



# Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 13, 2019



## **Notice of Meeting Conservation Advisory Board**

**Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

**HCA Main Office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario**

- 1. Chairman's Remarks** – Topalovic
- 2. Election of Vice Chair**
- 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
- 6. Member Briefing**
  - 6.1. Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System – David Galbraith
- 7. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions** – Topalovic
- 8. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - 8.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (April 11, 2019) – Topalovic
- 9. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 10. Staff Reports/Memorandums**
  - 10.1. Cootes to Escarpment Update and Management Plan Report – Hall
  - 10.2. Valens Master Plan Update Memorandum – Hall
  - 10.3. Smoking and Vaping Restrictions in Conservation Areas – Costie
  - 10.4. HCA Volunteer Program – Konik
  - 10.5. Upcoming Events – Costie
- 11. New Business**
- 12. Next Meeting – Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**
- 13. Adjournment**

## HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### Conservation Advisory Board

#### MINUTES

**April 11, 2019**

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at HCA's Woodend Administration Building commencing at 4:30 p.m.

#### **PRESENT:**

**Maria Topalovic, Chair  
Kristen Brittain  
Frank Cucullo  
Donna Kydd  
Duke O'Sullivan**

**Lydia Cartlidge  
Joanne Di Maio  
Santina Moccio**

#### **REGRETS:**

**John Barkovic, Brad Gautreau, Susan Fielding, Cheryl Larocque, Chris Michels, John Shaw, Wayne Terryberry**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

**Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Cari Hobbs, Lesley McDonell, Scott Peck, Kathy Smith, Jaime Tellier and Nancy Watts – HCA Staff**

#### **OTHERS:**

**Jim Howlett, – Former Board and Advisory Board member, Carol Howlett  
Media – Not Present**

#### **1. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair welcomed everyone and indicated regrets from Brad Gautreau, Chris Michels, John Shaw and Wayne Terryberry.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts of interest. There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Staff added two reports under Staff Reports/Memorandums related to the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program Project Technical Advisory Team and Gypsy Moth Surveys and Aerial Spray Program.

**CA1908**                      **MOVED BY: Donna Kydd**  
                                    **SECONDED BY: Frank Cucullo**

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**CARRIED**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were none.

**5. MEMBER BRIEFING****5.1 CAPSS Year End Review**

Matt Hall presented a summary of the capital projects completed in 2018. Some of the many projects included: restoration of the Dundas Valley Trail Centre train cars, refurbishment of the Dofasco 2000 Trail boardwalk, vegetated buffer plantings at the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area, Wild Waterworks repairs and maintenance, dredging of the Fifty Point Marina, and completion of the 10-year Master Plan Strategy and Westfield Heritage Village Master Plan. Maria thanked Matt for a presentation highlighting the many projects spanning the breadth of HCA's watershed.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ACTIONS**

Maria reported that the following items were approved at the March HCA Board of Directors meeting.

CA1903	2019 Shuttle Bus – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area
CA1904	HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review
CA1905	HCA 10 Year Masterplan Update Strategy
CA1906	2018 Westfield Heritage Village Artifact Donation
CA1907	Seed Mixes Suitable for HCA Watershed

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****7.1 Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (February 14, 2019)**

**CA1909                      MOVED BY: Duke O’Sullivan  
                                    SECONDED BY: Donna Kydd**

**THAT the minutes of the February 14, 2019 Conservation Areas Advisory Board meeting be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****8.1 Tracking List**

Maria asked members if there were any questions with regard to the tracking list. There were none.

**CA1910                      MOVED BY: Frank Cucullo  
                                    SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Tracking of Projects to Return to the Conservation Advisory Board be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

**9. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS****9.1 Land Securement Strategy Update**

Scott presented the report and answered the member’s questions. The report outlines a framework for the review and update of HCA’s Land Securement Strategy. The strategy sets out the focus of HCA’s land securement criteria and priorities. Scott advised that having the strategy approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, enables tools to complete severances without navigating through the Planning Act. HCA’s current approval expires at the end of 2019. Therefore, updating the strategy is timely. Member’s inquired about potential implications of changing provincial policies with regard to development to land securement opportunities. Scott responded that cost of land is more often found to be the limiting factor to acquiring land.

**CA1911                      MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio**

**SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**THAT HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board;**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors;**

**THAT the report entitled “Hamilton Conservation Authority’s 2020 Land Securement Strategy”, dated March 28, 2019 be received; and,**

**THAT the framework outlined in the above noted report for the review and update of the Hamilton Conservation Authority’s Land Securement Strategy be endorsed.**

**CARRIED**

9.2 Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and Management Plan Updates

Kathy presented the memorandum, outlining the timeline and process for the completion of the project. The process includes a variety of public consultation methods and opportunities. A mid-year status report to the Conservation Advisory Board is also included in the timeline. Staff intend to submit the plans for approval by the end of the year. Maria thanked Kathy for the presentation and expressed excitement to see the outcomes of the project. She also commended staff for implementing the project in accordance with the 10-Year Master Plan Strategy.

