

## CASE STUDY: COOTES TO ESCARPMENT HERITAGE LANDS MANAGEMENT PLANS

### Client: Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System

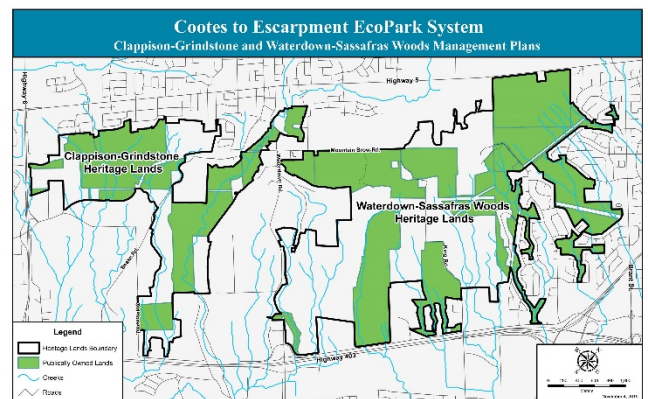
#### OVERVIEW

The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is a collaborative initiative of nine organizations and agencies in the Burlington-Hamilton area (including municipal governments, conservation authorities and non-profit organizations). Together, these partner organizations are working to protect, connect and restore more than 1,900 hectares of natural lands, and to deliver sustainable recreation and education opportunities. Within the EcoPark System there are six core heritage land areas. Management Plans for these areas are being developed in order to provide a cohesive and holistic management framework for the partner-owned properties. In 2015, the development of the Clappison-Grindstone Heritage Lands and Waterdown-Sassafras Woods Heritage Lands Management Plans was initiated.

#### SERVICES

Lura Consulting was retained as part of a multidisciplinary team to develop the two Management Plans. Lura led the following activities:

- Identification of stakeholders for outreach and consultation;
- Coordination of a series of information gathering sessions to identify background data, and issues and opportunities related to the heritage lands sites;
- Design and facilitation of Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings;
- Outreach and engagement with Aboriginal groups;
- Design and facilitation of two public meetings to seek input on management issues and opportunities and the draft Management Plan documents.



#### RESULTS

The Management Plans include high priority management recommendations, EcoPark System Guidelines, and site-specific management tasks to be implemented by the partner agencies. The plans also include direction on monitoring and evaluating implementation of the recommendations.