City of Hamilton
Report for Information

To:	Chair and Members Public Health Sub-Committee
Date:	April 28, 2025
Report No:	BOH25010
Subject/Title:	Hamilton Community Heat Strategy Update 2025
Ward(s) Affected:	(City Wide)

Recommendations

1) That Report BOH25010 respecting the Hamilton Community Heat Strategy Update 2025 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the ten action items outlined in the Hamilton Community Heat Response Strategy approved by City Council April 29, 2024.

Financial Considerations

Not Applicable.

Background

At the May 1, 2023 Public Health Committee meeting, Public Health Services indicated it would bring more information regarding a Community Heat Response Strategy for 2024-2027 to the Public Health Committee in Q1 2024 (see Public Health Committee Report BOH23019).

Accordingly, the Community Heat Response Strategy (see Appendix “A” to Report BOH24010) consisting of ten actions was brought forward on April 29, 2024 and approved by City Council, building on the City’s annual Heat Response Plan (see Appendix “B” to Report BOH24010).

Analysis

The City of Hamilton's 2021 Climate Science Report[1] predicts that the number of consecutive days that the temperature rises above 30°C will increase and that heat waves, defined as three days or more where the temperature is over 30°C or 40 on the humidex scale, will be more frequent, as well as temperatures over 35°C. Furthermore, research has identified increases in temperature-related deaths with future climate change impacts in Canada along with the need for urgent action.[2]

In 2021, the province of British Columbia reported 619 heat-related deaths due to exposure to extreme heat as a result of the western North American heat dome.[3] Reporting from British Columbia identified that 98% of the heat-related deaths occurred indoors. Additionally, heat-related deaths were higher among older adults over 65 years of age, individuals with chronic health conditions, living in lower socioeconomic status multi-unit dwellings that did not have working air conditioning units.[4] Similarly, these population characteristics are included in Health Canada's list of at-risk groups for extreme heat events.[5]

The above information highlights the importance of targeted heat-related interventions to protect heat-vulnerable populations in the city of Hamilton. Innovative electronic tools exist that combine built environment datasets (e.g., temperature, vegetation, proximity to a body of water, etc.) from different sources with demographic data (e.g., age, income, type of dwelling, etc.) from the 2021 Canadian Census. This enables geographic analysis of the vulnerability of communities living in Canada's major urban centres including Hamilton.[6,7]

With information from innovative mapping tools, the City of Hamilton can be better prepared to respond to extreme heat events and protect heat-vulnerable populations. The Université Laval's interactive mapping application was used to provide information about the geographic distribution of the vulnerability and exposure of Hamilton's

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[1] City of Hamilton Climate Science Report. https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-10/climate-change-impactadapatationplan-science-report.pdf

[2] Hebbern et al., 2023. Future temperature-related excess mortality under climate change and population aging scenarios in Canada. Canadian Journal of Public Health. 114:726–736. https://link.springer.com/article/10.17269/s41997-023-00782-5

[3] BC Coroners Service. (2022). Extreme heat and human mortality: A review of heat-related deaths in B.C. in Summer 2022. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/extreme_heat_death_review_panel_report.pdf

[4] Lee, M. J., McLean, K. E., Kuo, M., Richardson, G. R. A., & Henderson, S.B. (2023). Chronic diseases associated with mortality in British Columbia, Canada during the 2021 western North America extreme heat event. *GeoHealth*, *7*, e2022GH000729. https://doi.org/10.1029/2022GH000729

[5] Health Canada. 2024. Extreme heat events: Health risks and who is at risk of extreme heat events. https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/extreme-heat/who-is-at-risk.html

[6] Université Laval. (2023). Mapping the vulnerability and Exposure to Extreme Heat Waves of Populations Living in Housing in Canadian Communities. https://vaguesdechaleur.ffgg.ulaval.ca/en/

[7] Dalla Lana School of Public Health, CANUE, University of Toronto. (2023). HealthyDesign.City. Health Plan. https://healthyplan.city/en

population to extreme heat events. City of Hamilton Wards 2, 3 and 4 were identified as being most impacted with areas of highest vulnerability and highest heat exposure.[6]

Activities conducted in 2024 pertaining to each of the ten action items from the Community Heat Response Strategy are described in further detail below and outlined in Appendix "A" to Report BOH25010.

