

A wide-angle photograph of the Niagara Falls waterfall, showing the water cascading over the edge and creating a large plume of white mist at the base. The background features a line of trees under a clear sky.

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION  
STEWARDSHIP  
OF THE  
NIAGARA RIVER CORRIDOR ECOSYSTEM

~Presentation~  
Native Plant Meeting  
Niagara Power Vista  
Tuesday.27.May.2008

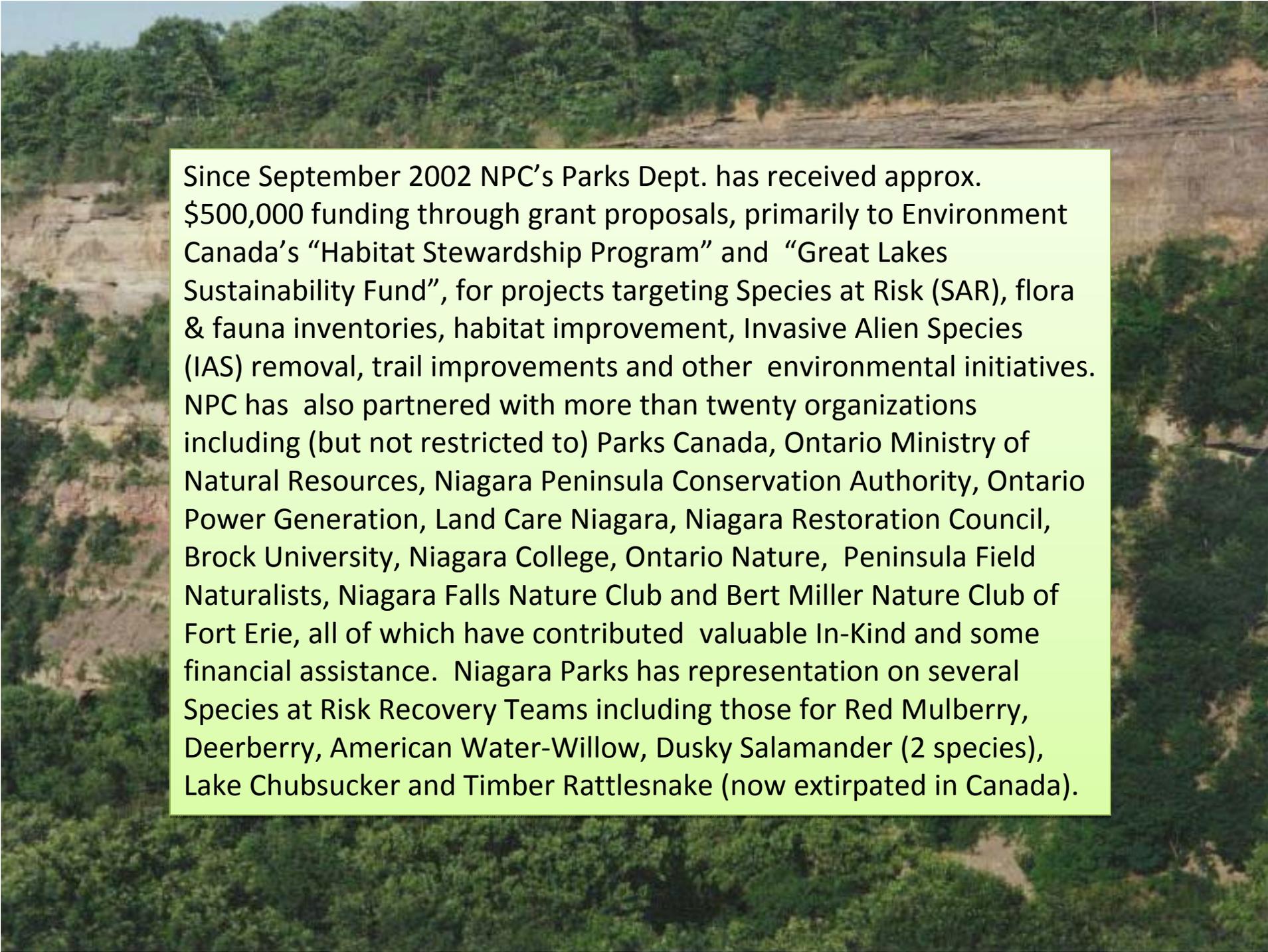
Established in 1885, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) is a Crown Agency of the Ontario Government. The core purpose of The Niagara Parks Commission is to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Falls and the Niagara River Corridor for the enjoyment of current and future visitors while maintaining financial independence.



NPC is made up of over 600 individual properties spread out in a narrow band over 57 kilometers (~ 35 miles) along the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The total land area is 1720 hectares (~4250 acres) of which about 21.1% is considered as Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

