

CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

10-Year Monitoring Report for the Humber River

December 2020

Canadian
Heritage
Rivers
System



Le Réseau
des rivières
du patrimoine
canadien



Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

The history of the Humber River is a story of its people, their survival, and their connections to land and water, including on how the river informed the development of our nation. From the Carrying Place Trail and grand villages established by Indigenous communities for thousands of years, to the early settlers who traded and explored this landscape across vast trail networks, who farmed, built homes and industries, the Humber River's rich legacy is reflective of Canada itself. The Humber River continues to be celebrated by its modern-day people and communities alongside its designation as a Canadian Heritage River.

As a river manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has had the responsibility of maintaining this prestigious designation since 1999. Through TRCA's Strategic Plan, we are motivated to create a strong sense of place and an understanding of how we connect and have connected with cultural heritage both now and in the past. Since the river's designation, TRCA has been working with CHRS, government and industry partners, watershed residents and organizations on various initiatives that support the Humber's heritage designation. Some of the accomplishments include: developing watershed plans, investing in our Regional Trail Strategy, preparing report cards that illustrate the health conditions of the watershed, conducting a Humber heritage bridge inventory, maintaining a heritage plaques program and holding signature events like Humber by Canoe, Canada Day events at Albion Hills Conservation Area in Caledon and others that encourage people to learn about and celebrate the rich natural, cultural and recreational values of the Humber River. Highlights of this great work have been captured in this 10-Year Monitoring Report.

TRCA has been working towards accomplishing a vision for a healthy and resilient Humber River watershed and continues to promote, protect and conserve the Humber River and create greater understanding and awareness of this designated Canadian Heritage River.

Jennifer Innis

Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority



FOREWORD FROM THE HUMBER HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty years ago, a dedicated and creative group of volunteers decided that an urban river was as equally worthy a Canadian Heritage River as the many amazing waterways in more remote and wild areas of the country. Twenty years later with a little help from their friends, including TRCA, they proved that the Humber was like no other river in the world.

Today, we are grateful that we were able to celebrate the Humber River's 20th anniversary of its designation as a Canadian Heritage River in 2019. We are proud to have included Indigenous languages on the commemorating plaques.

As you are reading this, we are riding the second wave of a pandemic. The challenges of physical distancing have brought an increasing need to connect with nature. We have noticed an unprecedented interest in everything Heritage, especially environmental and cultural. People flocking to the Humber River waterways and its trails want to hear the stories of all that surrounds them and understand their relationship to the water.

As development pressures and population increase, people are also demanding stronger environmental protection of greenspaces including, the headwaters region of the Humber in Mono, Caledon, King, and Richmond Hill. TRCA is on leading edge of this work with many unfunded opportunities to address this need.

Twenty years on, we are no longer alone in realizing the importance of preserving and enhancing the health of the Humber River for the benefit of all. With support from the communities and all levels of government even more could be done to celebrate this vital Heritage River.

"The river made us, we have to save the river"

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Humber River is located in the Province of Ontario (Figure 1), arising 40 km to the north and northwest of the City of Toronto and draining southwest toward the city, culminating at Lake Ontario. The river is managed by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), one of 36 Conservation Authorities across the Province of Ontario that are tasked with, among many things, watershed management, flood control, land management and stewardship, ecological monitoring and community engagement.

The Humber River is exceptional on many accounts. It drains the largest watershed in TRCA's jurisdiction and contains many unique and sensitive natural spaces in the Greater Toronto Area, including portions of the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment. The three main tributaries of the Humber River – the Main, East and West branches, traverse ten local and five regional or single-tier municipalities (the City of Toronto, the Regional Municipalities of Peel, York, Dufferin, and Simcoe Counties) within the Province of Ontario. The watershed occupies 911 square kilometers and is home to nearly one million people. The Humber River also provides a multitude of recreational spaces including, hundreds of kilometers of trails, numerous conservation areas that provide picnicking, biking, hiking angling, and canoeing opportunities.



Figure 1: The Humber Watershed in the Context of the Province of Ontario

In addition to the river’s many natural heritage and recreational values, the Humber has a rich human history that has fundamentally contributed to the development of Canada. Historically, the river was used as an ancient transportation route known as the Carrying Place Trail, used by Indigenous peoples and early European explorers and settlers, who traded, settled and established industries along the banks of the Humber River.

In 1999, the Humber River was designated as a Canadian Heritage River and officially included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), Canada’s national river conservation program. The CHRS program is a federal-provincial-territorial managed program which works with river managers across Canada to conserve and promote the natural, cultural and recreational values of designated rivers. While the Humber did not meet the natural heritage criteria requirements set out by CHRS, since the river includes an impoundment (Claireville Dam), features such as the Carrying Place Trail and the extensive recreational trail system found throughout the watershed, amplified the rationale to support the Humber River’s CHRS designation for outstanding cultural and recreational values. Criteria for natural heritage values established by CHRS can be found in Appendix 1 and criteria for cultural and recreational heritage values which define the Humber’s CHRS designation are found in sections 5 and 6 of this report.

It should be noted that the West Humber River (a tributary of the Humber) was not included as part of the formal CHRS designation due to the human impacts on the river as a result of the Claireville Dam.

In 2008, CHRS developed a Strategic Plan which set out priorities to accomplish the vision for the CHRS. The Strategic Plan “is designed to serve as a catalyst for governments, communities, and local people to take action for their river, their community, and their lives.” In addition, it is “written to engage all Canadians in caring for our rivers.” (CHRS Strategic Plan 2008 – 2018). Similarly, in 2008 TRCA developed a Watershed Management Plan for the Humber River which set out strategies to protect, restore and celebrate this historic waterway. Over the past twenty years TRCA has continued to work with the CHRS, watershed residents, community partners and Indigenous communities on implementing priorities from the watershed plan.

2.0 METHODS

TRCA last prepared a 10-year comprehensive monitoring report to the CHRS in 2009. The 2020 10 – Year Monitoring Report was prepared by TRCA staff and completed following the guidelines provided by the CHRS as part of their Policies, Procedures and Operating Guidelines (2017). Data and information for the report was assembled through staff knowledge, a review of TRCA programs relevant to the Humber River watershed, in addition to specific requests to municipal partners for heritage data.

While there has been work carried out by other agencies that also celebrates the Humber’s cultural and recreational heritage, this report focuses on TRCA programming and initiatives, or work with our partners that is directly influenced or supported by TRCA. This report also only considers cultural and recreational values, as those values are responsible for the river’s designation. Natural heritage values are not reported in this report as the Humber River was not originally designated for natural heritage.

3.0 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SINCE 2009

The following table summarizes significant events, actions and special events undertaken by TRCA or in partnership with other agencies, community members or other partners within the Humber River watershed from 2009 to 2019.

TABLE 1: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SINCE 2009**2009****Publication of Humber River Carrying Place Book**

A coffee table photo book was published in celebration of the Humber River's 10th anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River. The book tells the story of the Humber River's CHRS designation, and highlights the river's natural, cultural, and recreational features through colourful photographs collected through a public photo contest.

Humber 10th Anniversary Celebration

A celebration was held in Toronto's Etienne Brule Park to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Humber River's designation as a heritage river. The event saw participation from local officials, members of Indigenous communities, the Humber Heritage Committee, and the general public. Activities included an Indigenous drumming circle, the Humber River Run, a historic bicycling tour of Toronto's old French Forts, theatrical vignettes performed by the Humber River Shakespeare Company, native birds of prey and reptile demonstrations, tree planting and stewardship activities and walking tours.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP): Black Creek

SNAP is a neighbourhood-based approach to sustainable urban renewal and climate action. The Black Creek SNAP, launched in 2009, was one of TRCA's first pilot SNAPs within the City of Toronto. Working with local partners, an Action Plan for "Growing Food and Green Opportunities" was completed in 2012. The plan responds to interests and needs of this north-west Toronto neighbourhood, located on the degraded Black Creek tributary of the Humber River. The Action Plan has been used as the catalyst for completing a broad range of multi-objective implementation initiatives, including: an extensive home retrofit program, a significant multi-unit residential revitalization project, many urban agriculture and green infrastructure initiatives, including activities at Black Creek Pioneer Village as well as community capacity building programs.

2010**Crossing the Humber, a Heritage Bridge Inventory**

This inventory was designed to promote the recognition and protection of heritage bridges throughout the Humber watershed as infrastructure essential to the preservation of community character and the development of social capital. The findings from this research have contributed to the emerging discourse on heritage conservation planning in Ontario, as well as watershed management practices in the Humber. The inventory was developed in collaboration with the Heritage Committee of the Humber Watershed Alliance.

Albion Hills Community Farm

Albion Hills Community Farm is a non-profit farm on TRCA owned land, within the Town of Caledon that advances the understanding of local food and sustainable agriculture practices through farming, education, conservation and community partnerships. Launched in 2010, the farm continues to be a place where students, teachers, farmers, community groups and families come together to learn about and participate in local food production in ways that serve the needs of growing near-urban communities.

Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve

In 2010, TRCA entered into an agreement with the Province of Ontario to manage the Oak Ridges Corridor Park lands in the City of Richmond Hill (formerly Town of Richmond Hill) which contains some of the kettle lakes and wetlands of the East Humber River watershed. These lands are known collectively as the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve. TRCA continues to manage a trail system that spans the length of the reserve and which connects the Humber to the Don and Rouge River systems. TRCA and our partners offers a range of community engagement and educational programming within the Reserve out of Bathurst Glen, Swan Lake and Lake St. George Centres.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP): Lake Wilcox

The Lake Wilcox neighbourhood is located within the larger community of Oak Ridges in the City of Richmond Hill (formerly Town of Richmond Hill). Home to a diverse and growing community, it contains the largest kettle lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine, Lake Wilcox, at the headwaters of the East Humber River. Developed in collaboration with York Region, the City of Richmond Hill, and many local community residents and organizations, the Lake Wilcox SNAP Action Plan was completed in 2012 and focuses on enhancing the natural environment of the area.

The Lake Wilcox SNAP's implementation activities, delivered between 2012 and 2015, centered around preserving and enhancing the ecological health of Lake Wilcox, as well as a locally tailored Eco-Landscaping program, involving front yard makeover demonstrations, monitoring and a strategically designed neighbourhood-wide program.

The Living City Report Card

TRCA and CivicAction's Greening Greater Toronto collaborated with organizations and environmental leaders across the region to produce the first The Living City® Report Card in 2011. The report assesses the environmental health of the Greater Toronto Area, reporting on six measures of environmental health: Water, Air Quality, Carbon, Land Use, Biodiversity and Waste. In addition, the Biodiversity indicators such as Fish and Natural Cover reported at the watershed scale, including the Humber watershed.

Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé

The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé in the City of Toronto follows the banks of the Humber from the mouth of the river north to the Dundas Street bridge. The Path connects an ancient Indigenous portage route to modern roads and railways. It highlights stories of Indigenous peoples, 18th century French trading posts, Toronto's early French presence and shows the birth of industrial Toronto from the ruins of water powered mills. A series of educational plaques describing the history of the Humber can be found along the path's thirteen storytelling circles. The plaques are translated into English, French and Ojibway.

