

Conservation Handbook

ANTHEM

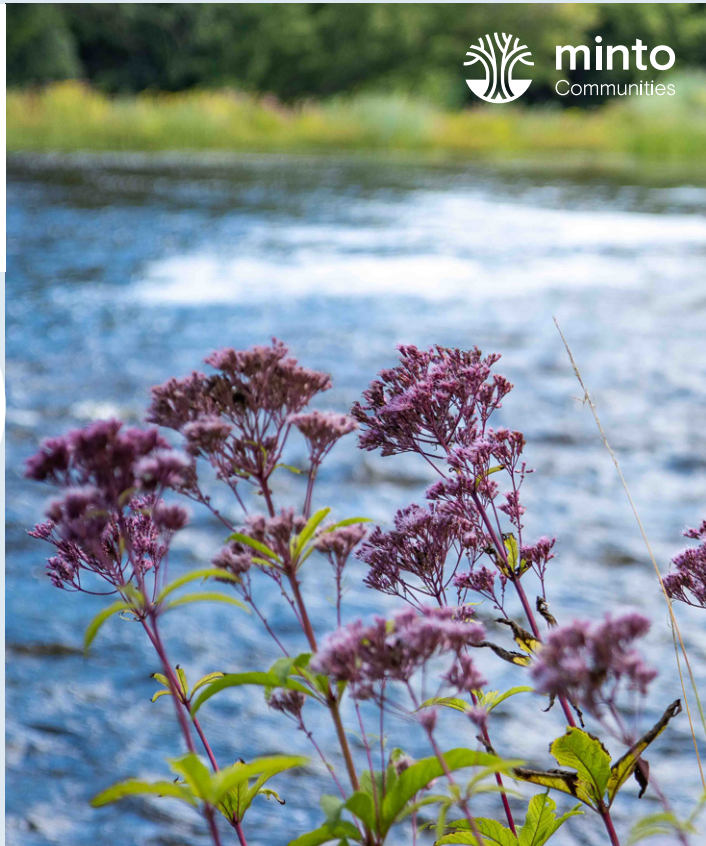


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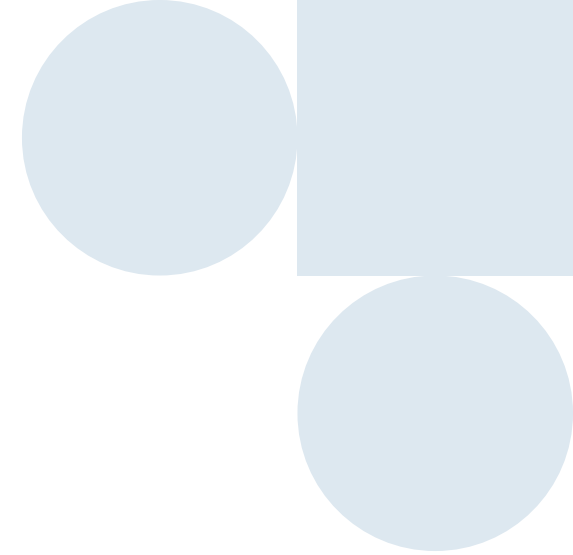
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Anthem: Connected to Nature

Anthem is a modern residential community nestled above the vast conservation lands of the beautiful Jock River, which flows into the Rideau River. Residents of this community will be able to explore and experience the natural heritage of the Jock River, while also having the opportunity to contribute to their protection by demonstrating good stewardship.

It is the responsibility of community residents to ensure proper maintenance and conservation of the natural features on and surrounding their properties. Respect and appreciation for the local flora and fauna that share the land will ensure their continued health and value as unique attributes of the surrounding landscape.

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The Jock River Watershed

The 75-kilometre Jock River flows from its headwaters in Beckwith and Montague Townships, through rich agricultural lands, until it reaches Barrhaven and flows into the nearby Rideau River. The Jock River drains an area of 555 square kilometres, and offers paddling opportunities by canoe, kayak, or SUP. Since 1971, canoe enthusiasts have been holding the Jock River Race along a 12.5-kilometre stretch of the river.