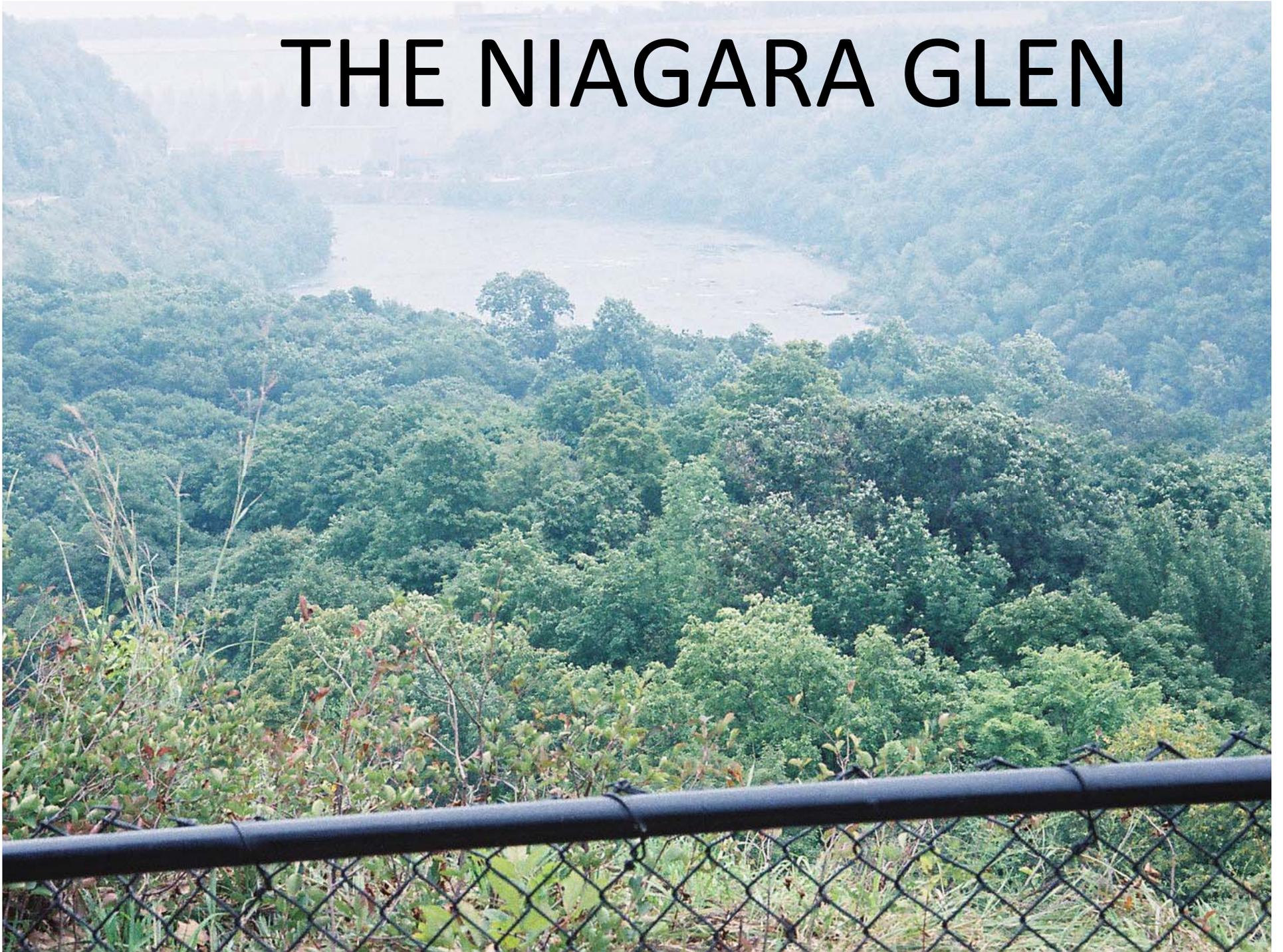


The Niagara Gorge, about 11 kms (~6 miles) long, from the Falls north to the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, contains one of the largest numbers of Species at Risk (SAR) anywhere in Ontario and Canada. The Niagara Glen and Whirlpool area has the greatest biodiversity.

