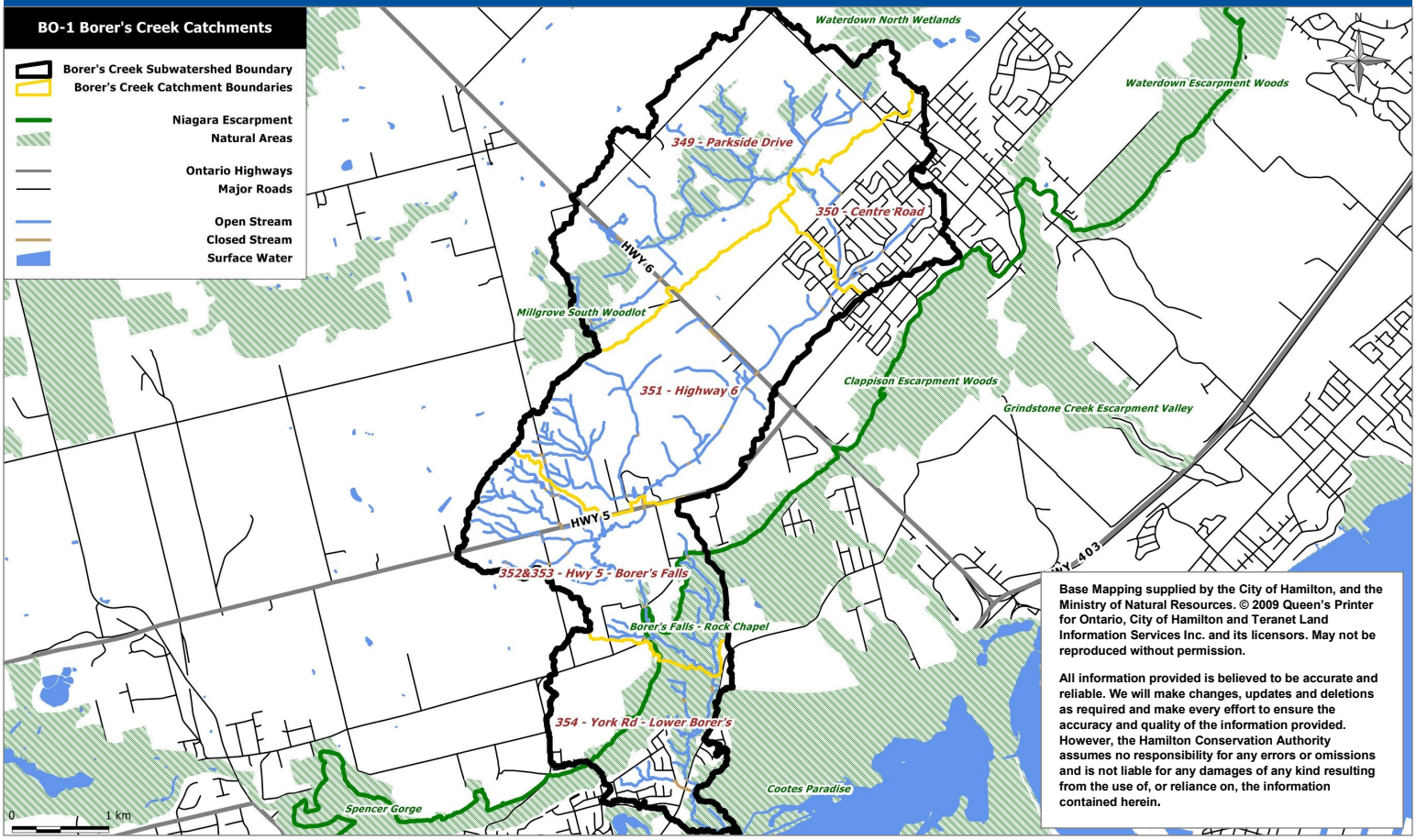
BORER'S CREEK SUBWATERSHED



The Borer's Creek watershed begins north of Concession 5 East between Millgrove Side Road in the west and Centre Road in Waterdown in the east, tapering as it flows south and over the Niagara Escarpment. The watershed provides flow to Rock Chapel, Borer's and Lower Borer's Waterfalls as well as the Upper and Lower Hopkin's Cascades. The Borer's Creek watershed drains into Cootes Paradise Marsh south of York Road.

The Borer's Creek watershed contains a portion of the Niagara Escarpment and four municipally designated Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs): Millgrove South Woodlot, Waterdown North Wetlands, Borer's Falls - Highway 5 - Borer's Falls and Cootes Paradise. These natural areas act as major ecological corridors for terrestrial species and maintain water quality and quantity within the stream reaches that pass through these areas, to the benefit of aquatic species.

Borer's Creek subwatershed in comparison to Environment Canada's 'How much Habitat is Enough' Guidelines

Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	4.8%
Streambanks Naturally Vegetated	75%	51.6%
Forest	30%	15%
Impervious Surface	<10%	29.5%

Above the Escarpment, Borer's Creek is a warmwater system and below the Escarpment is a coolwater system.

Some of the rare species that have been observed in this watershed are Least Bittern (at right), White Wood Aster, Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Spiny Softshell, Bashful Bulrush and Red Mulberry.

Settlement of the Dundas area began after the American War of Independence when Loyalists crossed the Niagara River and moved up Lake Ontario to its western end. Because Dundas was accessible by flat bottom boats and because of its convenient location between the western farm productions and the only road that opened up access to the interior of the province, the village became the commercial and industrial center at the head of Lake Ontario in the early part of the 1800's. For more than 100 years, Borer's Creek powered a sawmill operated by the Borer family, for which the Creek was named. The mill was torn down in the 1940"s.

The three top stresses identified in the Borer's Creek Stewardship Action Plan are:

- **Inadequate stormwater management, increased impervious surfacing, stormwater outfalls,**
- **Habitat Fragmentation,**
- **and Online Ponds**

What can landowners do to restore and protect the health of the Borer's Creek watershed?

1. Re-establish riparian buffers where there are none.
2. Increase the width of existing riparian buffers (below, centre).
3. Re-establish habitat connectivity between tracks of natural area (pictured below right).
4. Consult with a Stewardship Technician for ways to reduce the negative impacts on creeks caused by on-line ponds.
5. Wherever possible, use water more efficiently, for example disconnect downspouts (pictured below left) and collect water in rain barrels.
6. Replace impermeable surfaces with permeable surfaces.
7. Replace shallow rooted lawns with deeper rooted plants.

Sources: Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA). 2009. Borer's Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, Fourth Edition Workbook, 2013.

Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
c/o Hamilton Conservation Authority
P.O. Box 81067, 838 Mineral Springs Road
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 4X1
www.hamiltonhaltonstewardship.ca
Office: (905) 525-2181, ext. 181, 196

Are you interested in information about how you can protect water quality and habitat on your property?
Call to arrange a free on-site consultation!