

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan



Hungry Hollow SNAP



Prepared by: Credit Valley Conservation
Prepared for: Town of Halton Hills

September 2020

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan establishes the collaborative vision and priority actions recommended for neighbourhood climate resilience and sustainability. It provides a framework for measuring progress and shared success.

Thank you to the Project Steering Committee for expertise and guidance on the development of this Action Plan.

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A Message from Mayor Rick Bonnette

July 2020

In May 2019, Halton Hills Town Council declared a climate change emergency. Through adoption of this declaration, the Town committed to taking concrete actions to achieve a net-zero emissions target by 2030.

We recognize that working together with partners such as the Credit Valley Conservation and members of the community will be imperative to achieving such an ambitious yet important target. The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is one of the ways that we can work towards our goal by identifying clear steps we can take to help us adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

While the scope of this plan is at the neighbourhood scale, the actions put forward by are well aligned with Town-wide priorities and will make an impact that is felt well beyond the project's specific focus area. Hungry Hollow ravine is an important natural resource that is enjoyed by residents from across Halton Hills, and its protection and enhancement benefits us all.

We all have a role to play in ensuring the success of this project. By working together, we can foster a greener, cleaner Hungry Hollow and Delrex neighbourhood, and in doing so protect and preserve the Town's natural assets and ecosystems now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Rick Bonnette
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

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Message from Deborah Martin-Downs CAO, Credit Valley Conservation

At Credit Valley Conservation, we aim to inspire a deep appreciation for the role of nature in keeping us all connected, healthy and happy. This resonates throughout the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), which lays out the path to a climate-resilient Delrex neighbourhood and Hungry Hollow ravine championed by caring community members.

With the impacts of climate change being felt ever more intensely at the local level, more of us are recognizing the true value of our natural areas and green spaces as sources of collective well-being. Furthermore, we are realizing that the actions we take at our homes, businesses, schools and other community institutions can contribute to improving our own health and that of the natural environment around us. Working at the neighbourhood scale, we have potential to make swift and impactful progress on the ground.

Resilient neighbourhoods are forged through collaboration. The Hungry Hollow SNAP was developed in consultation with the community and aligns with local opportunities and priorities. This plan will empower those who live, work and play in the area to take an active role in building an environmentally sustainable future.

We look forward to working with project partners, residents and other local stakeholders to achieve the goals outlined in this plan. We hope you will be inspired to connect with us as we create a healthier tomorrow together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Martin-Downs".

Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer
Credit Valley Conservation

Executive Summary

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a comprehensive approach to urban renewal and climate action at the neighbourhood scale where residents, businesses, institutions and community partners plan and implement locally tailored, sustainable solutions that achieve measurable outcomes and deliver co-benefits such as community resilience, sustainability, health and well-being.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP is the first of its kind for Town of Halton Hills and describes the shared vision and priority actions for local climate resilience and sustainability in Hungry Hollow ravine and the Delrex neighbourhood in central Georgetown. The plan responds directly to opportunities to protect and enhance natural areas (with a special focus on the **Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity**, a unique landscape that is a vital reservoir for biodiversity in the Credit River Watershed), upgrade stormwater management infrastructure, strengthen the urban forest and foster an environment in which a safe, healthy and engaged community can thrive. It also provides a framework for measuring progress and sharing success and aligns with the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan as a key initiative supporting the Community Resilience implementation theme area.

Residents and local stakeholders were actively engaged in the development of an action plan that not only supports important environmental objectives but also meets local needs. Twenty-eight recommended actions centre around stewardship of natural areas, enhancements in the public realm, sustainable actions on private properties and robust community engagement. Actions are 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

Implementation of this plan will commence in 2021, led by Credit Valley Conservation and the Town of Halton Hills in collaboration with Halton Region as well as other partners, community groups and residents. The Hungry Hollow SNAP is an important step towards a more sustainable and climate resilient neighbourhood. In bringing this plan to life, impactful on-the-ground change will follow.

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Introduction

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a comprehensive approach to urban renewal and climate action at the neighbourhood scale where residents, businesses, institutions and community partners plan and implement locally tailored, sustainable solutions that achieve measurable outcomes and deliver co-benefits such as community resilience, sustainability, health and well-being.



View of the homes in Delrex neighbourhood atop Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo credit: CVC

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), in partnership with Town of Halton Hills ("The Town"), has developed the Hungry Hollow SNAP in consultation with Halton Region, Conservation Halton, local residents, businesses and community groups.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP focus area covers 580 ha of land within the Silver Creek and Black Creek subwatersheds. It contains both the Delrex neighbourhood of Georgetown and part of the **Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity** -- a significant natural area that boasts invaluable biodiversity, supports community well-being and warrants targeted protection and enhancement.

This plan proposes actions that respond to the local needs and opportunities identified through community consultation and advances shared objectives of project partners. Addressing climate change is a major priority locally: The Town declared a [Climate Emergency in 2019](#) and has recently completed development of its [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#). With the impacts of a changing climate being felt more and more profoundly at the local level, the SNAP aligns with the Town's declaration and presents strategies for adaptation and mitigation at the neighbourhood scale.

In addition, Hungry Hollow SNAP advances recommendations of relevant municipal and regional strategies and plans, including:

- [Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(Town of Halton Hills, 2020\)](#)
- [Imagine Halton Hills – Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy \(Town of Halton Hills, 2013\)](#)
- [Silver Creek Subwatershed Study \(Credit Valley Conservation, 2003\)](#)
- [Black Creek Subwatershed Study, Phase 3 \(Credit Valley Conservation, 2020\)](#)
- Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (Town of Halton Hills, 2004)
- [Active Living Strategy \(Town of Halton Hills, 2016\)](#)
- [Mayor's Community Energy Plan \(Town of Halton Hills, 2015\)](#)
- [Sustainable Halton Water & Wastewater Master Plan \(Halton Region, 2011–2031\)](#)

Through its implementation, this plan will engage partners and the public in innovative ways to meet multiple goals.



**Hungry Hollow ravine and Silver Creek provide significant recreational, health and environmental benefits to the community and help build local resilience to climate change.
Photo Credit: CVC**

The Neighbourhood

Located in central Georgetown, the Hungry Hollow SNAP area is bounded roughly by Main Street South and Guelph Street, extending to the southern limit of the Hungry Hollow ravine. **Figure 1** depicts the study area and highlights its position within Halton Hills and the Credit River Watershed Natural Heritage System.

