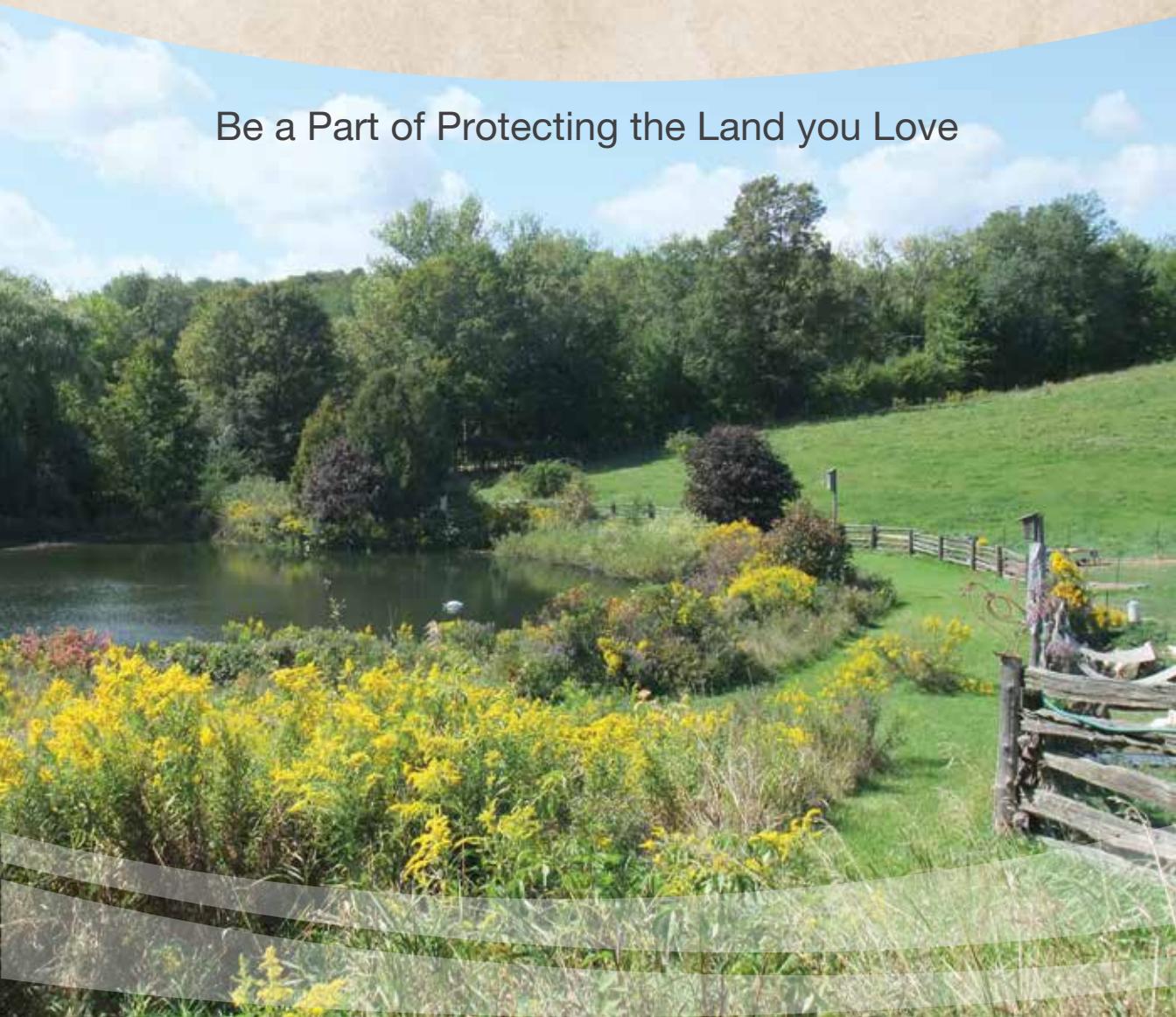




COUNTRYSIDE
stewardship

Hello! COUNTRYSIDE LIVING

Be a Part of Protecting the Land you Love



THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED



Legend

CS Landowners should contact CVC Countryside Stewardship staff for more information or assistance. stewardship@creditvalleyca.ca 1-800-668-5557

P Landowners should contact CVC Planning staff for more information or assistance. planning@creditvalleyca.ca 1-800-668-5557

||| For this type of project, a permit may be required from CVC's Planning department, your municipality and/or government agencies to ensure work is completed correctly.

Find the meaning of **bolded terms** using the glossary on page 31

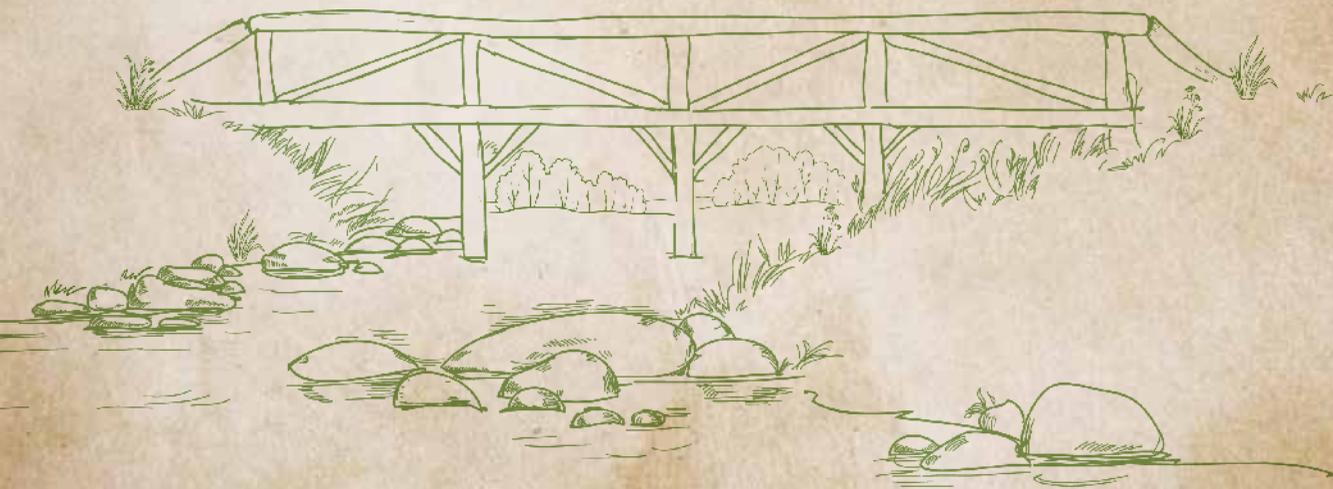
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BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE

