



Junction Creek Stewardship Committee Inc.  
30 Ste. Anne Rd, #B4  
Sudbury Ontario, P3C 5E1  
T: (705) 525-8736 F: (705) 674-7939  
E: [info@junctioncreek.com](mailto:info@junctioncreek.com)  
W: [junctioncreek.com](http://junctioncreek.com)  
Charitable #: 801685611RR0001

Comité d'intendance du ruisseau Junction  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New project in Sudbury to mitigate stormwater pollutants in local waterways**

The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee (JCSC) is beginning a multi-year community action-based project titled “Taking action to mitigate stormwater pollutants in urban waterways”, undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada. This project will raise awareness and reduce stormwater contaminants from entering streams and lakes in the Junction Creek watershed.

Rainwater and snow melt which flows from streets, parking lots and other surfaces is collectively known as stormwater. Impermeable surfaces in urban environments such as asphalt and concrete do not allow stormwater to be absorbed and naturally filtered by soil, and instead flows across the surface collecting pollutants like oil, pesticides, garbage, road salt and sand before entering storm drains. Many stormwater systems in Greater Sudbury discharge directly into local waterways without any treatment. Pollutants and suspended solids in waterbodies are becoming a growing concern, as they negatively impact water quality and habitat for aquatic life.

The project involves installing catch basin insert filters in parking lots of local schools, libraries, and publicly accessible properties to capture and remove stormwater contaminants, and delivering stewardship programs and outreach to engage youth, residents, businesses and stakeholders in local stormwater quality issues, mitigation strategies and green infrastructure solutions. As a result, the project will help improve water quality in local streams, lakes and rivers in the Junction Creek watershed.

This fall, 8 catch basin insert filters were installed in parking lots in the South End of Sudbury as a trial run. In only 3-weeks, these filters successfully captured a total of 31 kgs of garbage, sand and debris. Cigarette butts and plastic were the most common items of litter captured in the catch basin filters. The project activities will be expanded in 2023 to empower the community in long-term water stewardship while reducing harmful substances from entering local streams and lakes. Community partners are invited to get involved and help make a positive change in our watershed.

#### Contact:

Miranda Virtanen, [info@junctioncreek.com](mailto:info@junctioncreek.com), (705) 988-8736