

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: September 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. CASSAR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Municipal Protected Areas Project Pilot Program – Ontario Nature

WHEREAS biodiversity at the local, provincial and national scale is threatened by pollution, invasive species, climate change, habitat loss and habitat fragmentation;

WHEREAS at the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets were established and directed that nations commit to protecting at least 30 percent of land and water by 2030 particularly in areas with importance for biodiversity and ecosystem function and services (known as the “30 by 30” target);

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton became a signatory to The Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity on June 15, 2023, which includes an action to “conserve existing natural environments through protected areas and other effective and equitable measures”;

WHEREAS the City has committed to developing a Biodiversity Action Plan in cooperation with local environmental non-governmental organizations and conservation authorities;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton’s Urban and Rural Official Plans identify that the City’s Natural Heritage System includes approximately 36,750 hectares of Core Area lands to be preserved and enhanced to protect local biodiversity and ecological functions;

WHEREAS the City will be undertaking the rural and city-wide natural heritage review phase of the Municipal Comprehensive Review in 2024;

WHEREAS the City has been approached by Ontario Nature to participate in the Municipal Protected Areas Project pilot to assess natural lands which would contribute to Canada’s 30 by 30 target for biodiversity protection and included in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton continue to engage with Ontario Nature regarding the potential feasibility for the City to participate in the Municipal Protected Areas Project pilot;

- (b) That staff from Planning and Economic Development be directed to determine an appropriate work program for Hamilton to participate in the Municipal Protected Areas Project pilot program that compliments the work being undertaken for the City's Rural and Natural Heritage Municipal Comprehensive Review; and,
- (c) That staff be directed to provide a recommendation report to Planning Committee in Q4 2023 outlining the potential staffing and financial needs associated with participation in the Municipal Protected Areas Project pilot.