Action #1: Education and Outreach

Education and outreach pertaining to extreme heat as a public health hazard are public health initiatives already in practice as a requirement per the Ontario Public Health Standards (2021).[8]

With a focus on heat-vulnerable populations including older adults age 65 years and older, heat education and outreach was done at the Seniors Kick Off event held on June 10, 2024 at Michelangelo's Events and Conference Centre located at 1555 Upper Ottawa Street in Hamilton.[9] Likewise, Public Health Services' staff attended the International Day of Older Person's Event emphasizing Healthy Aging & A Greener Future: Helping Older Adults Stay Well In A Changing Climate held on October 1, 2024 at Sackville Hill Seniors Centre located at 780 Upper Wentworth Street in Hamilton.[10]

Additionally, throughout the summer of 2024, Public Health Services worked with members of the Extreme Heat Working Group to distribute cooling items to educate and encourage individual heat adaptive behaviours. In 2024, 748 cool kits were distributed to both housed and unhoused individuals and a total of 1643 promotional items were distributed in Hamilton. Cool kit bins for housed individuals included an ice pack, cooling towel, cooling necktie, magnet, indoor air thermometer, and information on the health impacts of extreme heat. Cool kits for unhoused individuals included a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, reusable water bottle and a list of cool places and locations where water bottles can be refilled across the city of Hamilton.

In June and July of 2024, we held 13 focus groups with a total of 133 community members and shared information about the hazards of extreme heat exposure along with protective measures to decrease the potential of heat-related illness. Additionally, via a semi-structured interview guide, we engaged with the community members to hear their experiences including barriers and facilitators to cooling access during extreme heat events in Hamilton.

Via focus group education and outreach, 98% (130/133) of participants identified as being a city of Hamilton resident with 71% (94/133) living in the lower city including

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[8] Ontario. Ministry of Health. Ontario public health standards: requirements for programs,services, and accountability. (2021). https://web.archive.org/web/20240711054442/https://files.ontario.ca/moh-ontario-public-health-standards-en-2021.pdf

[9] Hamilton Council on Aging. (2024). Seniors Month Calendar and Events. Seniors Kick Off Event. https://coahamilton.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Hamilton-Seniors-Month-COE-print.pdf

[10] City of Hamilton. (2024). October 1st Celebrating United Nation's International Day of Older Persons and the 2024 Theme in Hamilton Seniors' for Climate Change. https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=e501d014-8232-4beb-be46-3c548c516bfb&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=45&Tab=attachments

Wards 2, 3, and 4. Sixty eight percent (91/133) identified as being older adults ≥65 years of age. Moreover, 61% (81/133) indicated that they lived in an apartment with 64% (85/133) identifying rental housing. Half of all respondents (67/133) indicated that their household income was $ 29 K annually or less while just under half 47% (63/133) indicated that they are living with a chronic illness. The majority of 92% (122/133) indicated that they have access to cooling during extreme heat events with 80% (106/133) having access to air conditioning in their own home which is lower than the 89% reported by Statistics Canada for 2021.[11] During extreme heat events, 20% (27/133) indicated that they accessed air conditioning in City of Hamilton operated cool places (libraries, recreation centres) while 21% (28/133) accessed cooling at City-operated swimming pools.

Focus group discussion identified various barriers to cooling access during extreme heat events such as cost (i.e. purchase, operation and maintenance of air conditioning units) and mobility restrictions, while the facilitators to cooling access included financial and cooling infrastructure supports for urban pedestrian travel (i.e. decreased exposure to uncomfortable/elevated air temperatures while walking/moving in Hamilton's urban areas).

