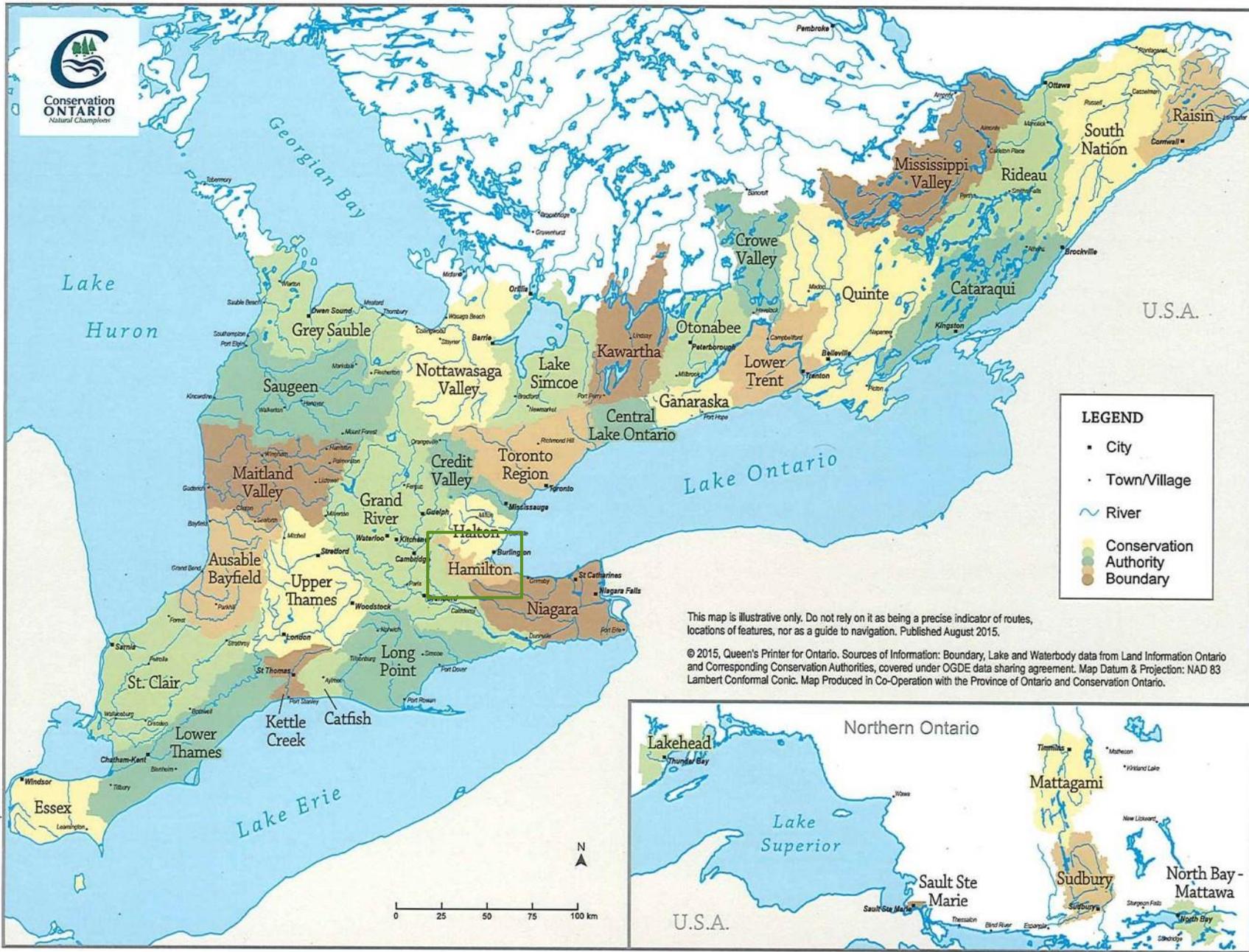


# **Budget Presentation City of Hamilton January 18, 2022**





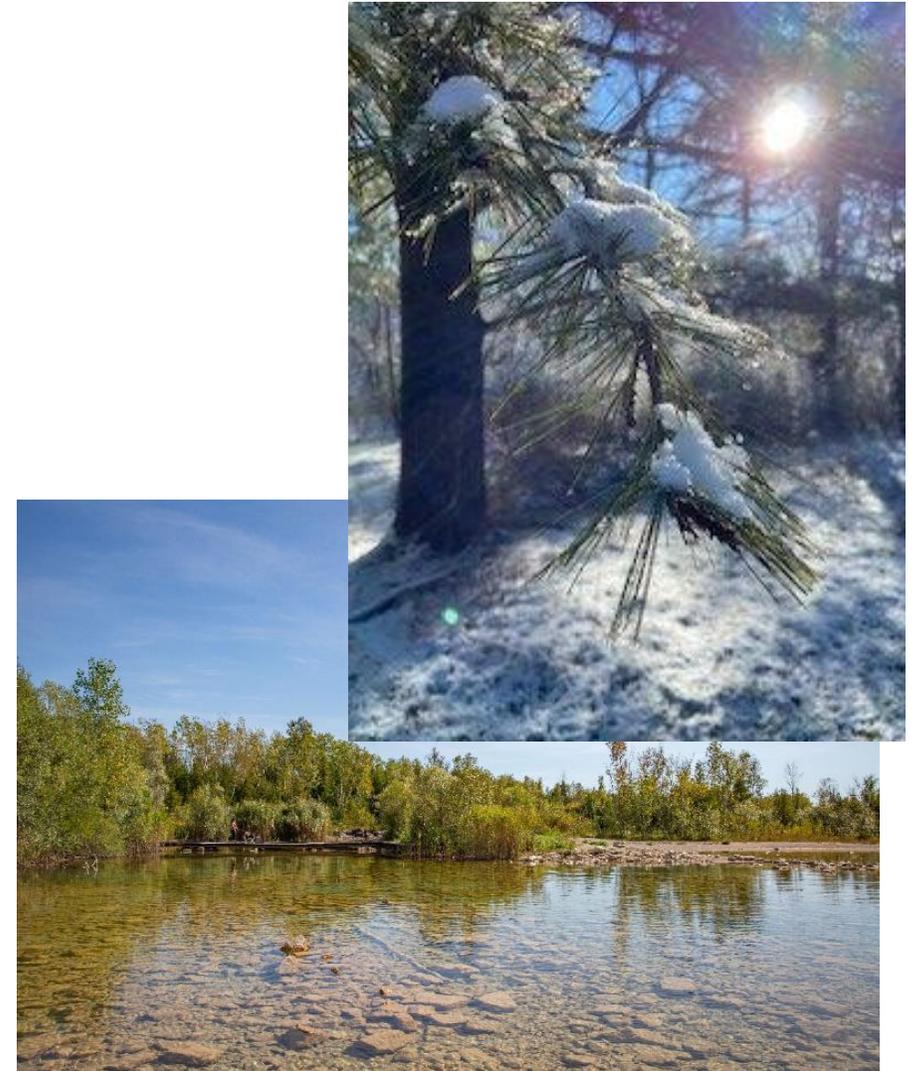
# HCA Watershed



- Our watershed is comprised of two member municipalities
- City of Hamilton (provides 99.3% of funding) and Township of Puslinch (provides 0.7% funding)

# HCA Landholdings

- Major land owner within our watershed area owning/managing over 11,000 acres which represents 10% of our watershed
- These lands are unique pockets of local greenspace that help the city and watershed thrive and connect people to nature
- Added 177 acres in 2021 to our land holdings looking to and planning for our future



# Value of our Conservation Lands

- Wide range of recreation for residents of Hamilton and beyond in our green spaces
- Ecological benefits of our green spaces for climate change adaptation and contributes to the livability of communities
- Source of self generated revenue to offset their operating expenses and support projects



# COVID Impact

- Benefits of being in conservation areas and green spaces was appreciated like never before
- Over 1.2 million visitors to our owned or managed properties
- Record annual pass sales
- Ongoing higher costs for maintenance and supply chain issues

## BE SMART! STAY 6 FEET APART

Keep our areas open! Practice physical distancing.  
No gatherings. Pack out what you pack in.



