

Overview

Located in the Pleasant View Area of Dundas, this 46 acre parcel forms a key part of one of the primary ecological corridors linking the Niagara Escarpment and Cootes Paradise marsh. The solitude and unspoiled nature found just minutes from the city consists of a central plateau area on the lower slopes of the Niagara Escarpment almost entirely surrounded by stream valleys. The northern part of the sanctuary features a well established forest community, the valleys host a wide diversity of communities from thickets to meadow marshes and forested slopes. The sanctuary is an important wildlife corridor providing diverse habitat for many



species including White-tailed Deer, Coyote and Wild Turkey. A large colony of American Columbo (*Frasera Carolinensis*), a wildflower in the Gentian family listed as an Endangered Species is located in the sanctuary; one of less than a dozen known occurrences in Canada. Pignut Hickory and other rare and uncommon species are also present. The area is considered part of the Borer's Falls-Rock Chapel Environmentally Sensitive Area. Together with adjacent conservation lands, a core natural area of 150 acres is now protected.

Date of Acquisition: 2004
*Managed in Partnership
With Conservation Halton*



Ecology and Highlights

The northern part of the sanctuary features a well established forest community dominated by Red Oak, Shagbark and Sweet Pignut Hickories. Gray Dogwood thickets and groves of young Black Walnut and Red Ash dominate former pasture lands in the central area. The sanctuary is an important groundwater discharge area, feeding streams such as Hickory Brook that flow into Cootes Paradise. Stewardship activities have included ecological inventories, breeding bird surveys and invasive species control. The isolated central plateau is surrounded by valleys on all sides providing a spectacular view. The Bruce W. Duncan Memorial Trail travels through the forest and thickets and features a major bridge, 90 metres of boardwalk and two benches.



Cartwright Nature Sanctuary

FACTSHEET

Directions and Access

Access to the Bruce W. Duncan Memorial Trail is via the Thornapple Trail located in the Royal Botanical Garden's Berry Tract, with a trail head at the end of Wesley Road. From Hamilton take York Boulevard, turn left on Old Guelph Road, turn left on York Road, turn right on Valley Road, turn right on Patterson Road then turn right on Wesley Road. Follow the trail through the road allowance for about 50 metres and then go right across the bridge to the Thornapple Trail.

Please Note:

- Parking is available at the southern end of Wesley Road which is reached by turning right off Patterson Road. Park along the side of the road.
- Trails are for pedestrian use only, motorized vehicles, bicycles, horses are not permitted, nor is hunting, fishing or the removal of any natural materials from the site, dogs must be on a leash
- All users must stay on the marked trail
- Trails are normally open year round but are closed from dusk to dawn



Generous funding support for this factsheet from **The Ontario Trillium Foundation**. Photos generously supplied by Glenn Barrett, Al Ernest, Sandy Turner, Allan Rodie.

Trails

Bruce W. Duncan Memorial Trail

Distance: 1 kilometre

Rating: Moderate

Thornapple Loop

Distance: 1.7 kilometres

Rating: Moderate



The Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust (HLT) is a volunteer-driven program of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) that is dedicated to the permanent protection of lands in Hamilton, Burlington and surrounding area. The HNC is a volunteer-based, charitable organization with almost 700 members that has been protecting nature and promoting public awareness and appreciation of the natural environment since 1919. For more information visit: www.headofthelakelandtrust.org, or contact land@hamiltonnature.org.