As an owner of property in the Credit River watershed you are a steward of part of an extraordinary, diverse landscape. The Credit River system has flowed in this countryside since the last ice age. The First Nations people called it *missinnihe*, or Trusting Creek. They followed it to Lake Ontario to trade with the French, who gave them credit against next year's furs. That's where it gets its name.

Early European settlers built many mills in the Credit River watershed. Remnants of dams and stone walls still stand. Today, the Credit Valley remains a vital corridor. It is more than one and a half times the area of Toronto, encompassing farms and small towns, cities and natural spaces. It is home to deer, fox, wild turkeys and songbirds, along with many other land species. The Credit River supports more than 60 fish species, including trout and bass.



Stewardship

There is growing evidence that we gain many physical and mental health benefits from living in clean, healthy ecosystems and from having access to natural areas and **biodiversity**. More than 90 per cent of the Credit River **watershed** is privately owned. The cumulative effect of the way owners tend their land greatly determines the health of the river system.

That, in a nutshell, is the reason for this booklet.

We want you to understand how important your role is, how your care can be most effective and how Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) can help you. Fortunately, stewardship is quite simple.

As you will read, you don't have to do a lot to help nature be its best. Nature has been looking after this land for thousands of years. We would like that to continue with a little help where needed.

What is Credit Valley Conservation (CVC)?

CVC is largely a municipally funded organization, one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario. Our role is to help protect people and their properties from flooding, to protect and restore the natural environment within our watershed and to maintain both water quality and quantity. We are dedicated to conserving what nature gives us for current and future generations.



What CVC Can Do for You

Our Countryside Stewardship Program offers information, workshops, resources and technical expertise. Staff can help you plan the management of your land, help determine your goals and connect you to the right experts.

We also offer funding for certain projects. Through restoration and stewardship services, we work closely with landowners and community groups on a variety of projects aimed at improving the health of your land and water. Projects include stream and **wetland** restoration, tree planting, and **invasive species** management among many others.

Countryside Living

The farther you move from the city's downtown core the more likely you are to get to know your neighbours. In the countryside, your neighbour might live two kilometers away but you'll wave the first time you pass on the road. It won't be long before you're deep in conversation at the hardware store. You can learn a lot about your land that way.

Another good reason to get to know your neighbours is that nature doesn't recognize property lines. The watershed is intimately connected from end to end – by water, both underground and on the surface, by stands of trees, **wildlife** migration patterns and more. Because of this connection, a change on one owner's property can affect neighbouring land and farther afield, in both good ways and bad.

If your neighbour, for instance, puts up a fence to keep cattle out of the stream that flows into your property – that's good. If your failing septic system contaminates the groundwater – that's bad.



Doug and Janis Apted today enjoy the shade and shelter of trees they planted 22 years ago with help from CVC. “They really took a personal approach,” said Doug. “It was like working with friends.”



Doug and Debbie Hart decommissioned two unused wells on their horse farm. A workshop helped identify the projects. CVC helped find the most effective approach, while municipal and not-for-profit organizations helped fund the projects.

Get To Know Your Land

The more you know about your land, the more you'll appreciate it and the more effective a steward you can be. Your neighbours may know the history of your property. You might also have a chance to work together on a **conservation** or **naturalization** project that benefits both your property and the watershed. Environmental and stewardship groups can be exceptional sources of information.

We have our own resources as well such as workshops, an online discussion forum, and how-to manuals. In fact, our staff will come to your property for a walk about to give you new insight into its ecology. We may identify projects to help improve your land, perhaps work together to make it happen and, in some cases, even provide funds.

