



Hamilton



# City of Hamilton **Watershed Action Plan**

November 6, 2024

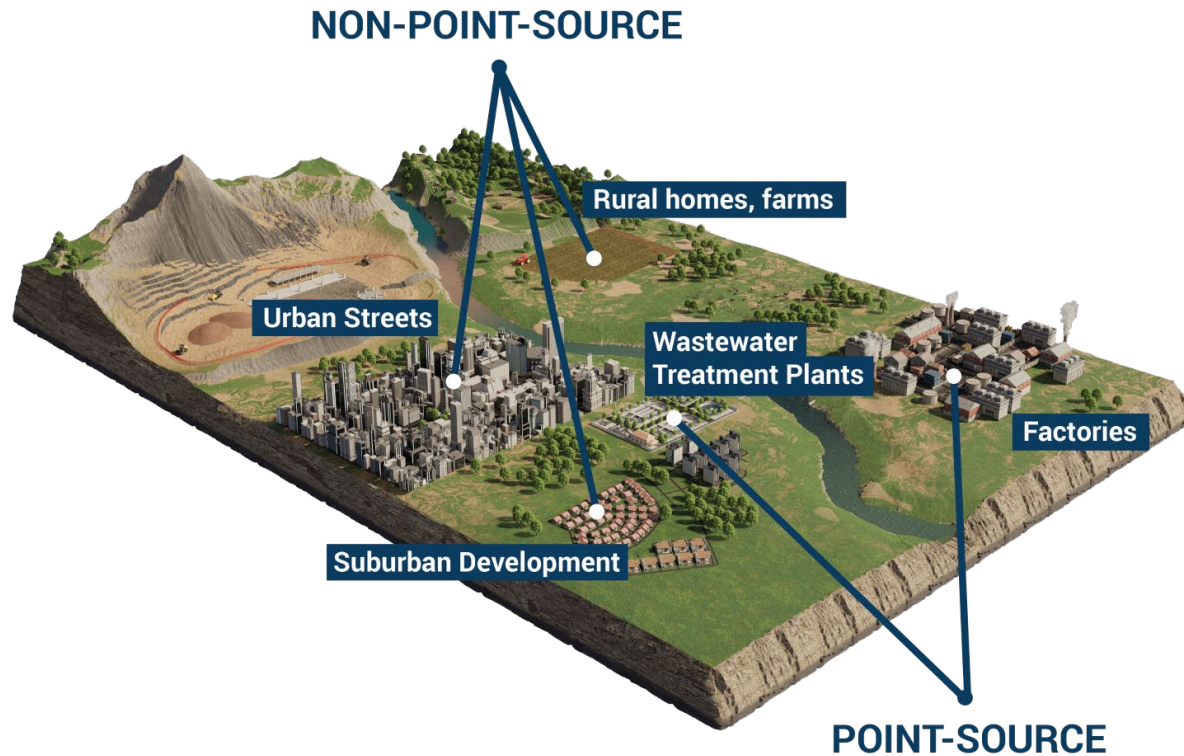


# VISION

A Hamilton that is proud of its healthy waters that support nature, recreation, and flood management, and realized through the City's commitment to environmental stewardship.



## Sources of Water Pollution



With the support of community partners, the City will plan and implement targeted actions that **address non-point sources of pollution** and will contribute to the health of Hamilton Harbour and surrounding tributaries, enhance public engagement, and foster sustainable watershed management practices.

# OBJECTIVES

## Objective 1: Pollution Reduction

- Significantly reduce non-point source pollution
- Address critical pollutants such as phosphorus and nitrogen

## Objective 2: Infrastructure & Operational Improvements

- Upgrade and enhance stormwater management systems to handle future conditions under changing climate scenarios.
- Promote and facilitate the adoption of green infrastructure and low impact development practices.

## Objective 3: Education & Outreach

- Launch targeted educational and outreach programs.
- Provide resources and support for community-led initiatives that contribute to watershed health.





# OBJECTIVES

## Objective 4: Regulatory & Policy Development

- Review and enhance local policies to support effective watershed management.
- Develop incentives for private and commercial landowners to implement practices that contribute to watershed health.

