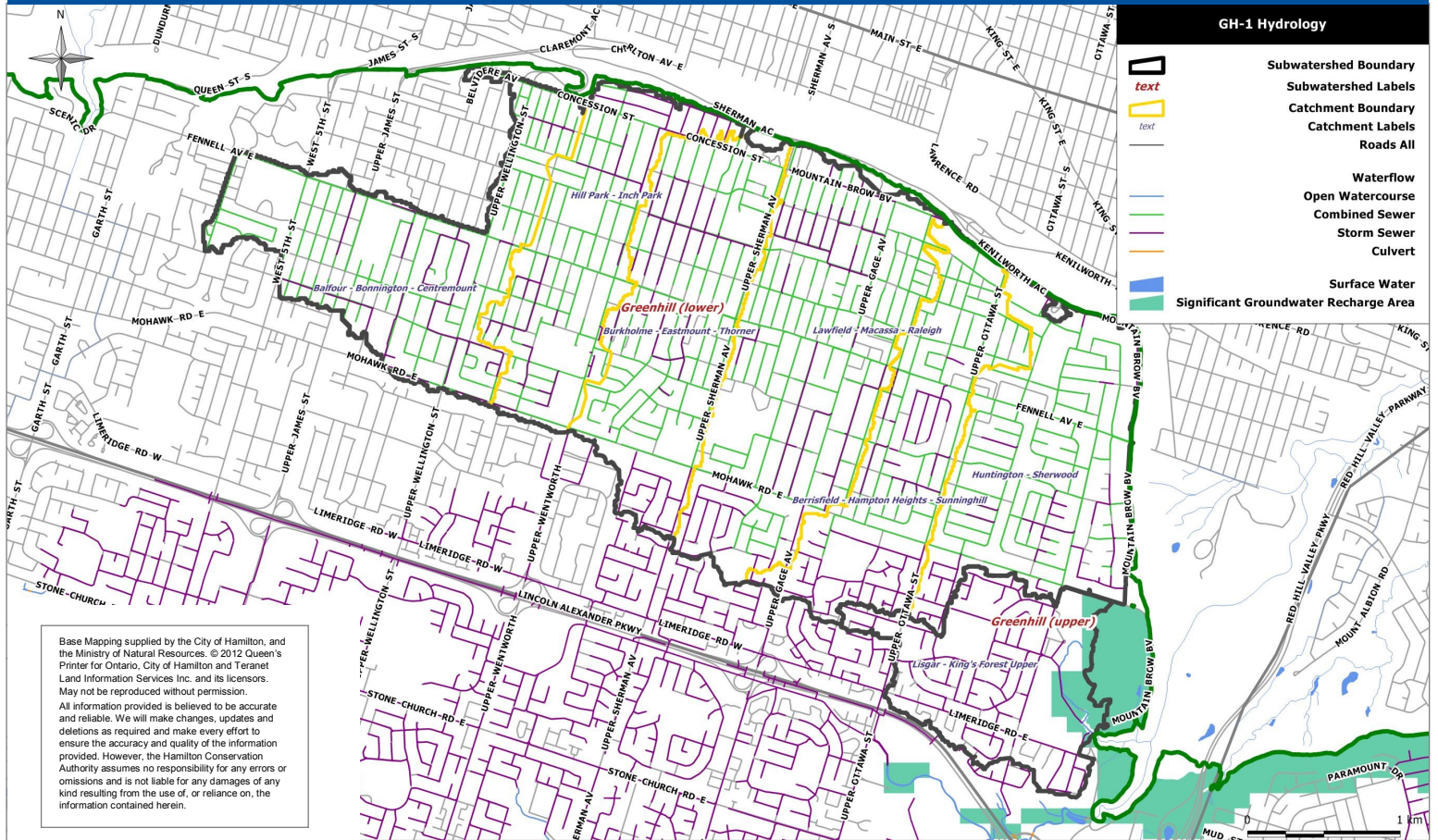


# GREENHILL CREEK SUBWATERSHED



The Greenhill Creek subwatershed, part of the Red Hill Creek watershed, is located above the Niagara Escarpment, west of the Red Hill Valley Parkway and north of the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway. It is within the City of Hamilton's Ward 6, 7, and 8.