**CA1912**

**MOVED BY: Kristen Brittain  
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and Management Plan Updates be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

9.3 Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project – Wetland Design

Scott provided a verbal update on the wetland design project and answered member’s questions. To date, approximately 245 acres of land have been



acquired. Scott advised that a report was presented to the Board of Directors in February regarding the design of a wetland on the main Saltfleet Conservation Area lands. The Environmental Assessment completed in 2018 identified a wetland can be created in the northern portion of the property to address flooding and erosion downstream. Natural heritage and archeological assessments are currently underway to inform design requirements. Staff anticipate completion of the design phase for the wetland to be completed by the end of 2019, and construction to commence in 2020. Members inquired about continuation of agricultural practices on lands beyond the proposed wetland area. Staff advised it is anticipated the agricultural practices will continue in the near-term. Members reviewed the larger project concept, including a proposed series of wetlands along riparian corridors to achieve flooding and erosion mitigation objectives. Maria requested a reminder be sent to members closer to the planned Public Information Centre (PIC). Staff anticipate the PIC will be held in November.

**CA1913****MOVED BY: Frank Cucullo****SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge**

**THAT the verbal update on the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project – Wetland Design be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

#### **9.4    Location-based Game Applications at Conservation Areas**

Rondalyn Brown introduced Sandra Lindsay and her daughters, Jerra and Jordan, to present the report describing the development of a location-based game application for Westfield Heritage Village and proposed expansion to other HCA Conservation Areas. The application is interactive with a historical education component. Staff noted it increases public accessibility to the Conservation Area and allows visitors access to information without the requirement for interpreters. The application was developed in partnership with Hamilton Christian High School. The partners have proposed to develop additional applications for other HCA Conservation Areas. Cari Hobbs, Superintendent of Christie Lake Conservation Area, added support for expansion of the initiative to other Conservation Areas, indicating the apps will encourage new users to explore the areas. The members were very supportive of the progressive initiative and provided suggestions for additional content and functionality, as well as other possible partnerships. Members also provided guidance with regard to ensuring safety measures are included in the design, i.e. remaining on trails and determining ownership of the app content.

**CA1914****MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan****SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**THAT HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board:**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT staff partner with Hamilton Christian High School to undertake development of location-based game applications for HCA's Conservation Areas, as detailed in the report entitled "Location-based Game Applications at Conservation Areas", dated April 11, 2019.**

**CARRIED**

**9.5    Upcoming Events**

Gord Costie provided an update of the upcoming events that was provided in the agenda package. Gord added the Maple Syrup programming at Westfield was a success despite some inclement weather. He also advised the Spencer Gorge shuttle service will resume starting on the Easter long-weekend. Increased parking fines and additional signage are planned for a Special Enforcement Area in Greenville, with the aim to further improve traffic congestion in the area. Members inquired about the effectiveness of the shuttle. Gord reported that approximately 45,000 people have utilized the shuttle, resulting in an estimated 15,000 cars being removed from the community.

**CA1915**

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio  
SECONDED BY: Donna Kydd**

**THAT the Upcoming 2019 HCA & Partner Events be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

**9.6    Project Technical Advisory Committee**

Scott presented the report outlining the role of the Project Technical Advisory Committee in reviewing grant applications made to the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program. As such, the Terms of Reference for the Committee and appointment of members are required to be approved by the HCA Board of Directors for insurance purposes on an annual basis.



**CA1916****MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio  
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio****THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT to meet annual insurance coverage requirements, the responsibilities of the Project Technical Advisory Committee for the Hamilton and Halton Watershed Stewardship Programs be approved as identified in this staff report of April 11, 2019; and further****THAT the members on the Committee be appointed for the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.****CARRIED****9.7    Gypsy Moth Surveys and Aerial Spray Program**

Lesley McDonnell presented the report, highlighting the results of recent gypsy moth surveying work as indicating the 2018 aerial spray of a biological control was effective in reducing the population. However, significant amounts of egg masses were observed in fringe areas beyond the sprayed area. HCA and City staff are concerned about tree health and mortality in the areas. Therefore, staff are proposing to undertake a small aerial spray, approximately 3 hectares in size, in 2019 when the City is also undertaking additional aerial spray.

**CA1917****MOVED BY: Santina Moccio  
SECONDED BY: Frank Cucullo****THAT HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board:****THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:****THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the gypsy moth spray program as outlined in the staff report dated April 11, 2019****CARRIED****10.    NEW BUSINESS**

#### 10.1 Recognition of Outgoing CAB Members – Kristen Brittain, Donna Kydd and Frank Cucullo

Maria shared remarks acknowledging outgoing members Kristen Brittain, Frank Cucullo and Donna Kydd. Maria thanked them each for their valuable input and dedication to the Advisory Board. On behalf of HCA and personally, Lisa Burnside expressed sincere appreciation for their input, support and engagement over the years. Each were presented with a lifetime membership pass to HCA's Conservation Areas.

Kristen, Donna and Frank thanked their fellow members and staff for the opportunity to serve on the Board. Donna indicated she looks forward to seeing the great work that continues in the future. Frank likened the experience to being that of a family and a blessing to have known everyone.

#### 10.2 Recognition of Dedicated Service – Jim Howlett, past CAB and Board Member

Maria introduced Jim Howlett, a past member of the Conservation Advisory Board and HCA's Board of Directors. Lisa Burnside highlighted Jim's unprecedented service to HCA, having served on every committee, advisory board and board of directors that HCA has had over the last twenty years. Jim joined the Board of Directors and Conservation Areas Advisory Board in 1998, served as Vice Chair of the Board for four years and as Chair in late 2014 and 2015. He also served on the Westfield Heritage Village Advisory Council, Budget and Administration Committee and Water Management Board. Most notably, Jim served as Chair of the Conservation Areas Advisory Board for eight years, where his leadership helped guide the direction of the Authority's programs and services.

