



# Presentation to the City of Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee Update and Activities June 5, 2014

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Joint Stewardship Board Coordinator

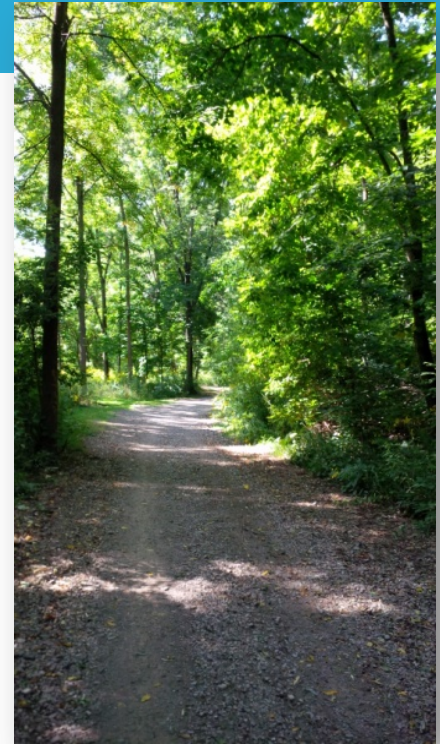
# Shared Commitment

The Board formation in 2005, signified the Haudenosaunee and City of Hamilton commitment to working together on environmental guardianship of the Red Hill Valley.

In 2007 the Haudenosaunee presented the Mayor of the City with three strings of Wampum:



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









# Joint Stewardship

- Conservation, restoration, mitigation and ecosystem protection
- Grounded on Haudenosaunee and conventional planning and management approaches
- Combine elements of science-based approaches and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Involve sharing of knowledge, and strengthening and building new relationships
- Respectful of the dynamic nature of complex social ecological systems



# Our Vision



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





# Work Plan 2014-2016

- ① Valley Access and Education
- ② Community Engagement
- ③ Coordination and Partnership
- ④ Assessment and Monitoring
- ⑤ Planning and Reporting



*Success and Activities Showcase...*

# Valley Restoration

- Design Build with Kayanase, Six Nations
- 313 distinct restoration units
- Local wild-type seed collected within 75 km
- Over 1,000,000 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers
- “Free to grow” restoration of over 100 hectare of green



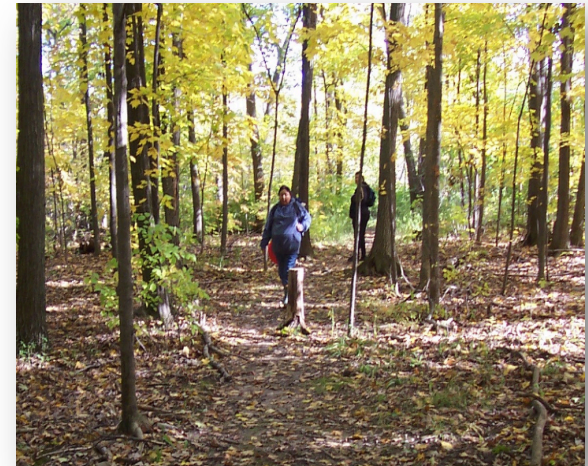
**One of the largest ecological restoration projects ever undertaken in a major urban setting in North America—Turtle Island**





# 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.



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, for example:

Sweet Fern



Lady 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:

- ① Biodiversity Management Group results determined there was **not an over population of deer in the valley.**
- ② Collaborative survey by Hamilton Conservation Authority, Kayanase and Six Nations added there was **minimal deer impact on the ecological restoration** at the time of the survey.



# Environmental and Ecological Monitoring

From 2007 to 2012, the City undertook a post-construction multi-year environmental monitoring program as per regulatory approvals for the Red Hill Valley Project.

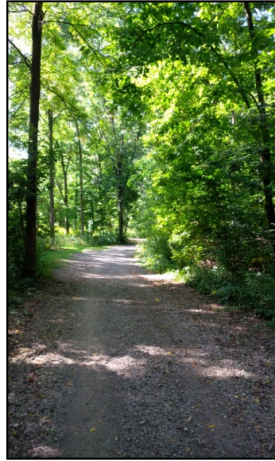
The **Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan (IEMP)** examined, at various frequencies and durations, the following components:

- Rainfall and stream flow
- Groundwater
- Fluvial geomorphology
- Surface water quality
- Natural heritage systems, and
- Fish and fish habitat



The final 5-year Executive Summary Report will be available in July 2014.