Bolton Camp

Bolton Camp, on the banks of the Humber River, in the Town of Caledon opened its doors in 1922 and was a popular destination for families from low income areas of Toronto for 75 years. In 2011, TRCA purchased the property and began developing a plan to re-purpose the site as a community hub: a destination for people to come together to learn, play, create, explore and share in unique experiences. Work on Bolton Camp continues, and the new Bolton Camp will respect the history of the site, while helping to create new cultural and social innovation opportunities in the region and contributing to the health and well-being of residents.

Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF)

The BCCF is situated in north Toronto on an eight-acre property that includes farmland, a heritage farmhouse and barn, and a surrounding forest that extends down into the Black Creek ravine. BCCF has been operation since 2012 as a start-up focused on improving food security, reducing social isolation, and improving employment and education outcomes.

Claireville Conservation Area (CCA) Management Plan Update

The CCA Management Plan Update addresses public use pressures, natural habitat conservation and enhancement, cultural heritage preservation, property securement, community stewardship and conservation education at the 848 hectares of conservation lands that make up the CCA in the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga and City of Toronto.

Discovery of the Carberry Site

As part of the Goreway Drive Road Widening Project, TRCA Archaeologists conducted archaeological assessments of authority owned land ahead of its disposition within the City of Brampton. During this survey, remnants of one of the earliest homesteads in Gore Township, Peel County, was unearthed. Archival records indicate the homestead was occupied by well-known local family, the Carberrys, who constructed a one-storey log cabin ca. 1830 at this location. This cabin stayed in the family for over a century before being sold in 1941, and ultimately torn down. Excavation revealed remnants of the stone foundation, a well, a summer kitchen, smoke house, garden steps and much more. Thousands of artifacts were unearthed, and the property's history, uses and alterations were documented in a rare opportunity to collaborate with living Carberry descendants.

Last Term of Humber Watershed Alliance

The Humber Watershed Alliance was a volunteer group that helped TRCA develop watershed management plans, and other strategies to protect and celebrate the Humber watershed. The CHRS designation was one of the initiatives spurred by the Humber Heritage committee under the Alliance. The Alliance was dissolved in 2013 as TRCA revisited their engagement strategy and looked to improve their engagement with the community.

The Bolton Resource Management Tract (BRMT) Management Plan

The BRMT Management Plan was developed to manage a 973-hectare conservation property within the Town of Caledon, Region of Peel. The Management Plan aims to protect, conserve and restore the valuable ecological features and functions of this tract of land, while guiding the current and potential future recreational development.

Publication of the Watershed Report Card

Watershed report cards are produced every five years by conservation authorities to track and report on surface water and groundwater quality as well as forest conditions. This research enhances our knowledge of each watershed, guides its stewards to focus efforts to critical areas, and identifies ecologically important areas that require protection or enhancement.

The 2013 Humber River watershed Report Card reported a decline in surface water quality, but an improvement in stormwater management since the previous report card. There were no changes in forest conditions. These data were used to inform watershed management actions, and recommendations for land use planning.

Huron-Wendat Repatriation

In September 2013, human remains from twelve Huron-Wendat ancestral villages located throughout the Greater Toronto Area, including several from the Humber watershed, were repatriated at Thonnakona Ossuary, in Vaughan Ontario. The skeletal remains from over 1,700 people were privately reburied in a sacred location within this part of the watershed by the Huron-Wendat of Wendake, Quebec.

Anniversary Celebration of CHRS Designation

2014 marked the Humber River's 15th anniversary of designation as a Canadian Heritage River under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. This momentous anniversary was celebrated at Etienne Brule Park with a community event held in partnership with the City of Toronto, World Wildlife Fund, Future Watch, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, four local Police Services (Durham, Peel, Toronto and York) - the 4 Directions Peacekeepers. This event celebrated the unique cultural, recreational, and natural heritage of the river by focusing programming on traditional teachings, historical education of cultural significance, and outdoor education.

60th Anniversary of Hurricane Hazel

In 1954 Hurricane Hazel struck the Humber River, resulting in devastating flooding that caused extensive damage to homes and property, and the death of 62 people in the City of Toronto. This tragic event resulted in a new focus on watershed management and ultimately the development of TRCA as an agency. The 60th anniversary event hosted walking tours of the lower Humber River, extensive media coverage and a social media campaign aimed at reminding the community of the dangers of building in floodplains, erosion and the important work conservation authorities are carrying out throughout Ontario.

Humber Gateway Parkette Grand Opening

On September 24, 2014, the City of Richmond Hill (formerly Town of Richmond Hill), along with their partners including TRCA, celebrated the opening of the Humber Gateway Parkette. The park is situated in a unique geographic location at the easterly edge of the headwaters to the East Humber River and offers its visitors a pathway lined with native plantings, as well as an information kiosk which provides information pertaining to the importance of the headwater areas and the status of the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River.

Humber Heritage River Plaque Program

TRCA, with the support of municipal and community partners, installed eleven bronze plaques throughout the Humber River watershed to celebrate its designation as a Canadian Heritage River. This includes five plaques with a map of the Carrying Place Trail, and six Canadian Heritage Rivers System plaques. Each plaque was cast with a message celebrating the Humber River in three languages: English, French, and one of three Indigenous languages: Huron-Wendat, Onondaga, or Mississauga.

The Living City Policies

The Living City Policies is a policy document approved by TRCA's Board on November 28, 2014. It is a conservation authority policy document to guide the implementation of TRCA's legislated and delegated roles and responsibilities in development and infrastructure planning processes as well as TRCA's regulatory role under section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Section 6.9 in The Living City Policies promotes the importance of cultural heritage to the planning and development of sustainable communities. This section also cites a number of partnership initiatives or programs that identify, conserve and promote Indigenous and non-Indigenous/Settlement Period cultural heritage landscapes and resources on TRCA-owned lands, including the Humber River's CHRS designation, illustrating the 10,000+ year history of Indigenous and early European reliance on the Toronto Carrying Place Trail.

2015

Nashville Resource Management Tract (Nashville Conservation Reserve) Management Plan

The Nashville Resource Management Tract (NRMT) is an 820-hectare TRCA-owned property, located in the Region of York, within the municipalities of King and Vaughan. NRMT is a diverse site containing many different habitat types such as upland forests, bottomland forests, meadows, former agricultural fields, wetlands and small tributaries that feed into the main stem of the upper Humber River. The property supports a variety of wildlife, provides significant deer wintering yards and is an important migratory corridor. The NRMT Management Plan provides guidance to protect the natural heritage system of NRMT, while also providing visitors with nature-based recreation opportunities.

2016

Albion Hills Conservation Area (AHCA) Master Plan

In the 1950s, AHCA was identified as the optimal location to provide the surrounding region with access to outdoor recreation, education, and agricultural opportunities. Today AHCA is widely recognized as one of the premier destinations for outdoor recreation and learning activities within the Greater Toronto Area. Completed in 2016, the Master Plan is a visioning document to guide the management of 486 hectares of conservation lands to ensure that the natural areas are preserved and enhanced, while recreational and educational activities are continued to be provided to visitors.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP): West Bolton

The West Bolton SNAP is located in a mature neighbourhood in Bolton, Caledon's major urban centre. The neighbourhood is west of the historic downtown core and comprises mostly residential properties, with pockets of commercial and institutional development. The neighbourhood also includes parks, schools, greenspaces and trails, and is transected by Jaffary's Creek, a tributary of the Humber River. The overarching theme of this Action Plan is "bringing people, nature and places together". This theme reflects local interest in connectivity: physical connection to local destinations, natural areas and people, and emotional connection to and recognition of the neighbourhood's history and future. Community consultations were initiated in 2016 and the Action Plan completed in 2019 with a number of implementation initiatives underway.

2017

The Living City Farm

The Living City Farm, a 4.8-hectare farm operated by Akachi Farms, is located at the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Vaughan. The farm produces over 100 varieties of vegetables and fruits using biodynamic farming practices and innovative technology. As a learning centre for youth, adults and new farmers, the farm offers educational programs each year; these programs focus on local food, environmental stewardship and the role of animals in the farm system. The yields are sold directly to community members on-site and at farmers markets.

TRCA Community Engagement Strategy

TRCA's Community Engagement Strategy was developed to align and guide TRCA's approaches to community engagement over the next 10 years (2017-2027) so that TRCA supports broader and deeper community mobilization and maximizes collective impact in pursuit of TRCA's vision for The Living City and Strategic Plan objectives.

TRCA Regional Watershed Alliance Launched

The Regional Watershed Alliance is an advisory and action-based committee comprising diverse community members from across the Toronto region who contribute their unique perspectives and capabilities. The Regional Watershed Alliance was developed following the dissolution of the individual watershed volunteer committees, which were originally launched in the early 1990s. This jurisdiction-wide approach to citizen governance provides more opportunities for coordination and collaboration across watersheds.

The Regional Watershed Alliance works toward The Living City Vision for healthy rivers and shorelines, regional biodiversity, and sustainable communities across the nine watersheds in the Toronto region and its Lake Ontario waterfront now, and for future generations.

Canada 150 at Black Creek Pioneer Village

In 2017, TRCA received grants from Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport and the Department of Canadian Heritage to create, promote, and deliver a unique event celebrating Canada 150 at Black Creek Pioneer Village on the banks of a tributary of the Humber in Vaughan and Toronto. Combining historical and archaeological elements with a grand birthday celebration, the event "Party Like its 1867" attracted more than 7,000 people. Participants explored the history of the Toronto region and experienced engaging activities, exhibits, and theatrical performances as they would have at the time of the country's Confederation.

Launch of Humber by Canoe at MomenTO, Celebrating Canada's 150th

Humber by Canoe is a full day of free, family activities including paddling, live entertainment, heritage walks and educational activities to celebrate the heritage of the Humber River in the City of Toronto. The event offers free paddling opportunities and safety demonstrations allowing participants to get on the river and explore its natural heritage for themselves. The first annual event was held in partnership with the City of Toronto, through their MomenTO campaign. MomenTO, part of the City's TO Canada with Love program, was produced by the City of Toronto in partnership with the Province of Ontario's Ontario 150 Program and the Government of Canada and CHRS.

William Granger Greenway – Humber Trail Guide Launch

An updated trail guide was produced for the Humber Trail running through the William Granger Greenway within the City of Vaughan. This area is rich in cultural heritage, recreational value, and significant natural features. The updated trail guide allows visitors to explore the area with ease.

TRCA Youth Council Launched

TRCA's Community Engagement Strategy (2017) recommended more focused engagement of youth to enhance the reach of TRCA programs and activities and prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. The Youth Council is for people aged 16-30 who either reside or attend school in TRCA's jurisdiction. Led by a group of youth executives, the council seeks to build a youth network, understand youth perspectives, provide fun opportunities, and build youth capacity. In 2018/19 the council undertook a survey to better understand youth perspectives, and delivered a number of engagement events, including a movie night hosted with Swim Drink Fish and Patagonia.

Publication of the Watershed Report Card

The update to the 2013 report card found no change to surface water quality or forest conditions. Ground water quality was measured through monitoring wells throughout the watershed. All wells were found to have acceptable levels of nitrate, but only half of those wells were found to have acceptable levels of chloride. This is thought to be the result of road salt and/or contamination from septic systems and water softeners. Natural cover was also found to be unevenly distributed through the watershed. It was found that the watershed was 37% urban, 30% rural, and 33% natural cover, with most of the natural cover found in the headwater regions of the watershed.