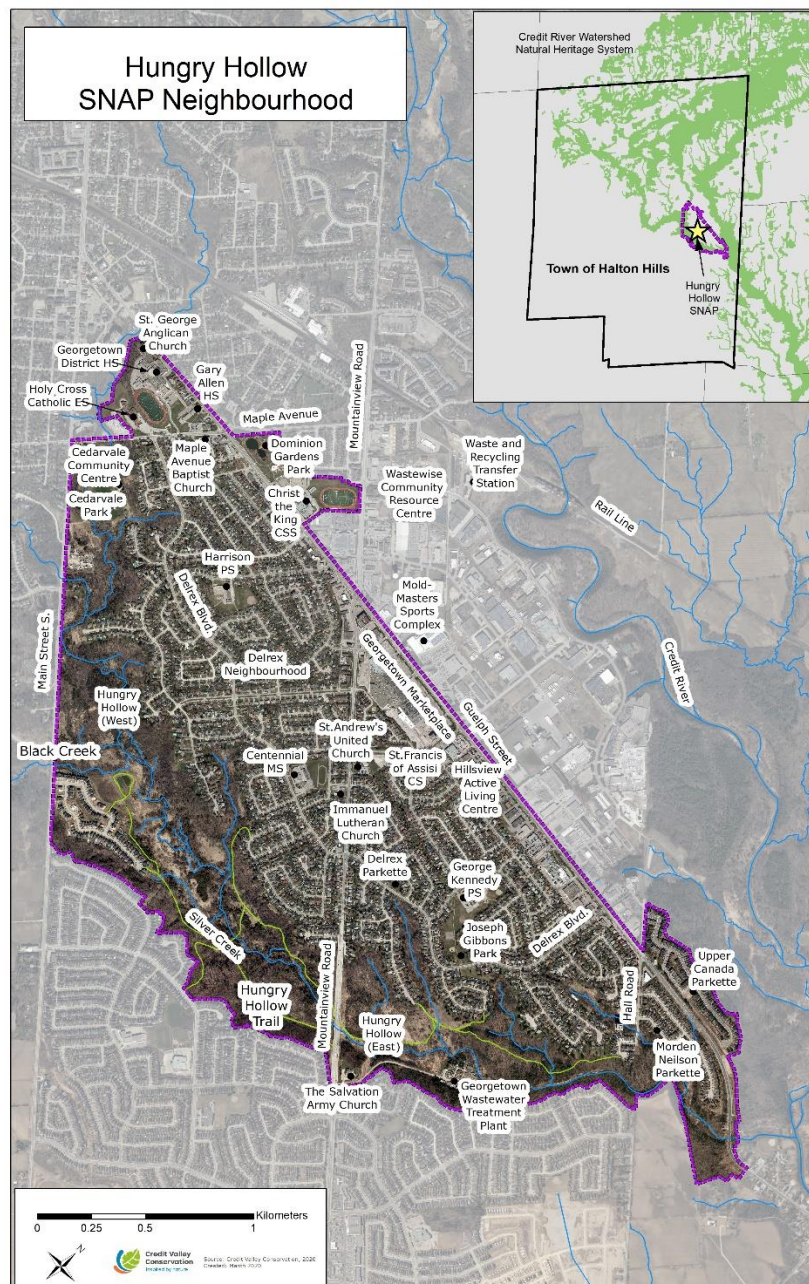


Figure 1. Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood, Halton Hills, Ontario

As outlined in **Box 1**, the Delrex neighbourhood is home to over 10,000 people living primarily in single and semi-detached houses and low-rise buildings. These homes are interspersed with 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.

Residents here live slower-paced, suburban lives keeping active, enjoying the outdoors, maintaining their homes and visiting nearby amenities. They value small town living, mature trees and serene settings, access to nature, active living, quiet/calmness and opportunities to get involved locally.

This neighbourhood was largely built in the 1950s, and like many older neighbourhoods it lacks modern stormwater management controls. Stormwater runoff moves across large impervious surfaces throughout the neighbourhood and is outlet, untreated, directly into smaller ravines and intermittent streams flowing into Silver Creek. As such, there is little to no opportunity for natural hydrologic functions to occur (such as infiltration, groundwater recharge and evapotranspiration).

Box 1. Neighbourhood Profile

Study area:

- 580 ha
- Bounded roughly by Main Street South and Guelph Street, extending to southern limit of Hungry Hollow ravine

Land use:

- Low-medium density residential: 47 %
- High density residential: 2 %
- High rise residential: 0.3 %
- Natural environment: 33 %
- Commercial/industrial: 7 %
- Parks and Open Space: 4 %
- Roads: 4 %
- Educational/Institutional: 3 %

Demographics (2019 projection by Environics based on 2016 census data):

- Population: 10,205
- Largest age groups:
 - 28 % Boomers
 - 25 % Millennials
 - 19 % Gen X
- Immigrants: 14 %
- Mother Tongue: English (88 %)
- Average Household Income: \$115,411
- Dwellings: 86 % owned, 14 % rented



Snapshots of low, medium and high-density residential areas in the Delrex neighbourhood.
Photo Credit: CVC



Majestic older trees along streets and in private yards are at risk due to natural decline and several urban stresses. Photo Credit: CVC



Typical linear green space linking the neighbourhood and Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC



Hungry Hollow ravine is a valued and actively used natural area and reservoir of biodiversity in the watershed. Photo Credit: CVC

The urban forest here is aging and has been impacted by pests and severe storms, making it more susceptible to decline. Canopy cover is unevenly distributed throughout the neighbourhood and shade is lacking in areas such as playgrounds, school grounds and along sidewalks. Many parks and open spaces contribute minimally to local biodiversity and natural habitat due to their manicured state.

This neighbourhood is closely connected to Hungry Hollow ravine, a largely undeveloped, publicly owned ravine containing trails used for recreation and surrounded by existing development on the adjacent tablelands. Hundreds of residential properties back directly onto the ravine, several smaller ravines extend like fingers into the neighbourhood and a series of trail access points give residents direct entry into the natural area. More information about Hungry Hollow ravine can be found in **Box 2** below.