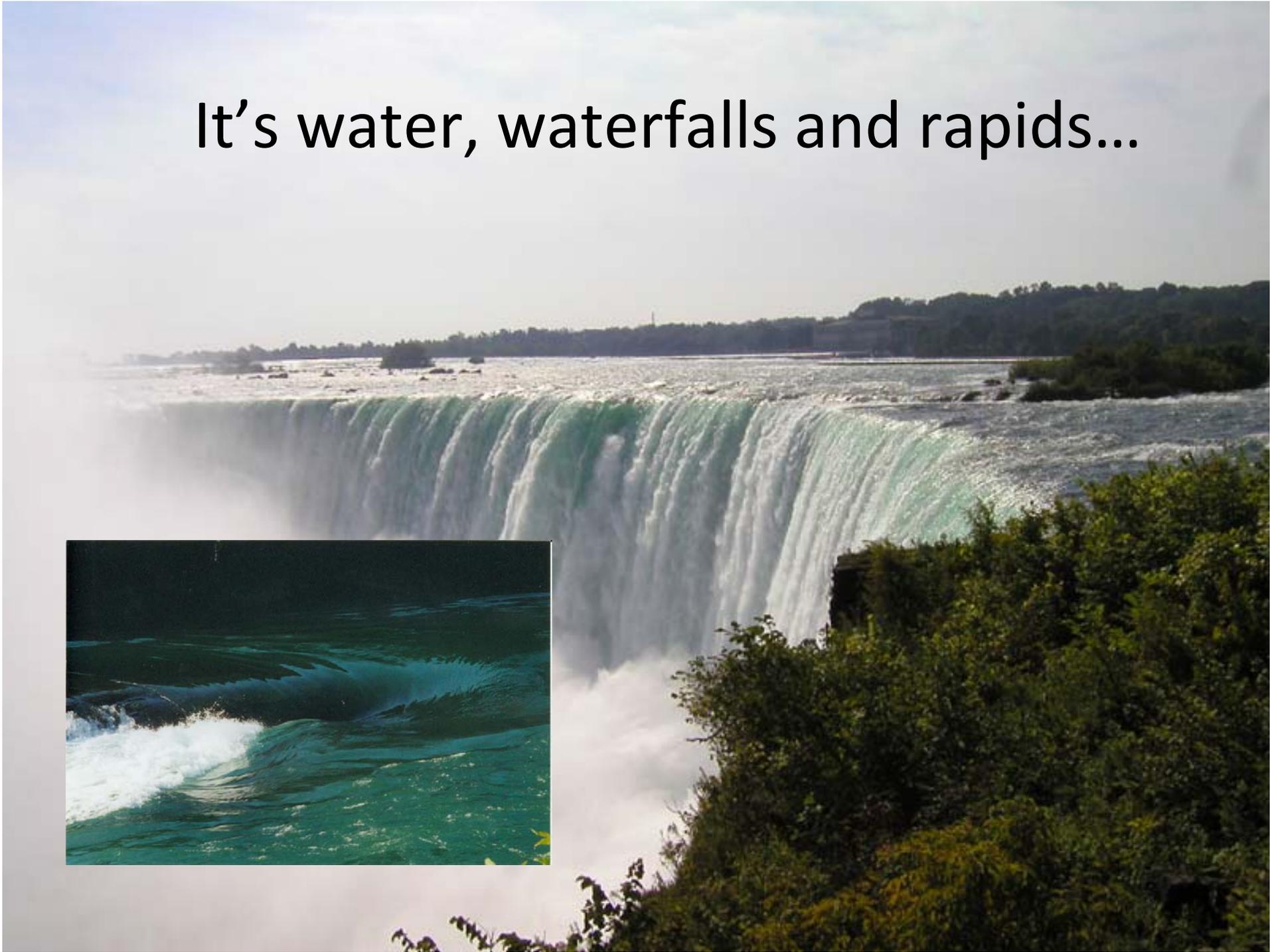


Since September 2002 NPC's Parks Dept. has received approx. \$500,000 funding through grant proposals, primarily to Environment Canada's "Habitat Stewardship Program" and "Great Lakes Sustainability Fund", for projects targeting Species at Risk (SAR), flora & fauna inventories, habitat improvement, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) removal, trail improvements and other environmental initiatives. NPC has also partnered with more than twenty organizations including (but not restricted to) Parks Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Ontario Power Generation, Land Care Niagara, Niagara Restoration Council, Brock University, Niagara College, Ontario Nature, Peninsula Field Naturalists, Niagara Falls Nature Club and Bert Miller Nature Club of Fort Erie, all of which have contributed valuable In-Kind and some financial assistance. Niagara Parks has representation on several Species at Risk Recovery Teams including those for Red Mulberry, Deerberry, American Water-Willow, Dusky Salamander (2 species), Lake Chubsucker and Timber Rattlesnake (now extirpated in Canada).

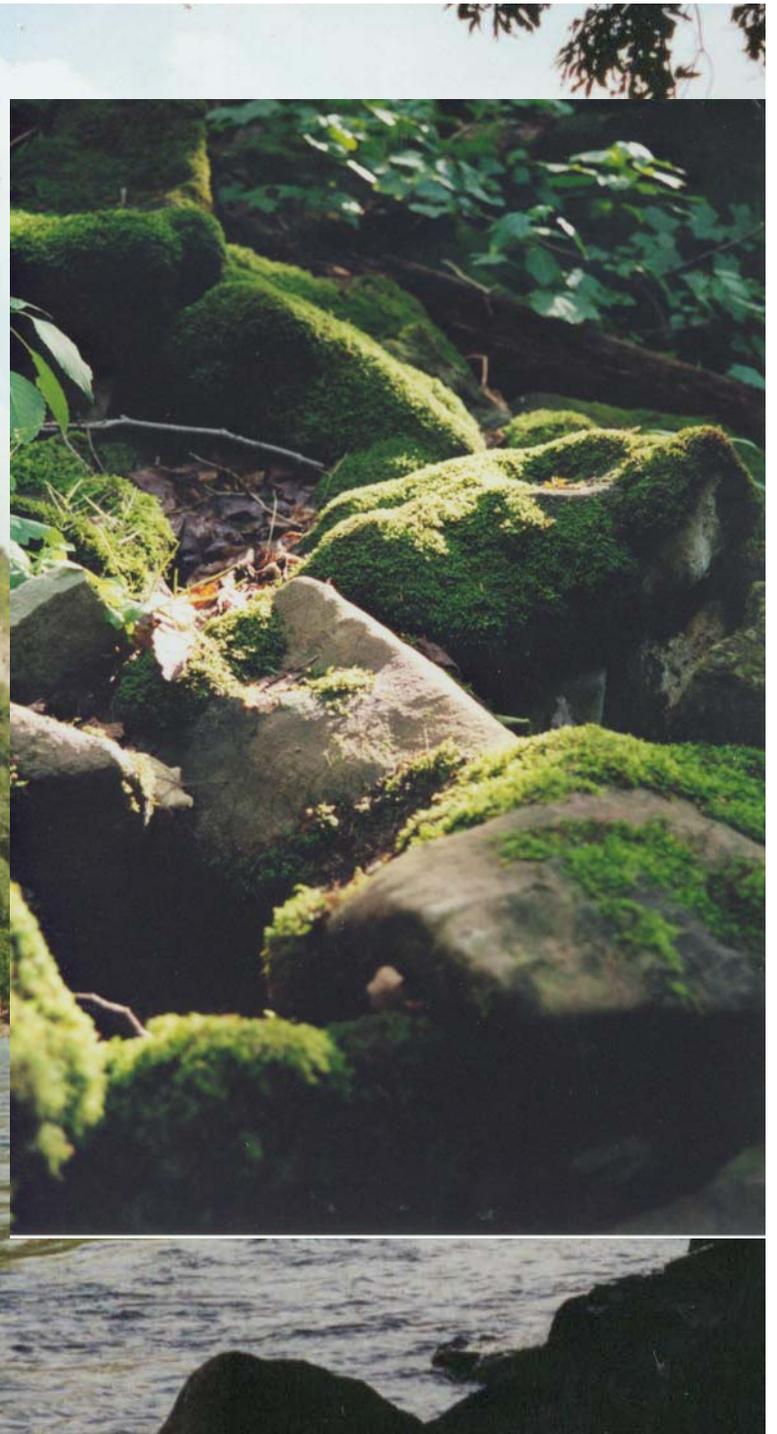
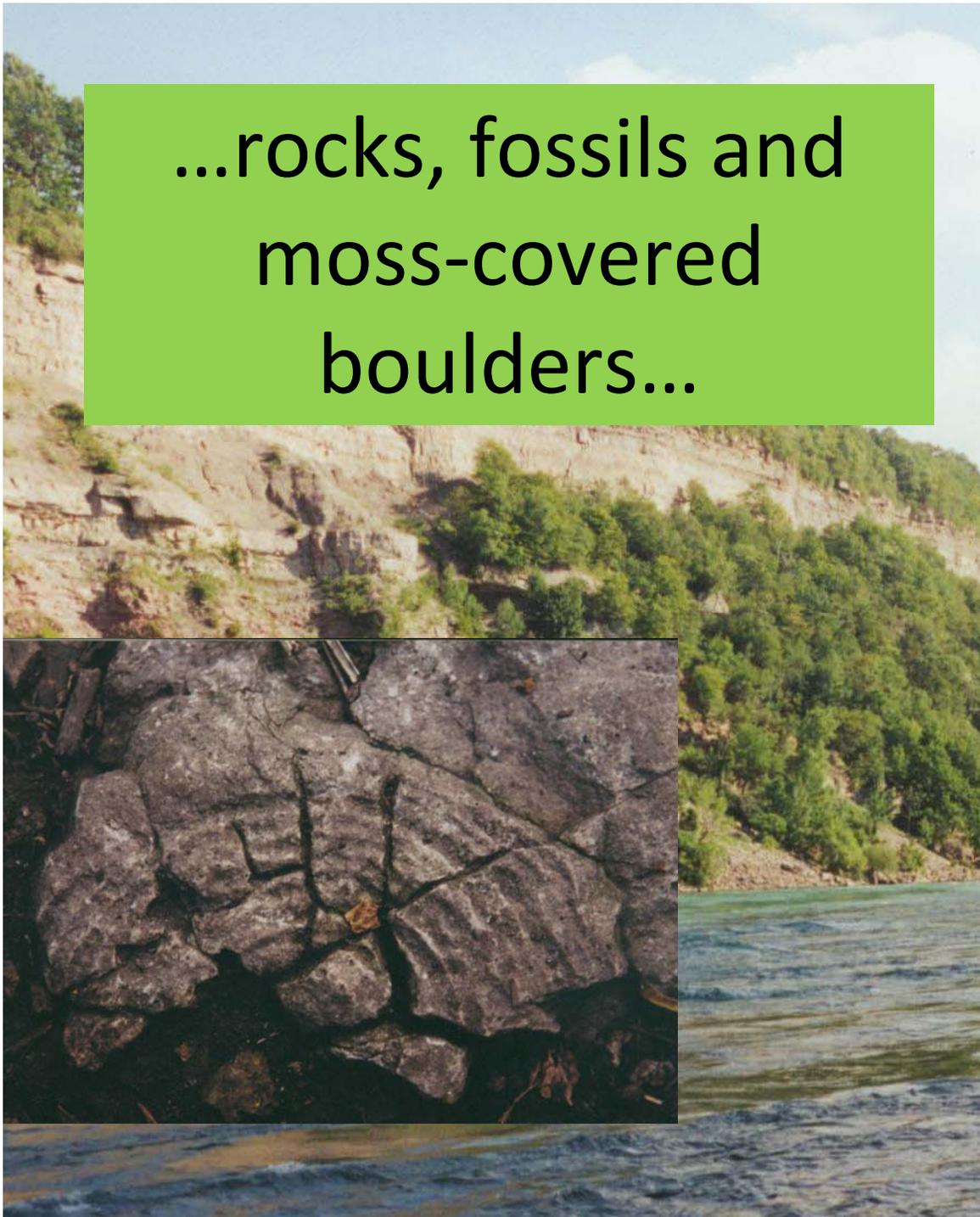
# THE NIAGARA GLEN



