

# BAXTER CREEK WATERSHED FORUM



**Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance**

September 26, 2022





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# OUR VISION

- Dedicated to preserving and enhancing the local watershed environment for future generations of humans and wildlife.





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# OUR MISSION

- Residents and decision makers living and working in Cavan-Monaghan within the Baxter Creek watershed engaged, and caring for a clean, healthy watershed





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# OUR ORGANIZATION

- A local, federally incorporated non-profit Environmental Non-Governmental Organization established in 2021
- 13 voting member volunteer Board of Directors





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## PARTNERS

- Kawartha Land Trust
- Trout Unlimited Millbrook Chapter
- Esri Canada
- Camp Kawartha
- The Ontario Headwaters Institute
- Save Our Trees (PHorests 4R PHuture)

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## OUR APPROACH

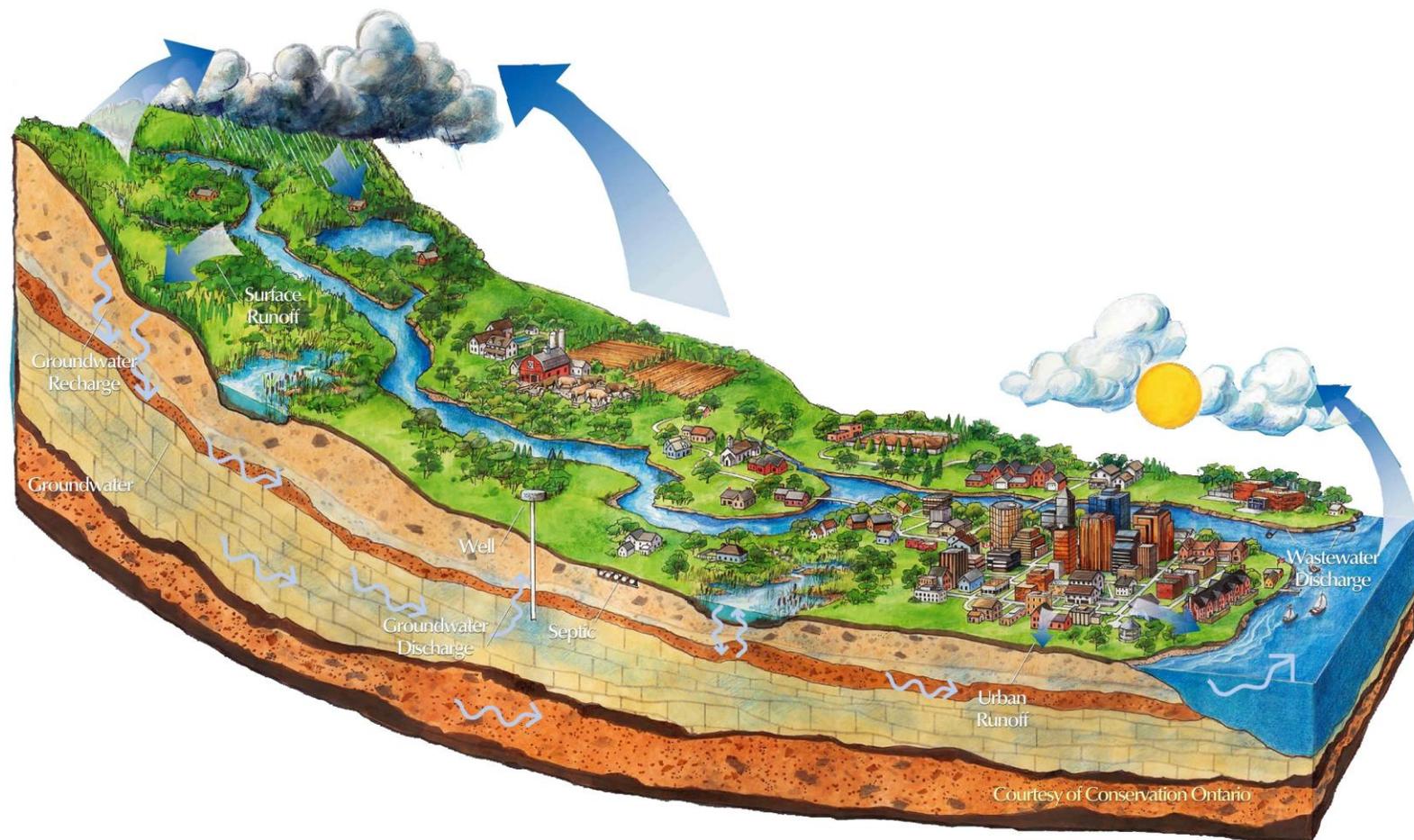
- Planning informed by citizen science and principles of integrated watershed management
- Environmental monitoring to collect baseline data for evidence based decision making
- Supporting community access to and education in natural heritage information for the watershed
- Commenting on land use planning and decisions