Jim was always a strong proponent of expanding HCA's land holdings into the eastern reaches of the watershed and was with the organization through the acquisition and creation of the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area. Jim also championed the new Saltfleet Conservation Area, having visited the areas when they were still working farms. In recognition of his connection to these lands, a stone from the Conservation Area has been selected to serve as a base for a commemorative plaque, describing Jim's contributions to HCA and vision to look eastward for new conservation and recreation opportunities. Lisa extended her sincere appreciation for his incredible service to HCA in every capacity. Jim was also presented with a lifetime membership pass to HCA's Conservation Areas.

Jim shared insights into his interest in serving with the Hamilton Conservation Authority. He endeavoured to provide a humble perspective to issues and opportunities brought before the Authority. He recalled amusing tales from the past and expressed delight as the variety of issues and proposals that were

addressed at the various Boards and Committees. He thanked everyone for the honour to serve.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Members requested the meeting be held at Valens Lake Conservation Area.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.



# Report

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY:** Matthew Hall, Director; Capital Projects & Strategic Services  
Kathy Smith, Design Projects Coordinator; Capital Projects & Strategic Services

**DATE:** May 29, 2019

**RE:** Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System  
Borer's Falls - Rock Chapel and Cootes Paradise Management Plans

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:

**THAT** the “Borer’s Falls-Rock Chapel Management Plan” and “Cootes Paradise Management Plan” be endorsed, and further;

**THAT** Hamilton Conservation staff be directed to work with the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System partners to implement the objectives of these plans.

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Management Plans for two Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Heritage Lands were completed under the guidance and direction of the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, McMaster University, Bruce Trail Conservancy, and Conservation Halton. The Management Plans, which included public and agency consultation, were developed to provide direction on conserving the natural and cultural features and improve sustainable recreation activities, education, and research opportunities on these public lands.

These are the fourth and fifth out of a total of six Heritage Lands Management Plans to be completed within the EcoPark System. Hamilton Conservation Authority owns and manages land within the Borer's Falls-Rock Chapel study area. The final Heritage Lands scheduled for a management plan is the Lower Grindstone study area.

Working collaboratively with the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, agencies will implement these plans on the properties they manage and assist partner agencies in meeting the plans' objectives.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

### **The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System**

The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is a network of 3,900 hectares of significant lands naturally connecting Hamilton and Burlington at the western end of Lake Ontario. It consists of more than 1,900 hectares of permanently protected natural lands and open space, surrounded by 2,000 hectares of privately-owned outreach lands. See attached Vision Map, Appendix 1.0 for more information.

### **The Management Plans**

A primary goal of the Cootes to Escarpment initiative is the development of comprehensive joint Heritage Lands Management Plans for six core Heritage Land areas. Heritage Lands Management Plans provide a consistent framework for the future planning, implementation and management of lands under ownership of the partners. See Appendix 2.0 and 3.0 maps.

A full copy of the documents can be found on the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System website:

[www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca/borer%27s-falls-rock-chapel-plan](http://www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca/borer%27s-falls-rock-chapel-plan)

<http://www.cootestoescarpmentpark.ca/cootes-paradise-plan>

Completion of Heritage Lands Management Plans, in all six core Heritage Lands includes:

- Identification, protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage resources.
- Identification and documentation of pressures and issues of concern raised by partner organizations, stakeholders, and the public.
- Infrastructure creation, maintenance, and decommissioning.
- Recreation, education and research opportunities that are compatible with preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the areas.

- Criteria and indicators to evaluate the implementation and ongoing monitoring program to collect relevant information to gauge success of the management plan.

The plans are intended to complement land use plans or zoning that are currently enacted within the EcoPark System area; including, but not limited to, the Greenbelt Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and municipal Official Plans. While portions of the EcoPark System fall outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, the management plan approach utilizes the framework set out in the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) Manual.

The management plans are intended to provide high-level guidance for future management of the Heritage Lands. Detailed site-specific master plans may be prepared at a later date to further refine recommendations and these will need to be submitted (where required) for approval through the NEPOSS process.

Through a competitive bidding process, North-South Environmental Inc. (Environmental Consultants) was retained to develop management plans for the Cootes Paradise Heritage Lands and Borer's Falls–Rock Chapel Heritage Lands, which began concurrently in late 2017.

**The Cootes Paradise Heritage Lands** comprise 762 ha of land and marsh located at the north end of the City of Hamilton (Appendix 3). The majority of the Current EcoPark System Lands are owned by the RBG (582 ha), with smaller areas owned by the City of Hamilton (98 ha) and HCA (30 ha).

**The Borer's Falls - Rock Chapel Heritage Lands** comprise 498 ha of land north of the urban boundary of the City of Hamilton (Appendix 2). Of the 498 ha within the Heritage Lands, 323 ha (65%) are currently owned and managed by partner organizations (the Current EcoPark System Lands). The majority of the Current EcoPark System Lands are owned by HCA (127 ha), Royal Botanical Gardens (124 ha), with smaller areas owned by Conservation Halton (57 ha) and the City of Hamilton (15 ha).

The plans provide recommendations under 23 management themes that are intended to be evaluated annually. The plan also sets out high priority management tasks per responsible agency. Six high priority tasks have been allocated to HCA within the Management Plans are as follows:

1. Addressing wildlife crossing issues
2. Identifying opportunities for visitor access points
3. Addressing invasive species
4. Improving water quality
5. Closing or re-routing trails in proximity to significant natural heritage features
6. Updating communications and publications with Tourism Hamilton on appropriate access to the waterfalls and trails at Borer's Falls.

