

HILTON FALLS

Conservation Area
trail and facility guide

CONSERVATION HALTON
PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FROM LAKE TO ESCARPMENT

Warning: The cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment can be hazardous and quite slippery when wet. Please be careful when hiking the trails at Hilton Falls. Do not venture too close to the cliffs or climb over the lookout walls.



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Welcome

..... to Hilton Falls

The Hilton Falls Conservation Area is a natural environment park that is owned and managed by Conservation Halton. The 1592 acre park includes unique geological features, extensive forests, a water control reservoir and a beautiful waterfall that cascades over the Niagara Escarpment. The conservation area has significant natural habitat for plants and wildlife and 33.5 km of nature trails.

Sixteen Mile Creek and the Niagara Escarpment

Two tributaries of the Sixteen Mile Creek wind their way through the wooded and rocky landscape of Hilton Falls. One creek cascades over the escarpment forming a beautiful 10 metre waterfall while the other creek flows through a series of beaver ponds into a 35 acre reservoir that was built in 1971 for flood control and stream flow augmentation. The heavily forested park is situated on Ontario's Niagara Escarpment, which winds 725 km from Queenston to the islands off the Bruce Peninsula.

The Niagara Escarpment was formed 450 million years ago along the shore of a shallow tropical sea that covered a vast area of Ontario and Michigan. Skeletons of primitive sea creatures and debris from ancient mountains were compressed into massive layers of reef and sedimentary rock. These ancient coral reefs formed a layer of amabel dolostone to create the cap of the escarpment. Beneath this layer are soft, easily eroded shales. Over succeeding millions of years, erosion, glaciers, ancient rivers and lakes, and the elements shaped the escarpment into its distinctive craggy cliffs and rugged slopes that can be seen today.

Please help protect this sensitive area by following our trail regulations...

Trail Regulations

- Please stay on the marked trails.
- Control your pets. Pets must be kept on a maximum 2 metre lead.
- No motorized vehicles on trails.
- Pack out everything you take in. There are large waste bins located in the parking and falls areas.
- Aspire to invisibility. Observe but do not disturb.
- Leave exciting discoveries for the next person to experience and enjoy.

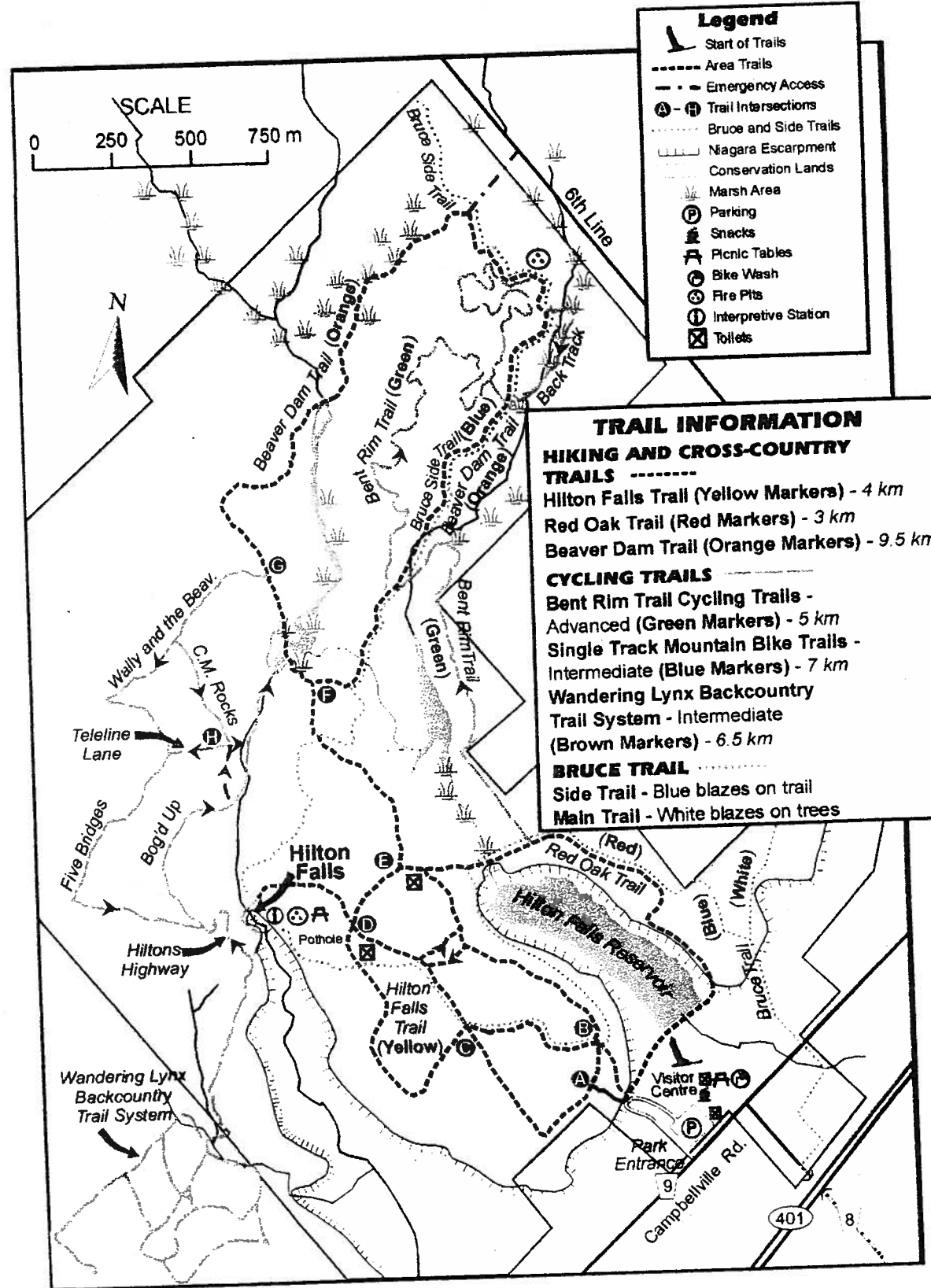
Thank you.

