

## **REPORT**

**REPORT TO:** Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

**REPORT FROM:** Gabriel Clarke – Manager of Sustainability and Climate Change

**DATE:** August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018

**REPORT NO.:** PLS-2018-0071

**RE:** Sustainable Neighbourhoods (Retrofit) Action Plan Project Proposal

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Report No. PLS-2018-0071, dated August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, regarding the Sustainable Neighbourhoods (Retrofit) Action Plan Project Proposal, be received for information;

AND FURTHER THAT The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's request for funding from the Town to support the Hungry Hollow SNAP Project be referred to Budget Committee for further consideration.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is proposing to initiate the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood (Retrofit) Action Plan (SNAP) project in Georgetown. The purpose of SNAP is to work with priority communities to develop an integrated plan that addresses local environmental concerns through targeted outreach and action. CVC identified Georgetown as a priority community due to the presence of a significant natural area within close proximity to neighbourhoods.

CVC's Natural Heritage System has identified an ecologically important landscape within Georgetown called a Centre for Biodiversity (CFB). The Credit River-Hungry Hollow CFB has a particularly high concentration of natural features and high quality habitat. Hungry Hollow and the area surrounding Black Creek, Silver Creek, and the Credit River is a biodiversity hotspot that would benefit from protection, restoration and enhancement from an environmental perspective.

CVC is leading the SNAP project and has requested the Town's participation to share information and resources, coordinate actions, and leverage existing programming and funding. A partnership with CVC would provide the Town with an opportunity to participate in the development and implementation of the action plan from initial project

planning to strategic implementation and will result in a plan that integrates the Town's climate change and sustainability priorities alongside watershed priorities.

CVC's desired outcome for this project is to foster a more sustainable, liveable Georgetown where the environment is healthy and resilient to climate change and the community is aware of and is active in the maintenance, enhancement and appreciation of the Town's biodiverse natural areas.

## **COMMENTS:**

### **SNAP Project Framework:**

The SNAP framework was originally developed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to engage local communities at the neighbourhood level to undertake actions that protect, restore and enhance the local environment. The SNAP framework involves the following:

**Table 1: SNAP Project Milestones**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Project Initiation</b>	<b>Initiate the project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define study boundary</li><li>• Develop partnerships</li><li>• Establish Steering Committee</li></ul>
<b>Milestone 1 Characterization</b>	<b>Understand current environmental conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Characterize the CFB</li><li>• Characterize the surrounding neighbourhoods and population</li><li>• Market research</li><li>• Stakeholder consultation</li><li>• Community engagement</li><li>• Preparation of reports</li></ul>
<b>Milestone 2 Action Plan Development</b>	<b>Define the goals, strategic directions and priority actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate opportunities and benefits</li><li>• Confirm implementation strategies</li><li>• Prepare Concept Plan</li><li>• Stakeholder consultation</li><li>• Community engagement</li></ul>
<b>Milestone 3 Implementation</b>	<b>Collaborate with the community and partners to implement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seek funding opportunities</li><li>• Coordinate implementation activities</li><li>• Monitor implementation</li></ul>
<b>Milestone 4 Evaluation</b>	<b>Measure the results, and evaluate outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compile, analyze and communicate SNAP outcomes</li><li>• Preparation of report</li></ul>

The TRCA has successfully applied the SNAP framework in at least a half a dozen communities across the Greater Toronto Area since it developed the framework. Recognizing its potential, CVC recently adopted the SNAP model as well and initiated the Fletchers Creek SNAP pilot project with the City of Brampton and Region of Peel. CVC would like to build on these successes and initiate a SNAP project in the Hungry Hollow Centre for biodiversity which it views as a priority local and regional natural asset.

### **Partnership Proposal:**

CVC anticipates that the Town would participate in the SNAP project in the following capacity:

- Town staff would work closely with CVC to coordinate project activities, build connections with the Town, coordinate funding, attend meetings, and make recommendations to Council at key milestones
- Town staff would participate on the Steering Committee to guide the project and review deliverables
- Town staff would participate in scoped consultations to provide input on municipal priorities, issues and opportunities
- Town staff would provide assistance with promotion of SNAP events (i.e. marquee signs, website, mail-outs, online tactics and social media, etc.)
- The Town would provide data, mapping, and relevant background studies (i.e. water, energy demand, mapping layers, etc.)
- The Town would provide financial support and/or help securing external funding

For its part, CVC has committed to dedicating \$203,094.00 worth of cash and in-kind contributions to the Hungry Hollow SNAP project to complete Milestones 1 and 2 over the course of 2 years.

