

# MOUNT PLEASANT

Protecting and Living With Our Shared Natural Environment

## A Homeowner's Guide

### Connecting with Nature

As a resident of Mount Pleasant, you live in a unique environment that provides many desirable community features within convenient walking distance.

At the heart of Mount Pleasant are abundant natural areas and corridors that are vital to the sustainability of native plants and wildlife within an increasingly urbanized setting. It is the relationship you have with these natural areas that will determine the community's success as it grows and matures.

This brochure provides you with information on the natural areas found within Mount Pleasant and what you can do to nurture this beautiful natural environment through your day-to-day activities.



### The Natural Environment

Mount Pleasant's Natural Heritage System (NHS) is one of the **largest and most ambitious habitat naturalization initiatives undertaken in the Greater Toronto Area**. Natural areas have been protected, restored and enhanced to ensure an ecologically diverse, healthy and sustainable environment in a residential setting.

**This system will take time to mature.** As it does, the City of Brampton will help protect and manage these natural areas. As a resident, you have an important part to play as well.

### What the City Will Do

The City supports natural processes and regeneration, by:

- Planting no-maintenance vegetation buffers between natural areas and private properties, using native trees, shrubs and groundcovers.
- Not mowing, pruning or spraying natural areas for weeds and insects.
- Allowing for annual and/or periodic flooding of the Huttonville Creek stream corridor and woodlands to maintain natural hydrology.
- Allowing for the natural loss of vegetation and regrowth of young trees and shrubs.
- Managing the urban tree canopy for losses and impacts related to invasive species like Norway Maple and Buckthorn, as well as the Emerald Ash Borer.

The City of Brampton partners with **Credit Valley Conservation** to undertake stewardship projects with local residents and community groups. Contact the City of Brampton at 905-874-2000 or email [www.growgreen@brampton.ca](mailto:www.growgreen@brampton.ca).



The City and residents will need to protect and sensitively manage natural areas to ensure they continue to thrive.



Conceptual plan showing the extent of the natural features that are at the core of Mount Pleasant, between Mississauga Road and Creditview Road.



initial planting



approximate 1+ year growth



approximate 2-3 year growth



approximate 5-6 year growth

New natural areas, such as planted channels and ponds, will continue to grow and evolve, maturing in character with time. The above examples from various communities illustrate typical growth rates for recently planted natural channels.

## What You Can Do

As a homeowner, **you can help nurture these natural areas** simply by being aware of your actions and following some simple measures.

### Natural areas are not extensions of your property...

- Keep gardens, compost and structures (sheds, fences, etc.) within your property. Do not encroach onto public natural areas.
- Do not dispose of composting, yard waste or soil materials in natural areas, as they may introduce harmful invasive species.

For questions about proper debris disposal, call the **Region of Peel** at 905-791-7800 or email [www.peelregion.ca/pw/waste](http://www.peelregion.ca/pw/waste).

### Landscaping your property...

Think of your yard as an extension of the natural environment. A more naturalized approach to the design of your yard will help achieve an attractive setting that attracts birds, butterflies and other wildlife, while improving water and air quality. Where possible, use native trees and shrubs, perennial flowers, shade-tolerant groundcover and vines.

Select plants that will:

- Provide food for birds, animals, butterflies, etc. (e.g. berries, pollen).
- Offer protection, shade, nesting areas or homes for wildlife.
- Require little or no maintenance, watering, fertilizers or pesticides.
- Not invade or affect neighbouring yards and adjoining natural areas.

For lists of invasive plant species to avoid, visit the **CVC/Region of Peel** websites at the end of this guide.



Plant gardens and consider groundcovers and wildflowers that require minimal irrigation, as alternatives to mowed lawns.

### Improving water quality...

As a homeowner, how you use water will impact the quality of water that feeds and supports nearby streams, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife habitat. Natural areas are dependent on suitable water quality and quantity in order to thrive.