# OUR CONCERN FOR INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

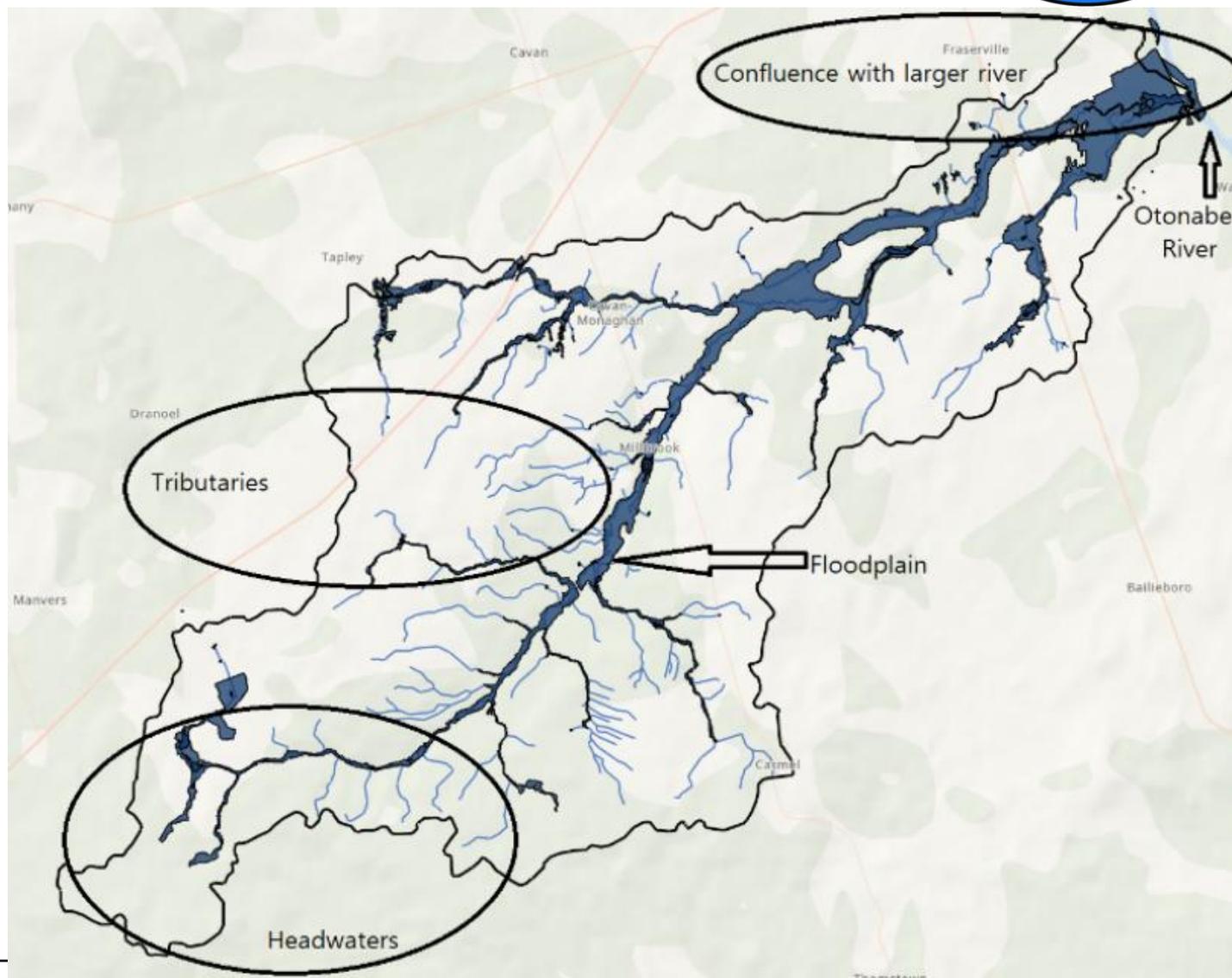
- A process of understanding the impacts of human activities on natural resources from a watershed perspective
- Accounting for social, economic and environmental issues, as well as local community interests and issues such as the impacts of growth and climate change