[www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)

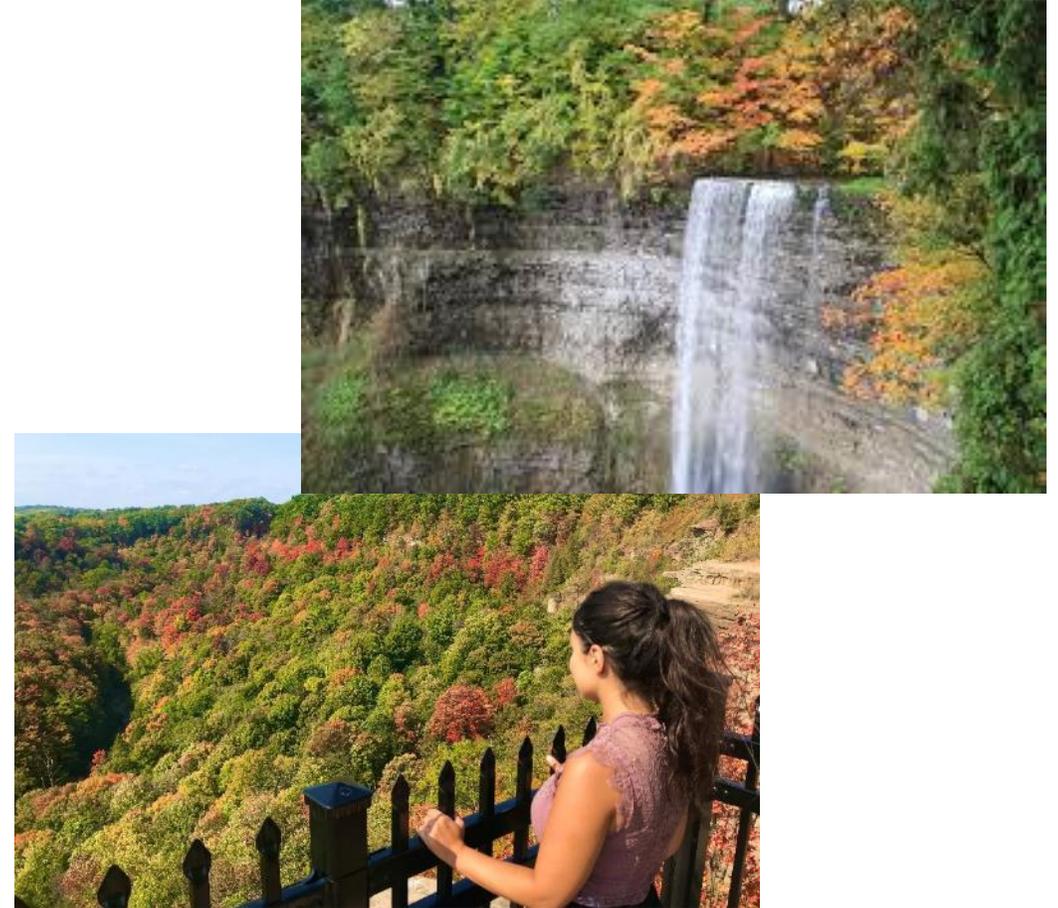
# Technology & Visitor Experience

- Mobile app to provide an enhanced trail experience coming soon
- 360 degree virtual experience for buildings at Westfield; 12 featured in 2021, 16 more to follow in 2022
- Continued expansion of our virtual suite of outdoor education program sessions, funded by our Foundation's donations and school board partner fees



# Spencer Gorge Reservation System

- Pilot reservation system was implemented due to COVID-19 as a means to address visitor management
- Learning from 2020 and 2021, reservations are now an ongoing part of the process for 2022 as we continue to evolve our operation of this area
- Eliminated traffic congestion in community, guaranteed a parking spot and positive visitor experience



# Valens Lake Cabins

- 8 cabins will be available for rent year round as of summer 2022
- Adds to our 225 available campsites at Valens Lake
- First CA in the Province to offer cabins with washroom



