



December 2023 Edition

Hello, Bonjour, Aaniin creek friends!

As we embrace this time of reflection, gratitude, and storytelling during the Winter Solstice and Holiday Season, we are thrilled to share updates about the amazing community programs that occurred this past year and thank all the outstanding supporters that made it possible. We hope our stories from Junction Creek warm your hearts during the cold months ahead and inspire the continuation of collective efforts to revive our central waterway in N'Swakamok/Sudbury. The *Junction Creek Newsletter December 2023 Edition* can be easily downloaded for printing [here](#).

In this edition, you will be able to read about:

- **Featured Creek Stewards**
- **Reports**
- **Programs 2023**
- **Become a Creek Steward**
- **Support for Junction Creek**

Thank you for your support and for sharing our vision for "a healthy and revitalized Junction Creek ecosystem". From everyone at the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, we wish you a Happy Holidays and joyful New Year!

With gratitude,

The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee



The Urban Waterway of Greater Sudbury

Nihi Nkwajiwong (Junction Creek) is within the traditional lands of the Atikamekwang Anishnawbek and Wamapptaw First Nation.

A VALUED NATURAL ASSET

- Junction Creek Waterway Park trail & green spaces
- Recreation & connecting with nature
- Flood management & drinking water
- Historical significance
- Habitat & wildlife
- Species at risk

10 Wards

18 species of fish

52 km

CHALLENGES

- Historic logging & mining
- Urban pressures
- Degraded riparian buffer and natural infrastructure
- Loss of habitat & wildlife

Working together to RESTORE JUNCTION CREEK

Urban into the Venetian River: How we moved to the Great Lakes

Green-friendly practices

Sharing the story and inspiring change

Reopening and maintaining the channels

Cleaning up the creek

Improving and monitoring water quality

Reintroducing Brook Trout

[Click HERE to donate towards Junction Creek](#)

Canadian Registered Charity #801685611RR0001

FEATURED CREEK STEWARDS

EARTHDANCERS DONATES \$5,170 TO JUNCTION CREEK



The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee is honoured to be chosen as one of the organizations that Earthdancers supports through their annual benefit performance. Their talent, community volunteer efforts, and generosity are an inspiration and we look forward to their performance every spring! Earthdancers have supported the restoration of Junction Creek since 2007, contributing more than \$47,000 over the years. Their support has helped to advance our educational and restoration programs to revive and heal the Junction Creek watershed. Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch!

Earthdancers is a non-profit contemporary dance organization run by students. For over 20 years, earthdancers has promoted environmental awareness and have raised funds to give to environmental causes through benefit performances held yearly.

For more information about earthdancers, visit <https://www.earthdancers.ca/>, or follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sudburyearthdancers/>.

CO-OP STUDENTS MAKE AN IMPACT WHILE GAINING NEW SKILLS

Hello everyone! My name is Olivia P, and I've completed my high school co-op placement with the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee in 2023. I had a lot of fun over the course of my stay and I'm sad to leave, but I learned a lot of valuable skills in my time with the JCSC.


I started working with the Committee in mid-February, and stayed until mid-June. In that time I've acted as a general intern, helping out with any jobs that needed to be done. I've done field work, office work, and everything in between. Taking measurements of stormwater catch basins, looking for turtles using radio telemetry, assisting with water sampling, and helping out at public events are all things I've done outside the office. To contrast that, I've also spent my fair share of time tallying litter, uploading and organizing field photographs, entering data into Excel spreadsheets, and even putting together new documents for programs. I've been able to work from home when needed, which has been a blessing for those days I couldn't get transportation into town.

Overall, my job as a co-op student was an incredible opportunity to get my bearings in the world of environmentalism. The team was always handing me chances to learn new skills. Some skills that will help anyone looking for the same opportunity are computer literacy, basic knowledge of local ecosystems, and some good listening skills. I seriously can't recommend this enough to anyone looking to complete their cooperative ed program.

With all that said, I want to give a huge thanks to everyone on the JCSC team who made my experience so valuable. I wish everyone a wonderful summer, and I can't wait to see you all again at volunteer events.

Highschool Co-op Placement
February to June 2023

Junction Creek Stewardship Committee



Olivia P.

The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee offers hands-on learning opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and gain new skills through volunteer placement positions. In 2023, we hosted 4 placement students from Cambrian College's *Environmental Technician* and *Environmental Monitoring & Impact Assessment* programs (Evan Voutier, Deepti Varma, Sindhu Gautum, and Attheena Ann Paul) and also provided a Capstone Project opportunity for 2 students in the *Business Analytics* program (Saima Dewan and Joy Tolentino).

