

Welcome to Durham

Durham Conservation Area is nestled along a picturesque stretch of winding Saugeen River. This gorgeous site attracts over 5,000 visitors annually! This property covers over 60 hectares which includes over 3.2 km (or 2 miles) of Saugeen river frontage and is also just a leisurely trek along the Riverview trail into the heart of Durham's town centre.

Our season opens late April and extends until Thanksgiving weekend. A wide variety of activities can be enjoyed by both campers and day-users, year-round within the park.

Throughout those warm summer months...

- „ test your skills at horseshoes and volleyball or go for a paddle in a canoe!!
- „ take advantage of the boat ramp and cast a fishing line! The park is a popular destination for enthusiastic anglers of all ages.
- „ take a hike throughout the many nature trails!
- „ enjoy a peaceful picnic on the beach or take a dip in the water!
- „ relax with a book next to the beautiful McGowan Falls!
- „ enjoy the musical jamborees, organized by park staff on designated weekends.

In the winter months, bring your skis or snowshoes because you are invited to explore the snow-covered trails on the property.

Additional recreational activities in close proximity to the park include tennis, golf, stock car racing and an art gallery.

Reservations are available (519-369-3996) and Visa is accepted at the gatehouse.

Trail Trekin'

An assortment of exciting trails await your discovery! Until 1913, Gun Pit Trail would have been echoing with musket shots! The local Volunteers #4 Company, 5th Battalion, 31st

Regiment Grey Militia practiced their rifled drills from the river flats, firing at targets built into the hill. A man stayed in a gun pit at the top of the hill, changing targets before the next firing ground. Today a placard marks the firing range and the gun pit sight is still visible from this 0.7 km 'gun pit' trail. Let your mind wander back in time as you picture the volunteers standing, taking aim and firing! Imagine the crack of the musket and the cry of 'BULLSEYE'!

Riverview trail begins along the Saugeen River, near the first settlement site at the Upper Dam. This 2.7 km trail leads past rock boulders, a 6 metre (20 foot) limestone bluff, past a water fall and through a quiet, cedar forest. Pets are allowed, but please be sure to keep them on a leash and to clean up after them. At the east end of the property, Cedar Ridge trail is an idea of a 0.7 km looping trail for a leisurely afternoon hike.

Please note that the use of the trail system is under a 'use at your own risk' policy.

The Beautiful McGowan Falls

The area formerly known as the home of Edge's Mill, hosts a spectacular falls which has been named McGowan Falls as a tribute to one of the historical pioneer families of Durham.

Samuel and James Edge came into possession of land along the Saugeen River in 1847, which included the present day McGowan Falls.

Robert McGowan bought the Edge property in 1888. The McGowan family started operating 'The People's Mill' at the falls, along with other water powered mills on the Saugeen in 1888, which produced flour, oatmeal and many other by products associated with the milling of grain.

Beginning in 1890, local electric power would be generated compliments of this beautiful, natural attraction.

Tormented by flood and fire under the supervision of John McGowan, the People's Mill perished. The flume and water wheel deteriorated and disappeared, but the dam, after extensive repairs, today serves as a recreational and conservation flood control project.

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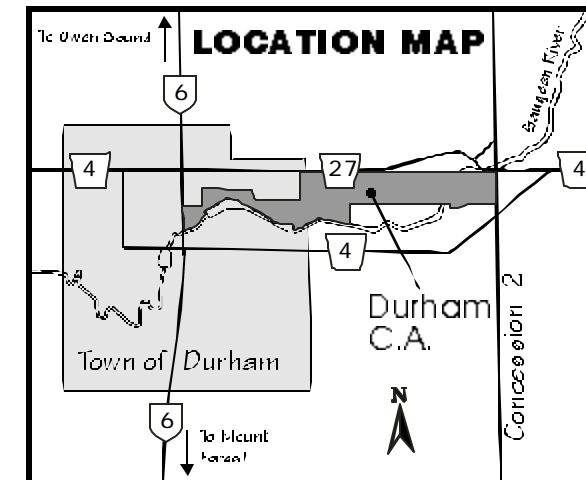
Historical Happenings

The land which was occupied by the Native peoples of the Tobacco Tribe was turned over to the government of Canada by the Saugeen Treaty in 1836. The first settler in what is now the town of Durham was an immigrant from Scotland, the late Archibald Hunter, who located to the area in May of 1842.