It's water, waterfalls and rapids...



...rocks, fossils and  
moss-covered  
boulders...

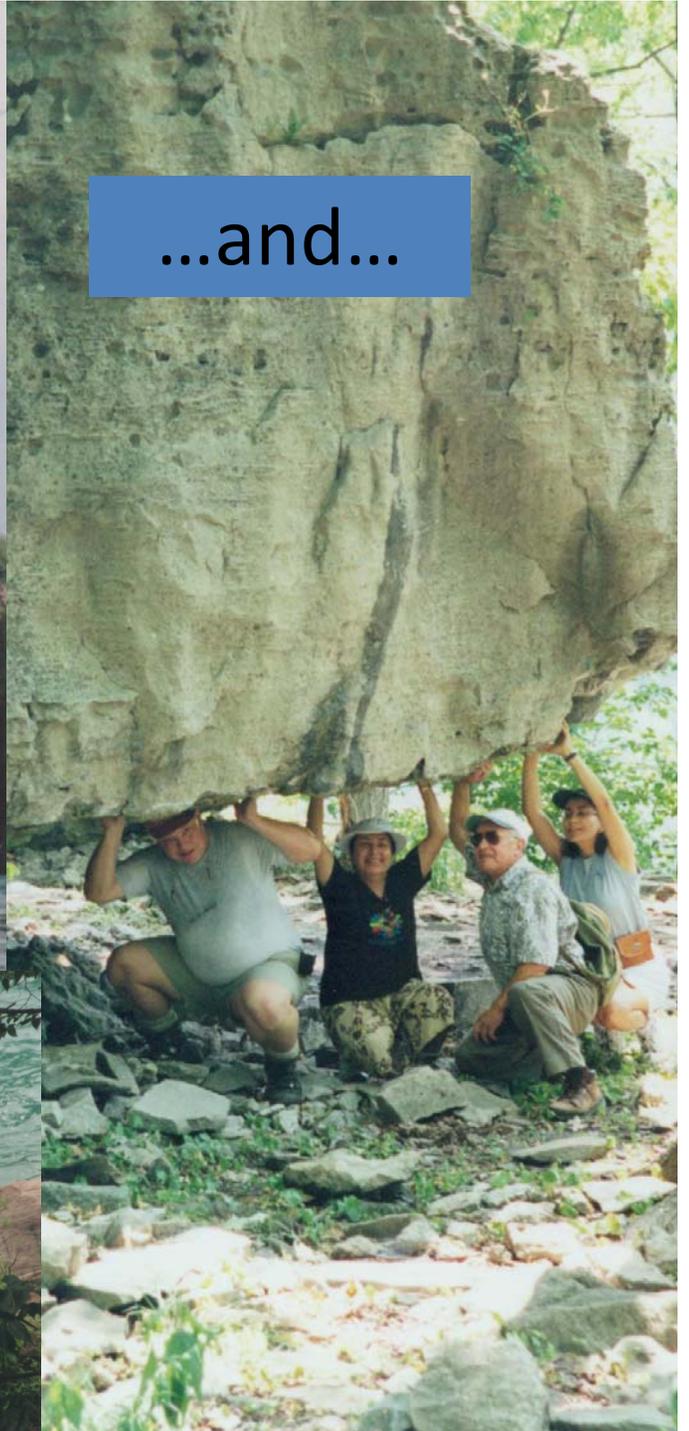


...plants, and how they adapt to new places...