HCA will work to incorporate the above tasks into our HCA Master and Management plans for these areas as per the approved schedule of Master and Management plan development. Through our work with the C2E committee, opportunities may arise to address some of these tasks sooner.

This multi-agency project demonstrates HCA's partnership for implementing joint initiatives that support land management, habitat restoration, invasive species control, environmental monitoring, education, cultural heritage protection and sustainable recreation.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Initiatives:
    - Communicate both internally and externally about what HCA does and why
    - Collaborate and share services, expertise and resources with neighbouring conservation authorities and Conservation Ontario.
    - Foster strong working relationships with our federal, provincial and municipal partners through regular meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest.
    - Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners, and Indigenous Peoples.

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

Over the course of the development of the Management Plans, there was considerable public consultation that guided the project, including:

- Public Information Meetings (April 4, 2018 and September 27, 2018) – 26 attendees
- Consultation with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings - nine agencies represented
- Consultation with the Agency Steering Committee – seven agencies represented
- Indigenous Engagement – six attendees from the Six Nations Of The Grand River, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Huron-Wendat Nation.
- Advertisements in the Hamilton Spectator, website, and social media platforms



## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no direct financial impact for this report. The six high priority tasks which have been identified for C2E partners to work towards will be undertaken in association with other partnering agencies, as well as be incorporated into HCA Master and Management plans for these areas.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This report identifies HCA's partnership and support for the EcoPark System natural, cultural and scenic assets. This initiative also supports attracting visitors to our natural areas and connecting our communities with nature through sustainable recreation.



# Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Vision Map



Produced by Michael Karpovage of Mapformation.com. Last updated November 2017.

**Legend:**

- EcoPark Land Boundaries
- Privately Owned Outreach Area
- Hydro Corridors
- Water Bodies
- Roads
- Rail Lines
- Hiking Trails



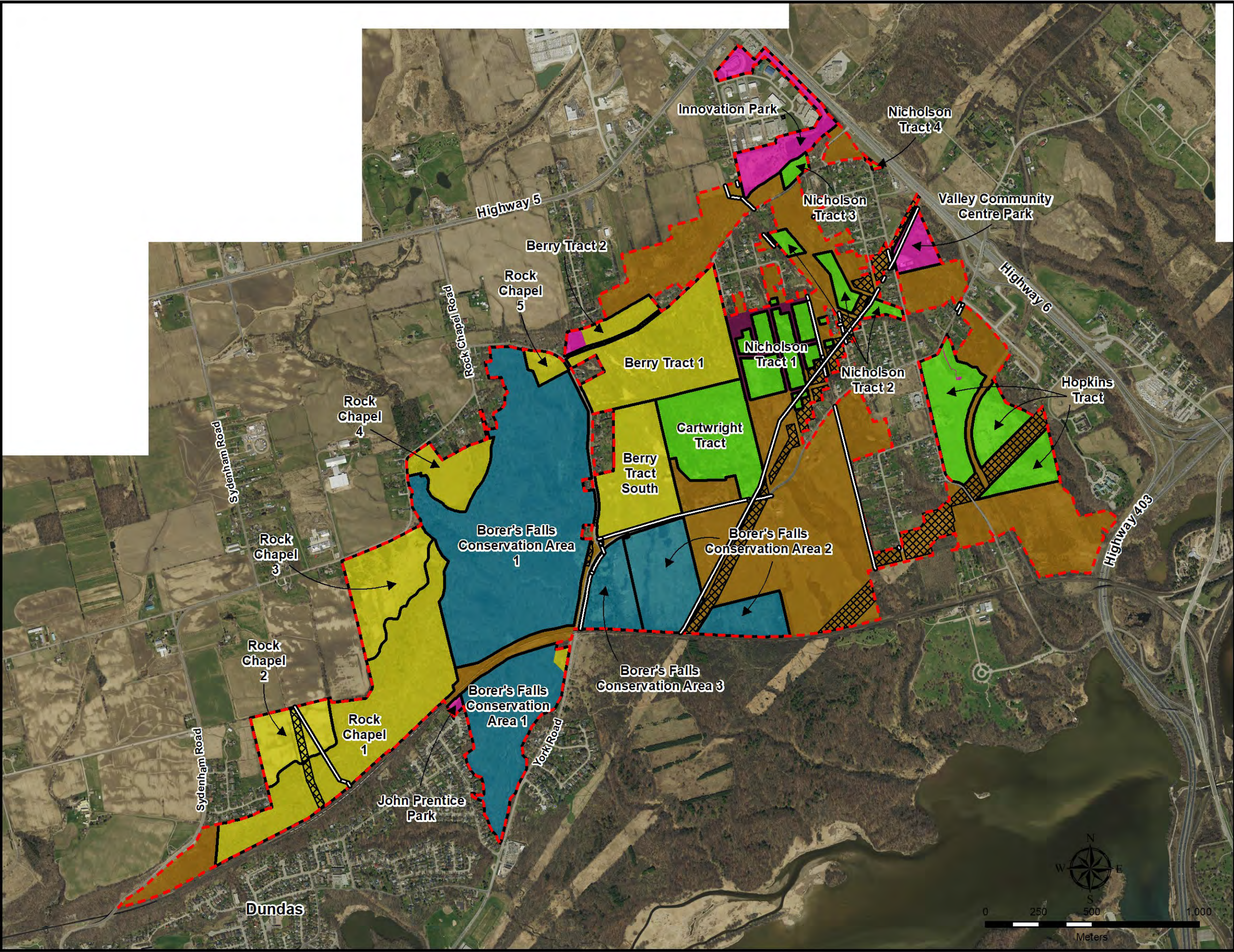
**Vision**

Our vision for the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is that it will be known internationally as a protected, permanent and connected natural lands sanctuary from the Harbour to the Escarpment that promotes ecosystem and human health within Ontario's Greenbelt.



