



ERAMOSA KARST TRAILS



Adventure through this natural area featuring underground caves and streams, meadows and forests. As one of the watershed's most unique natural gems, Eramosa Karst is the perfect location for hiking, nature appreciation and education.

Karst Features

Please stay out of the caves, they can be dangerous. You can observe these natural features from the outside.

Pottruff Homestead

In the 1800s, Eramosa Karst was owned by several farming families and many features have since been named after them. The old Pottruff homestead included a house and a barn, and is gone other than some old foundations. This area is now protected, so these ruins will remain as the only man made structures in the conservation area.

The Amphitheatre

This large, semi-circular depression has been influenced by people and nature. The ridge of rock you see is the top of the Eramosa Escarpment. Like the Niagara Escarpment, it is a long ridge of sedimentary rock running east to west, although it is not as tall (only 30m at its highest point). Most is buried under soil. This was a convenient place to quarry the dolostone rock to build barns and homes many years ago, resulting in its semi-circular shape.

Pottruff Spring

Pottruff Spring is a resurgent spring, meaning the water does not come from an underground aquifer. Instead, it is fed by surface creeks that eventually "sink" through caves. Pottruff Spring is fed by Stewart Creek and Phoenix Creek.

Pottruff Cave

Pottruff Cave is an example of a karst window. It was created by the collapse of its roof into the cave below. During rainfall, a stream emerges from a channel on the south east side of the cave floor and disappears down a fissure on the north west side. The water comes from the merging of Stewart and Phoenix Creeks. Once it sinks through the fissure here, it flows underground and emerges at Pottruff Spring.

Pottruff Half-Blind Valley

A stream valley that ends abruptly with a sink point is called a "Blind Valley". When it rains a lot and water overwhelms the sink point, the stream can flow over the edges of the blind valley and carry on over land. This is a "Half-Blind Valley".

Pottruff Creek

On close inspection you can see several small caves (sinks) along this rocky creek bed called overflow-sinks. Upstream, the water in Stewart & Phoenix Creeks flows down a set of sinks at the end of each creek bed. The water continues its journey in underground channels and when there is a lot of water they fill up, and the water is forced to flow over land where they join and become Pottruff Creek. Pottruff Creek then flows down this shallow valley until it reaches another sink. If that sink is full, the water is forced to flow down the valley floor again. This process continues until the water reaches Pottruff Cave.

Nexus Cave & Window

The largest cave at Eramosa Karst and the tenth longest in Ontario, it has 344m of surveyed passage and another 320m of impassable water filled channels. The entrance's finger-like appearance is made of grikes (hollow sections leading into the cave) and clints (thin dolostone beams connected to the bedrock). Inside the cave, there is a large shaft that is 4m wide and 4m high. Basically, it's a large vertical cavern connecting underground conduits in two different layers of rock. It is and one of only three known to exist in Ontario.



KARST
FEATURES
TRAIL

This 2.3 km trail is the most popular loop and travels through forest woodlands and open meadows. Highlights on the loop include the Nexus Cave window and entrance, and the Pottruff Cave. Take the connection trail for a shorter 1.5 km loop.



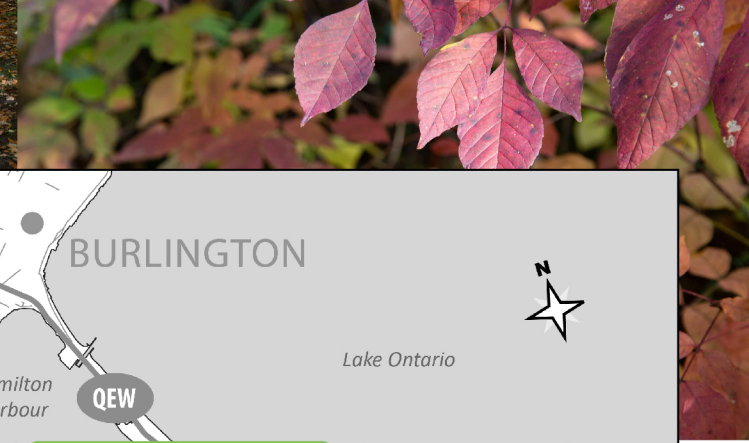
MEADOWS
TRAIL

This 1.7 km trail travels through the open meadows of the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area. Take the Meadows Trail to connect with local access points. See where underground streams come to life in the springtime.



BOBOLINK
TRAIL

This 1.3 km connector loop extends off of the Meadows Trail taking you deeper into the open meadows and old hedgerows.



On all of the trails, obstacles to be aware of include bridges, rocks, roots and areas of flooding after heavy rain events.

When preparing to explore a trail, visitors should consider gear including water, nourishment, proper clothing and footwear, and maps or GPS equipment.

Rating System



Accessible

Barrier free trails that are less than 2km in length and generally flat with slopes from 0% - 5%, mostly less than 3%. Hard packed, firm surfaces with no obstacles.



Easy

Generally flat trails less than 5km in length with firm, stable surfaces and slopes from 0% to 5%. Some obstacles may be present. Little to no trail experience or preparation are required.



Moderate

Trails less than 10km in length that may have some obstacles, short steep sections and uneven ground with slopes from 5% to 10%. Some experience and preparation is recommended.



Difficult

Trails that are longer than 10km, and/or have many steep sections with slopes greater than 10%, narrow or uneven sections and obstacles. Moderate experience and preparation are highly recommended.



