



WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report PED21065(c)
Draft Biodiversity Action Plan for Consultation

Date: May 2, 2023

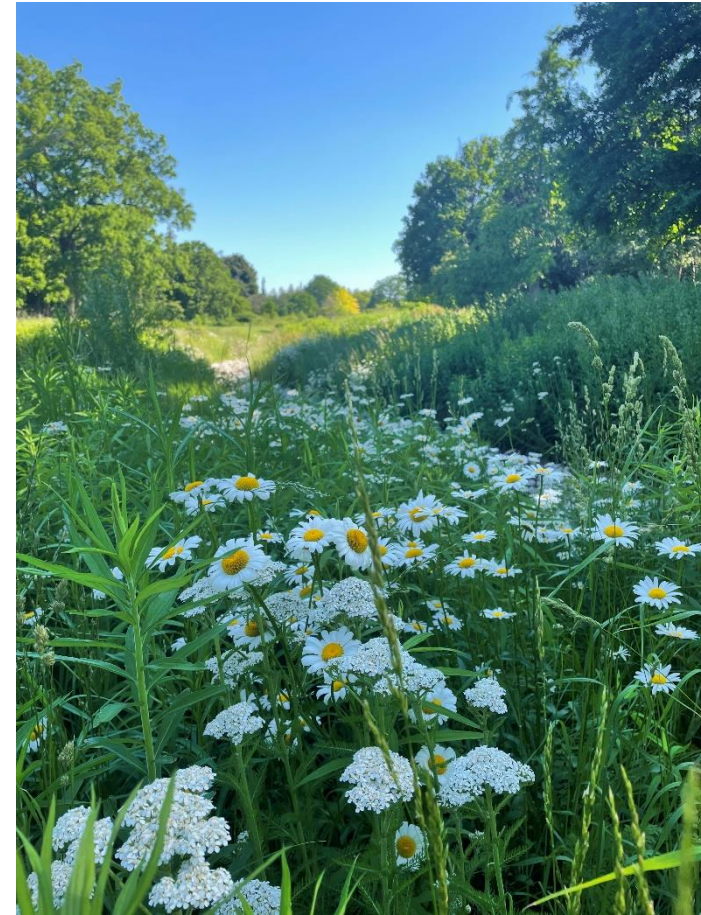
A large graphic for the Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan. It features a light green silhouette of the Hamilton skyline in the background. In the foreground, there are various green silhouettes of nature: a butterfly, a flower, a turtle, a bird, a fern, and a fish. The text 'HAMILTON BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN' is prominently displayed in the center-right, with 'HAMILTON' in dark grey, 'BIODIVERSITY' in large green letters, and 'ACTION PLAN' in dark grey.

HAMILTON BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



What is Biodiversity?

- Biological diversity – variety of life on earth
- Species, genetic and ecosystem biodiversity
- Globally, biodiversity is in a state of decline – approx. 25% of species in plant and animal groups are threatened (IPBES 2019)
- BAP collaborative provides diversity in the approach to addressing threats to in Hamilton, wide range of actions



