



**Plant  
One Million Trees in the City  
in 5 Years**

*And Save \$135 Million*

*Lee Fairbanks - January 20, 2025*



**WE**

**are all in this together**

**We all breathe the same air**

**WE**

**all live in the same  
climate**

# **Climate Change**

**is not a “ward-specific concern.”**

**It is a “city-wide concern”**



**Staff or Council or The Public?  
Who Makes the Decisions?**



# **City Staff / Council / Public**

**On Climate Change, Public Works staff respond to direct instruction from Council, not the public, not individual Councillors**

**“If there was direction from Council to turn this property (park) into a forest we would implement that direction.”**

*Cynthia Graham, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services*



**HOW BAD IS OUR AIR?**



# **186 premature deaths each year**

**395 respiratory hospital admissions**

**322 cardiovascular hospital admissions**

SENES Consulting, [www.cleanairhamilton.ca](http://www.cleanairhamilton.ca)

**2023**

**11 Homicides**

**14 Vehicle fatalities**



**Of the 600,000 people in Hamilton  
19,800 will die from air pollution**

**42,000 respiratory hospital admissions**

**34,000 cardiovascular hospital admissions**

*700 deaths from Covid*

*2020 - 2023*

*thespec.com*



# **Hamilton's Community Health Status Report 2024**



**Hamilton's Air Quality was at moderate risk or  
above 14.5% of the time compared to the  
average of 6.8% across Ontario**

**Sulphur dioxide levels exceeded the  
Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC)  
criteria for acute health effects**



**Fine particulate matter  
exceeded the recommended provincial  
Ambient Air Quality Criteria  
for acute health effects**

**Sulphur Dioxide exceeded the  
Ambient Air Quality Criteria  
169 times, the highest  
number in Ontario**



## Hamilton's Community Health Report Status Report 2024

**Hamilton and Windsor  
were the only two cities  
in the province that recorded  
fine particulate matter  
above safe levels**

**The number of Hamiltonians  
living with asthma is 80,416**



**Hamilton has the  
WORST AIR  
IN ONTARIO**

# **Economic cost**

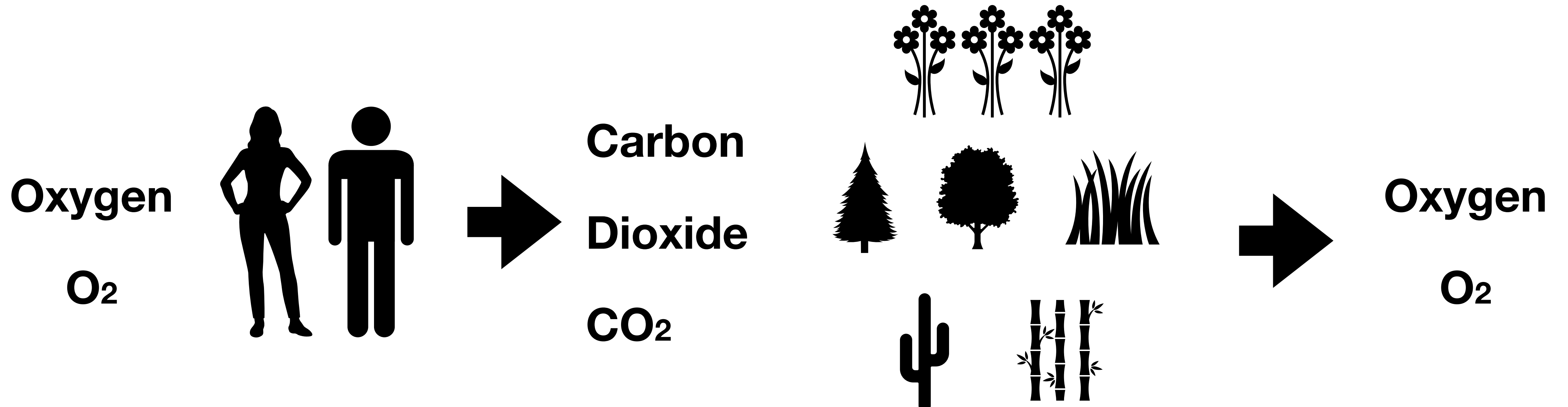
**The Ontario Medical Association estimates the cost of air pollution to the economy of Hamilton to be around**