# Red Hill Valley Trail System

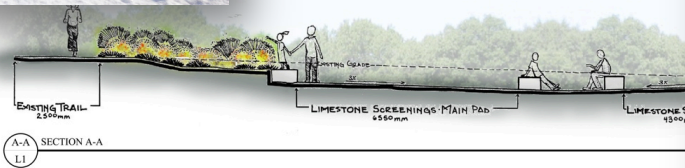
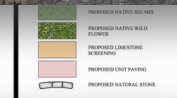


RED HILL VALLEY TRAIL

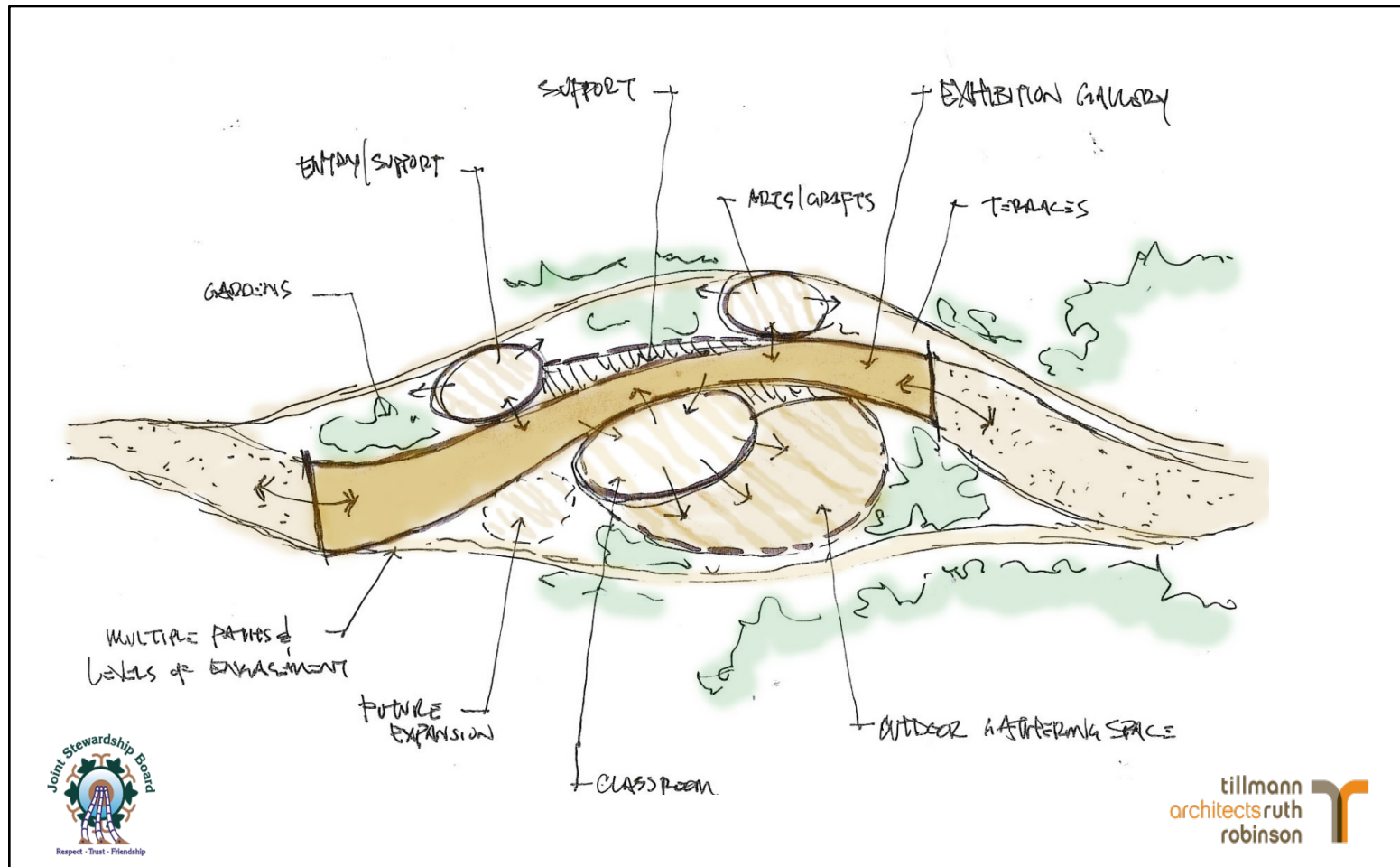




# Landscape Architecture Features - Bear Meeting Place



# Environmental Interpretive Centre – Concept Design





# Honouring Ancestral History





[Home](#) / [Local](#) / Red Hill Valley artifacts displayed at GREAT

0 266

## Red Hill Valley artifacts displayed at GREAT

Artifacts found in the Red Hill Valley date as far as back as 12,000 years and is also home to an ancient Haudenosaunee village. You can view the display at the GREAT Atrium from now until June 27. (Photo by Jen Mt. Pleasant)

