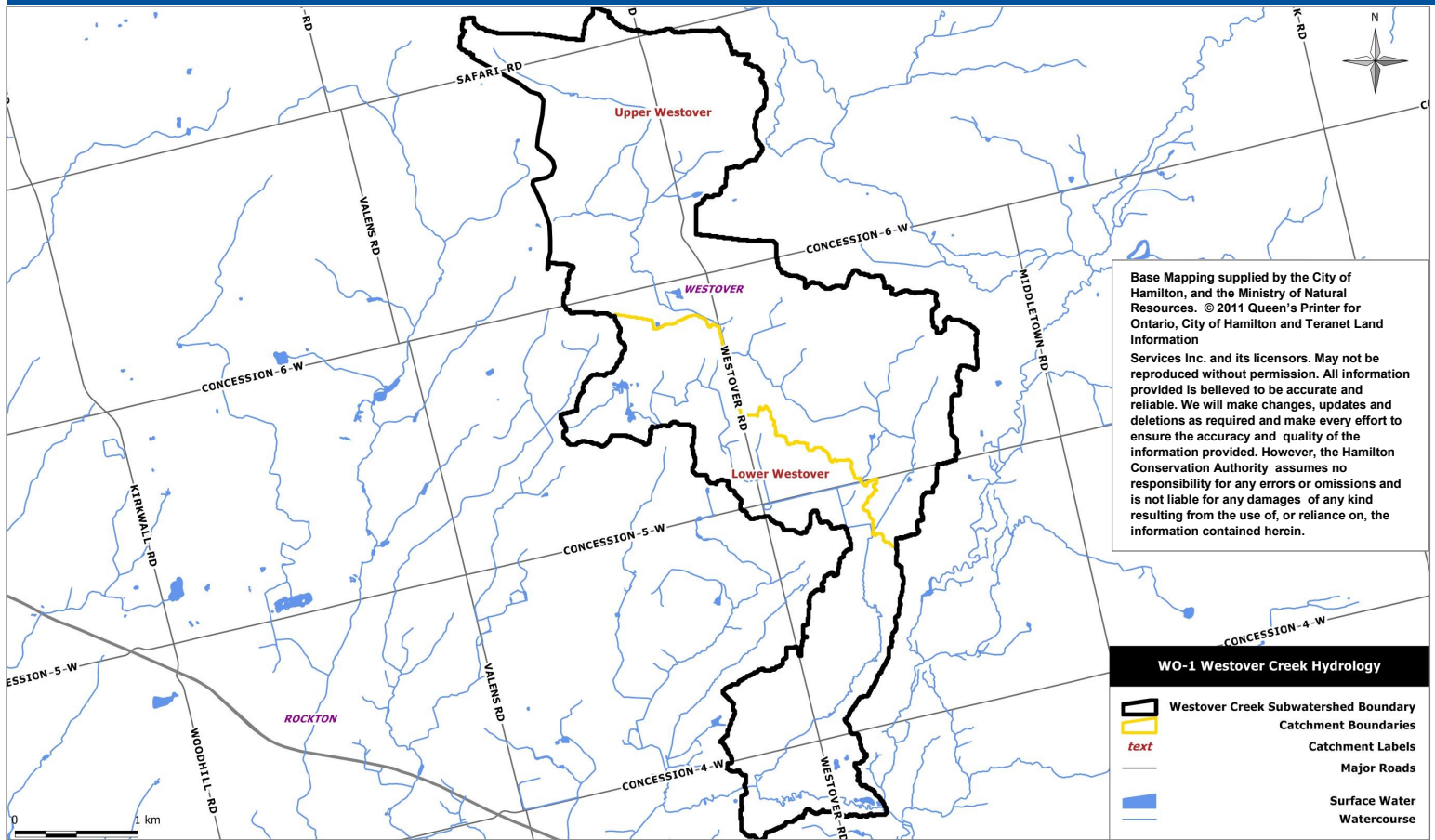


# WESTOVER CREEK SUBWATERSHED



Westover Creek subwatershed is part of the Spencer Creek watershed and is within the former municipal boundary of the Town of Flamborough and is entirely within the City of Hamilton Ward 14. The northern edge of the subwatershed is just north of Safari Road between Valens and Westover Road.

Westover Creek begins at the northern edge of the subwatershed in Beverly Swamp. In the area of 4th Concession Road West and Westover Road, it flows into Middle Spencer Creek.

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

Landscape Feature	Guideline	Subwatershed Status
Wetland	6%	15.5%
Streambanks Naturally Vegetated	75%	51%
Forest	30%	6.4%
Impervious Surface	<10%	2%

**The mid-portion of Westover Creek has warmwater conditions and the lower section has coolwater conditions.** The total length of all the streams in the subwatershed is 25 km.

Redside Dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*), a rare minnow species, was documented in this subwatershed but has not been observed since the 1990's. Some rare species that have been found in this subwatershed are Butternut trees, Snapping Turtle, Barn Swallow and Ribbon Snake.

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 lands was undesirable because it was swampy or it had rock lying close to the surface. It is believed that the town of Westover was started as a resting place for those travelling between Kitchener and Hamilton.

In 2011, the population density was approximately 35 people per square kilometer. Residential land use is largely concentrated at intersections of major transportation routes and in the hamlet of Westover.

### Some stresses in the Westover Creek subwatershed identified within the Spencer Creek Stewardship Action Plans:

- Insufficient riparian buffers along creeks increase the potential for runoff contamination and bank erosion
- On-line ponds create thermal and physical barriers to aquatic life in the creek system
- Water taking during period of low water

### What are we doing to protect the coldwater habitat and health of the Westover Creek subwatershed?

Hamilton Conservation Authority's Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program has one station that is 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.

There are two Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells within the Westover Creek subwatershed.

### What can landowners do to restore and protect the health of Westover Creek and its watershed?

1. Re-establish riparian buffers where there are none.
2. Increase the width of existing riparian buffers.
3. Retire marginal farm land.
4. Implement soil best management practices to reduce water erosion, wind erosion, sheet or tillage erosion, rill or gully erosion.
5. Increase efficiency in water use as much as possible.



Riparian Buffer on Both Side of Creek

**Sources:** Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) 2011. Westover 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!