



## **REPORT**

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

**REPORT FROM:** Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

**DATE:** October 7, 2020

**REPORT NO.:** ADMIN-2020-0036

**RE:** Hungry Hollow - Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Report No. PLS-2020-0036, dated September 29, 2020, regarding the Hungry Hollow-Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) including Appendix 1 and 2, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Hungry Hollow – Background Report and Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), attached as Appendix 1 and 2, be endorsed and promoted throughout the community;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report and the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) be forwarded electronically to Halton Region, City of Burlington, and the Towns of Oakville and Milton for their information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

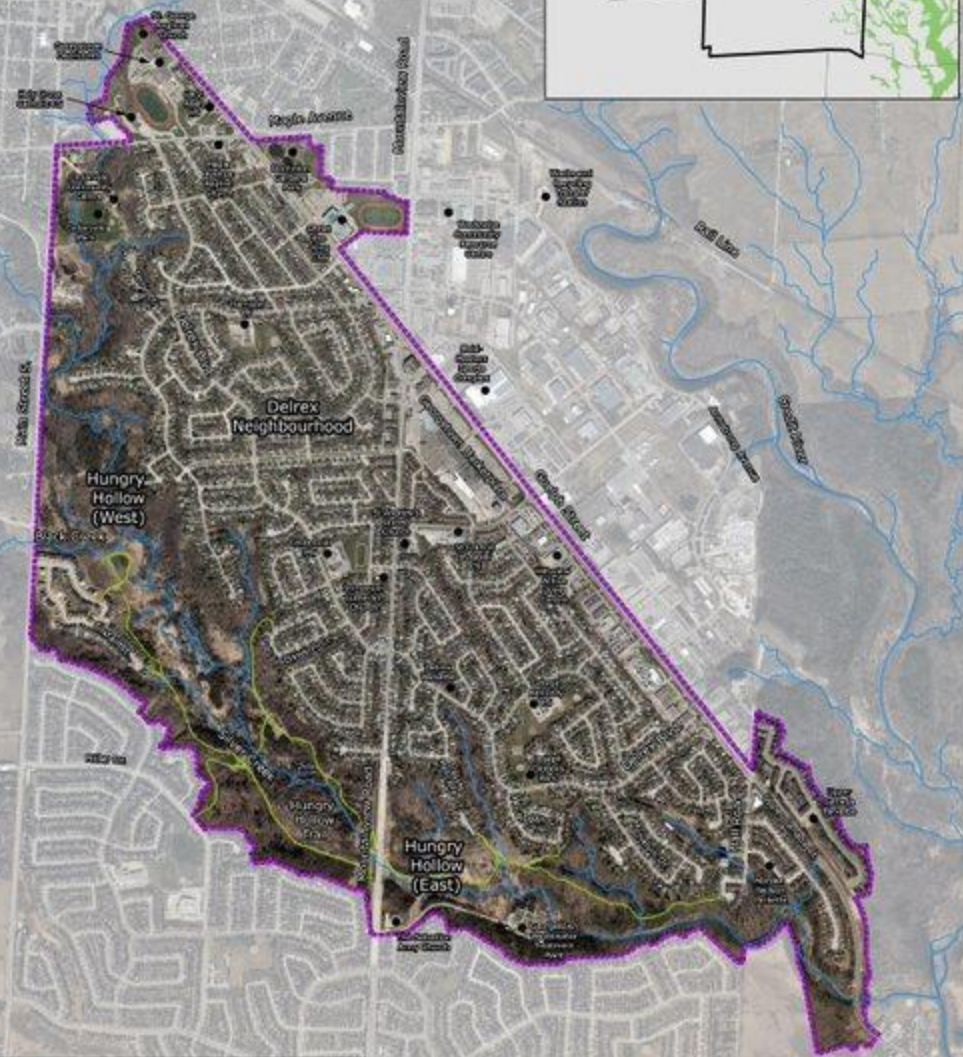
In 2017, the Hungry-Hollow - SNAP project was approved by Council through Report PLS-2017-0071 and directed the Town's Office of Sustainability to partner with CVC to develop a sustainable neighbourhood action plan for the area adjacent to Hungry Hollow. More specifically, the project area is located in central Georgetown and is bounded by Eighth Line, Maple Avenue and Guelph Street, extending to the southern limit of the Hungry Hollow ravine. Shown below are the boundary and neighbourhood of the Hungry-Hollow SNAP area.

# Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood

Credit River Watershed  
Natural Heritage System

Town of Halton Hills

Hungry  
Hollow  
SNAP



Source: Credit Valley Conservation, 2007  
Checked: March 2014

In May 2018, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and the Town of Halton Hills signed a two-year Agreement totalling \$30,000.00, to develop a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) for the urban area north of Hungry Hollow in Georgetown, known as the Delrex area.

