

## About Credit Valley Conservation:

Credit Valley Conservation was officially established on May 13th, 1954 by the Order of Council. For over half a century CVC has worked in the Credit River Watershed to minimize drought and flooding, improve water quality, support socially and economically viable communities, protect natural features and green spaces, and restore damaged ecosystems. With expertise in planning, ecology, biology hydrogeology and water resources engineering, CVC staff monitor the health of the watershed and develop programs to protect and enhance its resources.

## CVC's Municipal Partners:

Region of Peel  
Town of Caledon  
City of Brampton  
City of Mississauga  
Region of Halton  
Town of Halton Hills  
Town of Oakville  
Township of Amaranth  
Township of East Garafraxa  
Town of Erin  
Town of Mono  
Town of Orangeville

## Credit Valley Conservation



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## Benefits of Implementing the Credit River Water Management Strategy Update

This strategy offers benefits to a variety of stakeholders within our watershed.

### Municipalities

- Balance growth pressures with the protection of public and environmental health.
- Potentially reduce municipal infrastructure and utility costs (for example by optimizing road layouts, reducing road widths, eliminating curb and gutters, limiting sidewalks to one side per street).
- Protect our fisheries revenue.
- Protect our drinking water.
- Reduce flood risk.
- Protect native flora and fauna.
- Increase collaborative public and private partnerships.

### Developers

- Reduce land clearing and grading costs.
- Increase collaborative public and private acceptance.
- Potentially reduce infrastructure and utility costs.

### Public

- Potentially increase lot and community marketability with increased open spaces.
- Protect drinking water.
- Reduce flood risk.
- Protect recreational opportunities (e.g. fisheries and native flora and fauna).

### Environment

- Protect our environment which is linked to public health.
- Maintain and restore drinking water supply.
- Reduce contaminants (such as bacteria, nutrients, metals) entering our streams and creeks by reducing stormwater runoff.
- Preserve the integrity of natural features (such as wetlands and mature woodlots) and their function within our environment.
- Reduce impacts to natural habitats.

