



Annual Report to Community 2013

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Working Together for Future Generations

The Haudenosaunee and City of Hamilton are committed to working together on environmental guardianship of the Red Hill Valley. Grounded in the spirit of shared responsibilities, the Joint Stewardship Board brings together unique and different knowledge and resources in order to restore and protect the Red Hill Valley for future generations.

This past year has been a time of renewal; one of revisiting, reviewing and refocusing. With a newly constructed Board, recent hire of a Board Coordinator, and a new project office, we have examined our past, embraced our successes, and learned from our results and experiences. In doing so, we have identified priorities for joint stewardship in the Red Hill Valley which are based on specific, realistic, and attainable actions required to achieve our vision.

This document highlights some of the successful projects that have been undertaken by the Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board and provides updates on activities currently underway.

Our Logo

In the fall of 2007, as symbolic trees were being planted in the Red Hill Valley, the Haudenosaunee presented the Mayor of Hamilton with three strings of white wampum, called "the Fire of the Valley".



- The **First String** represents the **mutual respect** shown in the re-establishment of our historic relationship.
- The **Second String** represents the **trust** developed by the Joint Stewardship Board.
- The **Third String** represents the **friendship** developed that will endure.

This agreement on our fundamental values is revisited at the start of each monthly Board meeting, and is represented by our logo.

Vision

Our vision is to facilitate a deeper connection to the cultural landscape of the Red Hill Valley watershed in order to promote human and environmental well being.

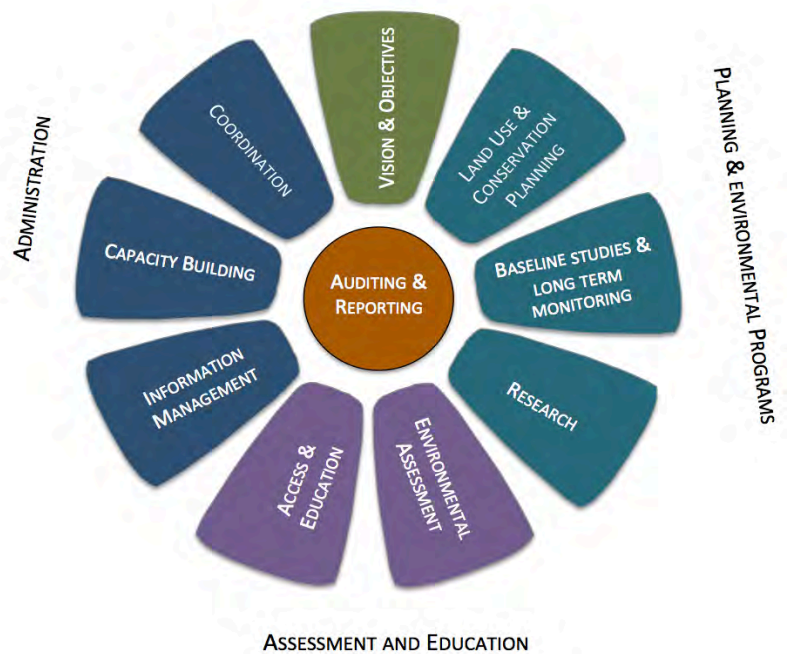
Objectives

1. Acknowledge and honor ancestral experiences
2. Provide a link between the Haudenosaunee and Hamilton residents
3. Enlighten the access to the Valley for all
4. Protect and enhance the ecosystem and the environment
5. Understand human impacts in the Red Hill Valley ecosystem
6. Capitalize on economic opportunities without compromising the ecological integrity of the Red Hill Valley



Stewardship Framework*

Our work plan is guided by our stewardship framework.



*Adapted from A Citizens Guide to INAC's Environmental Stewardship, Roles in the NWT

Did you know?

The Red Hill Valley...

- Is 7.5 km long and 6.4 km² (640 ha) of green space in east end Hamilton.
- The Valley's watershed covers an area of 13.3 km² (1330 ha).
- Over 24,000 people live in the Red Hill Valley watershed (2006 census).
- "Red Hill" is derived from the red shales which comprise underlying bedrock.
- Red Hills are prominent visible features along portions of the Valley.
- Contains 8 natural landscape features such as ridge escarpment, plains, marsh and watershed.
- Is home to more than 1,000 species of flora and fauna.
- Includes rare species such as Coopers Hawk, Soapberry Tree, and Southern Flying Squirrel.
- Its archaeological artifacts are twice as old as Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids, dating back 11,000 years!

