

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS' ADVENTURE CHALLENGE COURSE

Breaking Traditional Boundaries
with Adventure Programming

Sabrina Hall
Royal Botanical Gardens,
Hamilton ON Canada



ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

- Hamilton, ON, Canada
- Canada's largest BG based on size: 11km²
 - 4 distinct entrances to 5 major gardens
 - Urban nature park with expansive natural lands (27km of trails)



Royal Botanical Gardens: 2015

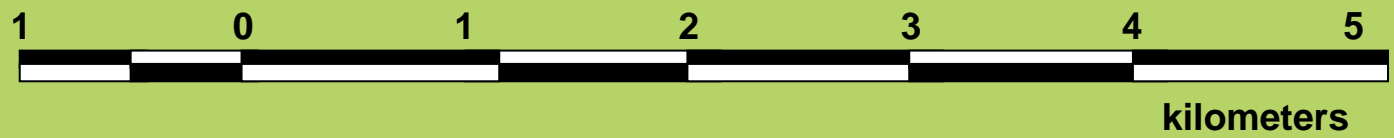
- Nature Sanctuaries
- Escarpment Properties
- Hendrie/Grindstone
- Cootes Paradise

Burlington

Dundas

Hamilton

- Formal Gardens
- Hendrie Park
- Laking Garden
- Rock Garden
- The Arboretum





Guelpgh Rd.

Raspberry House

Arboretum

Native Trees Walk

Nature Interpretive Centre

Hickory Brook

Hickory Valley Trail

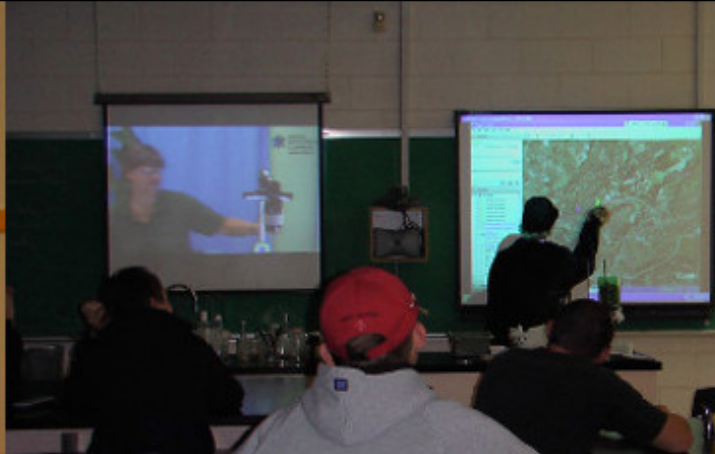
Lilac Walk

Captain Cootes Trail

Old











Trail Code

These lands are part of Canada's biodiversity hot spot, open to **passive recreation** — leave only footprints, take only pictures.

Garbage receptacles located at trailheads.

Restrictions (per RBG's bylaws):

- Pets must remain leashed at all times
- Running/jogging and cycling are not permitted
- Motorized vehicles are not permitted
- Feeding the wildlife is not permitted
- Smoking is not permitted



