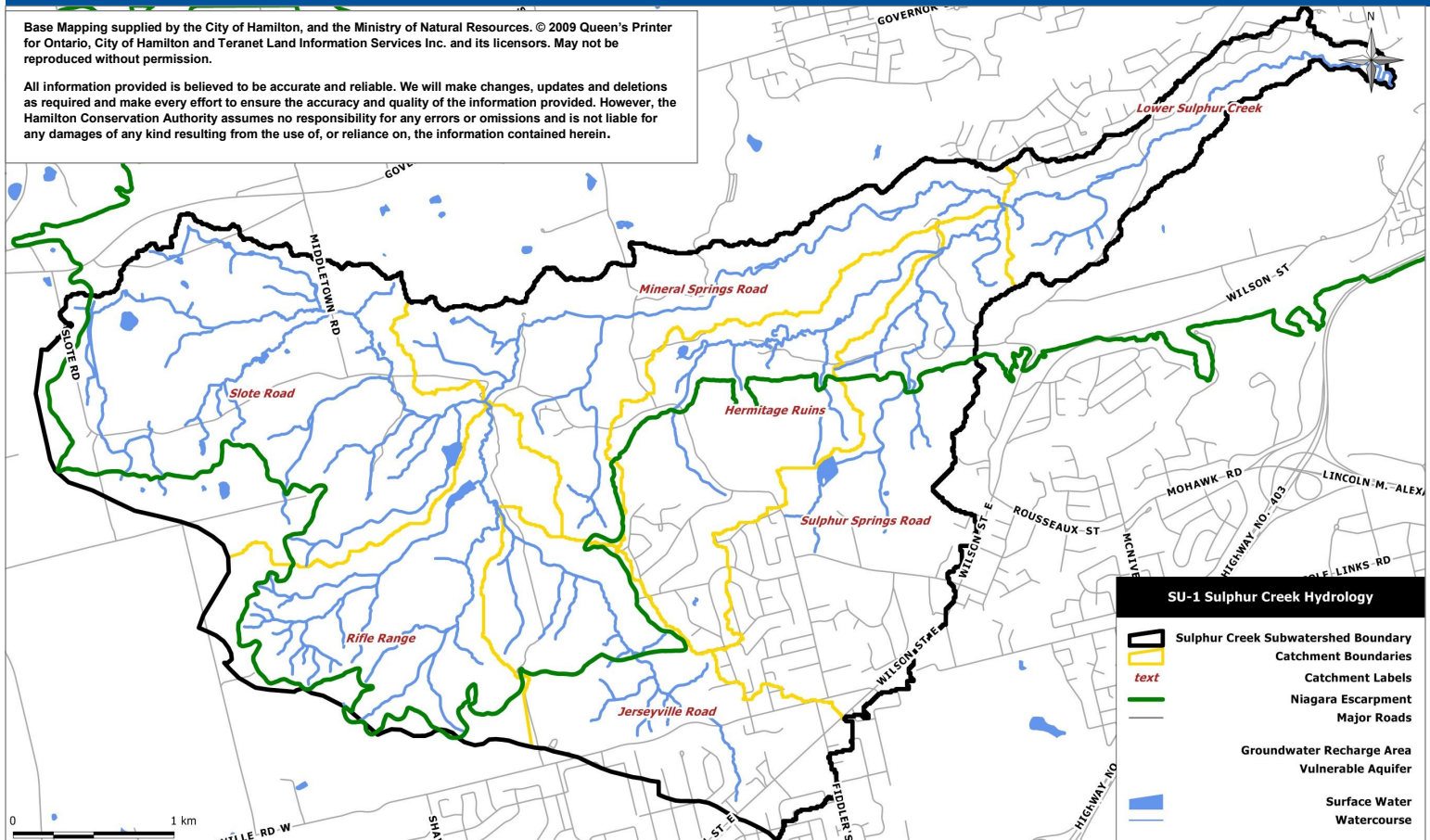


SULPHUR CREEK SUBWATERSHED

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The Sulphur Creek subwatershed, part of the Spencer Creek watershed, lies almost entirely within the former town of Ancaster. The subwatershed is very steep, the soils are predominantly well drained and as a result the streams within have high erosive forces.

Sulphur Creek is a cool to coldwater system, with temperatures being moderated by groundwater discharge from fractured bedrock. Temperature studies completed in Spring and Sulphur Creeks generally indicate that daily temperature maxima rarely exceed 20°C during the



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

Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	0.35%
Streambanks Naturally Vegetated	75%	70%
Forest	30%	62%
Impervious Surface	<10%	9.3%

summer months, except in the reaches that have been impacted by residential development.

The Copetown Bog (pictured above) locally significant wetland is located along the elevation that forms the watershed divide between the Sulphur Creek and Big Creek (a tributary of the Grand River) subwatersheds. Located at the head of the Dundas Valley, this wetland consists primarily of a mature kettle bog, shrub swamps and fen habitat, and is the only kettle bog community in the City of Hamilton. Included within this natural area are a raised peat bog, a fen community, and organic wetlands connected by coniferous plantations and upland meadows.

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

- Stormsewer Outfalls,
- Abandoned Groundwater Wells,
- Dams, and
- On-line Ponds

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

In the Sulphur Creek subwatershed the Hamilton Conservation Authority's (HCA) Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program has three 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 Sulphur 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 and dams.
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. Sulphur Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, Fourth Edition Workbook, 2013.