Work Plan

In order to achieve our objectives, the Joint Stewardship Board will focus efforts during 2014 to 2016 in the following areas:

Valley Access and Education

- Enhance web content and functionality
- Enrich the valley trails experience
- Construct Meeting Places along the valley trails
- Design an Environmental Interpretive Centre
- Develop appropriate educational programming (e.g., Indigenous History, Valley Ecosystem, Hamilton History, Engineering and Restoration)

Community Engagement

- Promote – inform and educate community
- Learn – understand and respond to communities' needs
- Involve – community in activities

Coordination and Partnership

- Collaborate on local stewardship activities
- Establish funding and programming partnerships

Assessment and Monitoring

- Evaluate 5-year monitoring results
- Implement long-term monitoring plans

Planning and Reporting

- Complete the Joint Stewardship Master Plan
- Conduct an annual review and report to community

Progress to Date...

Here are a few updates on some progress to date. The results of this work continues to inform our activities.



Medicine Plant Recovery

To understand the type and health of indigenous medicine plants, the Joint Stewardship Board contracted Indigenous Consulting and Training to conduct an inventory and develop a recovery plan for medicines in the Red Hill Valley. Throughout 2006 and 2007, Haudenosaunee plant specialists searched the valley and determined the availability and absence of numerous medicine plants. Protection efforts for threatened plant stands involved seed recovery, replanting or relocation of some rare or significant species (e.g., Sweet Fern, Ladies Fern, Sassafras).

Deer Inventory

In 2011, the Board brought together contemporary ecological science and environmental practices, and indigenous ecological knowledge to conduct research on the state of the deer population. Two deer inventories were completed. From the Biodiversity Management Group results determined there was not an over population of deer in the valley. This was supported by a collaborative survey conducted by Hamilton Conservation Authority, Kayanase and Six Nations who also added there was minimal deer impact on the ecological restoration at the time of the survey.

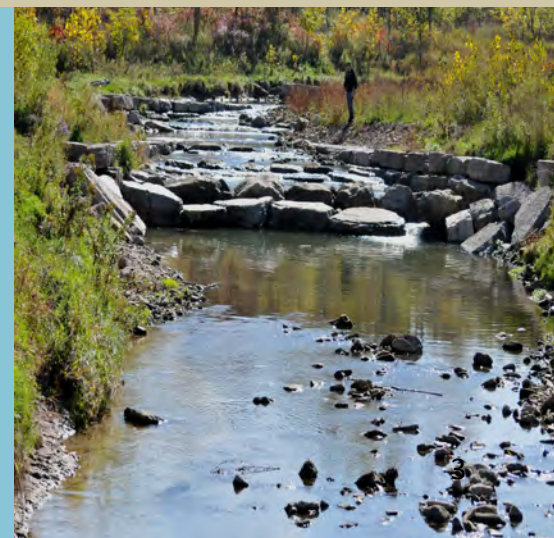


Community Engagement

In February and March 2012, the Joint Stewardship Board hosted a series of Red Hill Valley Open Houses in Hamilton and at Six Nations. Attended by members of both communities, the events provided the public an opportunity to meet and discuss questions or concerns with the Joint Stewardship Board, staff, and Red Hill Valley Project consultants. Particular areas of public interest were implementation of the Environmental Interpretive Centre, archaeology, master planning, and ecological restoration work. Expanded engagement is planned in 2014.

Environmental and Ecological Monitoring

From 2007 to 2012, the City undertook a post-construction multi-year environmental monitoring program as required by regulatory approvals for the Red Hill Valley Project. The Integrated Monitoring Plan examined, at various frequencies and durations, the following components: hydrometeorologic, groundwater, fluvial geomorphology, surface water quality, natural heritage systems and fish and fish habitat. The final 5-year report will be available in early 2014, at which time the Board will review the baseline results and recommend appropriate actions to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the Valley ecosystem and environment.



EXPLORE·ENJOY·DISCOVER

The trail system of the Red Hill Valley follows both ancient indigenous trails and the flow of history from the Escarpment to the Lake.

Beginning at the top of the Niagara Escarpment (Mud Street, adjacent to Kings Forest Park), the Red Hill Valley Trail traverses the escarpment and runs northeast through the Red Hill Valley. A bridge crossing over the Queen Elizabeth Highway extends the trail to Lake Ontario.