Stonebridge Trail

Just a short distance from Anthem, you can easily access Stonebridge Trail, which follows the Jock River to Rideau River. It's an easy trail through the woods, with great views — a wonderful route to explore at the end of the day or on a leisurely Saturday.

Chapman Mills Conservation Area

This 23-acre parcel of naturalized land on the west bank of the Rideau River gives a sampling of natural river shoreline, wetlands and flood plain areas. There's a picnic shelter, scenic lookouts, walkways and boardwalks on a 1.5 km route, with interpretive signs explaining what you're seeing.



Kings Creek

Approximately 16.8 kilometres long, Kings Creek is a tributary of the Jock River, with a drainage area of 91 square kilometres. The Rideau Valley Conservation Area considers it to be in a relatively healthy state. Most of the King's Creek system has low erosion levels and a healthy forested/ wetland riparian corridor along Kings Creek. In the lower reaches of Kings Creek, the aquatic habitat is fairly complex, and the upper and middle reaches encompass several significant, high-value wetlands that support catchment health.

Why preserve wetlands?

Wetlands help recharge ground water when there's a drought. They provide flood control by acting as giant sponges. Wetlands also trap sediment, preventing soil erosion. As well, they are a source of pure water, as they clean the water by taking up pollutants, toxins, and bacteria.



Flora and Fauna of the Jock River

The Jock River and Kings Creek, are diverse aquatic ecosystems that provide habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal species. The trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses growing along the water's edge help stabilize the aquatic environment and protect it from erosion and sedimentation, while also helping to filter and absorb stormwater flow. This riparian vegetation also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including many bird, mammal, and amphibian species that inhabit the water's edge. The vegetation along the edges of both the Jock River and Kings Creek also provide a buffer to protect the river from pollution, noise, and other forms of disturbance. It is very important to maintain the riparian vegetation of the watercourses to preserve the health of the aquatic ecosystems.

Vegetation species growing along these waterways include White Pine, Red Maple, Trembling Aspen, White Birch, Bur Oak, Willow, Ash, Manitoba Maple, and American Elm. Fish species found in the Jock River include Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, and Rainbow Darter. Among the many birds that make the river their home are Wood Ducks, Teals, Canada Geese, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Wildlife

Additional wildlife species found living along and near the Jock River:

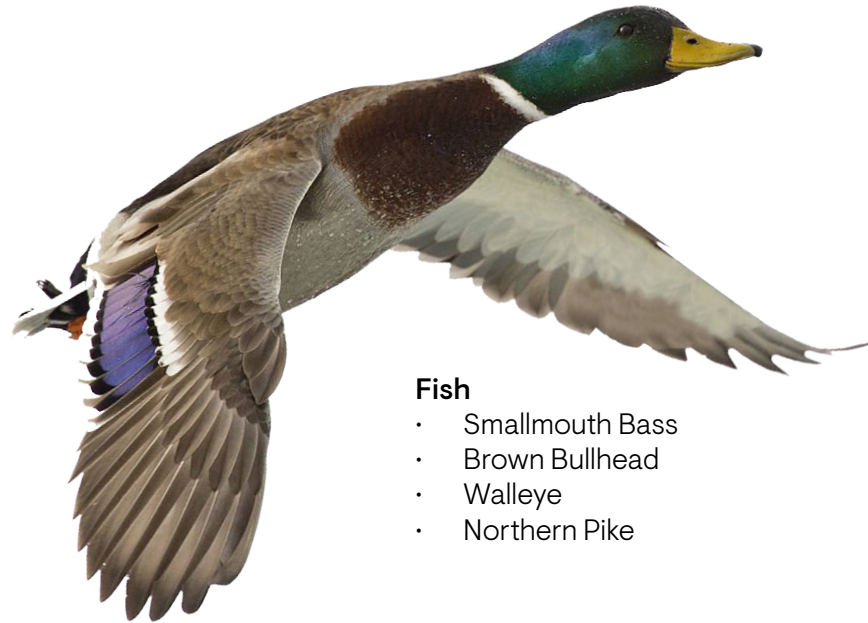


Mammals

- River Otter
- Beaver
- Muskrat
- Red Fox
- Coyote

Birds

- Great Blue Heron
- Belted Kingfisher
- Turkey Vulture
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Tree Swallow
- Mallard