### **Current Status**

CVC has presented the SNAP concept to the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee in the winter of 2017/18, and based on the feedback received, staff have submitted a project proposal as part of the draft 2019 Capital Budget. The capital budget request would supplement the \$203,094.00 of cash and in-kind contributions that CVC has committed to this project by providing \$15,000.00/year over a 2 year

period to complete Milestones 1 and 2 (site characterization and action plan development).

### Relationship to the Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (2004)

Council will recall that the Town undertook the Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (HHRMP) several years ago. Staff sought clarification from CVC staff on the relationship between the HHRMP and SNAP. Table 2 below provides a comparison between the HHRMP and the proposed Georgetown SNAP project.

**Table 2: Georgetown SNAP vs. Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan**

Plan	Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (2004)	Georgetown SNAP Project
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide a comprehensive review of the Town-owned portion of the ravine and develop a course of action to guide its long-term stewardship into the future.	To develop a targeted and action-oriented plan for implementing environmental improvements and building resilience to climate change on public and private lands in priority neighbourhoods (Milestones 1 & 2).
<b>Study Boundary</b>	Lands exclusively in public ownership between Main St. and Hwy. 7	Lands in public and private ownership within, and in close proximity to the Hungry Hollow CFB (Final boundaries to be determined through engagement)
<b>Scope of Work</b>	<p><b>Natural Heritage Characterization</b> Characterization of the municipally-owned portion of the Hungry Hollow CFB.</p> <p><b>Management Plan</b> Identification of actions and public areas for protection, restoration, rehabilitation, buffers, trail system, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Plan</li> <li>• Financial Plan</li> <li>• Monitoring Plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Milestone 1: Characterization</b> Characterization of the Hungry Hollow CFB and neighbourhood (including demographics and market research); vision, goals and strategic directions to guide Action Plan development</p> <p><b>Milestone 2: Action Planning</b> Identification of actions for urban renewal and climate action on public and private land (i.e. retrofits, restoration, education/awareness campaigns, stewardship activities, events, etc.); implementation strategy for intense, short term action assigned to specific partners/community groups/community members.</p>

## **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The SNAP project proposal is directly related to, and has the potential to advance the Town's Strategic Plan and its sustainability focus, including these Council priorities:

- 5B Collaborate with community partners to continue to implement the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy
- 5F Implement the Mayor's Community Energy Plan

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Although there are no direct financial implications associated with this information report, Town staff have included a request in the draft 2019 Capital budget to provide a CVC with a total of \$30,000.00 over a 2 year period to support the development of the SNAP action plan.

## **CONSULTATION:**

The Town Sustainability Implementation Committee were consulted in the winter of 2017/18. The Town's Senior Management Team was consulted in April 2018.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

There are no direct public engagement implications associated with this report. However, should the SNAP project proposal be approved for inclusion in the final 2019 Capital Budget, a communications and engagement campaign would be developed in close consultation with CVC and the Town's Corporate Communications team and launched in early 2019 to bring the Hungry Hollow SNAP project to the community's attention and to solicit input and participation from residents, businesses and local stakeholders during the completion of Milestones 1 and 2.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP project has the potential to directly contribute to the Strategy's implementation. The plan development component of the project will enable the Town to explore and identify suitable actions that can help the community mitigate and adapt to climate change while enhancing the local environment, biodiversity and the Town's quality of life. In addition, the participatory aspect of the project, whereby residents would have an opportunity to build a customized plan and undertake actions as a community in their neighbourhoods would foster social interactions, build local relationships and enhance the sense of place in Halton Hills.

This report supports the environmental health, and Social Wellbeing pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is very good.

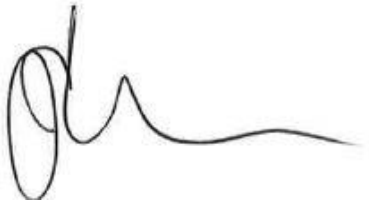
#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

There are no direct communications implications associated with this report beyond those outlined above in the public engagement section of this report.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has initiated the Hungry Hollow SNAP environmental stewardship project and requested that the Town become a partner and support the initiative. In response, Town staff has prepared this information Report to inform Council of the request and have submitted a project proposal as part of the 2019 Capital Budget process which if approved, would provide funding to support the completion of Milestones 1 and 2.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Linhardt', with a stylized, flowing script.

**John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Marshall', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Brent Marshall, CAO**