[cootestoescarpment.ca](http://cootestoescarpment.ca)





**Cootes to  
Escarpment  
EcoPark System**  
**Figure 2: Borer's Falls -  
Rock Chapel Heritage  
Lands Management  
Units**

**Legend**

- Heritage Lands Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Utilities
- Gas Pipeline
- Privately Owned Outreach Area
- City of Hamilton Owned  
Unopened Road Allowances

**Current EcoPark Lands**

- City of Hamilton
- Conservation Halton
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Royal Botanical Gardens

**Sources of Information:**  
Royal Botanical Gardens  
Conservation Halton  
Hamilton Conservation Authority  
City of Hamilton  
Land Information Ontario

**Data Disclaimer:**  
All boundaries on this map should be considered approximate. No responsibility or liability is assumed by the C2E EcoPark System partners or their employees, officers and agents for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies, whether due to their negligence or otherwise. Some data on this map is used under license from the Ministry of Natural Resources. © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2016. © Teranet Enterprises Inc. and its suppliers. All rights reserved. NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY.





Cootes to  
Escarpment  
EcoPark System

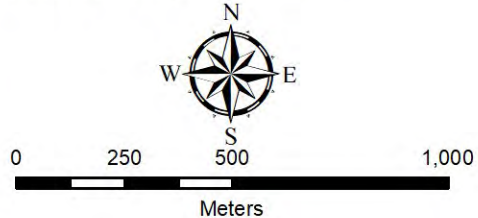
Figure 2: Cootes Paradise  
Heritage Lands  
Management Units

Legend

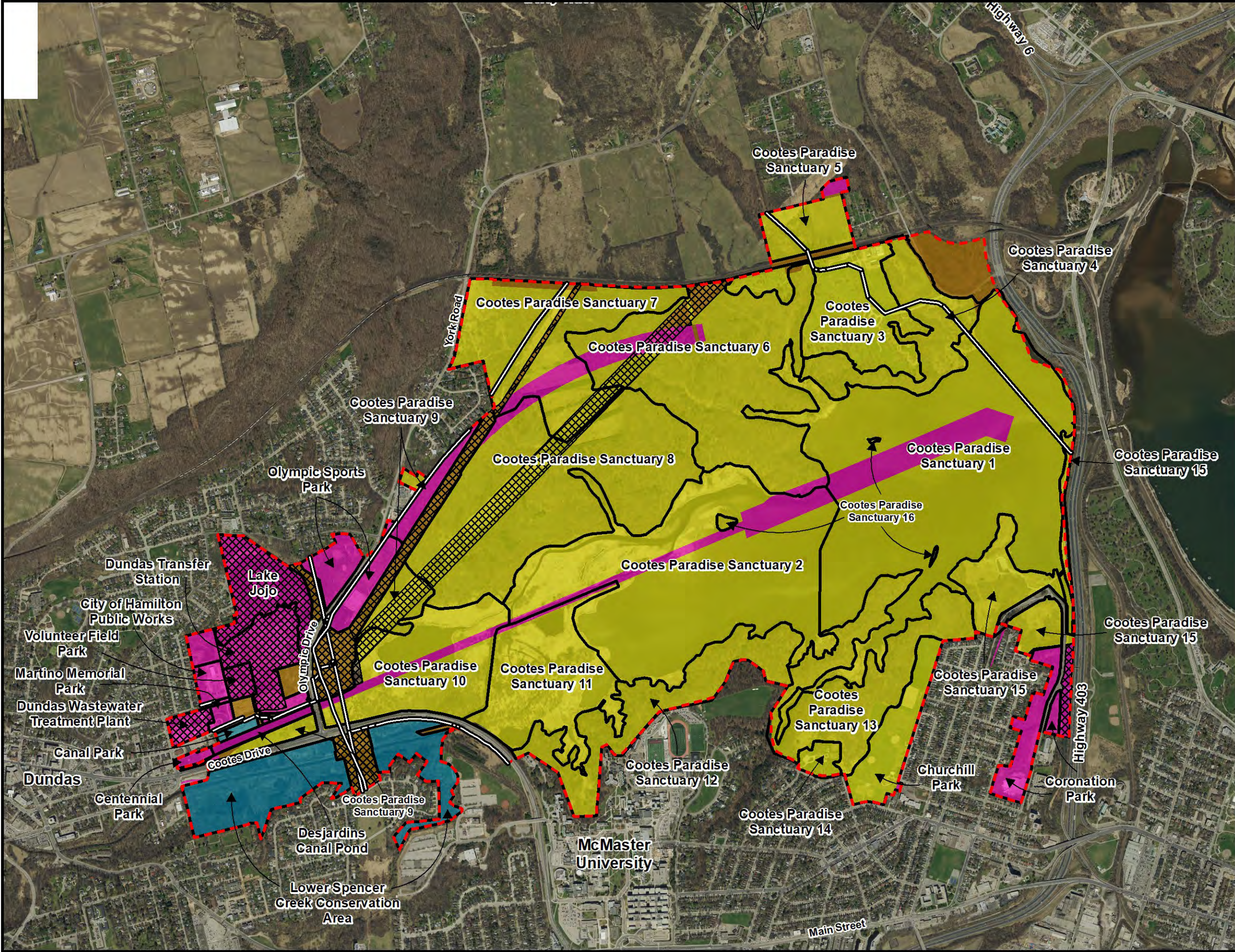
- Heritage Lands Boundary
- Gas Pipeline
- Study Area
- Privately Owned Outreach Area
- Utilities
- Current EcoPark System Lands
  - City of Hamilton
  - Hamilton Conservation Authority
  - Royal Botanical Gardens

