



Recreation and ecology at Woolwich Reservoir

This sign has been sponsored by:



The picturesque semi-circular Floradale Millpond dam is across Floradale Road.



Elmira Lions Lake Trail

A seven kilometre loop around the Woolwich Reservoir, the trail passes through some private property and a maple bush. It was developed in 1980 by the Elmira Lions and it is a favourite spot for cycling, hiking, fishing and picnics.

Please be respectful

- Please respect this natural area so that it can remain open in the future.
- Don't leave anything but footprints and take only pictures.
- Drive your vehicle on pavement only and use the garbage bins provided.
- Keep your pets on a leash at all times and please clean up after them.

The brilliant red fruit of the jack-in-the-pulpit stands out in the fall.



This small bridge is part of the trail construction by the Lions Club.



Fishing at the bottom of the dam embankment.



Water from the dam is released into Canagagigue Creek downstream of the dam.

What is infrastructure?

Infrastructure includes roads, buildings, bridges, dams. All those engineered structures that help us get around and manage modern life.

Most of what you see around you is green infrastructure: trees, forests, grasslands and wetlands that support plants and animals. It is infrastructure because it provides ecological benefits such as filtering water and cleaning the air. Economists call this "ecological goods and services" and say these services are worth thousands of dollars each year.

Some of the many ecological benefits of trees:

Clean water

Clean and produce oxygen

Store carbon

Stop erosion

Provide shade and wind protection

Offer food and homes for insects, birds and mammals

Moderate stream flows and storm water

Provide materials for products such as furniture and paper

Have you had a forest bath today?



We can all benefit from a "forest bath" which means spending time in a forest.

Nearly 40 years of research shows that the experience of nature is very important to human health and well-being. Step into the woods, take a deep breath and enjoy nature.

Your body and mind will benefit!



What creatures live around this reservoir?



Muskrats

Medium-sized rodents with an adaptable lifestyle that are often found in the water. They eat both plants and animals.



Spring Peepers

A small frog that is heard in early spring. They live in wetlands and moist forests and are very tiny – only about an inch long.



Snapping Turtles

These live in ponds, lakes and slow moving rivers. Be careful when driving because they cross roads to lay eggs.

Red Winged Blackbird



The males have a red and yellow wing bar on an all black body. Females are dark brown with white streaks. While still plentiful, this species is in decline.

Special Concern in Ontario & Canada

Which fish live here?

The mix of fish that live in the reservoir includes carp, catfish, small mouth bass, pike and perch.

There are brook trout living in coldwater sections of the Canagagigue Creek both upstream and downstream of the reservoir.



Please don't dump your unwanted goldfish, minnow buckets and other aquatic plants and animals in the reservoir or any other waterway.

What is a plantation forest?

- The plantation forests surrounding the reservoir were planted in the 1980s and are mostly white pine, the provincial tree of Ontario.
- A plantation forest is planted evenly in rows and usually contains only one or two species of trees. It is the fastest, easiest and least expensive way to plant a forest, but it can be devastated by invasive pests.
- Mixed forests have more tree species, are more expensive to plant, provide a more biodiverse habitat and are more resilient to climate change and pests.
- Sections of this forest may be thinned in the future to improve forest health and to transform it into a mixed forest with more species in the future.