

Get Involved!

- Your own property is where caring for the environment can start.
- Protecting and establishing forested areas will help improve local water quality and habitat diversity.
- Planting trees to connect fragmented patches of natural areas will help provide safe travel routes for wildlife.
- You can make a difference in protecting the environment, and we would like to help get you started.



You May Qualify For Funding

Grants are available to landowners who live in qualifying areas of our watershed to implement projects which will help improve local water quality and habitat diversity. Grant rates and ceilings may vary between watersheds.

Eligible Items*	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling
Habitat restoration including buffer strips, shelterbelts & windbreaks, floodplain & fragile land retirement, reforestation of sensitive lands & connecting fragmented woodlands	Up to 75%	Up to \$10,000

* Technical advice and assistance is available to all watershed residents. Program funding may be available for other projects which demonstrate an improvement to water/habitat quality. Check with the Conservation Authority for current funding information.

Program Guidelines

To qualify for current funding the following criteria must be met:

- Projects must be within the eligible area.
- Projects must demonstrate an improvement to local surface and/or groundwater quality or habitat quality.
- The landowner must demonstrate good land stewardship practices.
- The landowner must contribute financially to the project in some capacity.
- The landowner must complete a water quality improvement application and sign a project agreement form*.

How To Apply For Grants

- Obtain specific program information from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to determine if your project qualifies.
- Complete a Water Quality Improvement Application.
- A site visit from Authority staff will be necessary to determine eligibility.
- Projects that will result in the best benefits to water/habitat quality will be prioritized for funding.
- All proposals are subject to review by an established project committee.

* To acquire your water quality improvement application and project agreement form, please contact our local office at the address and / or number below.



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Forests Forever

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



“If you are thinking one year ahead, sow seed. If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate your children.”
Chinese Proverb

DID YOU KNOW?

Trees are one of the earth's greatest natural resources.

Trees keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade and contribute to beautiful landscapes. The average person uses about 750 pounds of paper every year, and 95% of homes are built using wood. That means each person uses the equivalent of a 100 foot tall tree every year for their paper and wood product needs.

The leaves of a mature tree filter an average of 3000 litres of rainfall a year.

When it rains, water sinks into the ground, dissolving pollutants from the surface. This same water makes its way to our streams and lakes and eventually into our drinking water supply. Forests help filter pollutants from surface water. They reduce erosion, decrease flooding and help keep water flowing in our creeks and streams all year long.

We need about two large mature trees to supply our yearly oxygen needs.

A typical tree produces about 118 kilograms of oxygen each year. The average tree cleans 150 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through direct absorption into the tree's wood. A tree absorbs about the same amount of carbon that a car produces each year.

Over 93% of the land base in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's jurisdiction is privately owned.

If every landowner created or protected even a small piece of natural area on their property, all these little changes would add up to big benefits and assist in improving local water and habitat quality.

5 simple things you can do today to make a difference

Preserve the Forests We Have

Many forested areas in the Niagara Peninsula have been cleared for agriculture, residential and industrial development. Forests currently account for less than 15% of the land base in the Peninsula. In order to achieve healthy water quality and habitat diversity we need to increase that number to a minimum of 30%.



Use Native Plants

Native plants have evolved with local climate and environmental conditions. They require little care and thrive without the application of pesticides and fertilizers. Native plants have adapted to deal with local insects and diseases. They can obtain all the nutrients they need from the existing soil. Contact the Conservation Authority to learn more about native plants best suited to your property, and to obtain supplier information.

Create More Forests

If you do not have forested areas on your property, you can create them. Planting trees is an easy way to start restoring nature. Many beautiful varieties of native trees are available. They can be easily incorporated into your landscape to improve water quality and provide food and shelter for many species, including humans.



Increase Habitat

The secret to encouraging a diversity of wildlife is creating a variety of habitat features. Increasing natural areas can be as simple as incorporating different varieties of native trees and shrubs into your landscape. Nut trees will provide a great source of food for many types of wildlife. Evergreen trees provide excellent year-round shelter. Deciduous trees provide a good source of organic matter when the leaves drop in the fall. Programs and tax incentives may be available to landowners who own large woodland areas. Contact the Conservation Authority to learn more about the benefits of increasing natural areas on your property.

Link Natural Areas

Hundreds of living creatures call the forest their home. Trees are important. When grouped together they create larger natural areas that fulfill a bigger environmental role. Linking natural areas through tree planting creates corridors to connect fragmented habitats. This will help provide safe travel routes for wildlife and provide additional shelter and food sources.