## Objective 5: Biodiversity & Habitat Enhancement

- Identify and implement projects that protect and restore natural habitats within the watershed, focusing on biodiversity conservation.
- Collaborate with conservation authorities and environmental organizations to integrate biodiversity goals into all aspects of watershed management.



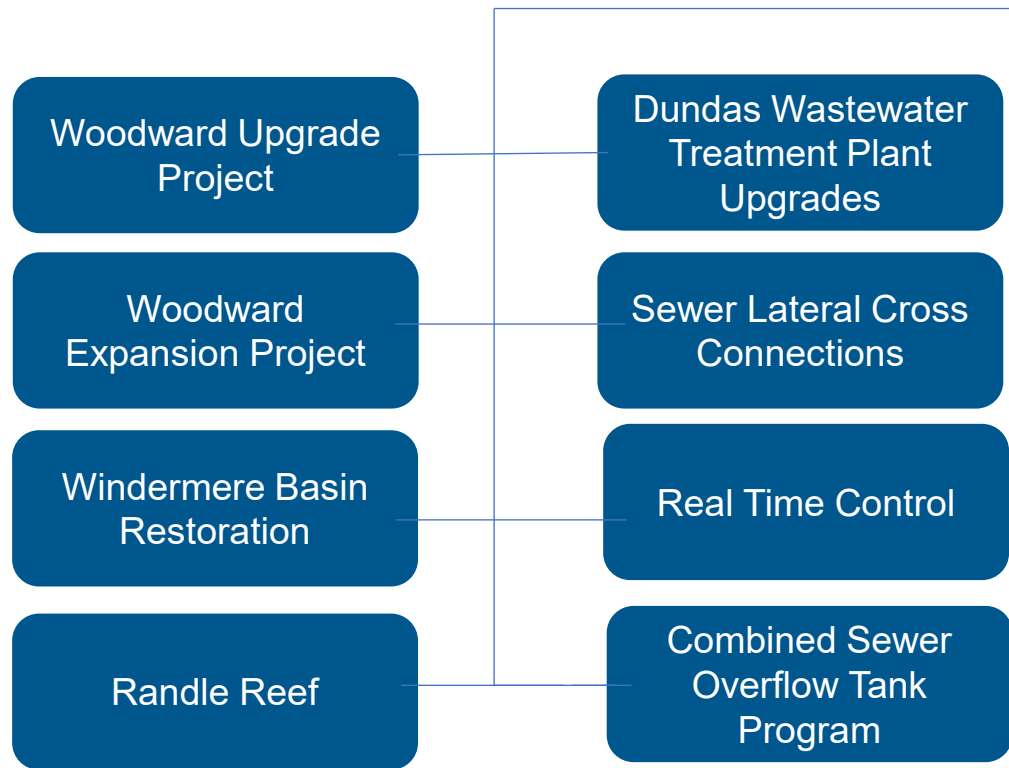
- 1. Term of Council Priority** - Priority 1: Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development details an outcome (#4) where City green space and waterways are protected.
- 2. Council Motion** - That the City recommit to the water quality objectives in the Remedial Action Plan process.
- 3. Senior Leadership Team Direction** – To create a touchpoint for the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan and conduit to Senior Leadership Team and City Council.
- 4. Chedoke Water Quality Improvement Framework Study** – Recommended the creation of an advisory committee.



