

# Real Value of Green Space

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES PROTECT NATURAL AREAS

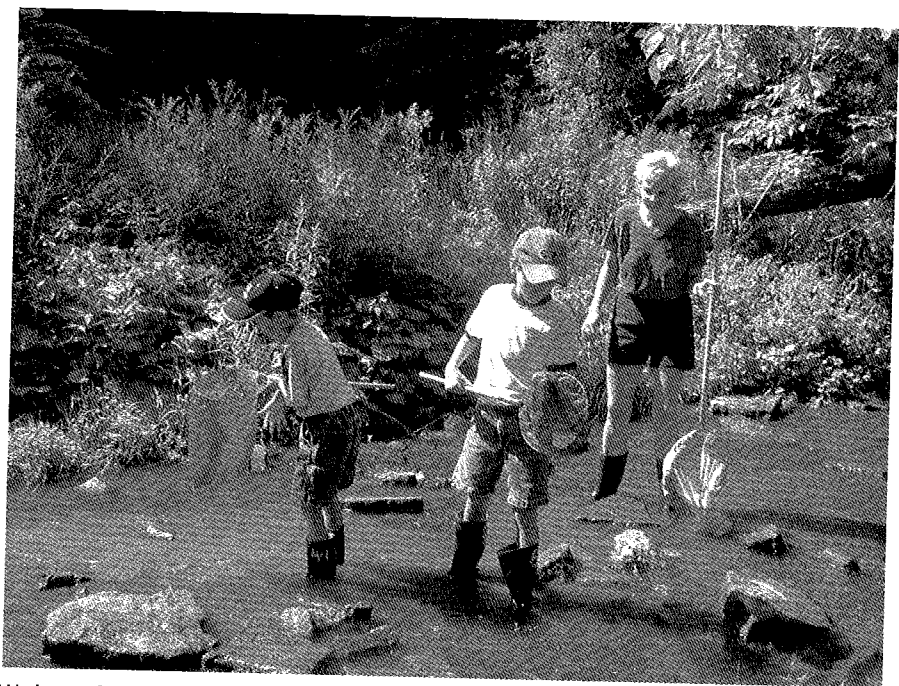
Christina Kilbourne

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities are the province's largest private landowners next to the provincial government. In partnership with Ontario's municipalities, they own and protect over 144,000 hectares (350,000 acres) of natural lands. These lands include forests that help to clean the air we breathe; wetlands that help to clean the water we drink; special tracts that preserve areas of scientific significance and natural heritage; and over 85,000 hectares of recreational land that help to keep the bodies and minds of over five million visitors healthy each year.

Conservation authorities help to safeguard land in some of the most delicate and environmentally significant areas of our province: beside the shores of the Great Lakes; across the Oak Ridges Moraine; and along the backbone of the mighty Niagara Escarpment. Together, they own and operate over 460 conservation areas across Ontario, including almost 2,800 kilometres of hiking, biking, and skiing trails, and more than 8,000 campsites.



Christina Kilbourne is an author and green space enthusiast. Her most recent novel, *They Called Me Red*, was published in September 2008. She works for Conservation Ontario and can be reached at <tkilbourne@conservationontario.ca>.



We know from science that green space is good for the environment and economy. But we know from our own childhoods that the best memories are made in green spaces, where kids can be kids.

### Economic and Environmental Value

So, what is the real value of all this green space? Many studies have been conducted and much has been written on the economic and environmental

value of green space. And, many of the results appeal to our collective common sense. For instance, green space can improve property value. Studies of three different neighbourhoods in Boulder, Colorado showed that property values decreased by \$4.20 for each foot it was away from a green space.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Urban Institute: The Public Value of Urban Parks; <[www.projectevergreen.com/resources/311011\\_urban\\_parks-2.pdf](http://www.projectevergreen.com/resources/311011_urban_parks-2.pdf)>.