There are approximately 10,000 people living in the Delrex area which consists of businesses, faith based organizations, single and semi-detached houses and low-rise buildings. There are six large parks and parkettes, eight schools, five places of worship and two community centres. Over 300 businesses, concentrated mostly along Guelph Street as well as home-based within the neighbourhood, provide a wide range of products and services to the community.

Through this project a variety of opportunities are identified in the Hungry Hollow - SNAP area including:

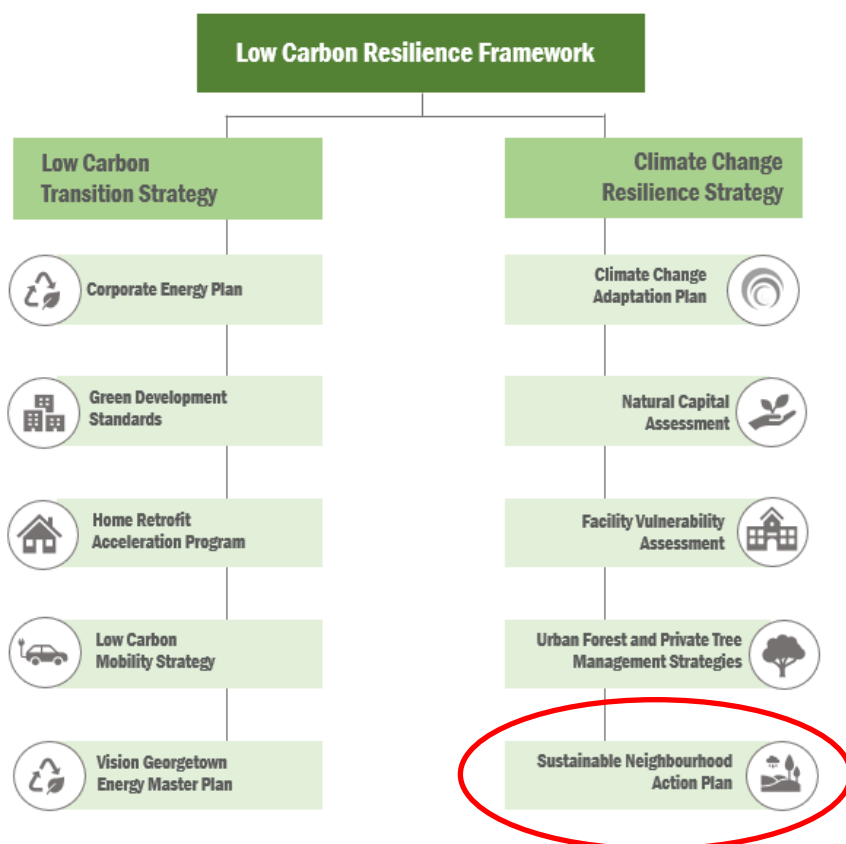
- Protecting and enhancing natural areas through invasive species management;
- Protecting sensitive natural areas from human disturbances;
- Upgrading stormwater management infrastructure;
- Enhancing urban forest and canopy cover distribution;
- Increasing ecological value and functionality of neighbourhood parks and streetscapes; and
- Addressing local intensification and traffic and enhance accessibility for all.

Hungry Hollow is a biodiversity 'hotspot' and is recognized in CVC's Credit River Natural Heritage System Strategy for the ecological features and functions capable of supporting native biodiversity in the long-term. The Town also recognizes the environmental importance of Hungry Hollow through Council approved plans and strategies including the most recently approved Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

The Hungry Hollow - SNAP project was led by a Steering Committee with representatives from CVC, Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region, and Halton Conservation. There were many public and corporate consultations and engagement sessions including:

- Over 400 residents in person and online;
- Members of Halton Hills Council;
- Representatives from several community groups have been engaged through neighbourhood events, presentations, and individual conversations, Halton Hills Let's Talk, and online social media; and
- Municipal, regional and conservation authorities representing many related areas including water and waste management, recreation and parks, community development, climate change adaptation, roads, engineering and construction, transportation planning, energy planning, public works, policy and development planning, landscape architecture, landowner and community outreach and restoration.

The SNAP project aligns with the Town's Low Carbon Resilience Framework to respond to Climate Change Emergency declared in May 2019. The SNAP project is an integral part of the Town's Climate Change Resilience Strategy to adapt to climate change and build a resilient community as shown in the diagram below.



