

Mississippi Valley CA Update for Lake Networking Group, Fall 2024

Mississippi Valley CA has been tasked by the Province with reviewing our land holdings and the programs and services we deliver at these sites. As part of this process we will create a Land Conservation and Resources Strategy. Thank you to those who participated in our public engagement survey – your feedback is most educational and beneficial to the process. A strategy will now be drafted this fall and taken to our Board of Directors this winter. To stay up to date with the process please visit our webpage here: <https://mvc.on.ca/current-initiatives/land-conservation-resource-management-strategies/>

Monitoring Programs

The 2024 monitoring season focused 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. With the nice calm weather we are having this September sampling should be completed by the time we have the Lake Networking meeting. However, data analysis will not begin until winter. Look for our report update in spring 2025.

In 2024 MVCA used the City Stream Watch program to survey Poole Creek and Feedmill Creek in the Stittsville/Kanata area. We were fortunate to work with an increasing number of dedicated volunteers who helped us with this work. Next year we will be surveying Cody Creek which is a more rural stream that flows along the boarder between Ottawa's western edge and Mississippi Mills. If you are interested in being on our volunteer notification list please reach out and let us know. 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

In 2024 we planted/distributed over 2,400 native shoreline plants within our watershed. This was achieved through our Tree Day give-aways (in 2024 we worked with Sunday and Kashwakamak lakes associations), and we had 12 shoreline priority owners sign up for the shoreline stewardship program. We plan to continue these programs in 2025 so if you have questions on how to participate please contact us.

Thanks to generous funding from TD Tree Days, we will be planting 125 trees and shrubs on National Capital Commission (NCC) land along Watts Creek on October 5th. This event would not be possible without the support of the NCC and the planting help of over 30 volunteers.

During 2024 ALUS Lanark has transitioned to become ALUS Mississippi-Rideau and now provides stewardship advice and funding support to agricultural properties in all areas within the jurisdictions of both conservation authorities. If you know someone who owns agricultural land please let them know about our program expansion. The program has continued to see an increase in uptake with 7 projects

undertaken within the Mississippi Valley portion of Lanark County in 2024. Projects included: wetland restorations, tall grass prairie creation, and large-scale tree plantings. For more information please see our website: [Rural Clean Water – MVCA](#)

Our demonstration pollinator garden that we planted in partnership with CWF's "Pathways for Pollinators" program in 2023, has had a great season growing behind our office building and we're excited by the diversity of insect visitors observed (over 75 species). It is a pretty example of how beneficial gardening with native species can be even in a small-scale garden. For more information on CWF's pollinator stewardship resources and programs please visit their website: <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/pollinators/?src=menu> . For more information about North American pollinators and choosing suitable local plants to support them see <http://pollinator.org/> and then follow the drop downs for Resources, Planting Guides, and scroll down to Ontario.

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 provides help with species ID and education resources such as ID booklets and boat launch signs. The MVCA student team also spent some time this spring pulling garlic mustard near our office. 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/>

This year MVCA was able to host an invasive species pull as part of our shoreline restoration project at Watts Creek, thanks to a microgrant from the Invasive Species Centre. With the help of volunteers, we pulled nearly 20 large garbage bags of Dog-Strangling Vine and Garlic Mustard.

Planning and Regulations Update

We would like to remind property owners that despite what has been in the news about Rideau Valley and other eastern conservation authorities trying to update their regulation screening maps to include more than just Provincially Significant Wetlands, MVCA undertook this process in 2017. If you are planning to do any development in or near a wetland within our jurisdiction it may be a regulated feature so pre-consult with us about your plans and our permit process.

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/>