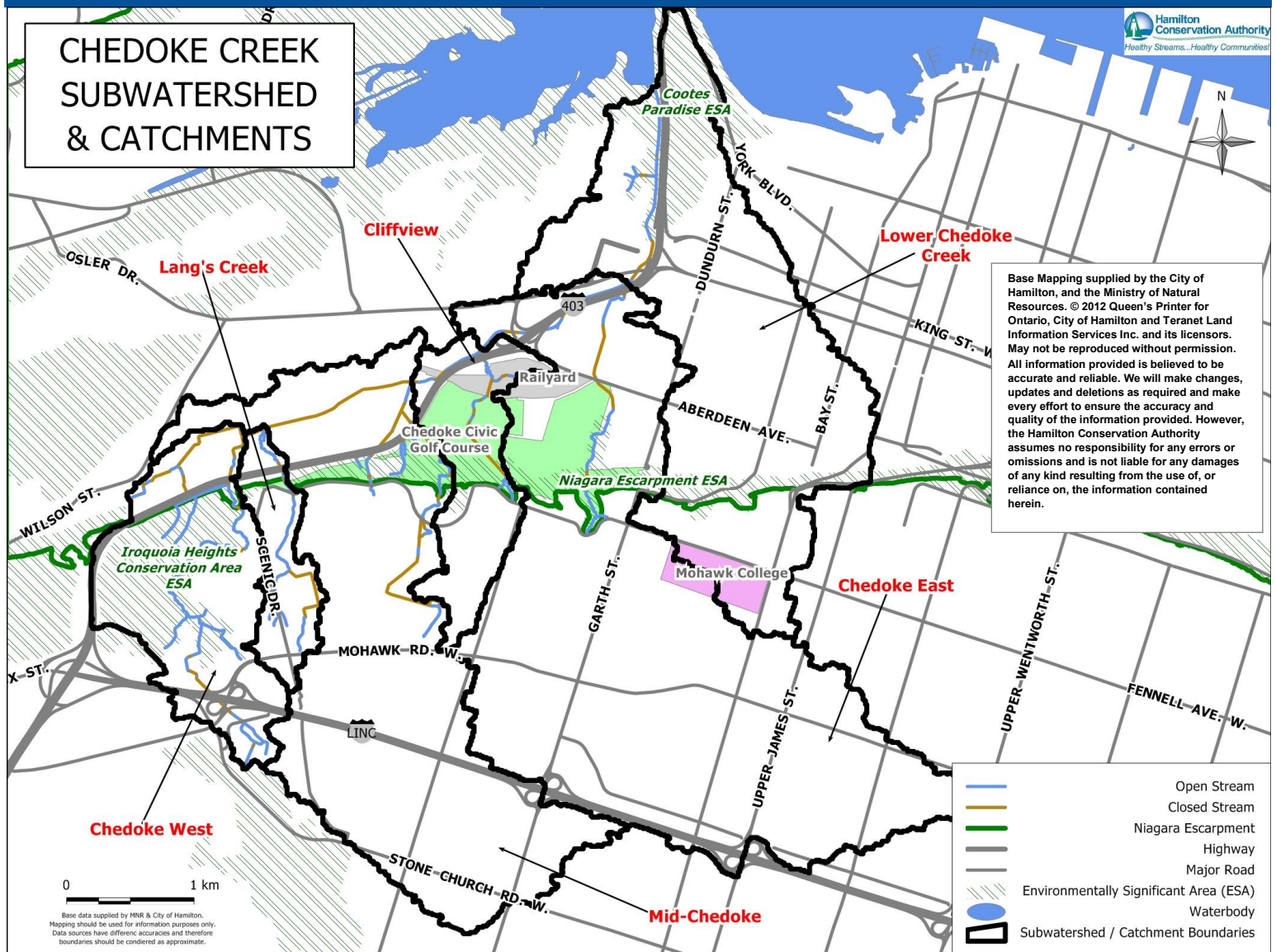


CHEDOKE CREEK WATERSHED



The Chedoke Creek watershed is 25.1 km² in area. The headwaters are located above the Niagara Escarpment with the only tributaries still present above the surface being located within Chedoke West, Lang's Creek and Mid-Chedoke catchments. The headwaters of the Chedoke West catchment are piped upstream but still supply the year round flowing Chedoke Falls. All of the tributaries flow over the escarpment and then travel eastward and align parallel with Highway 403 before outletting into Cootes Paradise.

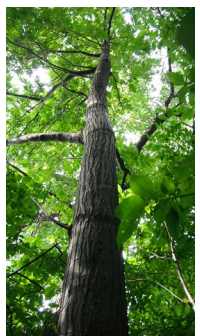
Chedoke Creek watershed in comparison to Environment Canada's 'How much Habitat is Enough' Guidelines

Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	0.02%
Forest	30%	9.6%
Impervious Surface	<10%	76%

Three municipally designated Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are located within this subwatershed: Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area, Hamilton Escarpment, and Cootes Paradise.

Chedoke Creek is a warm water system.

Significant species found within the natural areas of this watershed include: Butternut (pictured at right), Cooper's Hawk, Monarch and Northern Ribbon Snake.



Much of the Chedoke Creek watershed has been altered over time as a result of intense urban development within the Hamilton area; subsequently the majority of the stream flow directly results from storm water input. Therefore, erosion, sedimentation and insufficient channel sizes occur at the outlet. The following locations are where natural stream channels can be found within the subwatershed: southwest of Golf Links Road and Scenic Drive, through Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area, through Olympic Park / Hydro lands east of Scenic Drive, through Lang's Park east of Scenic Drive, Hydro lands north of Highway 403, northwest of Upper Paradise Road and Mohawk Road, through Chedoke Golf Course, west of Chedoke Avenue, and parallel to Highway 403.

Three environmental stresses in the Chedoke Creek watershed, as identified within the Spencer Creek Stewardship Action Plans, are:

- Insufficient riparian buffers (recommended width of 30 metres) along creeks,
- The degradation of terrestrial habitats, and
- Stormwater and runoff contamination from impervious surfaces

What are we doing to protect habitat and improve the health of the Chedoke Creek subwatershed?

The Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program works with the public and private property owners to develop and implement initiatives and restoration projects that create and enhance natural areas and habitats in the HCA watershed. The program offers free on-site consultation to private property owners who have natural features on their properties. Property owners that undertake restoration projects that create or enhance natural habitats or water quality may be eligible to apply for financial assistance.

What can landowners do to restore and protect the habitats and health of Chedoke Creek?

1. Re-establish riparian buffers where there are none and increase the width of existing riparian buffers.
2. Plant native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in front, rear and side yards.
3. Disconnect downspouts that direct water from roofs and eavestroughs to the storm sewer system and direct them to yards and gardens.
4. Consider an alternative driveway design that reduces the amount of impermeable driveway surface.
5. Collect rain water in rain barrels to use the water on gardens



Disconnected downspout at left. Riparian Buffer along Both Sides of the Creek at right.

Sources: Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) 2008. Chedoke Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, Fourth Edition Workbook, 2013.