The Living City Report Card Art Exhibit

In 2018, TRCA launched an art exhibit in partnership with Evergreen and Crazy Dames showcasing artwork around the six themes of The Living City Report Card: Air, Water, Land Use, Biodiversity, Waste, and Carbon.

Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve 10th Annual Schools Native Tree and Shrub Planting

Since 2008 TRCA has partnered with the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, City of Richmond Hill and York Region to host a restoration event at Grovewood Park. In May 2018 for the 10th anniversary of this annual event, over 100 students and community members participated in planting 175 native trees and shrubs. The group also helped to remove invasive buckthorn plants and learned about citizen science through TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring Program (YTMP). By tagging a certain percentage of plant material with a unique ID tag, and providing baseline measurements, this information is used to track the health of the trees to develop fine-tuned maintenance strategies.

Raising the Roof-Restoration of Heritage Church

In 2017, Raising the Roof, a national charitable organization that provides long-term solutions to homelessness, reached out to TRCA to repurpose a designated historical church to provide housing for at risk youth. The church, located in the old hamlet of Cedar Mains in Caledon, was built in 1857, converted into a house in the mid twentieth century and designated as a heritage structure in 2009. Through partnerships and collaborations with diverse stakeholders, Raising the Roof is able to educate the public on homelessness and invest in local communities. A lease agreement was struck between Raising the Roof and TRCA in 2018 and the project is expected to be completed in 2020.

Removal of the Dam at Albion Hills Conservation Park

The historic Albion Hills Pond was located in the Albion Hills Conservation Park. The original dam structure was built in the 1950s and reconstructed in 1965 to create a pond for recreational purposes. The Dam was identified as a major barrier to fish movement in the Humber River Fish Management Plan. Online ponds, such as the Albion Hills Pond, also increase in-stream temperatures, making the aquatic habitat uninhabitable for coldwater fish species such as brook trout, and disrupt sediment movement in the creek, causing erosion and destruction of fish habitat.

The dam was also becoming a health and safety risk to the users of the Conservation Park. In 2011, a comprehensive Dam Safety Review was undertaken that identified several deficiencies with the dam which could ultimately lead to dam failure. A Bridge Condition Assessment was subsequently completed in 2013, and identified that the dam structure was also unable to support heavy traffic (e.g., trucks or buses).

Complete dam removal was identified as the preferred option through collaborative efforts of the TRCA Project Management Team, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), regulatory agencies, as well as input received through public consultation. The removal of the dam was completed in 2018.

Humber River 20th Anniversary Celebrations

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River. A variety of celebratory events took place, which are outlined in detail in section 4.0.

Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region

In 2019 TRCA released The Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region. The strategy outlines TRCA's plan to work with partners to complete, expand, manage and celebrate the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network, a connected trail network in our regional greenspace system. It serves as a framework to protect potential trail alignments, and to guide the planning, development, and management of these trails.

Wiley Bridge Restoration

The Wiley Bridge was built in 1924 and designated as a heritage property on the City of Brampton's Heritage Register. In 2019, a conditions report was commissioned on the Wiley Bridge that determined the bridge was in dire need of structural repairs. As a heritage feature and part of a vast network of trails located within Claireville Conservation Area, TRCA has begun the process of restoring the bridge.

Great Red Oak Tree Commemoration

A large red oak (*Quercus rubra*) is situated in the backyard of 76 Coral Gable Drive in the City of Toronto. It is estimated that the tree is over 250 years old, one of the oldest trees in the entire City. This tree, found near the Humber Carrying Place Trail, survived both colonization and development of the neighbourhood in the 1960s. With the support of TRCA, in September 2019, Heritage Toronto unveiled a commemorative plaque, which captures this great oak's place in our natural heritage. There is an ongoing City of Toronto effort to raise money to purchase the property, demolish the existing house and create a new park.

Greenlands Acquisition Project (GAP) 2009-2019

The purpose of the GAP is to provide background information, and implementation tools for the securement of greenlands by TRCA. Between 2009 and 2019, TRCA acquired approximately 913 hectares within the Humber River watershed.





4.0 HUMBER RIVER 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Humber's 20th anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River was a significant milestone event for TRCA and an opportunity to celebrate the watershed's rich cultural and recreational heritage. Development of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Plan incorporated ongoing watershed programs and activities of TRCA and its partners. In addition, when developing the plan, staff undertook a review of activities undertaken by other Heritage Rivers across the country celebrating their designation anniversaries. The overall framework for the Celebration Plan consisted of the following four components:

1. Collaborative and Signature Events
2. Legacy Projects
3. Marketing and Communications
4. Community Engagement and Recognition

The following section provides an overview of each component of the Celebration Plan, along with a summary of accomplishments.

Item	Description/Accomplishments
1. COLLABORATIVE AND SIGNATURE EVENTS	
Launch at McMichael Canadian Art Collection	<p>In partnership with McMichael Canadian Art Collection, TRCA hosted a special event to kick off the 20th anniversary celebrations in Kleinburg. With local Canadian art in the background, the event began with an Indigenous blessing and welcome from Elder Garry Sault from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Speakers at the launch included Her Honour, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Jennifer Innis, Chair of TRCA's Board of Directors; John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer of TRCA; Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education and Member of Provincial Parliament for King–Vaughan; and City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Linda Jackson.</p>
Humber by Canoe Signature Event	<p>The annual Humber by Canoe event was the main CHRS anniversary celebration event. Held at Etienne Brule Park in Toronto, the event celebrated the rich heritage of the Humber River. Under the supervision of experts, the event offered free canoeing and provided the chance for first-time canoers to explore the river. The event also featured live performances, family activities, urban farm vendors, food trucks, heritage hikes and more.</p> <p>With 3,500 participants in attendance, the event saw the highest attendance recorded since the event's launch in 2017. The event was kicked off by a welcome and Indigenous blessing, and a water ceremony performed by an Indigenous Elder and Knowledge Keeper from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. As part of the event, the Humber Heritage Committee also organized a commemorative tree planting of a paper birch tree at Etienne Brule Park.</p>
Watershed Community Events	<p>TRCA supported and participated in various community events throughout the Humber watershed through materials, displays and activities that celebrated the Humber's 20th anniversary. For example, the mobile museum was featured at community-based restoration events in Claireville and Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve, and an exhibit was held at the historic Lambton House (a more extensive list of events can be found in section 4 of this table, Regional Watershed Alliance Watershed Engagement Working Group).</p>

Item	Description/Accomplishments
2. LEGACY PROJECTS	
CHRS Digital Story Map	In partnership with Parks Canada, TRCA developed content for the digital Humber River CHRS Story Map to be featured on the CHRS website. The story map is an interactive platform which features various points of interest within the Humber watershed around the themes of natural, cultural, and recreational heritage within the watershed. The story map also features key projects on the ground and the location of CHRS plaques. The Humber River Story Map is expected to be launched in 2021.
Discovery Garden at Bolton Camp	TRCA and partners developed a therapeutic and healing landscape at Bolton Camp, Town of Caledon that will provide space promoting mental, emotional and physical health and well-being. The development of the garden engaged Indigenous communities through the design and building of garden spaces. On Saturday October 19, 2019, phase 1 of the Bolton Camp Discovery Garden was implemented through a community planting event.
3. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION	
Anniversary Theme	A visual theme was created for the 20th anniversary which was incorporated into TRCA's website, newsletter and promotional materials.
Anniversary Video	An anniversary video was developed as part of the CHRS Story Map and highlighted accomplishments over the past 20 years, including, TRCA, partner and stakeholder testimonials.
Social Media Strategy	A social media strategy for TRCA social media accounts was developed to create awareness for the Humber's 20th Anniversary.
Mobile Display	The mobile museum was created through collaboration with Black Creek Pioneer Village and TRCA's Archaeology departments. Archaeological artifacts were displayed to help tell the story of the Humber River and created a visual experience to bridge the past, present, and future of the Humber River, creating awareness around the Humber River's Canadian Heritage Rivers Designation and the legacy surrounding the Carrying Place Trail. The mobile museum travelled to various community, partner and TRCA events throughout the year.

Item	Description/Accomplishments
4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION	
Indigenous Engagement	<p>Indigenous communities were engaged in the following initiatives related to the 20th Anniversary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton Discovery Garden (described above) • CHRS Story Map (described above) • Launch event (described above) • Humber by Canoe (described above) • Albion Hills Garlic Festival – Kim Wheatly, Ojibwe Anishinaabe Grandmother from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve, shared Indigenous knowledge and told stories through a hands-on craft activity.
Humber Heritage Committee Tree Commemoration	<p>On September 8, 2019, members of the Humber Heritage Committee and TRCA Regional Watershed Alliance, Carolyn King, Former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation at the time of the Humber's designation, and former City of Toronto Mayor, David Miller planted a paper birch tree to commemorate the Humber's 20th Anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River at Etienne Brule Park in Toronto.</p>
Regional Watershed Alliance Working Group	<p>The Watershed Engagement Group of the TRCA Regional Watershed Alliance took on the role of Planning Committee for the celebrations surrounding the 20th anniversary of the Humber River's designation as a Canadian Heritage River.</p> <p>The Watershed Engagement Working Group members contributed to planning the following Humber River 20th Anniversary celebrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humber 20th Anniversary Launch Event, Friday April 12, 2019 • Bolton Camp Discovery Garden • Humber by Canoe, Sunday September 8 • Humber Heritage Committee Exhibit at Lambton House, Toronto, August 1 to October 31, 2019 • Humber Public Art Project • Open House at Doctors McLean District Park hosted by the City of Vaughan which included wildflower plantings, guided nature walks and an opportunity to learn about the Humber River Urban River Valley and Vaughan's trail network.



5.0 CULTURAL VALUES

5.1 Introduction

The Humber River watershed has a rich cultural history commencing at the end of the Ice Age roughly twelve thousand years ago with the arrival of Indigenous peoples. The glacial melt waters caused the lake to rise 30 meters over its current levels, flooding all land south of the Lake Iroquois Shoreline (Figure 2). The early Indigenous inhabitants used the Humber for travel, trade, hunting, and fishing and would locate their settlements close to its banks. The Humber River also served as an important transportation route into the interior, but due to the steep drop in elevation and the resulting rapids, large portions of the river were impassible to canoes.

The Humber Carrying Place Trail was a historic portage route that was used to join Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe via the Humber and Holland Rivers (Figure 2). This route was used by ancestral Huron-Wendat who built their villages along its path to facilitate travel and trade (Figure 2). Later Indigenous groups would migrate to the Humber and settle on the portage route. In the late 17th century, a group of Seneca arrived from New York State and founded the village of Teiaiaagon, which was later occupied by the Mississauga.

The first European to see the Humber was Étienne Brulé in 1615 which began the French Period. Missionaries and explorers visited Teiaiaagon, and trading posts were built at the mouth of the river for the trade. This culminated in the building of Fort Rouillé in 1751 (Figure 2) which was abandoned in 1759 at the end of the Seven Years War and signified the end of the French and the beginning of the British Period.

The first European settlers arrived in the Humber during the 1790s. Many were attracted to the river’s potential for milling owing to the steep drop in elevation. This resulted in many historic milling sites and bridges to be built along the Humber. Land grants were given to Loyalists who had fled the American Revolution, and soon after settlers arrived from the British Isles. Their legacy can be found in the many designated and listed heritage structures found throughout the Humber River watershed (Figure 3).

