

# Kettle Creek Wetlands

*For our local environment. For everyone. Forever.*



## Dig Deep for Wetlands

**Help raise \$25,000 towards the creation and restoration of wetlands in our community.**



### WHY WETLANDS?

There is a great need for more wetlands in the Kettle Creek watershed. Currently our local landscape has only 1% of wetland habitat, which is significantly lower than the 10% recommended by Environment Canada for a healthy watershed.

In many cases wetland projects can cost upwards of \$5,000 per acre to build. This is often too great an expense for an individual landowner, and whether or not financial assistance is available is the limiting factor in creating many wetlands in our community.

Funds raised by the Trust will go a long way in completing local wetland projects. The money raised will be used directly towards project implementation. This money can also be used as 'matching funds' to leverage support from additional funding sources to be used towards even more wetland projects.

The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA), a partnering organization in this initiative, will help the Trust connect with local residents and implement wetland projects throughout the watershed. In the last two years, KCCA has implemented four wetland projects. This achievement was made possible by a previous donation of \$25,000 from the Dorothy Fay Palmer estate. The money was used to leverage a total of \$17,000 from additional funding sources towards the completion of even more projects in the watershed.



*Kettle Creek Environmental Trust*



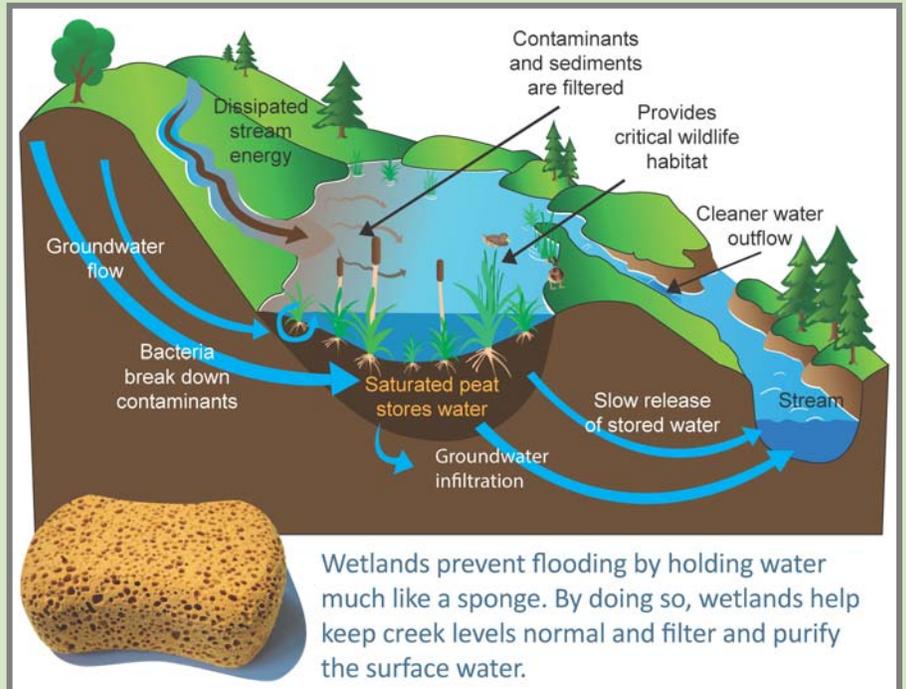
## HOW WETLANDS WORK

Wetlands are very important to our local environment. Wetlands act like a giant sponge, slowly absorbing water and releasing it when necessary. The sponge-like quality of wetlands allows them to return water to the ground during dry periods. Wetlands also slow down the flow of water as it travels to the lake, and less speed means less soil erosion. Because wetlands slow the flow of water, they can also filter the water. This natural cleansing helps to keep pollution, toxins and nutrients out of the water system and improves local water quality.

Wetlands provide important habitat for a wide variety of local wildlife. They provide shelter and protection, feeding, drinking, cooling off, breeding, resting and nursery sites for many species. These habitats also create recreational and educational opportunities, such as bird watching and photography, for us all to enjoy.

### LOCAL SPECIES FOUND IN WETLANDS

American Bullfrog	Blanding's Turtle
Eastern Garter Snake	Leopard Frog
Painted Turtle	Snapping Turtle
Great Blue Heron	Swamp Sparrow
Least Bittern	Mallard
Marsh Wren	Wood Duck
Bluegill	Largemouth Bass
Pumpkinseed	Yellow Perch
Damselflies	Dragonflies
Mayflies	Monarch
Red Admiral	Stoneflies
Beaver	Muskrat
White-tailed Deer	Belted Kingfisher
Bulrush	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Joe-Pye Weed	Marsh Violet
Monkey Flower	Purple Flag
Swamp Milkweed	White Water Lily



### WETLANDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2009, 12 acres of wetland habitat was created at the Dan Patterson Conservation Area, just north of St. Thomas. This retired agricultural field, which borders a tributary of Kettle Creek, was transformed into over an acre of seasonal open water surrounded by more than 10 acres of native Carolinian tree and shrub species that were planted to help restore and create a diverse habitat.

This wetland project cost \$9,500 to build, and this short-term investment already has had an invaluable impact on our natural landscape. Within 7 years a variety of local wildlife can be seen living and visiting this wetland including beavers, deer, frogs, many birds, dragonflies and damselflies.

A trail with two viewing platforms surrounds the wetland and everyone from the community is encouraged to visit and enjoy this exciting place. The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority also offers wetland educational programs for local students and service groups to discover and learn more about this important wetland habitat.



### CONTACT US

For more information and to make a donation to the Trust, please contact us at:

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