



Watershed Services – 2025 Annual Report

March 1, 2026

Introduction

The Grand River Conservation Authority's (GRCA) vision is of a healthy watershed that connects, strengthens and sustains resilient communities. To help achieve that vision, the GRCA delivers watershed services to twenty-two participating municipalities under a Memorandum of Understanding and funding agreement. These non-mandatory programs are in addition to those mandated under the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA).

The watershed services consist of watershed sciences and collaborative planning, water quality monitoring and reporting, wastewater treatment optimization, conservation services, and subwatershed services.

Watershed Issues

The future prosperity, growth, and sustainability of the communities in the watershed depend on a healthy Grand River watershed. We face rapid population growth, the escalating impacts of climate change and increasing pressure on natural systems. The GRCA's watershed services help municipalities to address the water management challenges faced by growing communities and the watershed's dynamic agricultural sector.

The GRCA's watershed services are guided by its [2025-2029 Strategic Plan](#) and [Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy](#).

2025 Highlights

The GRCA's watershed services build understanding of watershed conditions; help landowners, municipalities, and others to take action to improve watershed health; and foster collaborative problem solving across geographic and jurisdictional boundaries.

Understanding watershed conditions

- Conducted enhanced water quality monitoring at 10 rural stream sites and 24 groundwater wells, to better understand non-point sources of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in the watershed. This work was supported by funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

- Operated nine automated water quality stations on the Grand and Speed rivers and provided real-time information about water temperature, pH level, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and conductivity on the GRCA's [website](#). Two stations provided real-time information about nitrate concentrations.
- Delivered subwatershed monitoring in 6 streams to support planning and implementation of urban area expansions and stormwater management, and documented stream flow and fish communities in 7 municipal drains.

Improving water quality and watershed health

- Landowners across 100% of the rural watershed were eligible for cost-share grants to implement best practices, with grant rates and availability varying by program and location.
- Delivered \$520,000 in municipal grants to landowners who implemented 162 projects to improve water quality and watershed health. Cost-share grants are funded by the counties of Wellington, Brant, Haldimand, Dufferin, and Oxford, the Region of Waterloo, and the City of Hamilton. With landowner contributions, the total investment in these projects was more than \$2.25 million. Projects included agricultural best management practices to reduce nutrient, sediment, and chemical losses to the environment while maintaining agricultural production; natural area restoration work; and well decommissioning and upgrades to protect groundwater.
- An additional \$270,000 in grant funding from provincial, federal and other partner programs was delivered by the GRCA to landowners for 106 projects, including tree planting, wetland restoration, cover crop and nutrient planning incentives. Many projects provide additional environmental, economic, and social benefits by improving landscape resilience to extreme weather events, sequestering carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing recreational opportunities, and fostering biodiversity.
- Planted over 100,000 trees through GRCA's private land tree planting program and more than a dozen community tree planting events.
- As part of the Priority Watersheds Phosphorus Reduction project, supported by the Canada Water Agency, a series of [videos](#) were produced to highlight the GRCA's stewardship programs and promote agricultural best practices that keep nutrients and sediment on the land and out of local waterways and Lake Erie. Additional funding for the project was provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Assessed wastewater treatment plant performance for the previous year and shared the [Annual Report](#) findings at a workshop attended by 40 participants from 14 municipalities, contract operators, and provincial agencies. For the first time, voluntary watershed-wide targets for phosphorus and ammonia were both met.
- At the workshop, 17 wastewater treatment plants were recognized for producing excellent quality effluent that exceeded environmental standards, the largest number in the program's history.

Collaborative problem solving

- The GRCA and the Grand River Water Managers Working Group committed to updating the collaborative [Grand River Water Management Plan](#) over the next 3 years. The Working Group is a network of municipal, First Nations, provincial, and federal water managers that align water supply, wastewater, stormwater, and water quality objectives

and actions to achieve common watershed goals. More than 20 partner organizations were engaged in conversations about water management challenges that will shape the future Plan.