In March of 1963, the current park property was transferred from the town of Durham to the SVCA. Over the next several years, additional surrounding property, which has since been developed into camping areas, was purchased to create the total park area. This property is an excellent example of proper flood plain management (parkland and recreation).

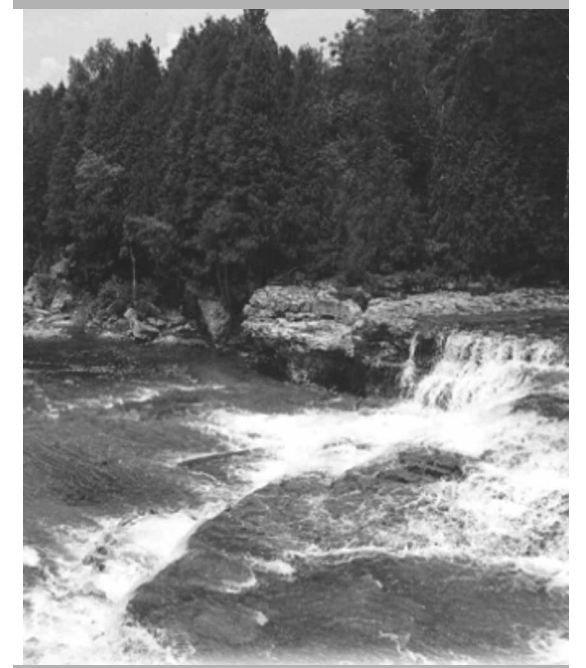
How to Find Us!

From the 401, take Highway 6 north to Durham. At the top of the hill in Durham, turn right onto historic Durham Road (follow the signs) and drive 1.6 km (1 mile) to the park entrance.



A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION ONTARIO NETWORK

Durham Conservation Campsite Map



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Prepared in cooperation with:



