

June 4, 2015

### Protecting important habitats in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System

Wildlife in Aldershot have more protected land to call home thanks to the City of Burlington which purchased 5 acres of natural lands on Snake Road, in the middle of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. The property is adjacent to the Clappison Escarpment Woods Environmentally Sensitive Area and builds on this important east-west corridor of natural greenspace along the Niagara Escarpment. Last fall other Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System partners purchased 25 acres along this same corridor.

This 1.3km long corridor of greenspace provides unusual forested talus slopes and deeply incised sheltered creek valleys creating unique microclimates for a diversity of plants and animals. The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is one of Canada's biodiversity hotspots, home to more than 1,500 species of plants and animals, including nearly one quarter of Canada's wild plants. The ecopark system lands are owned and managed by ten local government and non-profit partners who have committed to work together to protect, connect and restore the extraordinary natural heritage in the ecopark system area.

"The protection of natural lands is an example of what can be achieved when we work together. It exemplifies the mission of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System: to work together to protect, connect and restore natural lands between the Harbour and the Escarpment," said Deborah Herbert, Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Coordinator. "We are delighted at the progress made so far in permanently protecting natural lands in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System and look forward to continuing this momentum."

With this property acquisition, partners in the ecopark system have permanently protected more than 120 acres of ecologically significant land in the past two years, through purchase, donation and conservation easement.

Partners in the EcoPark System have permanently protected land through purchase, donation, and conservation easement and are interested in working with landowners to protect additional lands. Significant income tax savings may be realized by landowners who make a donation of land. EcoPark System partners can help landowners determine the best option that meets their needs and can then help with the land securement process. Please contact Jen Baker, Land Securement Coordinator, for more information ([cootestoescarpment@gmail.com](mailto:cootestoescarpment@gmail.com), 905-524-3339).

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For more information and photos please contact:

Jen Baker

Land Securement Coordinator

Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System



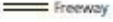




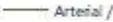

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# Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System

Land Securement - May 2015



## Legend

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Current EcoPark Lands                         |  Heritage Lands Boundary |  Freeway              |
|  Additional EcoPark Lands Secured in 2013/2014 |  Hydro Corridor          |  Highway              |
|   |  Railway Corridor        |  Arterial / Collector |
|   |   |  Local Street         |



Royal Botanical Gardens - Conservation Halton - Hamilton Conservation Authority - Hamilton Naturalists' Club  
City of Burlington - City of Hamilton - Region of Halton - Bruce Trail Conservancy - McMaster University

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