- Provided technical input to more than a dozen municipal wastewater master plans, water supply master plans, subwatershed plans, and technical and policy reports. Supported municipalities in identifying subwatershed studies and environmental information needed to guide future growth.
- Contributed to implementation of the federal-provincial Lake Erie Action Plan. The Grand River Water Management Plan, Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program, and private land stewardship programs were recognized in a [Status of Actions Report](#) for their contribution to improving the health of the Grand River and Lake Erie.

Financial summary

The GRCA's non-mandatory watershed services programs are funded through municipal agreements and other grants. The table below summarizes 2025 program expenses, off-setting funding, and the net cost to participating municipalities. Off-setting funds are received from provincial and federal grants, municipal funding for local or regional projects, and municipal Rural Water Quality Program capital grants for cost-share projects. Costs related to watershed sciences and collaborative planning are included in the other programs.

	Total Expenses (\$)	Funding: Municipal Apportionment (\$)	Funding: Other (\$)	Net Surplus/ (Deficit) (\$)	
Programs	<i>(a)</i>	<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>	<i>(b)+(c) less (a)</i>	
Subwatershed Services	335,046	233,000	82,040	(20,006)	Note 2
Conservation Services	1,280,960	531,000	748,593	(1,367)	
Water Quality Programs	496,445	288,000	213,577	5,132	Note 3
Total	2,112,451	1,052,000	1,044,210	(16,241)	Note 1

Note 1: Net Deficit funded from Category 2 Stabilization Reserve.

Note 2: Actual wages allocated to special projects (with external funding eligibility) were less than budgeted.

Note 3: Other funding includes \$18,000 of funding from Gauge Reserve to fund Water Quality Monitoring Equipment not budgeted.

For more information

Additional information on program deliverables is provided in the attached appendix and at www.grandriver.ca. The Grand River Conservation Authority's Board of Directors received updates on actions taken to address elevated nitrate concentrations (GM-03-25-21), the Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program (GM-12-25-113), landowner stewardship (GM-02-25-15), subwatershed planning in the City of Brantford (GM-08-25-76), and the Grand River Water Management Plan (GM-08-25-69). These reports are available on the GRCA's website.

Appendix: Category 2 Programs and Services Deliverables and Metrics – 2025 Summary

