

Fact Sheet:

The Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project

A smart, natural solution to reduce flood risk while protecting our environment

The Challenge

Significant flooding and erosion in the lower Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek areas has persisted for decades, threatening homes and local businesses.



Hamilton Conservation Authority's Solution

The Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project leverages existing natural features to protect local homes and businesses from the risks of flooding and erosion. The project has two important parts: four new wetlands in the upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek areas east of Hamilton, and a new conservation area above the Niagara Escarpment.

By taking a thoughtful, nature-based and cost-effective approach to address flooding, Hamilton Conservation Authority has created a local gem that delivers environmental, community and health benefits to the Hamilton area.

This project is a key example of how the work of Ontario's Conservation Authorities leveraging nature's existing assets can address flooding and erosion, climate change, protect our environment, and improve quality of life in our communities.

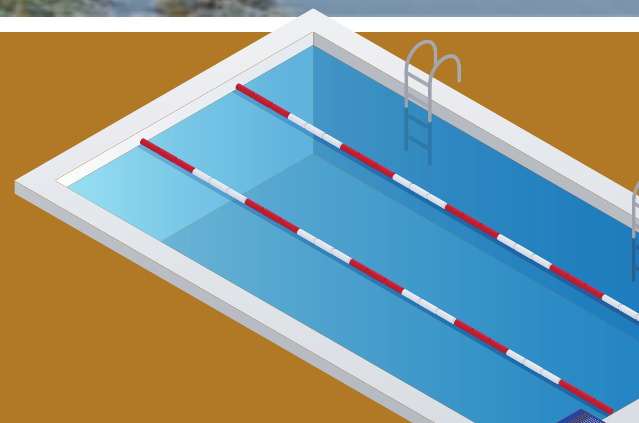


New wetland areas protect property and our environment

Wetlands collect water and provide new areas where trees, plants, and wildlife can thrive. They act as sponges when there is too much rain or melted snow. This helps reduce the extent of flooding and decrease erosion along creeks. The Saltfleet wetlands slowly release water flowing from the escarpment into the lower Stoney Creek area, which will protect people's homes and businesses. The 411 acres of natural space also become new homes for diverse species of plants and animals.



Once complete, the four Saltfleet wetlands will be able to hold as much water as 236 Olympic-size swimming pools! That's some serious flood protection.





The Saltfleet Conservation Area delivers new parkland to a growing region

The Saltfleet Conservation Area opened in 2021 and is home to unique natural features, including wetland marshes, woodlots and 50 species of breeding birds. The area includes a new trail which connects the popular Devil's Punchbowl Conservation Area with the Dofasco Trail, a popular multi-use trail on Hamilton's East Mountain.

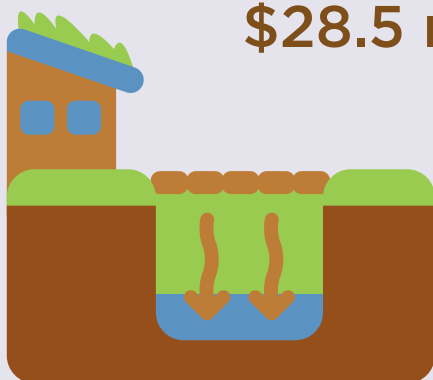
The Conservation Area is in the east Hamilton area and offers a new place for hiking, biking and outdoor recreation. It also helps alleviate traffic at Devil's Punchbowl Conservation Area that attracts thousands of visitors each year. As our communities grow, preserving natural areas helps ensure that our neighbourhoods remain attractive places to live, work, visit and raise a family.

A smart, long-term investment

The Saltfleet Project is a natural, long-term and cost-effective solution to local flooding issues that strengthens the area's resiliency to climate change.

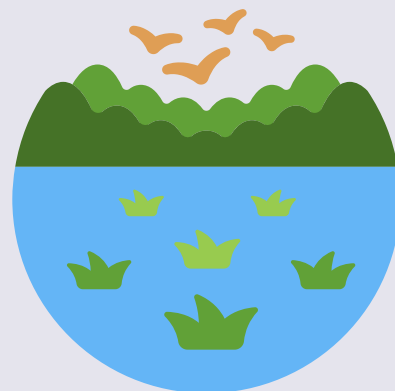
Estimated cost to build traditional stormwater sewers and other infrastructure to control peak water flow:

\$28.5 million



Total estimated capital costs for Saltfleet:

\$18.5 million



The Greenbelt Foundation concluded that even by conservative estimates, the Saltfleet project will be worth \$24 million in 50 years. This value is in addition to the positive environmental, physical and mental health benefits that the new parks and greenspaces provide.

The project is scheduled for completion in 2030, depending on funding.

Fundraising Update:

We are thankful to our partners and donors who have helped bring the Saltfleet Project to life. The project has received significant funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Canada Nature Fund. It has also been supported by key donors, including the Heritage Green Community Trust, the City of Hamilton, the Greenbelt Foundation, the Green Municipal Fund, RBC Foundation, as well as individual donors.

As we move forward with the project, the Hamilton Conservation Foundation will continue to work with the local community to raise funds so we can achieve our goal of completing the four wetlands by 2030. For more information on how you can support this project, please contact foundation@conservationhamilton.ca.



Ontario's Conservation Authorities are local leaders in addressing and adapting to climate change. The Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration project is a prime example of the positive impact that Conservation Authorities have on people and our environment.

¹Saltfleet costs are based on 2018 dollar values. Land costs are **in addition to capital costs**.