

Invasive Species and Urban Natural Areas

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Ontario Invasive Plants Council
Annual General Meeting

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Over 80% of Canada's human population is now urban



82% in fact...

Within urban areas are important natural areas too



Cootes Paradise and the west end of Hamilton Harbour



Grindstone Creek Boardwalk, RBG



Cootes Paradise



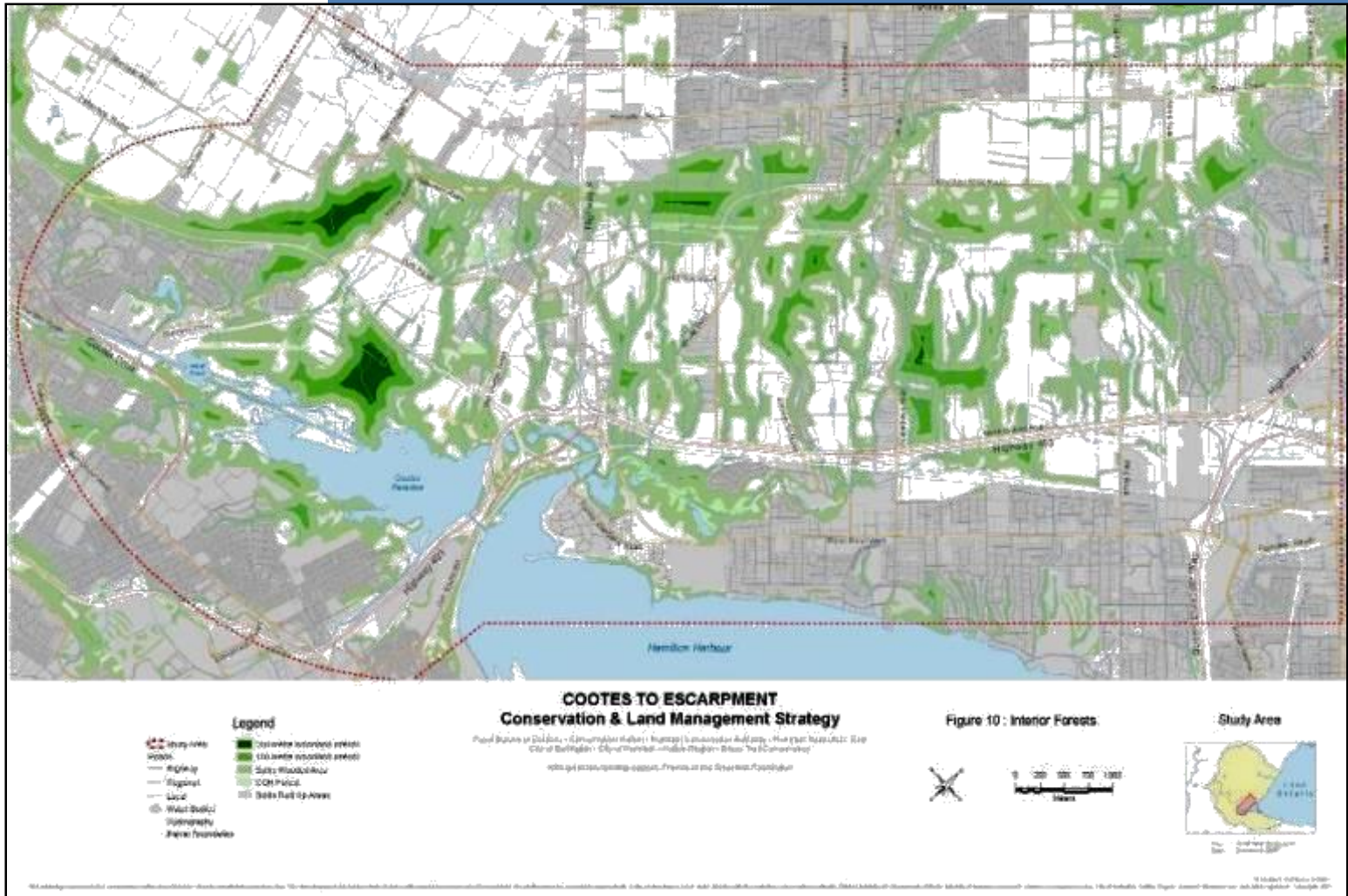
Cootes to
Escarpment
Ecological
Corridor

West End of Cootes Paradise

Extensive Fragmentation



And Deep Edges...



GIS representation of depth of habitat from edges

Fragmentation is a serious issue



North Aldershot, Burlington



Close to nature.
Close to home.

THE BRUCE TRAIL
CONSERVANCY



Hamilton



Inspiring Innovation and Discovery



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Possibility grows here.

Since 2007 our Program
has been generously supported
by individual grants from among others,
Ontario Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and
Ontario Trillium Foundation

Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

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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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.



Stewardship Programs beyond partner lands



Photos by Kestrel Wraggett





Rock Chapel – Changes over time

- Holly Stover, Botany Intern 2013-2014, inventoried Rock Chapel Nature Sanctuary
- Herbarium specimens allow assessment of changes
- Within project area, 19% of native species that were recorded historically could not be located
- 35% of native species not found are provincially rare or uncommon (S1-S4) and 50% are rare to Royal Botanical Gardens (2 extirpated)
- Non-native plant species represent 47% of new Rock Chapel plants (32% of total)
- Species changes may reflect disturbances (e.g. trails), climate change, invasive species

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug





Aldo Leopold

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

Thank You!



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