Watershed Sciences and Collaborative Planning

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
Undertake watershed, regional, and landscape scale science and reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-disciplinary analysis and reporting on watershed health (surface water, groundwater, forests, wetlands) • Collaborative work on the hydrologic functions of natural features • Other watershed-scale science (e.g., fisheries) 	Analysis and reporting on watershed conditions	Periodic reporting via Watershed Report Cards (e.g., 2023), Water Management Plan (e.g., State of Water Resources, 2020), technical reports, and reports to Authority board	An update to the 2014 Grand River Water Management Plan was initiated in 2025. The update, to be completed in 2028, will include an updated watershed characterization.
	Engagement of municipal, provincial, federal, non-governmental, academic and other stakeholders	As below for Water Managers Working Group and via other committees and meetings	See below for a summary of Water Managers Working Group meetings. The GRCA participated in federal-provincial initiatives under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lake Erie Action Plan (LEAP) Implementation Team and Knowledge Mobilization workshop - Nuisance Algae Working Group and modelling workshops on nuisance algae, harmful algal blooms, and hypoxia in Lake Erie - Lake Erie Partnership Working Group (for the Lake Erie Lake wide Management Plan) The GRCA engaged with researchers from collaborative initiatives on Integrated Chemical Mixtures (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and watershed nutrient modelling (University of Toronto).
Facilitating cross-municipal and inter-agency water resource management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support cross-disciplinary integration and inform municipal watershed planning and water, wastewater, and stormwater master planning • Liaise with First Nations, municipal, and provincial and federal agencies 	Advance implementation of the collaborative, voluntary Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan. The Plan's objectives are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sustainable water supplies for communities, economies and ecosystems • Improve water quality to improve river health and reduce the river's impact on Lake Erie • Reduce flood damage potential • Build resilience to deal with climate change 	Implementation tracking/reporting (scope TBD)	Collected data from the Water Managers Working Group and began preparing a 2019-2025 Report on Actions on implementation of the Grand River Water Management Plan. The Report on Actions will be finalized in 2026. Funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks was secured to support the report. The GRCA received reports on implementation of GRCA's actions under the Grand River Water Management Plan, including landowner stewardship (Integrated Action Plan action D7, see report GM-02-25-15), wastewater-optimization (Integrated Action Plan action D2, see report GM-12-25-113), and the groundwater program (supports various actions, see report GM-12-25-114).
	Update the Water Management Plan (WMP) and Integrated Action Plan as needed	Scope/timing TBD	The GRCA initiated an update of the 2014 Grand River Water Management Plan (see report GM-08-25-69), to be completed in 2028. The Water Managers Working Group endorsed the project charter for the update in December 2025.
	Chair the Water Managers Working Group (WMWG) with representation from watershed municipalities, First Nations, and provincial and federal agencies	Terms of Reference 2-4 meetings/workshops per year	WMWG Terms of Reference was reviewed in 2025 and extended to 2028 to support update of the Grand River Water Management Plan. 22 one-on-one and small group meetings were held with representatives from 23 WMP partner organizations to scope the planned update of the WMP. Discussion included water management challenges related to water supply, water quality, flooding and drought, and climate resilience. 2 WMWG meetings were held with participation from 3 federal agencies, 2 provincial agencies, 13 municipalities, 1 First Nation and the GRCA. Agenda items included WMP implementation reporting, WMP update project charter, water quality modelling, stormwater monitoring, and low water conditions.
	Provide input to municipal watershed planning – local, regional, and watershed conditions and issues identification	Upon request	Participated in and/or provided input to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterloo Region Water Supply Strategy Update

Water Quality Programs

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
<p>Deliver the Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program (WWOP) to support municipal wastewater management and improve and protect water quality and watershed health</p>	<p>Collect data from municipalities, analyze, and produce an annual report on WWTP performance across the watershed.</p>	<p># of municipalities participating in annual reporting Annual report posted online</p>	<p>28 municipalities contributed data to annual reporting Yes, 2024 Annual Report finalized and posted online in September 2025</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support optimization of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operations through: knowledge sharing workshops, hands-on training, technical advice, and a recognition program Provide technical support for municipal assimilative capacity studies and master plans for water and wastewater services Engage the provincial and federal governments to develop programs to reduce nutrient loads in rivers and streams, and ultimately Lake Erie 	<p>Host annual workshop for information sharing and networking among municipal wastewater practitioners</p>	<p># of participants Workshop summary</p>	<p>40 participants in the annual workshop Workshop Summary: On November 13, 2025, the GRCA welcomed a group of 40 participants to the annual workshop, representing wastewater professionals from municipalities, contract operators, and the MECP. A presentation on watershed-wide WWTP performance highlighted a 93% reduction in total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) and 38% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) loading from WWTPs between 2012 and 2024, despite the watershed population increasing by about 17% over the same period. These improvements are the result of WWTP upgrades and optimization. Short presentations were received from the Town of Orangeville and AECOM on biological nutrient removal and the Township of Centre Wellington and Haldimand County, highlighting optimization studies and technical support examples. These presentations allow managers and operators to share experiences, engage in collaborative problem solving, and network with peers. For more information, see report GM-12-25-113 to the GRCA on the Watershed-wide Wastewater Optimization Program.</p>
	<p>Provide technical support and training workshops for operators, supervisors and managers to implement optimization techniques at individual WWTPs</p>	<p># of training, technical support events # of participants</p>	<p>3 events: i) Drumbo plant tour, highlighting its new Membrane Bioreactor (MBR); ii) virtual sludge accountability and data integrity workshop held virtually for staff at the Region of Waterloo plants; iii) advancing the TP Special Study and hosted an in-person Phase 1 review at GRCA Head Office in August. Total: ~60 participants i) 9 from 4 organizations (Oxford County, Haldimand County, Veolia, GRCA); ii) ~30 Regional and OCWA Staff from the Galt, Waterloo and Kitchener clusters, representing all Regional plants; iii) 16 from 7 organizations (City of Brantford, Haldimand County, Region of Waterloo, OCWA, Veolia, City of Guelph, GRCA)</p>
	<p>Deliver annual recognition program to acknowledge WWTPs that participate in WWOP activities and produce a very high-quality effluent</p>	<p>Awards presented</p>	<p>17 municipal WWTPs were recognized (news release), which is the highest number since the program's inception in 2012. The following WWTPs were recognized for their exceptional performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze category – Brant County (Paris) and Region of Waterloo (Kitchener, Preston, St. Jacobs, Waterloo) Silver category – Town of Grand Valley, City of Guelph, Haldimand County (Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville), Township of Mapleton and Region of Waterloo (Ayr, Elmira, New Hamburg, Wellesley) Gold category – City of Brantford and Region of Waterloo (Conestogo)
	<p>Support municipal assimilative capacity studies and master plans for water and wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon request, facilitate initial scoping, act as liaison with MECP, provide technical/methodological advice, provide stream data, provide watershed context, participation in steering committees (but not provide comments on EAs) 	<p>Studies are carried out by each municipality, as needed and GRCA staff participate at the request of the municipality</p>	<p>GRCA provided support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Region of Waterloo Wastewater Treatment Strategy Update (WWRSU) Caledonia Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment.