# CREDIT RIVER Water Management Strategy

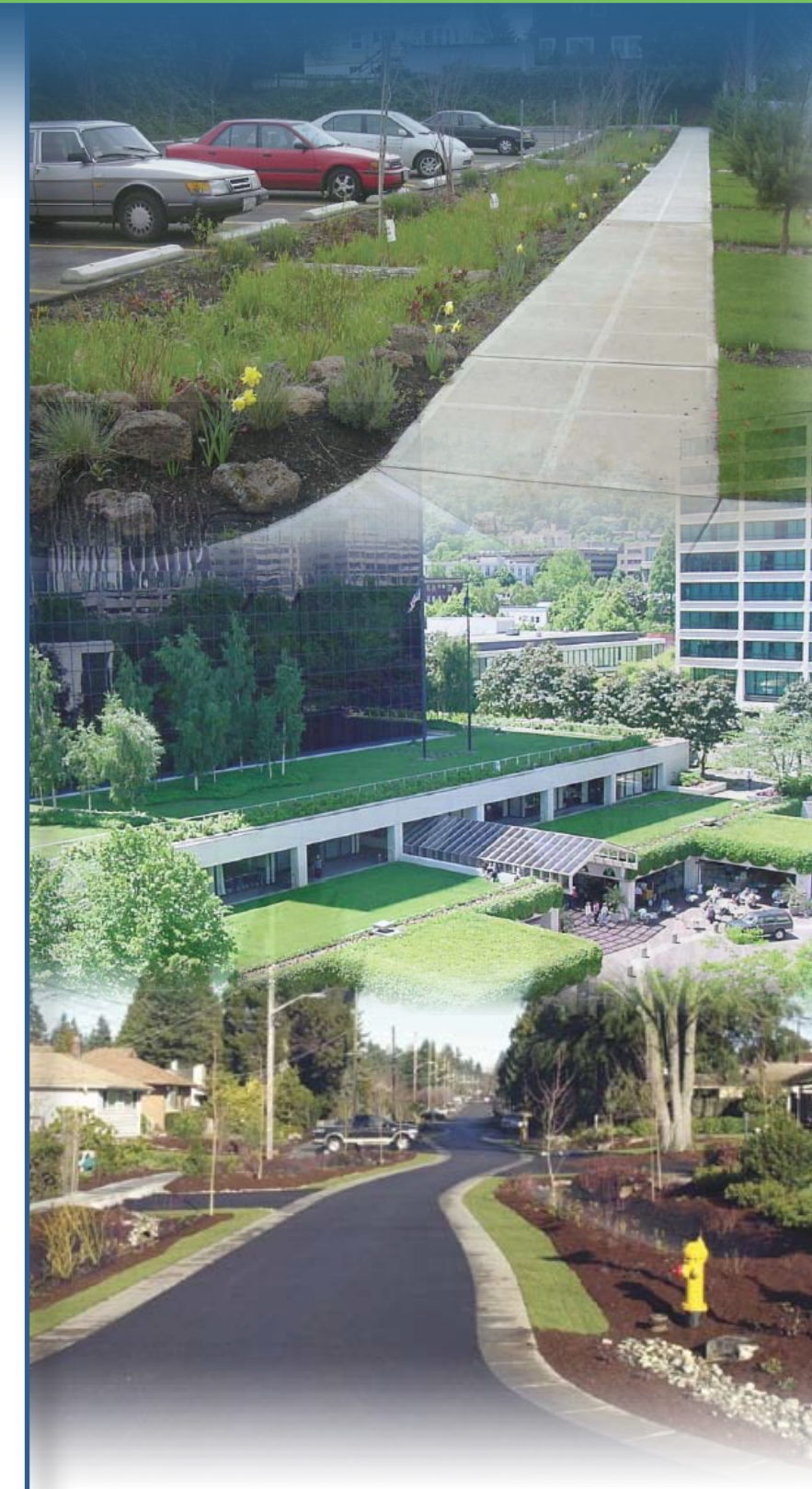
## Update

## A Strategy for Sustainability

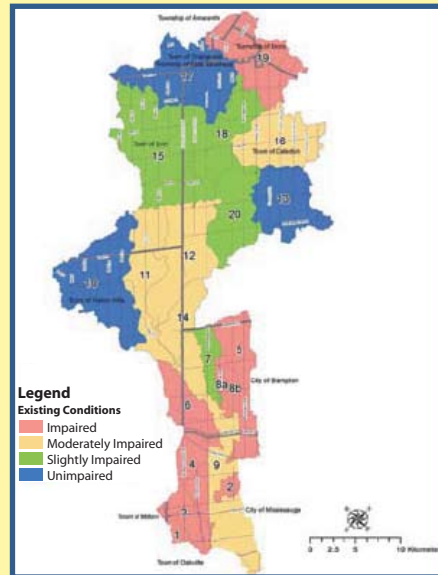
Originally developed in 1992, the Credit River Water Management Strategy (CRWMS) was aimed at ensuring "abundant, safe and clean water" now and in the future for both the people and wildlife within the Credit River watershed. Much has changed since 1992. Considerable urban growth has taken place in the watershed. Through studies and monitoring we have gained a much better knowledge of how the watershed functions and the condition of its resources.

This update will build on and integrate the considerable work that has been carried out in the watershed. It will protect the features and functions of the Credit River watershed. It will allow decisions about growth to be made in the context of ensuring that there will be "abundant, safe and clean water".

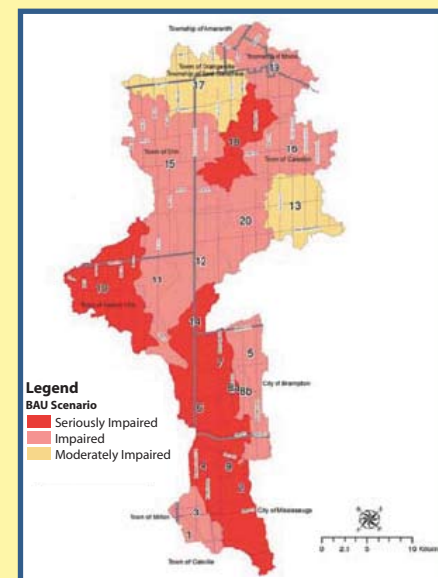
Through working partnerships with municipalities, provincial agencies, academics and individual groups, the Credit River Water Management Strategy Update was developed to be a decision support mechanism to implement upfront planning and sustainable practices for various future land use and climate extreme scenarios.