Education and outreach activities are planned to continue in 2025.

Action #2: Heat Warning Notification
In Ontario, local Public Health Units such as Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor-Essex County and the City of Hamilton implement a Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System to address extreme heat events in a more consistent manner that outlines roles, responsibilities, triggers for issuing the heat warning along with the communication messaging to accompany each warning level.[12]

This action already in practice, focuses on heat notifications issued by the City of Hamilton Public Health Services informing the public of heat warnings and extended heat warnings with recommended health protective measures to be implemented. In 2024, four heat warnings were issued with a total of 12 heat event days.

Heat warning notifications are planned to continue in 2025.

Action #3: Cool Places
Ontario Public Health Units such as the City of Hamilton Public Health Services rely on the local municipality and its various departments including recreation centres, libraries, and community partners comprised of smaller local service organizations to operate cool places, public swimming pools and provide drinking water accessible to the public with specific focus on heat-vulnerable populations.[12]

This action already in practice in Hamilton includes: nine Community Partners, 11 Recreation Centres with Indoor Pools and "Cool Places", four standalone Recreation

[11] Statistics Canada. (2023). Table 38-10-0019-01 Air conditioners. https://doi.org/10.25318/3810001901-eng
[12] Ministry of Health. (2023). Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System for Ontario. https://files.ontario.ca/moh-harmonized-heat-warning-and-information-system-for-ontario-hwis-en-2023-05-29.pdf

Centres designated as “Cool Places”, seven Indoor Pools, 10 Outdoor Pools, 71 Spray Pads, five Wading Pools, six Municipal Service Centres, and 23 Libraries covering all wards in the City of Hamilton with concentration on City Wards identified as having highest vulnerability and highest heat exposure.

During heat warnings and extended heat warnings, all regularly scheduled Open Swims are free to the public at all indoor and outdoor pools. In 2024, there were 24,431 free swim admissions recorded across the city over the four heat events.

The same approach for the operation of cool places is planned for 2025.

Action #4: Cooling and Energy Efficiency Support

As research has identified household air conditioning as being one of the most effective cooling strategies to protect population health from heat-related morbidity and mortality[13,14,15] and findings from the British Columbia heat dome event identified lack of indoor air conditioning as a contributor to heat-related deaths in 2021,[3] this action focuses on the following four initiatives:

a) Subsidies, zero-interest loans and/or rebates for improving energy efficiency in homes or buildings. In 2024, the City of Hamilton’s Office of Climate Change Initiatives piloted the Better Homes Hamilton Project, with applications being accepted from December 2023 to February 2024 with 50 homeowners selected to participate in the zero-interest loan program.[16]

   The pilot program includes homeowners from every Ward across the City of Hamilton. A mix of representative housing archetypes were selected to be part of the pilot. Consideration was also given to ensuring that participants were selected from neighbourhoods with higher levels of energy poverty. The energy poverty mapping available on the Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners website was used to identify these areas of Hamilton.[17]

   For 2025, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives is planning to continue to provide support to project participants. A progress update on the pilot will be provided by Office of Climate Change Initiatives to City Council in Q3 2025. Exploratory work is also underway to determine how best to scale-up residential retrofit efforts in Hamilton.

[13] Ostro, B., Rauch, S., Green, R., Malig, B., Basu, R. (2010). The effect of temperature and use of air conditioning on hospitalizations. American Journal of Epidemiology. 172(9), 1053-61. 10.1093/aje/kwq231
[14] Sera, F., Hashizume, M., Honda, Y., Lavigne, E., Schwartz, J., Zanobetti, A., et al. (2020). Air conditioning and heat-related mortality: A multi-country longitudinal study. Epidemiology. 31(6), 779-87. 10.1097/EDE.0000000000001241
[15] Quick, M. and Tjepkema, M. Statistics Canada. (2023). The prevalence of household air conditioning in Canada. https://www.doi.org/10.25318/82003x202300700002eng
[16] City of Hamilton, Office of Climate Change Initiatives. (2024). Better Homes Hamilton Program. https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/environmental-stewardship/environmental-plans-strategies/hamiltons-climate-2
[17] Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners.(2019). The Many Faces of Energy Poverty in Canada. https://energypoverty.ca/

