

## Upper Escarpment Stairs Erosion Control & Revegetation Plan

CLIENT: City of Hamilton

PROJECT CONSULTANTS: Dougan & Associates



DOUGAN & ASSOCIATES provided site rehabilitation design and construction services for the revegetation of the upper portion of a stair corridor on the Niagara Escarpment connecting the Hamilton Rail Trail to Mountain Brow Boulevard. This is the final construction phase of a multi-stage project that began with vegetation and wild-life inventories and the compilation of an EIS to select a preferred location for the staircase corridor.

The construction of the stair corridor cleared the existing canopy on the escarpment face in a zone approximately 30m wide. The physical characteristics of this site include thin soils and steep grades in a highly visible and well-traveled location, making erosion control a top priority. In addition, the location of the site on the Niagara Escarpment raised concerns regarding the terrestrial ecology & natural heritage functions of the restoration plantings.

The rehabilitation plan addressed these concerns by using a combination of slope terracing and direct seeding to mimic an accelerated succession process in combination with conventional planting methods. The plan has been implemented and exceeded performance criteria throughout the first two growing seasons.