Hours of Operation

Open daily 8:30am
Closing time changes seasonally,
call before your visit.

Hilton Falls Trails

Hilton Falls has 33.5 km of colour coded trails consisting of a series of overlapping loops. Trail intersections are marked with letters for easy reference and interpretive viewing areas have been built at the falls area. The multi-use trails are available for hiking, cross-country skiing and cycling. All trail distances are measured from the start of trails except for the new cycling trail.



Legend

- Start of Trails
- Area Trails
- Emergency Access
- Trail Intersections
- Bruce and Side Trails
- Niagara Escarpment
- Conservation Lands
- Marsh Area
- Parking
- Snacks
- Picnic Tables
- Bike Wash
- Fire Pits
- Interpretive Station
- Toilets

TRAIL INFORMATION

HIKING AND CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS

- Hilton Falls Trail (Yellow Markers) - 4 km
- Red Oak Trail (Red Markers) - 3 km
- Beaver Dam Trail (Orange Markers) - 9.5 km

CYCLING TRAILS

- Bent Rim Trail Cycling Trails - Advanced (Green Markers) - 5 km
- Single Track Mountain Bike Trails - Intermediate (Blue Markers) - 7 km
- Wandering Lynx Backcountry Trail System - Intermediate (Brown Markers) - 6.5 km

BRUCE TRAIL

- Side Trail - Blue blazes on trail
- Main Trail - White blazes on trees

YELLOW

Hilton Falls Trail
4 km Hiking 1.25 hours
Skiing 1 hour

This trail follows old logging roads and earthen paths through extensive forests leading to the picturesque waterfall that cascades over the Niagara Escarpment. The falls area has resting benches and interpretive signs on the natural and cultural history of the site.

RED

Red Oak Trail
3 km Hiking 45 minutes
Skiing 30 minutes

This trail climbs the escarpment landscape on old logging roads that surround the Hilton Falls reservoir. Rich woodlands dominate the trail that completes its loop down a steep hill and across the Hilton Falls dam back to the start of trails.

ORANGE

Beaver Dam Trail
9.5 km Hiking 2.5 hours
Skiing 2 hours

The longest trail at Hilton Falls includes an extensive loop through wetlands and beaver meadows in the north part of the conservation area. The earthen trail crosses several headwater areas of the Sixteen Mile Creek and is rich in wildlife and plants. The wetland loop returns to the start of trails by way of the old logging trails.

GREEN

Bent Rim Trail
5 km Biking 1.5 - 2 hours

This is a technical cycling trail for advanced riders. Trail surface consists of rock, rock and more rock. This is not a hiking trail. No hikers please.

Single Track Mountain Bike Trails
7 km Biking 1.0 - 1.5 hrs

An intermediate single-track trail consisting of a rock and dirt surface as well as many bridges. Still a challenge. This is not a hiking trail. No hikers please.

Wandering Lynx Backcountry Trail System
6.5 km Biking 1 - 1.5 hours

An intermediate single-track trail consisting of a rock and dirt surface. This trail system is made up of a series of loops so watch for two-way traffic on some sections. This is not a hiking trail. No hikers please.

Bruce Trail
725 km

This well known Ontario hiking trail follows the Niagara Escarpment from Georgian Bay to the Niagara River. It passes through Hilton Falls Conservation Area where the main trail is marked by white painted blazes on trees and secondary access trails are blazed in blue.