

The Bonnechere River Watershed Project

Who we are...

The BRWP is a not-for-profit charitable community-based volunteer organization focused on supporting and influencing responsible stewardship throughout the Bonnechere River watershed. The BRWP was established in 1998 by the Renfrew County Stewardship Council and since then has expanded to include a variety of programs focused on youth and landowner education and habitat improvement, activities ultimately helping to improve water quality in the watershed.

It is our Mission to influence environmental enhancement throughout the Bonnechere River Watershed

The Watershed...

The Bonnechere River is over 145 km long running from Algonquin Park down to the Ottawa River at Castleford. At the northern reaches of the river it is cold and clear, but steadily changes to warm and turbid as it winds down through farm land, human settlement areas and open woodlots. The watershed covers an area of 2400 km², an area $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of Prince Edward Island! Over 80% of this land is privately owned.

The Watershed Approach...

Everything within the watershed is interconnected. Events occurring in one place may have an impact further down the river. The actions of every individual using the watershed, visitors and inhabitants, can impact the water quality, soil erosion and environmental integrity of the watershed. Therefore, we focus on the health of the entire system, including all of the land that catches rain and snow which drains into the Bonnechere River watershed system.

Programs...

Youth Education: Adopt-A-Class, wetland field trips and water quality monitoring, forestry and environmental leadership school programs

Bonnechere River Riparian Tree Planting Program: tree planting on private land

Bird Nesting Box Program: building, mounting and annual monitoring of bird boxes

Conservation incentives for farms: promote pollution reduction measures

Wetland protection and enhancement: assessments, funding research, wildlife habitat structures, buffer zone creation, restoring native vegetation and removal of invasives

Adopt-A-Stream: clean-up, monitoring and restoration projects

Water Quality Testing: sampling and results analysis

Know Your Reach: On-line watershed planning tool

Workshop Series: promoting landowner education through tours and workshops