b) Advocacy to upper levels of government to provide affordable and accessible cooling (e.g. application for an air conditioner) for at-risk individuals who qualify (e.g., based on income status and/or a prescribed medical need). The City of Hamilton's Office of Government Relations and Strategy can support interdepartmental efforts, beginning in 2025, to advocate to higher levels of government for the provision of affordable and accessible cooling solutions, such as air conditioner supports, for at-risk individuals who meet specific eligibility criteria, including income status and/or a documented medical condition.

c) Development of a draft “Adequate Temperature By-Law” which Licensing and By-Law Services Division within Planning and Economic Development Department has been working on since 2024 with further work to be determined in 2025.

d) The Special Supports program in the Ontario Works Division of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department administers a variety of health-related benefits, including an air conditioner benefit for Social Assistance recipients that is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This benefit is a one-time discretionary benefit, issued to recipients of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program who live independently within the community. The intent of the benefit is to assist eligible individuals who have a severe medical condition and where, without an air-conditioner, the symptoms of the medical condition are likely to deteriorate, increase, become episodic or cause hospitalization. The air conditioner benefit does not specifically cover additional expenses such as hydro, installation and storage.

   In 2024, Council approved the expansion of this health-related benefit to low-income residents through funding from the Climate Change Reserve. Eligible applicants in the City of Hamilton receive a one-time, $350 financial subsidy benefit per household to purchase an air conditioner for cooling an area within their residence. Individuals must complete an application, meet Statistics Canada’s Low-Income Measure threshold and provide medical documentation of a severe medical condition. The documentation must confirm that, without an air conditioner, the symptoms of the condition are likely to worsen, become episodic, or result in hospitalization.[18]

   In 2024, approved air conditioner subsidies for Social Assistance clients increased, with 133 eligible households receiving support, representing a 129% increase from 2023. In contrast, seven low-income households qualified through the expanded low-income criteria.

   Starting May 1, 2025, the air-conditioner benefit will continue to be available to low-income household residents with a severe medical condition. Ontario Works is able to fund the expanded eligibility through the existing provincial funding and approved City levy funding to support other low-income benefits. Low-income

[18] City of Hamilton. (2024). Special Supports Program. https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/financial-stability-supports/support-programs/special-supports-program#how-to-apply

approvals will be provided to an upside limit of 50 households annually on a first come, first serve basis from May 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025.[19]

Action #5: Vegetation Cover Expansion and Maintenance

Increased summer temperature and its impacts may be most detrimental in built-up urban cores such as Hamilton's downtown[1] which is consistent with areas in Hamilton identified as having the highest heat exposure.[6] Contributors to the urban heat island effect include the presence of many impermeable surfaces to absorb and trap summer heat.

This action which focuses on reducing artificial surfaces, through increasing vegetation in parking areas, alleyways, streets, and other infrastructure is already in practice.

In 2024, Public Works contributed 17,769 trees to the City's tree canopy:

- 6775 trees with the Community Planting Program;
- 500 trees in partnership with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority as Community Planting;
- 5003 native trees given away to Hamilton residents to plant on their private property; and,
- 5491 trees through the Street Tree Planting Program with the following number in each ward:
    - Ward1 – 279 trees;
    - Ward 2 – 102 trees;
    - Ward 3 – 109 trees;
    - Ward 4 – 187 trees;
    - Ward 5 – 189 trees;
    - Ward 6 – 253 trees;
    - Ward 7 – 308 trees;
    - Ward 8 – 185 trees;
    - Ward 9 – 974 trees;
    - Ward 10 – 578 trees;
    - Ward 11 – 531 trees;
    - Ward 12 – 731 trees;
    - Ward 13 – 87 trees;
    - Ward 14 – 72 trees; and,
    - Ward 15 – 906 trees.