**\$1 Billion Annually**

[cleanairhamilton.ca](http://cleanairhamilton.ca)

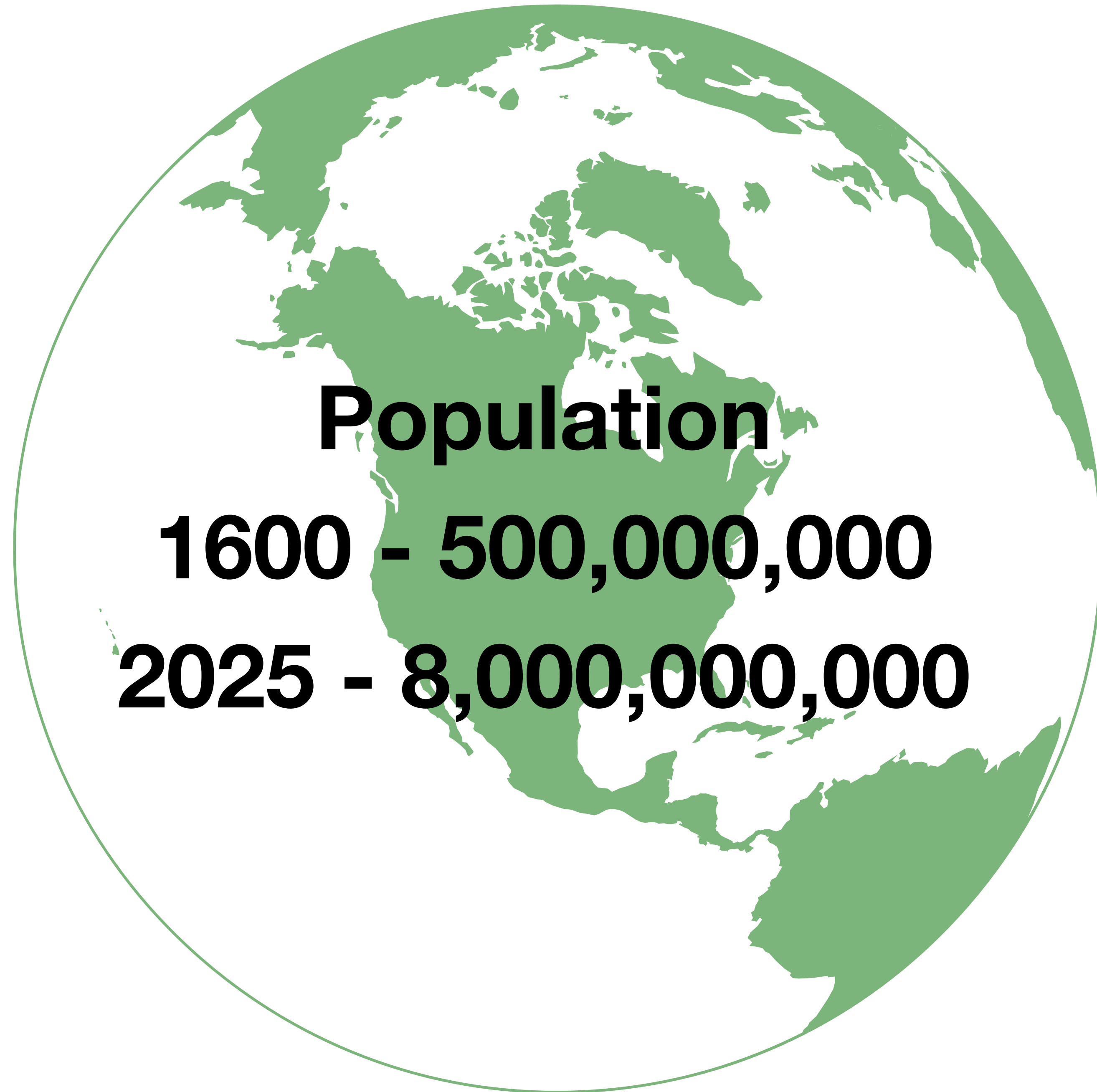


# Nature provided a balance for 3,000,000 years



# WE are out of Balance





**Population**

**1600 - 500,000,000**

**2025 - 8,000,000,000**





**One-Third  
of Forest  
LOST**

# **Solution: Air Pollution Removal by Urban Forests**

**Urban forests can remove tons of ozone,  
gaseous air pollution, and particulate matter each year**

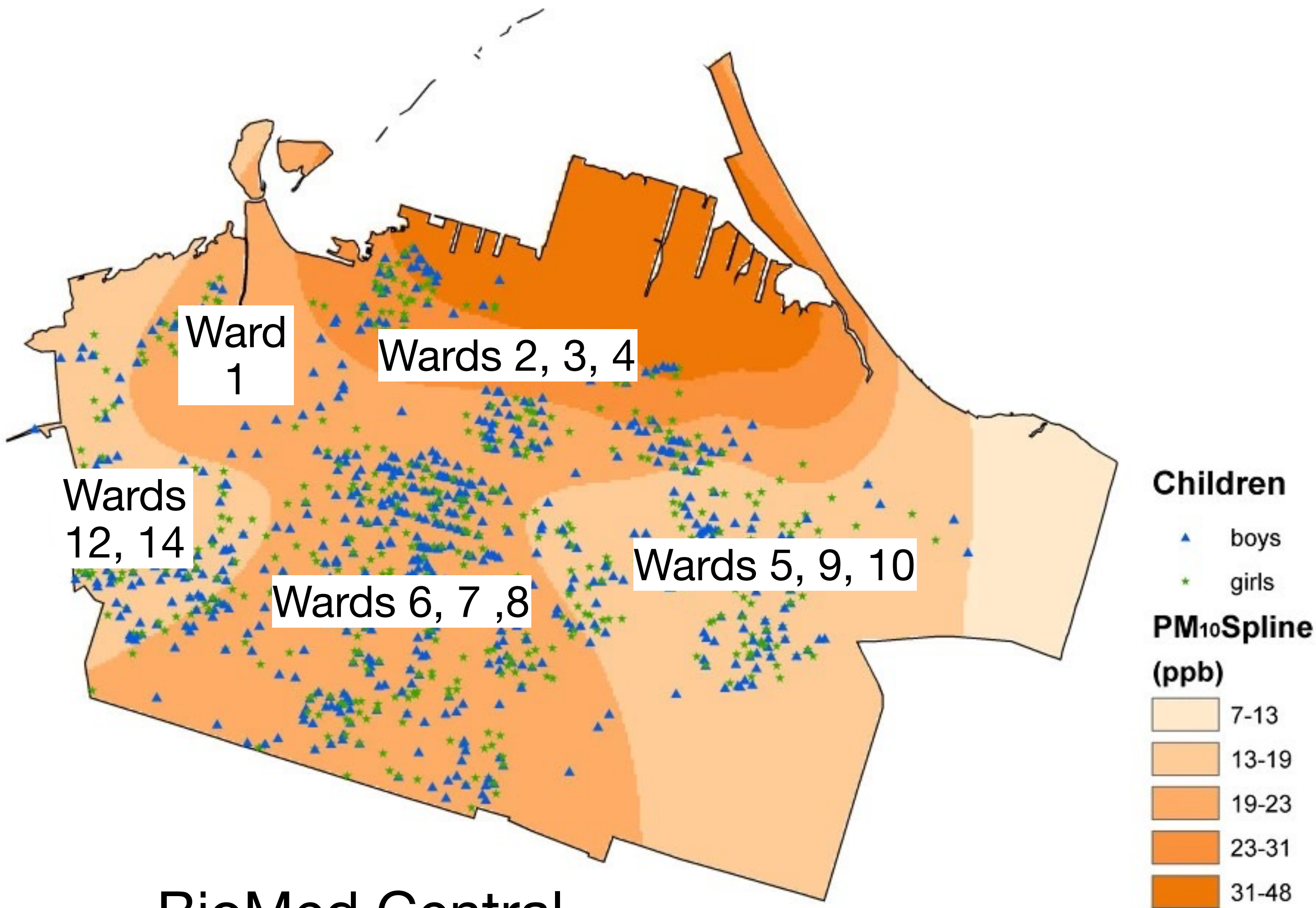
US National Park Service

**WWE**

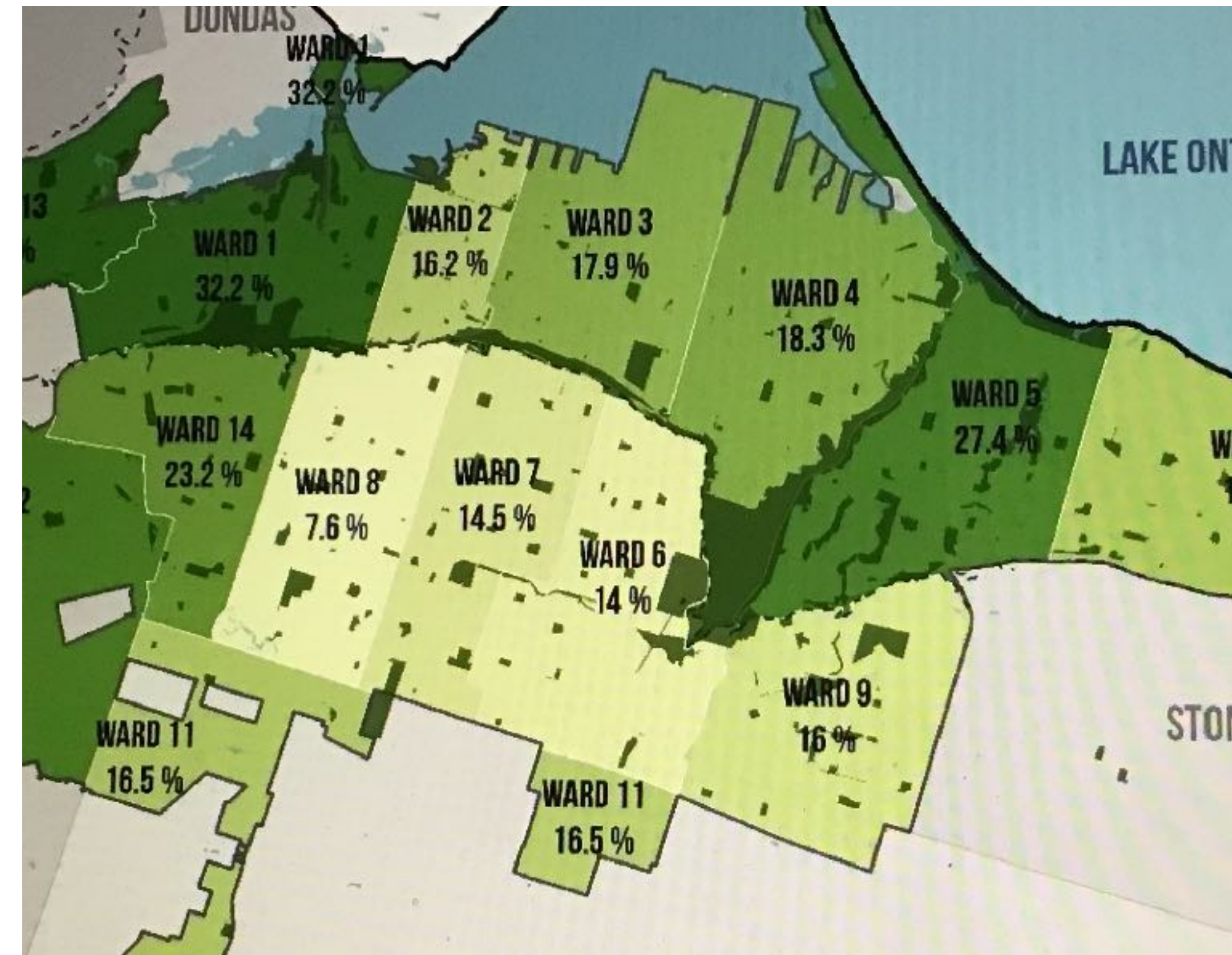
**Need More Vegetation**



# Hamilton inhalable particles map reflects Tree Coverage



BioMed Central <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/>



**Tree Coverage is Not Equitable to all Taxpayers**



# **Council and Staff have Laid the Foundation**

- 1. Climate Change Emergency - city-wide concern**