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
Surface water quality monitoring, modelling, analysis and reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate and maintain continuous water quality stations Maintain a water quality database Develop and maintain a water quality model Report on water quality and river health 	Operate and maintain 9 continuous water quality monitoring stations	Continued operation of 9 stations	Ongoing
	Maintain a water quality database for continuous water quality data and grab sample data from GRCA, municipal and provincial water quality sampling programs within the watershed	Continued maintenance of the database	Ongoing
	Develop and maintain the Grand River Simulation Model (GRSM) for use in municipal assimilative capacity studies or for broader watershed planning purposes	GRSM is available for any municipal studies, upon request and GRCA staff will provide support for model application in assimilative capacity studies	Hired a consultant and initiated a study to comprehensively review the GRSM and provide recommendations for updating a watershed-wide water quality model. Draft Phase 1 Report has been received. Partial funding secured from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to support this project.
	Analyze and report on surface water quality	Reports on water quality are produced cyclically or as needed (e.g., reports to Board, watershed report cards, technical updates to Water Management Plan)	Technical work (data collection, data management) to inform update of the Grand River Water Management Plan was underway in 2025. Surface water quality enhanced tributary monitoring program: With funding from the MECP, surface water quality samples were collected from 10 sites in selected agricultural locations to fill data gaps and inform non-point source contributions of phosphorus and nitrates. The GRCA received a report on activities undertaken to address elevated concentrations of nitrate in the surface and ground waters of the Grand River watershed (see report GM-03-25-21), which includes water quality monitoring and reporting.
Groundwater analysis and reporting	Analyze and report on groundwater quality	Reports on water quality are produced cyclically or as needed (e.g., reports to Board, watershed report cards, technical updates to Water Management Plan)	Groundwater quality enhanced monitoring program: With funding from the MECP, groundwater samples were collected from 24 monitoring wells across the watershed to fill data gaps and inform non-point source contributions of phosphorus and nitrates.