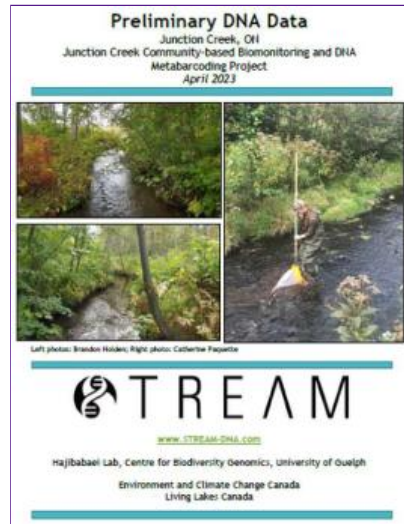


We are so grateful for the students' hard work and contributions to our programs! It is always a pleasure watching students and staff grow with JCSC. Providing the mentorship and guidance for their development requires dedicated full-time staff. This is one reason, among many, why JCSC is striving to secure more funding to support much needed full-time staff members that are not eligible for wage subsidy grant funding.

REPORTS



Click [here](#) to read the report.



Click [here](#) to read report.

JUNCTION CREEK FESTIVAL & TROUT RELEASE 2023

This year's Junction Creek Festival & Trout Release was another great success! We had community groups join the celebration and offer informative booths and fun activities - thank you **Better Beginnings Better Futures**, **Science North**, **Our Children Our Future**, **Sudbury Shared Harvest**, and **Ward 8 CAN**. Other event activities included **Brook Trout Release**, **Bug Search**, **Water Quality Demonstration**, **Junction Creek Fishing Game**, **Tree Planting**, **BBQ**, and **Papaya Pops**.



A BIG thank you to our event supporters **Real Canadian Superstore**, **Food Basics**, **Papaya Pops**, and **VETAC** for their in-kind contributions to the event. Also, thank you to photographers Cassidy McAuliffe and Kallie Berens, and the **WARD 8 CAN**, **Twin Forks Neighbourhood Association** and **Ministry of Northern Development Mines Natural Resources and Forestry** for their collaborations, as well as ALL our amazing volunteers who helped make the event run so smoothly! Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch!!

In the news:

[Sudbury's Junction Creek Festival returns](#)

[Une journée familiale pour célébrer la restauration du ruisseau Junction.](#)

FEATURED JUNCTION CREEK SPONSORS





Thank you to everyone who entered the “Name a Turtle” raffle during the festival!

The winning names are BEN (by anonymous) and HARRY (by Sara Benoit).

Ben's name was given to a Blanding's Turtle that was caught on May 23rd 2023 (World Turtle Day) during our turtle research study, swimming in a wetland. At this time, Ben was estimated to be at least 14 years of age, weighing 1,087 g and measuring 210 cm in length. Ben was calm and relaxed during the encounter and a bit shy.

Harry's name was given to a Blanding's Turtle caught in a muddy pool of water on May 31st 2023 during our turtle research study. Harry is an adult male, measuring 240 cm in length and weighing 1,836 g. He was covered in mud and very shy, only poking his head out of his shell a couple times for a few photos.

RETURN OF FISH TO NOLIN CREEK!

Thesis by Laurentian University student Adam O'Meara

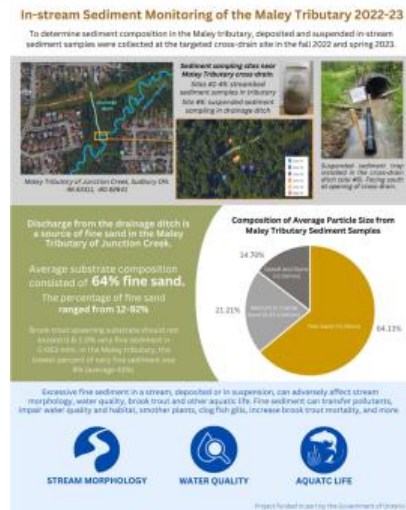
["Assessment of the re-establishment of fish populations in the urban-industrial stream “Nolin Creek”, because of improving water quality in Sudbury, Ontario."](#)

MARSH MONITORING

The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee conducts acoustic frog surveys as part of the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring program. Here is Birds Canada's 2022 report: [Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Report 2022](#)



MONITORING FINE SEDIMENT TO INFORM STREAM RESTORATION



Results are in from JCSC's sediment monitoring work completed in 2022-23 as part of our "Urban Stream Restoration for the Long-term Recovery of Junction Creek" grant project funded by the Government of Ontario.

Click on the images to download the results.

Road sand is used as a traction aid on city roads during the winter. Most of the road sand is recovered through street sweeping and catch basin maintenance cleaning, however, there is still a lot of sand that makes its way into Junction Creek, which can negatively impact the stream morphology, water quality, and fish habitat such as Brook Trout spawning beds.

What's next? Funding is needed to continue the work, prioritize sites to mitigate sedimentation, and restore spawning habitat.