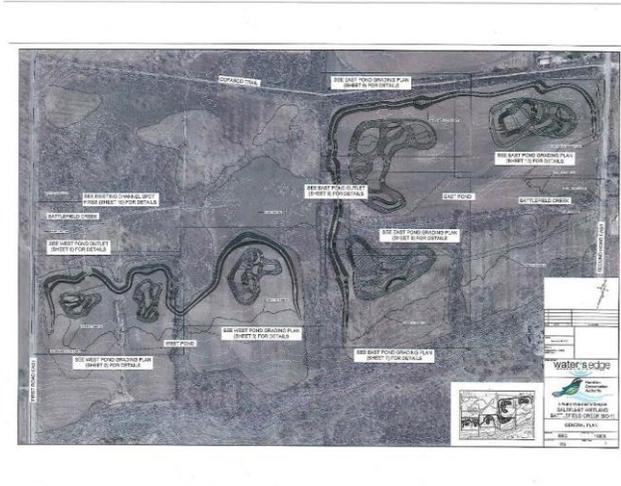
# Master Planning

- Master planning over the next decade will provide updated guiding documents for all areas
- Fifty Point Conservation Area will be finalized in 2022 and work will begin on the Master plan for Saltfleet and surrounding Hamilton mountain areas



# Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project

- Officially opened our newest conservation area in 2021
- First wetland tendered and awarded with construction in 2022 and second wetland design will be completed in 2022



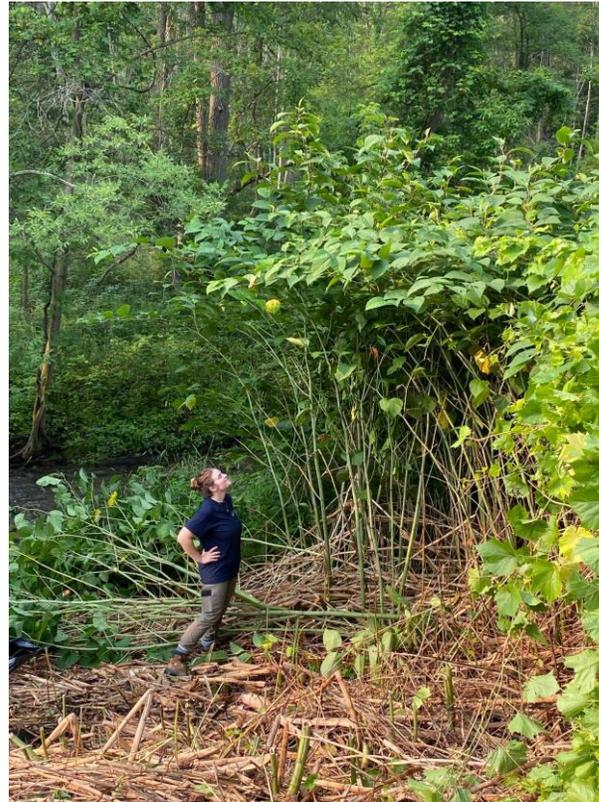
# Christie and Valens Lake Dam Safety Public Safety Initiatives

- Christie Lake safety boom, fencing and signage to educate and protect people from accessing safety sensitive areas of the dam initiated in 2021 will finalize in 2022
- Valens Lake will see continued dam stability assessments and safety signage in 2022



# Watershed Restoration

- Continuing with progress made in 2021 on our lands with removal, mapping and updating HCA Invasive Species Strategy with over 17 different species managed
- Enhancing natural heritage features across our watershed with over 4,700 natives species planted
- Hosted 12 volunteer events in 2021 with 308 garbage bags of trash collected



Japanese Knotweed



# Stewardship Programs

- HCA continues to help private landowners protect, enhance and restore natural areas and waterways on their properties
- Projects and grants in 2021 included removal of 75 garbage bags of invasive species, decommissioning 4 abandoned water wells and addressing stormwater run off through downspout disconnection, rain barrel installation and rain gardens



# 2022 Operating Budget Goals

Require no greater levy increase than requested by City Council

Balanced Budget - Operate on a cash neutral OR positive basis

Activities designed to support the 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan

# Levy Increase

- This year's Budget levy increase is 2%, as recommended by Council, for Boards and Agencies
  
- Total levy required this year is 

	<u>\$ 4,684,000</u>
▪ City of Hamilton share is 99.3%,	\$ 4,651,200
▪ Township of Puslinch share is 0.7%,	\$ 32,800