Sources of Information:  
Royal Botanical Gardens  
Hamilton Conservation Authority  
City of Hamilton  
Land Information Ontario

Data Disclaimer:  
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October 12, 2018





# Memorandum

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board Members

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED &  
PREPARED BY:** Matthew Hall, Director; Capital Projects &  
Strategic Services

Kathy Smith, Design Projects Coordinator;  
Capital Projects & Strategic Services

**DATE:** May 30, 2019

**RE:** Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and  
Management Plans Public Consultation Overview

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## BACKGROUND

As presented in April, the scheduled properties for master plan and management plan review in 2019 are Valens Lake Conservation Area, Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve, Upper Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands, and the Lafarge 2000 Trail.

These plans support the goals as outlined in HCA's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan as well as the Ten Year Masterplan Update Strategy. Work in progress on the plans is being brought to CAB for review and comment, with anticipated Board of Directors review and approval by January / February 2020.

## STAFF COMMENT

Public consultation for the Master and Management Plans includes the following items:

- Public notice for the master plan and visitor surveys was posted May 16<sup>th</sup> on the HCA website and social media.
- Visitor surveys are available online and at the park. The surveys can be viewed online here:  
<https://conservationhamilton.ca/valens-lake-master-plan-public-comment->

process/

- Two Public Open Houses will be held at Valens, staff will be at a public information booth.
- A Public Information Centre (PIC) is proposed to be held at an off-site venue such as the Valens Community Centre later this year (targeting September) to receive comments from area residents.
- Public comments may be received anytime at our dedicated email: [hcamasterplans@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:hcamasterplans@conservationhamilton.ca)

Scheduling for the public consultation is as follows:

- Public Open House at Valens Lake campground area May 18
- Public Open House at Valens Lake day use area on Saturday, August 3
- Valens Master Plan camping and day use visitor surveys closes on August 14<sup>th</sup>
- Public Information Centre in September
- Receipt of all public comments is targeted for end of October

During the public consultation, HCA will also be working with appropriate stakeholders and other agencies to receive information and comments.

In addition to public and stakeholder engagement, there is an internal staff consultation process which consists of the following:

Held to date:

- Roundtable session #1 – Site Concept (April 3, 2019)
- Roundtable session #2 – Site Activities (April 10, 2019)
- Roundtable session #3 – Site Sustainability (May 22, 2019)

Upcoming:

- Working session #1 – Site Plan
- Working session #2 – Capital Projects
- Working session #3 – Issues & Opportunities

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Initiatives – Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners, and Indigenous Peoples.
- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
  - Initiatives – Identify restoration projects in master plans.

- Initiatives – Identify details of the approved Invasive Species Strategy and natural heritage plans in HCA master plans.
- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
  - Initiatives – Update and develop master and management plans, and implement priorities to further enhance conservation areas for current and future generations.

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

The Grand River Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton, the City of Hamilton and the Township of Puslinch will be circulated copies of the draft plans for comment, after the public commenting period is closed.

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

HCA in-house staffing expertise and resources will be utilized in order to develop these plans. Third party consultation would only be sought should public concerns on specific components of these plans warrant further public consultation and facilitation beyond the expertise of HCA staff. Any expenses associated with the preparation of these plans will be funded through the annual approved HCA Capital Project budget allocation.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The in-person and online public surveys for these plans will end August 14<sup>th</sup>. Comments received via email will continue to be accepted until the end of October. A Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned for mid-September, after which a four week commenting period will follow. At that time staff will finalize the draft plans based on all comments received from the public, CAB & Board members, HCA staff, as well as external agencies and stakeholders. Staff are targeting to bring the final draft plans to CAB for review and endorsement in December, with anticipated Board of Directors review and approval of the finalized plans in early 2020.



# Memorandum

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Gordon Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

**PREPARED BY:** Bruce Harschnitz, Manager of Conservation Area Services

**DATE:** May 28, 2019

**RE:** Smoking and Vaping Restrictions in Conservation Areas

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## BACKGROUND

As a result of new legislation, individual HCA Conservation Areas are identifying locations where smoking and vaping is **not permitted**.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority defines smoking and vaping as outlined in the Smoke Free Ontario Act: Smoking refers to the smoking or holding of lighted tobacco or cannabis (medical or recreational).

Vaping refers to inhaling or exhaling vapour from an electronic cigarette or holding an activated electronic cigarette, whether or not the vapour contains nicotine.

Outdoor recreation organizations such as Parks Canada and a number of Conservation Authorities have identified smoking and vaping use policies for the 2019 operating season. At the time of this report, Ontario Parks has not made a public statement for use while in Provincial Parks.