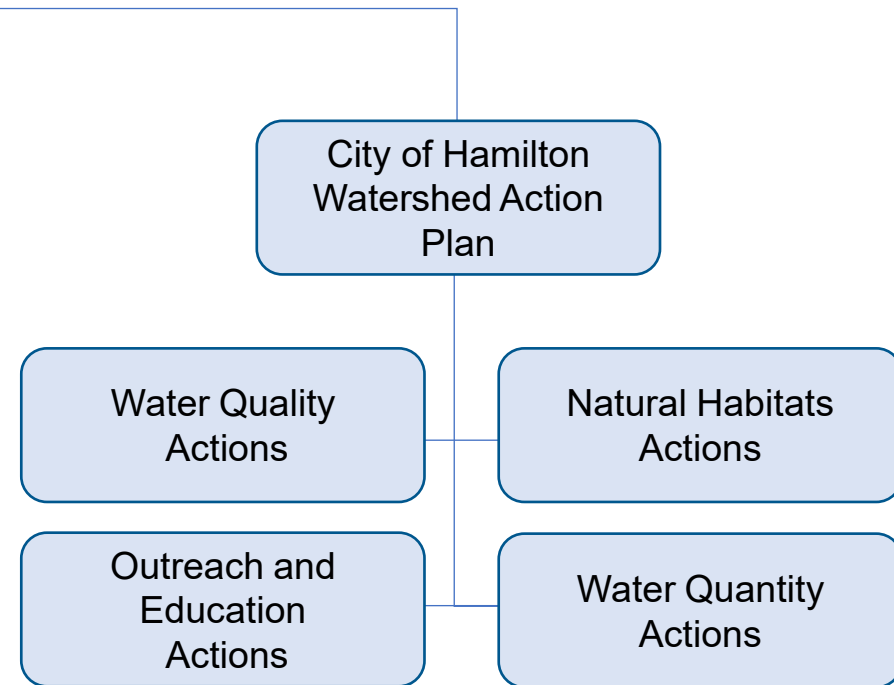
# CLEAN HARBOUR PROGRAM



## Point Source



## Non-Point Source







# LIAISON COMMITTEE

## **City of Hamilton**

Public Works

Healthy & Safe Communities

Planning & Economic Development

## **Partners**

Conservation Halton

Royal Botanical Gardens

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Grand River Conservation Authority

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan



# ADDITIONAL PARTNER WORKSHOPS

## External

Green Venture  
Environment Hamilton  
McMaster University  
Redeemer University  
Mohawk College  
Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
Urban Indigenous Community  
Six Nations of the Grand River  
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation  
Bay Area Restoration Council  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

## Internal

Recreation  
Transportation  
Waste Management  
Engineering Services  
Food & Water Safety  
Environmental Services  
Growth Management  
Water Outreach & Education  
Water & Wastewater Systems Planning  
Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement  
Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Public Engagement (April 15 to September 6)

- Engage.Hamilton.ca/watershedactionplan
- Virtual public meetings – May 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>
- Pop-up booths
  - Hamilton Open Streets Festival – May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Carlisle Optimist Club's Annual Duck Dash – June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Bayfront Park Canada Day Celebrations – July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Online survey
  - Survey Open: April 15<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Number of Submissions: 136
  - **97% of survey respondents feel that Hamilton Harbour, our waterbodies and natural environment are either very important or important.**



# SOURCE OF ACTIONS

## Previous Reports and Partner Input

### *Examples:*

Natural Assets Initiative  
(Grindstone Creek)

Chedoke Creek Water Quality  
Study

Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action  
Plan Recommendations



## Supporting Data

Surface Water Quality Program  
Conservation Authority Report  
Cards

## Capital Projects & Studies

- Dredging Works
- Floating Treatment Wetlands
- Golf Course Run-off Management

## Policy Changes & Programs

- Community Outreach
- Low Impact Development Policies
- Stormwater User Rate

## Operations & Maintenance

- Catch Basin Cleaning
- Salt/Snow Management
- Enhanced Street Sweeping

## Watershed Improvement Examples



# ACTION SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION

Step 1:  
Amalgamate  
actions from  
previous  
studies and  
sources

Step 2:  
Is the action  
the City's  
responsibility?

Step 3:  
Non-point-  
source?