Conservation Services

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
Deliver municipal and partnership cost-share programs to support private land stewardship action to improve and protect water quality and watershed health	Provide information and resources to landowners related to stewardship action including agricultural best practices, private water well maintenance, tree planting and naturalization projects.	Number of program participants, number of landowner inquiries	172 landowners completed 235 projects with support from GRCA-delivered stewardship programs in 2025. Conservation Services staff responded to an additional 100+ inquiries from landowners.
	Engage watershed residents in stewardship action through promotion of cost share opportunities	Number of residents engaged through program promotion	Private land stewardship action and GRCA cost-share programs were promoted through GRCA's Landowner Grants and Resources webpages, social media, one-on-one extension visits (265), and displays, presentations and participation in local agricultural industry and community events (3,000 participants/attendees). Total watershed resident engagement: 28,000 (estimated).
	Conduct site visits to assist landowners with planning stewardship projects and submitting applications to GRCA delivered cost share programs	Number of site visits	265 site visits were conducted to support proposed, new and existing private land stewardship projects.

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
	Administer and deliver municipally funded rural water quality programs (RWQP) as requested by watershed municipalities	Projects completed (number, type) Project investment by funding source	GRCA delivered municipal grant funding on behalf of 7 municipalities: Waterloo Region, Wellington, Brant, Haldimand, Dufferin, and Oxford counties, and well decommissioning program on behalf of the City of Hamilton. A total of \$520,000 in municipal grants supported 162 projects. Including the landowner's contribution, the total investment in these projects was \$2.25 million.
		Kg Phosphorus retained	An estimated 3,500 kg of phosphorus was retained on the landscape as a result of these projects.
	<p>Seek additional partner funding to enhance cost share programs GRCA offers to watershed landowners (ie. offering funds in municipalities without a RWQP or enhancing cost share funding opportunities in areas where municipal RWQPs exist).</p> <p>Examples of non-municipal grant funds delivered in 2023 to support private land stewardship in all watershed municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic SAR • ECCC Nature Smart Climate Solutions • OMAFRA profit mapping • Forests Ontario 50 Million Tree Program 	Projects completed (number, type) project investment by funding source, total grant, kg Phosphorus retained.	<p>Additional funding was secured by the GRCA to support private land stewardship. Funding sources included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governments of Canada and Ontario under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a 5-year, federal-provincial-territorial initiative • Fisheries and Oceans Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk • The Government of Canada through the Canada Water Agency, Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative • Forests Canada • Tree Canada. <p>In total, \$270,000 in grant from these GRCA-delivered programs supported 106 projects, including tree planting, wetland restoration, cover crop and crop nutrient planning incentives. These grants were combined with municipal RWQP program funding for eligible projects.</p>
Facilitate private land, municipal and community partner tree planting	Conduct field surveys and site assessments to develop tree planting plans for rural landowners and community groups (for projects that meet minimum property and project size requirements)	Number of landowners engaged, number of planting plans developed, number of projects completed, number of trees planted, planting area, km of windbreak, km of riparian buffer	<p>156 residents requested assistance from GRCA Forestry Specialists in planning tree planting projects.</p> <p>75 planting plans were developed; 61 of these private land projects were planted by GRCA contractors. 73,600 trees were planted (planting area 48 ha, 17 km windbreak and 6 km riparian buffer). Planting plans were also created for 13 community/municipal partner tree planting events.</p>
	Provide technical assistance to tree planting clients to ensure successful completion of projects.	Number of landowners, projects and trees planted by landowners (plant your own projects) with Forestry Specialist support	See above
	Support rural landowners to develop suitable applications to cost share programs	Summary of project investment by funding source	\$386,000 in grant provided to 61 landowners to cost-share tree and planting costs for 73,600 trees on 48 ha. \$205,000 was provided from municipal Rural Water Quality Programs and \$181,000 leveraged by GRCA from other sources (Forests Canada, Tree Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, Canada Water Agency). The total cost of these projects was \$559,000.
	Secure tree stock and manage contracted planting services for landowners	Number of trees, projects, grant and investment in projects planted through GRCA planting program	109,000 trees secured by GRCA for 205 watershed landowners. This includes 61 landowners who implemented planting plans developed by GRCA Forestry Specialists and trees planted by GRCA contractors, 13 community planting events and 131 plant your own tree orders from eligible watershed residents, many of which received technical support from Forestry Specialists.

