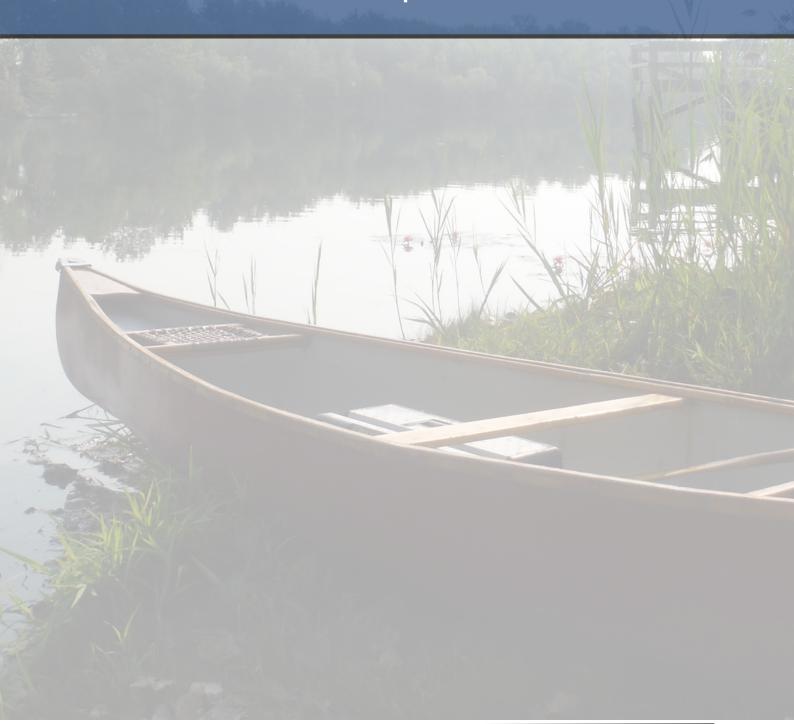




Balance in nature is everything. The following report outlines how the LTVCA is working with watershed stakeholders to improve the environmental health of the Thames River watershed through stewardship efforts.



Soil Health Program



Common types of cover crops include:

- -Clover
- -Radish
- -Barley
 - -Oats

Cover Crops Planted (Acres)

2021 - 10,828 2022 - 9,785 2023 - 9313

Phosphorus Reduction

2021 - 5414 lbs 2022 - 4892.5 lbs 2023 - 4450 lbs

49 Participants

of that, 15% are new to the program

\$139,725.00

Provided to farmers to offset the cost of cover crops



SAR Outcomes

- Fewer algal blooms leading to more
 O2 for fish like the Endangered
 Norther Madtom
- Reduces runoff that carries harmful effluents into our watercourses

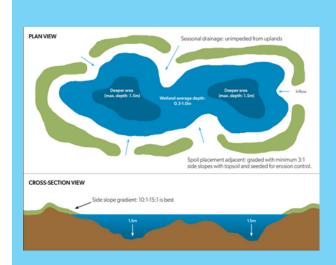
Wetland Projects



SAR Outcomes

- Filters nutrients that cause eutrophication and reduced O2 levels
- Creates nursery habitat for a diversity of fishes like the Endangered Lake Chubsucker





Importance of Wetlands:

- -Creates bird, reptile and amphibian habitat
- Improves water quality
- -Provides flood protection
- -reduces shoreline erosion

9 projects were completed, restoring 4.66 acres of wetland habitat



Tree Planting Projects



Benefits of tree planting:

-reduces erosion-stabilizes soil-creates habitatsor wildlife



SEEDLINGS SOLD 71,210

83 acres of tree habitat restored





TREE PLANTING
49 Projects

Types of native trees:

- White Pine
- Norway Spruce
 - Red Oak
 - Pin Oak
 - Red Maple
 - Sycamore
 - -Black Walnut





SAR Outcomes

- Creates riparian habitat necessary to cool streams
- Establishes a home for bugs that feed fish like the threatened Silver Shiner

Prairie Projects



SAR Outcomes

- Creates habitat for Monarch Butterflies
- Reduces siltation that may clog the gilld of mussels like the endangered Fawnsfoot

19 tallgrass prairie projects were completed, equaling 39.5 acres



Advantages of Tall Grass Prairies:

- reduce phosphorus loading
- improve soil conservation
- improve water retention
- attract pollinators
- provide wildlife habitats

Top plant species for pollinators:

- -Butterfly Milkweed
- Purple Coneflower-Wild Burgamot
- -Black-Eyed Susan

6
Pollinator
gardens planted



Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) helps farmers and ranchers integrate ecologically beneficial projects on their properties in marginal, inaccessible and environmentally sensitive areas.

