



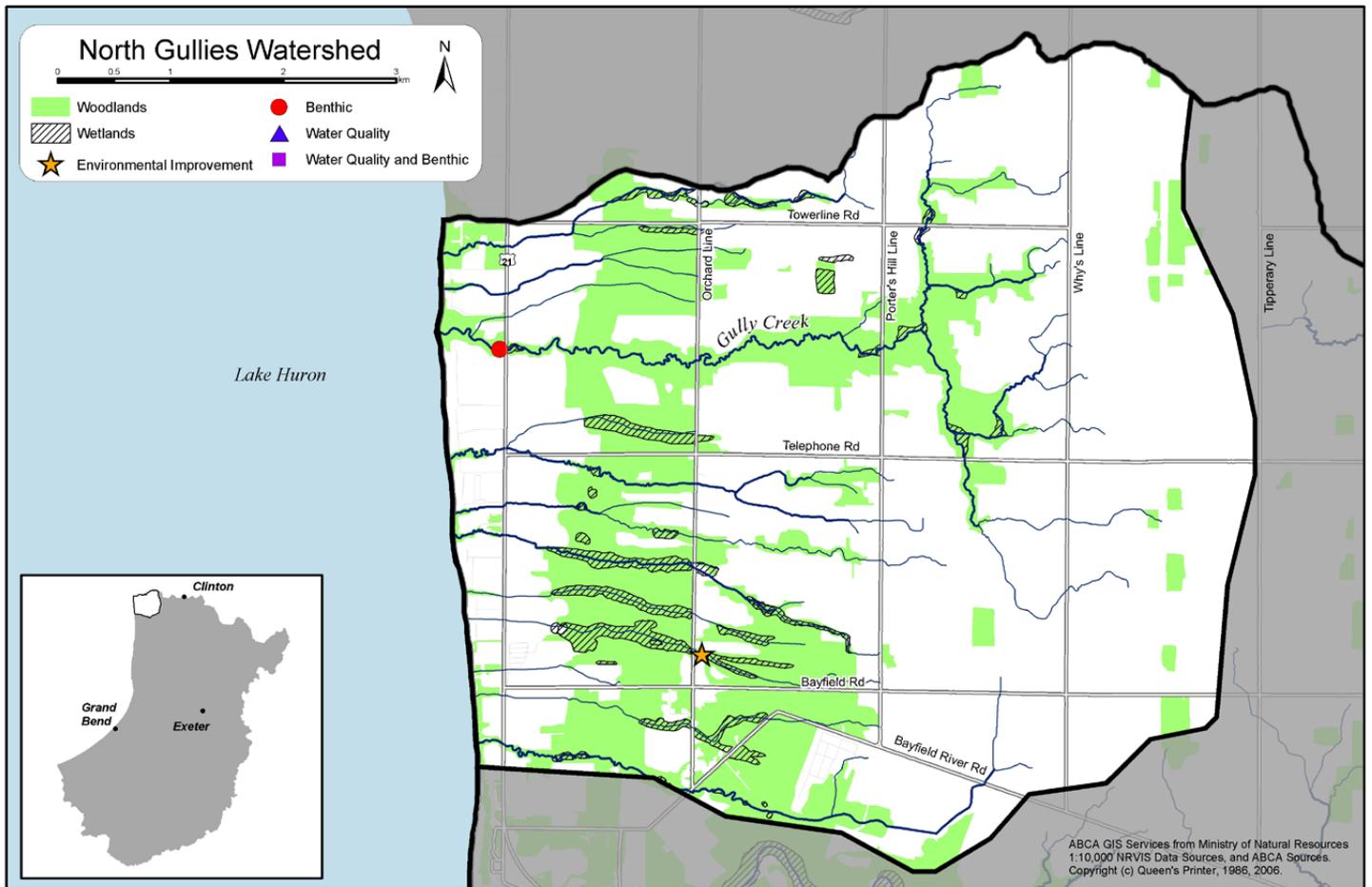
# North Gullies Watershed Report Card

## Grades:

Forest Conditions **A**

Surface Water Quality **A**

This report card summarizes water quality and forestry information for the North Gullies watershed (*the highlighted area on the map below*). This map also shows water quality stations and environmental improvement locations. For consistency across watersheds, Conservation Ontario has recommended the use of specific water quality and forestry indicators that are described in the following tables. The summary is intended to provide landowners, groups, municipalities and agencies with information to protect, enhance and improve natural features of the watershed. The ongoing monitoring will be reported on a five-year cycle which will help local people manage their natural features. This report card is part of a larger report entitled **The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card** available at: [www.abca.on.ca](http://www.abca.on.ca). Further information, including methodology, comparisons to the other 15 Ausable Bayfield watersheds and references are also found in the report.