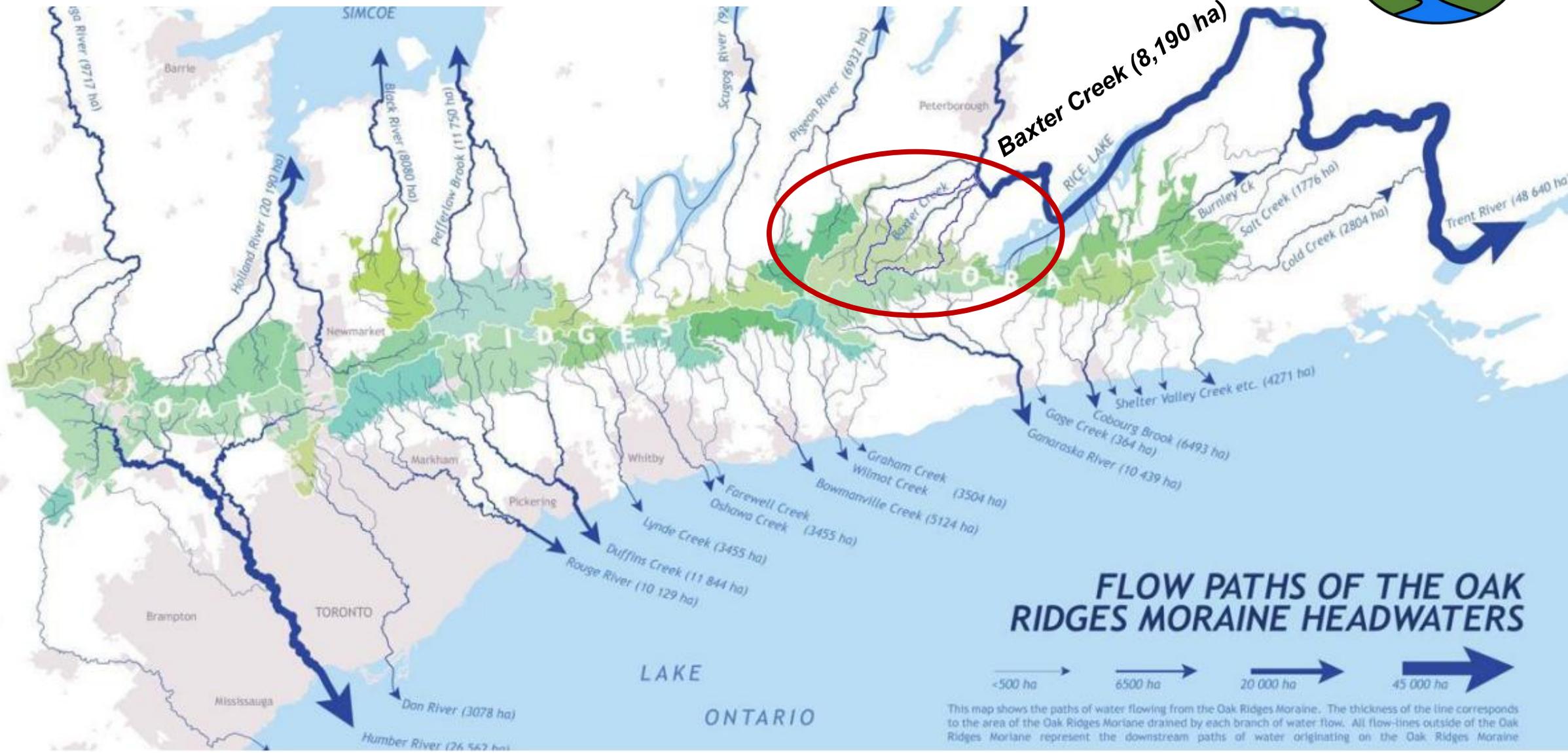
Source: Conservation Ontario

# HYDROLOGY

- Headwaters at Glamorgan Road and Zion Line at the western boundary of the Cavan-Monaghan Township
- Drains the subwatershed into the Otonabee River at the Darling Wildlife Area nature reserve



# OUR HEADWATERS IN THE OAK RIDGES MORAINE





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# OUR INITIATIVES

- **Agricultural Connections**
  - Working with the farming community on stewardship and land use planning
- **Land Securement**
  - Current initiatives include acquiring the formal Millbrook Jail lands and exploring conservation easements across the watershed
- **Environmental Monitoring**
  - Citizen science environmental monitoring of the watershed
- **Watershed Studies**
  - Conducting watershed research to map the watershed and promote a local watershed plan with a "state of the environment" report card
- **Community Mapping**
  - Mapping cultural and natural heritage values with our community members