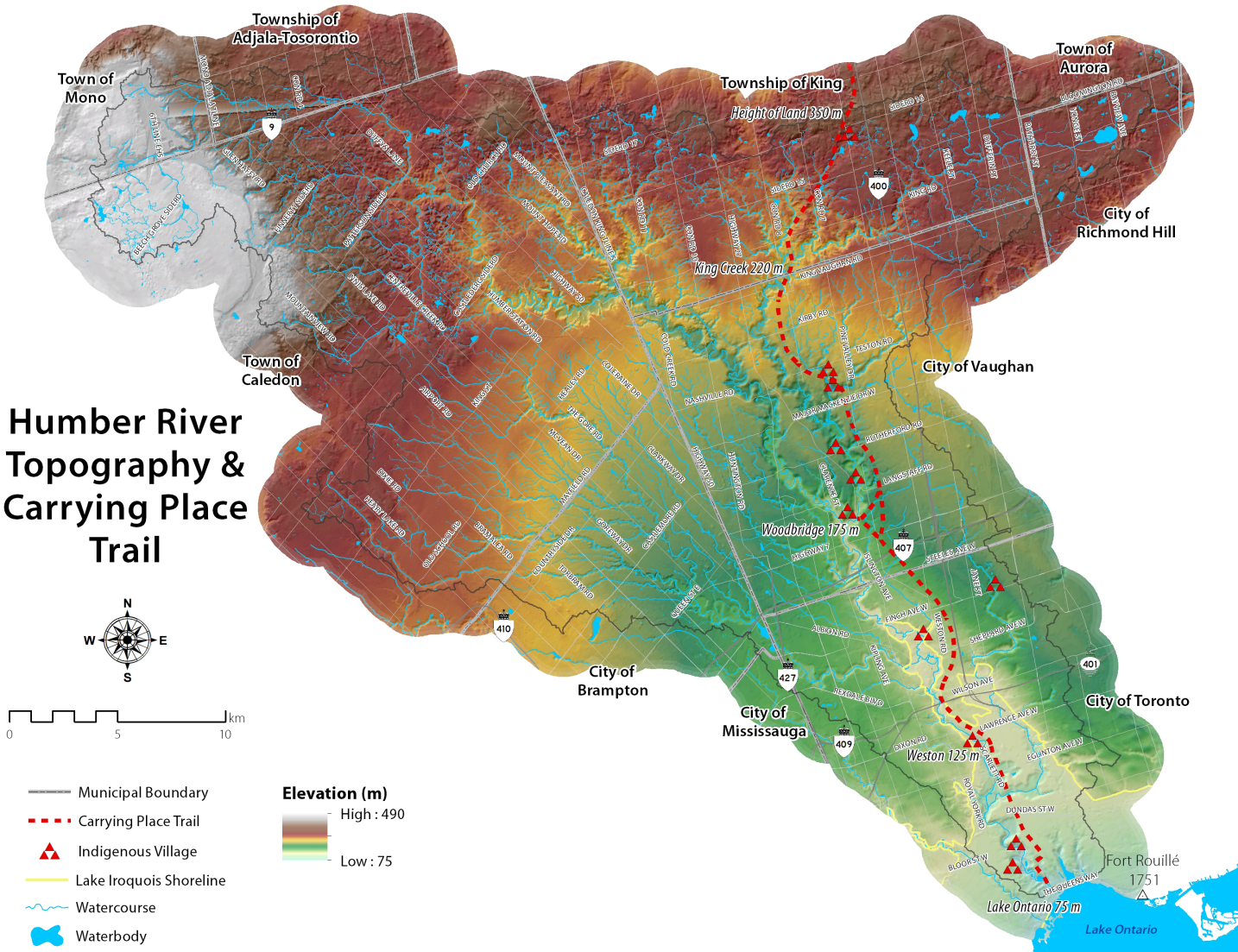


Figure 2: Map of the Carrying Place Trail

TRCA engages with eleven First Nations (FN) throughout the Humber River watershed on projects including environmental and archaeological assessments. These Nations include: Beausoleil FN, Georgina Island FN, Rama FN, Huron-Wendat Nation, Curve Lake FN, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Hiawatha FN, Alderville FN, Scugog Island FN, Mississaugas of the Credit FN and Six Nations of the Grand River. For environmental assessments, TRCA engages as directed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). For archaeological assessments, TRCA engages with descendent groups and treaty holders, with some consultation with the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI). Between 2010 and 2019, TRCA engaged First Nation communities on more than 40 cultural and environmental projects.

This section provides a summary of the significant cultural values found throughout the Humber River watershed, and the status of those values (section 5.2). In addition, a summary of the status of archaeological (Table 3) and built heritage sites (Table 4) is also included in this section. Unfortunately, built heritage data received by municipalities for this report update did not coincide with previous years. That is why some data saw an increase in values, while others showed a decrease. Furthermore, many municipalities have changed how they collect and store data making consolidating the data challenging.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES FOUND IN THE HUMBER WATERSHED

Archaeological Sites (known and registered to date)	1998	2008	2019	10 – Year Increase:
Palaeo	14	14	14	-
Archaic	70	101	129	+28
Woodland	47	69	71	+2
Historic	58	121	316	+195
Unclassified	162	285	544	+259
Total	351	590	1,074	484

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF BUILT HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE HUMBER WATERSHED

Built Heritage Resources (Known to Date)	1998	2008	2019*	10 – Year Increase:
Heritage Conservation District	0	2	not reported on	-
Designated	85	349	780	+ 431
Listed	563	675	1,067	+ 392
Burials/Cemeteries	108	156	48	conflicting data
Mills***	33	33	not reported on	-
Historic Plaques and Interpretive Markers	10	37	not reported on	-
Total	799	1,252		

* some information compiled, not registered

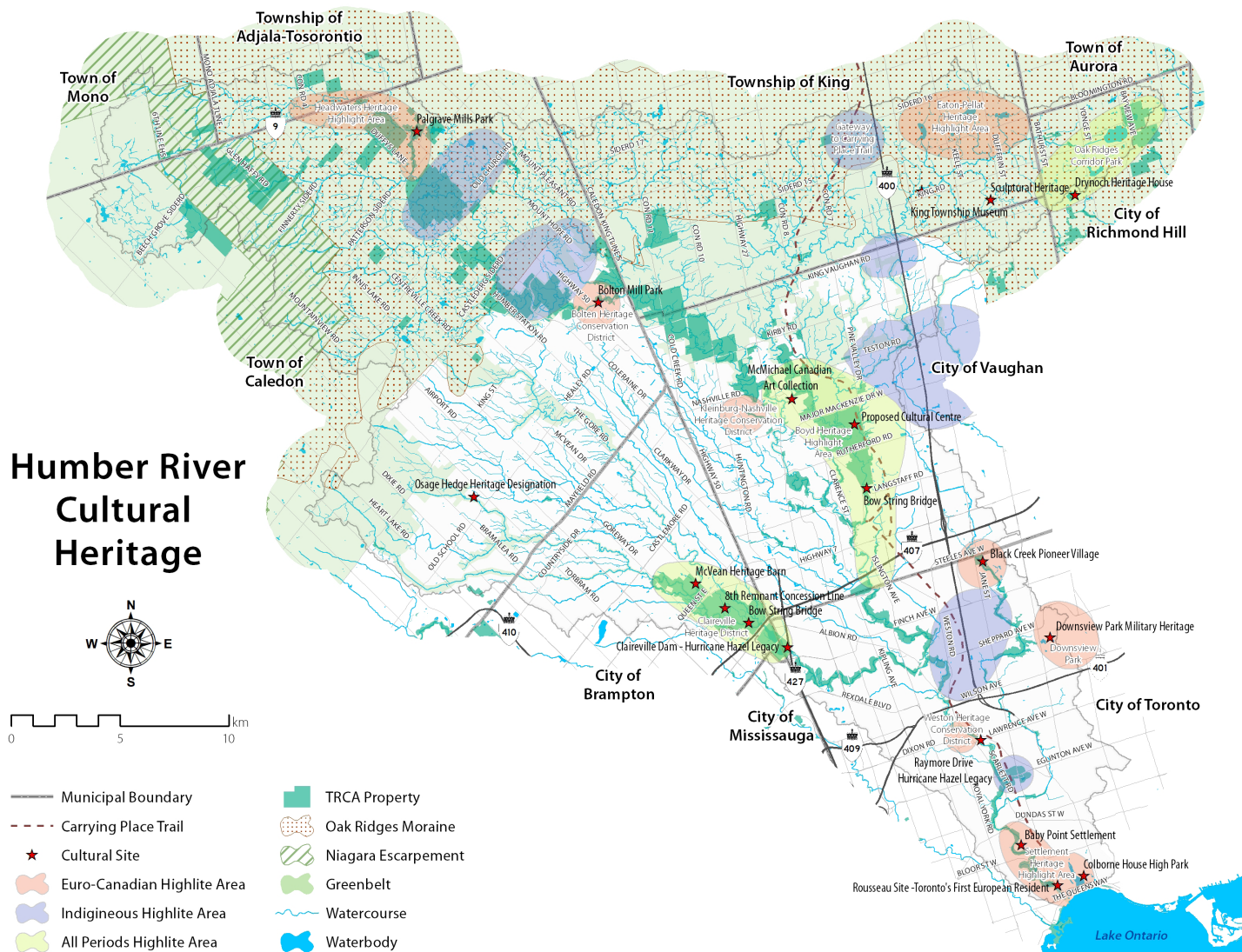


Figure 3: Map of the Cultural Heritage Sites Across the Humber Watershed

5.2 Condition of Cultural Values Since 2009

Over the last century development in the watershed has increased significantly. From 2009 to 2019 the population of the Humber watershed increased 30% to 948,469, and urban growth increased by 10%. While development has come at the expense of some cultural sites, there continues to be an effort to preserve and celebrate existing sites. Programs such as Humber by Canoe, and the Shared Path connect people to the rich cultural heritage of the river. The following table summarizes some of the more significant cultural values of the Humber River, and how those values are celebrated, protected, and managed.

TABLE 5: CONDITION OF CULTURAL VALUES SINCE 2009

CULTURAL VALUE CATEGORY (appendix G)	CULTURAL VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE IN VALUE (e.g. Magnitude, Positive or Negative Change, Immediate or Long-term)	REASON FOR CHANGE (e.g. Threat, Stressor, Management Action)	ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE
CULTURAL VALUE: RESOURCE HARVESTING				
Fishing (prehistoric and historic)	Fishing in the Humber has taken place historically by Indigenous People and early settlers. The River continues to provide fishing opportunities (summarized in "Recreation Values" table in section 6.2).	None		
Shoreline Resource Harvesting (fur bearing animals, foraging)	Historic resource harvesting of fur bearing animals and foraging was a cornerstone of life for the Indigenous People who resided in the Humber watershed. European colonizers would have also hunted and foraged along the river.	None		
Extraction of Water	The Humber River was used extensively by settlers in mill production. None of the mills are currently in operation.	None		
CULTURAL VALUE: WATER TRANSPORTATION				
Commercial Transportation	The Humber River was used historically as a transportation route for goods and services both by Indigenous People and later on by European settlers.	None		
Transportation Services	The Toronto Carrying Place Trail The Humber River was used as an important travel route, and the Carrying Place Trail was the historic route linking the communities around Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe.	The trail has been highlighted by the installation of interpretive signs along the lower Humber in the City of Toronto as part of the Shared Path/Sentier Partagé Project.	Management Action	This management action was undertaken to improve public awareness of the Carrying Place Trail.
Exploration and Surveying	The Humber River and the Carrying Place Trail was a key feature in the exploration and surveying of the region during European colonization.	None		

CULTURAL VALUE: RIPARIAN SETTLEMENT

Siting of Dwellings	The Humber River watershed has long been inhabited, first by Indigenous People about 12,000 years ago and then later by European settlers.	Communities continue to grow throughout the watershed, and efforts have been made to preserve Indigenous sites and neighbourhoods of cultural significance through archaeological and heritage studies.	Management Action	TRCA continues to work with partner municipalities to inform land planning, including archeological work.
River-Based Communities	Seed Barker Site The Seed-Barker Site is a Late Iroquoian (16th Century) Village strategically located along the Carrying Place Trail. Excavations have found evidence of twenty longhouses and an eight-row palisade, 13 other structures, and recovered more than one million artifacts. Between 1975 – 2005, the site hosted a series of archaeological field schools and allowed the opportunity for over 1,000 high school and university students to participate in excavating the site. Annual excavations have fostered the education of a generation of archaeologists. It is one of very few sites that has been excavated entirely by hand.	None. This is a registered and protected archaeological site.		
	Teiaiaagon The Seneca village of Teiaiaagon, the Seneca name for 'it crosses the stream' was situated on the peninsula that is now known as Baby Point in the City of Toronto. Protected on three sides by the Humber River and elevated high above the river, the peninsula was a classic defensive location for situating an Iroquoian village. Teiaiaagon is situated at the northern end of the navigable section of the Humber and the start of the Carrying Place Trail. This allowed for the settlement to act as a toll gate controlling the flow of furs brought south by the Anishinaabe, and allowed the Seneca to act as middlemen between themselves and French.	None. The City of Toronto has established an Archaeological Sensitive Area surrounding the village to protect the disturbance of any further cultural remains.		
	In 1695, the Seneca abandoned the village and a French fort stood in its place by 1720 which was known as le Magasin Royal and built by Captain Alexandre Dagneau Douville. This fort marks the first European settlement in the Greater Toronto Area. Due to aggressive trade competition from the British, the fort eventually fell into decline.	None. The City of Toronto has established an Archaeological Sensitive Area surrounding the village to protect the disturbance of any further cultural remains.		

CULTURAL VALUE: RIPARIAN SETTLEMENT - CONT.

River-influenced Transportation	<p>There are numerous historic bridges found throughout the watershed. The maintenance of those bridges falls to different municipal stakeholders.</p> <p>There are a small number of bowstring bridges that span the Humber River that are found on TRCA property. Of those bridges, only the Wiley Bridge is designated as a heritage bridge.</p>	The Wiley bridge structure, like many of the historic bowstring bridges found on TRCA property, has deteriorated over time.	Weather and management over time.	An engineering assessment was carried out in 2017. TRCA plans to undertake that repair work. The bridge will not be open to vehicular traffic but will be open for pedestrian use.
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CULTURAL VALUE: CULTURE AND RECREATION

Spiritual Associations	<p>There are some spiritually significant sites for Indigenous people found along the Humber River.</p> <p>Reburial of Huron Wendat Ancestors in Kleinburg While there are other spiritual ossuaries in the Humber, this is unique as it was excavated/removed and then repatriated with other ancestors who were removed from their original resting locations throughout the GTA.</p>	None		
Cultural Expression	<p>Black Creek Pioneer Village Black Creek Pioneer Village is an open-air heritage museum overlooking Black Creek, a tributary of the Humber River.</p> <p>Black Creek Pioneer Village represents the largest collection of heritage buildings in the region – and one of the largest in the country. The historic structures include the original Stong Family Farm buildings, a water-powered grist mill, a general store, a blacksmith shop, and many more.</p> <p>At the Village, visitors can discover 40 historic buildings, 70 rare and heritage breed animals, 10 different gardens with flowers and vegetables grown from heirloom seeds, 50,000 historical artifacts, and a wide variety of engaging programs for people of all ages.</p>	Periodic heritage restoration of heritage buildings.	Management Action	Ongoing restoration work and programming.

CULTURAL VALUE: CULTURE AND RECREATION - CONT.

Cultural Expression	Le Sentier Partagé/The Shared Path The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé in Toronto follows the banks of the Humber from the mouth of the river north to the Dundas Street bridge. The Path connects an ancient Indigenous portage route to modern roads and railways. It highlights stories of Indigenous peoples, 18th century French trading posts, Toronto's early French presence and shows the birth of industrial Toronto from the ruins of water powered mills. A series of educational plaques describing the history of the Humber can be found along the path's thirteen storytelling circles. The plaques are translated into English, French and Ojibway.	Installation of interpretive signs.	Management Action	Highlighting the cultural history of the Humber River.
	The McMichael Canadian Art Collection The McMichael Canadian Art collection is Canada's only art gallery featuring Canadian artists.	None		
	McVean Barn This unique property is Brampton's oldest farm and was once owned by early settler Alexander McVean. The Double English Wheat Barn that McVean and his family built in the 1840s still stands today and is designated a "Category A" heritage resource by the City of Brampton.	The McVean Barn structure has deteriorated over time.	Weather and management over time.	An engineering assessment was carried out in 2017. TRCA is still looking to secure funds to undertake those repairs.
Early Recreation	The Humber River has historically been used for recreational purposes such as boating and canoeing, with particular emphasis on the lower Humber where the river meets Lake Ontario.	None		

CULTURAL VALUES: JURISDICTIONAL USES

Conflicts & Military Associations	The Humber River contains some historically significant sites from the early days of European colonization. The French built two forts near the mouth of the Humber.	None		
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CULTURAL VALUES: JURISDICTIONAL USES

Legislation	<p>Preservation of cultural heritage in Ontario is regulated under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990 (OHA). The Minister is responsible for the administration of the OHA and may determine policies, priorities and programs for the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario. With its primary focus being to protect heritage properties and archaeological sites, the OHA gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to preserve the heritage of Ontario.</p> <p>In addition, the following provincial policies and plans direct the protection of cultural heritage resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden horseshoe - Section 4.2.7 contains policies to protect cultural heritage resources, which the Growth Plan defines as including built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources. • Niagara Escarpment Plan includes examples of cultural heritage landscapes as “viewsheds” and “natural areas”. • Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan – the four designations in the Plan of Natural Core, Natural Linkage, Countryside, and Settlement Areas all have policies to protect cultural heritage resources. • Provincial Policy Statement – section 2.6 speaks to the protection of cultural heritage resources including cultural heritage landscapes. <p>Duty to Consult with Indigenous Communities As defined by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (2013), the Supreme Court of Canada has determined that the constitutional protection accorded Aboriginal rights and treaty rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 requires the Crown to consult with Aboriginal people when it has knowledge of an existing or asserted Aboriginal or treaty right and contemplates conduct that may adversely affect the right in question. The Supreme Court of Canada has further determined that third parties do not owe a duty to consult Aboriginal people. The Crown may delegate “procedural aspects” of Aboriginal consultation to third parties through legislation and associated regulations, guidelines and policies.</p>	Fluctuating changes with new and updated legislation.	Management Action	TRCA continues to work within applicable requirements of legislation and provincial policies and plans alongside partner municipalities, Indigenous communities and community members to preserve and protect cultural heritage resources.
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6.0 RECREATIONAL VALUES

6.1 Introduction

The Humber River watershed contains a wealth of recreational opportunities, including an extensive trail network, camping, canoeing and fishing. TRCA continues to manage a network of conservation lands throughout the watershed that provide a diversity of experiences for recreationists (Figure 4). Albion Hills Conservation Park, Ontario's oldest conservation area, is found in the northern part of the Main Humber River at the confluence with Centreville Creek. Albion Hills boasts over 53 km of trails for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. It is also linked to the Humber Trail, a series of trails that follow nearly the length of the river. As a historic transportation route, the Humber River continues to provide opportunities for canoeing, especially in the lower stretches of the river through the rich Humber Marsh ecosystem. This section provides an overview of the recreation opportunities managed by TRCA along the length of the Humber River.

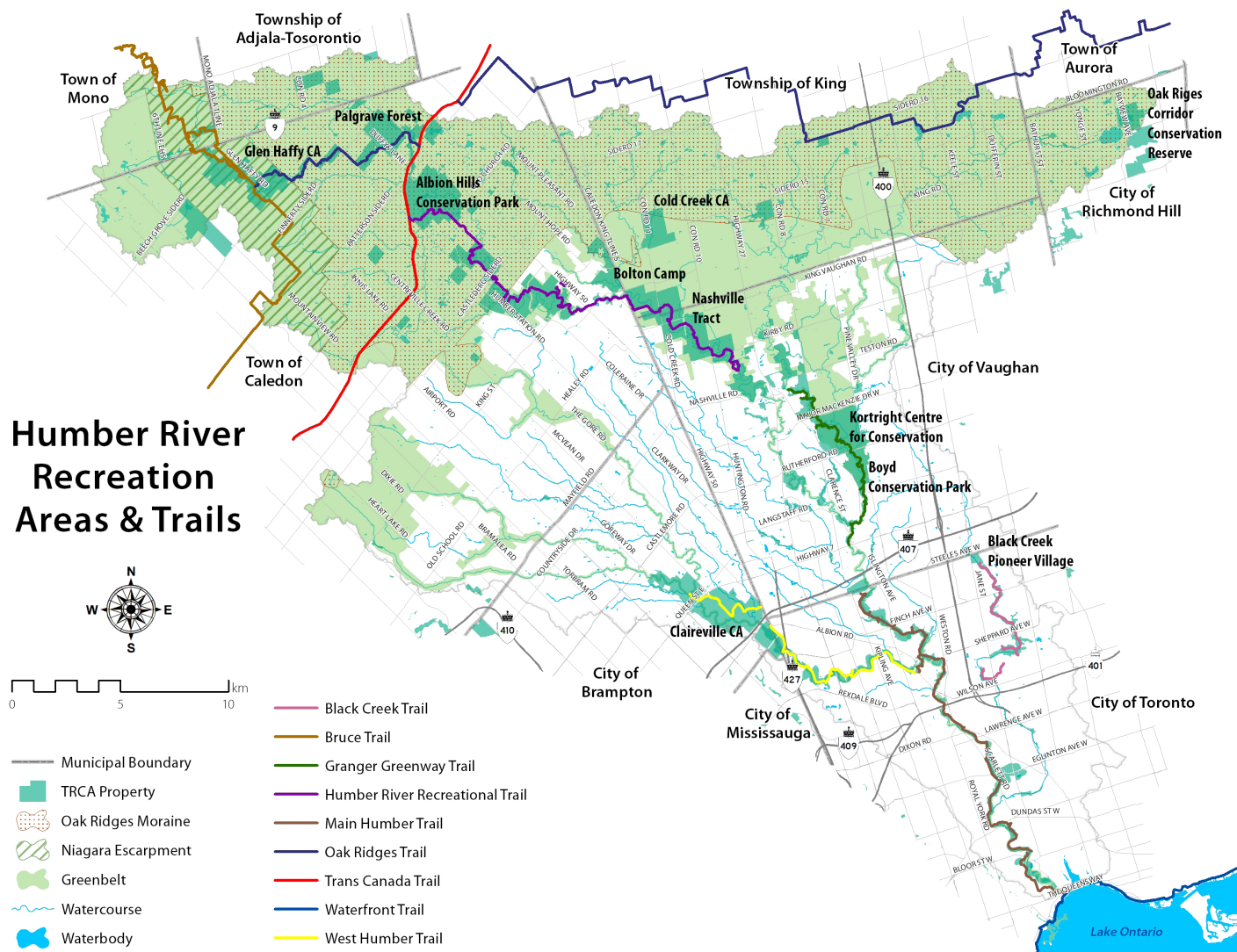


Figure 4: Map of Recreational Heritage of the Humber Watershed

6.2 Condition of Recreational Values Since 2009

While there are plentiful opportunities for recreation along the Humber, there have been some impacts to those opportunities as a result of decreased water quality. As development increased throughout the watershed, this led to increased storm water, and in turn decreased water quality. TRCA continues to work to improve storm water management, and water quality through restoration and integrated watershed planning. Furthermore, TRCA continues to link trail networks to improve recreation and active transportation throughout the watershed. Not only do expanded trail networks improve active transportation, but also link communities thereby improving public access and wellbeing. The following table provides a summary of the recreational values in the Humber that are actively managed by TRCA, and how those values have changed over the last ten years.

