

# Greenlands Strategy



# Securing our Green Legacy

Together we can create an interconnected network of Greenlands for the health and well-being of the environment and future generations



## Caring for the Credit



# Conservation through Cooperation

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) was formed in 1954 and is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. CVC is a community-based environmental organization dedicated to protecting and stewarding natural resources in cooperation with the communities of the Credit River Watershed. CVC owns and stewards over 2,400 hectares (6,000 acres) of conservation land in the watershed to protect significant ecosystems and offer sustainable natural heritage appreciation and recreational benefits to residents and visitors.

## Conservation Land Securement Achievements:

1950s - 329 hectares (813 acres)

1960s - 566 hectares (1,400 acres)

1970s - 1,326 hectares (3,277 acres)

1980s - 540 hectares (1,335 acres)

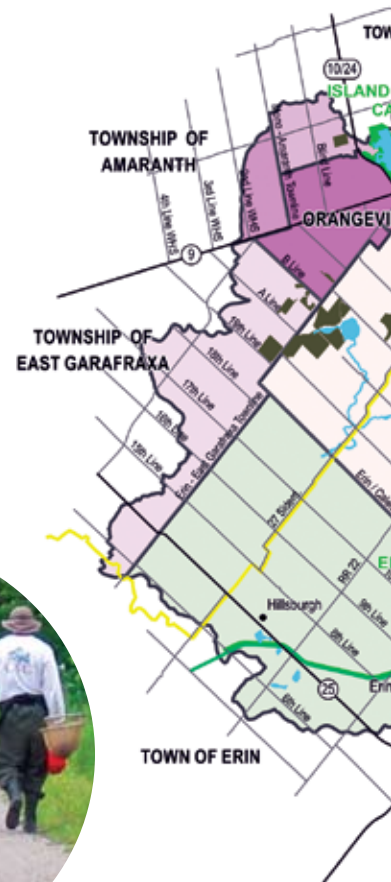
1990s - 39 hectares (97 acres)

2000s - 79 hectares (196 acres) and counting!



# The Credit River Watershed

The beautiful Credit River Watershed spans 1,000 square kilometres of land within the Region of Peel and the Region of Halton. Beginning in Orangeville and Mono above the Niagara Escarpment, the headwaters of the Credit River flow south to the Lake Ontario shoreline, and easterly from Acton to Caledon East. The headwaters are the source of four rivers: the Credit, Humber, Etobicoke and Nottawasaga. The watershed is a diverse and complex system of land and water that provides vital wildlife habitat for 253 species of birds, 46 species of mammals, 5 species of turtles, 7 species of snakes, 19 species of amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders and newts) and 1,380 species of plants. There are several species at risk found in the watershed including the Peregrine Falcon and Least Bittern. The watershed features a small section of the Oak Ridges Moraine, as well as a number of other moraines. In addition to providing essential water supplies for many of the over 600,000 area residents, the watershed also supports agricultural and commercial activities, hiking trails and fishing.



- Core 10 CVC property
- CVC property
- Waterfront Trail
- Culham Trail
- Bruce Trail
- Elora - Cataract Trailway
- Caledon Trailway
- Grand Valley Trail
- - - Caledon / Bruce Trail link
- - - Trailway link
- Alton Side Trail






## Greenlands of the Credit

The Credit River Watershed is increasingly under stress resulting from the extraordinary pace of development in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Rapid population growth, urban sprawl, road and highway expansion, recreation and the added stress of climate change all compromise the health of the environment. With these challenges quickly changing the dynamic of the watershed, CVC along with its regional, county and municipal government partners, identified the need for a strategy that would build on existing conservation initiatives. To address that need, CVC developed a co-operative land securement strategy to help protect the watershed's natural heritage in perpetuity.



## The Greenlands Strategy

The Greenlands Securement Strategy is an initiative to protect the land and water of the Credit River Watershed. It is a science-based process that identifies ecologically significant Greenlands for protection through long-term conservation. Approximately 36% of the watershed's land mass is currently considered Greenlands. These lands consist of forest, marsh, savannah, meadow, thicket, bog, open bluff, beach, swamp, and woodland communities. The term 'securement' refers to attaining interest in land title for conservation purposes. It includes a range of tools such as donation, gratuitous dedication, conservation easement and purchase. With the help of its conservation partners and the participation of private landowners, CVC has set a goal to secure 5,670 hectares (14,011 acres) of priority Greenlands over the next 10 years. Greenlands secured through this Strategy will provide valuable public amenities that support quality of life, healthy recreation and an important "green competitive edge" for watershed communities.





## Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy Communities

Greenlands securement provides the greatest certainty for protection of water resources, ecologically vital lands and significant habitat for plants and animals. Securing valuable Greenlands in perpetuity contributes to a connected system of scenic valleys, forests and hills characteristic of the watershed. Security and safety of drinking water is also vital in the watershed. Many residents depend on public or private wells, while the remaining residents depend on treated water from Lake Ontario. Greenlands securement can help address the problem of water security at its source, by protecting streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and aquifers that provide drinking water. Together with private landowners and conservation partners, CVC aims to secure an interconnected network of Greenlands that will help build healthy ecosystems and healthy communities and leave a conservation legacy for future generations.

# Protection Appreciation Recreation

By supporting and participating in CVC's Greenlands Securement Program you can help protect natural heritage in the Credit River Watershed for the health of the environment and future generations.

Together we can create a Green Legacy. Contact us to learn more.

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