A SUCCESS STORY: REPAIRING EROSION USING BIOENGINEERING



Part of the "Urban Stream Restoration for the Long-term Recovery of Junction Creek" project funded in part by the Government of Ontario.

PURPOSE:

Stabilize a section of streambank along the Maley Tributary to reduce erosion and protect the integrity of the trail system, aquatic habitat, and stream health.



Eroding streambank, Maley Tributary 2022



TECHNIQUES USED: Small-scale Bioengineering

- Terrafix coir coconut fibre mats and logs were installed by hand by Junction Creek Stewardship Committee staff in September 2022. The mats and logs were secured in-place with metal staples, wooden stakes, and native plants. Supplementary planting was completed in the spring 2023.
- The Terrafix coir coconut fibre is a natural product and environmentally safe.
- Vegetation can grow through the coir coconut fibre, allowing additional stabilization that will strengthen over time and require little to no maintenance.



21 Red Osier Dogwood and Speckled Alder
30 live Shining Willow stakes planted
plus various native wildflower and grass seeds dispersed



RESULTS: Approximately 10 m of shoreline (50 m² area) was successfully stabilized



A special thank you to JCSC staff, local experts, volunteers, project supporters, and funders that assisted with this project, including but not limited to Lloyd Rowe, Dr. Peter Beckett, Dr. Gerard Courtin, Conservation Sudbury, City of Greater Sudbury, RBC volunteers, Southview Greenhouse Growers, OCP Constructions Supplies Inc., and the Government of Ontario.
Thank you, Miigwetch, Merci!

STORMWATER PROJECT 2022-24

We are nearing the end of "Taking action to mitigate stormwater pollutants in urban waterways" project, a multi-year community action-based project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada. Our project raises awareness and reduces stormwater contaminants from entering streams and lakes in the Junction Creek watershed.



Did you know that the majority of stormwater is NOT treated before entering local waterways?!



Stormwater picks up pollutants that are on hard surfaces, such as roads, driveways, and parking lots, and carries them into local waterways via storm drains.

Interested in learning ways to reduce stormwater pollutants? Check out our stormwater project pamphlet [here](#).

Like and follow us on social media, @JunctionCreek, to see our educational posts about stormwater as well as upcoming events.

For more information about the project, visit the Junction Creek website [here](#) and check out our YouTube channel for a recording of our latest presentation, "Storm Drain to Stream", <https://youtu.be/2WzhHIAOJto>.

JUNCTION CREEK PROGRAMS 2023



Replanting the shorelines of Junction Creek is vital for the health of the stream and community. By planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers we help to strengthen the vegetative buffer, reduce erosion, increase biodiversity, grow traditional medicine for the community, and build resiliency to climate change.



JCSC works with the community to facilitate planting activities throughout the watershed. We rely on a paid project coordinator, volunteers, community supporters, and project grants to complete the work. Learn more about Junction Creek planting initiatives and projects [here](#).



A BIG thank you to project grants, funders, volunteers, and supporters:

Better Beginnings Better Futures - Indigenous Led Program

Beautiful Field Farms and Fruit Trees

Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury

Flour Mill Community Action Network

Junction Creek Members

Klohn Crippen Berger

Natural Edge Program with Watersheds Canada

"[Pollinate Sudbury](#)" project led by the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, TD Friends of Environment Foundation Grant.

Royal Bank of Canada

Southview Greenhouse Growers

"[Strong Neighbours Climate Change to Resiliency](#)" project, City of Greater Sudbury.

Toronto Dominion Bank

TD Tree Days, TD Friends of Environment Foundation Grant

"Urban Stream Restoration for the Long-term Recovery of Junction Creek" project,

Government of Ontario.

VETAC, City of Greater Sudbury

WILD Outside Sudbury youth

and various members of the public and anonymous donations!





Managing invasive plants is an important aspect for the restoration of Junction Creek. Based on staff capacity and grant opportunities, we deliver various invasive species programs along Junction Creek to offer the tools and knowledge to empower stewardship and prevent the spread of invasive plants. This summer, we hosted guided walks and invasive plant pulls along Junction creek with youth and community members. We also distributed free outreach material to the public at the Sudbury Farmers Market and community events. This project was made possible with support from the [Invasive Species Centre's Invasive Species Action Fund](#) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.



This fall, we delivered Trout Unlimited Canada's Yellow Fish Road program in N'Swakamok/ Sudbury. Youth and community volunteers helped to distribute outreach material to encourage creek friendly practices and painted yellow fish along storm drains in the Garson, New Sudbury, South End, and Downtown neighbourhoods. The yellow fish will serve as a reminder about stormwater pollutants and our connection to local waterways.