To ensure Hungry Hollow ravine continues to thrive and provide ecosystem services to the local community, action must be taken to protect and enhance its natural habitats. Threats to biodiversity include invasive species found throughout the ravine as well as in gardens, parks and other green spaces throughout the neighbourhood; human disturbances such as unsanctioned trails and yard waste dumping; limited or absent riparian vegetation along sections of Silver Creek; and erosion due in part to heavy uncontrolled stormwater runoff.

Box 2. Hungry Hollow Ravine – A Local Natural Gem

The Delrex neighbourhood is closely connected to Hungry Hollow ravine, a publicly owned ravine through which Silver Creek and a portion of Black Creek flow. This natural area is valued and actively used by community members for recreation and connecting with nature.

Hungry Hollow ravine is part of the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. A Centre for Biodiversity (CFB) is made up of critical habitat of watershed importance and strategic areas for restoration and enhancement. These unique landscapes include examples of different physiographic regions and soil types and support diverse combinations of communities and species. As such, they are vital reservoirs of biodiversity; in this CFB alone, there are 16 species-at-risk, 10 provincially rare species, 63 regionally rare species and 97 locally rare species. **Figure 2** depicts the location of Hungry Hollow SNAP within the CFB.

The natural assets found within Hungry Hollow ravine and the wider SNAP neighbourhood provide many ecosystem services to residents. These include air purification and carbon sequestration by urban trees and forests, reduced flood impacts by wetlands and recreational and tourism opportunities by parks and other green spaces. In turn, an engaged community with a shared sense of ownership – which is already emerging in this neighbourhood -- is required to ensure long-term protection and enhancement of this natural jewel.



Silver Creek provides some of the best coldwater fish habitat in the Credit River Watershed. Photo Credit: CVC



Redside Dace, a provincially and nationally endangered fish, is one of several significant species occurring in the natural habitat of Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC



Residents stay active by walking their dogs and using nearby Hungry Hollow Trail. Photo Credit: CVC