This memorandum has been prepared to provide information and general understanding of smoking and vaping restrictions in HCA Conservation Areas.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

As a private property owner, HCA has the right to designate additional parameters and restrictions for all smoking or vaping within conservation areas. In addition, the cannabis legislation remains relatively new and will need to reflect changing conditions and public expectations at HCA Conservation Areas.

In the interest of visitor safety and enjoyment, the HCA has identified that smoking and vaping would not be permitted in restricted areas, similar to the City of Hamilton Smoking Bylaws:

### **HCA Restricted Areas**

- Picnic shelters or pavilions
- Within any enclosed areas including inside washrooms
- Fifty Point also restricts all smoking and vaping in the marina

Dual “No Smoking and No Vaping” signs have been placed at the smoke-free areas, in appropriate locations to ensure that the public is aware that smoking and vaping is not allowed.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
  - Initiatives – Identify and support a more diverse and acceptable range of programs for our conservation area users
- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Providing a positive and safe environment for both staff and visitors
  - Initiatives – Collaborate and share services, expertise and resources with neighboring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

None

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Restrictions on smoking and vaping is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on conservation area revenues and operations.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Staff recommend HCA take a measured approach in identifying areas where smoking and vaping restrictions will be reasonable for compliance and ensures our visitors are not exposed to second-hand smoke in public enclosed spaces such as our washrooms. It is expected that other outdoor organizations similar to the HCA will be producing their own policies governing smoking and vaping. As these policies and best practices are developed, the HCA's policy will be reviewed and adapted as appropriate.



# Memorandum

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board (CAB)

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Neil McDougall, Secretary-Treasurer and  
T. Scott Peck, Deputy CAO/Director, Watershed  
Planning & Engineering

**PREPARED BY:** Joel Konik, Grants Officer and  
Jeff Stock, Watershed Stewardship Technician

**DATE:** May 30, 2019

**RE:** Update on Volunteer Activities at HCA

## BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2018, the HCA Volunteer Committee was established with the goal of better managing HCA's Volunteer Opportunities so that they would be current, fully functional and sustainable. These volunteer opportunities were deemed to involve individuals, students, community groups, institutional groups, and corporate groups.

The newly established HCA Volunteer Committee serves as an advisory committee to an HCA staff person whose duties include acting as the point of contact for Volunteer Opportunities. The HCA Volunteer Committee is comprised of staff from the following departments: Watershed Planning & Engineering, Capital Projects, Conservation Area Services, Hamilton Conservation Foundation, and Grants.

This committee will refer matters to Executive Team as the need arises. Over the next year, the 'point of contact' for volunteers will better manage the volunteers and collect information leading to the establishing of a formal program at the HCA.

Here are some key findings and events that have occurred to date:

- Stewardship and Ecology has completed three (3) invasive removal days and one (1) habitat creation project in various locations, ranging from 4 to 11 volunteers per event;
- A total of twelve (12) additional events are planned for this year. Three (3) more invasive removal volunteer days, six (6) litter clean up days and three (3) ecology related volunteer days are scheduled to occur by the end of 2019;
- Confederation Beach Park has opportunities for ongoing litter clean up events with four (4) events completed so far, ranging from 10 – 100 volunteers; and
- From April 2018 to May 2019, we have had fifty eight (58) volunteers registered through the online database. Eleven (11) volunteers have confirmed placements throughout HCA events.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

Now that volunteers are engaged and tracked by the HCA 'point of contact' staff person we are able to increase participation at HCA events. Last year, 2018 events were promoted to which no volunteers registered to participate. This year, 2019, every event has had at least four (4) or more volunteers participate. The HCA 'point of contact' staff person, the management of the database, and the engagement of volunteers is proving to yield successful results in recruiting volunteers at HCA events.

As the program continues to expand and evolve, it is anticipated that more formal goals and objectives will be identified and set in regard to volunteer activities.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

This initiative refers directly to the many of the Strategic Priority Areas in HCA's current Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023):

- **Strategic Priority Area - Organization Excellence**
  - Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners and Indigenous Peoples
- **Strategic Priority Area - Natural Heritage Conservation**
  - Maintain and enhance the natural heritage features of HCA lands and manage these lands on an environmentally sustainable basis
- **Strategic Priority Area - Education & Environmental Awareness.**
  - Support community participation through user group engagement and volunteer group coordination

- **Strategic Priority Area - Conservation Area Experience**
  - Connecting communities and residents with nature by encouraging conservation area use

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

Not applicable

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The current 2019 experience to date has shown that the HCA Volunteer Committee has created an effective framework and program which engages the Hamilton Community in a positive way and helps achieves many initiatives in the HCA Strategic Plan. Specific targets for participation and event numbers will be set for 2020 work plans.



## **Upcoming 2019 HCA & Partner Events**

### **Opening Weekend**

**June 8 & 9, 11:00am to 8:00pm**

#### **Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

What better way than to start your summer than a day at Wild Waterworks?! Splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Make sure to visit for your chance to win 1 of 2 Family Season Passes for 2019! Bring a canned good and receive \$3.00 off regular admission. Not valid with sundown admission or other discounts. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com), phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca)

### **Bring a Picnic for Father's Day**

**June 16 12:30 – 4:00 pm**

#### **Westfield Heritage Village**

**1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

Treat Dad to a day in the country. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the beautiful, picturesque setting of Westfield. Purchase sweet treats and cool drinks from the General Store. For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)

### **Father's Day**

**June 16, 11:00am to 8:00pm**

#### **Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Cool off and celebrate a day with dad and the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Lots of contests and giveaways! Dad gets in free with 2 day admission purchases, not applicable for sundown rates. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com), phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca)