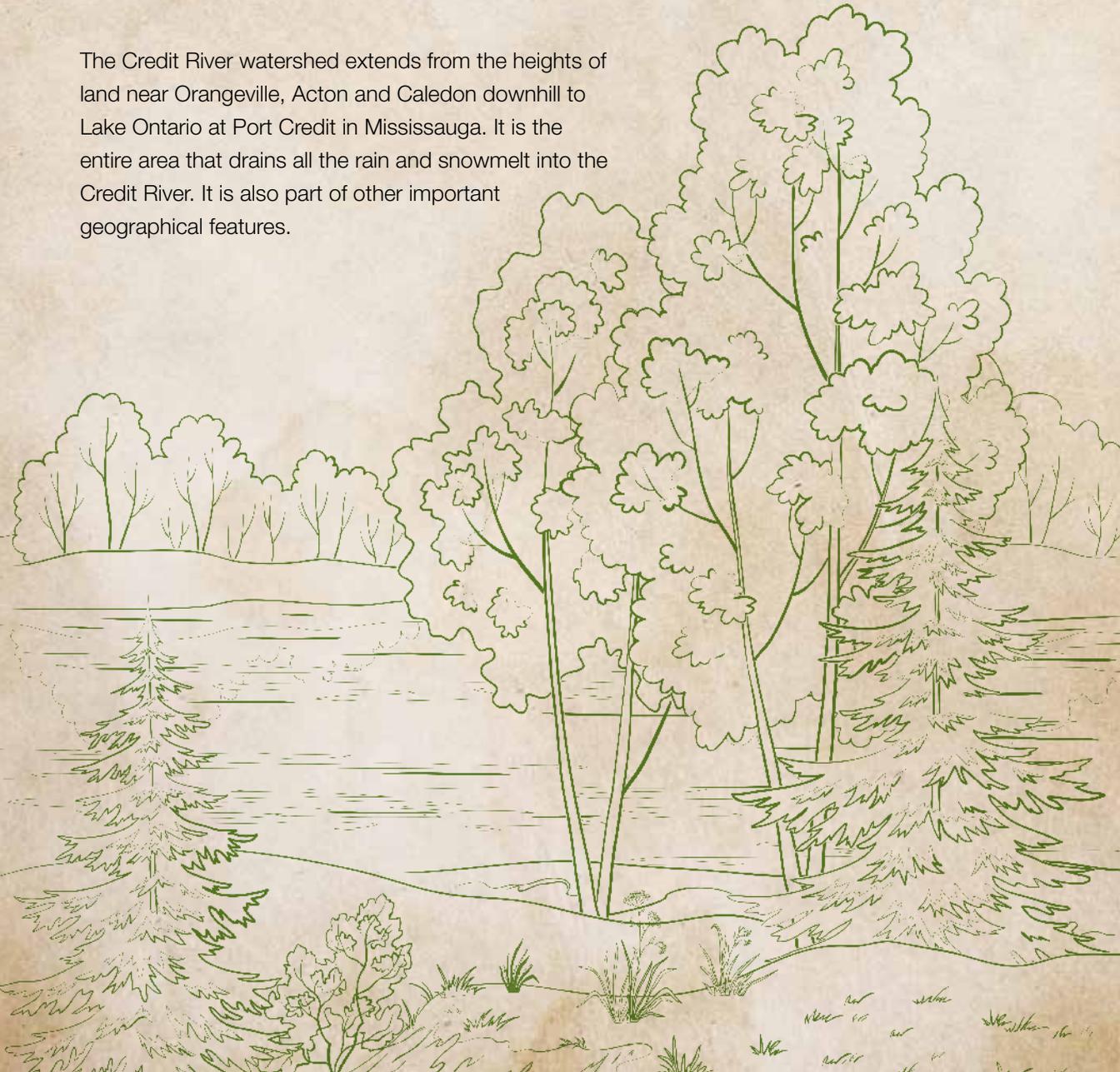
The first European settlers in the Credit Valley cleared the land and planted crops. People have been farming here ever since. Agriculture is a vital part of the watershed with the benefit of providing locally produced food. While it means city people might have to get used to different smells occasionally, it is also an opportunity.

Many of the naturalization and conservation principles outlined here can work for both rural and agricultural properties. Understanding each other's management strategies will help ensure you both achieve your individual goals.



GETTING TO KNOW THE WATERSHED

The Credit River watershed extends from the heights of land near Orangeville, Acton and Caledon downhill to Lake Ontario at Port Credit in Mississauga. It is the entire area that drains all the rain and snowmelt into the Credit River. It is also part of other important geographical features.



Oak Ridges Moraine

The western edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine is in the Credit River watershed at Caledon. The moraine is the source of 65 major streams and rivers. It provides clean, safe drinking water to more than a quarter of a million people.



Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment cuts through the Credit River watershed at the Forks of the Credit. The Niagara Escarpment is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and is rich in biodiversity.



Ontario's Greenbelt

The Greenbelt was formed in 2005 and covers most of the northern half of the Credit River watershed. It protects more than 800,000 hectares of environmentally sensitive areas and productive farmlands from urban sprawl and include parts of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment.

Did you know the natural benefits we obtain from areas like the Credit River watershed are also called **ecosystem goods and services**? These include the woodlands and wetlands within the Credit River watershed that provide clean air and water, flood control and opportunities for outdoor recreation. It would cost millions of dollars to provide these same benefits with built infrastructure.

Challenges



The greatest challenges to the Credit River watershed are urbanization, climate change and invasive species.

URBANIZATION refers to accommodating a growing population. As more people move into an area, more roads and parking lots are paved and more buildings rise. This covers green space and open land and limits the area for rain to infiltrate or soak into the ground.

With less **infiltration**, rainfall flows quickly from ditches and storm drains into small streams. More water all at once washes debris into rivers and overwhelms natural waterways, causing erosion and flooding. Also, because less water is soaking in, groundwater is not replenished as quickly, putting greater pressure on water wells.

CLIMATE CHANGE results from a rising concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, like carbon dioxide, which lead to more extreme weather. Heavy snowfalls and ice storms, stronger winds and intense rain, and extreme heat with no rain can be very damaging. The immediate damage is obvious – flooding, broken trees and branches, debris and riverbanks washed into waterways, drought, but there are less obvious effects. For example, frequent stressors make it easier for invasive species, pests and diseases to take hold in the ecosystem.



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

— Jane Goodall

INVASIVE PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Non-native invasive plants and animals are introduced species from outside North America that are highly adaptable and can out-compete native species for resources. They are the second greatest threat to our planet’s biodiversity – right behind habitat loss. Conserving our native biodiversity is vital to maintaining sustainable and healthy natural areas that provide us with clean air, water and soil.