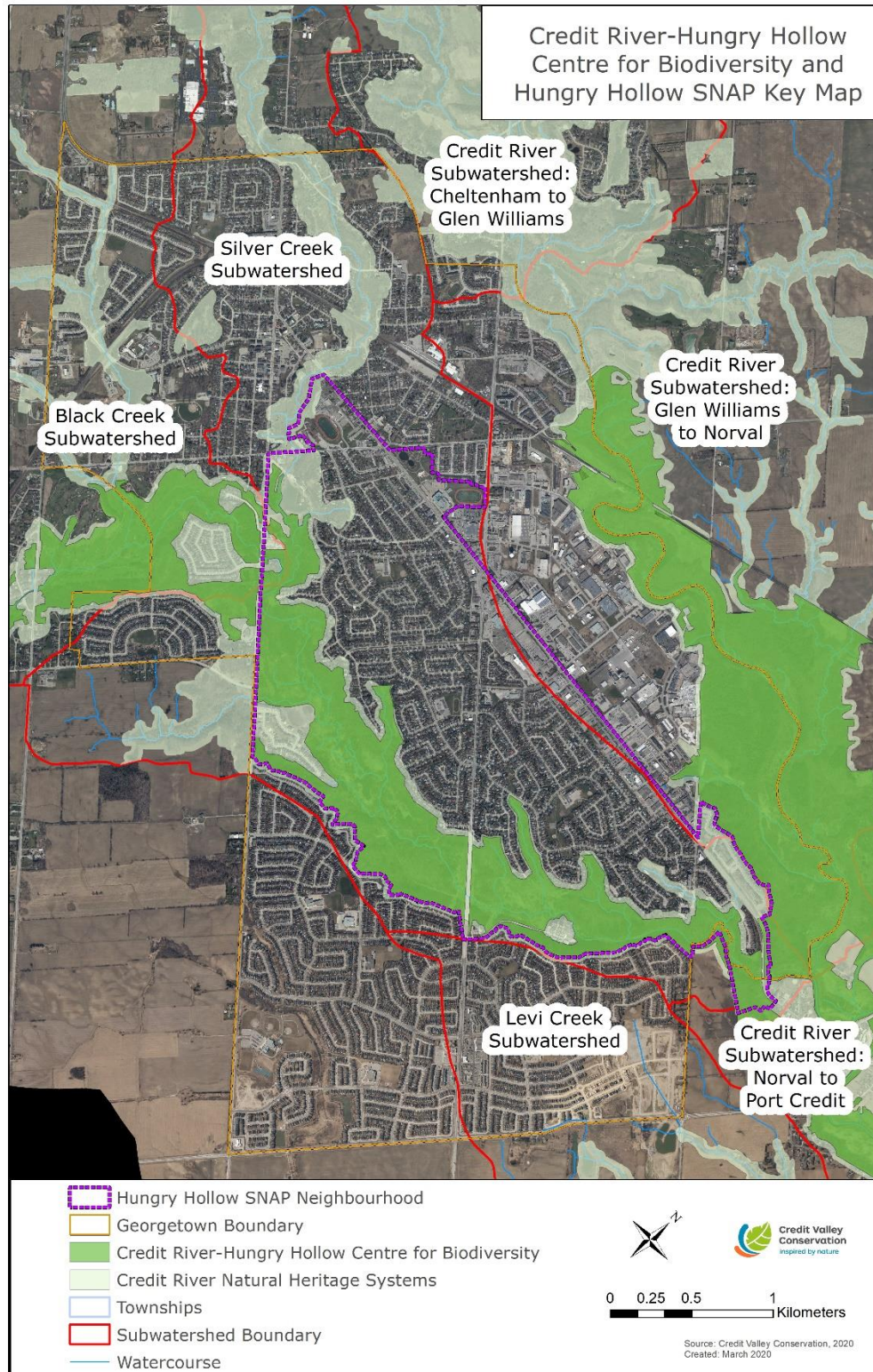


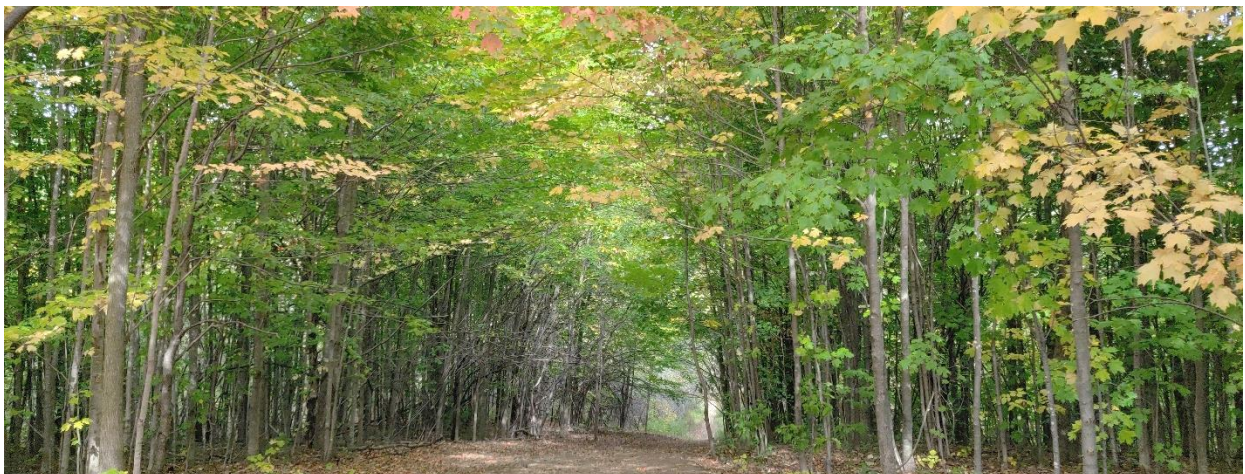
Figure 2. Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and Hungry Hollow

Residents value and have expressed concern for the health of the local natural environment, including the creeks, rivers, forests and wildlife in the area. They depend on the Hungry Hollow ravine for recreation and nature appreciation. Community members would like to see beautification and revitalization of parks, schools grounds and streetscapes. Residents, especially families and seniors, have also expressed interest in increasing neighbourhood walkability, safety and accessibility, which would allow them to make more comfortable local trips to nearby natural spaces and local amenities.

Current neighbourhood conditions, related environmental needs and community and stakeholder engagement records are documented in detail in the **Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020)**. A list of top local opportunities for restoration and retrofits, generated in response to these conditions, needs and feedback can be found in **Box 3**.

Box 3. Top Local Opportunities

- Protect and enhance natural areas through invasive species management
- Protect sensitive natural areas from human disturbances
- Upgrade stormwater management infrastructure
- Enhance urban forest and canopy cover distribution
- Increase ecological value and functionality of neighbourhood parks and streetscapes
- Address local intensification and traffic and enhance accessibility for all



Forests within Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC

Building the Action Plan

This Action Plan is the culmination of a multi-year planning process that included detailed study of the neighbourhood, extensive community and stakeholder engagement, and development and careful refinement of a vision, goals and actions, as illustrated in **Figure 3** below.



Figure 3. Hungry Hollow SNAP Project Milestones

Addressing urban renewal and climate resilience at the neighbourhood-scale is dependent upon deep collaboration between partners and engagement from residents and community members.

Climate change and environmental sustainability crosses boundaries between agencies and this project needed the guidance of a multi-disciplinary team representative of key partners with a shared interest in achieving a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood. CVC and the Town partnered to lead the SNAP Steering Committee, providing overall leadership, strategic guidance, direction and support for the project, along with representatives from Halton Region and Conservation Halton. Meetings were aligned with key milestones throughout the action planning process. In addition, over 30 staff from these partner agencies and members of the Town Council were consulted during the action planning process.



Residents, representatives from community groups, members of the Town Council and staff participated in a neighbourhood events to discuss local opportunities and hidden gems. Photo Credit: CVC



Select public comments received during community consultations on the future of Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood. Image Credit: CVC

The action planning process was built upon on a strong understanding of the community and ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders and residents. Social research, staff and stakeholder workshops, neighbourhood walks, in-person and virtual public open houses and online surveys provided multiple opportunities for this engaged and informed community to provide their input on the Action Plan as it was being developed. Over 400 people were engaged via six events and online surveys between 2017-2020.

The information collected through these engagements has helped to shape the recommendations and proposed actions in this Action Plan and, along with on-going communication with the community, it will inform how the public is engaged in the implementation of the plan in the years to come.

The Vision for Hungry Hollow SNAP

Inspired by the aspirations of residents and community members, the vision statement below presents a bold and forward-looking declaration for the Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood. It envisions an empowered community actively engaged in protecting and enhancing the vital natural assets found in the project area.

Vision Statement

The Hungry Hollow SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with biodiverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by caring, connected residents and community members.