### **Family Swims**

**June 17-21, June 24-26 4:00-8:00pm**

#### **Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Cool off after your hard day of work with the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Sundown admission rates apply, no other discounts apply. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com), phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

### **Summer Kick off Beach Festival**

**June 29, 11:00am - 8:00pm**



### **Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Enjoy all that Wild Waterworks has to offer! Save \$3.00 off regular admission when you wear your Hawaiian shirt! Not applicable with sundown rates or other discounts. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

### **Yoga in the Park**

**June – September**

**Dundas Valley Conservation Area**

**650 Governors Road, Dundas, ON L9H 5E3**

Moksha Yoga Hamilton is back and will meet every Tuesday at 6pm throughout the summer months in the Dundas Valley to offer a free\* outdoor yoga class! The class will take place in the flat clearing of grass just off the Rail Trail, close to the Trail Centre building, behind the train and near the start of the Main Loop. You can't miss them! For more information, visit Moksha Yoga Hamilton's website at <https://hamilton.mokshayoga.ca/>. Parking fee applies, free to HCA Membership Pass holders.

### **Canada Day Weekend Camping**

**June 28 – July 1**

**Valens Lake Conservation Area**

**1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Reserve your campsite to avoid missing out on this busy weekend. For more information, please call Valens Lake at 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca)

### **Canada Day at Westfield**

**July 1, 12:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Westfield Heritage Village**

**1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

Visit Westfield's historic buildings, gardens and forests or take a hike on the trails. This is a great opportunity for new Canadians to experience the history of Canada. Visit the many historical buildings with volunteers in period clothing and enjoy a hike on the trails. The General Store and the Gift Shop have sweet treats and unique gifts. For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)

### **Canada Day Celebration**

**July 1, 11:00am to 8:00pm**

**Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Celebrate Canada Day at Wild Waterworks! Service persons receive free entry and those wearing red and white will receive \$3.00 off admission at the gate not applicable with sundown rates, or other discounts. Join in the fun with Canada themed games and contests! For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

**60's Music Day****July 5, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

60's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear a tie die shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

**70's Music Day****July 12, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Groovy!! 70's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

**John Burns Memorial Fishing Derby****July 6****Valens Lake Conservation Area****1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Catch the Big One and win great prizes for children and adults. Prizes for the largest northern pike, largemouth bass and, for children, panfish. Bait and boat rentals are available. Runs from sunrise to 2 p.m. For more information call 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca)

**80's Music Day****July 19, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Gnarly man!! 80's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

**90's Music Day****July 26, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

So fly!! 90's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your

favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

### **Talley in the Valley**

**July 27 – 28**

**Dundas Valley Conservation Area**

**650 Governors Road, Dundas, ON L9H 5E3**

### **Carnival Day**

**July 28 11:00 to 8:00pm**

**Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

### **August Long Weekend Campout**

**August 2-5 2018**

**Valens Lake Conservation Area**

**1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Reserve your campsite to avoid missing out on this busy weekend. For more information, please call Valens Lake at 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca)

### **2000's Music Day**

**August 2, 11:00am to 8:00pm**

**Wild Waterworks**

**680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Wasssssup!! 2000's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

### **Round the Reservoir Family Race**

**August 3**

**Valens Lake Conservation Area**

**1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Compete with your family in this around the reservoir challenge filled with puzzles and clues that must be completed to win. You decide which route to take and what mode of transportation (run, hike, bike or boat) to get the best finishing time!! Prizes for the top 3 families for the fastest times. Runs from 9 AM to 3 PM For more information call 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca) .

### **Ice Cream Carnival**

**August 4 & August 5 10:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Westfield Heritage Village****1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

Celebrate summer with Edwardian carnival games, foods, amusements and music. Hand cranked real ice cream making demonstrations and samples throughout the day. Don't miss this delicious and festive family outing! For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)

**Sports Day****August 9, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Children aged 3 to 10\* wear your minor sports jersey or favourite team shirt and get in for free with one regular adult admission purchased at gate, not applicable for sundown rates or with any other discounts. *\*Children must be accompanied into Wild Waterworks by an adult 16 years of age or older.* For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca).

**Equestrian Campout****August 9-11****Dundas Valley Conservation Area****650 Governors Road, Dundas, Ontario L9H 5E3**

Camp overnight with your horse in the magnificent Dundas Valley and enjoy a weekend of trail riding and fun all in support of a great cause. Hosted by the Hamilton Conservation Foundation and the Hamilton Conservation Authority, the fundraising event offers guided trail rides, a poker run, silent auction, BBQ dinner and live entertainment. All monies raised go towards the Dundas Valley trail system including trail restorations and the installation of horse-friendly bridges. For more information, please visit [www.hamiltonconservationfoundation.ca/equestrian](http://www.hamiltonconservationfoundation.ca/equestrian)

**Season Pass Appreciation Day****August 10, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

To show our appreciation for our Season pass holders we will be hosting a BBQ for the first 300 season pass holders from 12:00- 2:00pm. First 300 season pass holders will receive a hot dog, canned pop and a chance to enter for some great giveaways! For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca)

**2020 Pass Sale****August 10, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Enjoy the remainder of the 2018 season with a purchase of a 2019 Season Pass. For more information, visit [www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com) , phone 905-547-6141 or email [wildww@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:wildww@conservationhamilton.ca)