 **Jennifer MtPleasant** · Local · May 28, 2014

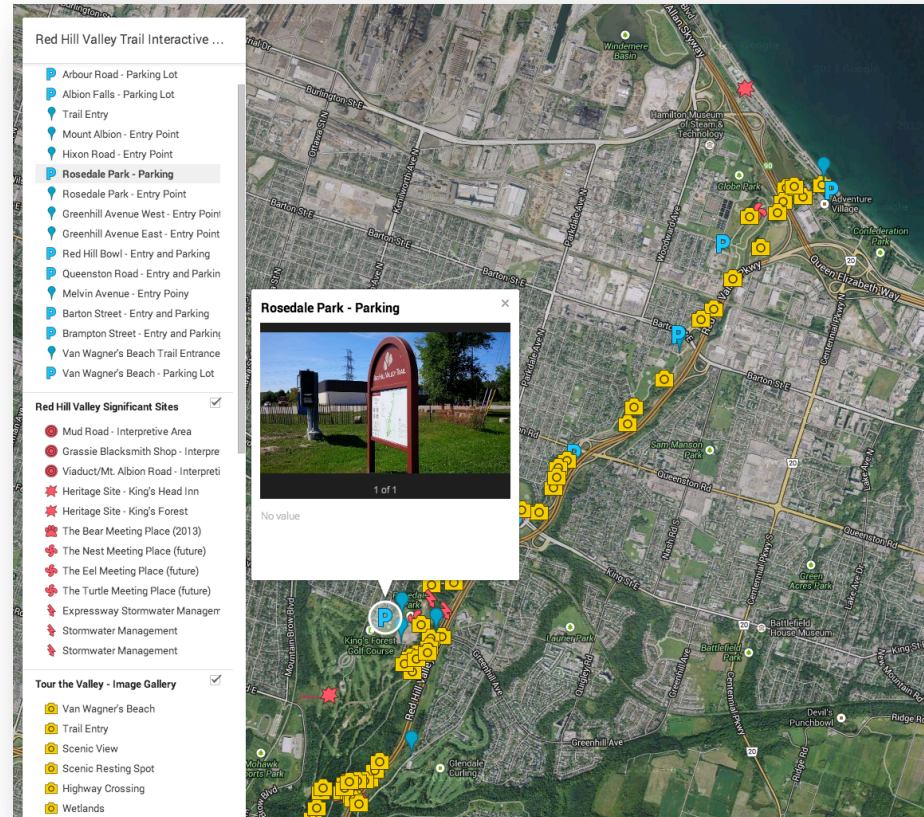
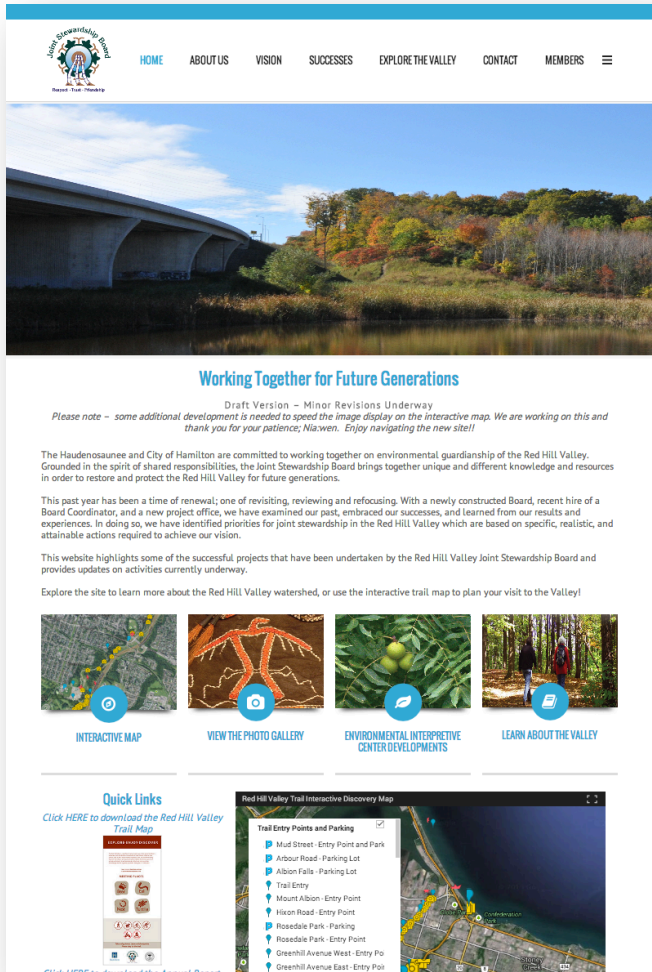
# What's Next?

- Continued ecological restoration – tree planting and invasives
- Research and educational material development
- Explore collaboration and funding opportunities
- Detailed schematic designs for Environmental Interpretive Centre
- Community events, conference presentations, guest speaking
- Monitoring results review and long-term monitoring plans
- Annual review and presentations to Councils





# Enhanced Web Content and Functionality



<http://jointstewardshipboard.com>





## **Acknowledgements**

City of Hamilton

Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council

Six Nations of the Grand River

## **Board Members**

Aaron Detlor, Haudenosaunee

Brian Doolittle, Haudenosaunee

Chad Collins, Councillor, City of Hamilton

Hazel Hill, Haudenosaunee

Russ Powers, Councillor, City of Hamilton

Terry Whitehead, Councillor, City of Hamilton

## **Board Resource**

Andrew Grice, City of Hamilton

Guy Paparella, City of Hamilton

Robert Norman, City of Hamilton

***Nia:wen; Thank you!***

***Questions?***