



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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Staff Update

June 26, 2023



State of the Nation Watershed Report Card 2023



South Nation Conservation has prepared this report card as a summary of the state of your forests, wetlands, and water resources. Measuring helps us better understand our watersheds. We can focus our work where it is needed and track progress.



- **World Water Day (March 22, 2023) will launch the State of Ontario's resource conditions**
- The State of the Nation summarizes information collected for the past 5 to 10 years within SNC's jurisdiction



WHERE ARE WE?



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land drained by a creek or stream into a river which then drains into a body of water such as a lake or pond. Everything in a watershed is connected. Our actions upstream can affect conditions downstream.

Why Measure?

Measuring helps us better understand our watershed. We can target our work where it is needed and track progress. We measured:



GRADING

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair
D	Poor
F	Very Poor
	Insufficient Data

What is a watershed report card?

Ontario's Conservation Authorities report on watershed conditions every five years.

The watershed report cards use Conservation Ontario guidelines and standards developed by Conservation Authorities and their partners.

Goals of WRCs:

- Make the information easily accessible;
- Connect people to the watersheds where they live; and
- Track conditions of natural resources and identify areas that are faring well and those that are impacted.



HOW CAN WE ENHANCE THE WATERSHED?



Protecting the SNC Jurisdiction

SNC is an agency with a mandate to conserve, restore, and manage the water, land, and natural habitats of the 4,441 km² SNC jurisdiction. SNC works closely with partner municipalities, government agencies, individual landowners, and community groups to maintain and improve the natural environment.

Sustainable Development

Land use planning input and administration of Ontario Regulation 170/06 (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) ensures the protection of people and their property, and that development does not negatively impact wetlands, shorelines, or waterways.

Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

Data collected through a variety of monitoring activities, including surface water, groundwater, and fisheries sampling, is used to evaluate and report on existing watershed conditions, identify changes, and target stewardship activities.

Flood Forecasting and Warning, and Low Water Response

Data, including weather information, water levels and flows, snow pack, and ice conditions, are used to help protect life and property from natural hazards such as high and low water conditions.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship

Public workshops, school programs, summer youth camps, and local events provide environmental education opportunities. Programs provide technical advice and financial assistance to landowners to implement stewardship projects to enhance the region.

Conservation Land and Forestry Program

SNC will have served over 1,000 property owners through tree planting programs and will have planted its 4 millionth tree in 2023 to act as windbreaks, control erosion along stream banks, and reforest idle land. SNC is a partner in the management of over 20,000 acres of conservation land in Eastern Ontario. SNC encourages responsible, recreational use of our forests and maintains 14 day-use Conservation Areas for the public to step outdoors and into nature.

The State of the Nation is available online and in other formats upon request.

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Be a Watershed Steward!

By working together, we can make a difference. Improving the health of the South Nation Watershed requires us to make choices that balance environmental concerns with everyday life.

Here are some examples of stewardship activities that we can help you undertake to enhance your property and protect human and environmental health.

Clean Water Grants

Cost-share funding is available for projects that help improve water quality on private property, including: stream bank and erosion control, decommissioning abandoned wells and septic systems, and on-farm projects, nutrient management, and education initiatives.

Woodlot Advisory Service

Would you like to save up to 75% on your property taxes, while maximizing the potential of your woodlot? SNC's Woodlot Advisory Service promotes sustainable management of private forests by offering free site visits, technical advice, and grants to help create Forest Management Plans.

Tree Planting Program

Everyone can benefit from planting suitable trees on their property. SNC partners with Forests Ontario to offer seedlings, site preparation/tending, and planting for a subsidized fee, with additional subsidies available in the City of Ottawa.

What Can Your Community Do?

- Plant native trees and shrubs on idle land and along streambanks.
- Control soil erosion through the use of trees or grass buffers, berms, cover crops, or crop residue.
- Install bird, bat, and pollinator boxes to provide wildlife habitat on your property.
- Prevent the spread of invasive species by gardening with non-invasive plants, washing your boat, disposing bait away from water, and cleaning shoes after using trails.
- Apply nutrients at rates and times that optimize crop uptake. If property is tile drained, consider installing controlled tile drainage structures at outlets.
- Be septic smart! Pump and inspect septic systems every 3-5 years.
- Reduce your use of household chemicals including, detergents, cleaners and lawn chemicals. Salt responsibly during the winter.
- Dispose of chemicals properly through household hazardous waste days or drop-off locations.
- Support development decisions that protect natural features and enhance ecosystems.
- Don't pour anything down storm drains — they are not treated and flow directly into local watercourses.
- Participate in local water quality and quantity monitoring initiatives, and volunteer in the community!

- *Last page provides a call to action.*
- Healthy watersheds provide safe drinking water, ensures food security, cools the air and absorbs greenhouse gas emissions and provides green spaces for people to use in order to keep active.



WHY REPORT

MONITORING

INDICATORS

WATERSHEDS

ACTION

HOW HEALTHY ARE ONTARIO'S WATERSHEDS?

LEARN MORE





Low Water Response Program



- Confirmed Water Response Team membership for 2023
- Monitoring conditions:
 - Precipitation
 - Surface Water Flow
 - Groundwater Levels

Nash Creek upstream of County Road 2 – August 31, 2018

Our Local Environment, We're in it Together.



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