Hungry Hollow SNAP Goals and Concept Map

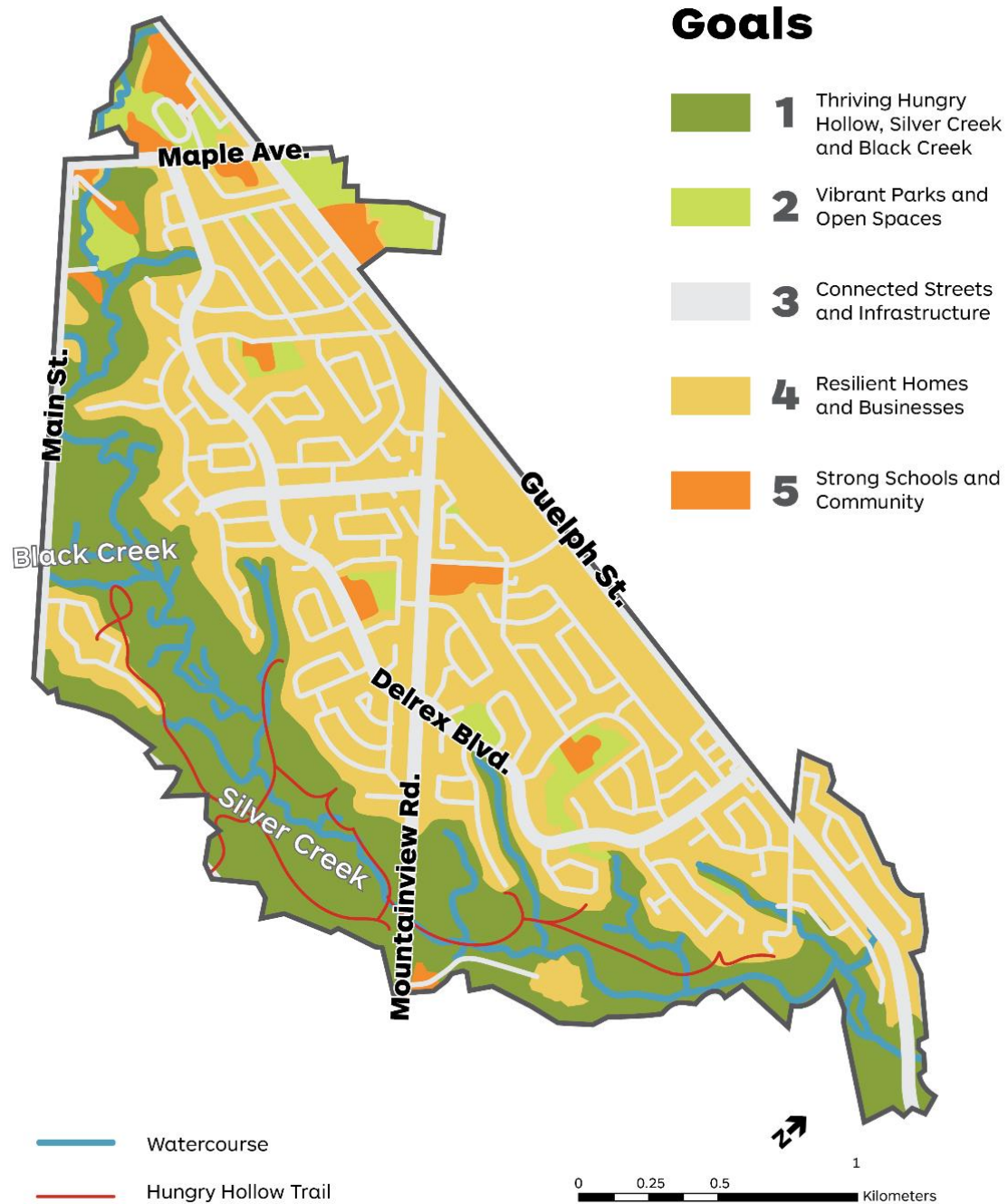
Emerging from this vision, five goals provide a framework for the Hungry Hollow SNAP. These place-based goals have been designed to facilitate the protection of that which is most valued by the residents and community members.

Goals

- 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**

The Concept Map for the project neighbourhood (**Figure 4**) illustrates the five goals. The map serves as a visualization tool to display specifically where each proposed goal, and its associated actions, will bring focus and attention within the Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood. Note that this map is for illustrative purposes only and further analysis will be needed to plan for each given action and associated projects.

Hungry Hollow SNAP Concept Map



Note: This map is for illustrative purpose only

Figure 4. Hungry Hollow SNAP Concept Map

Actions

Twenty-eight strategic actions have been developed in close partnership with the public, community leaders, technical experts and community groups that outline retrofits and enhancements within the neighbourhood where opportunities and needs are greatest and have high potential for co-benefits. These recommendations are based on analysis of the over 800 comments received from these parties, as well as scientific data, findings from site visits, and priorities identified in local municipal and regional strategies and watershed restoration plans. The result is focused, on-the-ground actions in areas such as climate change, natural asset management, community engagement and long-term neighbourhood sustainability.



View of Hungry Hollow ravine from Mountainview Road. Photo Credit: CVC

Goal 1 – Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek

Valleylands that sustain flourishing natural habitats, vital freshwater creeks and invaluable native biodiversity while supporting active lifestyles, community well-being and nature appreciation.



Actions proposed for Hungry Hollow ravine focus on protecting and restoring the unique and valued ecosystems of the Centre for Biodiversity, which provide numerous benefits to the local community (image for illustrative purposes only). Image credit: CVC.

Hungry Hollow ravine (with Silver Creek and portions of Black Creek) is part of the larger Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. It contains important high-quality forests, wetlands and cool and coldwater streams that support a high diversity of plants and animals (**Box 3**). These natural assets serve as living green infrastructure providing vital ecosystem services such as improved air quality, urban heat island mitigation, flood and erosion control and carbon sequestration.

The ravine also provides residents with access to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities close to home, with many regularly making use of Hungry Hollow trail that winds through parts of this this unique natural area. Residents and community members feel strongly about protecting and enhancing the ravine for their own use,

as well as to preserve the immense educational, natural and community connection benefits for future generations.

The seven actions below focus on restoring natural habitats, managing invasive species, increasing educational and stewardship opportunities, supporting active lifestyles and promoting residents' appreciation of Hungry Hollow Ravine.

Goal 1 Actions

- 1.1 Implement invasive species and integrated pest management projects for priority species throughout Hungry Hollow ravine.
- 1.2 Connect Hungry Hollow Trail to Cedarvale Park while minimizing impacts on sensitive natural areas.
- 1.3 Conduct plantings and habitat restoration in Hungry Hollow ravine to increase habitat size, improve habitat connectivity and quality and reduce or eliminate unsanctioned trails.
- 1.4 Mitigate erosion along stream banks and steep valley slopes through riparian plantings and stream restoration to improve aquatic habitat, prioritizing high impact sites such as Silver Creek at Cedarvale Park.
- 1.5 Clean and repair outfalls draining stormwater into Silver Creek and other tributaries.
- 1.6 Install a series of interpretative and directional signs and self-guided activities at Hungry Hollow trail heads and at select locations within the ravine.
- 1.7 Increase on-the-ground action and a sense of collective ownership and connection with the ravine by hosting a variety of events within Hungry Hollow ravine for community, school and business groups.

Goal 2 – Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces

A network of multi-use parks and open spaces that link and restore natural systems where neighbours and families gather together to play, learn and enjoy time outdoors.