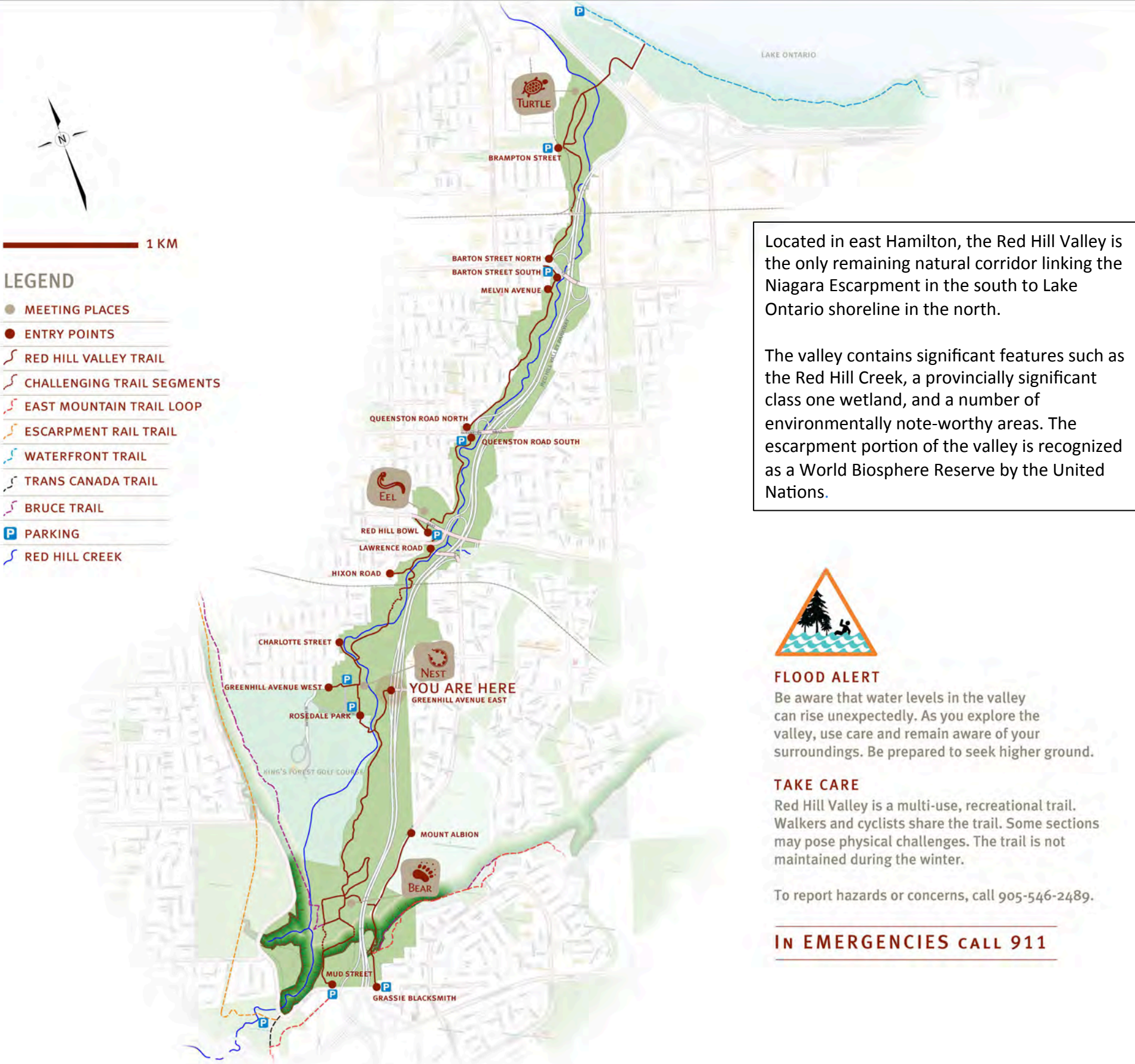
The trail is approximately 10.5 kilometres long by 3 metres wide, and includes bridge crossings of the Red Hill Creek, entrances from streets and/or parking lots, and a 1.1 kilometre long barrier-free section (with a tar and chip surface) accessible from Greenhill Bowl through Kings Forest Golf Course.

