

2 Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations



Clean water is a precious and limited resource that needs to be valued and protected. Flooding, urban development and unsustainable agricultural and industrial practices continue to negatively impact rivers, streams and Lake Ontario. To safeguard drinking water supply, the health of aquatic ecosystems, and to protect communities from flooding, TRCA must continue working with its municipal partners to prioritize the protection, restoration, and safe management of water resources.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Natural aquatic ecosystem functions within the nine watersheds are protected and enhanced using the best available tools and data to target investments for the best results.
2. Adaptive measures to address climate change are integrated into infrastructure projects to ensure their durability and resilience.
3. Toronto Region waterways are suitable for swimming, fishing, and recreational activities.
4. Source water quality and quantity is maintained or improved.
5. Known flood and erosion risks, as part of the TRCA Erosion and Hazard Mitigation Strategy which, if funded, can mitigate known risks in the jurisdiction, are being addressed by TRCA and stakeholders on a priority basis.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED (2013 – 2017)

- Played an instrumental role in protecting property and infrastructure from flooding at the Lower Don River and downtown Toronto which in turn facilitated major redevelopments. For example, working with Waterfront Toronto and Infrastructure Ontario, TRCA reduced flood risks for more than 200 hectares of downtown Toronto, allowing redevelopment of the Pan Am Athletes Village and several major private sector projects to proceed.
- Implemented over \$45 million in erosion risk management projects to protect public safety, essential infrastructure, recreational trails and treasured greenspace along the region's waterways including protecting major transportation, sewer and water systems that travel through the Regions of York, Durham, Peel and the City of Toronto.
- Finalized the Toronto and Region Source Water Protection Assessment Report which identified vulnerable areas and potential future threats to municipal drinking water supplies to inform the review of projects and plans.

PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2018 – 2022)

- Develop a bold work plan that includes TRCA's Erosion and Hazard Mitigation Strategy comprising over \$500 million in projects to address known erosion, flooding and required infrastructure upgrades at over 250 sites.
- Work with municipal partners to implement flood remediation, erosion monitoring, maintenance work, stormwater system retrofits, low impact developments, green infrastructure, and water quality and habitat restoration projects to realize more sustainable developments (e.g. The Port Lands, Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, Brampton Riverwalk, Markham Centre).
- Engage with local communities to increase awareness about issues facing water resources and their importance to the health and well-being of the jurisdiction.
- Monitor the health of the watersheds through the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program and through work with academic institutions.
- Reduce flood risks and protect communities through continuous improvements to TRCA's flood forecasting and warning program.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Water quality and biodiversity, monitored through TRCA's Regional Watershed Monitoring Program, will continue as the main indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. TRCA will maintain and improve erosion management, stream flow hydrology and update modelling for flood forecasting. TRCA will continue to use state of the art technologies and science for continuous improvement.