

## GreenSpotter Hamilton by Team CartoCrafters

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a comprehensive and interactive guide to Hamilton's over 5700 hectares of parks and green space, which are under pressure from a rising demand for usage and land from a rapid urbanization and population growth. On top of being a handy tool for finding parks that meet one's needs, we aim to build a picture of where there are green space 'deserts' in terms of coverage and accessibility. We aim to make this picture clearer as the user is empowered to contribute to a growing database so that information better reflects the state of green spaces at the ground level.

### About the App

GreenSpotter Hamilton explores the City of Hamilton's parks and greenspaces in terms of what they have to offer and how accessible they are, both at the citywide level and the typical individual looking to go for a hike or picnic. It introduces the user to the importance of parks and green spaces to human mental and physical health, along with the threats being faced along with urban expansion, which applies pressure from a use, space and transportation perspective. Across the city, GreenSpotter assesses how 'green' communities are, and how much green space is available to their residents to find those underserved by this infrastructure. From a transportation standpoint, the app provides a view of how far one has to travel to reach a park, as urban sprawl has created a type of accessibility 'desert' should one lack access to a personal vehicle.

Perhaps the star of the show for the average user (and can be jumped to from the get-go) is GreenSpotter's guide to Hamilton's parks and greenspace, which has enriched Open Hamilton's datasets with those of the province of Ontario and the Hamilton Conservation Authority to provide a comprehensive ability to filter based on location, amenities, and activities for the user's next park visit. After reaching one of these spaces (such as by HSR) for some wellness benefits, the app offers a survey to crowdsource a live database that can better inform the next park-goers and raise attention to any issues of green space health that can be addressed by Parks staff or be the focus of community clean-up efforts. While distinctly local to the City of Hamilton, GreenSpotter can serve as a framework for any city to assess the status of their parks and greenspaces, make them more accessible to residents and crowdsource a more complete picture of what's going on at the ground level of these spaces