



City of Hamilton **Watershed Action Plan**

November 6, 2024



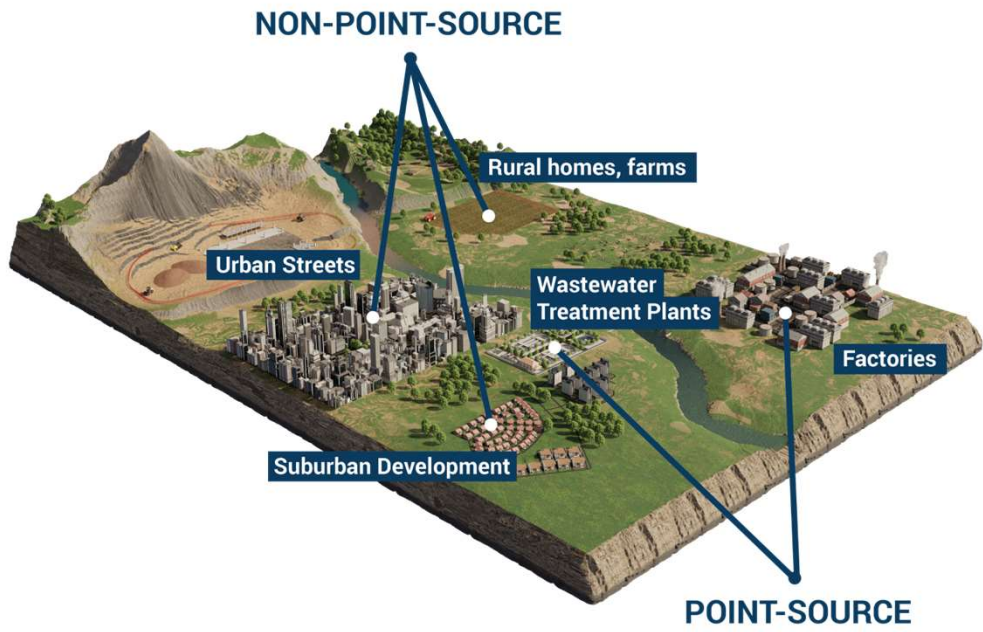
A Hamilton that is proud of its healthy waters that support nature, recreation, and flood management, and realized through the City's commitment to environmental stewardship.

VISION



GOAL

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.



DRIVERS

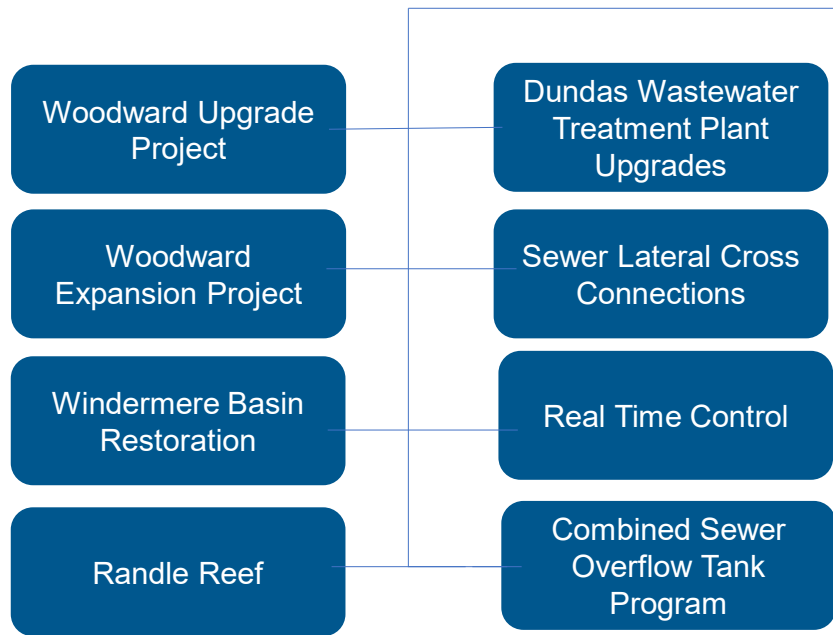
- 1. Term of Council Priority - Priority 1:** Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development details an outcome (#4) where City green space and waterways are protected.
- 2. Council Motion** - That the City recommit to the water quality objectives in the Remedial Action Plan process.
- 3. Senior Leadership 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.