Fish

- Smallmouth Bass
- Brown Bullhead
- Walleye
- Northern Pike

Reptiles and Amphibians

- Eastern Ribbonsnake
- Midland Painted Turtle
- Snapping Turtle
- Blanding's Turtle
- American Bullfrog
- Northern Leopard Frog
- Green Frog



Species at Risk

In Ontario, certain species whose populations are declining are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Many of these species can be found in the Ottawa area. Within the Anthem community, the Jock River and surrounding area may provide habitat for Butternut, Eastern Ribbonsnake, Snapping Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, and Yellow Rail among others.

Eastern Ribbonsnake

Eastern Ribbonsnake is a species of Special Concern in Ontario. It looks similar to an Eastern Gartersnake and is usually found close to water where it hunts for frogs and small fish. Eastern Ribbonsnakes are good swimmers and will dive in shallow water, especially when fleeing from a predator or other disturbance. While most species of snakes lay eggs, Eastern Ribbonsnakes give birth to live young.



Butternut

Butternut trees exist along the corridor of the Carp River. Butternuts are an Endangered species in Ontario and are disappearing primarily due to an invasive fungal disease known as the Butternut Canker. The Ottawa Stewardship Council has been involved in planting Butternut trees grown from nuts harvested from trees that are resistant to the canker.



Snapping Turtle and Blanding's Turtle

The Jock River provides habitat for Snapping Turtles (a species of Special Concern in Ontario) and Blanding's Turtle (a Threatened species in Ontario). Both turtle species, along with Midland Painted Turtles, may be seen basking on exposed rocks, logs, or other perches in and near the Jock River and its tributaries in the spring and summer. In May and June, turtles may leave the river to lay eggs in areas of loose soil, sand, or gravel. Residents can help protect turtles by watching for them on roads, especially in May and June.

Protecting the natural environment

Homeowners can help preserve the natural water quality by not allowing potentially harmful substances to wash away into sewer drains. Even though the community design includes stormwater management facilities, the sewers and streets ultimately drain into the river.



Protecting Wildlife

- Pets must be kept under human control at all times to avoid potentially harmful encounters with wildlife.
- Residents are encouraged to keep their cats indoors. Cat predation can have severe impacts on bird populations. Cats are considered the number one direct threat to birds in urban areas.
- Pick up after your pets, as their waste can carry bacteria and viruses that may impact native animals. Pet waste may also pollute the river if not properly disposed of.
- Properly store and secure garbage to prevent animals from using it as a food source.
- Never feed wild animals, including ducks and geese. Food provided to ducks and geese by humans (e.g., bread) is often not good for their health.
- Drive carefully and watch for wildlife. Be aware of turtles that may be found on roadways near the river, especially in May and June.
- Never collect or capture wild animals, even if you only intend to keep them temporarily. Handling wild animals such as frogs, turtles, or snakes can severely injure or kill them.

