10 years after winning the Thiess International Riverprize

# Watershed planning to promote implementation: 10 years of experience from the Lake Simcoe watershed

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22nd International RIVER SYMPOSIUM
EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION

INTERNATIONAL RiverFoundation

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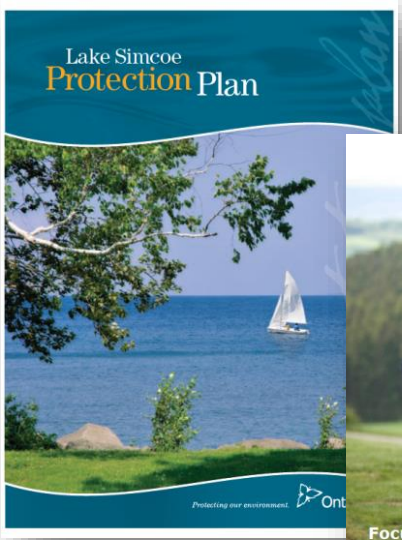
# Watershed planning: a strategic direction



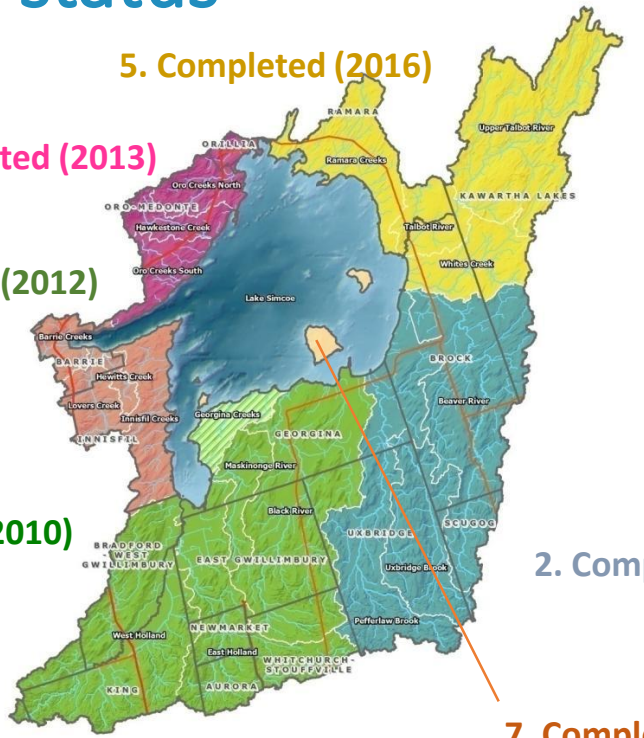
*Watershed Plans, including implementation and monitoring strategies, will be completed for the entire Lake Simcoe watershed*

# Watershed plan status

5. Completed (2016)

4. Completed (2013)

3. Completed (2012)




1. Completed (2010)

2. Completed (2012)

7. Completed (2016)

# The implementation challenge

- Shared jurisdiction in water management
- Other agencies have bigger ‘carrots’ and ‘sticks’
- But we can lead by supporting their actions

# Implementation success

Principles of approach

- Rely on partnerships
- Lead by example
- Track and report on implementation achievements
- Achieve a balance between accountability and adaptability
- Dedicate a staff position to be responsible for plan implementation

Implementation plan intended to provide support and direction

# Implementation plan

| Recommendation 1 - That watershed municipalities promote Low Impact Development (LID) practices in new developments to further mitigate the impacts of urban development. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Activity** | **Measure of success** | **Lead (collaborating) agency** | **Target deadline** |
| Provide training courses on the design and construction of LID approaches | Training course developed and provided | LSRCA (LID working group) | Ongoing, to start in 2016 |
| Undertake pilot LID projects, and monitor efficiency | Completion of at least one pilot project in the watershed | LSRCA (Interested municipalities) | 2017 |
| Incorporate LID as a tool in municipal stormwater master plans, pending results of monitoring studies | LID mainstreamed as a tool to manage urban stormwater | Watershed municipalities (MOE, LSRCA) | 2017 |
| Pursue opportunities to incorporate LID projects as development continues | LID projects implemented as opportunities arise | Watershed municipalities | Ongoing |

# Monitoring progress

1. Ongoing partnership
2. Annual or semi-annual meetings of implementation partners
   - Seek guidance, advice
   - Remain adaptable
   - Stay “front of mind”
3. Annual report for partners
   - Brief summary of key accomplishments
   - Scorecard of deliverables

| | Status | Progress to date |
|---|---|---|
| ✔ | Complete | 54 |
| ♻ | Ongoing | 28 |
| ● | On target for completion | 28 |
| ● | Not on target for completion | 12 |

