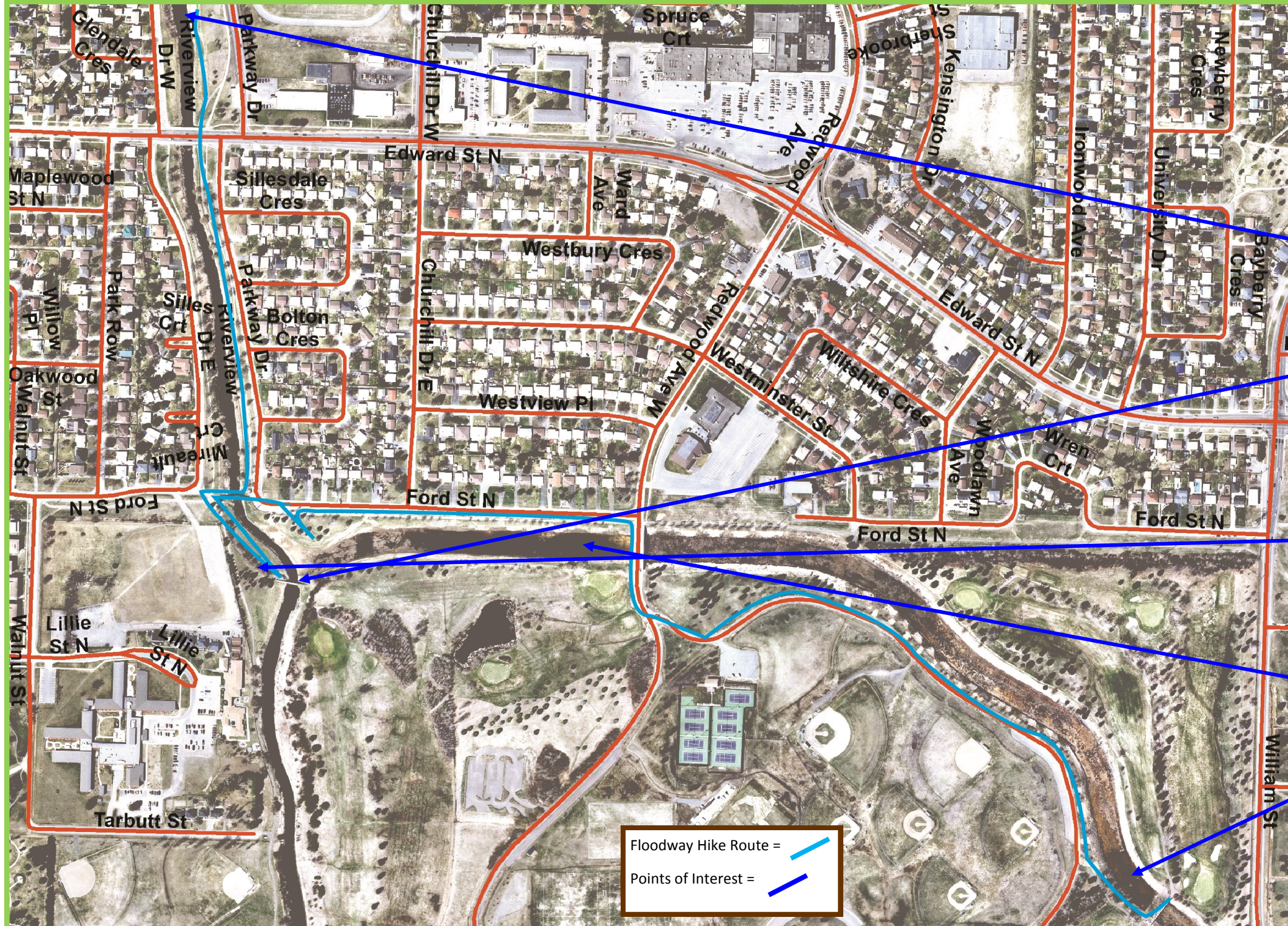
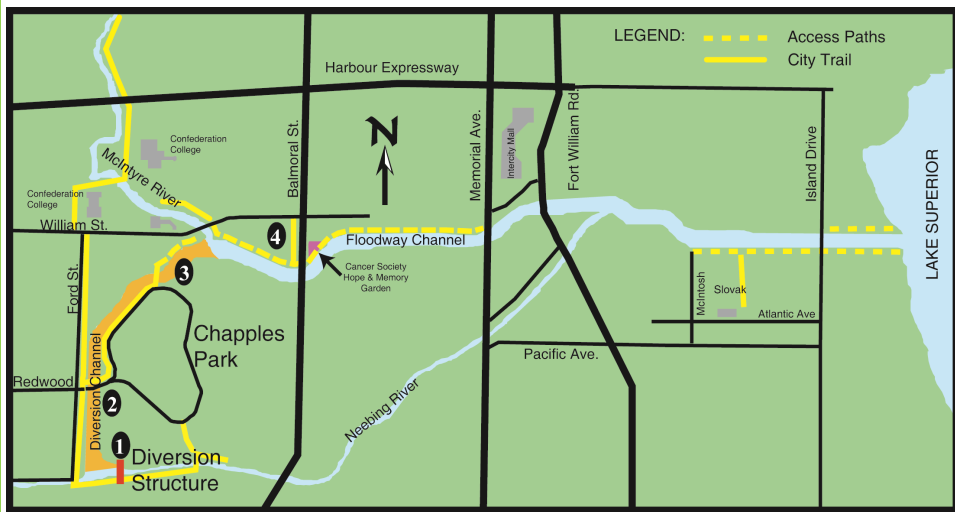


