

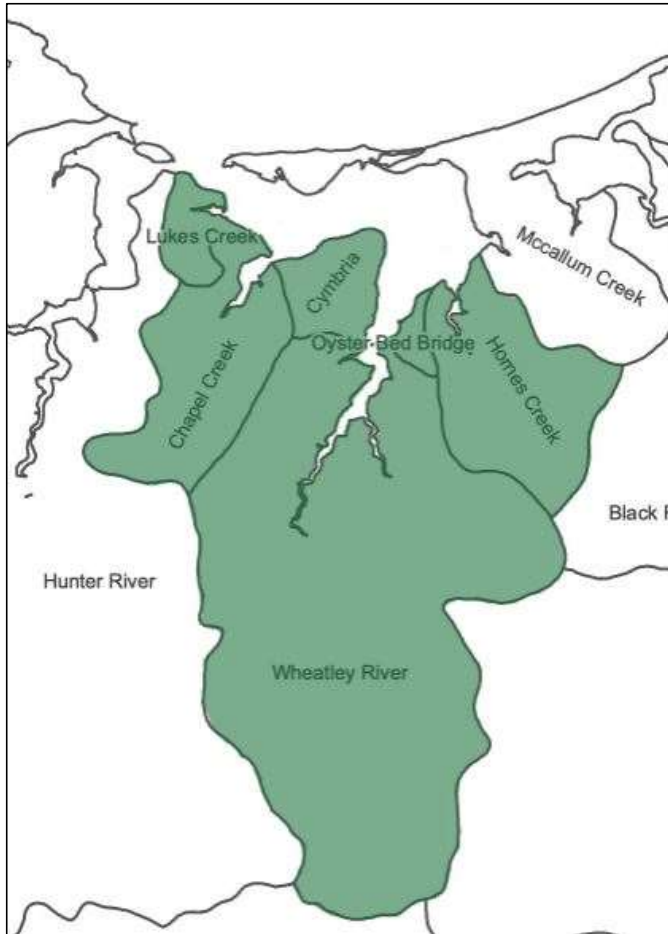
2023-2024 Summary

WATERSHED MANAGER'S REPORT



WRIG 2023-2024 Goals

1. **Improve** brook trout habitat with guidance from WRIG's sediment management plan
2. **Improve** surface water quality
3. **Increase** aquatic connectivity for migrating fish
4. **Improve** upland wildlife habitat
5. **Provide** opportunities for environmental education
6. **Encourage** public engagement and connection to the watershed



Year In Review

2023 Summer Field Crew

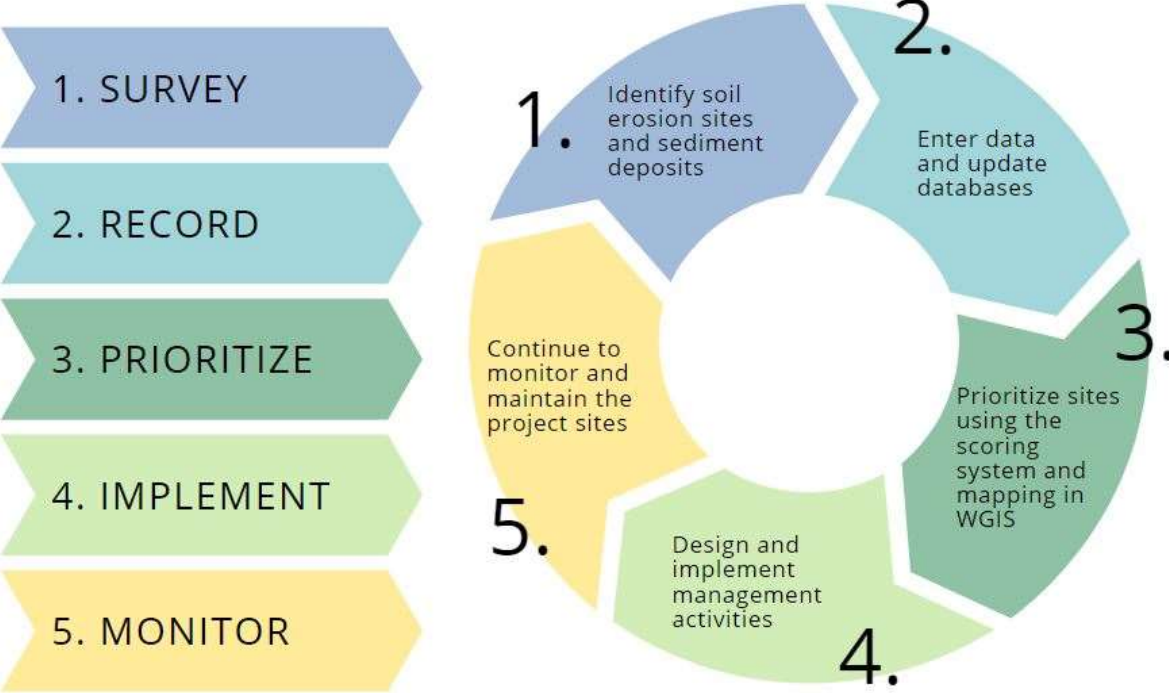
- Robyn Caseley – Project Lead
- Lucas Ball – Field Supervisor
- Payton Halliday – Clean Leadership Intern
- Patrick Lauwerijssen – PS Watershed Tech
- Katie Lowe – PS Watershed Tech
- Amber-Lynn Gallant – HS Watershed Tech



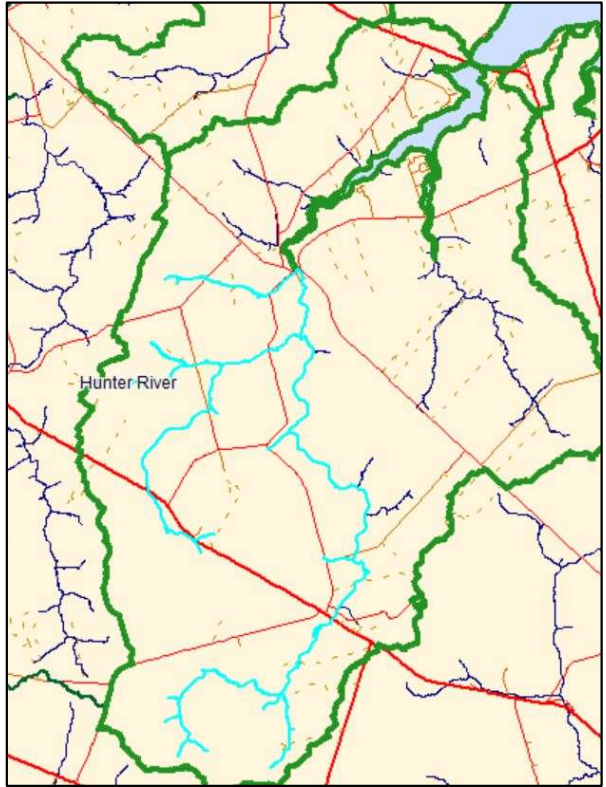
Training

- Watershed training workshop
- Electrofishing refresher course
- Chainsaw refresher course
- First aid training
- Ag. 101 course
- ArcGIS course

Improve Brook Trout Habitat with Guidance from WRIG's Sediment Management Plan



28.3 kms of stream surveyed in 2021



Improve Brook Trout Habitat

- 1. Mitigate sediment inputs**
 - 9 brush mats along 50 m of riverbank
- 2. Stabilize the riverbanks**
 - 600 dogwood stakes in tree planting areas
- 3. Improve canopy cover**
 - 530 native trees/shrubs in buffer zones
- 4. Remove in-stream blockages**
 - stream enhancement along ~4 kms



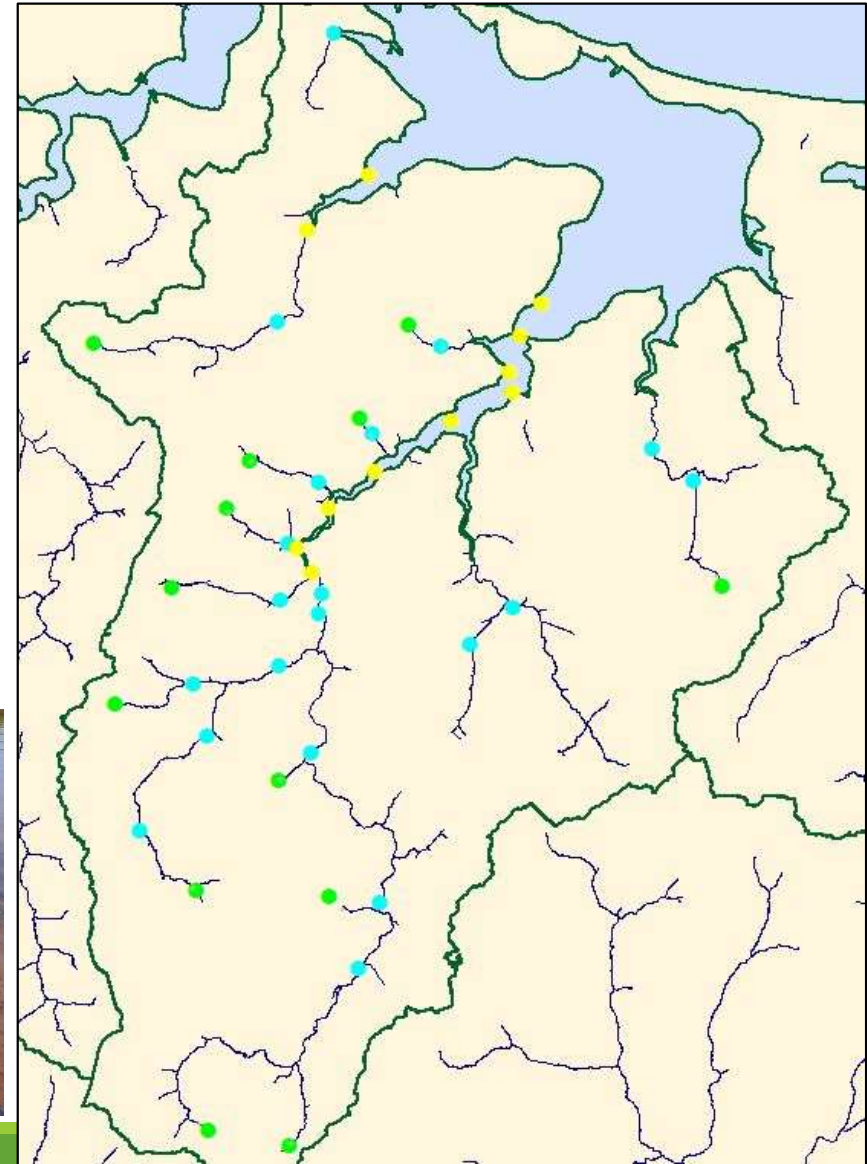
Improve Surface Water Quality

- Water quality monitoring was conducted at **20 sites** on a weekly basis from May to August
- Qualitative and quantitative surveys for signs of anoxia were conducted at **11 sites** in the OBB and Chapel Creek estuaries every 2 weeks
- Headwater surveys were conducted at **15 locations** in spring and fall

Remote Loggers

1 x dissolved oxygen

3 x temperature



Increase Aquatic Connectivity

- Fish passage was improved by:
 - Removing blockages along **4 km** of the river system
 - Addressing passage issues at **5** high-priority crossings



Improve Upland Wildlife Habitat

>100 trees were given out to the community on **Canada Day** to be planted on upland properties

~250 trees were given out by donation at our **Spring into Summer** event



Nesting boxes were maintained & monitored:

- 25 Tree Swallow boxes
- 13 American Kestrel boxes
- 9 Wood Duck boxes

10 new tree swallow boxes built – banding initiative



Trail cameras installed in 2 locations where local residents have reported potential otter sightings!



Environmental Education & Public Engagement

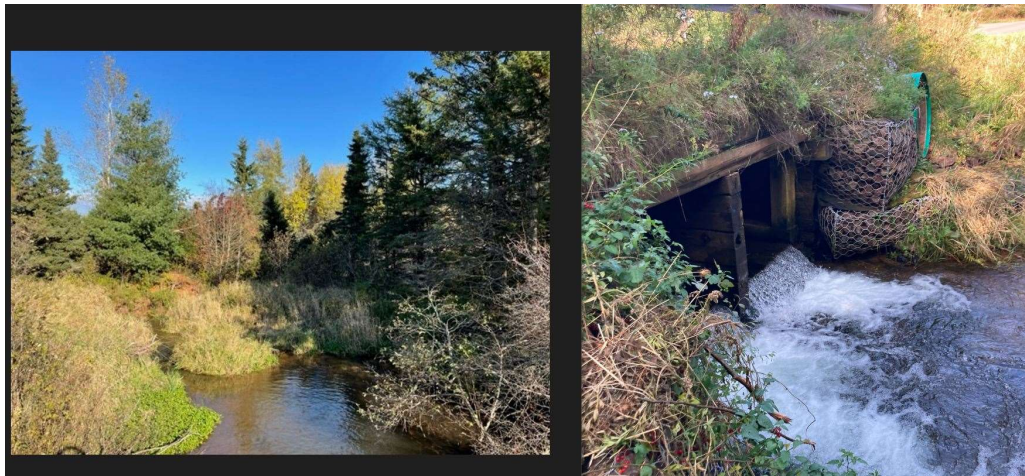


Shoreline Clean Up Initiative



2024 Summer Field Season

- Headwater surveys & Water quality monitoring
- Continue to implement the sediment management plan
- Improve fish passage at priority stream crossings
- River floodplain reconnection project
- Maintain & continue to improve Rackham's Pond area
- Community education and engagement events



THANK YOU!

- WRIG corporate sponsors
- WRIG members & volunteers
- WRIG board of directors