- 2. Urban Canopy Study - city-wide concern**
- 3. Biodiversity Action Plan - city-wide concern**

**Now We Need A City-Wide Action Plan**

# How Does Hamilton's Canopy Compare?

Halifax 43%

Sudbury 32.6%

Ottawa 31%

Toronto 28%

Vancouver 23%

Montreal 23%

**Hamilton 20%**

Winnipeg 17%

**Council Approved a Goal  
of 40% Canopy in Hamilton**

# **How Did Sudbury Do It?**

**Sudbury at 32.6%**

**Planted 10 Million Trees in 44 Years**

**227,000 Per Year**

***(Hamilton currently plants 20,000 per year)***

# How Can WE Do It?

## Current Plan

20,000 Trees per year

X 50 years

= 1,000,000 Trees

**COST = \$150 Million**

## New Plan

200,000 Trees per year

X 5 years

= 1,000,000 Trees

**COST = \$15 Million**

## Which Do You Choose?



# **Four Key Budget Areas**

- 1. Reduction in mowing**
- 2. Plant trees in Parks instead of Roadsides**
- 3. Plant in a Biodiversity Habitat**
- 4. Horticulture Staff redeployment**



# 1. Reduction in mowing



**A reduction of 50% will reduce emissions equal to removing 5,000 cars from the streets**

***Source:  
Ministry of the Environment-Canada***



**Mow According to Usage  
and Growing Season  
Reduce GHG & costs by 25%**



**Planting Trees in clusters  
instead of individually can  
reduce mowing  
GHG & costs by 25%**





## 2. Plant Trees in Parks instead of Roadsides

**100% of Street Trees  
will have to be replaced  
EVERY 25 YEARS**





# **Plant Smaller Trees in Natural Habitat in Parks**



**Can plant 20 small trees in same time as 1 Street Tree**



**Buy 20 Small Trees for the same  
price as One Street Tree**

**10,000 Street Trees  
@ \$200 each  
= \$2,000,000**

**200,000 small trees  
@ \$10 each =  
\$2,000,000**





### 3. Plant in a Biodiversity Habitat

**Trees grow 10X faster  
in a Biodiverse Habitat  
and reseed themselves  
to create  
a Sustainable Canopy  
for generations to come**



Concept Drawing by Paul O'Hara, Blue Oak  
Native Landscapes & Heather Schibli,  
Dougan & Associates



## **4. Horticulture Staff redeployment**

**Staff grew 273,000 annuals in 2021, mostly for  
348 Floral Traffic Islands and  
669 Hanging Baskets**

**If Staff grew 273,000 trees instead of flowers  
WE would not need to buy ANY trees**

**City Tree budget is  
\$3 million/year**

**Redeploy Mowing & Horticulture staff  
to tree planting**



# Thousands of acres available in our parks







**Space for  
1,000,000  
Trees**





**WWE**

**were elected to represent every single person  
who calls Hamilton home**

*Cameron Kroetsch, January 11, 2025*