

Hilborn Knoll Regional Forest



HILBORN KNOLL

Region of Waterloo

Regional Forest

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| Municipality: | Cambridge |
| Location: | 326(?) Burnett Avenue (East side) |
| Access: | One loop trail throughout; parking at side of Burnett Ave. |
| General Location: | East of Can-Amera Parkway on Burnett Avenue |
| Size: | 5.5 hectares |
| Physiographic Area: | End moraine |
| Eco-region: | Central Grand River |
| Associated ESPA(s): | 72 (Portuguese Swamp) |
| Date of Acquisition: | 1993 |
| Soils: | Loam, well-drained |

General Description

Hilborn Knoll is a gently rolling forested area containing a variety of hardwood species typical of oak dominated forests. Hilborn Knoll is located in a residential area of Cambridge near the Can-Amera Parkway and Townline Road. The outstanding feature of this Regional Forest is a large White Oak just to the east of Burnett Avenue. It would appear that at some time in the past, an oak savannah condition would have been prevalent in this area.

Portuguese Swamp ESPA is an extensive and diverse natural area of a nature where hydrology, vegetation and biting insects discourage casual human presence. The wetland contains an extensive area of Poison Sumac swamp. The rare mesic oak savannah on the knoll is recognized as one of the finest examples of this type of habitat within the Region.

Features of Concern

The large White Oak (known as the Hilborn Oak) is one of the defining features of this Regional Forest. Special consideration will have to be given to maintaining the health of this tree in the years to come. Pruning and fertilizing may be considered at some time in the future.

General Management Goals

The south side of the knoll will be maintained as a mixed hardwood forest type while the northern area will be maintained as an oak dominated forest, with the long term goal of creating oak savannah habitat type along the north western edge.

Facilities

There is a small loop trail that runs along the outer edge of the Hilborn Regional Forest. There is no formal parking area, visitors must simply park at the edge of Burnett Avenue.

Special Considerations

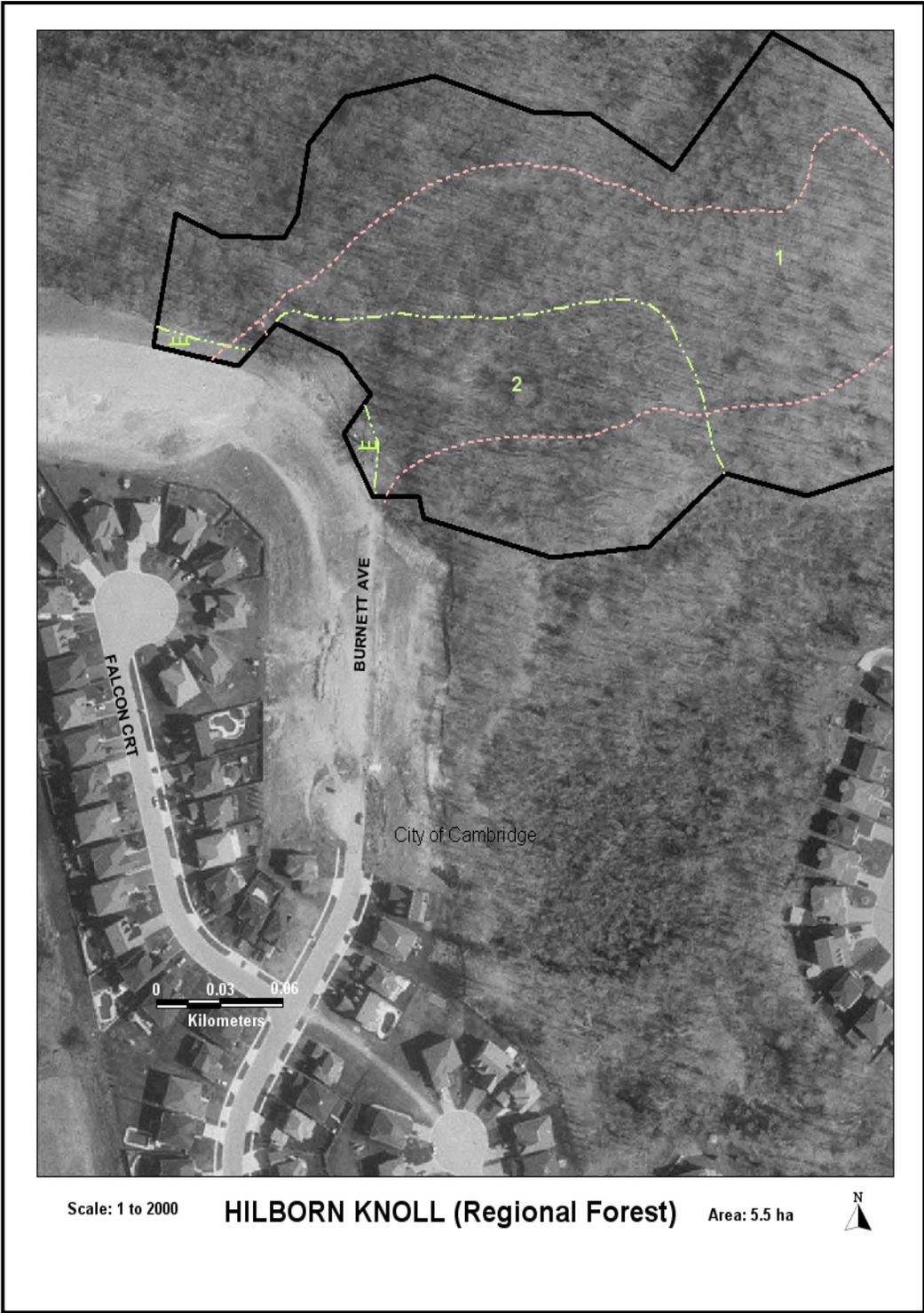
Special consideration will have to be given to maintaining the health of the Hilborn Oak in the

Hilborn Knoll Regional Forest

years to come. Pruning and fertilizing may be considered at some time in the future.

The close proximity of homes on Burnett Avenue requires special attention to management activities, as well as ongoing monitoring for encroachment and inappropriate use of the forested area. There is a conservation easement along the edge of the properties to provide a suitable edge habitat for the forest. Portuguese Swamp (owned by the City of Cambridge) extends to the west of the Hilborn Regional Forest.

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Scale: 1 to 2000

HILBORN KNOLL (Regional Forest)

Area: 5.5 ha

