



APGO Education Foundation Launches McMaster Rock Garden Urban Geotrail on GeoscienceINFO.com

February 8, 2023, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) is pleased to announce the release of the McMaster Rock Garden Urban Geotrail, located on McMaster University’s beautiful campus in Hamilton, Ontario (Figure 1). This Urban Geotrail is an easy and relaxing stroll through McMaster’s gardens and showcases many of the rocks that have been placed here for decoration. To visit all our Urban Geotrails, go to [our Urban Geotrails page](#).

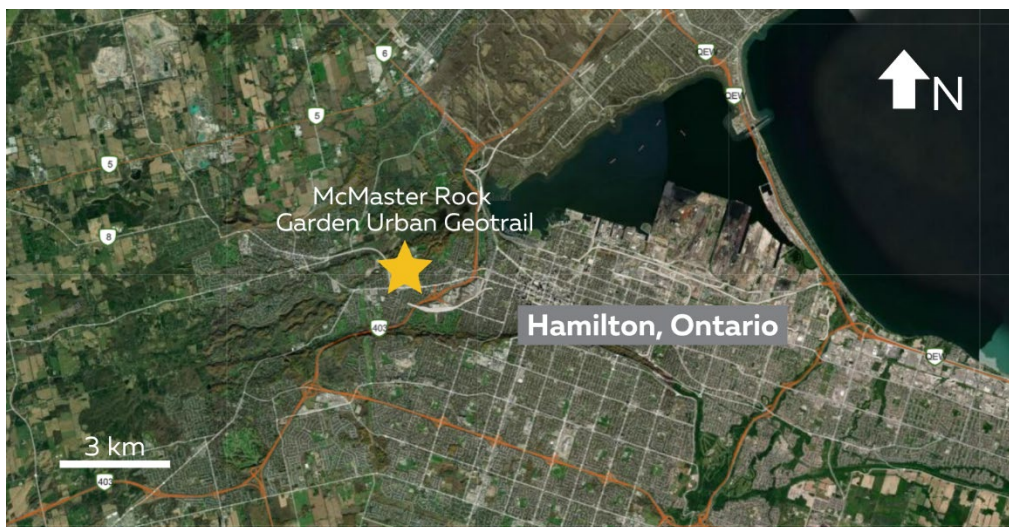


Figure 1. Map of Hamilton region showing location of the McMaster Rock Garden Urban Geotrail.

With over 30,000 students, McMaster University is a well-known Canadian institution, situated less than an hour’s drive southwest of Toronto. Its campus boasts some captivating gardens that attract students and non-students alike, who come to relax and enjoy some quiet time in a bustling city. This Urban Geotrail features igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks throughout these tranquil gardens that serve to enhance the beauty and educational appeal of the space in which they occupy. Some of these rocks have even been used as mediums for artistic expression, such as the gneiss boulder at stop #1, which has a silhouette of a person smoothly carved on its surface (see Figure 2). The smooth surface of the impression accentuates the contrasting bands of feldspar and biotite. Visitors can learn how geoscientists recreate local ancient environments by looking at the large dolostone blocks in the Nina de Villiers Garden (see Figure 3). The cross bedding preserved in these blocks is a clear indicator of current direction when this sediment was deposited.



Figure 2. Gneiss boulder with the silhouette of a person carved in it on McMaster campus.



Figure 3. Large dolostone block in the Nina de Villiers Garden showing cross-bedding.

This Urban Geotrail was developed by the GeoscienceINFO team led by Manager Dr. Deana Schwarz, P.Geo., and the field team from the School of Earth, Environment & Society at McMaster University led by Dr. Carolyn Eyles, P.Geo. and Dr. Katie Maloney. More Urban Geotrails will be released in the Toronto area in 2023. We will continue to expand these geology-based walking tours within and outside of the Toronto/Hamilton area, to enhance public knowledge of geoscience using a hands-on and virtually accessible approach.

Our **Urban Geotrails** allow people to experience geology in an urban setting by providing them with 1-3-hour walks that are in cities and towns rather than in the wilderness. Users can learn about the geological significance of the building stones, decorative rocks and minerals, and architectural stylings of a collection of buildings and surrounding gardens in a selected part of a city. These Urban Geotrails may be accessed in the field, at home, or in the classroom. We recognize that while visiting sites in person is a great way to learn, this is not always possible. This is why we have designed our Urban Geotrails to be readily accessible and provide the user with as immersive an experience as possible, through the application of ESRI's latest ArcGIS-based technology. To do this, Urban Geotrails include features such as:

- 360-degree photos and/or drone videos to provide a thorough overview of each site.
- 3D LiDAR images that show where key features such as fossils, important structures and other geological features are on the outcrops.
- Slide bars to show the locations of important stratigraphic units
- Descriptions of the geological features written in an understandable form for the public
- Audio descriptions are included in many of the segments.



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About the APGO Education Foundation

The APGO Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001.

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience by:

- Holding lectures, presentations, and conferences on geoscience both in person and virtually to introduce geoscience to high school and university students as well as enhance the knowledge of the general public.
- Providing scholarships to post-secondary students for the study of geoscience in the final year of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree program.
- Providing bursaries to immigrants to Canada who are internationally trained geoscientists and have demonstrated financial need for completion of licensure procedures for registration as professional geoscientists (P.Geo.’s) in Ontario.

APGOEF provides funding to support innovative geoscience education projects working with university geoscience departments, community groups and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. Please see our website at www.apgoedfoundation.ca

GeoscienceINFO.com an innovative one-stop spot for the public for information about the earth beneath their feet. This new website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of GeoscienceINFO.com is the highlighting of virtual fieldtrips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™. Information on the latest discoveries and news in the world of geoscience is featured on the website, on our blog Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog, as well as on our social media.

If you like our work, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our programs.

To Donate - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation>

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