View of a native pollinator garden planted in nearby McNab Park in spring 2020 through a partnership between Katherine Shaw (local resident and Butterflyway Ranger) and the Town of Halton Hills with support from the David Suzuki Foundation, Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club and Norval Community Association. Photo Credit: Katherine Shaw

The Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood is home to Georgetown's signature parks such as Cedarvale Park and Dominion Gardens Park, as well as beloved local parks such as Joseph Gibbons Park, Delrex Parkette, Morden Neilson Parkette, Upper Canada Parkette and Kinsmen Park. Several parks and open spaces on the tablelands physically connect to the wooded areas of Hungry Hollow ravine via trails and formal or informal paths, and their ecological health is linked with that of the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. Many greenspaces also carry buried stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure and lead to outfalls, drainage channels and intermittent tributaries in Hungry Hollow ravine.

These spaces are highly valued in this neighbourhood. Residents regularly exercise their dogs, walk and cycle through these connected spaces. They are used for informal gathering, recreation and play time, as well as natural cooling areas by families. Residents and experts have highlighted these areas as potential spaces for

community transformation and implementation of local solutions for climate adaptation. Through the consultation process, residents and experts expressed their interest in fostering wildlife habitat and corridors, managing stormwater, increasing urban forest canopy cover, establishing community gardens, hosting public events and adding art and educational signs in these areas.

Five actions below focus on increasing the ecological value and functioning of these spaces, providing education and stewardship opportunities for broader community involvement, animating parks through various existing programs and adding community gathering spaces and features.

Goal 2 Actions

- 2.1 Plant diverse and habitat appropriate native tree species to increase urban forest canopy cover and provide shade for comfort around seating areas, playgrounds, pathways and parking lots.
- 2.2 Naturalize unused areas and establish no-mow or low-mow zones in parks to increase biodiversity, strengthen natural buffers and increase ecological connectivity.
- 2.3 Increase seating, waste bins and lighting for comfort, safety and accessibility in parks to support a range of uses for all.
- 2.4 Install community or public gardens in parks to increase local food production, provide pollinator habitat, add communal and educational spaces, build neighbourhood character and demonstrate sustainable practices.
- 2.5 Install green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales) to manage stormwater on-site in parks.

Goal 3 – Connected Streets and Infrastructure

A network of beautiful streets and public infrastructure enhancing neighbourhood ecological and hydrological functionality and facilitating active and safe mobility of people.



Guelph Street Gateway Enhancement concept incorporating green stormwater infrastructure, shade trees and active transportation (image for illustrative purposes only). Image credit: CVC.

Featuring Guelph Street (a main arterial road) and anchored by Delrex Boulevard, the network of roads in this neighbourhood includes Maple Avenue, Mountainview Road, as well as 84 other local roads and associated sidewalks and pathways. Majestic street trees here provide a cottage-country-like setting, vibrant seasonal beauty and cooling canopy, and support local biodiversity while slowing down stormwater. As no modern stormwater controls are in place in the neighbourhood at present, stormwater moves along paved surfaces, flows untreated into catch basins along streets and flows out into Silver Creek via outfalls.

Streets and pathways were some of the most highly commented-on neighbourhood spaces during community consultations. Hungry Hollow-Delrex is viewed as a walkable neighbourhood by local residents, and these routes connect them with local schools, parks, amenities such as Georgetown Market Place, Hungry Hollow ravine and one another. Protecting existing trees, planting new trees and slowing down and filtering stormwater along streets are actions highly desired by the

community. Residents are also seeking increased shade, comfort and safety for walking and cycling.

Five actions below focus on increasing tree cover, enhancing streetscapes, adding green stormwater infrastructure and supporting safe and active transportation.

Goal 3 Actions

- 3.1 Increase native tree planting and stewardship to grow canopy cover and add shade and cooling along sidewalks and pathways.
- 3.2 Revitalize Guelph Street as a gateway to the neighbourhood through a collaborative design approach, potentially including trees for shade and cooling, pedestrian amenities and sustainable design.
- 3.3 Reduce use of road salt and pilot salt-alternative treatments for roads, sidewalks and parking lots.
- 3.4 Conduct a series of walking and cycling audits with residents to identify opportunities to improve safety, comfort and wayfinding for all ages and abilities.
- 3.5 Identify future road improvements and underused medians and road-adjacent greenspaces (e.g. Sargent Road, Fagan Drive and Delrex Boulevard) to implement green stormwater infrastructure projects and streetscape beautification.

Goal 4 - Resilient Homes and Businesses

Climate-ready residences and workplaces that are connected to healthy natural spaces and contribute to a sustainable, resilient and green neighbourhood.



Residential streets with conceptual depictions of sustainable landscaping, green retrofits and urban forest renewal (image for illustrative purposes only). Image Credit: CVC

A beloved residential neighbourhood, Hungry-Hollow Delrex consists of a unique and diverse mix of homes and apartments with several properties directly adjacent to Hungry Hollow ravine. Sixty-three per cent of survey respondents indicated that they have lived in the neighbourhood for more than 10 years, with several residents sharing stories of making their home here for 50+ years. Many have a strong interest in gardening and landscaping (83 per cent of survey respondents) and have taken steps to increase energy (57 per cent) and water efficiency (53 per cent) at home. Residents are interested in managing invasive plants, gardening with native plants, attracting pollinators and birds, reducing salt and chemical use, growing their own food and planting trees on their properties. Experts are interested in partnering with residents to manage impacts on nearby sensitive natural habitats and manage stormwater runoff of protect ravine slopes and aquatic habitats.

A community of over 300 mostly small- and medium-sized businesses, most of which are concentrated along Guelph Street, offers a variety of products and services to residents and visitors. There is potential to engage these businesses in exciting actions through Hungry Hollow SNAP, such as planting, protecting and

stewarding existing trees in commercial areas and undertaking pollution prevention activities. There are even opportunities to engage employees in tailored sustainability programs and stewardship of nearby natural spaces.

Five actions below focus on supporting residents, businesses and institutions in taking action on their properties and building climate resiliency through sustainable landscaping, pollution prevention, energy and water efficiency and more.