# Operate on a Cash Neutral/Positive Basis

## Revenues are a combination of:

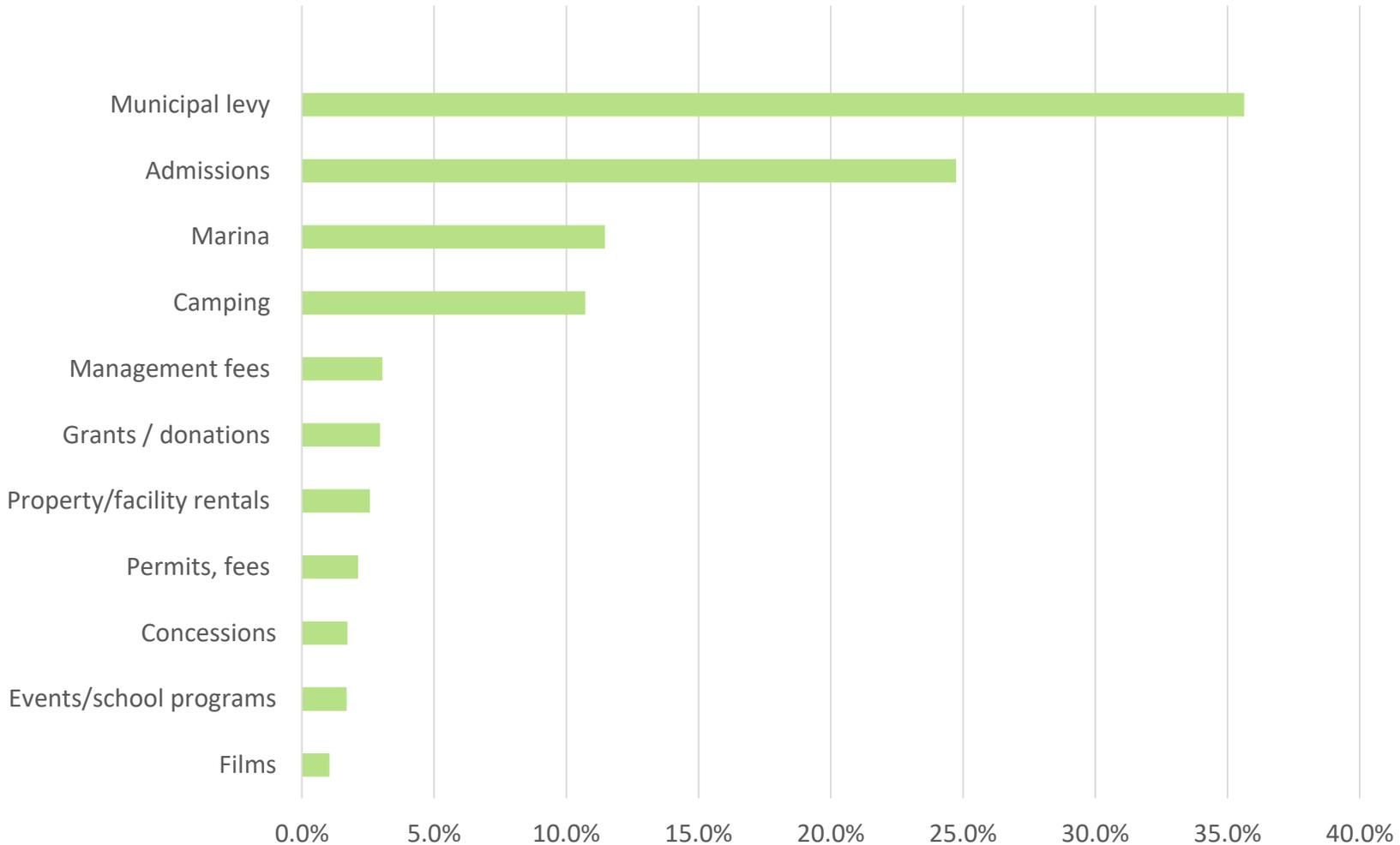
- Self generated sales (\$7.9)
- Equipment, intracompany (\$1.1)
- Grants and donations (\$0.4)
- Municipal levy (\$4.7)
- 2022 total \$14.1 million

## Expenses are a combination of:

- Salaries, wages and staff expenses (\$9.2)
- Fleet operation, repair and maintenance, facility operating costs including utilities, third party contracting and consulting services, marketing and promotion (\$4.5)
- 2022 total \$13.7 million

# Revenue Composition

(Excl. intracompany equipment rentals)