Hamilton's Natural Heritage Context



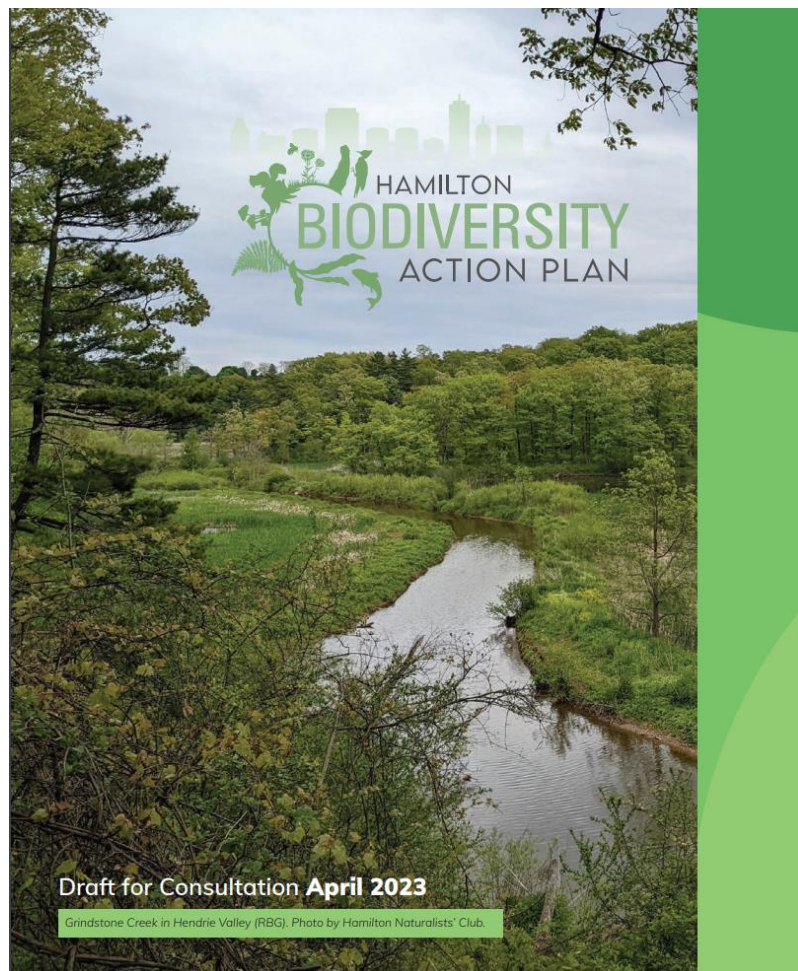
- Lake Ontario
- Niagara Escarpment
- Cootes Paradise
- Dundas Valley
- Beverly Swamp
- Eramosa Karst
- Urban and Rural Official Plans
 - Core Areas
 - Linkages

Background



- February 2020 - motion directing City Staff to investigate the feasibility of developing a Biodiversity Action Plan in collaboration with the conservation community.
- April 2021 – Feasibility report presented to GIC, recommending PED and PW staff work on a draft BAP with conservation community partners; allocation of \$20,000 from PED and \$20,000 from PW to the Hamilton Naturalists' Club to hire a BAP Coordinator to lead the initiative
- June 2021 – BAP referred to Planning Committee for future reports
- August 2021 – Municipal Contribution Agreement approved to allocate funds to HNC
- November 2021 – Six-month update report to Planning Committee

Draft Biodiversity Action Plan



- Appendix “A” to Report PED21065(c)
- Developed with assistance of BAP Coordinator role (HNC), staff from partnering agencies, and City
- Result of internal consultations within partner agencies to develop actions
- Collaborative, strategic plan to coordinate actions for partner organizations
- Everyone has a role to play!

Vision and Goals



Vision:

A Hamilton that is resilient to climate change, celebrates nature, and provides a healthy environment for all life.

Goals:

- **Protect** – by incorporating best practices to protect natural areas and greenspaces through policy and land management activities;
- **Explore** – encourage exploration and education through partnerships and community science;
- **Connect** – establish connections between partner agencies through policies, processes, data and work programs to streamline efforts; and,
- **Restore** – utilize stewardship and other initiatives to restore biodiversity resilience throughout Hamilton.

Threats to Biodiversity

- **Invasive Species** - Non-native species that are introduced to an area and out-compete native species and dominate
- **Habitat Loss and Fragmentation** - Conversion of lands for development, agriculture, or splitting of areas that challenges migration
- **Climate Change** - Extreme weather events (precipitation, heat) causing erosion, drought, migration of new species
- **Pollution** - contamination of air, water and soil from human activities



Key Priorities



- 1. Develop an administrative framework to manage the on-going implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan's Actions;**
 - Guiding actions: BAP coordinator, formalize BAP working group
- 2. Understand the current baseline state of Hamilton's biodiversity to inform future monitoring and priorities;**
 - Guiding actions: develop a monitoring framework, data sharing, reporting
- 3. Protect natural areas and their functions within Hamilton over the long-term to support diversity and connectivity;**
 - Guiding actions: investigate wildlife corridors, assess inventories
- 4. Enhance public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and explore opportunities to enhance biodiversity through stewardship;**
 - Guiding actions: outreach to landowners, public, community science, celebrating biodiversity, naturalization projects

Key Priorities (continued)