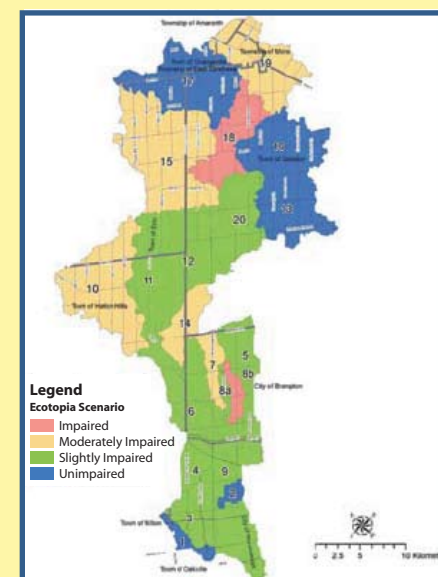
**Figure 1:** 2001 Environmental Conditions in the Credit River Watershed



**Figure 2:** Applying Current Planning and Development Practices (Business as usual) for Future Growth (25% Urbanization)



**Figure 3:** Ecotopia (Preferred Planning and Aggressive Stormwater Management Practices) for Future Growth (25% Urbanization)



## CRWMSU Findings:

The Credit River Water Management Strategy Update Study found that:

- Direct linkages exist between public health and ecosystem health.
- Existing watershed conditions show some degradation in the environment (refer to Figure 1).
- Current planning and development practices are not sustainable (refer to Figure 2).
- Growth can occur if we change current planning and development practices and implement aggressive stormwater management.
- We must also restore existing rural and urban land uses (for example upgrading wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities). Figure 3 demonstrates watershed conditions if the preferred management alternatives are implemented and existing land uses are restored.
- Regardless of urban form and stormwater management alternatives applied, there is a limit to growth if the goals and objectives for watershed health are to be realized.

## What are sustainable management practices and aggressive stormwater management tools?

The Credit River Water Management Strategy Update offers municipalities and communities an ecologically friendly approach to land use changes and stormwater management that aims at mitigating the impacts of urbanization on the ecosystem. The approach emphasizes the integration of site design tools and planning techniques that conserve and enhance natural features and hydrologic functions. The aim of sustainable management practices are to:

- Preserve open space and minimize land disturbance.
- Incorporate natural areas into community designs and protect their features and functions (such as mature forests, wetlands).
- Re-examine the use and sizing of conventional site infrastructure. For example re-examine lot and street layout and orientation and implement aggressive stormwater management techniques such as perforated storm sewers, street swales, disconnect downspouts, etc.
- Customize a sustainable management plan for each potential development area.

## What Canadians are saying:

Canadian market surveys conducted by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC, 2002) found that:

- **84%** of respondents favored incorporating environmental stormwater management methods other than underground pipes.
- **45%** of respondents would pay \$3,000 more for a home in a neighborhood with linked open spaces and habitat features.
- **80%** chose streetscapes with a variety of habitat units and visual diversity.
- **87%** of respondents said they would be interested in purchasing a home in a sustainable community.
- **34%** would choose smaller more energy efficient homes.

**Reference:**

CMHC (2002) Sustainable Community Design Demonstration in Okotoks, Alberta: Testing Consumer Receptivity. Dec 2002. Research Highlights



*Sustainable Living in the Credit River Watershed*

## Sustainable management practices incorporate upfront integrated planning to avoid long term cumulative impacts and achieve:

- Protection of water quality for drinking water.
- Optimized road layouts to reduce paved surfaces and encourage public transit.
- Maximized open spaces for fitness, recreation, environmental awareness and protection of natural areas.
- Conservation of water and energy.
- A healthy watershed.
- Education of stakeholders.