Goal 4 Actions

- 4.1 Increase offerings of native trees, shrubs and perennials to residents and businesses to support planting on private properties.
- 4.2 Promote water efficiency and rainwater harvesting on residential properties including increased use of rain barrels.
- 4.3 Support residents in taking action on their properties by offering educational events, incentives and resources for tree planting, invasive species management, reduction of chemical use, downspout disconnection, appropriate garden waste disposal, food gardening, backyard composting and energy conservation/retrofits.
- 4.4 Support commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional property owners and managers via education on best practices for sustainable landscaping, green stormwater infrastructure, pollution prevention and energy conservation/retrofits.
- 4.5 Promote and support lot-level green stormwater infrastructure at select residential commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional sites to demonstrate best practices and promote further neighbourhood action.

Goal 5 – Strong Schools and Community

Community hubs that showcase climate resiliency and enhance biodiversity, support local learning and social connectivity across all generations, and foster well-informed, engaged citizens.



The Community Circle at Harrison Public School features native trees, pollinator and bird-friendly wildflowers and food gardens. Spaces like this created by the community at schools, churches and community centres serve as hotspots for climate action and biodiversity enhancements throughout the neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

The neighbourhood social fabric includes eight schools (~5,000 students), five churches and two community centres, including the Hillsview Active Living Centre for seniors (~800 members). These institutions are a strong point of interest for residents choosing to make their home in Hungry Hollow-Delrex, and they help foster a strong social network. Local residents, including families and seniors, are socially active and involved in their community. Most institutional properties consist of large open spaces, parking lots, sports fields and mowed grass, while some have trees and gardens and sometimes situated directly adjacent to Silver Creek or Hungry Hollow ravine. As such, there are many opportunities for retrofit and revitalization.

Educators, parents, community leaders and experts are seeking more shade, habitat and rain gardens and outdoor classrooms to align outdoor learning with

school curriculum, youth leadership and community development. Events and projects centred around health and wellness, nature access and celebration and neighbourhood cohesion, in addition to resident-led transformative actions, are top of mind for community members.

Six actions below focus on fostering youth engagement and leadership, revitalizing school and institutional grounds, boosting nature education and access for all and providing opportunities for people to gather and connect with one another.

Goal 5 Actions

- 5.1 Plant and steward native trees on school grounds to increase shade to keep children cool during outdoor play and to increase urban tree canopy cover.
- 5.2 Install habitat gardens, food gardens and outdoor classrooms to support environmental education, skill development, wellness and provide space for outdoor learning.
- 5.3 Deliver in-class and outdoor workshops and activities about Hungry Hollow and Silver Creek, climate change, local environmental issues and active and safe school travel.
- 5.4 Provide guidance to schools and school boards on school ground retrofits and enhancements, implementing retrofits such as green stormwater infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens) to manage stormwater on-site where appropriate.
- 5.5 Provide hands-on educational, volunteer and leadership opportunities for youth, families, seniors and general public through existing programs and partnerships with schools, places of worship and Hillview Active Living Centre.
- 5.6 Organize and empower residents to form volunteer groups (e.g. a neighbourhood association) or support existing groups (e.g. Trees for Halton Hills) that advocate for local issues, form connections and plan local events and projects.

Success Factors



Hungry Hollow ravine and Silver Creek are highly valued natural assets in the neighbourhood, providing significant recreational, health and environmental benefits to the community and helping build local resilience to climate change. Photo Credit: CVC

Successful implementation of the Hungry Hollow SNAP will be dependent upon several key success factors.

Natural and Community Assets

The high-quality natural assets such as Hungry Hollow ravine, nature trails, the mature urban forest, extensive parks and green spaces provide the necessary rationale and ongoing motivation for concentrated and sustained action in the neighbourhood.

Active and engaged residents and community groups based in and around this neighbourhood are part of the strong social network which will serve as the backbone for implementing the Action Plan and transforming this neighborhood. There are thriving community hubs (schools, community centres and places of worship) and a strong local business community. Residents actively participate in community forums, join local groups and share their hopes and ideas for their neighbourhood, as was evident from the high participation at SNAP consultations. The community also regularly uses local amenities, has a strong sense of neighbourhood pride and enthusiastically engages in local events and programs.

Opportunities for Place-Based Demonstration and Innovation

The neighbourhood presents ample opportunities for enhancements and implementation of innovative ideas and approaches, as outlined in the 28 actions above. Locally tailored, place-based projects have strong potential for demonstrating solutions to climate change and sustainable best management practices. For example, a rain garden implemented in a public space can serve as a demonstration of sustainable stormwater management practices that may inspire community members to consider a similar feature for their home or workplace. Such work can also be the foundation for inspiring educational campaigns, community-based behaviour change and widespread adoption of specific actions.

Targeted actions and innovations can open up funding opportunities and allow practitioners the ability to test out new models and methods for addressing large-scale regional, provincial and national issues at a neighbourhood scale.

Partnerships, Efficiencies and Collaboration

Achieving a collective neighbourhood vision depends on partnership and collaboration. Successful implementation of Hungry Hollow SNAP will be contingent upon the wealth of programs, resources and expertise in areas of nature education, active living, restoration, landowner and community outreach, watershed management and green stormwater infrastructure already offered by project partners and community groups.

Directing existing program resources to this neighbourhood will result in aligned goals, program delivery efficiencies, increased program uptake and improved behaviour change outcomes. In addition to programs offered by SNAP Steering Committee member organizations (the Town, CVC, Halton Region and Conservation Halton), the following community groups are active in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood:

- Hungry Hollow Collaborative (see **Community Stewardship Spotlight** on p.29)
- Trout Unlimited Canada
- Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship Council
- Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club
- Norval Community Association
- Halton Eco Film Fest
- Halton Environmental Network
- Rotary Club of Georgetown (2,020 Trees for 2,020 Project)
- Trees for Halton Hills

Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020) contains a full list of existing local programs offered by numerous organizations and groups in the area.

Tremendous potential also exists for forming new collaborations with the extensive network of local community organizations, leaders, businesses and utility companies. Effective partnerships will leverage the strengths of each partner and bring novel ideas, resources, opportunities and ideas to the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood.



Trees along the streets of Delrex-Hungry Hollow neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

Demonstrating Progress



A view of the Hungry Hollow trail. Photo Credit: CVC

Action Plan implementation will focus on achieving the five Hungry Hollow SNAP goals while increasing collective action and demonstrating progress. The progress will be tracked and reported on using the six key metrics listed below.

