

Welcome

Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area



Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area, presently encompassing 66.73 hectares, is located on the glacial Lake Iroquois Shoreline. Stephen's Gulch is situated around the confluence of the Mackie and Soper Creeks.

Historical Background

There is evidence to indicate the presence of Indian cultures in the general Stephen's Gulch area during the pre-contact and historic periods. However, no significant accumulation of material, (e.g. village site), has been uncovered to date.

The most notable of the original European settlers to enter the area was Jonathan Stephens, who settled

on the site circa 1832. Shortly after his arrival, he constructed a saw mill and dammed the Soper Creek as a source of power. The mill was later abandoned. The rapid removal of much of the local forest probably accounted for its closure. To date, very little information exists concerning the nature of the operation of this pioneer, industrial facility.

Located north of Bowmanville, the Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area borders a significant portion of the Soper Creek. The Conservation Area protects a large area of deciduous forest and coniferous forest/swamp that help maintain both water quantity (through seeps and springs) and water temperature along this section of the Soper Creek. Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area also includes a portion of the provincially significant Soper Valley Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Along the Trails

Birds

American Robin
Baltimore Oriole
Belted Kingfisher
Black-and-white Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-capped Chickadee
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk



Northern Flicker
Northern Waterthrush
Ovenbird
Pileated Woodpecker
Pine Warbler
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ruffed Grouse
Savannah Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Song Sparrow
Veery

Eastern Cottontail
Raccoon
Striped Skunk
Red Fox
Muskrat
Mink
Coyote
White-tailed Deer
Porcupine

Winter Wren
Wood Thrush
Yellow Warbler

Mammals

Brown Creeper
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Common Yellowthroat
Dark-eyed Junco
Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Towhee
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Gray Catbird
Great Crested Flycatcher
Great Horned Owl
Green Heron
Hairy Woodpecker
Indigo Bunting
Mourning Warbler
Northern Cardinal

Deer Mouse
Eastern Chipmunk
Grey Squirrel
Red Squirrel



For a more detailed list of species that have been observed at Stephen's Gulch C.A. or at one of our other Conservation Areas, please contact the CLOCA office or check the "Library" section under "Resources" tab on our website (www.cloca.com).

If you would like to report your wildlife observations (including plants), please do so on our website under "Programs & Services - Land & Water Conservation - Report Sightings".

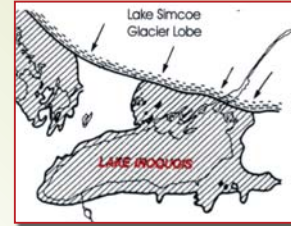
Authority Mission Statement

"To work towards the awareness, understanding, wise use and enhancement of our watershed resources for the benefit of the natural environment in partnership with the Region of Durham including: Cities of Oshawa and Pickering, Towns of Ajax and Whitby, Municipality of Clarington, Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge and our watershed communities."

Annual Pass

An annual pass is available to cover general admission to all conservation areas operated by Central Lake Ontario Conservation. Please note, the annual pass does not include admission to special events and may be purchased online at www.cloca.com or through the Administrative Office at (905) 579-0411, ext. 0.

Looking Back



Lake Iroquois was the name given by geologists to the body of water that occupied the Lake Ontario basin during the retreat of the last glacier about 12,500 years ago. It was held in place by a barrier of ice blocking the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. As the ice dam melted, drainage increased and Lake Iroquois reduced in size, evolving into a young Lake Ontario.

Poison Ivy

Staying on the trails not only protects nature, but also hikers. To the right is a picture of Poison Ivy found along the trails. To recognize the ivy look for plants with alternate leaves divided into three leaflets. These usually have a few coarse teeth but may also be smooth edged. When the whitish or greenish flowers are present, they grow in clusters from the point where the leaf stalk and stem join.



Besides the ground form of Poison Ivy, the vine form can also be seen climbing up the trunks of trees.

To treat contact with the ivy, wash several times with hot soap and water to help reduce the effect of the toxin. If you walk through a patch please remember to wash your boots as you can pick up the toxin when you remove your boots.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation

Central Lake Ontario Conservation was established in 1958 by the Government of Ontario at the request of the municipalities located within the watersheds of the following creek systems: Bennett, Black, Bowmanville, Corbett, Darlington, Farewell, Goodman, Harmony, Lynde, Oshawa, Pringle, Robinson, Soper, Tooley and Westside.