TABLE 6: CONDITION OF RECREATIONAL VALUES SINCE 2009

RECREATIONAL VALUE CATEGORY (appendix G)	RECREATIONAL VALUE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE IN VALUE (e.g. Magnitude, Positive or Negative Change, Immediate or Long-term)	REASON FOR CHANGE (e.g. Threat, Stressor, Management Action)	ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE
RECREATIONAL VALUES: BOATING				
Canoeing	Humber Marshes The Humber Marshes have long been an important place for fishing and canoeing. Currently the Humber Marshes are a destination for canoers, anglers, and other recreationists.	Humber by Canoe is a new event led by TRCA. This event provides an opportunity for participants to try canoeing for the first time.	Management Action	This management action was undertaken to improve community engagement and uptake of recreational activities.
	Lake St George Lake St George is a kettle lake found in the head waters of the Humber River. The Lake St George field centre provides canoe lessons for schools and private groups and is not open to the general public.	Since 2017 TRCA has expanded the range of canoe programs from community paddle events such as sunset paddles to Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA) certifications. In 2018/2019 a pilot program was launched with York Region District School Board to have grade 7 students access paddling for the first time and worked with high school groups in a learn to camp training program that incorporated paddling time into their sessions.	Management Action	This management action was undertaken to improve community engagement and uptake of recreational activities.

RECREATIONAL VALUE: ANGLING

Fishing	<p>Recreational fishing has long been an important activity along the Humber River. While recreational fishing continues to be accessible along the length of the river, there are some particular sites that are of significance for fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humber Marshes - Glen Haffy Conservation Area - Lake Wilcox 	<p>Fishing continues to be an important recreational opportunity in the Humber River. There is currently work underway to construct “fishing nodes” to make fishing more accessible to people in the City of Toronto.</p>	<p>Lack of accessible fishing sites along the river in the City of Toronto created a stressor to the river as humans created informal trails to the water’s edge.</p>	<p>Nodes (i.e., constructed platforms) continue to be built by TRCA and the City of Toronto.</p>
Fly Fishing	<p>Glen Haffy Conservation Area (Caledon) is home to a fly-fishing club. Members are provided access to a trout-stocked pond.</p>	<p>The fly-fishing club, and trout stocking continues with little change over the last ten years.</p>		
Ice Fishing	<p>Lake Wilcox, a kettle lake found in Richmond Hill, is one of the few areas along the Humber River where ice fishing is possible.</p>	<p>None</p>		
Specific Fish Species	<p>There are many fish present in the Humber River that are recreationally significant—the Chinook Salmon was introduced for game purposes in the early 20th century and continues to thrive in the river.</p>	<p>Chinook Salmon populations have been increasing over time. There is a continued threat of invasive species such as the sea lamprey which can negatively impact the fish.</p>	<p>Invasive species and barriers to fish passage are threats that are addressed through management action.</p>	<p>Sea Lamprey gates have been installed in the lower Humber to prevent lamprey from spawning upstream.</p>

RECREATIONAL VALUE: WATER-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

Trail Use (hiking, walking, cycling)	Albion Hills Conservation Park Albion Hills Conservation Park is a 486 ha greenspace in the Humber Headwaters region of Caledon. The park has over 50 km of mountain biking trails, cross country ski trails, and hiking trails. The Albion Hills Conservation Park Master Plan recommends targeted improvements and upgrades to the existing network.	53 km summer trails, 27 km winter trails	Management Action: Master plan implementation is underway.	TRCA is working with local trail organizations, the Town of Caledon and the Regional Municipality of Peel to complete trail implementation.
	Bolton Resource Management Tract (BRMT) Found in Caledon, the BRMT is a 973 ha property that boasts 16 km of hiking trails. The 2013 BRMT Management Plan recommended developing 29.5 km of additional trail including a multi-use extension of the Humber Trail.	16 km of trails	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	TRCA is working with local trail organizations the Town of Caledon and the Regional Municipality of Peel to complete trail implementation.
	Glen Haffy Conservation Area Glen Haffy is found where the Oak Ridges Moraine meets the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of Caledon. Here the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail also meets the Bruce Trail. The Glen Haffy Conservation Park Master Plan is currently under development (anticipated 2023).	6 km of trails	Management Action: Master Plan is anticipated for 2023.	Master Plan including trail recommendations anticipated 2023.
	Claireville Conservation Area Claireville Conservation Area is 343 ha of natural and forested area that straddles the Region of Peel and City of Toronto. A passive conservation area for the preservation of local wildlife and natural landscape, Claireville is a popular destination for local birders, walkers and bikers. The Park has 17 km of trails. The 2012 Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan Update proposed a new interregional trail alignment including 6km of new trail.	17 km of trails	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Management Plan Implementation is underway.
	Cold Creek Conservation Area Found in King Township, this conservation area is owned by TRCA but managed by the Township. It boasts over 6 km of trails. Including a boardwalk through a unique spruce bog.	No new trails have been constructed in the last 10 years, there are currently 6 km of trails in the park.	No current plans to extend the trail network.	No current plans to extend the trail network.

RECREATIONAL VALUE: WATER-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

Trail Use (hiking, walking, cycling)	Kortright Centre for Conservation Found in the City of Vaughan along the Main Branch of the Humber River. Kortright offers visitors year-round hiking opportunities. The Park has 16 km of trails.	16 km of trails	No current plans to extend the trail network.	No current plans to extend the trail network.
	Boyd Conservation Park Boyd Conservation Park offers hiking and picnicking opportunities for visitors. The Park has 4 km of trails.	4 km of trails	No current plans to extend the trail network.	No current plans to extend the trail network.
	Boyd North and Glassco Park Encompasses almost 700 ha of land (and includes the William Granger Greenway) in the City of Vaughan along the Main Branch of the Humber River. Boyd North is owned by TRCA, while Glassco Park is owned by the Province of Ontario through the Ontario Heritage Trust and managed by TRCA. There is a multi-use trail that follows the Humber through the park complex. The Park has 2.5 km of trails. The Boyd North and Glassco Park Management Plan was developed in 1999. This management plan proposed new local and interregional trails, and this plan has since been fully implemented.	2.5 km of trails	No current plans to extend the trail network.	No current plans to extend the trail network.
	Humber Source Woods, part of Happy Valley Forest 22 ha of TRCA lands located in the Township of King in the Regional Municipality of York.		Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Management plan implementation is underway.
	Humber Trails Conservation Area 48 ha located in the Township of King in the Regional Municipality of York.	No significant changes in value have been made over the last 10 years.		
	Nashville Conservation Reserve (NCR) Nashville Conservation Reserve (NCR) is a 900+ ha TRCA property located in York Region. Guests can find some limited trails throughout the reserve. The Park has 5 km of trails. In 2015, the NCR Management Plan was completed, proposing 25 km of trails.	5 km of trails	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	TRCA is working with local trail organizations, private donors, the City of Vaughan and the Regional Municipality of York to complete trail implementation.

RECREATIONAL VALUE: ANGLING

Trail Use (hiking, walking, cycling)	Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve The Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve (ORCCR) is an important ecological linkage on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Located in the City of Richmond Hill, York Region, the 175+ ha property is dominated by mature forests, wetlands, meadows, kettle lakes and a significant network of recreational trails. Management and trail plans for the properties recommend 20 km trail network.	15 km of trails	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	TRCA is working with local trail organizations, private donors, the City of Richmond Hill and the Region of York to complete trail implementation.
	Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area (PFWA) is a 306 ha greenspace located in Peel Region. It contains portions of the Oak Ridges Trail Main Trail and Side Trail in a nearly 22 km trail network. The PFWA Trail Plan was completed in 2006 and has been successfully implemented.	22 km of trails	No current plans to extend the trail network.	No current plans to extend the trail network.
Camping	Albion Hills Campground The Albion Hills Campground is open for camping from May until October.	No significant changes in value have been made over the last 10 years.		
	Indian Line Campground The Indian Line Campground is open from May until November.	No significant changes in value have been made over the last 10 years.		
Hunting	Not described as a value at point of designation.			

RECREATIONAL VALUE: WINTER ACTIVITIES

Cross-country skiing	Albion Hills Conservation Area Albion Hills Conservation Area offers 27 km of cross-country skiing trails.	Fewer days for skiing as a result of warmer winters due to climate change.	Climate change threat	None
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RECREATIONAL VALUE: NATURAL HERITAGE APPRECIATION

Wildlife, Vegetation, Vistas/Scenic Quality, Geologic/Water Features	Lake St George Lake St George is an educational facility in the headwaters of the Humber River, and is not open to the general public. This facility provides outdoor education programming for students from across the GTA.	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Albion Hills Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Master plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Bolton Resource Management Tract	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Glen Haffy Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Master Plan endorsement is anticipated in 2023.	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Claireville Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Cold Creek Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.

RECREATIONAL VALUE: NATURAL HERITAGE APPRECIATION

Wildlife, Vegetation, Vistas/Scenic Quality, Geologic/Water Features	Kortright Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Boyd Conservation Park	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Boyd North and Glassco Park	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Nashville Conservation Reserve	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Palgrave Forest and Wildlife Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Trail plan implementation is underway.	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.

RECREATIONAL VALUE: NATURAL HERITAGE APPRECIATION

	Humber Source Woods, part of Happy Valley Forest	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action: Management plan implementation is underway.	Through implementation of the management plan, TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.
	Humber Trails Conservation Area	Increased public use and impacts of climate change result in environmental stress to natural heritage.	Management Action	TRCA continues to enhance the natural heritage where opportunities exist.