Thank you to **Barrydowne Paint** for kindly donating the paint for our Yellow Fish Road activities and to the **City of Greater Sudbury** for facilitating behind the scenes! A special thank you to volunteers including **École St-Augustin**, **Sudbury Rotary Club**, **WILD Outside Sudbury** youth. These activities were part of our "Taking action to mitigate stormwater pollutants in urban waterways" project funded by the Government of Canada.



In addition to a spring and fall public cleanup event, we coordinated volunteer group clean-ups throughout Junction Creek between Garson and Kelly Lake as part of the City of Greater Sudbury's Adopt-a-Spot program.



A BIG thank you to our clean-up volunteers!

BESTECH

Deswik

École Secondaire Catholique Champlain

Fisher Wavy & Pioneer Construction

Junction Creek Members

MNRF Sudbury Youth Rangers

WILD Outside Sudbury Youth

and numerous volunteers from the general public that continue to pick up litter and take care of Junction Creek!





We are grateful for the support from the following 2023 youth program sponsors and supporters.



Ramakko's Source for Adventure

Testmark Laboratories

Barrydowne Paint

The Junction Creek Stewardship Committee has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to integrate our **Empowering Youth for Junction Creek program** with CWF's **Wild Outside program** in N'Swakamok/ Sudbury! This FREE program is specifically designed to inspire youth aged 15 to 18 to explore and discover the natural world around them. Participants get the opportunity to get outside and develop a profound connection with nature while they fulfill conservation and community service projects, partake in fun outdoor recreational activities, and meet other young people in their area!

Monthly sessions will be continuing YEAR-ROUND! To learn more and REGISTER visit <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/wild-outside/> and hit the big red button "Join Today"! It's a great way to **gain community service hours**, plus participants receive **free swag and resources** while making a positive change in the community! Email WOSudbury@cwf-fcf.org for more information.



WILD Outside is now offered in Sudbury!

BECOME A CREEK STEWARD

Junction Creek Youth Council 2023-24

A recruitment poster for the Junction Creek Youth Council. It features a blue background with white and green text. The title 'JUNCTION CREEK YOUTH COUNCIL' is prominent. Below it, a question asks if the reader is a high school student in Sudbury/N'Swakamok who cares about the environment. The poster lists benefits: 'LEARN', 'ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE', and 'SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT'. It also includes a QR code labeled 'APPLY NOW' and a photo of the youth council members. At the bottom, it says 'Join us for monthly sessions. Last Thursday of every month.' and provides contact information: 'youthcouncil@junctioncreek.com' and '@junctioncreekyouthcouncil'.

It is the second year for the Junction Creek Youth Council! This youth-led council is composed of up to 10 high school students from N'Swakamok/ Greater Sudbury who are committed to the environmental health of Junction Creek and the greater community. Championing projects and volunteerism, the youth council educates, encourages, and mobilizes Sudbury's youth to restore and maintain the local environment for future generations.

Interested in getting involved? Email youthcouncil@junctioncreek.com.

More information can be found on the Junction Creek [website](#).



Junction Creek reports. Plus there is no fee to join!

To **become a member**, simply fill out a membership form on our website <https://junctioncreek.com/membership/>.

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!

We are truly grateful for the continued support from the community! Your kindness, generosity, and commitment have been instrumental in our shared journey to recover and heal the water, land, and communities of Junction Creek! Life is returning to Junction Creek. Together we are making a difference and inspiring hope through restoration. Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch!



In addition to our program sponsors, project funders and partners, we would also like to recognize the following donors (\$200+) from April to November 2023:

Earthdancers \$5,170
RBC Foundation \$2,500
Yanghee Ki \$200
Meghann Fonceca \$200

In-kind support: EnviroPod, Pioneer Construction and Brock Construction.

CONSERVATION LEGACY DONOR
City of Greater Sudbury \$40,000



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

WATER QUALITY • WILDLIFE • COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES • CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!
<https://junctioncreek.com/donate/>

Junction Creek Watershed
The Urban Waterway of Greater Sudbury

10 Wards

19 species of fish

52+

CHALLENGES

RESTORE JUNCTION CREEK

30 Ste Anne Rd Unit B4, Sudbury ON, P3C 5E1 • info@junctioncreek.com • Registered Canadian Charity (801685611RR0001)

Every donation counts! As a charity, we rely on donations to support the recovery and stewardship of Junction Creek. Your donation will have a ripple effect that will continue to make a positive difference not only for Junction Creek and local neighbourhoods, but also for numerous communities downstream and for future generations. Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch!

[Click HERE to donate towards Junction Creek](#)

Join our growing community of monthly donors to support Junction Creek year-round. [Click HERE to become a monthly donor](#)

NEW donation opportunity via **Donate a Car!**

<https://donatecar.ca/org/charity/page/donate.php?charity=JCSC>

Canadian Registered Charity #801685611RR0001

Thank you for the continuous support:





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