Each trail entrance is marked by a Red Hill Valley Trail sign. Most of the trail is not wheelchair accessible due to steep grades.



LEGEND

- MEETING PLACES
- ENTRY POINTS
- RED HILL VALLEY TRAIL
- CHALLENGING TRAIL SEGMENTS
- EAST MOUNTAIN TRAIL LOOP
- ESCARPMENT RAIL TRAIL
- WATERFRONT TRAIL
- TRANS CANADA TRAIL
- BRUCE TRAIL
- P PARKING
- RED HILL CREEK



Located in east Hamilton, the Red Hill Valley is the only remaining natural corridor linking the Niagara Escarpment in the south to Lake Ontario shoreline in the north.

The valley contains significant features such as the Red Hill Creek, a provincially significant class one wetland, and a number of environmentally note-worthy areas. The escarpment portion of the valley is recognized as a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations.



FLOOD ALERT

Be aware that water levels in the valley can rise unexpectedly. As you explore the valley, use care and remain aware of your surroundings. Be prepared to seek higher ground.

TAKE CARE

Red Hill Valley is a multi-use, recreational trail. Walkers and cyclists share the trail. Some sections may pose physical challenges. The trail is not maintained during the winter.

To report hazards or concerns, call 905-546-2489.

IN EMERGENCIES CALL 911



Update on the Ecological Restoration

Using a combination of science-based approaches and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, the City of Hamilton and Kayanase (a restoration and native plant and seed business at Six Nations) collaborated on the ecological restoration of the Red Hill Valley. The project involved innovative planning and restoration methods, and the management of invasive species.

Initial habitat surveys informed the development of detailed plans for some 313 restoration units within the “green space” areas in and adjacent to the parkway corridor. Significant restoration from Stone Church Road north to the Queen Elizabeth Way was completed during 2007 to 2011. The City of Hamilton continues with selective planting, and test strategies for the management of invasive species.

The project achieved its goals to: protect and conserve existing natural elements, including the indigenous plants and plant communities; restore degraded habitat areas; and increase connectivity and the size of natural habitat areas within the Red Hill Valley post parkway construction.



Red Hill Valley Parkway



City of
Hamilton

Public Works Department

HABITAT CREATION ZONES
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ZONES
PARKWAY PLANTING ZONES
NEW POLYGON
Invasive species

Introducing the Bear Meeting Place!

We are pleased to introduce the Bear Meeting place that was completed in November 2013! The Bear is the first of four landscape features planned by the Joint Stewardship Board for construction over the next few years.

Along with the **Turtle, Nest, and Eel**, the sites are places along the trail designed for sharing and learning, where visitors can stop to rest, contemplate, and experience ecological connectedness and beauty of the valley landscape. (See Page 4 for locations on the trail map)



You can find The Bear following a $\frac{3}{4}$ km walk southward from the Mount Albion trail entrance through the viaduct under the Red Hill Valley Expressway. For a more challenging hike that descends down the escarpment, follow the trail $\frac{3}{4}$ km northward from the Mud Street entrance.

Additional information on the trails and meeting places, including the four design plans and trail maps, can be found on our web site at www.jointstewardshipboard.com.

The official opening of the Bear is scheduled for Spring 2014 when Mother Earth is in full rejuvenation!

Looking to the Future... Environmental Interpretive Centre

In creating the Red Hill Valley Environmental Interpretive Centre, we tell a story of the changes in the world that we envision. The Centre will be a story of the communities that share a history in the Valley, the values that bind our communities together, and our path to a resilient future.