## NEEBING-MCINTYRE FLOODWAY







**DIVERTING STREAMFLOW TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING PROBLEMS:**

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway is a large channel extending from the Neebing River at Ford Street and Parkway Drive to the McIntyre River just east of the William Street Bridge. The purpose of this engineering marvel is to reduce damage from flooding to the intercity area and to protect existing development.

**HISTORY:**

In 1941, the region was hit by a fierce storm which caused extensive flooding on the Neebing River. The flood waters rose to the point where they overflowed into the McIntyre River. In an attempt to deal with flooding problems, the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) was created in 1954. In 1963, as a result of expansion, the NVCA became the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA). Since then, the Lakehead Region has received sev-

eral major rainstorms. The first three major storms, occurring in 1968, 1971 and 1977, caused the intercity area to experience major damage due to flooding. Such was not the case in 1997, 2008 and 2012 thanks to the construction of the Floodway. The major storm in 2012 resulted in extensive damage, however the Floodway itself was fully functional and worked exactly as designed.

**BACKGROUND:**

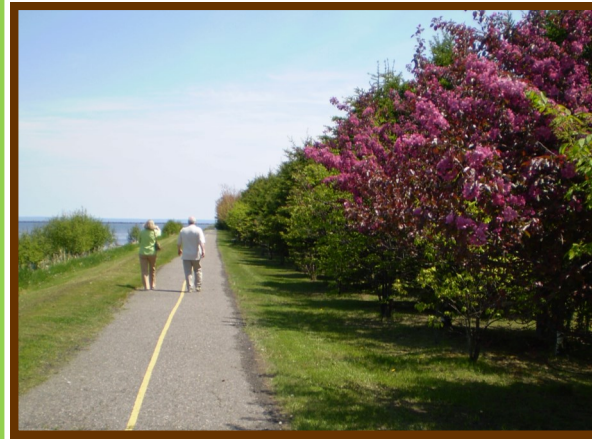
In the past, major rain storms have caused the Neebing River to overflow its banks causing extensive flooding in the intercity area. Downstream from the Thunder Bay Expressway, the river flows through an urban area including light industry and shopping malls. Solid surfaces (i.e. pavement) in these areas prevent absorption of water during periods of high rainfall resulting in greater runoff into the river. Flat land adjacent to the Neebing River meant the river easily overflowed its banks, develop-

ing a reputation for flooding. The implementation of a flood control system was needed. In response to citizens concerns, the LRCA initiated and commissioned the construction of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway. The project began in 1973 and was completed under budget and ahead of schedule in 1984 with a final price tag of \$15-million.

Since that time the Floodway has prevented millions of dollars in damage due to flooding and has cleared the way for major development in the intercity area.

**HOW IT WORKS:**

The Neebing-McIntyre Floodway does not need to be turned on in order to operate. Everything works automatically. During flood events the Floodway operates without any required actions. The Diversion Structure limits flows down the Neebing River and diverts excess flows into the 1.5 km Diversion Channel which directs excess flows to the widened, deepened Neebing-McIntyre Floodway to Lake Superior. As part of the Floodway's operation, maintenance dredging needs to occur every 20 years or so, depending on sediment buildup. Two sediment traps are also required to be emptied every 7 years. This maintenance ensures that the Floodway remains operational and capable of handling rainfall up to and including the Regional Storm.



Enjoy the entire walking path along the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway, as well as the LRCA's 8 Conservation Areas: Little Trout Bay, Mission Island Marsh, Hurkett Cove, Cascades, Silver Harbour, MacKenzie Point, Hazelwood Lake and Cedar Falls.



**Lakehead Region Conservation Authority**

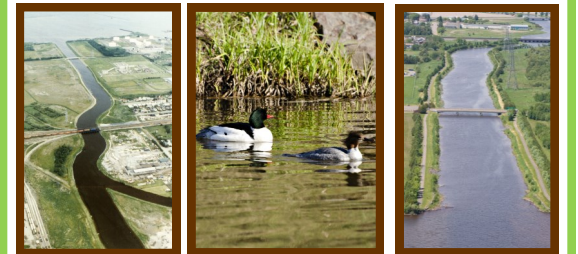
130 Conservation Road  
 P.O. Box: 10427  
 Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T8  
 (807) 344-5857 | info@lakeheadca.com

[www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com)



**EXPLORE**  
 LAKEHEAD REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**NEEBING-MCINTYRE FLOODWAY**  
 Walking Tour



**Lakehead Region Conservation Authority**

Conserve today...for a better tomorrow