ADVENTURE CHALLENGE COURSE

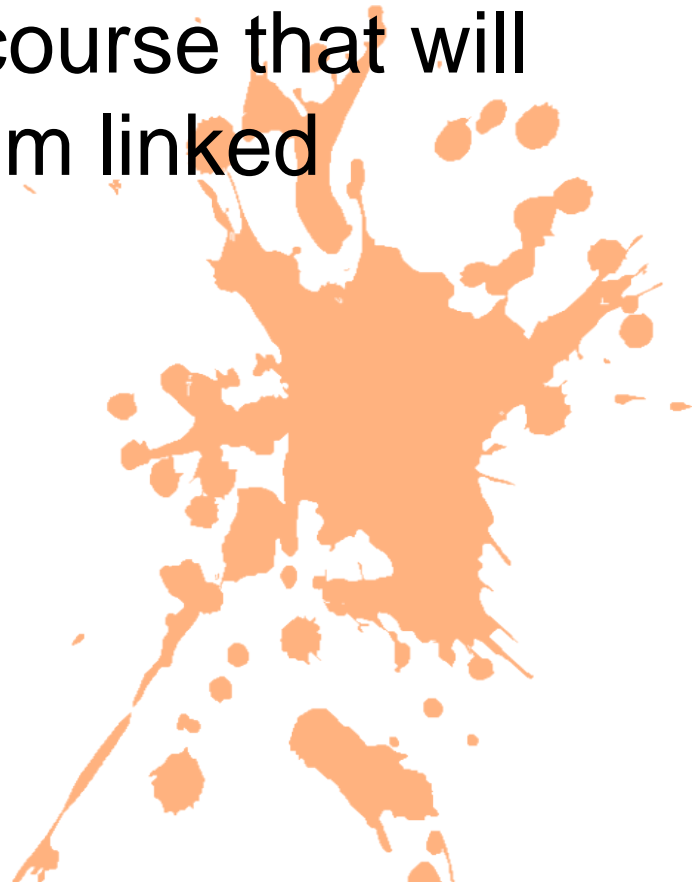


ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
www.rbg.ca



ACC MISSION

Provide students with an opportunity to participate in a challenge course that will incorporate cross-curriculum linked activities.



WHAT IT IS

The A.C.C contains various physical and problem solving obstacles set along a natural 4-5km route which winds through RBG's Arboretum and North Shore Trail system.

With the emphasis on completion of the physical and mental tasks, not competition between groups, participant groups of all abilities are able to have a rewarding experience.



SO WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

- Team based
- Problem solving/mental obstacles
 - Curriculum linked: math, science, geography
 - Riddles and team work challenges
- Challenge by choice
- No mud
- Completion not competition





Guelpgh Rd.

Raspberry House

Arboretum

Native Trees Walk

Nature Interpretive Centre

Hickory Brook

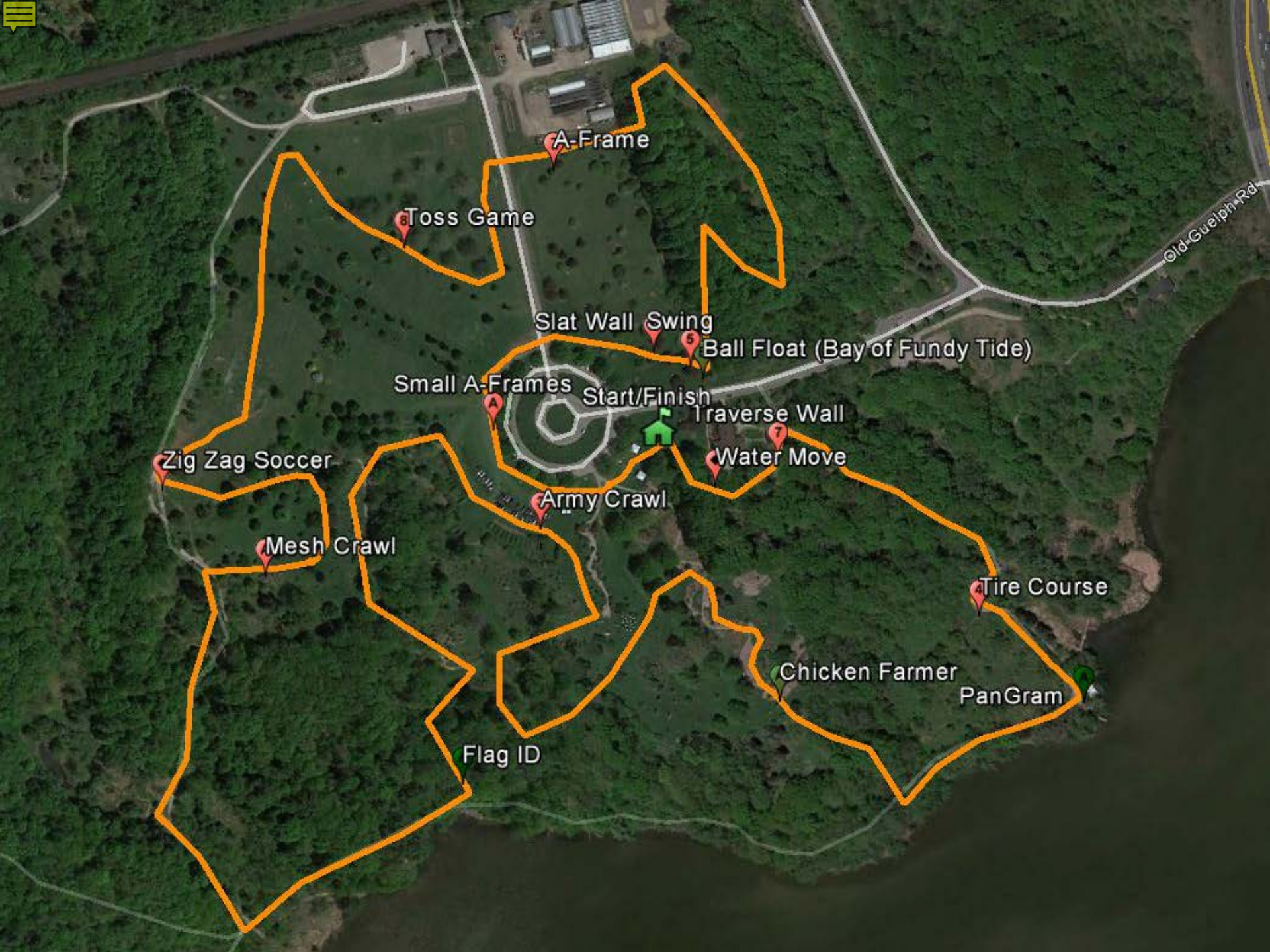
Hickory Valley Trail

Lilac Walk

Captain Cootes Trail

Old





A-Frame

Toss Game

Slat Wall

Swing

Ball Float (Bay of Fundy Tide)

Small A-Frames

Start/Finish

Traverse Wall

Zig Zag Soccer

Water Move

Army Crawl

Mesh Crawl

Tire Course

Chicken Farmer

PanGram

Flag ID

Old Guelph Rd



Graph: Min, Avg, Max **Elevation: 75, 88, 101 m**

Range Totals: Distance: 4.39 km | Elev Gain/Loss: 62.7 m, -62.2 m | Max Slope: 8.4%, -7.8% | Avg Slope: 2.7%, -2.9%



WHERE TO START

- Proposed area to stage course – any conflicts?
- How much lead time for development?
- Available budget?
- In-house element build capability?
- Permanence of elements?
- Intended audience?



REMEMBER SCALABILITY

- Start small
- Carpentry
- Install
- Signs & banners
- Donations
- Partnerships







START



ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN
www.rbg.org.uk







START

















Big ideas... life

...the ... of ... and
the ...















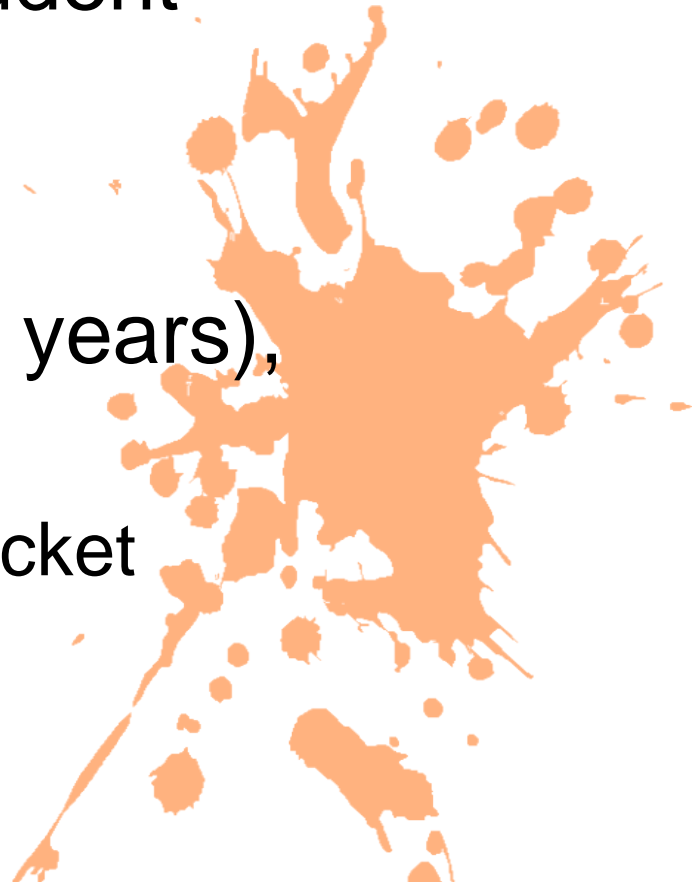
FINISH





PRICING MODEL

- School groups: \$9.50/student
 - 200+ kids per day
- Families: \$25/child (4-12 years), \$35/adult, under 4 free
 - Includes BBQ and drink ticket



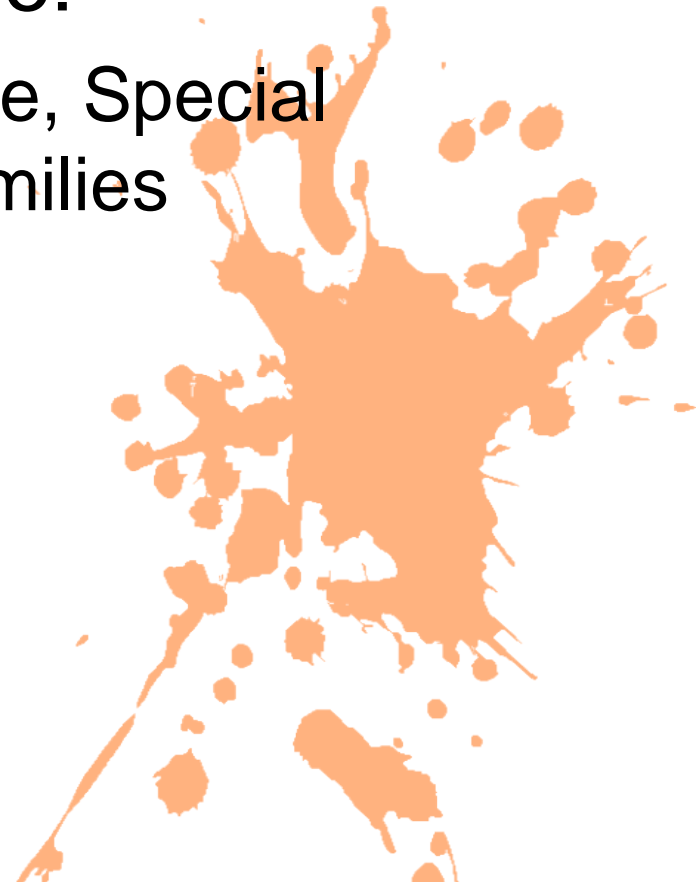
CHALLENGES

- Departmental buy-in
- Staffing
- Family/public dates & registration minimums
 - Net revenue impacted by catering payback



SUCCESSSES & LEARNINGS

- Focus on 1 audience type:
 - *School groups, Corporate, Special interest groups/clubs, Families
- Set it up and leave it up!
 - 1-week blocks
- Engage community
 - Volunteers
 - Media





STAR

1957

Hero

WORLD

TEXAS