Human Resources Development Canada

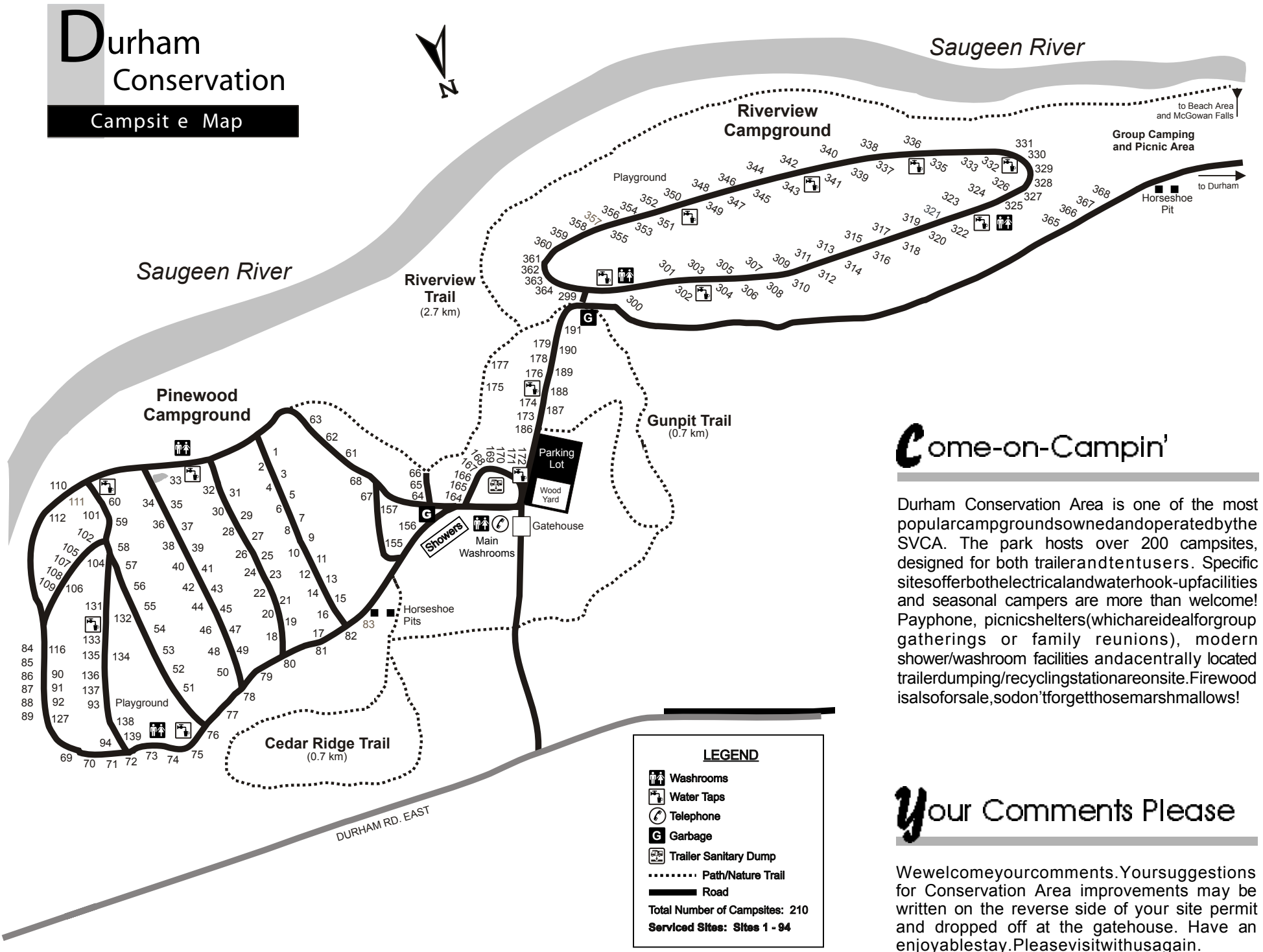
Développement des ressources humaines Canada

Instructions for Campers

- Please report to camp office to register.
- Be sure to choose a developed campsite. Each campsite is numbered and has a picnic table.
- Please travel campground roads in direction indicated by signs.
- Campsites are numbered so that the permit holder appears on the far side of the site, when approaching from the correct direction. Firewood vouchers are available at the gatehouse.
- Camping is not permitted in areas other than the numbered campsites, unless authorized by the superintendent.

Regulations

- Only one camping unit allowed to occupy each campsite unless otherwise authorized by the superintendent.
- A maximum of one vehicle and one camping unit per campsite. Other vehicles must be left in the parking areas.
- Profanity, intoxication or other disturbances will not be tolerated.
- Swimmers do so at their own **risk**. Swimming is unsupervised.
- Pets must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in swimming areas.
- Quiet hours in the Conservation Area are from 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. Unnecessary noise at any time will not be tolerated.
- All users of the area are responsible for knowing the regulations.
- Any person violating the Conservation Area regulations may be evicted without refund and subject to court action.



Come-on-Campin'

Durham Conservation Area is one of the most popular campgrounds owned and operated by the SVCA. The park hosts over 200 campsites, designed for both trailer and tent users. Specific sites offer both electrical and water hook-up facilities and seasonal campers are more than welcome! Payphone, picnic shelters (which are ideal for group gatherings or family reunions), modern shower/washroom facilities and a centrally located trailer dumping/recycling station are on site. Firewood is also for sale, so don't forget those marshmallows!

Your Comments Please

We welcome your comments. Your suggestions for Conservation Area improvements may be written on the reverse side of your site permit and dropped off at the gatehouse. Have an enjoyable stay. Please visit with us again.