

# Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters

## HOW FARMERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE PARTNERS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

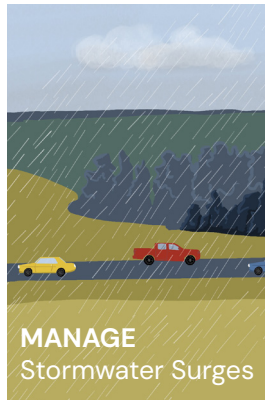
**F**armers and municipalities typically interact over land use or infrastructure. But by maintaining healthy soils while growing their crops, farmers also help fulfill a key municipal responsibility: **water management**.

### HEALTHY SOILS...



- Resist wind and water erosion
- Reduce sediment clogging ditches and rivers

SAVE ON COSTS OF SEDIMENT REMOVAL



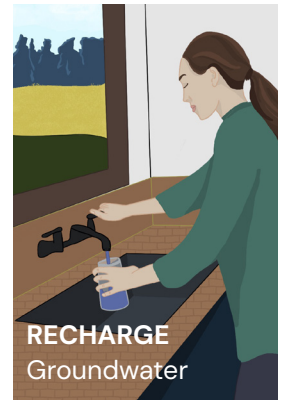
- Absorb more rainfall
- Reduce runoff into ditches and waterways

LOWER FLOOD RISK TO COMMUNITIES



- Keep nutrients and soil in the field
- Prevent algal blooms downstream

SUPPORTS LOCAL ECOTOURISM



- Hold water longer in the soil
- Support aquifer recharge and clean water

KEEP TAPS FLOWING DURING DROUGHTS

WATER MANAGEMENT

### WHAT'S NEXT? ► Local governments can:

- **Recognize soil as a living, dynamic ecosystem** that supports vital ecological functions and underpins the social and economic well-being of both rural and urban communities.
- Use **land-use planning** to protect healthy soils and safeguard our future food supply.
- **Invest in incentives** that reward farm operations for implementing management practices that build and sustain healthy soils.

DIG DEEPER  
Visit our website for additional information




### Learn More from this Series:

- **Healthy Agricultural Soils: A Conversation Guide**
- **Healthy Soils, Strong Returns: Including Soil Health in the Conversation**
- **Healthy Soils, Sustainable Future: Farmland, Local Governments, and the SDGs**

**Soils at Guelph:** Advancing and mobilizing knowledge so soils are optimally managed in Ontario and beyond.