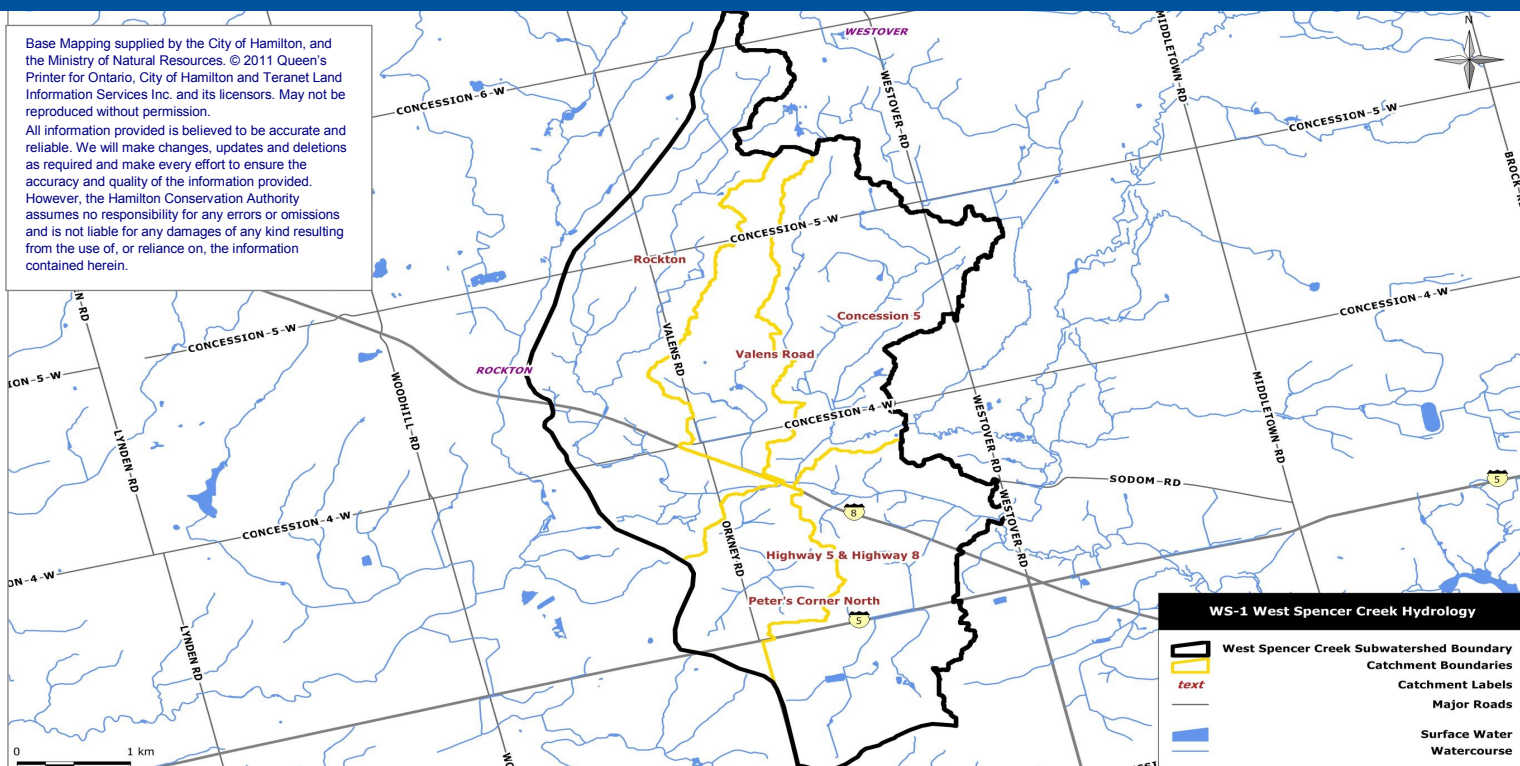


WEST SPENCER CREEK SUBWATERSHED



The West Spencer Creek subwatershed is part of the Spencer Creek watershed and lies within the former municipal boundary of Flamborough. The western subwatershed boundary is within the community of Rockton.

West Spencer Creek originates just north of 6th Concession Road between Valens Road and Westover Road. It flows into Middle Spencer Creek at the edge of the subwatershed between Westover Road and Highway 8.

Historically, few settlers came into Beverly Township before 1810. Settlement was slower than in other Wentworth County townships. Due to its lack of early roads and its remoteness from any water highway, its land was not as accessible. Much of its land was undesirable because it was swampy or it had rock lying close to the surface.

West Spencer Creek subwatershed in comparison to Environment Canada's 'How much Habitat is Enough' Guidelines		
Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	12.6%
Streambanks Naturally Vegetated	75%	27.5%
Forest	30%	9.4%
Impervious Surface	<10%	1%

In 2011, the population density was approximately 36 persons per square kilometer.

West Spencer Creek temperatures range from cold, cool to warmwater. The total length of the creek and all its tributaries in the subwatershed is 49.28 km.

Rare species that have been found in the subwatershed are the monarch, rainbow darter, Bobolink and Whip-poor-will.



Rainbow Darter

The top two environmental stresses in the West Spencer Creek subwatershed, as identified within the Spencer Creek Stewardship Action Plans, are:

- **Insufficient Riparian Buffers** (natural vegetation along streambanks)
- **On-line Ponds** (ponds in creeks which limit fish movement throughout the creek)
- **Water takings during periods of low water**

What are we doing to protect the coldwater habitat and health of the West Spencer Creek subwatershed?

The Hamilton Conservation Authority's (HCA) Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program has two stations in West Spencer Creek that are monitored in year one 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 West Spencer Creek and its watershed?

1. Re-establish riparian buffers where there are none.
2. Increase width of existing riparian buffers.
3. Retire marginal farm land.
4. Consult with a Stewardship Technician for ways to reduce the negative impacts on creeks caused by on-line ponds.
5. Increase efficiency in water use as much as possible.
6. Implement soil best management practices to reduce water erosion, wind erosion, sheet or tillage erosion, rill or gully erosion



Perched Culverts and On-line Ponds Limit the Movement of Fish

Sources: Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) 2011. West Spencer Creek Subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, Fourth Edition Workbook, 2013.



Hamilton Watershed
Stewardship Program

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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!