## COMMENTS:

The Hungry-Hollow SNAP project targets the subdivision area north of Hungry Hollow that was built 50 years ago. Through this project, opportunities and challenges were identified to take a multi-disciplinary approach including:

- documenting current neighbourhood conditions;
- setting local sustainability targets;
- identifying programs and projects that achieve multiple benefits;
- evaluating retrofitting, restoring, and engaging opportunities;
- identifying opportunities for collaboration;
- implementing retrofitting, restoring, and engaging programs and projects; and
- measuring change over time.

The vision for the Hungry Hollow – SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with diverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by residents and community members. Two documents were developed to support this vision and they are attached to this report as Appendix 1 and 2.

The first document developed is the Hungry Hollow - SNAP Background Report and its purposes are as follows:

- profiling existing conditions in the project area;
- documenting consultation, social market research, and community engagement activities for this project;
- highlighting the diversity of existing work, sustainability and climate change plans and programs at the watershed, municipal, and regional scale; and
- integrating diverse sectors and stakeholder interests building resilient local neighbourhoods backed by local champions.

The second document developed is the Hungry Hollow - Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan that will inspire and empower residents and local leaders to work together in building a resilient, climate change-ready neighbourhood. Hungry Hollow - SNAP is a targeted and comprehensive plan for implementing environmental actions that protect and enhance the many natural assets found in Halton Hills. There are twenty-eight recommended actions focusing on: stewardship of natural areas, enhancements in the public realm, sustainable actions on private properties, and robust community engagement. The Actions are outlined in the Plan and organized under five place-based goals for the neighbourhood:

1. Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek
2. Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces
3. Connected Streets and Infrastructure
4. Resilient Homes and Businesses
5. Strong Schools and Community

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The recommendation within this Report supports the Town's values as outlined in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, namely to Foster a Healthy Community and to Preserve, Protect and Enhance our Environment. The SNAP project aligns directly with the following priorities/focus areas:

- shaping growth
- climate change and the environment
- transportation
- fiscal and corporate management
- youth and senior initiatives

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial impacts associated with this report moving forward. Funding for further projects will be sought where projects align.

## CONSULTATION:

Consultation for the development of the SNAP-Hungry Hollow included:

- Residents, school representatives, businesses, community groups, the general public and members of Town Council through online opportunities as outlined in this report.
- CVC and Town staff were consulted in the development of this Plan through a partnered workshop, emails, and through opportunities to review and comment on the drafts of the Hungry Hollow – Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan Background Report and the final Plan.
- Town staff representatives on the Steering Committee included:
  - Heather Kaufmann, Community Development Supervisor - Volunteer and Community Group Support, Recreation and Parks.
  - Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator, Climate Change and Asset Management, CAO's Office.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public engagement was undertaken throughout the development of Hungry-Hollow SNAP. As mentioned previously, engagement occurred in-person, and online with Town and CVC staff. In addition, public engagement included over 400 residents, and representatives from several community groups. Engagement methods were adjusted due to Covid-19 provincial regulations; however engagement was successful and is shown in the Table 1 below through neighbourhood events, individual conversations, online surveys and open houses.

**Table 1:**

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Hungry Hollow Ravine Walk, in-person	October 14, 2017	33
Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood Walk n' Talk Delrex-Cedarvale Area, in-person	October 26, 2019	30
Public Open House #1, in-person	November 7, 2019	50
Let's Talk Survey #1, online	December, 2019	115
Public Open House #2, virtual	June 10, 2020	41
Online Survey #2, virtual	May-June, 2020	166

## **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 recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation. The Hungry Hollow - Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan will contribute to the Strategy's implementation. The Plan identifies actions that can help the community mitigate and adapt to climate change which enhances the environmental health pillar of Halton Hills. In addition, the Plan supports the other three pillars of sustainability: cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity and social well-being.

This report supports four pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Excellent.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

There will be ongoing communication through the Town's website as well as the Town's other communication channels primarily to engage, educate and raise awareness in the community on the Hungry Hollow - Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan. Communications with Credit Valley Conservation, community groups, schools, businesses and residents to develop partnerships and ensure a successful implementation of the Plan.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Hungry Hollow- SNAP identifies strategic actions needed to protect and support natural features in Hungry Hollow that will benefit Halton Hills overall well-being. This Plan connects people with nature and brings awareness to the importance of Hungry Hollow. The Hungry Hollow – Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan is an important initiative that supports the Town’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The Plan supports the Town’s Low Carbon Resilience Framework that will guide Halton Hills to become a carbon neutral community by 2030 while building community resiliency to adapt to climate change impacts.

Reviewed and Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dharmen Dhaliah', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager of Climate Change and Asset Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cockfield', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Richard Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mills', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer