

2016-2020

City of Kitchener's Stormwater Management Approach



About:

The City of Kitchener's stormwater management program slows, filters, and manages stormwater from urban areas.

Some Key Words:

Stormwater is water, usually from rain or snow melt. It flows across our urban spaces, into the City's drainage system, through sewers and into our natural areas (creeks, rivers, wetlands).

Stormwater Management System

is the network used to control, maintain and regulate the collection, storage and movement of stormwater across the City.

Subwatershed is the area that water flows over or through to drain into a larger body of water. The City has 29 subwatersheds which are part of the larger Grand River watershed.

What is the City doing to manage Stormwater?

In 2016, the City of Kitchener released a new *Integrated Stormwater Management Master Plan*. It aimed to improve stormwater management performance and reduce costs across the City's stormwater management system. The ultimate goal was to maintain and improve the health of streams, rivers and aquatic life. The City also wanted to provide more public opportunities to enjoy water by mitigating the effects of urban development. Stormwater ponds, built wetlands, restored streams, and low-impact features help the City reach this goal. The City uses a continuous improvement approach to assess subwatershed health and manage stormwater, including regular maintenance to engineered infrastructure.



Monitoring in Idlewood Creek

The Continuous Improvement Cycle

Planning:

2016 City of Kitchener Integrated Stormwater Management Master Plan.
(Please contact us to see the Plan or visit Kitchener.ca/stormwater for more information)

Improving:

Manage stormwater updates and habitat restoration.

Reporting:

Five-year report cards prepared to showcase results and next steps.

Monitoring:

Yearly assessment of stream health, water quality, and stormwater management.

Evaluating:

Summarize stream health and identify areas of improvement.

2016-2020

City of Kitchener's Subwatershed Health



Subwatershed health in the City of Kitchener ranges from “needs improvement” to “satisfactory.” We aim to increase subwatershed health throughout the City by making stormwater improvements. The following five categories help illustrate subwatershed health across the City. And the City is able to prioritize subwatersheds and improvement projects based on health rank.

For more information about how we rank the health of our creeks, visit kitchener.ca/stormwater.

1 Terrestrial Health:

- Wetland Habitat
- Riverside Habitat
- Forest Habitat
- Natural Cover

2 Stream Health:

- Erosion
- Aquatic Habitat
- Riverside Health
- Stream Type

3 Aquatic Biology:

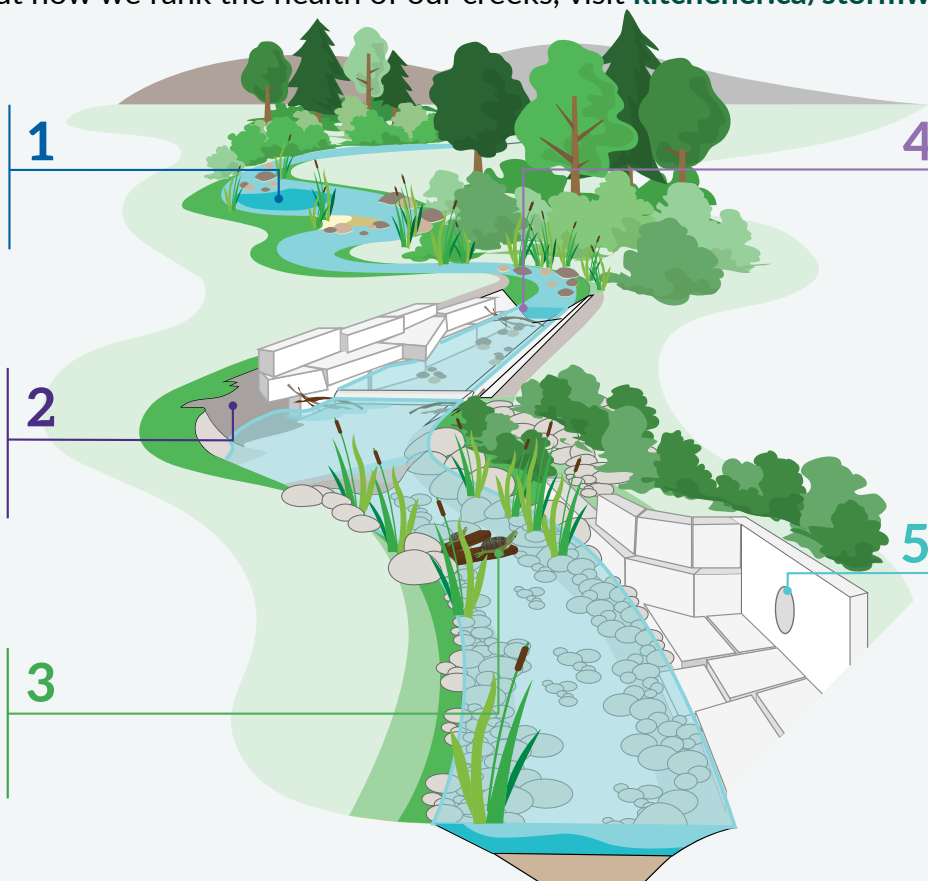
- Fish Species
- Stream Temperature
- Aquatic Bugs
- Indicator Species

4 Water Quality:

- Water Clarity
- Chloride and Salts
- Nutrients
- Metals

5 Stormwater Management:

- Stormwater Quality Control
- Stormwater Amount Control
- Low Impact Development
- Urban Flooding



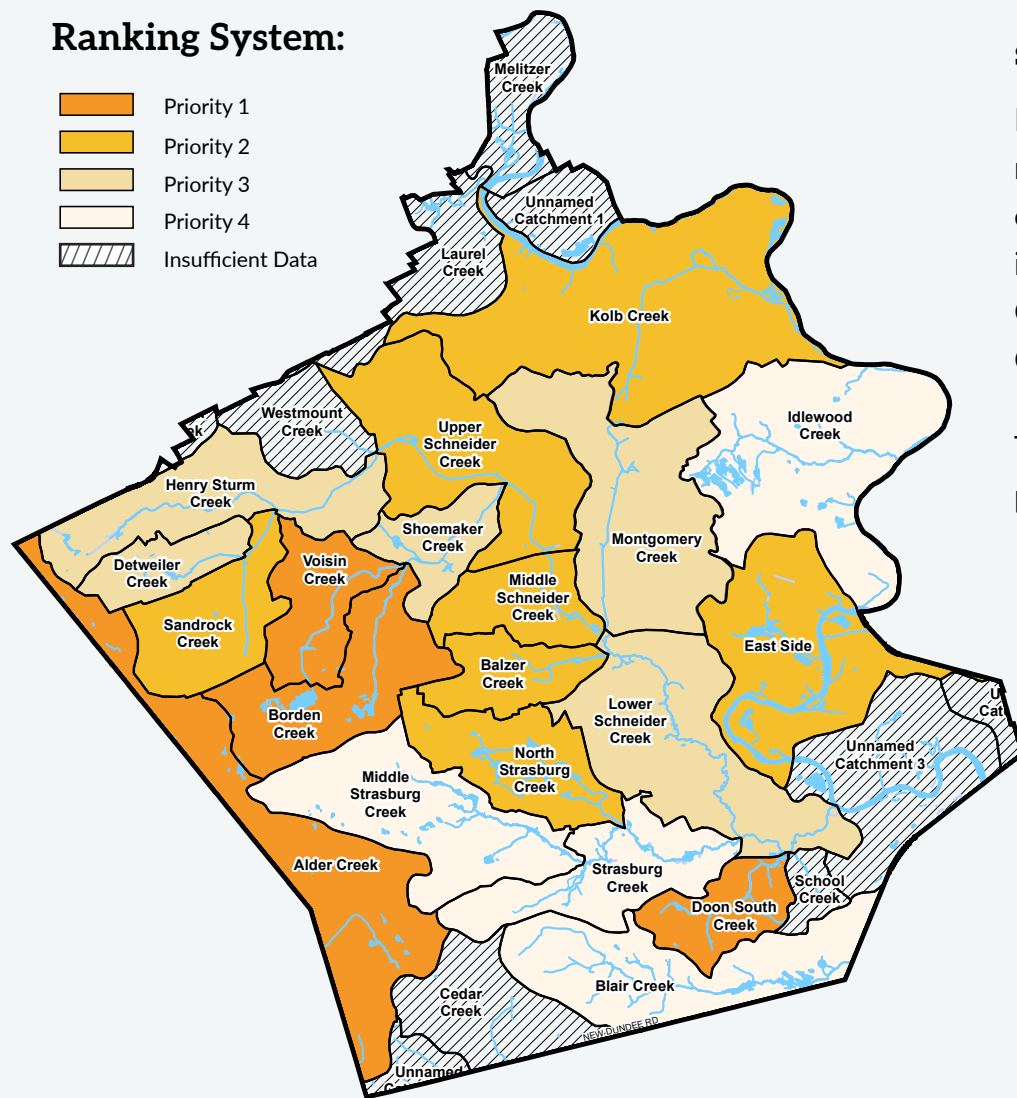
2016-2020

City of Kitchener's Subwatershed Priority Ranking



Ranking System:

-  Priority 1
-  Priority 2
-  Priority 3
-  Priority 4
-  Insufficient Data



What is the City doing to improve subwatershed health?

Between 2016 and 2020, the City and its partners have restored almost 2.7km of watercourses. This addressed erosion, water quality and aquatic health of areas including: Idlewood Creek at the Grand River, Balzer Creek from Old Country Drive to Schneider Creek, Kolb Creek at Matthew St., and Kolb Creek at Forfar Park.

The City also made improvements to three stormwater ponds to improve water quality.

What does it all mean?

By using the subwatershed ranking system, we can see which creeks are low health. Low health creeks are the highest priority for improvement. With this, the City can address subwatersheds most in need of attention.



2016-2020

City of Kitchener's Next Steps



Looking Ahead...

The City of Kitchener is always improving on the stormwater management network. The health of streams, rivers, and wetlands in our City is very important. Look for new and exciting projects in your neighbourhood that will contribute to these improvements! These will improve water quality, climate change resiliency, and overall health and enjoyment for our residents.

New Projects Include:

- Building new stormwater ponds and underground stormwater facilities in parks;
- Updating and cleaning out existing stormwater ponds;
- Restoring and naturalizing streams; and,
- Continuing the annual monitoring program.

For more information, visit the city's website at: kitchener.ca/stormwater

What Can You Do to Help?

As a City of Kitchener resident you play an important role in conserving water and protecting our watershed. Here are some examples of what you can do to help:



Reduce pollution

- Limit the use of lawn fertilizer and winter salts
- Dispose of hazardous products and pet waste properly
- Wash your car at the car wash



Reduce runoff

- Use a rain barrel to collect water for your garden
- Point your drain onto your garden or lawn
- Install a rain garden to collect runoff from your roof and yard



Report problems

- Report flooding issues to the City (519-741-2200, ext. 7355)
- Report spills to the Spills Action Centre (toll free 1-800-268-6060)



Be a Rain Smart Neighbour

- Find out more ways to be Rain Smart at reepgreen.ca/rain-smart

Did you know?

You can apply for credits and save up to 45% of your monthly stormwater utility bill! Find out more, here:

kitchener.ca/stormwatercredits

For more information about the City of Kitchener's stormwater management program...

Contact:
Nick Gollan
Manager, Utility Planning & Programs
Sanitary and Stormwater
Infrastructure Services

200 King Street West
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
T: 519-741-2200 x 7422
F: 519-741-2230
E: Nick.Gollan@kitchener.ca