ALUS Chatham-Kent

- 23 New Acres Enrolled
- \$80,000 invested in projects
- 15 new projects
- Planted 9440 trees
- 150 projects to date
- 275 acres to date
- 12 new participants



ALUS Elgin

- 72 new acres enrolled
- 117 renewed acres
- \$300,000 invested in projects
- 21 new projects
- 2 community events
- 8 new participants
- 6 returning participants



- 150 new acres
- \$915,000 invested in projects
- 48 new projects
- 2 community events
- 30 new participants









Aquatic Species at Risk



Initiatives completed in 2023

10 data loggers were deployed in the Thames River and Baptiste Creek

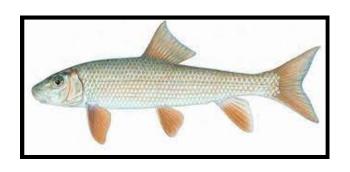
to help monitor the health of the environment for the health of fish and mussels.

9 interpretive signs were installed in conservation areas to raise awareness about local fish and mussels that are SAR as well as encourage citizens to take action to protect and monitor them.

Landowners were contacted whose livestock access watercourses or whose creeks lack shoreline vegetation in order to encourage future interest in SAR.

Removal of water lettuce was completed in 2021 from McGregor and Wolfe Creek. A canoe survey in 2023 confirmed it was successful as no water lettuce was found.





Terrestrial Species at Risk



Initiatives completed in 2023

At Big Bend, E.M. Warwick, and Feasby, habitat classification and acoustic and ultrasonic recordings of birds, amphibians and bats were completed.

Late season breeding bird surveys and surveys for threatened Bank Swallows were also completed.

This will provide valuable biological information to support the future development of conservation authority management plans.

3 interpretive signs were installed to raise awareness of core forest habitat to bird SAR such as the Cerulean Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker.





What Did We Do In 2023?



The LTVCA hosted and attended a number of events in 2023! Some of these included conferences, webinars, Children's Water Festival and a tour displaying various completed projects across Chatham Kent.

5,049

24

10

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING

COMMUNITY EVENTS EVENTS
PROMOTING
PROJECTS







If you want to get involved in any of our projects or become a volunteer email info@ltvca.ca.

Thank You

Ontario Land and Trust Association (OLTA) Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) **Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)** Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) **Environment and Climate change Canada (ECCC)** South Kent Wind Community Fund (CK Community Foundations) Intact Municipal Climate Change Resiliency Grant (IMCCRG) **Invasive Species Centre (ISC)** Elgin Clean Water Program (ECWP) **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** Retired Teachers Association; Brand 33 (RTO 33) Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) **Grassland Stewardship Initiative (GSI)** Canada Wildlife Federation (CWF) World Wildlife Fund (WWF) **Evolugen Walpole First Nation Together CK Enbridge TD Bank ALUS Elgin ALUS CK ALUS Middlesex** Tree Canada R Landfill CT

Thank You

The Chatham 19 Scouts Rainbarrel.ca The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund **Forests Ontario Rotary Satellite Club of Chatham Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Ducks Unlimited Canada** Ridgetown Horticultural Society **Province of Ontario** Coca Cola Canada **Elgin Steward Council Government of Canada United Way Visit Middlesex Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Sport Ontario Southwestern Ontario Tourism corporation Desjardins Foundation** Friends of the St. Clair River **Delaware Lioness Club Optimist Club of West Lorne Optimists of Mount Brydges Rodney Lions Club** Salus Mutual Insurance **Retro Suites Maple City Homes Forests Ontario** Ridgetown Rotary **Member Municipalities CK Community Foundation** The Invasive Species Council **Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise** The Baha'is Community of CK The Hindu Community of CK