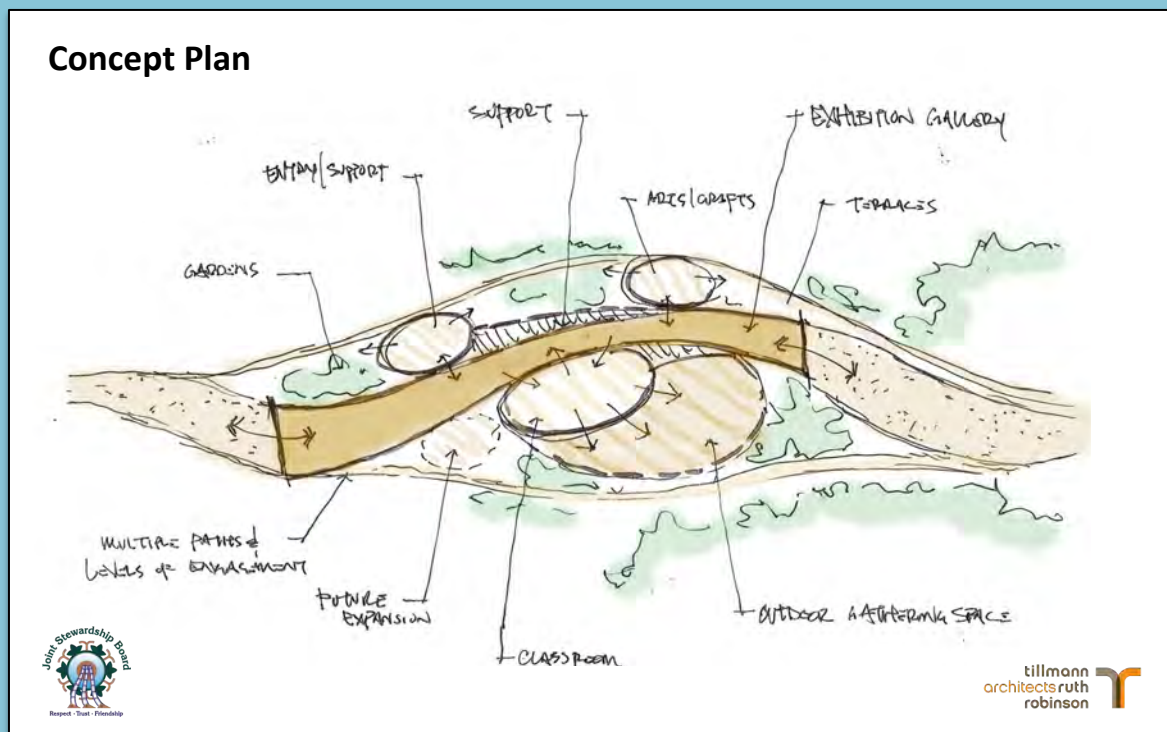
In 2013, the Joint Stewardship Board began working with architects Tillman Ruth Robinson to express our aspirations for the Centre. Following a series of workshops, we defined a Vision and Design Principles that will describe the Red Hill Valley experience summarized as:

"We are the bridge between the past and the future of the Red Hill Valley. We stand here together, to share with each other our stories told in the landscape. Embodied in the valley is a reciprocal relationship between this earth and generations before us. We look to the past, to reflect on our ancestors experiences, to breathe new life into our inheritance by adding our own thoughts and experiences in the present. In facilitating a deeper, understanding of our place in the world, the Centre translates experiences into a shared universal visual and physical language that can be felt. "

CONCEPT DESIGN

As part of this project, the working group has described a building program to support the Valley experience. Approximately 3,800 square feet incorporating education, exhibition, recreation and gathering space is being explored on a site within the Valley. A simple diagram conveying the primary organizing thought or the main idea of the project – the bridge, or journey between urban and natural environments experienced over time – expresses a series of components that will be further explored in our next steps:

- the bridge, path and spine;
- a series of linked program modules along the spine;
- suggested connections across and through the site and into the Valley;
- enclosing garden and landscape elements.



Haudenosaunee—Hamilton Red Hill Agreements

We are guided by a collaborative framework that has been established through a series of agreements between the City of Hamilton and the Haudenosaunee.

- Agreement About Facilitated Negotiations, September 19, 2003
- Agreement Concerning Respect for and Protection of Human Burials in the Red Hill Creek Valley and Assurances Concerning Archeological Work in the Red Hill Creek Valley, October 22, 2003
- General Agreement, November 17, 2003
- Agreement About Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering, November 17, 2003
- Agreement on Tolls, November 17, 2003
- Joint Stewardship Agreement, December 18, 2003
- Agreement on Medicine Plants and Other Significant Plants, December 18, 2003
- Agreement on Economic Opportunities in the Red Hill Valley, January 9, 2004
- Agreement Respecting the Human Heritage of the Red Hill Valley, January 9, 2004



www.jointstewardshipboard.com

Acknowledgements

City of Hamilton
Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council
Six Nations of the Grand River

Board Members

Aaron Detlor, Haudenosaunee Representative
Brian Doolittle, Haudenosaunee Representative
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