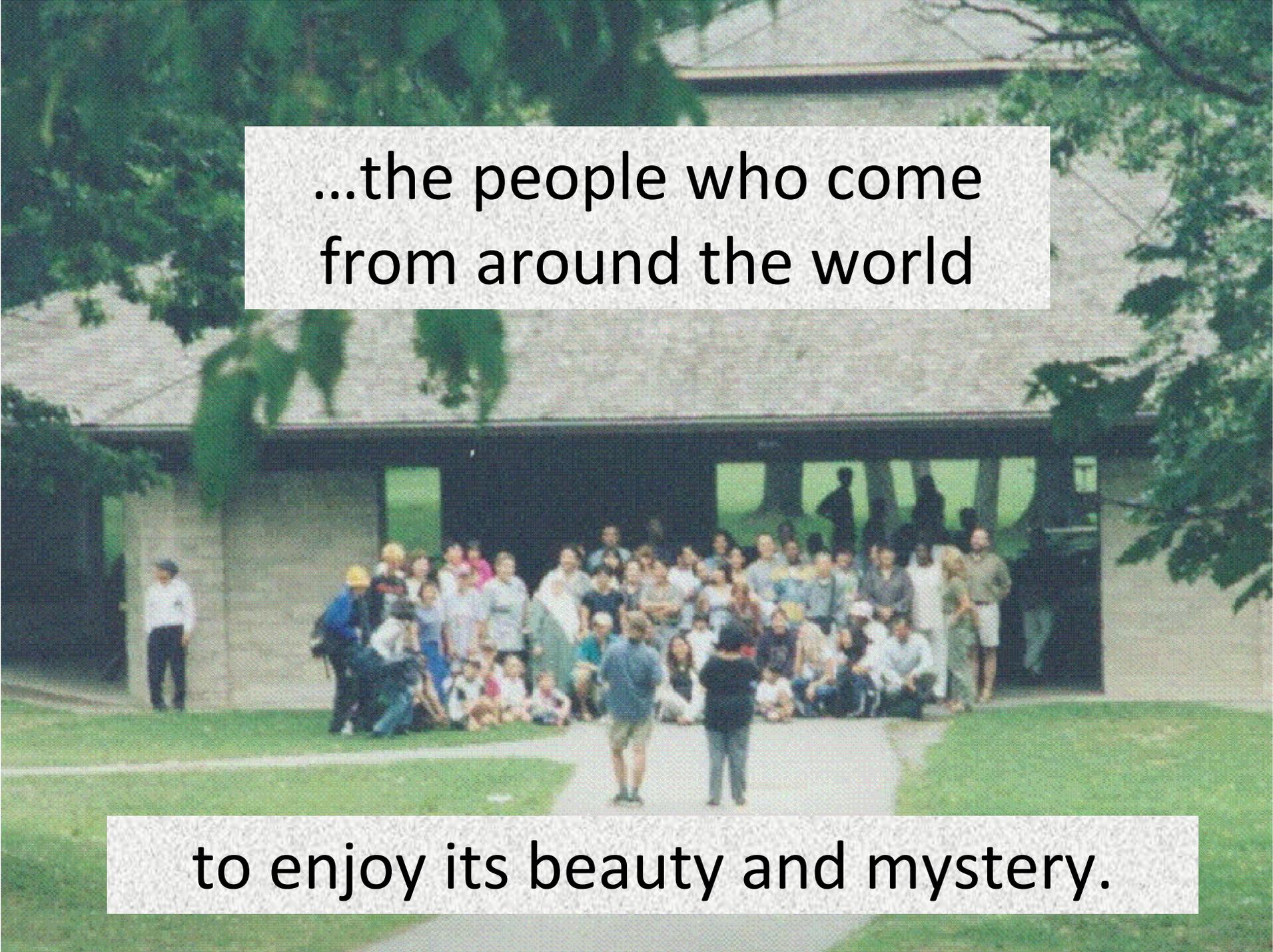


...animals  
that make  
their  
homes  
here...



...and...



A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are posing for a group photo in front of a building with a stone facade and large windows. The group is arranged in several rows, with some people sitting on the ground in the front. The building has a dark roof and is surrounded by green trees and grass. Two people are standing in the foreground, facing the group. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a formal or organized gathering.

...the people who come  
from around the world

to enjoy its beauty and mystery.

It's not supposed  
to be about.....



...graffiti...







...senseless



VANDALISM...





...illegal fire pits,



fires and campsites...