# Real Value of Green Space

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES PROTECT NATURAL AREAS

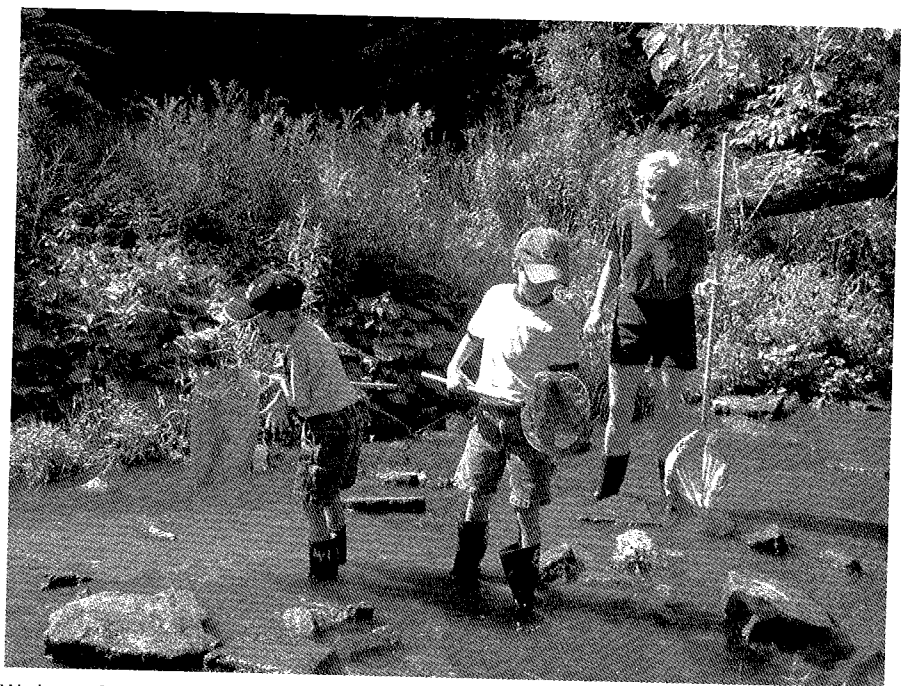
Christina Kilbourne

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities are the province's largest private landowners next to the provincial government. In partnership with Ontario's municipalities, they own and protect over 144,000 hectares (350,000 acres) of natural lands. These lands include forests that help to clean the air we breathe; wetlands that help to clean the water we drink; special tracts that preserve areas of scientific significance and natural heritage; and over 85,000 hectares of recreational land that help to keep the bodies and minds of over five million visitors healthy each year.

Conservation authorities help to safeguard land in some of the most delicate and environmentally significant areas of our province: beside the shores of the Great Lakes; across the Oak Ridges Moraine; and along the backbone of the mighty Niagara Escarpment. Together, they own and operate over 460 conservation areas across Ontario, including almost 2,800 kilometres of hiking, biking, and skiing trails, and more than 8,000 campsites.



Christina Kilbourne is an author and green space enthusiast. Her most recent novel, *They Called Me Red*, was published in September 2008. She works for Conservation Ontario and can be reached at <tkilbourne@conservationontario.ca>.



We know from science that green space is good for the environment and economy. But we know from our own childhoods that the best memories are made in green spaces, where kids can be kids.

### Economic and Environmental Value

So, what is the real value of all this green space? Many studies have been conducted and much has been written on the economic and environmental

value of green space. And, many of the results appeal to our collective common sense. For instance, green space can improve property value. Studies of three different neighbourhoods in Boulder, Colorado showed that property values decreased by \$4.20 for each foot it was away from a green space.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Urban Institute: The Public Value of Urban Parks; <[www.projectevergreen.com/resources/311011\\_urban\\_parks-2.pdf](http://www.projectevergreen.com/resources/311011_urban_parks-2.pdf)>.

Some of the results are more surprising, like the studies that show how green space improves the bottom line for businesses. In a study by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, employees with a view of green space (an outside view with plants) experienced greater job satisfaction, less pressure, and reported fewer headaches and other illnesses than workers with no outside view or those viewing "man-made" objects.<sup>2</sup> But, that's not all. The same study found that access to green space increased worker productivity and that greening business districts increased community pride and drew more

customers. Like homeowners, small businesses consider proximity to a park as one of the top priorities when choosing a location to set up.<sup>3</sup>

There are studies that show how green space can create stronger communities, boost tourism, improve employment opportunities, decrease energy bills, and reduce municipal infrastructure costs.<sup>4</sup> After all, hasn't there been a push recently for municipalities to include green space in their official plans for all of these reasons? We know from long-ago science classes that green spaces are vital to the water cycle, prevent soil erosion, and fil-

ter contaminants from our sources of drinking water. But, what about the social benefits of green spaces? More particularly, what are the social benefits of green space for our most vulnerable citizens – our children?