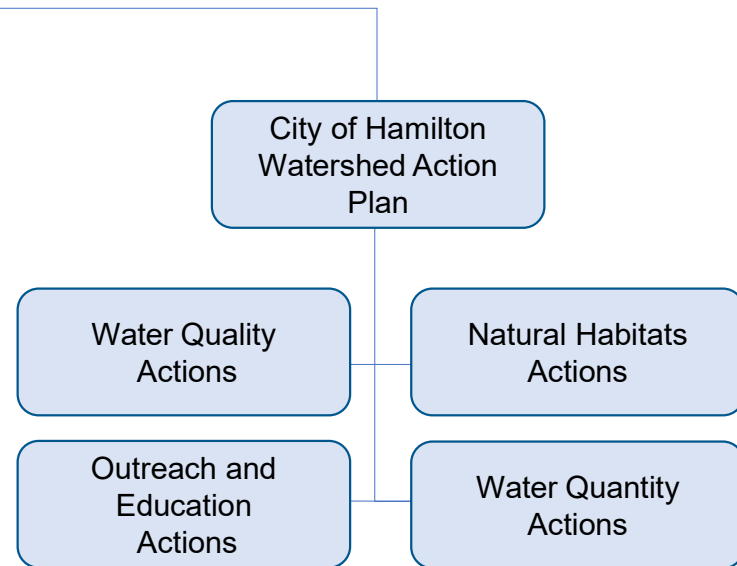
CLEAN HARBOUR PROGRAM



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 2nd and August 20th
- Pop-up booths
 - Hamilton Open Streets Festival – May 26th and June 23rd
 - Carlisle Optimist Club's Annual Duck Dash – June 22nd
 - Bayfront Park Canada Day Celebrations – July 1st
- Online survey
 - Survey Open: April 15th to July 8th
 - 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



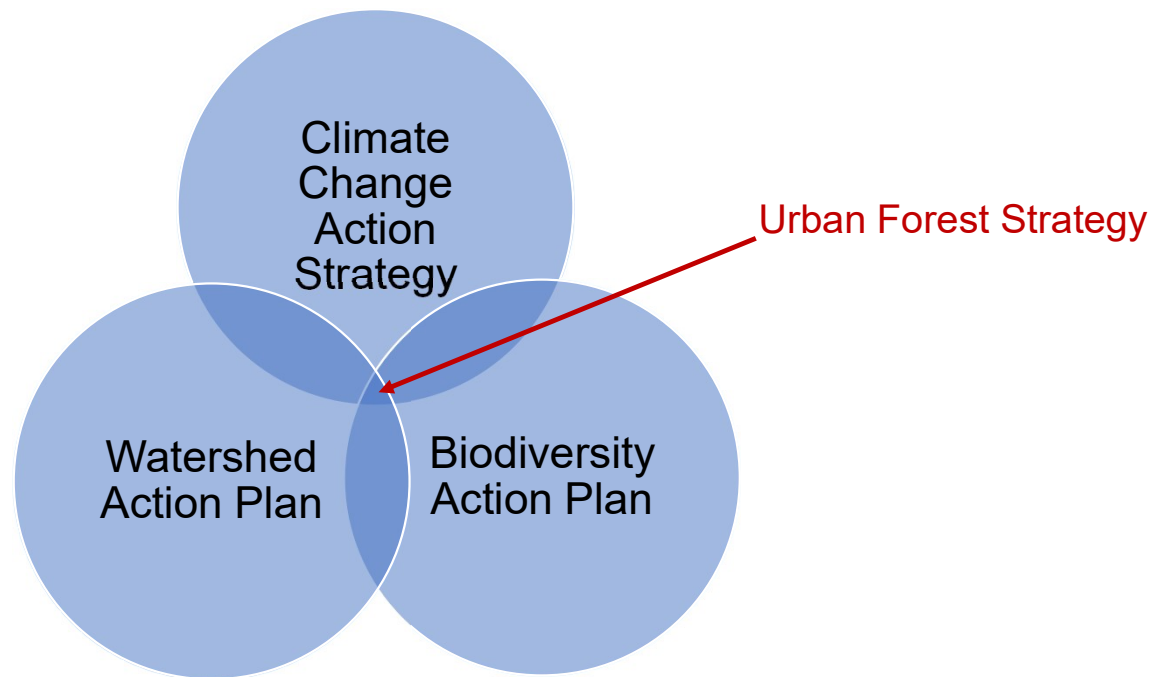
Benefits to residents, businesses and community partners