...garbage, litter, broken glass,



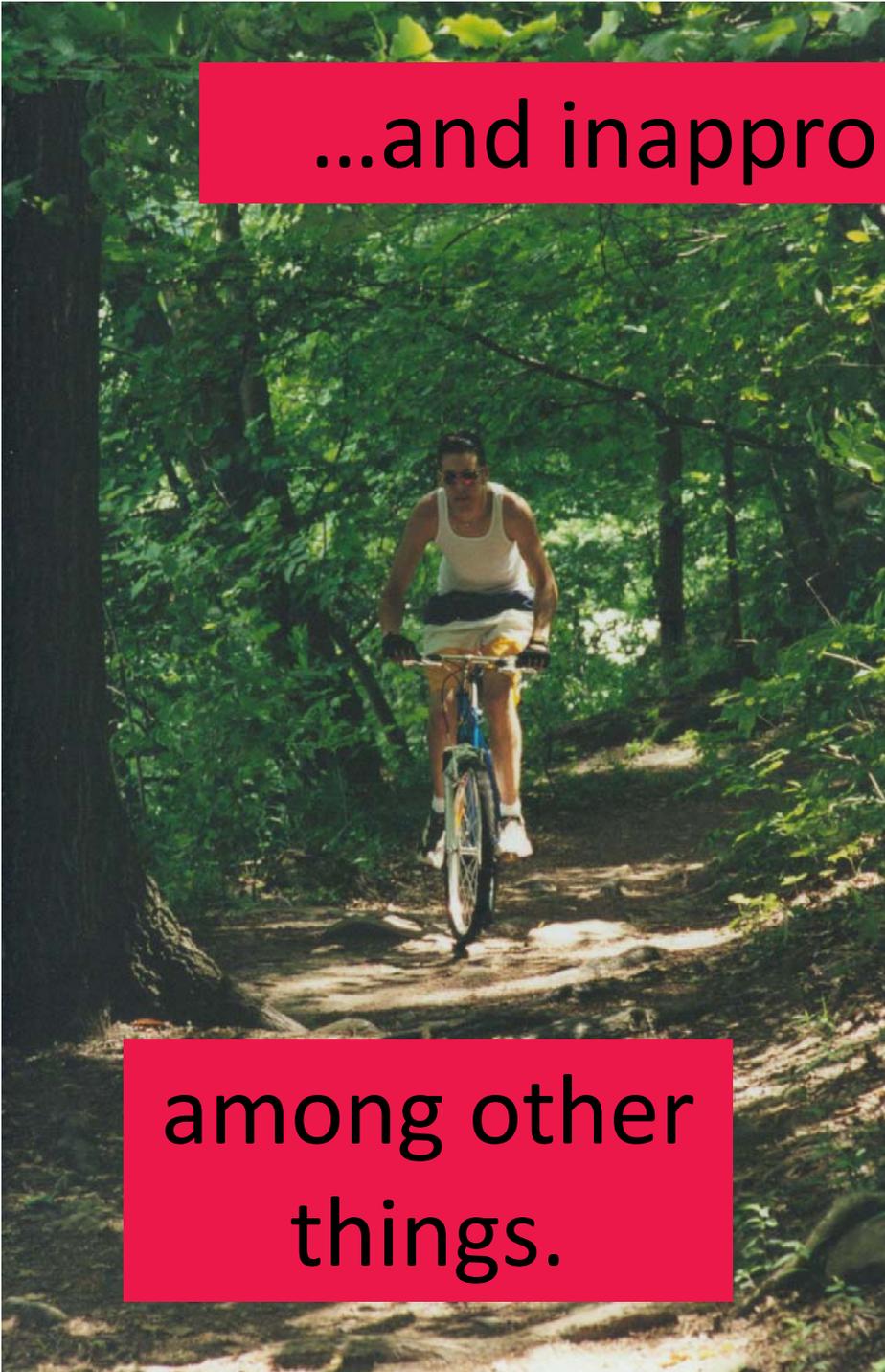
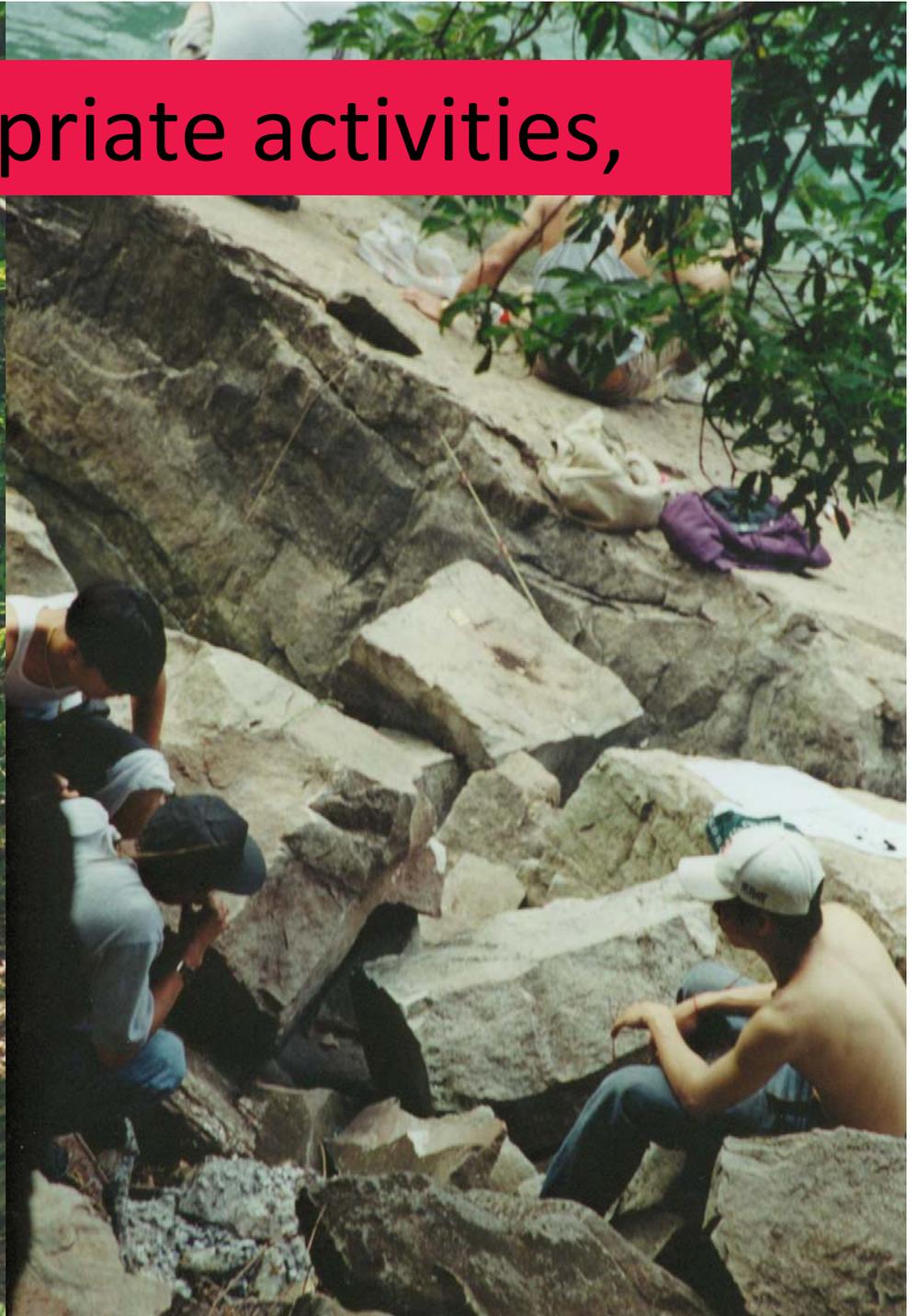
human feces & sanitary items...



