



## Education and Outreach Programs

### About Us

Lower Trent Conservation, established in 1968 is a non-profit, community based environmental protection organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and restoring local natural resources within the Lower Trent Watershed Region.

Lower Trent Conservation recognizes that the students of today are the environmental stewards of tomorrow. We value youth environmental education, to help ensure that our environment is healthy, and vibrant for many years to come.

### Background

Lower Trent Conservation has offered a variety of educational programs since 1971, and continues to do so today. *Connecting KIDS with NATURE*, established in 2016, is a community sponsored umbrella program offering numerous educational activities to local students entirely **free of charge**. (Transportation where applicable not included.)

This program was developed with the focus of educating students, through a variety of presentations and experiential activities, about the importance of environmental protection and stewardship of our natural world.



### Programming

The programs that we offer have been designed to closely match the curriculum demands set out by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The lessons and activities we facilitate are all in-class, within your school community, or conservation area, except the Tri-County Children's Water Festival which happens annually in the village of Batawa. All of these programs provide children with hands-on, interactive activities working to connect them with nature.

All programs can be adapted depending on grade and the desired learning outcomes. If you have any questions please feel free reach to Nicholas Reynolds Environmental Education Technician [nicholas.reynolds@ltc.on.ca](mailto:nicholas.reynolds@ltc.on.ca)

Or fill out a [program request form](#) on our website.



# Our Focus Programs

## Tri-County Children's Water Festival

**Grade(s):** 4 (including split 3/4 & 4/5 classes)

**Length:** Full day

**Availability:** Spring

**Location:** Village of Batawa

**Description:** The Tri-County Children's Water Festival, for the counties of Hastings, Northumberland, and Prince Edward, is an annual two-day event held in the village of Batawa. Students will engage in water stewardship activities in their homes, classrooms and communities. This youth environmental education program features over 30 interactive, hands-on learning activities, providing youth with opportunities to learn about our most precious natural resource – water!

You must pre-register for the festival. Registration opens to schools the beginning of March. Please visit [Tri-County Childrens Water Festival](#) to register your classroom.



## Love Your Watershed

**Grade(s):** 7-12

**Length:** Project is ongoing throughout the school year

**Availability:** Year round

**Location:** Conservation Lands and in Class

**Description:** Students will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of projects aimed at improving the natural aspects and or overall experience of our conservation areas. Students will plan and implement all aspects of their chosen projects allowing for creative control and problem solving for the project. The proposed projects will cover many elements of the curriculum and focus on STEM through; skilled trades, Engineering and design process, the environment, and many other areas of the school curriculum. Students will create a proposal for their plan and will receive funding to help with implementation, they will work throughout the school year towards a day at the conservation area installing or implementing their project.





# All About Water

All of these programs can be tailored to different grade expectations and to the curriculum for:

- ❖ Science and Technology
- ❖ Social Studies
- ❖ Geography
- ❖ The Arts
- ❖ Language

## Water Cycle

**Activity Length:** 1- Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** A brief introduction will demonstrate the water cycle and show students up close the process water takes when it evaporates, condenses and precipitates. Students will become a part of the water cycle as they transform into a water droplet and travel between different areas to understand the journey a water droplet makes.

## Wetlands

**Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Students will learn about Wetlands, how they function and their role within our natural ecosystems. They will get the opportunity to observe some of the amazing functions a wetland performs through creating and testing wetland models.



## Discover the Great Lakes Watersehd

**Length:** 1-2 Hours

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** In school Gym, Auditorium or large outdoor space (weather permitting)

Utilizing the Biinagmi Great Lakes Map students will interact with their own watershed and the entire great lakes and St. Lawrence watershed system from a unique perspective. The giant floor map (26 x 36ft) allows an entire class to walk through the great lakes system and see all of the features and landmarks from a bird's eye view. This program will highlight our local watershed, the Bay of Quinte, and the full great lakes water system, showing how they all connect and the role our local waterways play in feeding and interacting with the Great Lakes. Students will gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of our water systems and the importance of the Great Lakes.