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

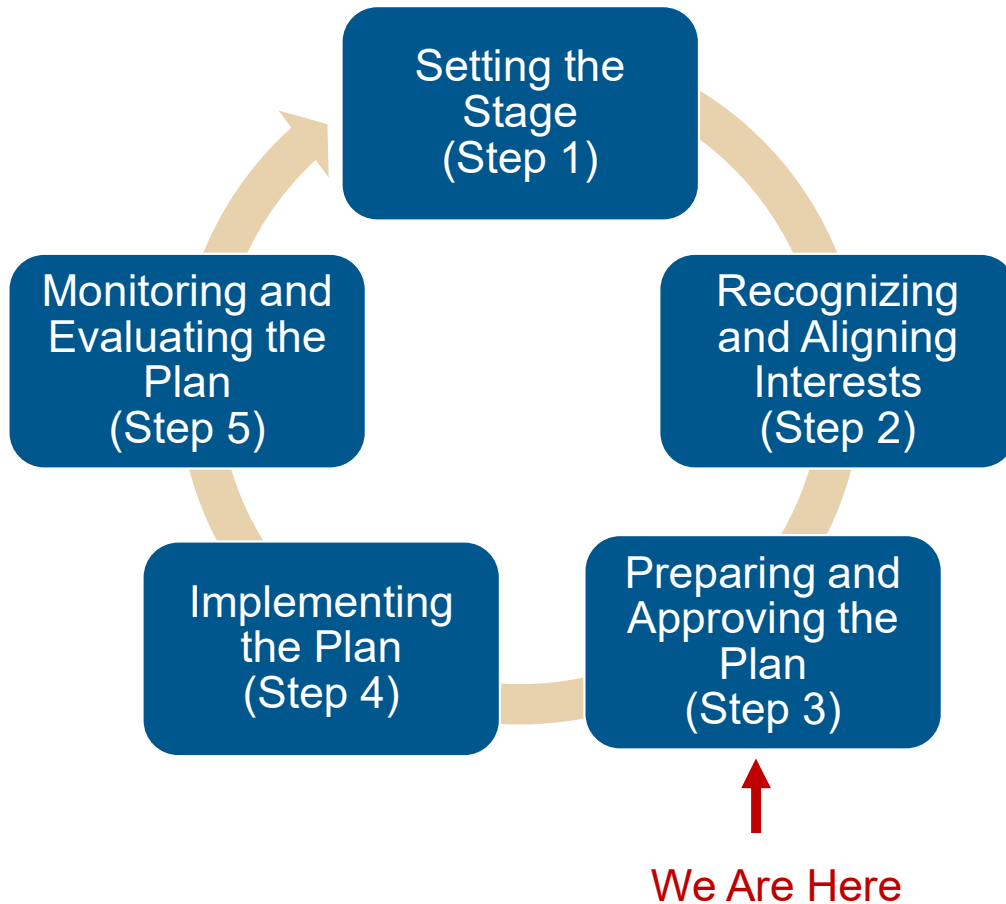
- #1 – Implement, Present and Share Best Management Practices to Reduce Phosphorus and Sediment Runoff in the Rural Area
- #2 - Strengthen the Salt Management Plan
- #3 - Develop and Implement a Business Case for a Stormwater Monitoring and Enforcement Program
- #4 - Investigate Opportunities to Reduce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