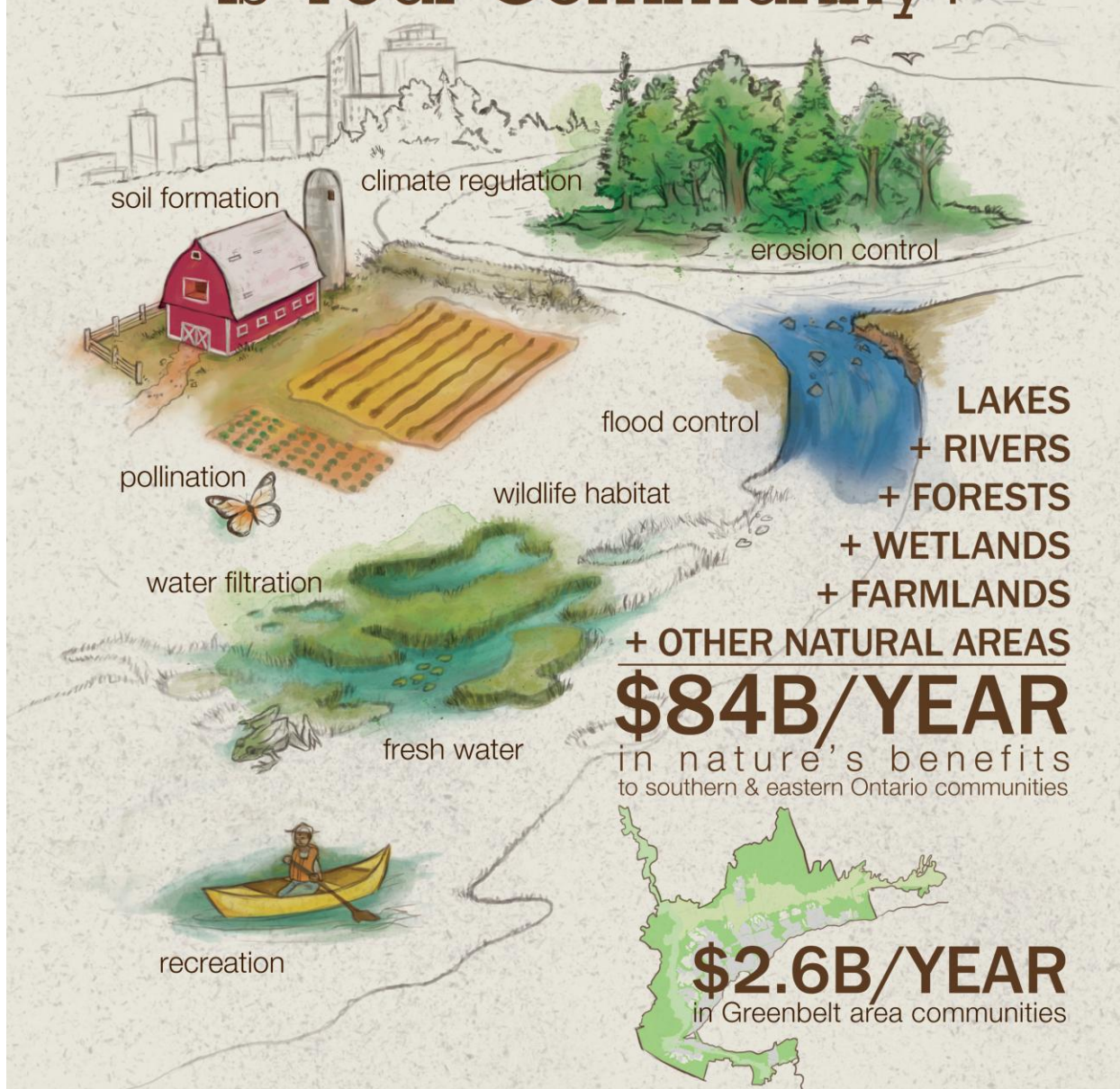


How Rich is Your Community?



**LAKES
+ RIVERS
+ FORESTS
+ WETLANDS
+ FARMLANDS
+ OTHER NATURAL AREAS**

\$84B/YEAR
in nature's benefits
to southern & eastern Ontario communities

\$2.6B/YEAR
in Greenbelt area communities

Diversify Your Portfolio. Invest in Nature.

ontarionature.org

Ontario
Nature

“Nature’s goods and services are the ultimate foundations of life and health.”
(World Health Organization, 2005)

Ecosystem services are the multiple and irreplaceable benefits provided by our forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, valley lands and other natural areas. Farmland can also provide ecosystem services. We can maximize these benefits by protecting interconnected systems – or greenways – of natural areas across southern and eastern Ontario.

The Investment

Greenways help maximize nature’s benefits, by:

- Providing: fresh water, food, genetic resources
- Regulating: climate, disease, flood, pollination
- Enabling: recreation, education, tourism
- Supporting: soil formation, waste treatment, nutrient cycling

Greenway planning aims to maintain, restore and enhance these benefits, and to increase resilience and the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including floods, droughts and more frequent extreme weather events.

The Return

- The world’s ecosystem services have been valued modestly at \$33 trillion per year.
- Closer to home, southern and eastern Ontario’s ecosystem services have been conservatively estimated at over \$84 billion per year.
- In the Greenbelt area, ecosystem services are valued at over \$2.6 billion per year.
- At smaller scales, the ecosystem services have been estimated for the Lake Simcoe basin at over \$975 million per year, and the Credit River watershed at over \$371 million per year.

Planning for Nature → Planning for Prosperous Communities

ontarionature.org/greenway

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