Environment Canada Recommendations

NATURAL LAND



Forest



Wetlands

17%
CURRENT

7%
CURRENT

**30%
to 50%**
IDEAL

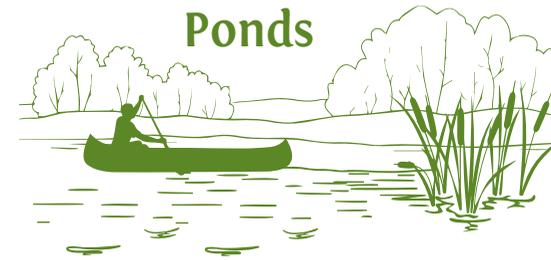
10%
IDEAL

Existing area of natural features within the Credit River watershed compared to the ideal area recommended by Environment Canada to maintain viable wildlife populations and healthy ecosystem function.

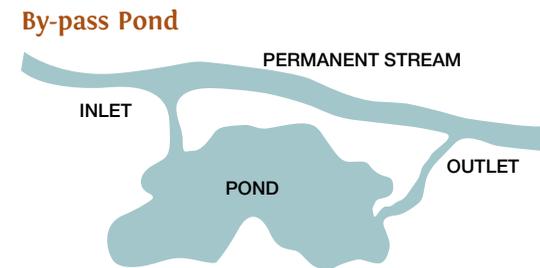
NATURAL FEATURES AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THEM

We've examined the challenges. Now let's see how you can help tackle them. Here are seven natural features of the Credit River watershed, why they are important and what you can do to improve and protect them.

Some steps you can take are very simple and often involve not doing anything. Other steps are more involved. If you plan to alter a stream or pond, repair a culvert, or even remove some trees, you may need permission from CVC and/or municipal and provincial governments. This is to minimize any adverse impacts. Call CVC when you're making plans.



A pond is a body of water that can be natural or artificial. Artificial ponds can be as simple as a hole in a low spot where water collects. They can be made by damming a stream to create an **on-line pond**, or by redirecting a portion of water to flow into an area beside the stream, called a **by-pass pond**.



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

Ponds can be great fun – a swimming hole or a garden feature. They are home to a number of aquatic plants and animals. However, artificial ponds can hurt water quality by raising the water temperature, increasing algae growth and reducing oxygen levels. This can be bad for fish and aquatic life.



What Can You Do?

Plant. Encourage and maintain a **buffer** of native plants around your pond. Not only does plant growth hold the banks and help prevent erosion, it intercepts the flow of sediment, fertilizers and other pollutants. Buffers of native plants help shade the pond and minimize algae growth. 

Install. Basking logs in the water and nest boxes above encourage wildlife like turtles and wood ducks. 

Isolate. If your pond is connected to the watercourse, ask CVC about taking it “off-line” to help maintain cooler water temperatures downstream and allow natural fish migration.  



Rivers and Streams

Rivers and streams are the channels of moving water that drain the watershed.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Healthy streams and rivers provide **habitat** for fish and other aquatic creatures. Some species are very sensitive to their surroundings. Brook trout, for instance, require cold, clear water.

What's in the water is just the beginning.

A robust aquatic ecosystem supports insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians, mammals such as beaver and muskrat as well as plant life along the shoreline, including trees.

What Can You Do?

Plant. Enhance shoreline buffers by planting native vegetation. 

Modify. Consider removing or modifying your dam to make it more eco-friendly. Maintain cold water flow by installing a **bottom-draw** on the outflow. Let fish migrate by installing **fish ladders.**  

Keep it naturally "neat".

While removing trash that finds its way into waterways can be a good thing for wildlife, natural debris such as logs and leaves should be left in place unless they are causing flooding and damage to personal property. They help aerate the water and provide shelter for fish.

Respect. Keep herbicides and fertilizers well away from the water.



Wetlands

A wetland is an area of land that is saturated by water, either year-round or seasonally. It integrates both aquatic (water) and terrestrial (land) life forms. It may be a low area where surface water collects, or an exposed water table. It is usually surrounded by or even overgrown with wetland plants.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Wetlands are the most diverse and productive habitats. They actively filter water by collecting runoff and trapping sediment and nutrients. By absorbing heavy rainfall or snowmelt, wetlands are important to help reduce flooding because they allow water to slowly percolate into the earth.



What Can You Do?

Let it be. If your wetland is in good shape, changing things might upset the balance nature has created and do more harm than good.

Buffer. Stop mowing right to the edge of the wetland. Allow a wider margin of natural vegetation to grow.

Plant. Add native aquatic plants and enhance your buffer with shrubs and trees. 

Restore. Call CVC if your wetland has been altered or disturbed. Our staff can offer recommendations about what to do next. 

Forests



A forest is an area dominated by trees and woody vegetation such as shrubs. It can be **deciduous**, **coniferous**, or mixed, with sugar maples and white pine, for instance.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Forests help clean the air by absorbing pollutants. They add oxygen and decrease carbon dioxide by holding or sequestering carbon in the wood. Forests also make great places for recreation. Scientific research is showing that spending time in a forest has many health benefits like lowering stress and improving immune systems. Go to the forest and take a deep breath. You'll notice the difference. Like sponges, forests hold water, releasing it slowly into streams and maintaining a steady flow. They also provide habitat for wildlife from deer to flying squirrels.



What Can You Do?

Plant. Create a new forest or expand an existing forest with native trees. Consider connecting two woodlots to create a corridor for wildlife.