...groups too large for the Glen...

...and inappropriate activities,

among other things.



## NIAGARA GLEN TRAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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## RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF

## THE NIAGARA GORGE

## AREA OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

S. VARGA

P. S. G. KOR

DECEMBER 1993

SOUTHERN REGION  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AURORA



Since 2003 we have moved forward with:

- trail marking
- trail improvements
- invasive alien species removal
- flora/fauna inventories
- Graffiti cover-up...

- Species at Risk location
- GPS and GIS
- mapping
- signage
- new website ([www.niagaraparksnature.com](http://www.niagaraparksnature.com))
- and more.



# What's next?

Our next areas of priority are:

- access control
- public education
- enforcement of NPC Regulations

## OTHER PROJECTS:

Native Plant Nursery – a multi-partner initiative to collect local rare plant seed and propagate plant material for local restoration projects.

Prairie Restoration – a multi-partner initiative to restore remnant prairie habitat to reduce mowing and pesticide use and to create wildlife habitat (pheasants).

Native Species Replanting – on-going reintroduction (when and where appropriate) of native plant species.

5-Year Prescribed Burn Plan for selected natural areas, including the training of NPC's own Fire Crew.

Land Management Plan – created (on contract) for NPC by Brock University's Dept. of Tourism & Environment.

Proposed Nature Interpretation Centre -- at the Niagara Glen to focus on Species at Risk & nature education.

[www.niagaraparksnature.com](http://www.niagaraparksnature.com) – created in 2004/2005.



**Enhancing Niagara Naturally**  
**Established 2002**  
**Water Quality Improvement Buffer Project**

This site:  
 • Is providing stream-side (riparian) cover and stabilization  
 • Is helpful in deterring nuisance Canada Geese  
 • Is helping to filter surface water run-off before it enters Niagara River  
 • Attracts birds and insects and provides seasonal floral colour  
 • Demonstrates an ecologically sound alternative for riparian maintenance.

For more information contact:

 The Niagara  
 Parks Commission  
 905-371-0054

 Niagara Peninsula  
 Conservation Authority  
 905-788-3135

# THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

## Environmental Restoration Projects

### ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION & RIPARIAN BUFFER DEMONSTRATION SITES

Enhancing Niagara Naturally  
Established 2002

Water Quality Improvement Buffer Project

This site:

- will provide stream-side cover and stabilization
- will be monitored as a trial to examine the use of a buffer planting to deter Canada Geese
- will filter surface water runoff
- will demonstrate an ecologically sensitive alternative for stream-side maintenance



The Niagara  
Parks Commission  
905-371-0254

For more information Contact:



Niagara Peninsula  
Conservation Authority  
905-788-3335











# ENHANCING NIAGARA NATURALLY PRESERVATION AREA

## REMNANT CHINQUAPIN OAK SAVANNAH

This site:

- Absorbs water & Filters surface run-off
- Helps to protect Species at Risk
- Aids in protecting biodiversity
- Promotes a healthy ecosystem



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
The Niagara Parks Commission  
(905) 356-2241  
[www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)















# FIRE

## (Prescribed Burns)

An environmental restoration management tool





PRAIRIE  
IN  
PROGRESS

USDA BENTON COUNTY SAMPLE PLOT  
OF  
WILD & DOMESTIC PLANTS & GRASSES

# Paradise Grove

Just south of Niagara-on-the-Lake along the  
Niagara Parkway





Bar Oak  
Chêne à gros fruits  
*Quercus macrocarpa*



Northern Pin Oak  
Chêne elliptique  
*Quercus ellipsoidea*



American Hazelant  
Noisetier d'Amérique  
*Corylus americana*



Chinkapin Oak  
Chêne jaune  
*Quercus muhlenbergii*



Black Oak  
Chêne noir  
*Quercus velutina*



Northern Red Oak  
Chêne rouge  
*Quercus rubra*



White Oak  
Chêne blanc  
*Quercus alba*

### PARADISE GROVE PROJECT

Paradise Grove is a woodland of environmental, cultural, and historical significance.

As part of the ecological restoration of Paradise Grove, The Parks Commission, in November of 2003, planted 1000 native Oak saplings among the existing trees, some which predate the war of 1812

Additional native plant species will be introduced at this site. Cessation of mowing is intended to encourage dormant

native plant seeds on site to re-establish. This will augment the return of traditional flora and fauna.

For more information contact  
[npinfo@niagaraparks.com](http://npinfo@niagaraparks.com)  
or (905) 356-2241 Ext. 237

### PROJET PARADISE GROVE

Paradise Grove est une forêt-parc ayant une importance environnementale, culturelle et historique.