RECREATIONAL HERITAGE: HUMAN HERITAGE APPRECIATION

Historic Sites	Black Creek Pioneer Village North Lands The Black Creek Pioneer Village North Lands (BCPVNL) is home to an additional five 19th century buildings, including the 1809 Schmidt-Dalziel Barn, which is unique in Ontario due to its age, size, and provenance. This barn, along with the 1808 Schmidt-Dalziel House, are two of the oldest existing buildings in the Toronto region and all five buildings are designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Surrounded by 16 ha of woodlands and greenspace, the property is primarily used for film shoots, special events, and educational programming.	No significant changes in value have been made over the last 10 years.		
Cultural Events/Activities	Humber by Canoe Humber Canoe is an annual TRCA community event that began in 2017 as a means of celebrating the rich cultural and recreational heritage of the Humber River.	The event was converted to a virtual platform in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Global pandemic	TRCA has created virtual tours of the canoe route and is looking to hold the event once again in person when local health authorities deem it safe to gather in large groups.



7.0 INTEGRITY GUIDELINES

The integrity of the cultural and recreational values of the Humber River are under threat from continued urbanization across the watershed, but particularly in the northern parts of the watershed where development continues to push out from the urban core. Urbanization has impacted stormwater management and has resulted in degradation of water quality. TRCA continues to inform municipal planning through the development of integrated watershed plans informed by ecological monitoring and community input.

This table outlines any changes to the integrity of the cultural and recreational values of the Humber River since 2009.

TABLE 7: INTEGRITY OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES SINCE 2009

CULTURAL INTEGRITY VALUE	STATUS	CHANGE IN INTEGRITY VALUE	THREAT OR STRESSOR (Current, Immediate, Long-Term)	ACTION TAKEN TO ADDRESS CHANGE
1. CULTURAL VALUES				
1.1 The nominated section is of sufficient size to include significant representations of all of the features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding cultural value	The Humber River watershed covers 911 km ² and the Main Branch of the river flows 126 km from its source to Lake Ontario. The river has been a traditional travelling route for Indigenous People, and later on European settlers, for thousands of years.	No change	The size of the river is not under threat.	
1.2 The visual character of the nominated section enables uninterrupted appreciation of at least one of the periods of the river's historical importance	The Humber River contains a rich natural heritage system. Since much of the lower Humber is confined to a valley system, where development is prohibited, much of the visual character of the river continues to be preserved.	Increased development in the northern sections of the river.	It is anticipated that as the population in the Humber watershed increases over time, development will requisitely increase, thus, resulting in a long-term threat to the river's visual character.	TRCA continues to advise municipalities through Integrated Watershed Management Planning.
1.3 The key artifacts and sites comprising the cultural values for which the river is nominated are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses	The Humber contains numerous significant cultural, historical, and archeological sites (summarized in sections 5.1 and 5.2).	Increased development particularly in the northern sections of the river.	Development may pose a risk to some heritage sites.	TRCA continues to advise developers and municipalities through our Archeological Assessment process.
1.4 The water quality of the nominated section does not detract from the visual character or the cultural experience provided by its cultural values	The water quality of the Humber River is inextricably linked to human activity, development and impacts of climate change. Industrialization and development have had a negative impact on water quality through increased storm run-off and contamination, especially in the more urbanized, developed, lower parts of the watershed.	Since the designation the water quality has improved.	Water quality is impacted by current storm water management practices and will continue to be impacted.	TRCA continues to advise municipalities through Integrated Watershed Management Planning.

CULTURAL INTEGRITY VALUE	STATUS	CHANGE IN INTEGRITY VALUE	THREAT OR STRESSOR (Current, Immediate, Long-Term)	ACTION TAKEN TO ADDRESS CHANGE
2. RECREATIONAL VALUES				
2.1 The river possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities, including those recreational opportunities for which it is nominated	There are ample areas for recreation along the length of the Humber. The quality of the water does not impede recreational activities such as fishing or canoeing, with the exception of swimming in the River and lakes. However, the water quality will impact the long-term quality of those activities.	Monitoring from the watershed report cards has revealed that by 2013 the surface water quality throughout the Humber River had declined slightly as a result of contamination from <i>E. coli</i> and phosphorus. In subsequent reporting in 2018, that contamination remained, but had not declined further.	Poor stormwater control and aging infrastructure will continue to threaten the water quality of the Humber, especially in the lower, more urbanized parts of the watershed.	TRCA continues to help municipalities adopt better stormwater management practices.
2.2 The river's visual appearance is capable of providing river travelers with a continuous natural experience, or a combined natural and cultural experience, without significant interruption by modern human intrusions	The Humber River continues to be a site for recreation. The visual character of the river is defined, in part, by the ravine system that it flows through. This ravine has prevented development from occurring along the shore of the river, preserving the visual appearance.	Increased development in the northern sections of the river.	It is anticipated that as the population in the Humber watershed increases over time, development will requisitely increase, thus, resulting in a long-term threat to the river's visual character.	TRCA continues to advise municipalities through Integrated Watershed Management Planning.
2.3 The river is capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of, or impact on, its natural and cultural values or its visual character	The river continues to provide ample recreational activities. By undertaking relevant studies, assessments and review of data informed decisions are made when planning new recreational opportunities within the watershed.	None		



8.0 REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

The Humber River Watershed Plan: Pathways to the Healthy Humber (2008) and the Humber River Watershed Plan Implementation Guide (2008) are the culmination of research in hydrology, ecology, human activity and more, and provide a framework for the continued protection and enhancement of the river.

Building upon the general framework of the Watershed Plan and Implementation Guide, the set of actions summarized in the table below were developed by TRCA staff and watershed stakeholders to set the future direction for the watershed. The Humber River Watershed Plan is scheduled to be updated and TRCA is undergoing the pre-planning to support that work.

TABLE 8: CREVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES AND THEIR CURRENT STATUS
Humber River Watershed Plan (2008)

Expand the terrestrial natural heritage system.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA is currently updating its Natural Heritage System mapping to include enhancement areas based on innovative scientific research that is required to support an ecosystem's long-term resiliency to urbanization and climate change vulnerabilities. TRCA works closely with its municipal partners to incorporate new scientific data into Official Plan updates that are currently underway.

TRCA continues to expand the terrestrial natural heritage system throughout the Humber watershed through habitat creation and restoration work. Between 2012 and 2019, TRCA acquired an additional 239 hectares within the watershed. This ongoing work will subsequently continue into the future watershed plans.

Urban Forestry Studies

York Region conducted forest studies with all local municipalities between 2009-2016. They will be updating and building on the baseline studies between 2021-2025.

Green Infrastructure Coalition

The Green Infrastructure Ontario (GIO) Coalition is an alliance of organizations that share a common vision for a healthy, green Ontario where the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of green infrastructure are fully realized. Co-founded by TRCA in 2009, and guided by a steering committee, they work to promote awareness and understanding of green infrastructure, and to support policy and activities that increase implementation of green infrastructure across Ontario.

Build sustainable communities.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA continues to advise municipalities of sustainable planning practices as part of its role in planning and development processes. This work is guided by TRCA's Living City Policies and informed by watershed studies and plans.

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) brings a neighbourhood based approach to sustainable urban renewal and climate action in older urban areas. TRCA has two active SNAP neighbourhood projects in the Humber watershed: in Caledon's West Bolton area and in Black Creek in Toronto. A third SNAP project in Toronto's Rexdale neighbourhood on the Humber River is being launched in 2020. The SNAP program works with municipalities and communities to build their capacity to help improve sustainability through a combination of retrofits, greenspace enhancement, urban agriculture and community building projects.

- The West Bolton SNAP Action Plan was completed in 2019. Implementation is underway, including: home retrofit program delivery, a green home makeover demonstration project, depave and park revitalization and a number of tree planting initiatives. The Black Creek SNAP Action Plan was completed in 2012. Eight years of implementation and community capacity building achievements have resulted in: multi-unit residential tower revitalization, extensive home retrofit program uptake among homeowners, a number of urban agriculture and green infrastructure initiatives and formation of community leaders and new social enterprise groups.
- The Rexdale SNAP action planning process is beginning in 2020 and will focus additional attention on community-based resilience planning.

Recognize the distinctive heritage of the Humber through an enhanced regional open space system.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 2019 TRCA released a new trail strategy. The Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region outlines TRCA's plan to work with partners to complete, expand, manage and celebrate the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network, a connected trail network in our regional greenspace system. It serves as a framework to protect potential trail alignments, and to guide the planning, development, and management of these trails. TRCA continues to develop and implement management and master plans for our conservation lands, which provide direction to enhance the regional open space system. Relevant plans are summarized in Table 6.

Promote greater collaboration between public and private sector partners.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA continues to work with our municipal partners on a range of projects from municipal planning to outdoor education. Additionally, TRCA works extensively with the private sector through Partners in Project Green. Increasingly, many of TRCA's programs bring public and private sector and non-profit partners together on shared goals.

Examples of some of the projects that TRCA collaborates with municipal, private sector and non-profit partners on includes:

- Development and implementation of Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans based on neighbourhood priorities
- Trail design and construction
- Citizen-based Restoration
- Flood outreach activities
- Natural channel and valley-land restoration
- Low Impact Development (LID) project design and implementation
- Stormwater management pond maintenance
- Community events, engagement and outreach

This work is ongoing.

Pursue a collaborative and integrated approach with stakeholder development.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA has developed a Community Engagement Strategy to align and guide TRCA's approaches to community engagement over the next 10 years (2017-2027) so that TRCA supports broader and deeper community mobilization and maximizes collective impact in pursuit of TRCA's vision for The Living City and Strategic Plan objectives.

TRCA has also developed a Process Guide for Watershed Planning that will direct how watershed plans are developed at TRCA, including engagement activities for the upcoming Humber River watershed Plan update. This updated Watershed Planning process aligns with TRCA's Community Engagement Strategy.

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) works at the neighbourhood scale to facilitate a collaborative approach to advance multi-objective, integrated projects in the public and private realms.

Raise awareness about the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River through community outreach, stewardship, education and media.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA's Education and Training Division continues to lead education and development with stakeholders across the watershed. Some programs of note include:

- Partners in Project Green, a team that work with the business community to improve sustainability
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) incorporates culture and heritage as an integral component of place-making as part of neighbourhood revitalization plans and programs.
- The Education and Training team has developed curriculum-based programming with school boards in the watershed
- Girls Can Too, a hands-on program that introduces girls to the skilled trades
- Bolton Camp, a community hub that provides a diversity of programs, including Indigenous engagement and education.

TRCA also promoted the cultural and recreational heritage of the Humber through the 20th Anniversary Celebrations (described in section 4.0).

Furthermore, TRCA is undergoing the development of a Watershed and Ecosystem Reporting Hub that will provide data regarding watershed and ecosystem health indicators through a dynamic online platform. This app is anticipated to launch in 2021 as the modern iteration of The Living City Report Card. Finally, TRCA continues to engage the public via social media on a variety of different platforms.

Implement the Humber River Watershed Fisheries Management Plan, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Completed in 2005 in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Humber Watershed Fisheries Management Plan continues to be used to inform decision making and projects throughout the watershed. (available here: <http://trca.on.ca/dotAsset/25855.pdf>)

Encourage the documentation and designation of heritage structures in the Humber River watershed on TRCA property and within municipalities.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

In 2011 TRCA released a Heritage Bridge Inventory Report.

Of the historic assets on TRCA property, the Wiley Bridge and the McVean Barn have both been designated as heritage structures. Preservation and repair of the bridge is anticipated to start in 2021. Repairs for the barn will begin once adequate funding can be secured.

