

Conservation Areas Sustainability

Conservation Halton owns and manages more than 4,452 hectares (11,000 acres) of conservation lands which protect the natural environment and provide people with opportunities to hike, ski, fish, swim, and cycle in natural settings close to home.

The conservation areas must be carefully managed to avoid environmental degradation and to sustain these lands for future generations.



Visitors enjoying the view at Crawford Lake Conservation Area

- Conservation Halton's network of conservation lands is critical greenspace that contributes to the health and natural integrity of the watershed.
- A sustainability strategy for the conservation areas is being developed to protect natural features that include creeks, lakes, wetlands, forests, and Niagara Escarpment landforms.

- Conservation Halton studies its conservation areas to determine what sites are sensitive to public access and recreational use. Visitor impacts are determined and remedial actions prescribed to reduce environmental impacts or rehabilitate damaged areas.
- The environmental agency is committed to developing environmental sustainability standards for all of its conservation lands that reflect demand for educational and recreational opportunities.
- A visitor impact monitoring program is being developed so appropriate measures can be taken to prevent environmental deterioration.
- A comprehensive master planning process that makes sustainability a priority is carried out for the conservation areas.
- The conservation areas form the core natural areas of the Ontario Greenbelt in Halton and include some of the most

Summary

Conservation Halton's viewpoint on conservation areas sustainability demonstrates the environmental agency's commitment to protecting its landbase and to showing how visitors can contribute to the stewardship of the parks.

significant natural areas in the province including the Niagara Escarpment – a world biosphere reserve.

- There is more pressure on the conservation areas to provide quality recreational opportunities. More than 600,000 people visit the conservation areas annually and this is expected to double over the next 10 years.

- Conservation Areas in Halton have been providing regional recreation for more than 50 years. There is an opportunity to develop an enhanced partnership with Halton Region to plan the parks and improve infrastructure for the benefit of current and future residents.

Park Sustainability You Can Help

Visitors to Conservation Halton parks and natural areas can help sustain these important greenspaces by:

- Staying on the marked trails.
- Keeping dogs on leashes and practicing “stoop and scoop.”
- Not removing natural material or picking flowers.
- Keeping picnic/camp sites clean and using designated fire rings and barbecues.
- Disposing of litter in appropriate containers.
- Keeping trails clean by picking up litter along the route.
- Utilizing park recycling receptacles and composters.

Conservation Halton Parks



- Rock climbing only in designated areas and complying with established environmental restrictions.
- Informing park staff about misuse of areas or inappropriate activities.
- Adopting a tree, sponsoring a trail, or dedicating a park bench to help maintain and enhance the parks.
- Leaving nothing but footsteps taking only memories.

Conservation Halton Natural Champion for a Healthy Watershed



Conservation Halton is the community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its watershed. Conservation Halton has staff that includes ecologists, land use planners, engineers, foresters and educators, along with a network of volunteers, who are guided by a Board of Directors that includes municipally elected and appointed citizens. Conservation Halton is recognized for its stewardship of creeks, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands through science based programs and services.

For more information about Conservation Areas Sustainability contact Conservation Halton:

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