



# HAMILTON BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

With support from



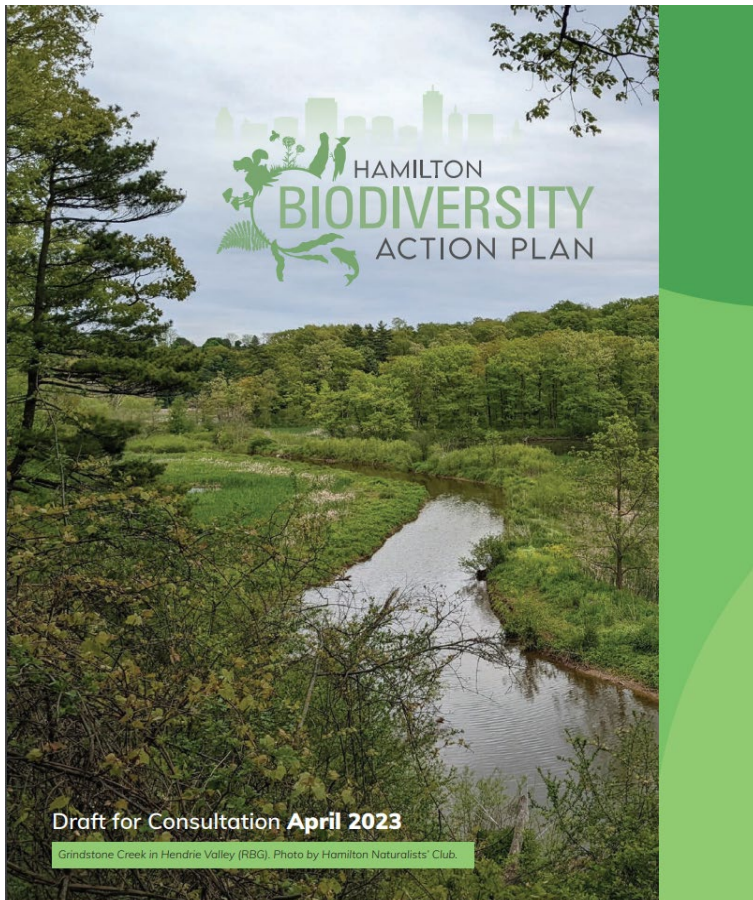


# Background

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- May 2018 – initial need for BAP identified, small group of conservation community partners and City staff
- February 2020 – motion at Council directing City staff to investigate feasibility of developing a BAP in collaboration partner agencies
- April 2021 – Feasibility report presented to Council with lead organization being the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. City to provide in-kind resources and financial contribution to HNC to hire a BAP Coordinator (facilitator/writer); HNC also received grant from ArcelorMittal Dofasco for BAP workplan
- May 2023 – BAP partner boards and Council approve the draft for consultation
- June - July 2023 – consultation on draft initiated

# Draft Biodiversity Action Plan



- Developed with assistance of BAP coordinator role at HNC, staff from partnering agencies, and City
- Internal consultation within partner agencies to develop draft list of Actions (Appendix A)
- Collaborative, strategic plan to coordinate actions
- Everyone has a role to play!



# Vision and Goals

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## Vision:

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

## 4 Project 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 fragmenting areas that challenges species movement
- **Climate Change** - Extreme weather events (precipitation, heat) causing erosion, drought, migration of new species
- **Pollution** - contamination of air, water and soil from human activities and effect on species and ecosystems



# 7 Key Priorities

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- 1. Develop an administrative framework to manage the on-going implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan's Actions**
  - Guiding actions: formalize steering committee, coordinator, communications
- 2. Understand the current baseline state of Hamilton's biodiversity to inform future monitoring and priorities**
  - Guiding actions: develop a monitoring framework, data collection & sharing, supporting community science, reporting on implementation
- 3. Protect natural areas and their functions within Hamilton over the long-term to support diversity and connectivity**
  - Guiding actions: investigate wildlife corridors, identify natural areas for protection
- 4. Enhance public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and explore opportunities to enhance biodiversity through stewardship**
  - Guiding actions: outreach to public for education, celebrating biodiversity through awards, naturalization projects to decrease fragmentation

# 7 Key Priorities

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- 5. Protect Hamilton's biodiversity by implementing coordinated, city-wide efforts to control, remove, and manage invasive species**
  - Guiding actions: collaborate to share data and resources, coordinate removals, public education
  
- 6. Enhance local aquatic habitats through sustainable stormwater management practices and restoration of degraded watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands**
  - Guiding actions: use of on-site SWM practices like LID, reducing contaminants, public outreach
  
- 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, considering plant salvages