Six different sites were hosted across 18 events and six different City Wards including: Chedoke planting in Ward 1, Kenilworth Access Parkette in Ward 4, Windermere Basin Park in Ward 5, Pritchard Trail in Ward 6, 167 Candlewood Drive Stormwater Pond in Ward 9, HSR planting in Ward 11; 30 participants for Truth and Reconciliation event with Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg (non-profit Indigenous Youth Organization) that were Indigenous youth and their families; 155 youth from Strathcona and Lawfield School.

[19] City of Hamilton Communication Update. (2025). Special Supports Air Conditioner Subsidy Expansion to Low Income Households. https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2025-02/comm-update-HSC-special-supports-ac-subsidy-low-income-feb2025.pdf

Additionally, Public Works partnered with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to plant 500 trees through community planting in Ward 11 and conducted two de-pave projects converting 958.76 square meters to soft surface.

Public Works is planning the same approach for 2025.

Further, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives continued during 2024 to administer funding to Green Venture to undertake de-paving projects in Ward 3. The Office of Climate Change Initiatives also established and continues to lead an internal Green Infrastructure Working Group, with staff representatives from across a number of relevant departments and divisions. This Working Group initiated an effort in 2024 to pursue an innovative signature green infrastructure project, using a $350 K Climate Change Reserve allocation, with a vision to leverage that funding to access external funding sources for the project. The aim is to locate a project in an area that would benefit from additional greening and more green infrastructure for stormwater management.

For 2025, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives plans to continue, through the Green Infrastructure Working Group to move forward with a signature green infrastructure project. Part of this effort is about determining how City departments and divisions need to work together to make these projects happen. Plans are in place in 2025 to pursue external funding applications to support this effort.

Action #6: Wellness Check-ins

As regular check-ins on heat-vulnerable populations including older adults >65 years of age and those with pre-existing health conditions have been identified as a practical intervention to reduce adverse health impacts from extreme heat[20] this action focuses on leveraging emergency and community services to assist at-risk populations during heat events to provide welfare calls/check-ins which was a new initiative for 2024.

In 2024, the Mobile Integrated Health Program provided by Hamilton Paramedics Services increased outreach and wellness checks to vulnerable older adults enrolled in the Mobile Integrated Health Program during periods of extreme heat.

For 2025, Hamilton Paramedics Services is planning the same approach undertaken in 2024 but with the exploration of a special designated team for heat warning days.

Moreover, during in 2024, in their standard programming and service delivery, the Housing Focused Street Outreach Team had an average of ten workers out each day. This equated to four to five different teams out each day between the hours of 8am-8pm. During the heat events, the various teams visited an average of 21 sites per day. During these events, the team had an average of 163 non-unique interactions each day, about 90-100 of which were goods distributed (e.g. water bottles and heat-related supplies). Additionally, the team also provided items like water bottles and heat-event

[20] Eyquem, J. L, and B. Feltmate. 2022. Irreversible Extreme Heat: Protecting Canadians and Communities from a Lethal Future. Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo. https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UoW_ICCA_2022_04-Irreversible-Extreme-Heat.pdf

care packages to folks not necessarily in encampments (e.g., panhandlers, those hanging out at popular locations downtown, etc.).

For 2025, the Housing Focused Street Outreach Team is planning to continue the same service provisions as in 2024.

Action #7: Shade Structures
Since hot surfaces in urban areas such as Hamilton's downtown core increase the outdoor heat experience, particularly in areas where shade is limited,[20] this new action focuses on the installation of shade structures.

In 2024, as part of the Park Redevelopment Program, Public Works installed three shade structures in the following parks: Victoria Park (Ward 1), Meadowlands Park (Ward 12), and Woodlands Park (Ward 3). The populations served include all residents using the three City parks noted above and more specifically, residents within neighbourhoods/communities of an (800m radius).

