

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

The Niagara Parks Commission

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For Immediate Release

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Bouldering in the Niagara Glen

Niagara Falls, ON – With the advent of bouldering as a sanctioned recreational activity within the Niagara Glen in 2011, there has been a significant increase in the number of climbers visiting Niagara Parks.

As the Glen has become a popular destination for visitors, including boulderers, there is a growing need to educate visitors on proper “Leave No Trace” principles to mitigate potential environmental impacts to the Niagara Glen.

Working in concert with the Ontario Access Coalition (OAC), a user group established to promote bouldering as a recreational pursuit this is exactly what has taken place. Over the past two years, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) and the OAC have worked together to develop proper bouldering management guidelines, which promotes mutual respect between all park visitors and the natural environment.

As part of this progress, a permitting process has been developed for bouldering. For an annual fee of \$20.00, climbers are permitted to boulder in the Niagara Glen on approved boulders, in designated areas. The fee from each permit is then used to help maintain and conserve the Niagara Glen and adjacent natural areas for future generations.

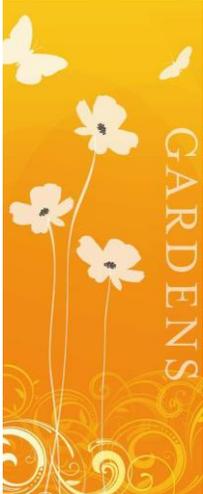
While the past two years have been dedicated to developing the guidelines and educating users on the permitting process, starting in the summer/fall of 2013, bouldering permits will now be regularly inspected and enforced. Failure to comply with the terms of the permit may result in the loss of bouldering privileges.

Bouldering permits can be purchased from the Niagara Glen Nature Centre, located at 3050 Niagara Parkway, across from the Whirlpool Golf Course or at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory. Climbing of the gorge wall/cliff face along the Niagara River, including the Niagara Glen is not a permitted activity.

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Background

Historically, bouldering was a means of training for longer climbing routes and mountaineering. Over the past 30 years, bouldering has evolved into a popular sport with appeal as a health-conscious physical form of human-powered recreation. Bouldering also provides social aspects of community and camaraderie, which has created an expanding number of enthusiasts. The Niagara Glen has become noted world-wide for its bouldering opportunities, and the need for a formal program was recognized to assure the protection of the physical, cultural and ecological integrity of the Niagara Glen.

About the Ontario Access Coalition (OAC):

The Ontario Access Coalition is an incorporated, volunteer, not-for-profit group that works with the climbing community, landowners, conservation authorities and property managers to keep climbing and bouldering areas open in an environmentally responsible manner. The OAC has over 700 individual and corporate members and is growing daily. They encourage a code of ethics amongst their members, are partnered with Leave No Trace Canada, and commonly organize clean-up days, tree planting and other activities to assist the land managers they work with such as the The Niagara Parks Commission, Bruce Peninsula National Park, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and Halton Region Conservation Authority.

About The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC):

NPC is committed to a vision of Ontario's Niagara Parks as one that Preserves a rich heritage, Conserves natural wonders, and Inspires people world-wide. Founded in 1885, The Niagara Parks Commission is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Its mission is to protect the natural and cultural heritage along the Niagara River for the enjoyment of visitors while maintaining financial self-sufficiency.

For more information, visit www.niagaraparksnature.com or contact:

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