

## Protect Natural and Naturalized Areas...

Encroaching or intruding into green spaces will disrupt the delicate balance of their ecosystem. Help us maintain a healthy environment by protecting these areas.

### • Dispose of debris and yard waste properly

Though it may seem harmless to dump grass, sod, soil or plants in a woodlot or over your fence, this can smother native plant species and allow invasive species to establish themselves. Garbage and litter detracts from the natural beauty of our surroundings. Dumping in green spaces is not permitted in accordance with Town by-law enforcement (By-law #50-91). Feed your lawn with compost and leave grass clippings where they fall. Compost improves the soil, which is where plant health begins. Clippings decompose quickly and are a source of nutrients for your lawn. Yard waste is collected every other week in the urban areas through Halton Region and can also be brought to the Halton Waste Management Site, as noted below. (Visit [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) for more details.)

### • Keep chemicals out of storm drains and sewers

Swimming pool water should be directed to catch basins and not directly into natural areas to ensure the water is treated in a stormwater management pond before it enters the natural environment. Foreign substances, such as household chemicals and oil, should not be poured into catch basins as they could make their way to our streams and lakes, which would pollute the water and its natural inhabitants. Foreign substances should be disposed of at the Halton Waste Management Site, operated by Halton Region, located at 5400 Regional Road 25, Milton (north of Dundas Street, south of Britannia Road).

### • Keep your living space on your property

Placing household items on Town-owned green spaces is considered trespassing and destruction of public property (By-law #50-91). Keep items, such as gardens, storage materials, lawn furniture, outdoor lights and downspout weeping tiles on your property.



*Trails through woodlots provide a peaceful setting for a leisurely stroll.*

### • Leave grass, plants and shrubbery untouched

Cutting grass and removing or adding plants in natural or naturalized areas makes it easier for invasive plants and weeds to take over. Pruning shrubs and trees removes the flowers, which reduces the seeds that are produced; this allows invasive plants to establish themselves. Natural vegetation around stormwater management ponds provides a habitat for animals and also acts as a natural water filter to protect creeks and waterways.

### • Use designated trails

Trails are designed for you to enjoy nature and keep you away from unsafe plants, such as Poison Ivy. Enter and exit trails at designated entrances and do not alter Town-installed fences. Keep dogs on a leash and stay on the trails to help avoid causing damage to sensitive natural areas.

### • Clean up litter

Adopt the green spaces around your home and keep them clean by removing plastic bags, bottles and garbage.

### • Report violators

If you see people dumping, cutting or encroaching on Town-owned green spaces (By-law #50-91), gather details in a safe manner and report them to the Town's by-law enforcement officers so they can investigate the situation. Call 905-878-7252, ext. 2134 or send an e-mail to [townclerk@milton.ca](mailto:townclerk@milton.ca).

[www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca)

905-878-7252, ext. 2500

## Thank you for your help!

The best thing you can do for the natural and naturalized areas in your community is to leave them untouched.

With your help, Milton's green spaces will remain healthy for years to come.

### Additional Information

Visit the parks and open space pages on the Town of Milton website: [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca)

### Questions?

Contact Town of Milton staff if you have any questions or concerns about our green spaces.

### Phone:

905-878-7252, ext. 2500

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## Protect our Green Spaces

Contribute to the health of the environment by helping to protect the Town-owned green spaces around your home.

Milton's green spaces include:

- Natural areas, such as woodlots, ravines and streams
- Naturalized areas, such as man-made stormwater management ponds and channels

Together, we can ensure our green spaces are enjoyed for many years to come.

905-878-7252, ext. 2500  
[www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca)



## Green Spaces are Healthy Spaces

In addition to parks, we are fortunate to have many green spaces in Milton. These areas allow native plants, animals, fish and waterways to thrive, which contributes greatly to our quality of life and the well-being of our environment, both today and in the future.

Green spaces are built into the design of our community as they perform important functions in maintaining the health of the environment. These spaces also provide a more enjoyable outdoor experience.

### Natural and naturalized areas protect the environment

Natural and naturalized areas are two types of green spaces which play an important role in the well-being of the environment. These areas require our consideration and respect to ensure they remain healthy:

**Natural areas** have not been developed, changed or altered by human activities. Examples of natural areas include woodlots, ravines, streams, grasslands, ponds and marshes.

**Naturalized areas** have been rehabilitated by humans and are left to regenerate on their own. These areas are designed to improve the quality of the surrounding environment. Examples of naturalized areas include stormwater management ponds and channels, areas designed for plant re-growth and buffer areas, which are often used to separate two different types of land uses.

Your actions can affect natural and naturalized areas, which are vital for the health and well-being of our environment today and for generations to come.

### You can help

In most cases, doing nothing is often the best course of action. Please do not disturb Town-owned natural and naturalized areas and let nature take its course.



**Natural area:** Many woodlots are preserved for their environmental benefits and as leisure areas for the the enjoyment of the community. Woodlots provide a habitat for native species of plants and animals.



**Naturalized area:** Stormwater management ponds collect rain runoff from storm sewers and hold it for a period of time so water is released at a regulated rate and there is no flooding downstream. These ponds also act as filters, as they prevent toxins from entering the environment and contribute to water quality.



**Naturalized area:** The area between the trail and the stormwater management pond is an example of a naturalized area that has been altered during construction and then left on its own to grow and regenerate.

## Do Your Part at Home

### • Use environmentally-friendly options

Instead of using pesticides and fertilizers, use “naturally green” methods to treat your lawns and gardens:

- Try hand weeding - it's great for relaxation and exercise.
- Use organic compost for fertilizer.
- Choose organic products to control plant and animal pests.
- If there is little rain, water your street tree instead of your lawn as the tree will become an important part of the Town's urban forest.

### • Use native plant materials

If your property is near a natural or naturalized area, use native plant materials in your garden. For a complete list of native species, visit the Halton Region website as noted below.

### • Keep water from your downspout on your property

Ensure the water from your downspout stays on your property (By-law #141-2001). Rerouting downspout water away from your property can cause harm (such as soil erosion) to surrounding green spaces. The increased water runoff can also create icy, unsafe surfaces on public trails near your home. Consider installing a rain barrel to collect water from your downspout and use it to water your garden.

### • Clean up after your pets outside

Keep cat and dog waste out of green spaces for the health of wildlife and the environment.

### • Share your knowledge with others to increase awareness

Talk about the importance of natural and naturalized areas with your family, friends and neighbours to help increase awareness.

### • Learn more

Visit the Halton Region website at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) for these resources:

- 10 Steps to be Naturally Green and Grow a Healthy Lawn
- Alternatives to Pesticides
- Native Plants Recommended for Natural Landscaping and Ecological Restoration in Halton Region
- Additional information, such as landscaping and water conservation