# Revenue Highlights

		Budget	Budget	%
	(\$'000)	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Held to requested levels	Municipal levy	\$ 4,684	\$ 4,592	2.0%
Reflects the new plateau	Admissions	3,253	2,595	25.4%
Limited by # of slips / storage area	Marina	1,507	1,411	6.8%
Expanded through weekday use	Camping	1,409	1,269	11.0%
Equipment rental (Intra company)	Equipment rental	1,141	1,100	3.7%
CBP and regulating fees	Fees & permits	820	727	12.8%
Rents, school programs, etc.	Other	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,499</u>	-14.9%
		\$ 14,089	\$ 13,193	6.8%

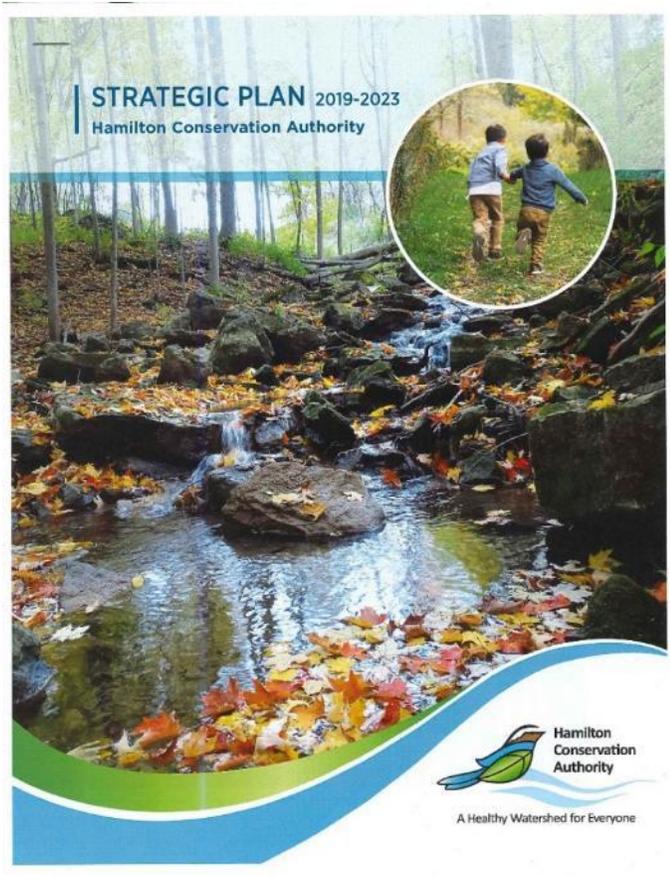
# Expense Highlights

		Budget	Budget	%
	(\$'000)	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
2/3 of expenses are people related	Staff expenses	\$ 9,227	\$ 8,798	4.9%
Usage and rates both higher	Utilities	1,003	825	21.6%
Maintenance, parts, etc.	Equipment/garage	768	895	-14.2%
Supplimenting staff efforts	Contractors	405	428	-5.4%
Concessions, marina fuel	Resale goods	293	265	10.6%
Promotions, insurance,computer, etc.	Other	<u>1,989</u>	<u>1,802</u>	10.4%
		\$ 13,685	\$ 13,013	5.2%

# Confederation Beach Park

- Owned by the City of Hamilton, managed by the HCA
- Only monetary benefit to HCA is the management fee, calculated as a percentage of expenses
- The general park area and Breezeway trail were heavily populated in 2020-21 while the waterpark remained closed as per HCA and City Park Management Review Team recommendation to City Council
- For the purpose of preparing the 2022 HCA Budget it has been assumed that the Province will permit waterparks to reopen and full operations will return

# Support the Strategic Plan



## Vision

- A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

## Mission

- To lead in the conservation of our watershed and connect people to nature

- 2022 budget continues to direct resources to achieve initiatives outlined
- We are retaining existing contract staff and adding contract staff in several areas of need in order to make these goals a reality

# Budget Summary Provisions



Sufficient combined revenues to meet expenses adhering to City recommended increase to levy



Programs to maintain a healthy watershed and help protect residents and property from flooding



Invasive species initiatives & continued development steps for Saltfleet wetlands



Greater online and app-based technology in regard to our conservation areas and education programs



Vibrant conservation areas that connect people to nature

# Thank You for Your Continued Support