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
	Serve as technical resource to landowners and community tree planting organizations	Number of community partner organizations supported; hours contributed	Trees for Mapleton, Trees for Woolwich, ReForest Woolwich, Brant Tree Coalition, Perth County Stewardship Program, Sustainable Waterloo Region, Community Living Haldimand. Estimated hours contributed = 175
	Support community partner and municipality hosted outreach events as capacity permits	Number of community partners, number of residents engaged/event participants, number of events, number of trees planted, total area planted, volunteer hours contributed	13 community planting events, 6,000 trees planted by 980 participant who contributed 1,900 hours, partners included Brant Tree Coalition, County of Brant, City of Brantford, Freshwater Conservation Canada, TD, Community Living Haldimand, Trees for Woolwich.
Coordinate education and outreach activities to promote actions to improve water quality and watershed health	Engage watershed residents through development and delivery of outreach events (tours, workshops, webinars) and participation in partner, community, and municipal events and meetings; as capacity and opportunities exist	Number of partners, events, event participants.	Private land stewardship action and GRCA stewardship programs were promoted by Conservation Services staff at 35 events in 2025. These events were hosted or offered in partnership with 27 local organizations (municipalities, community groups, agricultural industry associations). An estimated 2,900 participants attended these events.
	Develop promotional materials (print, website, social media) to promote stewardship action and recruit participants to GRCA Conservation Services Programs.		Maintained GRCA website, contributed to GRCA social media content, developed videos promoting Conservation Services programs and partner cost share programs.

Subwatershed Services

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
Deliver a subwatershed planning program and provide technical support for municipal stream monitoring and (sub)watershed planning*	Identify and recommend (sub)watershed or other regional-scale technical study priorities	Provide a table of recommendations annually	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Region of Waterloo: Prioritized the completion of active studies and maintained long-term monitoring programs for the East Side and Blair Creek subwatersheds, which have been ongoing since 2005. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged in consultations with the Region to define future priorities and determine the scope of regional support for subwatershed studies and monitoring programs moving forward. Scoped Phase 2 Subwatershed Study for Chilligo Creek (Township of Woolwich and City of Cambridge) identified as priority for inclusion in a North Hespeler Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) to be initiated in 2026. Recommended completion of a Hopewell/Chilligo State of the Watershed update report. Municipal Collaboration: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consulted with the City of Cambridge and the Township of Woolwich to align on subwatershed priorities. Collaborated with the Township of Wellesley to review recommended studies for designated Urban Expansion Areas.
	Upon request and in watershed priority sequences, provide technical advice on terms of reference, scoping, methods for (sub)watershed studies.	Identify studies where support has been provided within the watershed annually	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> City of Kitchener: Submitted subwatershed planning recommendations regarding the City's draft Official Plan during the formal circulation period. Township of Wellesley: Reviewed and provided feedback on six Discussion Papers designed to establish the policy foundation for a new Official Plan. City of Brantford: Participated in technical discussions to facilitate development within the Northwest Employment Lands. City of Brantford: Provided formal comments on the Terms of Reference for the Powerline West Block Plan. City of Guelph: Reviewed and submitted comments regarding the Terms of Reference for the GID Lands Block 3.