Step 4:  
Evaluate  
actions

Step 5:  
Prioritized  
actions in Plan

# EVALUATING ACTIONS

## Environmental



Pollutant removal



Supports Climate Action Strategy and/or the Biodiversity Action Plan

## Economic



Initial and ongoing costs

## Social



Public priorities



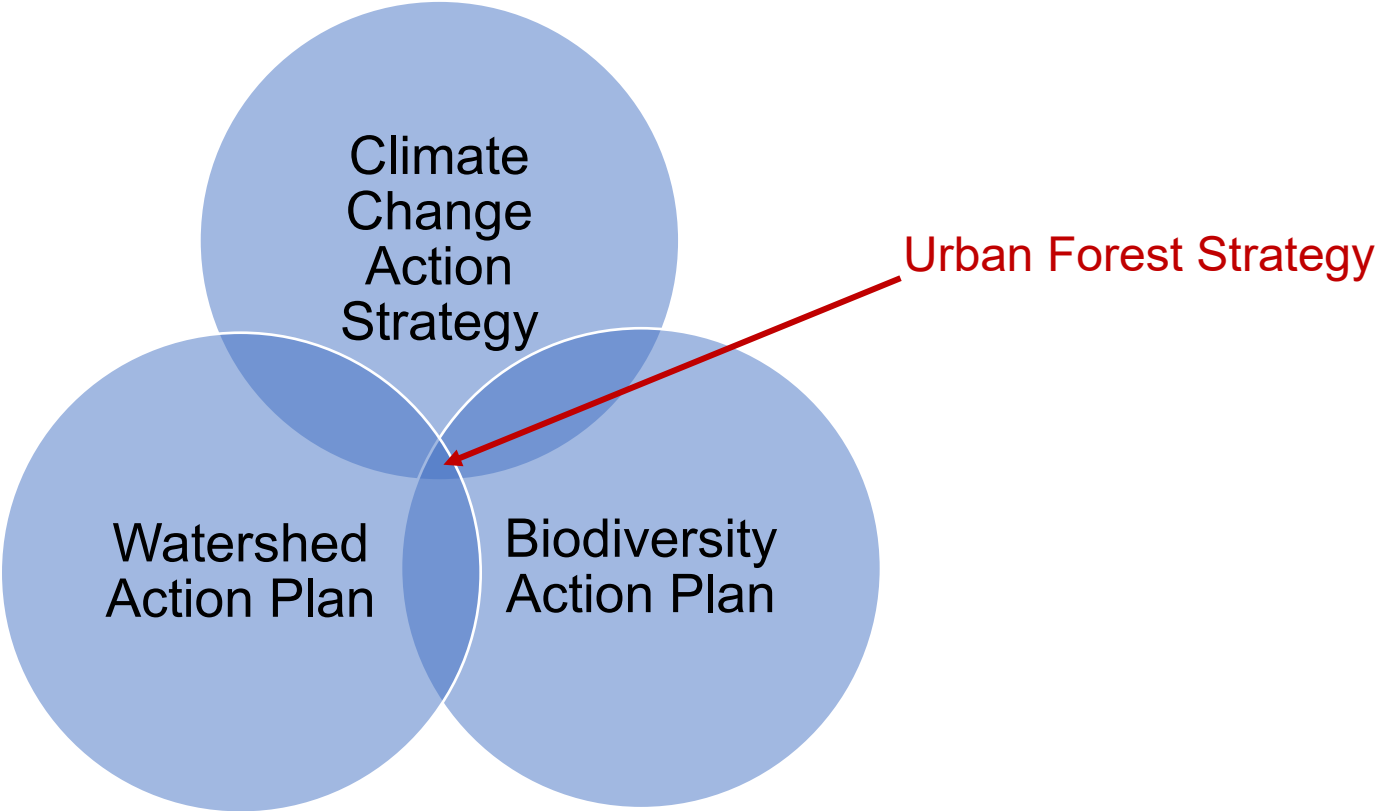
Benefits to residents, businesses and community partners



# CITY ACTION PLANS - COLLABORATION

**Example Action:**

*Investigate opportunities to increase canopy cover throughout the City*







# EXAMPLES OF FUNDED ACTIONS

- #1 - City Stormwater Rate
- #2 – Integrate Natural Asset Management
- #3 – Inventory and Repair Stormwater Management Facilities
- #4 - Increase Forest Canopy Coverage
- #5 - Enhance Real Time Overflow Monitoring Capabilities
- #6 - Inspect Erosion and Sediment Control Works on Construction Sites

**55 funded and 36 pending actions**



# PENDING PRIORITIZED ACTIONS

- #1 – Implement, Present and Share Best Management Practices to Reduce Phosphorus and Sediment Runoff in the Rural Area
- #2 - Strengthen the Salt Management Plan
- #3 - Develop and Implement a Business Case for a Stormwater Monitoring and Enforcement Program
- #4 - Investigate Opportunities to Reduce Phosphorus Inputs within the Desjardins Canal