For 2025, Public Works is planning to install an additional nine shade structures as part of ongoing capital improvement projects, bringing the total number installed to 12 shade structures.

Action #8: Heat-Related Illness & Population Health Surveillance
A new real-time heat-related illness surveillance initiative was approved by City Council as part of the Heat Response Strategy (BOH24010) and implemented at the start of the 2024 heat season. This ongoing surveillance system provides an internal weekly report

from May through to the end of September annually of two heat-related illness indicators:

1) Daily number of heat-related illnesses based on a Hamilton resident's emergency department pre-diagnostic chief complaint (from the Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance System); and,
2) Daily number of paramedic heat-related calls (as recorded in FirstWatch).

Report frequency is increased to daily during declared heat warnings and is flexible to respond to heat warnings outside of the regular heat season.

This surveillance system is part of a broader initiative that was received by the Public Health Committee (Report BOH24005) that includes annual monitoring of trends using existing administrative data sources to report on heat-related emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and deaths. Currently there is no standard approach to monitor heat-related illness and deaths in Ontario or Canada using administrative data. In 2025, Public Health Services evolved our approach to minimize the potential of including illness related to industrial or artificial heat sources, by excluding these specific events and including only events that occurred during the "heat-season" (i.e., May through to the end of September). Further, the approach to extract data was revised to ensure that counts are for unique visits by Hamiltonians. The outcome of

these revisions is a narrowed definition and in particular the counts for emergency department visits have been reduced from earlier reports.

There were 53 emergency department visits (8.4/100,000 population) for heat-related illness among Hamiltonians during the heat season (May – September 2024), similar to 2023, which totalled 52 emergency department visits (8.4/100,000). From 2015 to 2024, the average annual count was higher at 70 emergency department visits per year (701 in total).

There were 26 total hospitalizations (0.4/100,000) for heat-related illness among Hamiltonians during the heat seasons (May – September annually) from 2015 to 2024. The average annual count from 2015 to 2024 was just over two hospitalizations per year.

There were no deaths cited specifically due to heat-related illness for Hamiltonians in 2024 heat season and no deaths during the decade from 2015 to 2024. The last year that there were deaths cited due to heat-related illness among Hamiltonians was 2011, when two deaths occurred.[21]

An equity assessment included in Public Health Services' 2024 Community Health Status Report indicated that heat-related emergency department visits for Hamiltonians from 2017-2021 were not equally distributed.[21] When assessing area-based inequality, higher rates of heat-related emergency department visits existed among Hamilton residents who lived in areas with greatest percentage of households below the low-income cutoff after tax, greatest percentage of households that have a core housing need, greatest percentage of families with one-parent and greatest percentage of individuals with no high school diploma or equivalent.

For 2025, Public Health Services is planning to continue both real-time surveillance and annual monitoring of heat-related illness and deaths among Hamiltonians.

Action #9: Misting Stations

Because misting stations have been found to be effective cooling interventions during extreme heat events in other cities such as Vancouver, British Columbia,[22] seasonal temporary installation of misting stations in identified priority locations throughout the city of Hamilton would support cooling infrastructure in the city. One misting station is functioning seasonally as part of the Copps Pier park area and will be monitored by staff for use and maintenance considerations.

In 2024, Public Works did not install any misting stations and plans a status quo approach for 2025. A report to General Issues Committee to respond to council direction for information on feasibility of misting stations as part of the heat strategy will be forthcoming by Public Works staff.

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[21] City of Hamilton. (2024). Hamilton's Community Health Status Report 2024. https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2024-11/publichealth-community-health-status-report-2024.pdf

[22] City of Vancouver, British Columbia. 2023. Stay safe in the summer heat. https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/hot-weather.aspx

Action #10: Transportation
To support heat-vulnerable populations access to cool places (e.g. recreation centres, libraries, public pools, etc.) during extreme heat events, this action focuses on free or discounted transportation.