Manage. CVC can help you develop a Forest Management Plan that will go a long way toward keeping your forest healthy. You may also qualify for a property tax reduction for managed forests that are four hectares (10 acres) and larger.

Thin. Plantations require thinning multiple times over many years to achieve a mature native forest. Removing trees, recommended by a forest professional, makes way for new species to move in and allows the trees left behind to grow strong and healthy. Forests may be protected by municipal cutting bylaws. Consult your municipality or region before cutting down trees.

Take note. Clearing out brush and fallen trees may make the forest look tidier, but it's not always the best action. Leaving fallen trees to decay naturally benefits wildlife and adds nutrients to the soil for new growth and slowly releases sequestered carbon. Natural brush gives animals shelter and places to hide from predators.



While partnering with CVC for many years, the Scott Mission Camp has planted more than 9,000 trees and shrubs on its property. Today trees tower over the recreation field and main buildings. They have completely changed the look of the property. Campers play games in the “Pine Forest” and light campfires in the evening in an opening among trees.



Fencerows and Windbreaks

These are narrow rows of trees and shrubs that follow the edges of fields or open areas. They may have grown naturally, perhaps left in place when the fields were cleared, but they are more often planted.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The most obvious effect of fencerows and **windbreaks** is apparent when you drive along a winter road in a crosswind. There's a lot less snow on the road and fewer whiteouts. In addition, these features help control soil erosion from wind and water. Near buildings, they can reduce the impact of cold winds and cut heating costs. They also create wildlife corridors where animals can feel safer going from one habitat to another.



What Can You Do?

Plant. Grow windbreaks in your fields and near your house. They can be any combination of native trees and woody plants, but a living snow fence should include evergreens.

Go wild. Allow a manicured fencerow to grow naturally.

Caution. Planting windbreaks too close to a road or a building may become a safety hazard.

Meadows and Old Fields



These open grasslands have very few trees or woody vegetation like shrubs. They can occur naturally, but are usually farm fields that are no longer cultivated and have reverted to nature. Often they will continue their **succession** back to forest.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Meadow habitats have vast root systems that prevent erosion. On hills they help stabilize the slope. Meadows also effectively filter sediment and provide habitat and corridors for wildlife to move freely. Many insects make their homes here, particularly pollinators such as bees and butterflies. So do grassland birds, such as bobolink, bluebird and meadowlark. Meadows are also good habitat for predator species that help keep insects and rodents in check.



What Can You Do?

Mow. Slow growth of woody plant species by mowing every few years in the late fall or early spring.

Rent. Open land is often ideal for hay production. Ask the grower to use bird-friendly hay harvesting practices. 

Plant. Establish a native wildflower meadow to attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. 



Wildlife are fascinating to watch: birds at feeders, deer grazing in a meadow, fox in a rock pile, mink scouring riverbanks. It's a living work of nature's art outside your picture window.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Attracting a variety of wildlife to your property helps maintain biodiversity in the watershed. Species richness helps keep nature in balance. It builds resilience to the effects of environmental stressors like climate change and helps prevent infestations of insects and plants.



What Can You Do?

Learn. Discover what species live on your property. Pay particular attention to **species at risk**. Encourage **native species** to thrive by enhancing their habitat.

Provide. Rather than surrounding your house with grass to mow, build or plant different habitats so wildlife will visit. Add gardens of native plants, brush piles, fruit bearing bushes and trees to provide shelter and food. The more variety you plant, the more animal species you're likely to see. Keep habitats close enough so you can watch them, but far enough so animals won't be attracted to your home. 

Consider. Federal and provincial species at risk legislation protects habitat of **endangered species**. Changing their habitat may require special permits from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. 

If you enjoy attracting winter birds to your feeders, it is very important to continue providing for them all winter long. Ask someone to help feed them while you are away.

PROPERTY ENHANCEMENTS AND WHAT TO CONSIDER

Your property is part of a larger landscape. It's important to consider the implications of making any changes to it. While enhancements like building an addition onto your home or putting in a pool sound great, they could potentially affect the landscape beyond your boundaries putting people, property and natural areas at risk. CVC uses policies and regulations to ensure any changes to your land keep other people and properties safe. When working around your home and garden it is easy to make simple, ecological choices that can enhance the beauty and natural quality of your property.



Development as defined by CVC includes, but is not limited to:

- Construction, reconstruction or changes to a building or structure of any kind (e.g. garages, decks, swimming pools, stream crossings, septic systems, etc.)
- Movement of earth such as site grading, removal or placement of any material (e.g. adding fill, dredging a waterway, even things that might be considered natural such as digging a pond or landscaping)

IMPACTS

Development can occur for many reasons, whether you are building a house for shelter, a barn for commercial purposes or simply improving the visual appeal of your property. However, development has the potential to harm natural areas through flooding, erosion, slope instability and hazards to human safety. CVC works with landowners to ensure that development proposals are consistent with CVC policies. This keeps people and properties safe and protects natural areas from negative impacts.

What Can You Do?

Call CVC. Conservation Authorities regulate activities in areas in and adjacent to waterways, valley slopes and wetlands. Before you undertake any development, talk to our planning department to see if you live in a regulated area and need a permit. 

Get permission. Any development within regulated areas requires permits and inspections from CVC and/or government agencies to ensure work is done correctly. 





Water Wells

Nearly everyone who lives in the countryside relies on a well for drinking water. Some municipalities in the Credit River watershed supply drinking water from town wells. A well properly sited and maintained can provide clean drinking water for decades.

Depending on when they were constructed and what's underground, water wells can be dug, bored, or drilled and encased in stone, concrete or steel pipe.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

What happens above ground near the well can significantly affect water quality down below.