# Additional Recommendations

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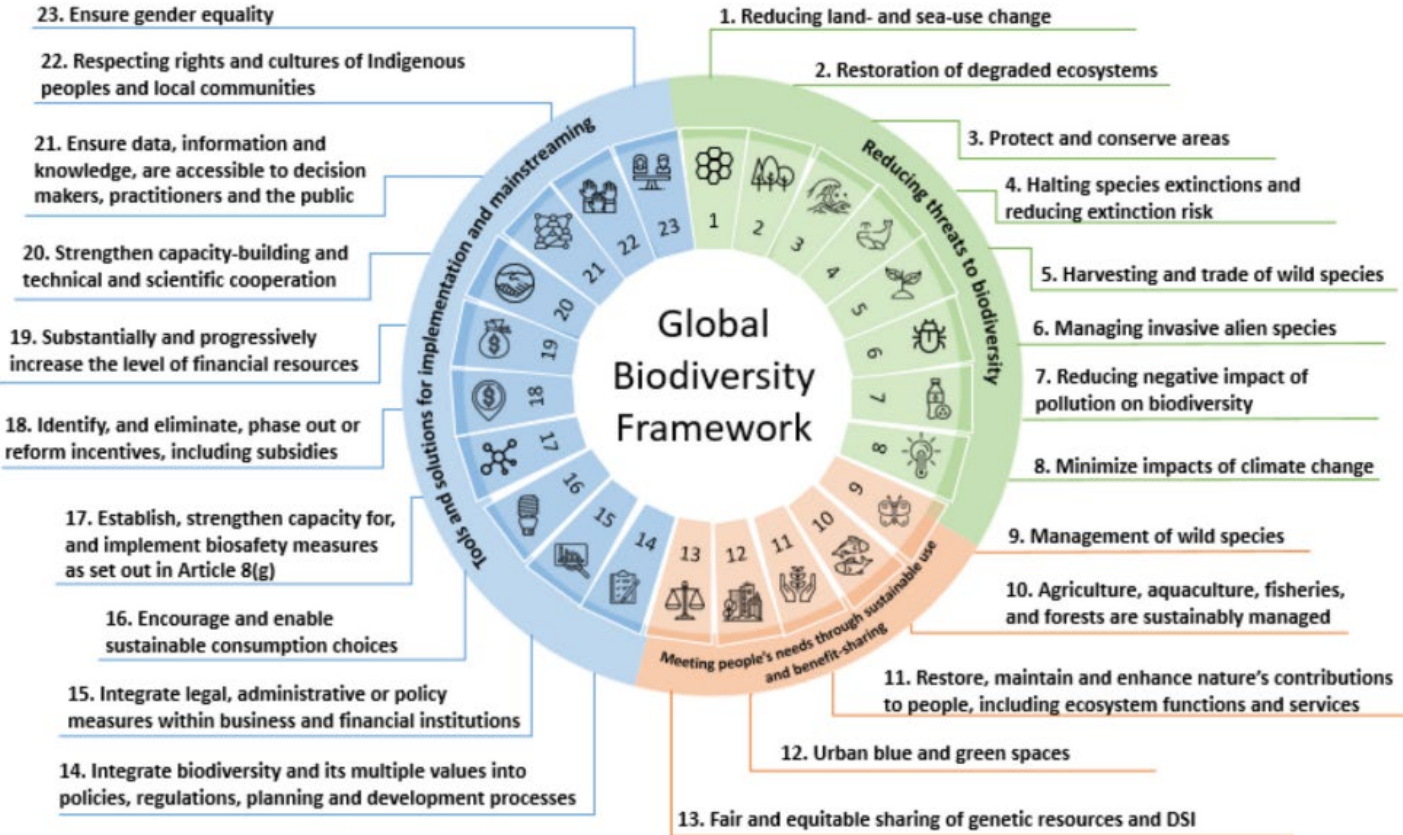
At Planning Committee on May 23, 2023, the following additional direction was given for the final BAP:

- That the Biodiversity Action Plan partners include as part of the consultation on the draft Biodiversity Action Plan, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and **that the partners seek input from the public on the potential for including the 23 targets of the GBF as the community-wide targets for Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan;** and
- That as part of the report back on the proposed final Biodiversity Action Plan, that staff include recommendations, including **staffing and financial impacts, for a Biodiversity Action Plan governance and staffing structure that ensures a whole-of-community approach** to implementation.



# Global Biodiversity Framework Targets

## Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Themes and Targets



# Montreal Pledge

## REDUCE THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- 1 Integrate biodiversity into territorial and regulatory planning
- 2 Restore and rehabilitate ecosystems and their connectivity
- 3 Conserve existing natural environments through protected areas and other effective and equitable measures
- 4 Ensure the conservation and recovery of vulnerable species, both wild and domestic, and effectively manage their interactions with humans
- 5 Control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts
- 6 Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that do not adversely affect biodiversity, ecosystem functions or human health
- 7 Aim to eliminate plastic waste
- 8 Aim to reduce pesticide use by at least two-thirds
- 9 Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through ecosystem-based approaches

## SHARE THE BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY

- 10 Aim to ensure that urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry zones are accessible, sustainably managed and contribute to food security
- 11 Prioritize nature-based solutions to protect against extreme weather events and hazards and to regulate air and water quality
- 12 Increase the amount of green and blue spaces and improve equitable access to them

## SOLUTIONS, GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

- 13 Integrate biodiversity into governance frameworks and public policies, and increase financial resources allocated to its conservation and sustainable use.
- 14 Through citizen education and participation, help ensure that people and businesses are encouraged to make responsible choices toward biodiversity and have the resources and knowledge to do so
- 15 Ensure the equitable and effective participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making and in the process of knowledge acquisition and transmission

# Final Biodiversity Action Plan

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- Public consultation May - July 2023 (Engage Hamilton, in-person events)
- Consultation with Indigenous communities and special interest groups until September
- Review and consideration of all comments in early fall, with document revisions/edits late fall
- Targeting late 2023 - early 2024 for final BAP document



**Thank You!**

Questions? Comments?