Protecting the Jock River

- Chemicals such as detergents, solvents, oils, and fertilizers should not be allowed to flow into the river or sewer drains. Never pour hazardous materials into sewers or the river.
- Pet waste, yard waste, loose soil, and other debris should be managed so that they do not enter the watercourses or sewers.
- It is best to wash your vehicle at a vehicle washing facility to prevent pollutants and detergents from entering the watercourses or sewers. Similarly, vehicle maintenance should be conducted at a designated garage to avoid spills of oils and other automotive fluids.
- Residents are encouraged to build and maintain native gardens to help recharge groundwater, limit water consumption, and improve river water quality. Gardens that are planted with native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs typically require less watering than lawns or gardens with non-native species. Native gardens will also help attract wildlife and beneficial insects.
- Recommended native tree species include Sugar Maple, Red Maple, White Spruce, Black Cherry, White Cedar, Serviceberry, Pin Cherry, Bur Oak, and White Birch.
- Recommended shrubs to consider include: Common Juniper, Nannyberry, Red-osier Dogwood, Meadow Sweet, Red Elderberry, Maple-leaf Viburnum, and Northern Bushhoneysuckle.
- Non-native and invasive species can have negative impacts on the natural environment and have the potential to aggressively spread along Feedmill Creek and the Carp River corridor. Avoid plants such as Amur Maple, European Mountainash, Norway Maple, Bugleweed, Common and Japanese Barberry, Day Lily, Lily of the Valley, English Ivy, Black Locust, European Linden, and Periwinkle.
- Make sure you have any required permits before you cut down a tree.
- Residents should consider installing a rain barrel at the downspout from their roof. Rain barrels collect rainwater which can then be used to water your garden. In addition to conserving water,

collecting rainwater helps protect the river by reducing stormwater flows which can cause erosion and carry pollutants to the river.

- Choose permeable surfaces for landscaping such as soil, paving stones, or gravel to allow water to seep into the ground and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff into sewers.
- Practice organic gardening by avoiding the use of pesticides that can disrupt ecosystems and impact human health.
- Respect the riparian corridors of the Jock River as natural features. Only use trails that have been intentionally created for recreational use in the community to limit disturbance to ground cover vegetation and the sensitive river ecosystem.
- Keep your sewer drains, culverts, and gutters clear of debris so that they will drain properly and not convey excess material to the river ecosystem.

Important Information

Living at Anthem provides residents with many opportunities to appreciate the beauty of the Jock River. With your help, the natural environment surrounding your new home can be preserved and enjoyed long into the future.

If you want to learn more about nature in the Ottawa area and how you can help conserve the environment, additional information can be found online at the following websites.

**Environment and Climate
Change Canada**
Migratory Birds Overview

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/birds-canada/migratory-birds-overview.html>

**Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks**
Species at risk

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk>

Fletcher Wildlife Garden
Creating wildlife friendly gardens

<https://ofnc.ca/programs/fletcher-wildlife-garden>

City of Ottawa
Avoiding problems with wildlife

<https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/wildlife-and-plants/avoiding-problems-wildlife>

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Conserving, managing, and restoring the Rideau River watershed

<https://www.rvca.ca>

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Ottawa's leading naturalist group

<https://ofnc.ca/>

Monitoring the Water

The Rideau Valley Conservation Area (RVCA) produces individual reports for 12 catchments in the Jock River subwatershed, using data collected and analyzed through its watershed monitoring and land cover classification programs. The RVCA reports on surface water quality and in-stream conditions for the Jock River. It also summarizes environmental conditions for the surrounding countryside every six years.



Closure

The text in this document was prepared for exclusive use by Minto Communities Canada and may be distributed only by Minto Communities Canada. Questions relating to the text content can be addressed to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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Sources

<https://watersheds.rvca.ca/subwatersheds-reports/jock-river/catchment-reports-jock-river/141-kings-creek>

<https://www.rvca.ca/conservation-areas/no-fee-required/chapman-mills-ca>

<https://naturallyottawa.com/tag/jock-river/>

<https://watersheds.rvca.ca/subwatersheds-reports/middle-rideau/catchment-reports-middle-rideau/134-jock-river>

<https://www.ottawastewardship.org/butternut-planting-project/#:~:text=In%202017%2C%2050%20Butternut%20trees,over%20the%20next%20few%20years.>

<https://www.wildlifeinfo.ca>

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ANTHEM

Notes



65+ YEARS. 100,000+ HOMES.

CONDOS | TOWNHOMES | DETACHED HOMES

GTA | OTTAWA | CALGARY

Renderings & landscape designs are artist's concept only and subject to change. E.&O.E.