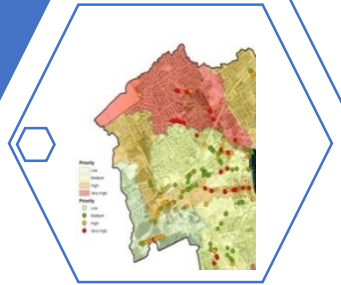
# Supporting our implementing partners

Pilot studies

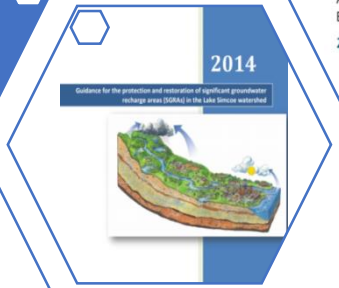
Training

Decision support tools

Template policies



Guidance documents



# As an example … safe passage for wildlife

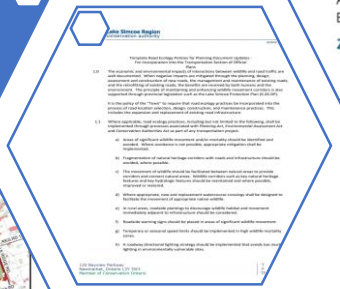
Training

Pilot studies

Decision support tools

Template policies

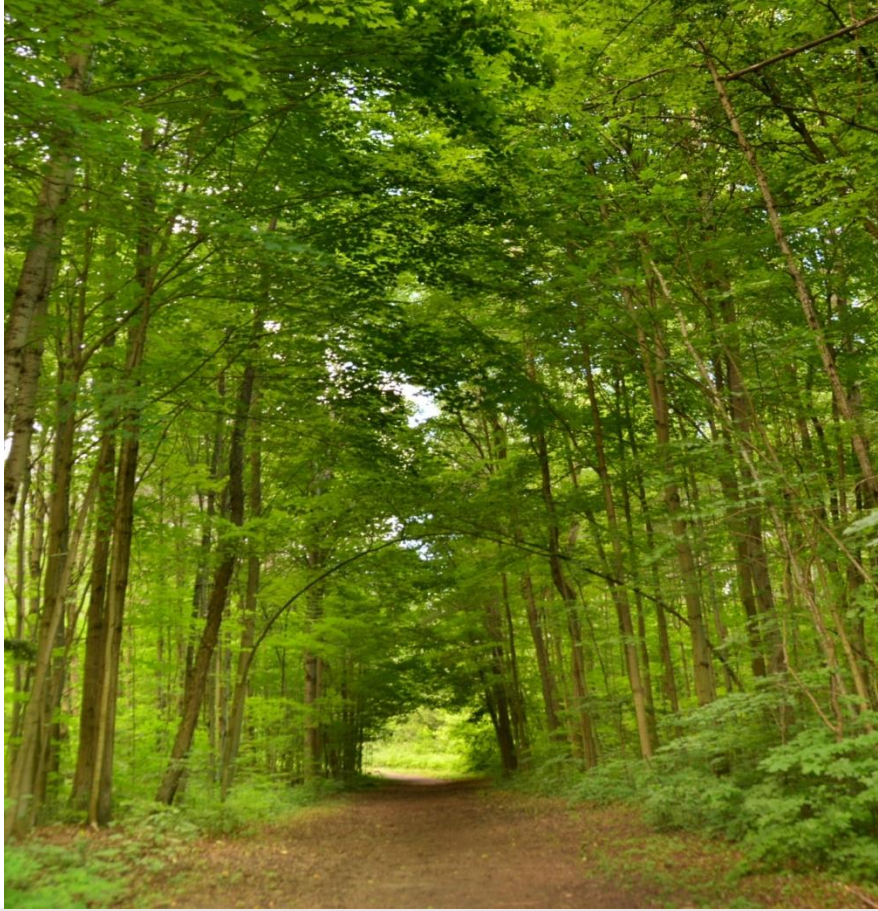
Guidance documents



# Looking forward

10 years of watershed plans also means 10 years of:

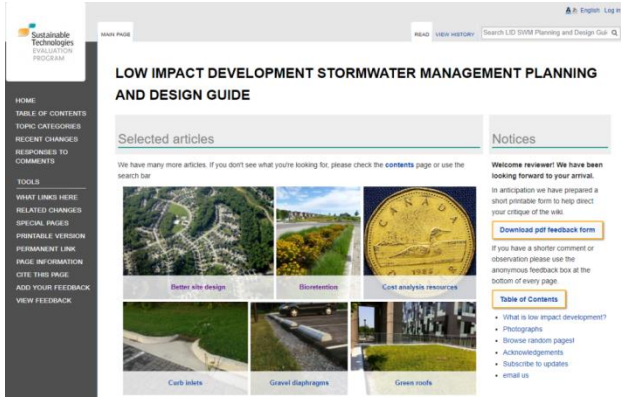
- Land use change
- Policy change
- Additional environmental monitoring data



# Looking forward

Future updates to watershed plans should be:

- More rapid
- More accessible
- Focused on continual improvement
- Still based on good science, partner engagement



# Thank you

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