## Priority Strategy for North Gullies Watershed

**Protect:** Maintain and expand existing forests.





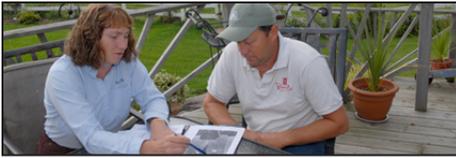


# North Gullies

## Forest Cover, Surface Water Quality

	Indicator and Description	North Gullies		Ausable Bayfield Area	
		Result	Grade	Result	Grade
Forest Conditions	<b>Forest Cover</b> is the percentage of the watershed that is forested. Environment Canada recommends <b>30%</b> of a watershed should be in forest cover.	27.7%	A	12.6%	C
	<b>Forest Interior</b> is the area inside a woodlot that some bird species need for breeding. Environment Canada recommends <b>10%</b> of a watershed should be in forest cover that is at least 100 m from the forest edge.	9.0%	A	2.8%	D
Water Quality	<b>Total Phosphorus</b> is an element that enhances plant growth and contributes to excess algae and low oxygen in streams and lakes. The Ministry of the Environment has established an environmental health objective concentration of <b>0.03 mg/L</b> .	N/A	N/A	0.08	B
	<b>E. coli (<i>Escherichia coli</i>)</b> are bacteria found in human and animal waste. Their presence in water indicates the potential for the water to have other disease-causing organisms. The Ministry of Health has established a guideline of <b>100 cfu</b> (colony forming units)/100 mL in recreational waters.	N/A	N/A	233	C
	<b>Benthic Invertebrates</b> are small animals without backbones that live in stream or lake sediments. The Family Biotic Index ( <b>FBI</b> ) summarizes the information about the numbers and types of these animals in a sediment sample. FBI values provide stream health information and values range from <b>1 (healthy) to 10 (degraded)</b> .	4.2	A	5.6	C

Grade	Explanation
A	Indicates excellent ecosystem conditions and protection may be required. Some areas may require enhancement.
B	Indicates good ecosystem conditions. Some areas may require enhancement.
C	Indicates ecosystem conditions that need to be enhanced.
D	Indicates poor ecosystem conditions that need to be improved.
F	Indicates degraded ecosystem conditions that need considerable improvement.



# North Gullies Next Steps and Local Successes



## To improve forest conditions ...

- Protect existing woodlots and wetlands.
- Increase forest cover in the headwater area of these lakeshore tributaries.

## To improve water quality ...

- Protect all wetlands.
- Identify potential wetland and forest enhancement projects in this watershed.
- Are there people north of Bayfield interested in forming local environmental groups (i.e., Friends of... see [www.ontariostreams.on.ca](http://www.ontariostreams.on.ca)) to improve water quality in these small streams or Lake Huron?
  - Manure Management:
    - Apply manure at rates and times to optimize crop uptake of nutrients and prevent runoff.
    - Monitor tile outlets for contaminants during and following manure application and implement spill contingency plans if necessary.
    - Ensure manure storage facilities are adequate and properly functioning.
    - Keep records; develop a nutrient management plan (Environmental Farm Plan funding may be available).



- Plant windbreaks and practise conservation tillage on erosion-prone soils (Programs available through ABCA).
- Fix faulty septic systems and establish a septic maintenance plan.
- Decommission abandoned wells and upgrade existing wells to prevent groundwater contamination.

## Other recommendations

- Identify barriers to fish migration.
- Continue to support the province's natural heritage policies through local official plans and zoning by-laws (i.e., storm water management, tree cutting bylaw).
- Complete Environmental Action Plans (Farmers see Environmental Farm Plan; Lakeshore residents see Lakeshore Stewardship Manual). A stewardship manual for rural non-farm landowners should be completed by 2007. Contact the ABCA for more information.

## Thumbs up!

Landowners have preserved large woodlots along streams.

*This is just one example in the watershed – give us a call and tell us about your project.*



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