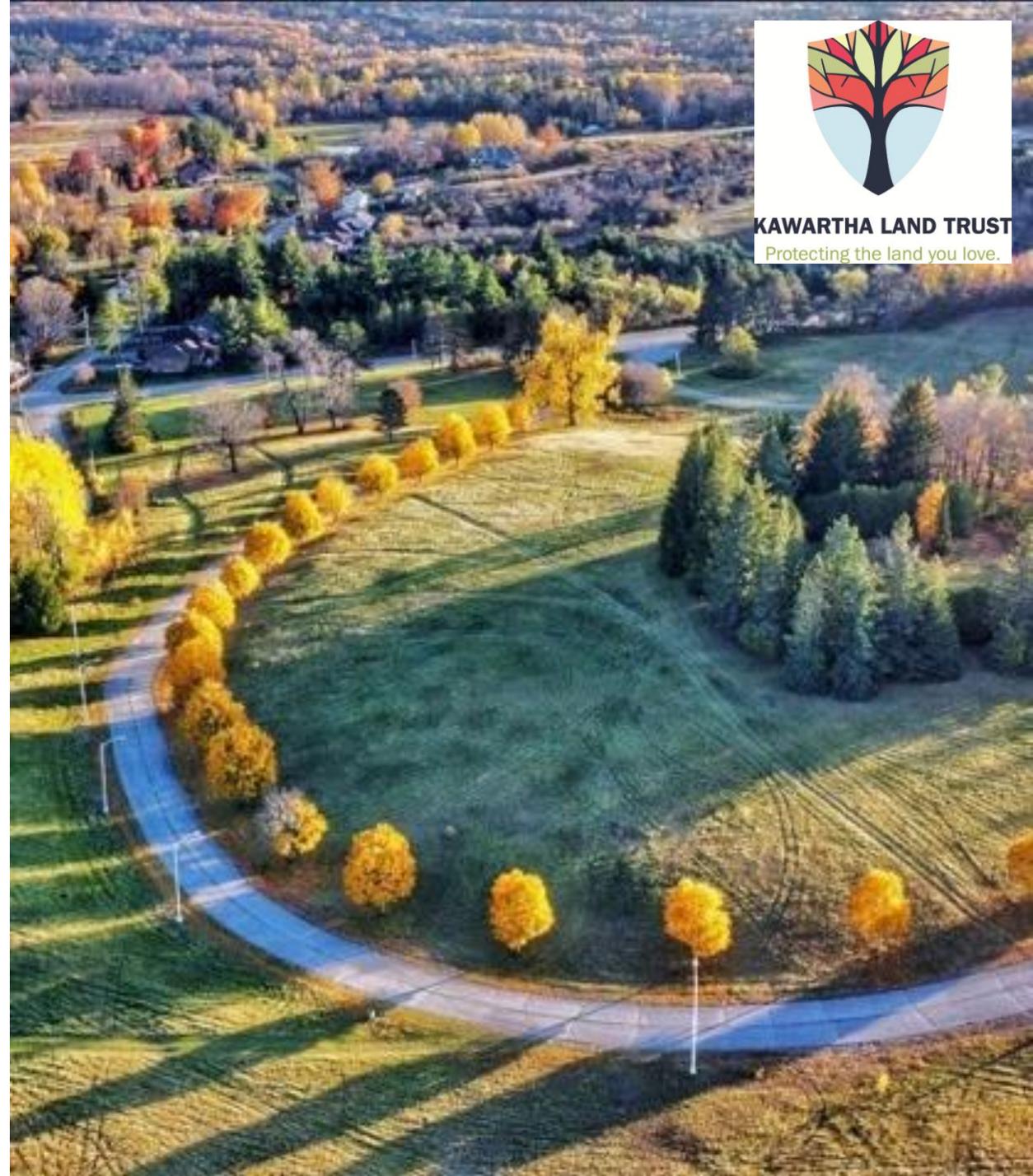


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# PROTECTING THE FORMER JAIL LANDS

Working with the Kawartha Land Trust to demonstrate our interest in the provincial surplus process for the former Millbrook Correctional Centre lands such that:

- The property will be conserved as a public open greenspace
- A Conservation Easement will protect the lands forever
- Our local community organization will be the steward for the property





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## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT AS OF 2021

- A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed that indicated the site may be contaminated.
- A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was underway which will provide a sampling and analysis of the property to confirm and delineate the presence of soil or groundwater contamination at the site.
- Ministry of Infrastructure undertook an Optimal Use Study for the property between 2011-2013
- Our land use planning concept fits with the current Cavan-Monaghan Official Plan land use policies for the property

