

ONTARIO WILDLIFE FOUNDATION FINAL REPORT

NAME OR ORGANIZATION Trout Unlimited Canada - Greg Clark Chapter
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PROJECT TITLE Bringing Back Brookies - Upper Credit Conservation Area Brook Trout Habitat Restoration Project

PROJECT OBJECTIVE to improve and rehabilitate cold-water brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) habitat in the Upper Credit Conservation Area, located in Caledon (20073 Porterfield Road).

PROJECT LOCATION Caledon, Ontario

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through a collaborative partnership program consisting of five organizations including our major partner, Credit Valley Conservation, we are working towards restoring and protecting the Credit River in the Upper Credit Conservation Area to help increase the trout population. Additionally, education of local community members on the importance of this project and their increased experience in habitat restoration are important outcomes. Specifically, we are aiming for the following measurable results: lowered stream temperatures to a level of tolerance for brook trout, improved water quality, improved in-stream fish habitat, an increased index of biotic integrity (IBI) for fisheries in the reach from Poor/Fair to Excellent, and sustained volunteerism. We have a five-year project plan in place and 2017 marked our third year.

PROJECT BUDGET

We have met our project outcomes for 2017 as outlined in our initial proposal. From April to November we organized 14 workdays and had over 170 volunteers, which amounts to over 800 hours contributed towards this project. For each workday, we had approximately 6 to 8 new attendees. We tracked this through workday sign-up sheets. As a result, we:

1. Installed 1 habitat structure to increase habitat for benthic invertebrates (fish food) and fish.

2. Planted over 900 trees and shrubs and 250 live stakes along the stream banks to provide bank stability and increase shading of the river to lower water temperatures.
3. Strategically placed 4 tonnes of gravel in the stream reach to increase substrate available to brook trout for spawning.
4. Installed one large silt trap using logs and Christmas trees to capture sediment to help narrow the stream.
5. Monitored the success of 2016 vegetation planting and determined the average overall survival rate for all trees was 86%, indicating a good planting technique, thoughtful choice of planting area, and good use of resources.

Combined these events are working towards achieving our project goal to improve and rehabilitate cold-water brook trout habitat in the Upper Credit Conservation Area.

PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORT

This project is 100% dependent on year-to-year grants and donations to cover costs for supplies and materials. All individuals involved in the project are non-paid volunteers. 2017 marked year 3 of the project's FIVE-year plan and the final budget for the year was around \$8,000. We were successful in receiving funding from various foundations to cover all the items needed to achieve our goal.

Ontario Wildlife Foundation grant was used to purchase the following items:

1. Baker Forestry Services Nursery - Trees, shrubs, mats with staples, guards for September planting.
2. Baker Forestry Services Nursery - Trees, shrubs, mats with staples, guards for October planting.

Thank you for supporting this project. We look forward to working with you in 2018.