

# Burl's Creek Restoration Plan



*A plan to restore, protect and maintain  
the coldwater fishery of Burl's Creek*



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## Summary

Burl's Creek is a small coldwater creek located on the north shore of Lake Simcoe in the Township of Oro-Medonte. This report was initiated after several landowners along Burl's Creek expressed concern about the declining health of the creek.

Improving and maintaining the health of Burl's Creek will provide a direct and significant benefit to improving and maintaining the declining health of Lake Simcoe. The purpose of this report is **to outline the actions required to restore, protect and maintain the coldwater fishery in Burl's Creek and to foster a sense of stewardship among the landowners and the community through education and involvement in the restoration and protection of the creek.**

Electro fishing and benthic invertebrate studies were completed at four sites. These studies of the Burl's Creek system indicate several problems which need to be addressed to increase coldwater habitat and create a more suitable environment for brook trout. The entire creek, with the exception of insufficient flows, would appear to have the ability to support coldwater habitat, however, there are several limiting factors that need to be addressed including agricultural activities and on-line fish barriers.

The entire length of the creek was inspected and problems documented. A number of general actions are recommended that will have the greatest immediate benefit to the creek:

1. Highest Priority
  - a. Restrict livestock access.
  - b. Create buffer strips planted with trees and shrubs.
  - c. Remove fish barriers.
2. High Priority
  - a. Mitigate severe erosion sites.
  - b. Monitor and manage blockages.
  - c. Create in-stream habitat including spawning beds.
3. Priority by Opportunity
  - a. Remove concrete structures and replace with bioengineering techniques.
  - b. Control invasive species.
  - c. Mitigate less severe erosion sites.

Specific actions on individual sites are set out in the report.

A preliminary budget estimated the cost to implement the recommendations to be \$111,400.00. Various funding sources, such as Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program, Trillium Foundation and Community Fisheries Improvement Program, will be sought to cover the cost of these projects. LSRCA will work with individual landowners, the Township, other agencies and community groups to coordinate the implementation of restoration recommendations.