

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: February 19, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR / COUNCILLOR.....

Feasibility of Developing a Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is that habitat loss and climate change together have triggered mass extinction of life on earth and that 60% of all wildlife worldwide has been lost since 1970;

WHEREAS, increasing and/or enhancing biodiversity within ecosystems benefits all species, including humans, and provides ecological services such as pollination services, climate resiliency and stability, as well as providing beautiful green spaces that support the wellbeing and mental health of individuals and communities;

WHEREAS, enhancing biodiversity is a “nature-based solution” to climate impacts, such as managing flooding by storing water, significantly reducing air pollution by sequestering carbon, filtering out harmful particulates, and cooling, thereby reducing the harmful effects of heatwaves and increasing the quality and resilience of infrastructure at lower costs and reduced risk;

WHEREAS, cities have a critical role to play in the biodiversity crisis and the climate change crisis and a Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton will help the City of Hamilton and conservation partners to protect and restore Hamilton’s biodiversity;

WHEREAS, Hamilton is addressing the climate crisis with the Climate Change Action Plan and a Biodiversity Action Plan can help to mitigate the climate crisis with nature-based solutions to help address serious issues like storm water management and temperature amelioration and reduction of urban heat island. The Biodiversity Action Plan will complement the Climate Change Action Plan workplan;

WHEREAS, the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan will foster environmental awareness and sustainability and increase interactions and engagement among community stewards;

WHEREAS, the Biodiversity Action Plan allows the City of Hamilton to highlight and align initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community; and,

WHEREAS, many other municipalities have developed Biodiversity Strategies that can be used as resources for Hamilton (ex. Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the appropriate staff be directed to investigate the feasibility and resources required to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton in collaboration with the conservation and report back to the General Issues Committee.