Unrated

Trails may be unmaintained, faint or unmarked in sections with a variety of terrain to cross. Exceptional experience, navigation skills and preparation are required.



Hours & Admission

Open 7 days a week, from sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise posted.
Fees: Parking is \$7.50 per day; free with HCA Membership Pass.

Parking

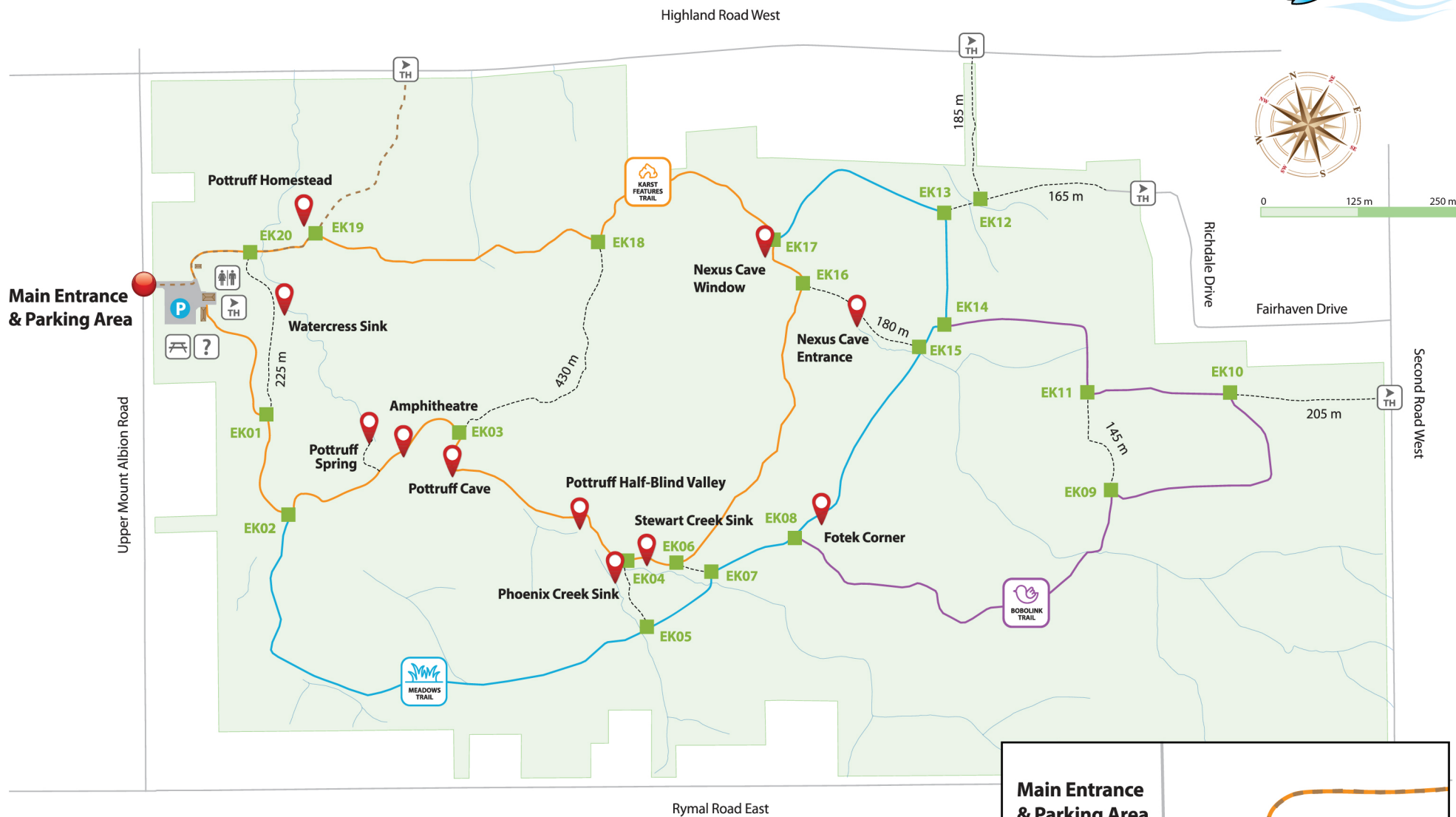
86 Upper Mount Albion Road
Stoney Creek, ON

Connect with us!

conservationhamilton.ca
mountain@conservationhamilton.ca

#ExploreHCA
f o t w i n

ERAMOSA KARST TRAIL MAP



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|--|---------------|
| | Washrooms | | Site Feature |
| | Information | | Trail ID Post |
| | Trail Head | | HCA Property |
| | Picnic Area | | Watercourse |
| | Parking | | Building |

PERMITTED TRAIL USE



Pets must be on a leash at all times.
Pet waste must be picked up and thrown away in the garbage.

Trails

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Karst Features Trail | | 2.3 km |
| Meadows Trail | | 1.7 km |
| Bobolink Trail | | 1.3 km |
| Connector Trail | | See map |
| East Mountain Trail Loop | | See City of Hamilton for more information |

Trail Length

Rating

Surface Type

- | | |
|--|------------|
| | Gravel |
| | Mown Grass |
| | Mown Grass |
| | Varies |
| | Asphalt |

Main Entrance & Parking Area