Dans le cadre de la restauration écologique de Paradise Grove, la Commission des parcs du Niagara a planté en novembre 2003, 1000 jeunes chênes indigènes parmi les arbres existants, dont certains datent d'avant la guerre de 1812

Des espèces de plantes indigènes supplémentaires seront réintroduites dans ce site. Le gazon ne sera plus tondu afin de favoriser la réhabilitation des graines de plantes indigènes dormantes sur le site. Cela augmentera le retour de la flore et de la faune traditionnelles.

Pour de plus amples renseignements contactez  
[npinfo@niagaraparks.com](http://npinfo@niagaraparks.com)  
ou composez le (905) 356-2241 poste 237



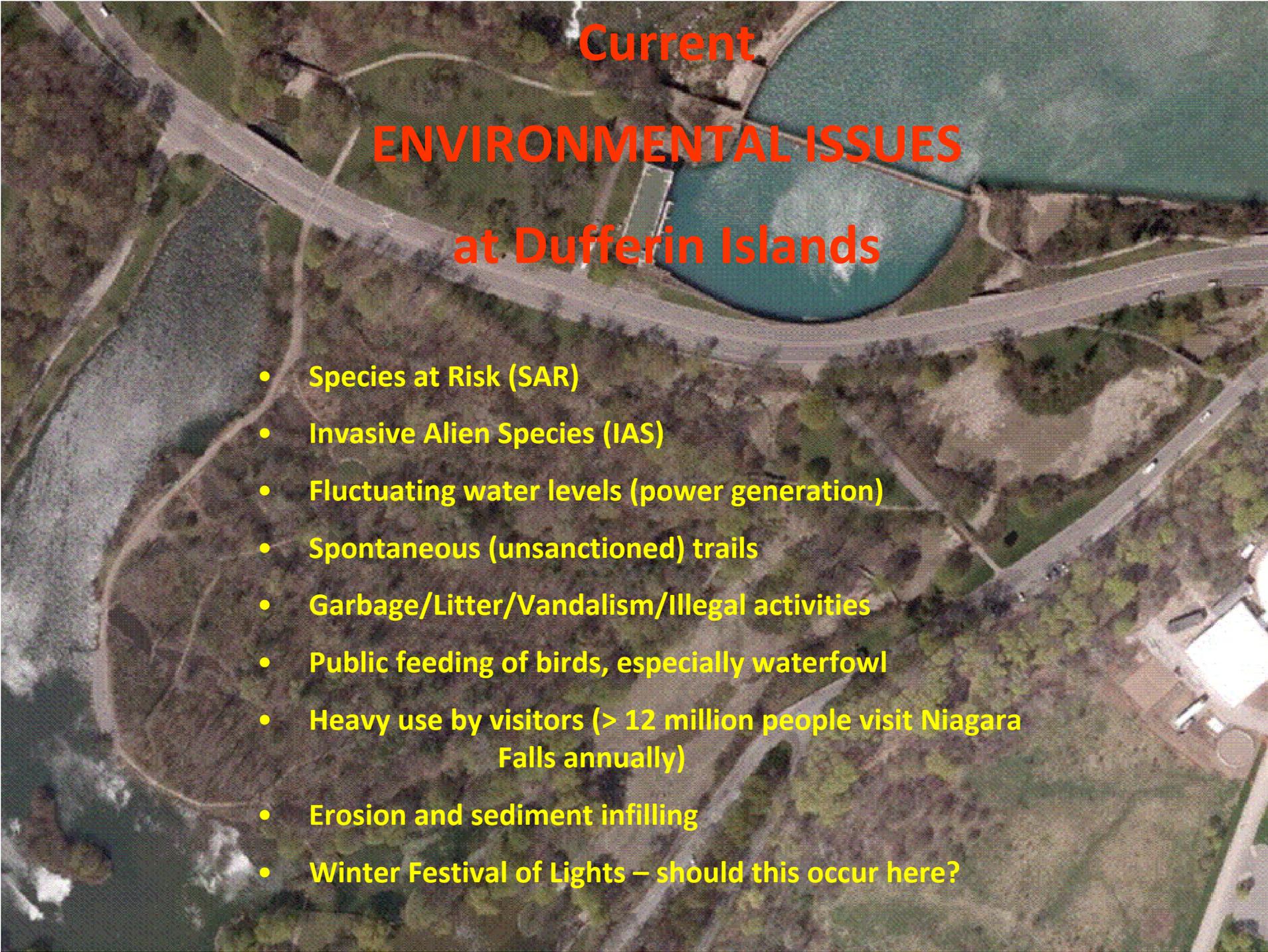


HORSESHOE FALLS

UPPER  
RAPIDS

OAK HALL  
(NPC MAIN  
ADMIN.  
BUILDING)

DUFFERIN  
ISLANDS

An aerial photograph of the Dufferin Islands in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The image shows a large body of water in the upper right, a road curving around the islands, and dense green forest covering most of the land. The text 'Current ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES at Dufferin Islands' is overlaid in red. A list of environmental issues is overlaid in yellow on the left side of the image.

# Current ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES at Dufferin Islands

- Species at Risk (SAR)
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- Fluctuating water levels (power generation)
- Spontaneous (unsanctioned) trails
- Garbage/Litter/Vandalism/Illegal activities
- Public feeding of birds, especially waterfowl
- Heavy use by visitors (> 12 million people visit Niagara Falls annually)
- Erosion and sediment infilling
- Winter Festival of Lights – should this occur here?



**There are at least 60 rare plant species that have been recorded (2006) at Dufferin Islands, including 12 that are SAR in Canada and Ontario (which appear on the COSEWIC and/or COSSARO lists).**



**Invasive plant species include:**

- Norway Maple
- Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus)
- European Buckthorn
- Purple Loosestrife
- & at least 20 others

A wide-angle photograph of Niagara Falls, showing the massive volume of water cascading over the rocky ledge. The sky is overcast and grey, and the foreground shows dark, jagged rocks. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

# Thank you.

We look forward to sharing our knowledge and experience with our American colleagues for the mutual protection and stewardship of the **Niagara River Corridor Ecosystem** for the benefit of citizens and wildlife.