Pursue floodplain management, stormwater management and water quality improvements throughout the Humber River watershed.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

TRCA continues to develop and implement watershed plans which help inform municipal planning policies and the work of TRCA. Pre-planning for an updated watershed plan for the Humber River began in 2020 and will continue in 2021, along with the commencement of preliminary scoping and characterization work. These watershed plans are used to inform the management of the watershed, and to inform municipal land use planning and infrastructure decisions.

The mapping of TRCA regulated areas has been updated to reflect new technical information, such as new flood plain mapping, provincial wetland data, and information based on field verification. These updates more accurately capture areas regulated by TRCA. The mapping update may capture new areas meeting the description in Ontario Regulation 166/06.

TRCA works with its municipal partners on the maintenance and restoration of stormwater ponds. Public engagement programs such as SNAP also help to improve water quality and storm water management at a local scale.

The Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program (STEP) is a multi-agency initiative developed to support broader implementation of sustainable technologies and practices within a Canadian context.

Seek new partnership opportunities in near urban agriculture and sustainable neighbourhood activities.

DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT

In the past, TRCA has worked with food and farming organizations and individual farmers to develop four urban farms within the Humber watershed: Albion Hills Community Farm, Black Creek Community Farm, The Living City Farm and the McVean Farm.

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) has worked with local partners to advance urban agriculture strategies in the Black Creek neighbourhood, including installation of numerous allotment gardens, urban orchards, balcony gardens, surplus harvest donation and capacity building for local social enterprise businesses who deliver fruit tree care and garden services.

TRCA has also provided secretariat support for the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance. With members encompassing regions and municipalities across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Alliance works collaboratively on complex food and farming-related projects.



9.0 BENEFITS OF DESIGNATION

The designation of the Humber River as a heritage river has provided many benefits—both to the river’s natural heritage and for the surrounding communities. There has been increased access to funding through granting bodies such as Canada150, and increased opportunities to partner with different agencies who are also tied to the river. The designation has provided opportunities for relationship building with Indigenous communities through projects and events of mutual interest. Above all, the designation has increased the profile of the river and has galvanized community support for the river. The following table summarizes the many benefits that have arisen as a result of the designation.

TABLE 9: BENEFITS OF CHRS DESIGNATION.

TYPE OF BENEFIT	DESCRIPTION
Community Engagement and Collaboration Increased dialogue with community and other partners and stakeholders Increased participation in river management discussions Increased involvement in river activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRCA continues to partner with agencies and community groups to deliver programs that highlight the cultural and recreational significance of the Humber River.• The Canada 150 celebrations included Humber by Canoe, and a series of walks highlighting the historically significant sites along the lower Humber.
Education Development of educational programs related to the health of the river or watershed, or use of the river Development of communications products such as signage, exhibits, photo contests, social media and web to communicate the designation and its benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humber by Canoe launched a social media campaign, and the event itself was covered by traditional media outlets—including Fairchild TV (a Chinese media network).• A photo book was launched in 2009, commemorating the Humber River’s 10th anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River.• The Humber River has a dedicated webpage within TRCA’s website which profiles current initiatives.• The 20th Anniversary Celebration Plan included development of communication products i.e., brochures, posters, in addition to website updates to promote the CHRS anniversary, including the development of a mobile museum. TRCA supported the Humber Heritage Committee with an exhibit that they organized in celebration of the anniversary.

TYPE OF BENEFIT	DESCRIPTION
Environmental Benefits Improved water quality Improved habitat Increases in fish/animal/plant populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public recognition of the ecological importance of the Humber River. Development of a management plan to guide policies.
Cultural Benefits Improved appreciation of river, watershed, Indigenous or other history of use Increased identification and protection of culturally significant sites and landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public recognition of the cultural significance of the river. Improved awareness of the Indigenous history and ongoing significance of the river. Improved awareness of the European history of the river. More opportunities to work with Indigenous communities. Increased collaboration on heritage projects with municipal partners.
Recreational Benefits Increased or decreased use of river Changes in use of river Improved access to river Improved knowledge Increased understanding of river wildlife, vegetation, history or traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved knowledge of recreational opportunities provided by the river. Development of signature events such as Humber by Canoe which promote the cultural and recreational values of the Humber River. Humber by Canoe is an event that engages Indigenous communities each year in Indigenous ceremonies and knowledge sharing in celebration of the Humber River.
Monetary Benefits Increased access to funding Increased revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Canada 150 funding through CHRS and the City of Toronto provided the impetus for the now annual Humber by Canoe event.
Stewardship Increased involvement in stewardship activities Increased number of stewardship activities and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRCA continues to facilitate stewardship across the watershed with local stakeholders (residents, students, municipalities, and businesses).



10.0 CHRS COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE INVENTORY REPORT

The following section summarizes the location and current condition of each of the CHRS Commemorative plaques.



King Township Museum, King Township

[43.92389 -79.55056]

The King Township Museum Carrying Place Trail plaque is centered on a large stone along a foot path located south-east of the King Township Museum building. There is some minor chipping of the paint on the lettering but the sign is still legible and in great condition. There are no signs of debris, garbage, damage or vandalism on or near the plaque property.



Dundas Street and Old Dundas Street, Toronto

[43.66167 -79.50694]

The Dundas Street Carrying Place Trail plaque is positioned on a large vertically upright stone facing Old Dundas Street. The plaque is located along the sidewalk on the south-east corner of the intersection between Dundas Street West and Old Dundas Street. The plaque has multi-coloured graffiti in the upper right corner with additional black graffiti on the stone above the plaque. Overall the plaque is in good condition with no chipping or letters missing. The area surrounding the plaque is clean and well-kept, with no overgrown plants or grass that block its presentation. The plaque is in clear sight with no tree canopy shading it.



Weston Road and Little Avenue, Toronto

[43.70083 -79.51944]

The Carrying Place Trail plaque at the south-west corner of Weston Road and Little Avenue is positioned on a large stone which lies flat on the ground surface. The plaque is in excellent condition with only minor scuff marks and some of the blue paint chipping off. A few of the letters at the bottom of the sign have paint that is slowly being removed but is still legible. Overall, there are no signs of vandalism and/or graffiti on the plaque or the stone which it rests on. There is some construction nearby with tubes and pipes being rested near the stone but this has not caused any damage.



Weston Road and 16th Side Road, King Township

[43.95444 -79.58611]

The Carrying Place Trail plaque at the north-east corner of Weston Road and 16th Side Road is centered on a large stone which lies flat on the ground surface, underneath a tree. The plaque is in good condition, and the surrounding area of the plaque is clean and without any garbage laying around. Tree material and debris can fall directly onto the plaque, but this can easily be cleaned and does not pose long-term risk to the plaque. Some of the blue paint is beginning to chip off the plaque. The letters are all legible and overall the plaque is in good condition.



Holancin Road and Highway #9, King Township

[44.02639 -79.60833]

The two Carrying Place Trail plaques are centered on two large stones that are south facing along the Canal Bank Road, a dirt road parallel to Highway 9. The plaques are in clear sight and easy to locate. The green Carrying Place plaque has some minor chips to the lettering and stone surrounding the plaque but is still legible and well kept. The blue plaque is in excellent condition. Overall both plaques are in very good condition.



Boyd Conservation Area, Vaughan (at entrance to Humber Trail)

[43.81361 -79.58333]

The Huron-Wendat plaque at Boyd Conservation is located near the beginning of the William Granger Greenway Trail. It lies on a rock that is positioned on the ground surface. The plaque is in great condition with little to no scratches. The surrounding area where the plaque lies is well managed. There is little over hanging vegetation that would interfere with the plaque. The plaque has no signs of vandalism or graffiti.



Humber Gateway Parkette, King Road and Yonge Street, Richmond Hill

[43.94472 -79.45444]

The Huron-Wendat plaque at Humber Gateway Parkette is next to a small pavilion with information on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The plaque is centered on a rock which lies on the ground. There are scratches and chips in the paint located in the upper left corner of the plaque. The letters at the bottom of the plaque have had the paint wear off but are still mostly legible. There is no graffiti on the plaque.



Sheldon Look-out, mouth of the Humber, western bank, Toronto

[43°37'52"N 79°28'18"W]

The Mississauga plaque at the Sheldon Look-out is centered on a stone which is positioned on the ground along the Martin Goodman Trail. The plaque is surrounded by tree canopy, which as a result deposits leaves and other debris on the flat-facing plaque. Overall, the plaque is in good condition, there is no signs of vandalism and/or graffiti.



Palgrave Mill Pond Pavilion, Town of Caledon

[43°57'11"N 79°50'26"W]

The Mississauga plaque at the Palgrave Mill Pond Pavilion is centered on a stone which lies flat on the ground. There are small shrub plants in the upper portion of the plaque which slightly hang over the monument. The bronze plaque is in good condition, however, there are minor scratches found above the plaque on the blue paint, and some small scratches around the corners. The plaque is surrounded by a few large rocks along the walkway that distinguishes its location in the Palgrave Mill Pond area.



11.0 CONCLUSION

The Humber River is the most urbanized river within the CHRS system. As such, the Humber is not only presented with unique challenges, but also opportunities. These challenges and opportunities set the framework for TRCA's continual advocacy of a healthy and celebrated watershed. TRCA continues to work with its partners, watershed residents and stakeholders to champion river stewardship and sustainability initiatives within the watershed guided by watershed management strategies prescribed in Pathways to a Healthy Humber River. We have seen from the CHRS 20th anniversary celebrations that the Humber's designation has provided an opportunity to galvanize the community towards an increased connection to the river and community driven action that supports the protection, restoration and celebration of the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Humber River.

Through the CHRS Program, TRCA has been able to access resources to aid in the promotion of the Humber River's natural, cultural and recreational values. TRCA has worked alongside CHRS and other river managers across the nation to build capacity and leverage resources to initiate new and innovative projects and initiatives in support of the CHRS designation. In addition, there have been numerous other benefits associated with the Humber River's CHRS designation, as summarized in Table 9.

The next 10 years will mark a new era for river management at TRCA as a new watershed management plan is developed for the Humber River based on the latest science and watershed data – setting the direction for the next 10 years. Although in 1999 the Humber River did not meet the CHRS criteria to be designated on the merits of natural heritage, TRCA would be interested in exploring the possibility of recognizing the Humber River for its outstanding natural heritage values. The interface between natural heritage and cultural and recreational heritage within the watershed is a strong rationale for this consideration, in addition to the decades of restoration work and investment that has taken place within the watershed.

This report summarizes the various initiatives and watershed management actions that have been implemented in relation to the River's cultural and recreational values and how we have responded to threats and stressors within the watershed. The findings of the report also reinforce TRCA's role as a river manager to lead the next 10 years of watershed management activities for the Humber River to protect, restore and celebrate the legacy of the Humber River. As such, TRCA staff recommend that the Humber River's designation remain in place.

APPENDIX 1: NATURAL HERITAGE CRITERIA

Natural Heritage Criteria, as stated in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Operating Procedures and Guidelines 2017:

1. Is an outstanding example of river environments as they are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth's evolutionary history as represented in Canada; or
2. Contains outstanding representations of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological and biological processes; or contains along its course unique, rare or outstanding examples of biotic and abiotic natural phenomena, formations or features; or
3. Contains along its course habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals, including outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance.