



The Problem: Stormwater Runoff

The Spencer Creek Watershed is located at the western end of Lake Ontario and is divided into the Upper, Middle and Lower Spencer Creek Subwatersheds. The Lower Spencer Creek flows from the Middle Spencer Creek in and around Fallsview Road East, over the Niagara Escarpment, and into Dundas. As Spencer Creek is the largest source of water supplying Cootes Paradise, and ultimately, flowing into Hamilton Harbour, the benefits of improving the water quality within Dundas would be local, as well as widespread.

Due to its' marine access to Lake Ontario via the Desjardins Canal as well as its' proximity to the source of western farm produce, the Town of Dundas was settled in the early 1800's and became the primary commercial and industrial centre at the head of Lake Ontario.

Because of the urban development surrounding Spencer Creek below the Escarpment through Dundas, the impervious surfaces have resulted in large volumes of polluted surface runoff travelling rapidly through stormsewers into the creek. The single biggest contributor to poor water quality in the Lower Spencer Creek Subwatershed relates to stormwater runoff. Whereas in natural landscapes such as forests, the stormwater slowly filters down through the underlying soil, in urban areas, large amounts of stormwater rapidly enter nearby waterways. Thus, the negative impacts of urbanization on stormwater are two-fold: increased volume of runoff water which leads to **erosion** and **flooding**, and **water pollution** due to grease and salt that the runoff picks up on its way to Spencer Creek.

The best way to lessen the harmful effects of stormwater runoff from Dundas is to **treat it where it falls** – that means on and around your home! There are a variety of small changes that landowners can make on their own properties to **reduce** their contribution to stormwater runoff in Dundas and help to **redirect** some of the runoff away from the storm sewer system in Dundas. These small measures can cumulatively add up to big, **positive changes in improving water quality** and **decreasing urban runoff** in Spencer Creek and Cootes Paradise.



To learn about how you can do your part to reduce and redirect stormwater on your property, go to <http://www.conservationhamilton.ca/stormwater-stewardship-in-dundas>.

If you are interested in having a stormwater runoff expert visit your property to show you how to do your part to **reduce and redirect**, please contact:

Jeff Stock
Watershed Stewardship Technician
Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
Jeff.Stock@conservationhamilton.ca or **905-525-2181 Ext. 196**.