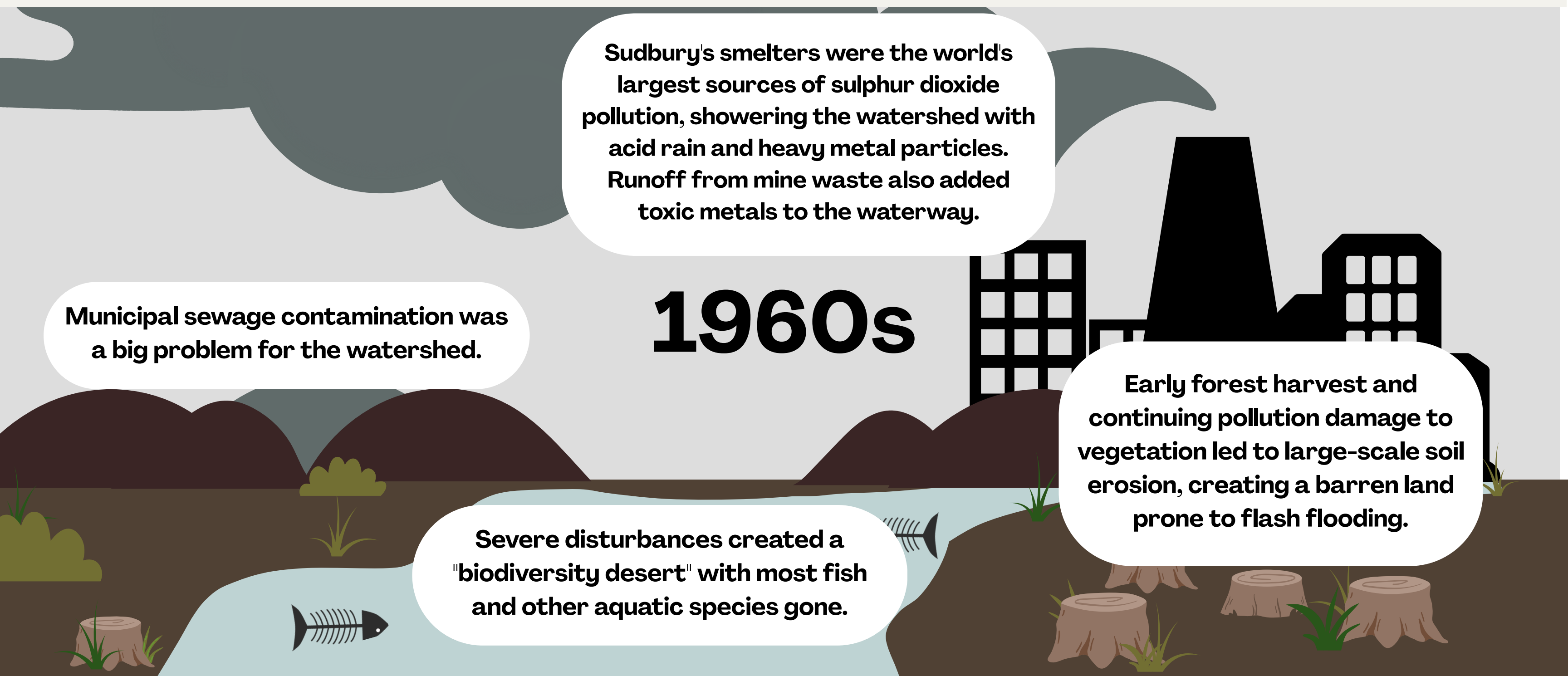


The Upper Junction Creek Watershed is on the Path to Recovery



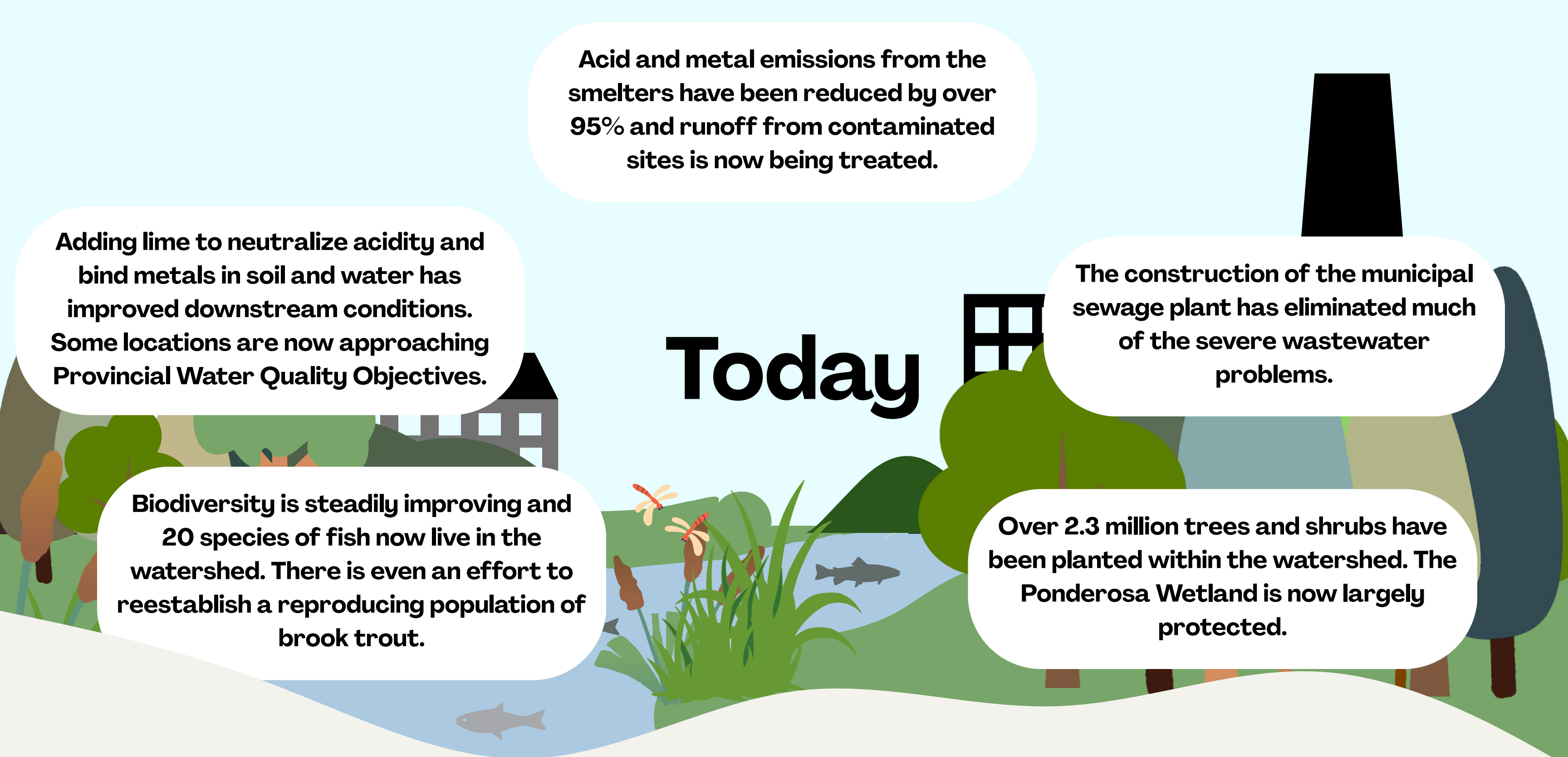
Municipal sewage contamination was a big problem for the watershed.

1960s

Sudbury's smelters were the world's largest sources of sulphur dioxide pollution, showering the watershed with acid rain and heavy metal particles. Runoff from mine waste also added toxic metals to the waterway.

Severe disturbances created a "biodiversity desert" with most fish and other aquatic species gone.

Early forest harvest and continuing pollution damage to vegetation led to large-scale soil erosion, creating a barren land prone to flash flooding.



Acid and metal emissions from the smelters have been reduced by over 95% and runoff from contaminated sites is now being treated.

Adding lime to neutralize acidity and bind metals in soil and water has improved downstream conditions. Some locations are now approaching Provincial Water Quality Objectives.

Today

The construction of the municipal sewage plant has eliminated much of the severe wastewater problems.

Biodiversity is steadily improving and 20 species of fish now live in the watershed. There is even an effort to reestablish a reproducing population of brook trout.

Over 2.3 million trees and shrubs have been planted within the watershed. The Ponderosa Wetland is now largely protected.

We Need to Keep Going!

There are new challenges facing the Upper Junction Creek Watershed:

- Rising chloride levels from road salt
- Microplastics, PFAs and other potentially harmful contaminants
- Impact of urbanization on the Creek and its wetlands
- Extreme events due to climate warming, including both flooding and drought
- Organic waste from existing sewage and wastewater lagoons during flood events

Read the full report:
bit.ly/UJCWReport