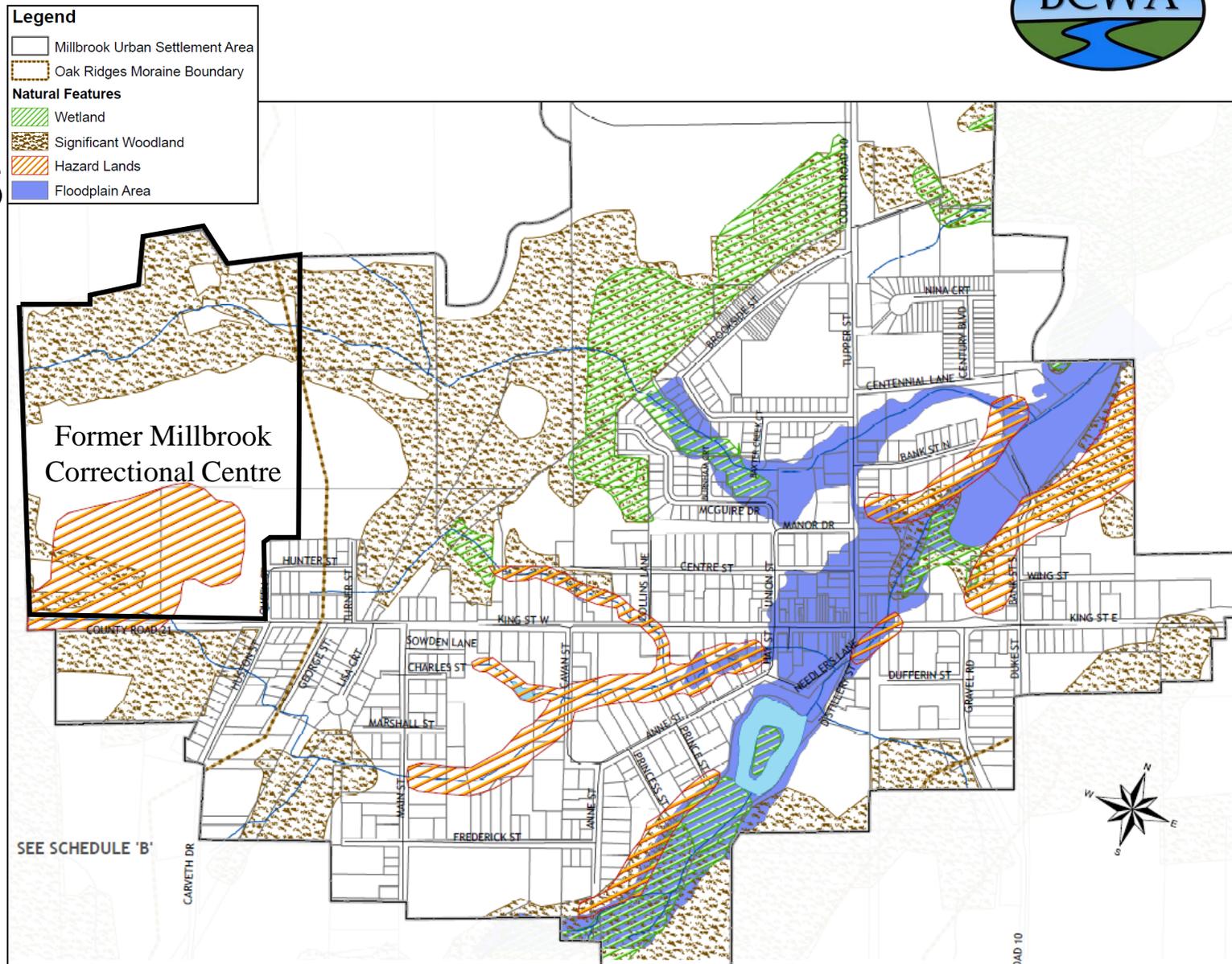
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# SURPLUS PROCESS

- **“Ontario Reducing Red Tape and Accelerating Sales of Surplus Government Property: Saving Taxpayer Dollars, Identifying Opportunities for Affordable Housing and Long-Term Care Spaces”**, December 4, 2018
- “This will put properties back into productive use, benefiting communities and increasing the potential for local economic development”:
  - 243 properties identified in the announcement in varying stages of circulation, due diligence and marketing:
  - “Save taxpayers’ money by reducing liabilities and ongoing maintenance costs on vacant properties”
  - “The future owner of the property would need to meet environmental obligations related to the proposed future use of that property”

# PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- ORM Act
- Significant woodlands
- Unstable lands (hazard lands)
- Watercourses
- Clean Water Act and Source Water Protection
- Our analysis indicates that the developable area of the property to ~5-7 ha