The Lisgar Forest Catchment is located at the southeast corner of the subwatershed. Mohawk Sports Park is not a designated Environmentally Significant Area but it also has areas of good quality mature upland forest. This subwatershed borders the

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

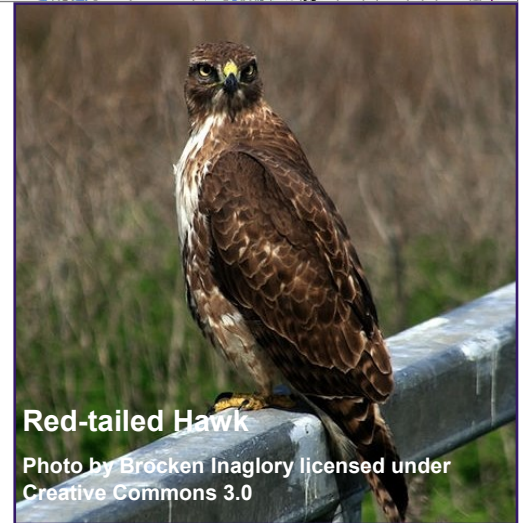
Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
<b>Wetland</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0 (historically 2.7%)</b>
<b>Streambanks Naturally Vegetated</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
<b>Forest</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>0.37%</b>
<b>Impervious Surface</b>	<b>&lt;10%</b>	<b>92%</b>

Niagara Escarpment Environmentally Significant Area

which runs along the Escarpment and serves as a wildlife corridor between natural areas.

Greenhill Creek has 850 metres of open watercourse with most of the subwatershed drainage going through 125.24 km of combined sewer and 59.93 km of storm sewer.

Rare species that have been found in natural areas adjacent to this subwatershed are Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Short-eared Owl, Wood Thrush, Eastern Milksnake.



Some of the early settlers in the Township of Barton (part of present day Hamilton) on the “mountain” were Jacob and William Rymal, William Terryberry, Cornelius and Samuel Ryckman and Lewis and Peter Horning. The Hamilton Harbour and the Great Western Railway, which was completed in 1854, allowed Hamilton to expand rapidly and succeed as a industrial and shipping hub.

Historically, Greenhill Creek began near the northwest corner of Upper Gage and Fennel Avenue. Today the boundaries of the Greenhill Creek subwatershed include the sewer system with the only open section of this creek beginning in Mohawk Sports Park and flowing into Redhill Creek downstream of Buttermilk Falls at Mountain Brow Boulevard.

Currently, the Greenhill Creek subwatershed is urbanized with 92% impervious surfaces (artificial surfaces such as pavement that do not absorb water). In 2006, the population density was 3,719 persons per square kilometer.

### **Stresses on the Greenhill Creek subwatershed:**

- Stormwater and runoff contamination from impervious surfaces
- Lack of ecological connections between municipal parks
- Lack of ecological connections between municipal parks and the Niagara Escarpment natural lands adjacent to the subwatershed
- Insufficient riparian buffers (naturally vegetated streambanks) along the remaining open natural watercourse

### **What can landowners do to restore and protect the Greenhill Creek subwatershed?**

1. Plant native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in front, rear and side yards.
2. Disconnect downspouts that direct water from roofs and eavestroughs to the storm sewer system and direct them to yards or gardens.
3. Collect rain water in rain barrels to use the water on gardens.
4. Consider an alternative driveway design that reduces the amount of impermeable driveway surface.
5. Consult a Stewardship Technician for ways to increase the biodiversity of your property.



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**Sources:** Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) 2013. Greenhill Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan.



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**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!**