



# NPCA 2020 Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority regularly collects and tests water samples at 80 surface water stations and 38 groundwater stations located throughout the NPCA's jurisdiction. Surface water quality samples are analysed for several indicators such as chloride, nutrients, E. coli, suspended solids, and metals.

For more information and to review the full report, scan with your smart phone



## Surface Water What Did We Find?

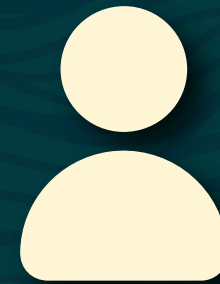


- Surface water monitoring results indicate most of the watersheds in the NPCA jurisdiction have poor water quality.
- The high levels of total phosphorus, E. coli, suspended solids, and chlorides within the surface water continue to be the major causes of poor water quality.
- The sources of these pollutants are generally from both rural areas (agricultural runoff and faulty septic systems) and urban areas (combined sewer overflows and urban stormwater runoff).
- The best water quality is found in watercourses where water is introduced from Lake Erie and the Niagara River, in watercourses with significant groundwater discharges and in watersheds with substantial natural landscapes.

## Groundwater What Did We Find?



- The groundwater quality in NPCA's jurisdiction was found to be highly variable with some wells exceeding the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.
- All the Ontario Drinking Water Standards exceedances are a result of the natural conditions of the groundwater.
- Private well owners are responsible for having their well water tested regularly and to make sure that their well is properly maintained and in good condition.
- For information about private well testing, contact your municipality.



## What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees, wildflowers, shrubs, and/or rainwater gardens.
- Reduce the amount of mown grass on your property.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers you use.
- Conserve water by using low flow showers and toilets, high efficiency clothes washers and dishwashers.
- Install rain barrels to collect water for use around your yard.



## What Can Your Community Do?

- Sponsor community clean ups to keep waste out of natural areas.
- Look for ways to expand the existing urban tree canopy.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used.



## What Can Your Business Do?

- Establish a corporate volunteering program to support local initiatives such as tree plantings.
- Invest in 'greener' alternatives to current practices.
- Encourage recycling and composting in the workplace.
- Donate towards water quality and habitat improvement programs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental programs.

## NPCA Restoration Grant Program

The NPCA is taking action to restore and improve water quality, wildlife habitat and forest cover across the NPCA watershed. If you have an idea for an environmental project, the NPCA welcomes you to apply for assistance through the NPCA's Restoration Grant Program. For further details, please visit the following link: [npca.ca/restoration](https://npca.ca/restoration)