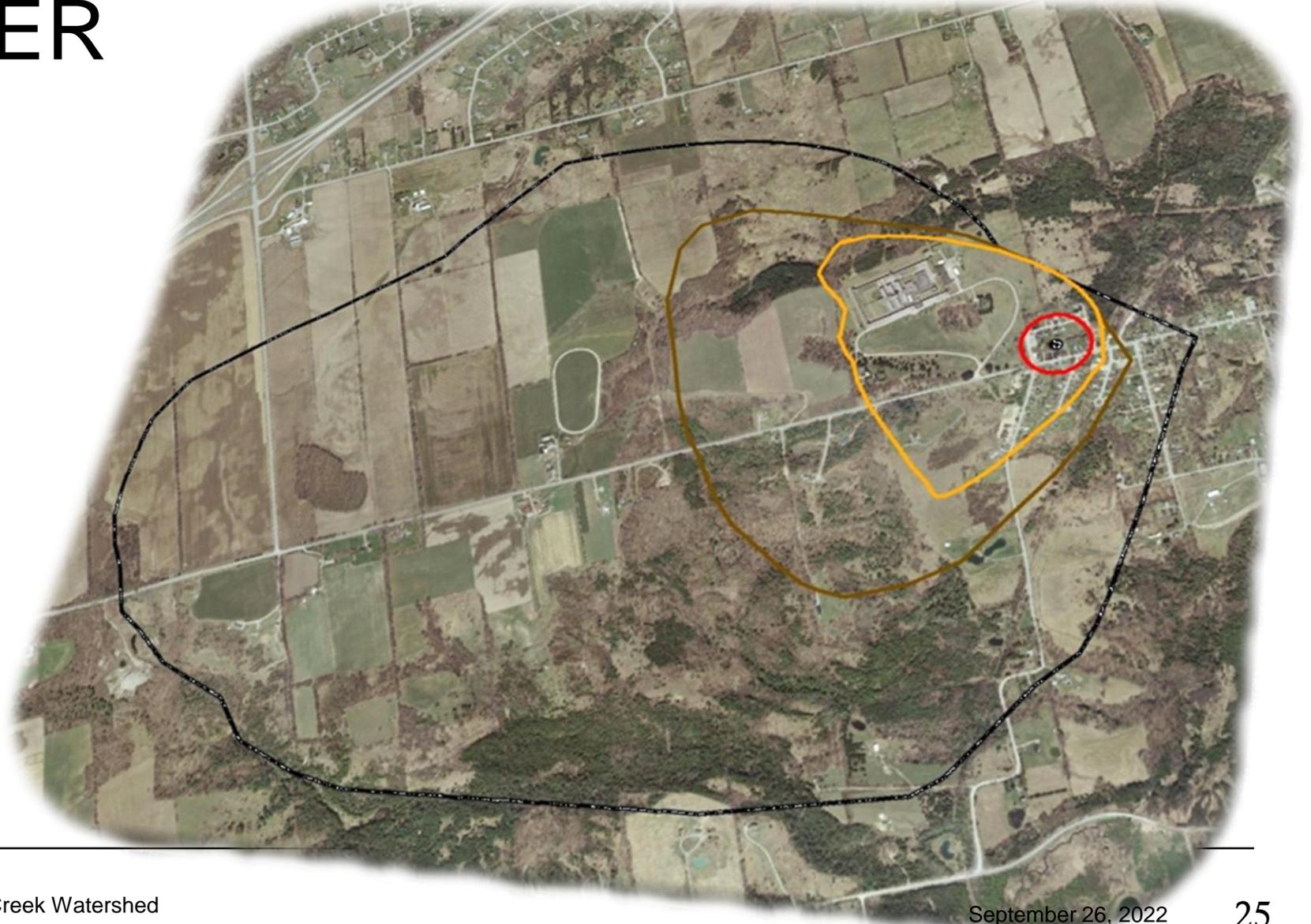


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## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT AS OF 2021

- Province of Ontario (Infrastructure Ontario) owns and manages the property
- The facility was closed in 2003 and the buildings were demolished
- The Province commissioned studies to investigate any possible contamination
- Over the years the Township has been diligent in reviewing these studies
- The Township's approved a Growth Management Strategy in 2020 which recommended the site to meet Millbrook's future residential and commercial needs
- As of August 2022 our understanding is council passed a motion to not amend the Official Plan to permit residential intensification on the property