### Social Benefits for Children

With youth violence and crime on the rise in most major cities in Canada, with diagnoses of ADD (attention deficit disorder) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) growing each year, perhaps it's time to refocus on the social benefits of green space. We know intuitively that green space is important – that it lowers stress, promotes tranquility, and improves health. Green space has even been connected with lowering crime and enhancing self-esteem.<sup>5</sup>

We know from science that green space is good for the environment and economy, for real estate and business, for tourism and business. But we know from experience, from our own childhoods, that the best memories are made in green spaces where kids can be kids, where they can swirl sticks in a river, where they can pop open a milkweed pod in autumn and watch the seeds drift away on the breeze, where they can lay on their backs on a hot summer day and wonder up at the tall tree trunks stretching into a canopy of green.

Andrea Faber Taylor, in her presentation *Urban Forest: A Valuable Resource for Another Valuable Resource* to the City of Toronto Tree Symposium in 2004, talked at length about the benefits of green space for the healthy growth, development, and outcomes of children. Through her research with the Human Environment Research Lab at

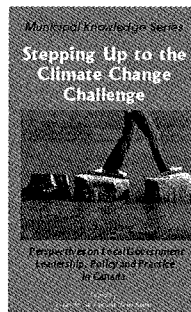
# Stepping Up to the Climate Change Challenge

*Edited by Susan M. Gardner and David Noble*

Once upon a time, not so long ago, there was a lively debate about climate change. Was it really happening? Were humans really causing it? If the wheels of global climate change were in motion, could we really influence the extent of change and its effects?

We now know that the climate change challenge is real – and there are important steps municipalities can and should be taking to successfully engage on the issue. This book highlights the important role for Canada's local governments in contributing to climate change solutions, locally and globally.

With powerful examples from Canadian municipalities that are already leading the way, *Stepping Up* also highlights the theory, tools and strategies that local governments can put into practice immediately to begin mitigating climate change and better prepare their communities to adapt to the changes already evident.



**\$29.95**

Plus applicable taxes, shipping and handling

**MW BookShop**  
**books.municipalworld.com**

**TOLL-FREE ORDER HOTLINE:**

**Tel: 1-888-368-6125 Fax: 1-888-368-6128**

**mwadmin@municipalworld.com**

- 2 Virginia Cooperative Extension: The Value of Landscaping; <[www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-721/426-721.html#TOC](http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-721/426-721.html#TOC)>.
- 3 The Trust for Public Land: Economic Benefits of Open Space; <[www.tpl.org/tier3\\_print.cfm?folder\\_id=727&content\\_item\\_id=1147&mod\\_type=1](http://www.tpl.org/tier3_print.cfm?folder_id=727&content_item_id=1147&mod_type=1)>.
- 4 Project Evergreen: The Economic Fact Sheet: The Financial Benefits of Green Spaces; <[www.projectevergreen.com/whygreenmatters/economic.html](http://www.projectevergreen.com/whygreenmatters/economic.html)>.
- 5 Charles A. Lewis: The Role of Horticulture in Human Well-Being and Social Development; <[www.projectevergreen.com/resources/LowerCrimecopy.pdf](http://www.projectevergreen.com/resources/LowerCrimecopy.pdf)>.

the University of Illinois, she found that “where there are trees, there are healthy functioning children.”<sup>6</sup> More specifically, she found “the greener a girl’s view from home, the better she was able to concentrate, the less impulsively she behaved, and the longer she could delay gratification.”

Taylor would argue that green space is not an accessory, but a *necessity*. She found that when children were in green spaces, “they were significantly more likely to be engaged in play and more likely to be engaged in creative forms of play.”

### Outdoor Learning Environment

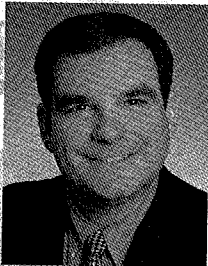
Over the past 30 years, conservation authorities have also discovered that children learn best when they are outdoors in green spaces. When delivered outdoors, it turns out, the impact of



6 Andrea Faber Taylor: Urban Forest: A Valuable Resource for another Valuable Resource – Children; <[www.toronto.ca/environment/pdf/andrea\\_faber\\_taylor.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/environment/pdf/andrea_faber_taylor.pdf)>.

Green space is not an accessory, but a *necessity*. Ontario’s Conservation Authorities demonstrate the real value of green space to more than 400,000 students annually.