- Instead of mowed lawns, plant gardens with groundcovers that require minimal irrigation and increase the ability of rainfall to infiltrate into the ground, resulting in less runoff.
- Do not use pesticides and fertilizers. They can harm natural vegetation, impact the quality of the water that runs off the property and expose wildlife to potentially hazardous chemicals.
- Sweep leaves, dirt and garbage away from street drains so they won't clog the storm sewer catchbasins or flow into connecting streams and ponds.
- Do not dump household cleaners, paints or other chemicals down the sink, toilet or storm sewer. They should be disposed of at a household hazardous waste depot; visit [www.peelregion.ca/pw/waste](http://www.peelregion.ca/pw/waste) for the nearest location.
- Maintaining your swimming pool uses chemicals that can kill plants, fish and other small life forms. Direct pool overflow to gravel areas, lawns or swales to allow vegetation or soils to filter out the chemicals before the runoff reaches any rivers, streams or underground water supply.
- Consider using a permeable surface material like interlocking brick for your driveway and patios. These will allow water to soak into the ground and will reduce the amount of runoff to storm sewers.
- Install rain barrels to collect rainwater that can be used for watering the garden and reduce runoff.

Rain barrels can be purchased from the **Region of Peel**; contact Customer Service at 905-791-7800 ext. 4409 or email [www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca).

### When using community trails...

Mount Pleasant's natural areas will be linked by a continuous trail network. The Huttonville Creek Trail, combined with the TransCanada Pipeline Trail, on-street bike lanes and municipal sidewalks, will provide residents with safe, accessible and convenient pedestrian and cycling connections and recreational pathways in a natural setting.

When enjoying Mount Pleasant's trail network, please:

- Always 'stoop and scoop' and dispose of pet waste properly.
- Adhere to all City of Brampton posted signage.
- Let natural areas grow undisturbed. Leave groundcover, dead trees or fallen branches in the forest as they provide habitat for assorted creatures and important nutrients to the soil.
- Stay on designated trails.



Installing permeable pavers (as opposed to asphalt or concrete) and rain barrels are two methods residents can adopt to help reduce runoff to storm sewers.



Portions of the trail network will be located within natural buffer areas adjacent to the rear yards of homes.

### Living with wildlife...

Brampton is traversed by five major stream and valley systems that provide significant natural habitat and corridors for plants and wildlife. Encounters with wildlife can be positive experiences that contribute to a pleasurable living environment. However, we all need to manage issues that could cause problems with certain wildlife species:

- Store garbage in animal-proof containers within an enclosed area on your property (e.g. shed or garage).
- While mosquitoes are a great source of food for many species of birds, they can be a nuisance during the summer. Consider installing screened outdoor seating areas and/or use bug repellent when enjoying time outdoors.
- Do not approach or handle wild animals. They may appear docile under normal conditions, but may become aggressive when approached or handled.
- Do not 'rescue' young animals. Most often, wildlife babies are not lost or abandoned and will be retrieved by their parents.
- Avoid feeding any wild animals. Feeding birds in the winter is common, but this will attract squirrels as well.
- Ask your garden centre for tips on preventing animals from eating or destroying your garden.
- Leash household pets when outdoors and/or fit them with collar bells to warn birds and small animals.

## In Closing

The Mount Pleasant Community is a unique residential area with an extensive natural heritage system that has been planned, designed and built around the protection and enhancement of the natural features that were present here before the development began.

The sustainability of the natural system and individual features will largely depend on the relationship you, as a homeowner, have with the neighbourhood environment. The conservation of these woodlands, wetlands, watercourses and wildlife and ensuring that they remain healthy and thriving are key goals of the **City of Brampton**, in partnership with the **Credit Valley Conservation Authority** and the **Mount Pleasant development team**.

By adhering to these guidelines and environmental principles on a day to day basis, you will help nurture these natural areas, beautify your neighbourhood and bring value to your property and experience as a resident of the Mount Pleasant Community.

## Resources

The following organizations may be helpful for obtaining additional information regarding natural features and their function within Mount Pleasant.

### City of Brampton

[www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca) (search the term "Mount Pleasant")  
(t) 905-874-2000

### Region of Peel

[www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca)  
(t) 905-791-7800

### Credit Valley Conservation

[www.creditvalley.ca](http://www.creditvalley.ca)  
email: [cvc@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:cvc@creditvalleyca.ca)  
(t) 905-670-1615

### Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

[www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca)  
email: [info@trca.on.ca](mailto:info@trca.on.ca)  
(t) 416-661-6600

### Evergreen Foundation

[www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca)  
email: [info@evergreen.ca](mailto:info@evergreen.ca)  
(t) 416-596-1495

### Carolinian Canada

[www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)  
email: [info@carolinian.org](mailto:info@carolinian.org)  
(t) 519-433-7077

### Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration

[www.serontario.org](http://www.serontario.org)

Alternative formats for this document available upon request.