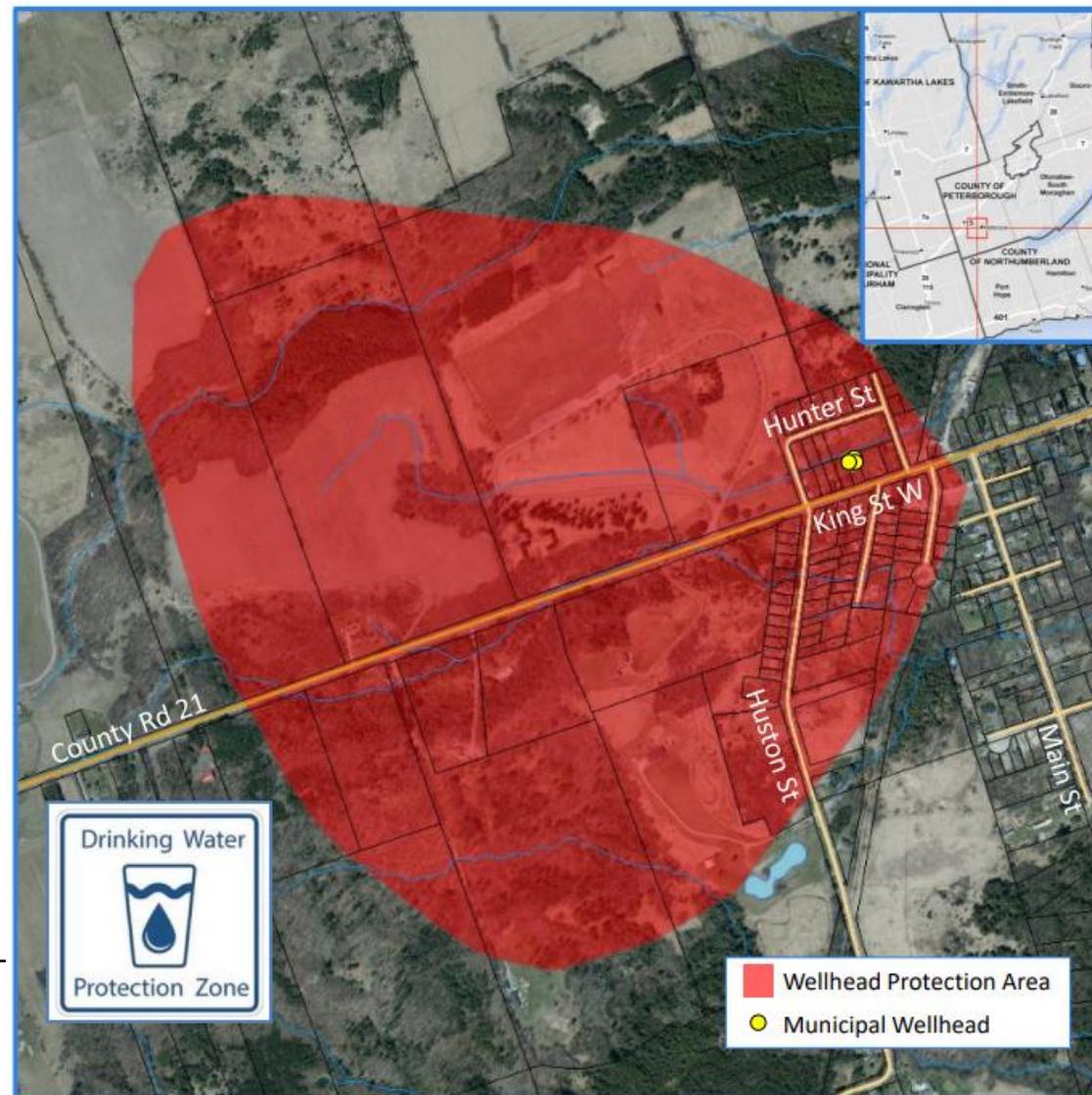
# SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