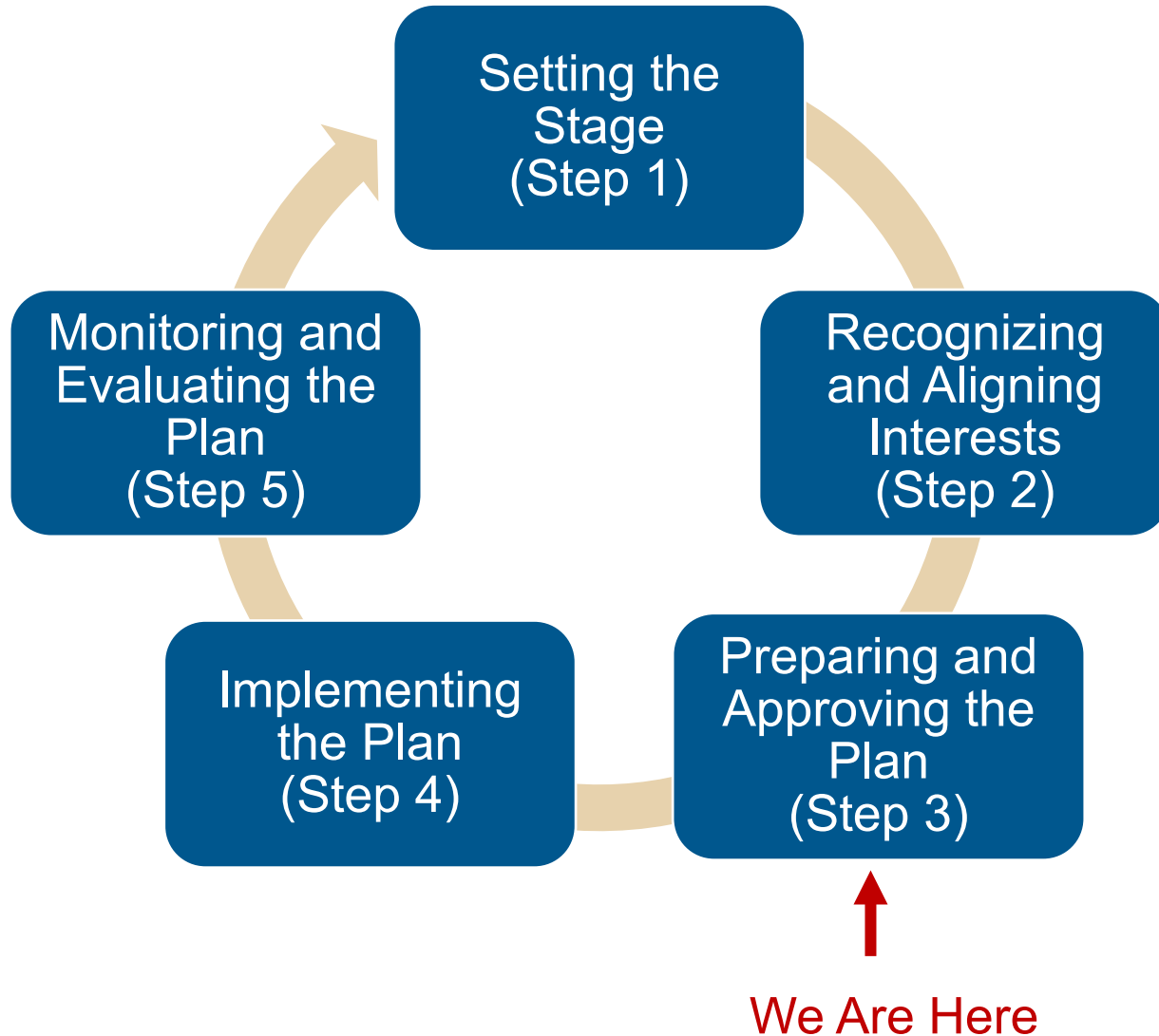


# PENDING PRIORITIZED ACTIONS

- #5 - Review the Inventory of Watercourse Erosion Sites and Prioritize Remedial Action
- #6 - Strengthen Snow Management Plan
- #7 - Strengthen the Catch Basin Cleaning Program
- #8 – Improve Policies to Protect Existing Natural Assets
- #9 – Strengthen the Street Sweeping Program
- #10 – Install Low Impact Development Projects in Priority Areas



# CURRENT STATUS



**Adaptive Management:**  
An approach that allows for acting under uncertain conditions based on the best available science and adjusting decisions as more information is made available.



# THANK YOU



Spencer Creek in Webster Falls Conservation Area. STOCK PHOTO