

## **General Overview of the Mad River Enhancement Project:**

### **The Mad River**

The Mad River, draining a 460km<sup>2</sup> area, is the largest tributary of the Nottawasaga River which flows into Georgian Bay. It drains a large agriculturalized landscape which is experiencing urban development pressure, particularly in the community of Creemore.

The river originates 520m above sea level in some of the highest land in southern Ontario near the community of Singhampton in the Municipality of Grey Highlands. It flows east for 50 kilometres through Clearview Township to its confluence with the Nottawasaga River.

The river flows through significant environmental features including the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve and the internationally recognized Minesing Wetlands.

The unique natural environment and landforms which straddle the river, along with its relative proximity to Toronto, make it an invaluable environmental and recreational resource for the people of Ontario. The Mad River provides a critical source of clean water, flood mitigation and natural habitat for species at risk and for the human and animal communities living along its banks.

### **Mad River Enhancement Program**

The Mad River Enhancement Program (MREP) is a new river restoration initiative coordinated by the Friends of the Mad River working in partnership with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

#### **The goals of the MREP are to:**

- **improve water quality in the Mad River.**
- **restore native fish habitat, and**
- **provide flood mitigation and erosion control through habitat restoration**

Projects will be undertaken at priority sites to optimize improvements, supporting:

- habitat for native fish species such as brook trout
- nursery and spawning habitat for migratory rainbow trout and salmon
- floodplain wetlands and flood mitigation
- water quality
- erosion control

Projects will engage a number of audiences including local residents, volunteers, adjacent landowners, community groups and municipalities.

## **Improving the health of the Mad River watershed**

**The specific objective of the MREP is to extend the good quality trout habitat and water quality currently in the Niagara Escarpment, downstream by an additional 20km to the point where the Mad River enters Canadian Forces Base Borden.**

This objective will be achieved through **the target of restoring 7km of impacted river habitat** within both the 20km reach of the Mad River and its Noisy River tributary. Restoration work will include,

- stabilization of eroding river banks,
- installation of trout cover habitats,
- planting trees, and
- managing dams on the river.

Coldwater trout habitat and water quality in the river are both in good condition in the Niagara Escarpment west of the Community of Glen Huron (see adjacent map). Conditions deteriorate further downstream and are measurably impacted at Airport Road.

### **How you can help**

Starting this year, the Friends of the Mad River and NVCA are developing a habitat restoration plan for the Mad River. Fish community, aquatic insect, water temperature and stream flow studies are being completed in 2022 to provide the background information needed for the restoration plan.

Large-scale river restoration work is scheduled to start in 2023 at Clearview Township's Carruthers Park on the west side of Airport Road in the Community of Avening. Restoration plans are currently being developed for this site.

Partners are working to obtain the funding support needed to complete 2022 projects and to support 2023 river restoration work.

We are kicking off fundraising for this work by asking for financial support for a **River Morphology Study**.

A river morphology study including a drone flight survey will generate the information needed to guide future habitat restoration and bank stabilization work. The cost for the study is \$15,000 and NVCA has currently raised \$6,000 leaving \$9,000 left that community members are invited to support.

**Please donate to help Friends of the Mad River and NVCA protect the health**

**of the Mad River watershed.**

### **To Donate**

Donations can be made through Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's charitable donation page on [CanadaHelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). Please select that your funds be applied to the "Mad River Enhancement" program. Charitable receipts for donations over \$25 will be issued.

<http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/nottawasaga-valley-conservation-authority/>

You can also visit NVCA head office or call (705) 424-1479 to make a donation.