

Mississippi Valley CA Update for Lake Networking Group, Spring 2024

In 2023 MVCA received strong municipal support to deliver our non-provincially mandated programs for the next five years. This means that we now have an agreement to continue to use municipal levy money to deliver our lake and stream monitoring programs as well as our stewardship programs.

Monitoring Programs

The 2023 Integrated Monitoring Report which summarizes the water level/flow monitoring programs as well as the lake monitoring program's 2023 results is now online. Lakes visited last year were in the Mazinaw and Upper Mississippi Subwatersheds. <https://mvc.on.ca/reports/>

The 2024 monitoring season will see us focus our lake monitoring efforts in the Clyde River subwatershed and will include the following 11 lakes; Palmerston, Canonto, Sunday, Robertson, Clyde, Flower-Round, Widow, Joe's, Cotch, Fawn, Dalhousie, and Mississippi.

After a 3-year hiatus, City Stream Watch was restarted in 2023 with the survey of Carp Creek and Watts Creek. In 2024 we will be surveying Feedmill Creek and Poole Creek. Reports from these surveys as well as information about volunteering with this program are available on our website here:

<https://mvc.on.ca/citizen-science-stewardship/city-stream-watch/>

Other monitoring programs such as the water temperature loggers, as well as stream fish and benthic investigations will be prioritized to these focus areas.

Stewardship Programs

Stewardship staff will be planting six private properties this spring, with additional plantings being planned for fall 2024; including a public planting in partnership with the National Capital Commission in Ottawa's Green Belt. We will also be hosting plant giveaways with Sunday Lake Association and Kashwakamak Lake Association. ALUS Lanark, now in its third year, continues to see an increase in uptake with several projects planned within the watershed. For more information please see our website: <https://mvc.on.ca/citizen-science-stewardship/planting-programs/>

Invasive Species

The OFAH continue to support an invasive species program in our area by funding one of our summer students to act as a liaison for the program. This person will be available to help with species ID or provide education resources such as ID booklets and boat launch signs. Please continue to keep an eye out for both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in your area and report suspected sightings to either eddmaps.org or inaturalist.org. You are also always welcome to send us photos or call for advice.

For more information see:

<http://invadingspecies.com/>

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>

Planning and Regulations Update

Enforcement of our alterations to shorelines and wetlands regulation continues to be a challenge due to a significant case load and a large number of permit compliance checks to do throughout the watershed.

If you have any questions about our permitting process, or are concerned about a potential violation please refer to our website here:

<https://mvc.on.ca/development-permits/>

<https://mvc.on.ca/development-permits/regulations-and-policies/>