- 5. Protect Hamilton's biodiversity by implementing coordinated, city-wide efforts to control, remove, and manage invasive species;**
 - Guiding actions: collaborate, share data, removals, education
- 6. Enhance local aquatic habitats through sustainable stormwater management practices and restoration of degraded watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands;**
 - Guiding actions: public education, LID and green infrastructure, reducing contaminants
- 7. Ensure impacts on, or improvements to local biodiversity are clearly considered in all municipal decision making related to the development or use of urban and rural lands.**
 - Guiding actions: guidelines for private development, management of open spaces, plant salvages

Action Table



- Draft Vision, Threats, and Key Priorities provide a strong foundation for categorizing actions of contributing partner organizations
- Actions table provided as Appendix A to draft BAP
- Timeframe of implementation – up to 5 years
- Organized by Key Priority categories with clear lead and anticipated timing
- City of Hamilton has identified action items in the Key Priority categories under Planning and Economic Development and Public Works. Ongoing and new work programs.
 - Formal recommendations for City-led actions and additional resourcing requirements to be incorporated into the final staff report for the BAP

Draft BAP - Consultation



Public consultation

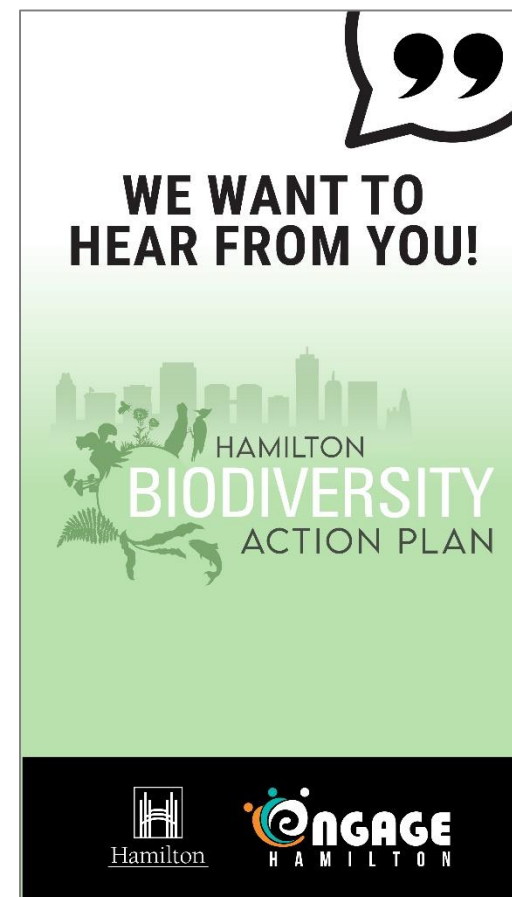
- May through to early July 2023
- Engage Hamilton web portal, online survey
- 2 in-person public open houses
- 1 virtual public information meeting (saved and posted on Engage Hamilton)
- Paper survey distribution at municipal buildings

Indigenous consultation

- Outreach to Six Nations of the Grand River, HDI, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, HRIC, and others

Stakeholder consultation

- Additional conservation authorities, NEC, special interest groups, local ecologists and biologists



Final Biodiversity Action Plan



- Following public, stakeholder and indigenous consultation on the draft BAP, any identified changes required to the overall BAP structure and content will be integrated into a final document
- Anticipated timing for review and consideration of comments July – August, document edits in early fall 2023
- Target for final BAP document - late Q4 2023



Montreal Pledge



- Appendix “B” to report PED21065(c)
- Introduced through COP-15 in Montreal in December 2022
- Signed by over 57 cities worldwide, including Toronto, Mississauga, Quebec City, and Vancouver
- 3 categories of actions that cities can undertake:
 - Reducing threats to biodiversity
 - Sharing benefits of biodiversity
 - Solutions, governance, management and education
- Voluntary tracking of progress towards commitments through the “CitiesWithNature” Action Platform



Recommendations



- a) That Appendix “A” attached to Report PED21065(c), “Draft Biodiversity Action Plan – March 2023”, be received;
- b) That Planning and Economic Development staff be authorized to assist the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club and other Biodiversity Action Plan partners to undertake public and stakeholder consultation on the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan attached as Appendix “A” to report PED21065(c);
- c) That Planning and Economic Development staff be directed to report back to Planning Committee, summarizing the public input together with the final Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan by Q4 of 2023;
- d) That the Clerk provide written communication to the Ville de Montreal to confirm that the City of Hamilton will become a signatory to The Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity.



Hamilton

THANK YOU