**WILLMS & SHIER**  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS LLP



**Marc McAree**  
*Environmental Law Specialist*  
*Certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada*

**416 862 4820**  
[mmcarea@willmsshier.com](mailto:mmcarea@willmsshier.com)

**Your Environmental Advocate**  
[www.willmsshier.com](http://www.willmsshier.com)

**ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & RESOURCES LAW**



## Find the legal solution

Stikeman Elliott provides strategic, innovative and specialized legal advice in all areas of law that may impact the health and development of communities.

- municipal
- administrative
- planning & development
- real property
- environmental
- infrastructure
- energy
- litigation
- finance
- public/private partnerships

For information about how our legal team can help you, please contact us at (416) 869-5500.

**Jim Harbell**  
[jharbell@stikeman.com](mailto:jharbell@stikeman.com)

**Calvin Lantz**  
[clantz@stikeman.com](mailto:clantz@stikeman.com)

**STIKEMAN ELLIOTT**

STIKEMAN ELLIOTT LLP

[www.stikeman.com](http://www.stikeman.com)

In addition to formal environmental education programs, conservation authorities also provide non-formal learning programs for youth groups, environmental day camps, NGO environmental groups, and specialized municipal education projects such as Children's Water Festivals.

learning is more powerful. Outdoor education transforms learners because it is immediate, practical and real for the learner. Outdoor educators believe that students remember 10 percent of what they read, 15 percent of what they hear, but 85 percent of what they do. Because today's school children are tomorrow's decision makers, it is vital that they understand their relationship with the environment.

As a group, Ontario's conservation authorities are the province's single largest experiential education provider. They not only offer lands for learning,

they also operate 64 environmental education facilities, and provide proven outdoor education programs in partnership with 59 of Ontario's 72 district school boards. They reach more than 400,000 students annually.

In addition to formal environmental education programs, conservation authorities also provide non-formal learning programs for organized youth groups, environmental day camps, NGO environmental groups, and specialized municipal education projects such as Children's Water Festivals. In 2008, conservation authorities participated in 23 children's

water festivals, seven of which were hosted on conservation authority properties. These unique outdoor events teach children about the science of water and how to protect it for the future.

These are the same children who will provide leadership in the future to help us adapt to climate change, protect our drinking water sources, and build healthy sustainable communities – all the more reason to let them experience and learn in a green space where they will be more likely to remember not only the magic of being outdoors, but the lessons they learned. MW

## LINE FENCES ACT FORMS

340	Owner's request for fence-viewers (dispute)	360	Owner's notice requiring adjoining owner to obey fence-viewers
341	Clerk's notice to parties (dispute)	361	Decision of fence-viewers where no award, certification, determination is made
342	Clerk's notice to fence-viewers (dispute)	362	Occupant's notice to owner, re: notice of: dispute / certification / determination
343	Fence-viewers' award (dispute)	363	Line fence agreement by owners (Rev. Jan/04)
344	Owner's notice of appeal from fence-viewers' award (dispute)	364	Clerk's notice to clerk of adjacent municipality
345	Affidavit of service of notice of appeal (dispute)	365	Notice to remove fence
346	Owner's notice to adjoining owner requiring award to be obeyed (certification)	366	Notice to remove fallen tree
347	Designated owner's notice to adjoining owner of amount owing in accordance with award (certification)	370	Fence-viewers' field sheet (dispute)
348	Owner's request for fence-viewers to reattend (certification)	371	Fence-viewers' field sheet where work not done (certification)
349	Clerk's notice to parties (certification)	372	Fence-viewers' field sheet where payment not made (certification)
350	Clerk's notice to fence-viewers to reattend (certification)	373	Fence-viewers' field sheet where work improperly done (determination)
351/1	Fenceviewers' certificate of default (work not done)	374	Fence-viewers Field Guide Clipboard Binder for use with Field Sheet Forms 370-373
351/2	Fence-viewers' certificate of default (payment not made)	180	Schedule - Land Registration Reform Act
352	Owner's notice requesting treasurer to make payment		
353	Treasurer's notice of amount owed to municipality by defaulting owner (Rev. Jan/04)		
354	Owner's notice requesting clerk to have amount certified/placed upon collector's roll		
355	Owner's notice requiring adjoining owner to comply with award (determination)		
356	Owner's request for fence-viewers to reattend (determination)		
357	Clerk's notice to parties where fence-viewers to reattend (determination)		
358	Clerk's notice to fence-viewers to reattend (determination)		
359	Fenceviewers' determination with directions		

MW  
**FORMS**

Place your order now using **Municipal World's**  
toll-free order hotline:

Tel: 1-888-368-6125 Fax: 1-888-368-6128  
mwadmin@municipalworld.com