Contaminants such as oil, gasoline, pesticides and salt can percolate into the groundwater or flow directly into poorly maintained wells. As the well casing corrodes or the seal between the well casing and the surrounding soil breaks down, surface water and any contaminants can funnel directly into the groundwater. This can make well water unsafe to drink.

Once well water is contaminated, it is almost impossible to make it drinkable again. More importantly, all wells sharing that aquifer may become contaminated. Protecting your own well also protects your neighbours' wells.

Following events in Walkerton, Ontario in 2000, when E. coli contaminated drinking water, Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) were established across the province to protect municipal wells. The Credit River watershed contains several WHPAs. Certain land use activities are regulated in these areas on both public and private property.

What Can You Do?

Test. The Ontario Building Code requires landowners to monitor the safety of their drinking water well. Test yours at least three times a year, particularly after a heavy rain or snow melt.

Inspect. To ensure your well is not at risk of contamination, have it inspected every few years by a licensed well contractor. 

Upgrade. Have a licensed well contractor bring your well up to code to provide safe drinking water and protect your well (and your neighbours') from contamination. 

Take care. When you apply potential contaminants like pesticides and road salt on your property keep them away from your well.

Decommission. Don't just stop using your old well, have a licensed contractor decommission it. As the old well deteriorates it can become a pathway for surface contaminants to flow into the groundwater. 



Septic Systems

Most rural properties are not connected to municipal sewer lines. They rely on a septic system. Usually this is a large concrete tank with two chambers and a leaching bed under the lawn. Here, all household wastewater from tubs, toilets and sinks is treated on site by natural microbes in the tank and in the soil beneath the bed.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

A properly functioning septic system should have no ill effect on the environment. If it is not working well, however, the system has the potential to contaminate your well, your neighbours' wells and nearby streams and rivers. Problems with septic systems begin when they are not properly maintained or when they are overloaded.

What Can You Do?

Maintain. Landowners are obligated to properly maintain their septic systems. Have the system pumped out and inspected for leaks every three to five years.

Nurture. Your septic system's microbes work best in the absence of harsh cleaners and excessive water use. Be careful what goes down your drain and practice water conservation.

Beware. When you spot any of these symptoms it's time to check your system:

- a. drains are slow or backed up
- b. water pools over the leaching bed when it hasn't rained
- c. there is a sewer smell indoors or outdoors
- d. high bacteria or nitrate levels are in your well water

Get permission. Adding on to your house may require an increase in the capacity of your septic system. Obtain the necessary permits.  

Qualify. Not all septic contractors are qualified for all levels of work. Make sure the one you hire is qualified to do the work you need.  



Home Landscapes and Gardens



Rather than a lawn that requires a lot of water, consider ecological landscaping that promotes water conservation and primarily uses native plant species. It is easier to maintain (no mowing) and doesn't require chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Gardens that use less water and no chemicals help protect our soils and water. Native plants "grew up" here - evolving and adapting to local weather patterns, soils and seasons. Therefore they provide higher quality habitat and food sources for wildlife. They cooperate with other native species the way milkweed plants support monarch butterflies.

What Can You Do?

Take note. Choose native plants best suited to the growing conditions of the area you want to plant. 

Select. Learn to identify invasive plants and remove them from your gardens. 

Simplify. Avoid chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Use compost or other organic substitutes only when necessary. Most native plants don't need fertilizers.

Plant. Add native plants to your gardens and landscaping. 

Save water. Once the right plant is established in the right place, it should need water only during drought conditions.

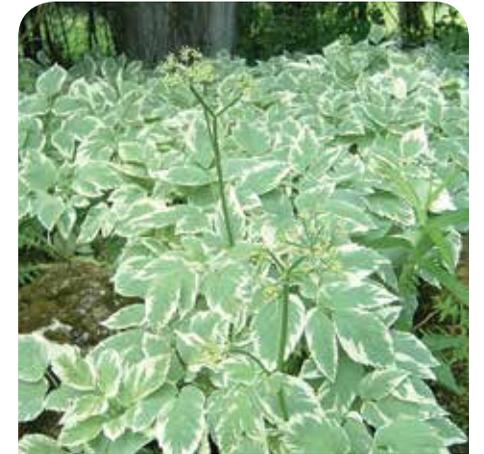


Invasive Species

Invasive species include plants, insects and other organisms. Generally, they "hitchhiked" here from another part of the world, as seeds or eggs on organic material imported into Canada. Some were brought here on purpose for their garden beauty, such as periwinkle.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Invasive species usually have no natural predators in their environment, so there is nothing to control their growth. As a result they tend to take over and can kill native species. They can also be very difficult to get rid of. What's more, because they don't "fit in" to the local ecology, they don't provide the same benefits to the local environment that native plants do (e.g. providing food for wildlife). The landscape becomes less resilient in extreme weather, or when faced with disease or other disturbances.



What Can You Do?

Learn. Know the top invasive species in the Credit River watershed. 

Choose well. Use native and non-invasive plants for landscaping and gardening. 

Eliminate. Clear out any invasive species on your property.  

Dispose. When you dig invasive plants, put all waste in municipal composting. If you pile them at the back of your garden or over the fence they might take root and start invading all over again. Municipal composting produces enough heat to kill the roots and seeds.



Agricultural Land



Agriculture has been a vital part of the Credit River watershed since the first European settlers arrived. Although the number of farms and acreage is decreasing, approximately one third of the watershed is still agricultural and open space.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Agricultural lands have many ecological benefits. They provide open land for rain and snow melt to infiltrate and replenish groundwater. The crops they grow use carbon from the atmosphere as part of their structure. In this way they reduce greenhouse gas build up. They also provide habitat for many wild species – mammals, insects and birds.

