

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Management Plan is to develop a set of management directions for the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands, which is one of six Heritage Lands within the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. The Heritage Lands are comprised of properties owned by the Royal Botanical Gardens, the City of Burlington and Halton Region. This Management Plan will inform the protection, enhancement and communication of the important natural and cultural features within the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands. This Management Plan is a compilation of detailed information about the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands and the articulation of the partner agencies' joint vision for the holistic management of their lands within the context of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. It provides a framework for future planning and implementation actions at the individual site level.

In addition to consultation with the land-owning partners, this this Management Plan included community consultation to assist in the identification of management issues and concerns, as well as compilation of information on the recreational, natural and cultural resources of the Heritage Lands. Although not within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, to be consistent with the Management Plans for other Heritage Lands, this Management Plan applied the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System planning framework to identify classifications and zones (detailed in the Classification and Zoning report for the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands, Appendix 1).

This Management Plan contains a summary of the background and context of the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands area followed by a summary of significance. More detailed information can be found in the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands Inventory, Issues and Opportunities Report (North-South Environmental Inc. et al. 2019). This report is structured as follows:

- Section 1.0 introduces the project and summarizes the project governance and methods;
- Section 2.0 provides a summary of the Inventory of recreational, environmental and cultural features;
- Section 3.0 reports the management issues documented through the project;
- Section 4.0 summarizes the management recommendations for the Heritage Lands, including the classification and zoning of the Heritage Lands;
- Section 5 provides implementation recommendations; and
- Section 6 provides monitoring recommendations.

This Management Plan recommends several actions for future management of the Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands. The recommendations are organized into three categories:

- Approach to Management Recommendations;
- Overarching Management Recommendations; and
- Lower Grindstone Heritage Lands Management Recommendations.

An outline for implementing the recommended management actions is provided in Section 5.0 after which monitoring, and evaluation are identified in Section 6.0.