



Nature Counts 2 Project Hamilton Natural Areas Inventory



Hamilton

Outline

- Hamilton's Natural Heritage
- What is Nature Counts?
- Results
- How Data is Used
- What is next?

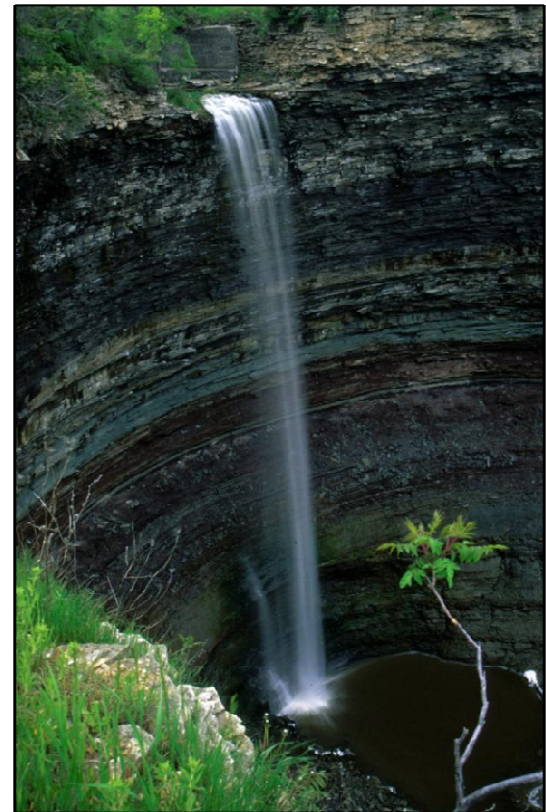


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Hamilton's Unique Natural Heritage

- Distinct landscape features (Niagara Escarpment, Lake Ontario shoreline, karst, drumlins)
- Carolinian Life Zone
- Biodiversity



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What is Nature Counts?

- Field study to gather data on natural areas (plant and wildlife species)
- Studies in 1991, 2001, 2011
- Comprehensive (107 sites)
- Partnerships (19)



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Nature Counts 2 Results

- 53 natural areas inventoried over three years (2010 to 2013)
- Total of 2020 species
- 71 new species recorded



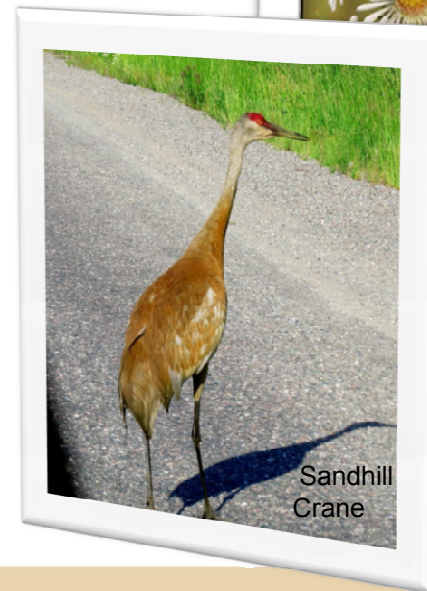
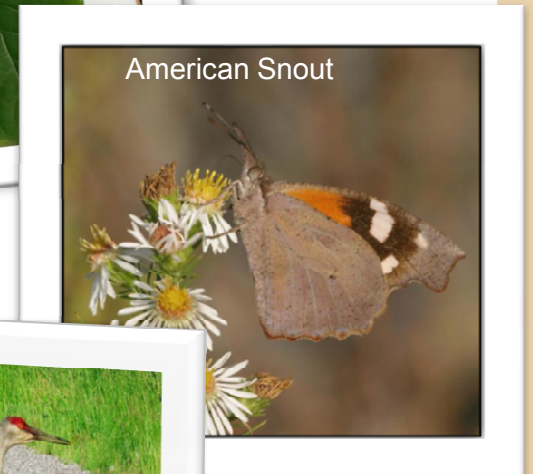
Foamflower



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Species New to Hamilton

- Pawpaw (Plant)
- American Snout (Butterfly)
- Cherry Gall Azure (Butterfly)
- Sandhill Crane (Bird)
- Bald Eagle
- Common Raven



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Trends – The Good News

- Hamilton has the highest number of native plants (962 species) compared to Toronto, Halton, Peel, York, and Durham
- Diverse mix of plant communities
- 98 species of Dragonflies and damselflies
- 6 new bird species were found
- Some species are rebounding (e.g. Bald Eagle)



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Trends – The Bad News

- Reptiles and amphibians have declined
- Loss of 4 butterfly species
- Grassland birds are declining
- 44 new plant species, but 38% are non-native plants



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How is the Data Used?

- Official Plan mapping and policies
- Planning review
- Management/restoration plans
- Monitoring
- Landowner stewardship
- Data sharing
- Education\awareness



Monarch



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Education and Awareness



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What is Next?

- Address recommendations
 - Expand existing ESA boundaries
 - Monitoring, management
 - Increase awareness
- Special Projects



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Thank You

- Hamilton Naturalists' Club
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Conservation Halton
- Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk Fund
- Great Lakes Sustainability Fund
- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Conservation Foundation
- Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council
- McBride/McCallum Foundation
- McLean Foundation
- Natural Resources Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities
- Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Salamander Foundation
- Shell Canada
- TD Friends of the Environment Fund



Eastern Newt



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