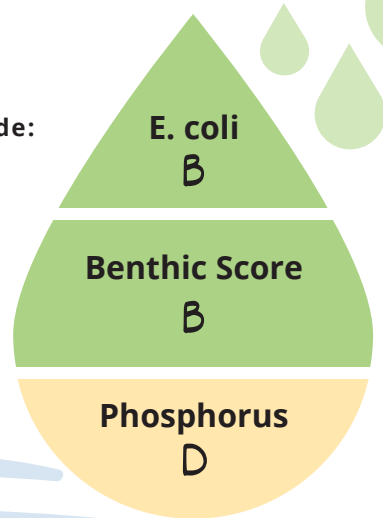
Municipalities: Bluewater, South Huron, North Middlesex Area: 127 sq. km

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](http://abca.ca/watershedreportcard).

**E. coli was 100 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/ 100mL or less.

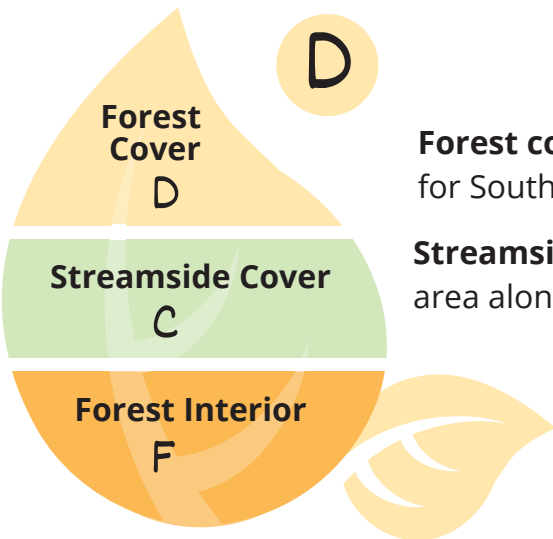
**Benthic Score was 4.94.** Benthic invertebrates are small animals that live in stream sediments. This score summarizes their numbers and types in a sample to rate stream health from healthy (1) to poor (10).

**Total phosphorus was 0.121 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 14.1%.** The Environment Canada guideline for Southern Ontario is 30%. An A grade is 35% or greater.

**Streamside cover was 40.3%.** This is the percentage of 30-m area along streams that is forested. An A is 57.5% or greater.

**Forest interior was 2.3%.** 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**

**22 - 28%** 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

**1.2%** 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:

- Plant windbreaks and cover crops, and maintain residue cover to protect soil.

### Your community can:

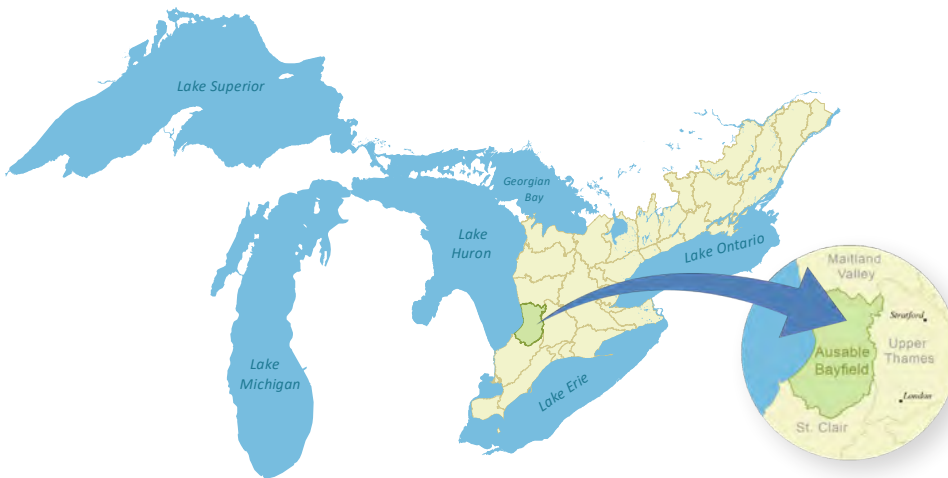
- Continue to attend local events and talks, such as local library programs.

### Local agencies can:

- Develop a healthy forest management strategy for remediating the impacts of invasive pests.

### TOP ACTION:

To improve water quality, practice conservation tillage on cropped and sloped lands upstream of the Parkhill Reservoir.



### 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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