Discover Your Local Conservation Areas

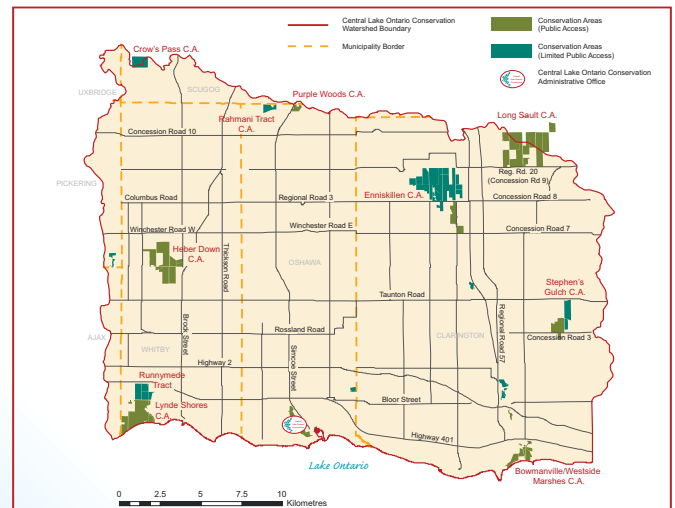
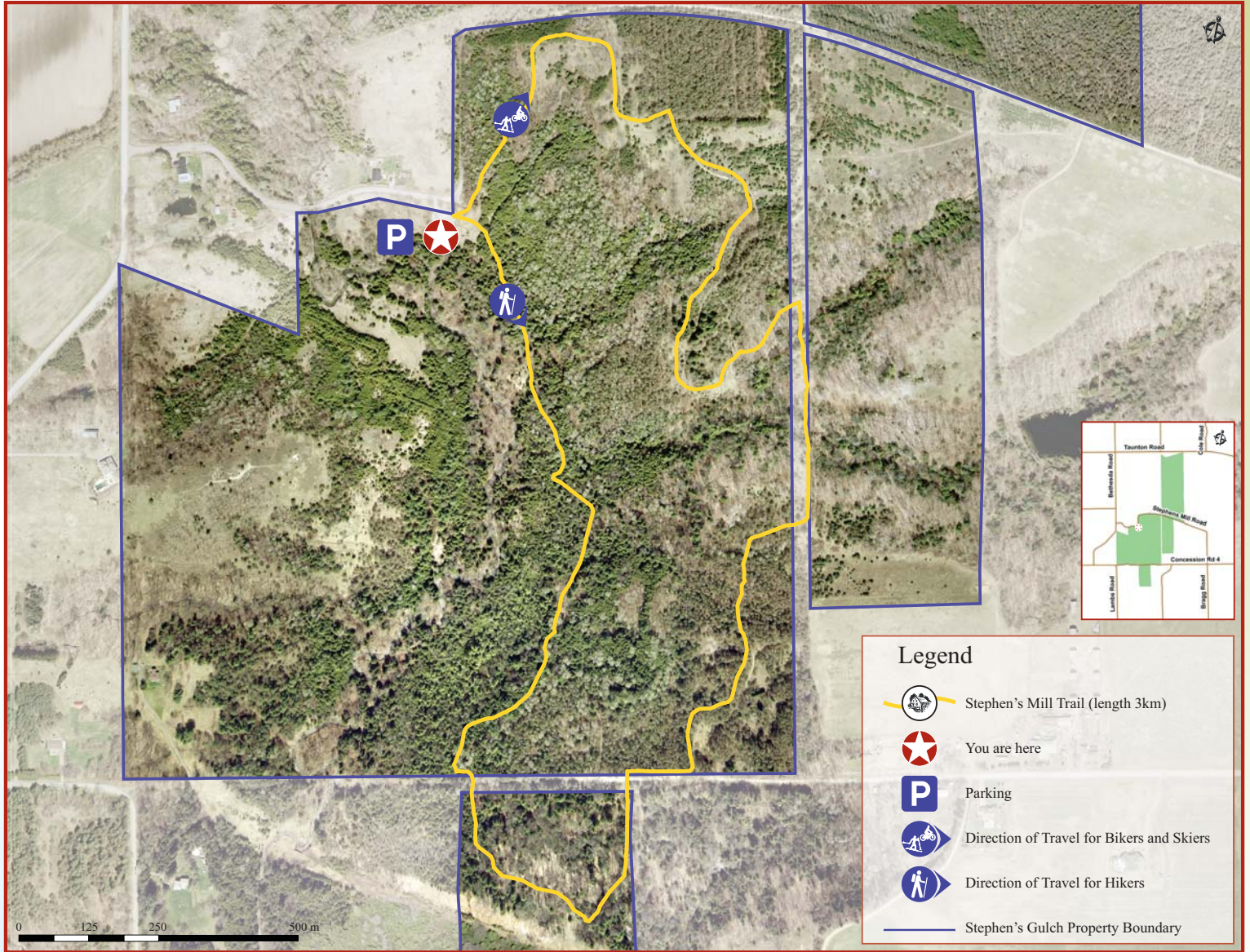


Photo Credits:
Eastern Chipmunk - © Stu Beckman <http://stubeckman.com>

Trail Map

Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area



Legend

- Stephen's Mill Trail (length 3km)
- You are here
- Parking
- Direction of Travel for Bikers and Skiers
- Direction of Travel for Hikers
- Stephen's Gulch Property Boundary

Trail Etiquette and Rules



"Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints"

Do not litter. Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area is a garbage free area. Please take any refuse home with you.



Protect nature by staying on the trails, obey all trail signs, leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.



"Remember to stoop and scoop!"
All pets must be on a leash of no more than 2 meters in length

Respect the rights of other trail users

No speeding or "Time Trials"



Be aware of degree of difficulty - **This trail is rated as difficult**



Follow the trail direction signs



Public access allowed for passive recreation use only

For more information contact the administrative office at (905) 579-0411

These activities are prohibited



Emergency Numbers

In the event of emergency call 911

911 Address
360 Stephen's Mill Rd
Clarington, Ontario

Central Lake Ontario Conservation:
(905) 579 - 0411

Area open dawn to dusk
from May 1 - to Thanksgiving