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
	Seek additional partner funding to undertake subwatershed/regional studies	Identify the number of applications, specifics, success and financial information annually	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO): Secured \$10,000 in federal funding to classify municipal drains in the Townships of Perth East and Wellesley. This data will support future subwatershed characterization and inform monitoring plans for consolidated linear infrastructure approvals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Results: Successfully sampled seven municipal drains and 12 independent segments, collecting critical data on flow characteristics and fish communities. 2. ECO Canada: Obtained \$5,000 through the Student Work Placement Program for a 2025 Subwatershed Planning summer student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Impact: The summer student supported the implementation of subwatershed monitoring and DFO municipal drain assessments, among other responsibilities. 3. DFO Habitat Stewardship Program: Initiated discussions with the Region of Waterloo and LGL regarding a potential joint funding application. Partners agreed to revisit the proposal in the fall of 2026.
	Review and provide input to watershed, regional and local scale subwatershed studies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate on steering committees, working groups • Scope of technical review in compliance with O. Reg 596/22 - Prescribed Acts 	Number of requests and reviews undertaken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North Brantford and Tutela Heights Subwatershed Study (City of Brantford) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reviewed and finalized the hydraulic model and updated floodplain mapping. b) Presented the Subwatershed Study and associated amendments to Ontario Regulation 41/24 mapping to the GRCA General Membership on August 22, 2025 (Board Report number GM-08-25-76). The Board approved the recommendations under Resolution Number 25-150. 2. Clythe Creek Subwatershed Update Study (City of Guelph) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Participated in Technical Workshop #4, focusing on future climate scenario modeling. b) Participated in Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting No. 3 to facilitate the finalization of the Phase 1 Study. c) Supported the City and its consultants in finalizing the existing conditions floodplain mapping. 3. Blair Creek (City of Kitchener) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evaluated annual site-scale development monitoring programs to ensure compliance with the Functional Drainage Study (Stantec, 2009). b) Reviewed and commented on Rapid Assessment and Action Protocols (RAAPs) submitted by developers from June through September. 4. Dundee Secondary Plan (City of Kitchener): Reviewed and provided technical comments on the draft Scoped Subwatershed Study Report for the Official Plan Amendment. 5. Erbsville North District MESP & District Plan (City of Waterloo): Review Phase 1: Existing conditions characterization report to support the scoped subwatershed study and MESP. Will continue to be involved during the development of Phase 2, development and completion of the MESP and District Plan.
	Provide technical support and advice on municipal stream monitoring.	Number of plans reviewed and location within watershed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City of Brantford – Technical Coordination and Monitoring: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Initial consultations to provide technical guidance on the installation and long-term monitoring of piezometers to support groundwater assessment. b) Commenced initial consultations on Consolidated Linear Infrastructure – Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECA) monitoring. The City has requested feedback on early-stage implementation, with further discussions scheduled for early 2026. 2. City of Cambridge: Initiated preliminary discussions regarding surface water monitoring requirements and potential GRCA assistance under the CLI-ECA. 3. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR): Held preliminary talks regarding updated fish assemblage sampling in the Guelph Lake reservoir. This study aims to document changes in Speed River fish populations over the 50-year period since impoundment

Programs and Services Description	Deliverables	Metrics	2025 Watershed-wide Summary
	<p>Serve as digital custodian for previously completed subwatershed studies (listed on GRCA website)</p> <p>Respond to requests for digital copies of previously completed subwatershed studies from consultants and the public.</p>	Upon request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GRCA Website Enhancements: Updated the public-facing website to include recently completed studies. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintained real-time status updates for ongoing subwatershed studies to ensure public transparency. 2. Data Requests: Fulfilled 57 digital document requests for archived studies from municipalities, environmental consultants, and members of the public. 3. MNRF Collaboration: Provided brook trout sampling data to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to support Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 16 monitoring coordination.
<p>*Undertake subwatershed monitoring for watershed and regional scale subwatershed studies where services are cost-shared between the municipalities and the GRCA under separate agreements. May undertake monitoring for local scale subwatershed studies where 100% funding provided by municipal under separate agreement.</p>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blair Creek (City of Kitchener): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Administered the annual monitoring program executed by GRCA staff and consultants. b) Compiled field data and delivered the annual monitoring report. c) Finalized a four-year agreement with the City of Kitchener to secure continued system monitoring through 2028. 2. East Side Lands Subwatersheds (Region of Waterloo): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Managed the cost-shared monitoring program with the Region of Waterloo, encompassing sites in the City of Cambridge, City of Kitchener, and Township of Woolwich. b) Oversaw program implementation by GRCA staff and provided the consolidated annual monitoring report. 3. State of the Watershed Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed and submitted the Randall/Breslau Drains State of the Watershed update to the Region of Waterloo in March 2025.