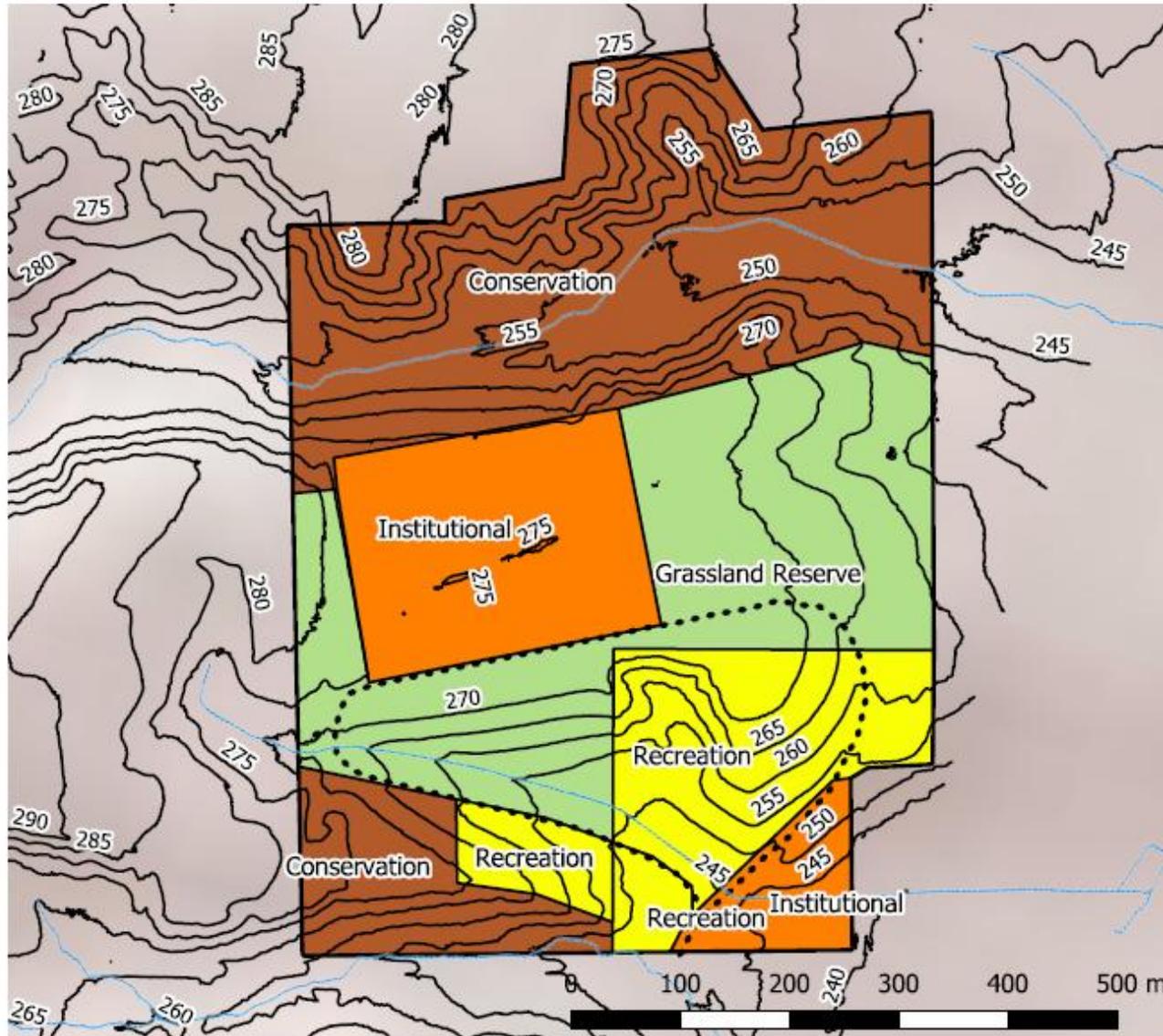
# CLEAN WATER ACT

- Millbrook's drinking water is sourced from a groundwater aquifer by a municipal wellhead
- We think it's important to protect this property given its location
- We support the Province's clean water agencies locally by providing information, education and advice to the public about other environmental issues related to drinking water

The *Clean Water Act* was developed to protect municipal, residential drinking water sources across the province from contamination and/or overuse by ensuring policies are in place to manage activities that may pose a drinking water threat. **Locally, these policies are included in the Trent Source Protection Plan and they apply within the red shaded area shown below.**



# Former Millbrook Jail Lands: Old Millbrook Jail Lands Association; Draft Land Use Plan



This is a draft land use plan proposed for the Former Millbrook Jail Lands. It is a conceptual plan based on the preliminary Vision for the property proposed by the Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA): <https://baxtercreekwatershed.org/old-millbrook-jail-lands>

The stream layer is sourced from the Ontario Hydro Network Watercourse. Contours are derived in 5 m intervals from the Ontario Lidar-Derived DTM. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Ontario; copyright Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, 2022. Do not use this map for navigational purposes.

Map copyright Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance, May 2022. [www.baxtercreekwatershed.org](http://www.baxtercreekwatershed.org)

- Jail Parcel
- Jail Road
- Contours
- Land Use**
- Conservation
- Grassland Reserve
- Institutional
- Recreation



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QUESTIONS?



**Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance**