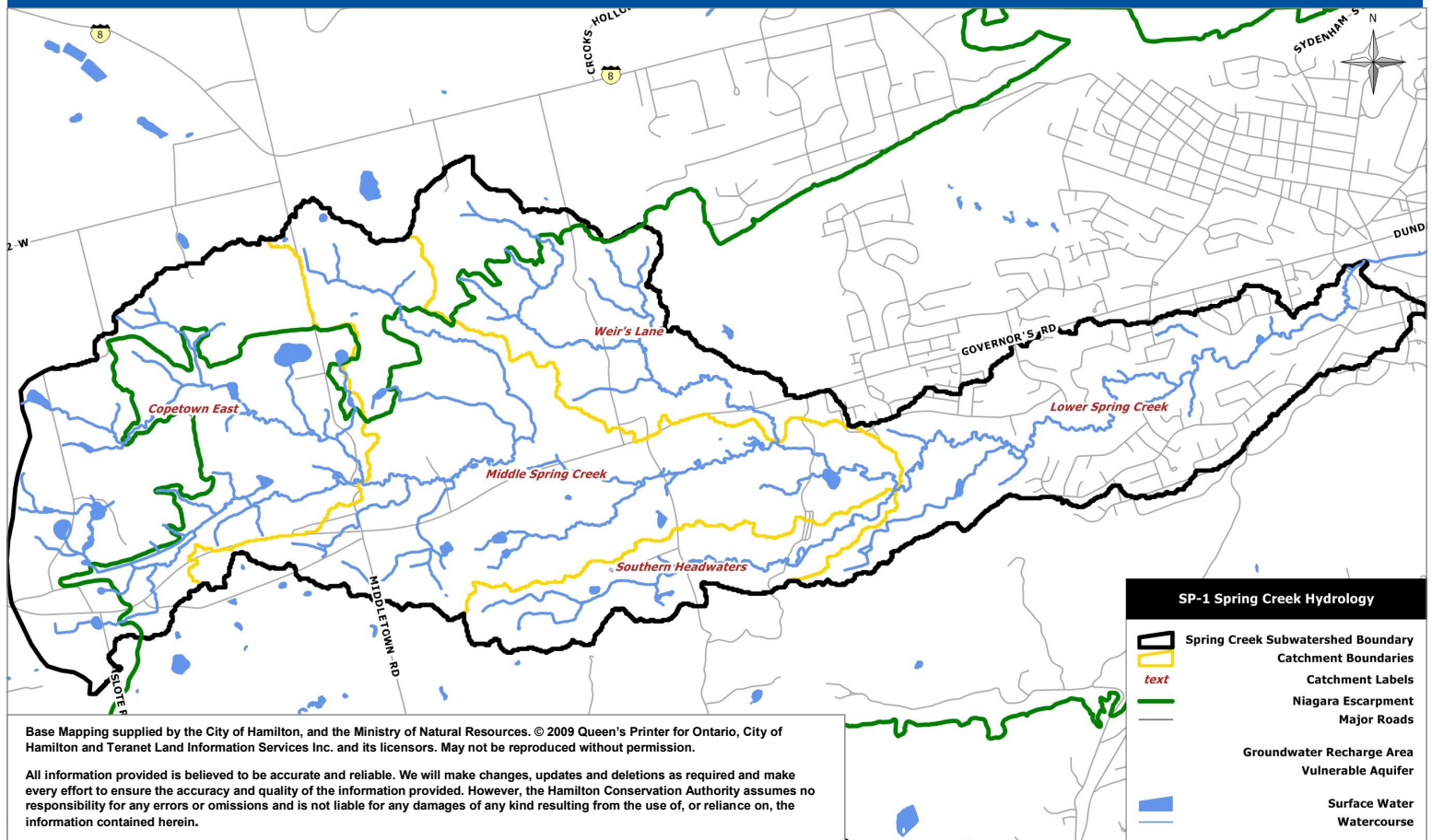


SPRING CREEK SUBWATERSHED



The Spring Creek subwatershed, part of the Spencer Creek watershed, begins above the Dundas Valley and drains eastwards across the Dundas Valley to its confluence with Lower Spencer Creek in Dundas. The subwatershed is very steep, the soils are predominantly well drained and as a result the streams within have high erosive forces.

The Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and the Dundas Valley and Copetown Ball Park Woodlot Environmentally Significant Areas provide critical habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species within this subwatershed. This is a unique region where the Great



Lakes—St. Lawrence and Deciduous forest regions meet and the flora and fauna communities are very diverse. Natural vegetation covers 45% of the Spring Creek subwatershed.

Cold to cool water conditions occur in Spring Creek due to groundwater discharge from fractured bedrock.

Some of the rare species that have been observed in this watershed are; Hooded Warbler, American Chestnut, Jefferson Salamander (pictured above), and Flowering Dogwood.

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

Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	0.39%
Streambanks Naturally Vegetated	75%	58%
Forest	30%	41%
Impervious Surface	<10%	8%

The most prevalent stresses identified in the Spring Creek Subwatershed are:

- Stormsewer Outfalls,
- Abandoned Groundwater Wells,
- On-line Ponds,
- And Impervious Surfacing

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

In the Spring Creek subwatershed the Hamilton Conservation Authority's (HCA) Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program has two stations that are monitored in year two of a three year cycle. The program collects information on fish, fish habitat and benthic invertebrates to assess and track changes in the health of the aquatic ecosystem.

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 health of the Spring Creek watershed?

1. Wherever possible, use water more efficiently, for example disconnect your downspouts (pictured) and collect water in rain barrels.
2. Replace impermeable surfaces with permeable surfaces.
3. Replace shallow rooted lawns with deeper rooted plants.
4. Consult with a Stewardship Technician for ways to reduce the negative impacts on creeks caused by on-line ponds.
5. Consult with a Stewardship Technician about decommissioning abandoned or unused wells on your property who will advise if financial assistance may be available.
6. Consider an alternative driveway design that reduces the amount of impermeable driveway surface.
7. Plant native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in front, rear and side yards



Disconnected downspout allows precipitation to infiltrate the soil.

Sources: Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA). 2010. Spring Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, Fourth Edition Workbook, 2013.



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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!