For 2024, funding was allocated from the Climate Change Reserve to provide 2000 Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Special Purpose Tickets to Public Health Services for distribution. Of the 2000 tickets purchased, 682 tickets were distributed at Recreation Centres and 830 tickets were distributed within Cool Kits.

Public Health Services partnered with the City's Recreation Division to distribute the Special Purpose Tickets at 22 City of Hamilton locations including: Bennetto Community Centre, Coronation Outdoor Pool, Dalewood Recreation Centre, Dundas Community Pool, Kanétskare Recreation Centre, Victoria Park Outdoor Pool, Sir Allan MacNab Recreation Centre, Westmount Recreation Centre, Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, Central Memorial Recreation Centre, Jimmy Thompson Pool, Norman Pinky Lewis Recreation Centre, Sir Winston Churchill Recreation Centre, Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre, Parkdale Outdoor Pool, Stoney Creek Recreation Centre, Hill Park Recreation Centre, Huntington Park Recreation Centre, Inch Park Outdoor Pool, Rosedale Outdoor Pool, Valley Park Community Centre, and Sackville Hill Seniors Recreation Centre.

In 2024, a total of 1512 Special Purpose Tickets were distributed to Hamilton residents with the greatest number of tickets at 426 distributed to residents in postal code areas beginning with L8L in Ward 3. The 488 remaining surplus tickets have been renewed and will be distributed in Cool Kits in 2025.

Conclusion
With a changing climate, there is a need to implement new approaches and technologies as they become available such that we are better equipped to identify heat-vulnerable populations in the city of Hamilton and implement evidence-based heat-related interventions accordingly.

Innovative mapping tools were used to identify areas of greatest vulnerability and greatest exposure to extreme heat and support targeted heat-related interventions in the city of Hamilton. Participants from the focus group discussions held in 2024, reinforced the need for actions in the heat strategy to support air conditioning in homes (Action# 4 Cooling and Energy Efficiency Support), as well as commitments to cooling infrastructure initiatives that support pedestrian thermal comfort during extreme heat events in urban areas of Hamilton (Actions #5, 7, 9, 10).

All actions aside from Action #9 Misting Stations were initiated in 2024. There is continued commitment from all relevant city departments to work collaboratively in 2025 and implement actions outlined in the Hamilton Heat Response Strategy. However, there is uncertainty pertaining to Action #4 (c) Development of draft "Adequate Temperature By-Law" with respect to any planned activities in 2025 and beyond.

Alternatives

Not Applicable.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The recommendations in this report support the following 2022-2026 Council Priorities, Outcomes, and Measures of Success:

1. Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development
   1.3. Accelerate our response to climate change

Previous Reports Submitted

- BOH24010 – Heat Response Strategy
- BOH24005 – Monitoring Heat-Related Deaths and Illnesses in Hamilton
- Communication Update – Special Supports Air Conditioner Subsidy Expansion to Low Income Households

Consultation

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- Robyn Pollard, Manager, Forestry and Horticulture, Environmental Services, Public Works
  Lynda Lukasik, Director, Climate Change Initiatives, Office of Climate Change Initiatives, Planning and Economic Development
- Wes Kindree, Manager, Landscape Architectural Services, Environmental Services, Public Works
- Erica Brimley, Manager, Human Services, Ontario Works, Healthy and Safe Communities
- Filip Pankov, Manager, District Recreation Operations, Recreation, Healthy and Safe Communities
- Gillian Barkovich, Manager, Licensing and By-Laws Services, Planning and Economic Development
- Brent McLeod, Manager/Commander, Hamilton Paramedic Services, Healthy and Safe Communities
- Chris Phillips, Director, Government Relations and Strategy, Government Relations and Community Engagement, City Manager Office
- Ruth Sanderson, Epidemiologist, Public Health Services, Healthy and Safe Communities

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix “A” to BOH25010: Community Heat Response Action Table 2025

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