**This resource is a paid program rated at \$5 per student with a cap at \$150 per class. If you are interested in the program and the cost is a barrier, please contact [nicholas.reynolds@ltc.on.ca](mailto:nicholas.reynolds@ltc.on.ca) directly.**

**The map program requires a large indoor space such as a school gym or auditorium.**

## What is a Watershed?

**Length:** 1- Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Through interactive models' students will explore what a watershed is and how we define it. They will experience how all of the water is interconnected, while learning the rivers and tributaries within their community. Students will take a closer look at the Lower Trent watershed region through a 3D model to help understand the natural features within it.

## Drinking Water Source Protection

**Length:** 1-2 Hours

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Learn about where our drinking water comes from and what we do to keep it clean and safe to drink. Through interactive activities and games students will learn what can be a threat to clean drinking water and the steps conservation authorities as well as municipalities take to ensure the water coming out of your tap is safe to drink.

# At Our Conservation Areas

## Forest Hike with Active Games

**Length:** 1-2 Hours

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Goodrich-Loomis, Proctor Park, Seymour, Sager, and Bleasdel Boulder

**Description:** Join us for a hike at one of our conservation lands where students will play interactive games focusing on habitats and the plants and animals that call our conservation lands home. A great way to get outside and learn about the natural systems within our watershed.

## Pond Dipping/Water Bugs

**Activity Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Offered at Goodrich-Loomis Education Centre

Through hands-on investigation students will explore a water system and the wonderful benthic invertebrates, or "water bugs that live in the water." Students will learn about some of the adaptations these bugs have to survive in these spaces, how the needs of these bugs are met, and how these bugs play an important role in indicating water quality to scientists.

## Augmented Reality Sandbox

**Length:** 1- 2 Hours

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom presentation

**Description:** The AR Sandbox creates a topographic map that moves with the movement of the sand and simulates the movement of water throughout a watershed. Students will experience how water functions as it works its way through different landscapes. The AR sandbox is a great way to learn how a watershed works, and the risks of flooding and erosion posed

## Discover the Trenton Greenbelt

**Length:** 1- 2 Hours

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Trenton Greenbelt

**Description:**

**As a Class:** Explore Trenton Greenbelt and connect with nature through hands-on learning. The Trenton Greenbelt restoration site shows how lawn can be transformed into pockets of native prairie meadows right in town! Students will have the opportunity to learn about native plant species and why they matter. This is an interactive program that will send students on a hunt through the restoration site to learn about all the important features and contributions to the project.



# Soil, Lands, and Natural Hazards

## Natural Hazards

**Activity Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Students will learn all about the natural hazards of flooding, erosion and dynamic beaches. They will learn about the role Lower Trent Conservation plays in keeping our community safe. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about rising natural hazards and our changing environment.

## Erosion Busters

**Activity Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Students create an interactive model to help understand the role that plants and trees play in stabilizing our shorelines and preventing erosion. Students create different planting scenarios to understand the importance of the vegetation in our environment and community.

## Pollinator Seed Balls

**Activity Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Through interactive learning and presentation students will learn about the different parts of plants, various native pollinator species, their habitat, how pollination occurs, and the benefits to our ecosystem. The class will then go outside to make clay seed balls to take home. All seeds and equipment are provided.

## Spring Water Awareness

**Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** Learn all about the dangers of water courses in the spring and year-round. Through interactive games and activities participants will learn about flood awareness and safety, safety around hydroelectric dams, and ice safety both in the winter and when the spring melts begin. Participants will also learn how the conservation authorities' flood warnings work, where to find them and how to interpret them.

## Habitats, Life Systems, and Human Connections

**Activity Length:** 1-Hour

**Availability:** Year-round

**Location:** Classroom Presentation

**Description:** A series of games and activities to help students understand habitats and life systems as well as the risks associated with habitat loss to humans and animals alike. Students will experience the challenges of surviving with limited and shrinking resources and create an understanding of what makes up a habitat and the challenges of meeting all the needs of a living being. Students will also gain an understanding of the interactions between living things and the impacts of a human presence or absence. They will also learn how environmental changes affect our human habitats and the conservation authority's role in managing healthy and safe habits to keep the watershed community safe!



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