On the other hand, agricultural lands can have negative ecological impacts. Runoff from fields may contain pesticides and herbicides that can contaminate ground and surface water. Runoff may also contain fertilizers and manure. Once in the water, these nutrients increase algae growth, use up oxygen and can cause water quality issues.



What Can You Do?

Manage. If you apply manure or fertilizers, develop a nutrient management plan to avoid over application. 

Contain. Keep manure in a concrete, roofed storage facility to reduce the risk of contaminating surface and groundwater. 

Fence. Keep livestock out of waterways to prevent erosion and stream widening. Fences also protect water quality and livestock health. 

Conserve. Keep soil in its place by planting winter cover crops. 

Did you know CVC has a certification program for Bird-Friendly Hay to improve habitat and living conditions for **threatened** grassland birds? The online marketplace connects hay producers, hay consumers and landowners with land available to rent for growing Bird-Friendly Certified Hay. www.birdfriendlyhay.ca

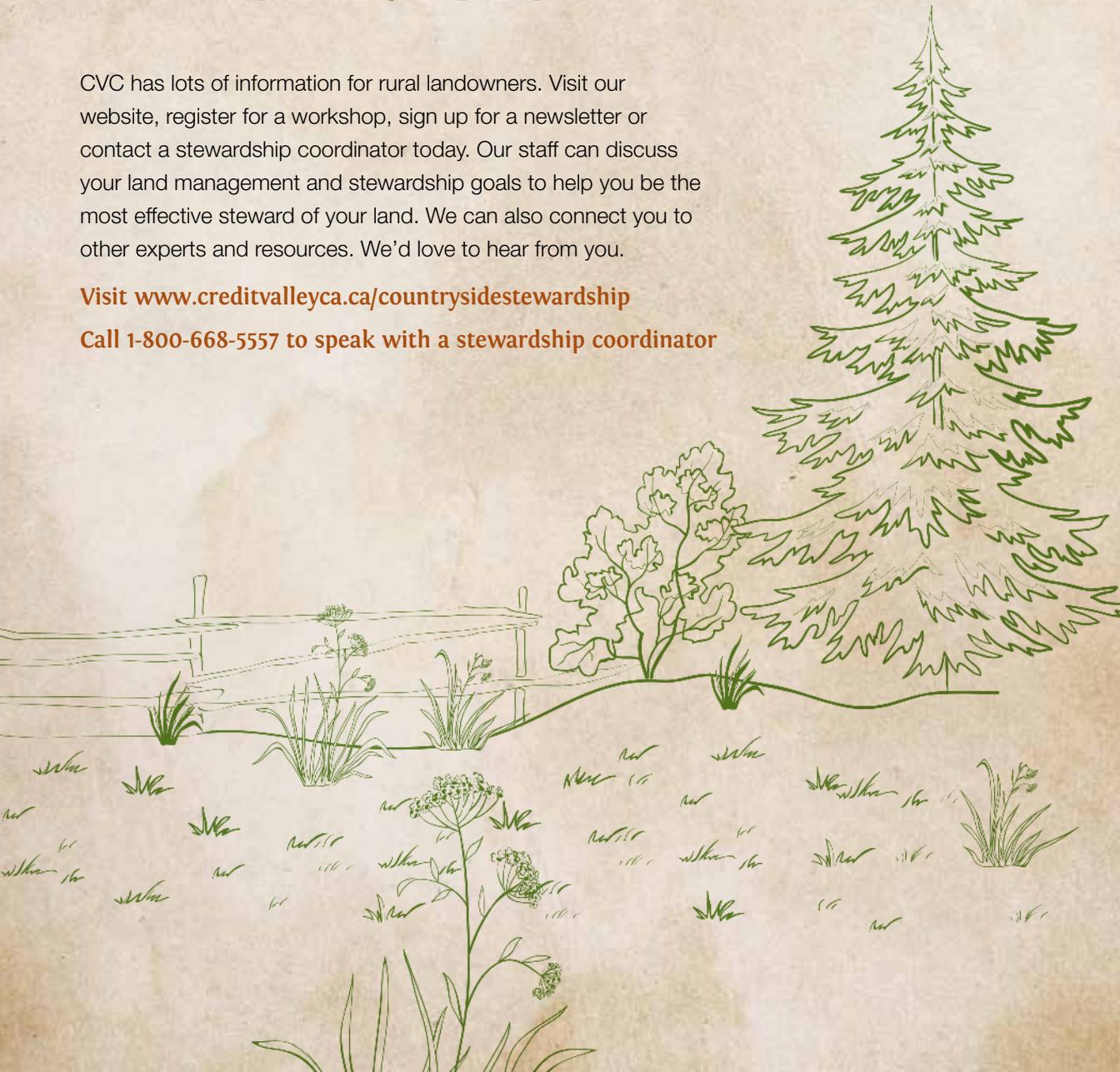


CVC'S COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND SERVICES

CVC has lots of information for rural landowners. Visit our website, register for a workshop, sign up for a newsletter or contact a stewardship coordinator today. Our staff can discuss your land management and stewardship goals to help you be the most effective steward of your land. We can also connect you to other experts and resources. We'd love to hear from you.

Visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/countrysidestewardship

Call 1-800-668-5557 to speak with a stewardship coordinator



A selection of CVC resources

Countryside Stewardship Mail

A biweekly e-newsletter with themed articles specifically for rural landowners.

www.creditvalleyca.ca/csmail

Countryside Stewardship Connection

An online discussion forum for rural landowners living in the Credit River watershed.

www.csconnection.ca

Source for Events

Our weekly blog with watershed stories, upcoming events, workshops and volunteer opportunities.

www.creditvalleyca.ca/source

CVC Agricultural and Equine Stewardship

www.creditvalleyca.ca/agstewardship

CVC Ecological Landscaping Resources

www.creditvalleyca.ca/landscaping

CVC Regulation Mapping

www.creditvalleyca.ca/planning-permits/regulation-mapping

Learn more from these useful resources

Dam Management- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

www.ontario.ca

(search dam management)

Forest Pests – Canadian Food Inspection Agency

www.inspection.gc.ca

(search plants, forestry)

Septic Systems – Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre

www.orwc.uoguelph.ca

Spills – Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Spills Action Centre

1-800-268-6060

Wildlife and Nature – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

www.ontario.ca

(search wildlife, nature)

Well Records – Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

www.ontario.ca

(search map, well records)

CVC's Restoration Services and Funding Programs

There are restoration services and funding available for landowners within the Credit River watershed. Certain eligibility may apply.

RESTORATION SERVICES

Aquatic Planting Program

Technical advice, site assessment, aquatic plant material and planting services
www.creditvalleyca.ca/aer

Wetland, Stream & Pond Restoration Services

Technical advice, site assessment, project planning and implementation
www.creditvalleyca.ca/aer

Forest Management

Plantation and forest assessment, tree marking, preparation of Forest Management Plans, woodlot advice, tree preservation plans
www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm

Grassland and Habitat Restoration

Technical advice, site assessment, project planning and implementation, other habitat enhancement works
www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm

Invasive Species Management

Technical advice, site assessment, invasive plant removal and restoration
www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm

Tree Planting

Technical advice, site assessment, seedling and potted plant planting services
www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm

FUNDING

Landowner Action Fund

Offers grants for land and water stewardship projects on private land
www.creditvalleyca.ca/landowneractionfund

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

An approved management plan offers eligible landowners with at least 4 hectares (9.88 acres) of forested land a property tax reduction to 25 per cent of the municipal tax rate for residential properties
www.creditvalleyca.ca/mftip

Agricultural Funding Programs

Offers cost share funding for agri-environmental stewardship projects on private land
www.creditvalleyca.ca/agstewardship

Tree Planting Subsidy

Offers eligible landowners a subsidy of 70 per cent and up for planting trees on private land.
www.creditvalleyca.ca/trm

Additional funding opportunities exist through municipal, provincial and federal governments and other sources. Contact a stewardship coordinator for more details.

Glossary

Buffer (Buffer Strip) – a strip of permanent vegetation alongside natural areas (e.g. watercourses, wetlands) to protect against surrounding land uses. A buffer strip can intercept and absorb nutrients, provide wildlife habitat and reduce soil erosion.

Biodiversity – the variety and abundance of species, their genetic makeup, and the communities, ecosystems and landscapes in which they occur. Biodiversity increases ecosystem resilience in the face of extreme weather, disease and disturbances of any kind.

Bottom-draw – an outlet on a dam that allows only cooler water from a pond bottom to flow downstream. This helps maintain cooler water temperatures downstream than a top-draw outlet.

By-pass Pond – a pond located beside a watercourse, fed and drained by separate channels connected to a watercourse.

Coniferous – an evergreen tree or shrub that bears cones and has needle or scale-like leaves (e.g. pine, spruce, cedar).

Conservation – the management of our environment and natural resources for sustainability and vigor.

Deciduous – trees that shed their leaves in autumn (e.g. maple, oak, ash).

Development – as it pertains to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, means:

- The construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind;
- Any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering

the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure;

- Site grading, or the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

Ecosystem Goods & Services – nature's benefits (waste treatment, carbon sequestration and air purification) that society enjoys for free from the presence of functioning natural ecosystems.

Endangered Species – a species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

Fish Ladders – a series of artificial pools arranged like ascending steps, enabling migrating fish to swim upstream around a dam or other obstruction.

Habitat – part of the environment that provides all basic needs for a particular species, such as food, water, shelter, space and air, without which the species cannot survive.

Infiltration – the passage of water (e.g. rain) into soil.

Invasive Species – a plant or animal species that grows aggressively, out-competing other species and may be difficult to control or eradicate.

Native Species – plant and animal species with long evolutionary history in a given area; generally, those present before European settlement.

Naturalization – the process of converting managed landscapes to more natural and evolving landscapes through planting a variety of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Non-Native Species – a plant or animal species that has been introduced from another geographic region to an area outside their natural range.

On-Line Pond – a pond that is directly connected to a stream or river through the inflow and/or outflow.

Species at Risk – any native plant or animal that is threatened by or vulnerable to extinction. This term is further organized into five categories of risk: special concern, threatened, endangered, extirpated and extinct.

Succession – the gradual process of change in an ecosystem as one community of plants and its resident organisms is replaced by another after a landscape has been disturbed (e.g. by fire or flood). The ecosystem, regardless of whether it was a forest or aquatic ecosystem etc., gradually returns to its original mature state.

Threatened Species – a species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.

Watershed – an area of land or region that drains into a river, river system or other body of water.

Windbreak – narrow rows of trees planted along the edges of fields or open areas to help control erosion from wind and water. Windbreaks also create wildlife corridors that connect fragmented forested lands.

Wetland – an area that is seasonally covered or saturated by water, creating soil conditions that promote growth of water-tolerant vegetation.

Wildlife – any species of animal living unrestrained or free roaming and undomesticated.



COUNTRYSIDE
stewardship

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