

Jock Reach 2



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Jock River Reach 2 Subwatershed Phase 1 Report

The Jock Reach 2 / Mud Creek Subwatershed Study Phase I Existing Conditions Report was completed by Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited and WESA in 2009. The report details the background characteristics of the subwatershed including climate, geology and physiography, as well as ecology, land use, agriculture and water resources. The report was based on several years of study and substantive public consultation. It was released by the City in February 2011. Due to the complexity of the phase one report, a summary has been prepared by the Planning and Growth Management Department of the City. The summary was two parts; one for the Jock River Reach 2 and one for the Mud Creek subwatershed. It has been decided that the subwatershed study will continue to be split into two parallel studies from this point forward for ease of understanding.

The Phase I report describes Jock River Reach 2 as having variable surface water quality based upon different sections of the river. The healthier communities were primarily located within the Village of Richmond and likely indicate fewer impacts such as channel straightening and riparian vegetation removal in this section. The river has a mixture of cool, cold and warm water fish. The fish and aquatic insects indicate that Jock River Reach 2 has been impacted by human activities such as agriculture and urbanization.

The results of groundwater monitoring showed that groundwater quality generally has high mineral content and elevated concentrations of iron and total dissolved solids. The groundwater in the subwatershed is of acceptable quality however and meets Ministry of Environment guidelines.

Agriculture is the largest land use in the subwatershed, accounting for more than 1/2 of the land cover. Natural areas are the second largest land use with about 1/3 of the land area in the subwatershed. Natural areas are generally distributed to the edge of the subwatershed. There are few natural areas in the centre region of the subwatershed. The study notes that there are stewardship opportunities that could enhance connections between natural areas. The subwatershed has very few wetlands (<4%) however there are opportunities to enhance habitat areas particularly along the west side of the subwatershed and along riparian areas. Village development is the third largest land use at 7 % coverage. Further development in the watershed will be predominantly within the village of Richmond.

In 2011, the City will prepare an addendum update to the Phase I report dealing with changes since 2006. This will be followed by a Phase II report detailing goals and objectives for the subwatershed.

Further information on the subwatershed study can be obtained on the web at www.ottawa.ca or by contacting Robin van de Lande, Planner II at 613-580-2424 x43011 (robin.vandelande@ottawa.ca).

Location of the Jock River Reach 2 Subwatershed
(adapted from Map 3 – Jock River Management Plan 2001)