Key Metrics



Number of Trees Planted



Area of Land Transformed



Volume of Stormwater
Captured and Treated



Number of People Participated



Number of Community Projects
Implemented (Public Lands)



Number of Sustainable Actions
Implemented (Private Lands)

Goals

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

Due to the complex and flexible nature of neighbourhood-based action, performance may also be tracked through additional indicators beyond these six key metrics and used to enhance the quantitative and qualitative reporting of various actions, such as number of herbaceous plants installed, length of riparian area restored, number of partnerships initiated, funds raised, volunteer hours contributed or programs delivered.

Local program and project planning are subject to change, therefore specific targets for the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood may be set on as-needed basis using regional, local and watershed strategies and programs and further consultations. Baseline conditions for the Hungry Hollow-Delrex area are detailed in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report and will be used to inform the development and enhancement of programs and projects to be delivered in this neighbourhood.

Hungry Hollow SNAP progress will be tracked and reported on annually to update the community and stakeholders via a variety of communication channels.

CVC and the Town are working together on a special project to conduct an inventory of natural assets of the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood and assess the stormwater management services provided by those natural assets. This project is currently under development and its results have the potential to summarize the costs and benefits of natural asset management actions. Results of this project may also be used to support and report on the progress of work undertaken in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood over the longer term (i.e. beyond the initial implementation phase from 2021 to 2023).

Overarching Priorities for Implementation



Community members have strong interest in learning about Hungry Hollow ravine, local natural heritage and wildlife and are keen on taking action to protect them. Photo Credit: CVC.

The four overarching priorities developed for the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood are outlined below. They have been informed by and bring together top local opportunities for enhancements and retrofits as identified by staff and stakeholders as well as interests shared by the community during consultations. They also align with priorities identified in local municipal and regional strategies and watershed restoration plans as highlighted on pg. 2 and detailed in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report.

These priorities are woven throughout the five place-based goals for the neighbourhood and will be advanced through the implementation of the recommended on-the-ground actions. While in practice each of the twenty-eight actions may contribute to advancing more than one priority, individual actions are shown below to be associated with the priority which they will most significantly impact. Each priority is also associated with one or more key metric, which, as noted above, will be used to measure progress of the Hungry Hollow SNAP.

Priority 1: Enhancing Biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and Beyond

Community consultations and on-going local scientific research have built a strong case for protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of Hungry Hollow ravine. Sustaining the health of this rare and diverse natural area supports human health, enhances functioning of natural systems and builds local climate resilience. This local gem is highly prized and deeply valued by the community, especially for the nature access and associated wellness benefits it provides.

Restoration work will continue to be undertaken within Hungry Hollow ravine to support high-quality natural habitat and diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species, as detailed in specific actions under goal one. This will include:

- managing invasive species and implementing integrated pest management plans
- planting and stewarding new native tree, shrub and herbaceous species to restore and expand natural habitats
- reducing erosion on slopes and along riparian areas through planting and rehabilitation

An early map highlighting habitat restoration opportunities in the neighbourhood has been developed to prioritize and guide actions (see **Appendix A** for Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities Map). Further discussion with Town and CVC staff will be conducted prior to commencing such work within the neighbourhood.

Beyond the natural areas, actions identified under goals two through five of the Action Plan, in areas such as parks and open spaces, residential and business properties, school grounds and other community gathering places will focus on:

- managing invasive species
- reducing encroachment and disturbances of natural areas
- planting native species
- creating sustainable landscapes and habitat gardens



Hungry Hollow Collaborative members and CVC's Conservation Youth Corps participants remove invasive species in the ravine in 2019. Photo Credit: CVC

Over time, these actions will create the Delrex Greenway, a network of gardens, forests and transformative community spaces that together form a corridor of habitat vital for supporting the presence of birds and pollinators in the area. Work to enhance biodiversity within Hungry Hollow ravine and in the neighbourhood generally is already underway through programs and initiatives led by project partners and several community groups, but this plan will serve to further focus activities and resources where needs are greatest in the project area.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.4, 4.3 and 5.2.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Area of Land Transformed
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Community Stewardship Spotlight: Hungry Hollow Collaborative

Since 2010, stewardship volunteers and contractors have planted over 2,000 native trees and shrubs and removed invasive species in and near Hungry Hollow ravine. Several organizations are working together on such habitat restoration projects as part of the Hungry Hollow Collaborative (which was formalized in 2014).

The following organizations provide funding, staff time, expertise and resources as part of the Collaborative:

- Willow Park Ecology Centre
- Town of Halton Hills
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources
- Save Our Ravines
- VectorIAS: Invasive Alien Species Project
- Association of Canadian Education Resources

Priority 2: Strengthening the Urban Forest

This neighbourhood is highly prized for its mature urban forest that contributes to the serene setting and enhances community health and well-being. The majority of the urban forest canopy cover is concentrated in residential areas and some streets, while it is lacking in other areas such as along sidewalks and on playgrounds, in parks and schoolgrounds and around major amenities. Residents appreciate trees for shade, slowing and filtering stormwater, promoting safe and healthy active living, create cooling zones to enjoy their neighbourhood amid intense summer heat and providing shelter from extreme wind.



Newly planted trees at Joseph Gibbons Park near Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC

Residents and community members have expressed concern about tree loss resulting from Emerald Ash Borer infestation, the 2013 ice storm and other severe weather events, and general decline due to a maturing canopy. In addition to addressing tree loss, there is an opportunity to increase canopy cover distribution to provide shade in high priority areas and address local heat vulnerability to keep people cool while they spend time outdoors. Planting trees along sidewalks and pathways, in parks and on the ground of schools and other community gathering places is a critical step for addressing climate change at neighbourhood-level.

Protecting and enhancing this important natural asset is already underway in Halton Hills. This priority aligns with Town-led measures including the tree replacement program, very popular low-cost native trees and shrubs offered to residents during the Town's annual Earth Week Celebrations and the Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy which is presently under development. Furthermore, several trees were planted in neighbourhood parks as part of the 'Trees for Veterans Project' during Canada 150 celebrations in 2017. The Town has planted 300 trees in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood, including new trees at Joseph Gibbons Parkette.

The Action Plan includes many recommendations for strengthening the urban forest and addressing uneven canopy cover throughout the neighbourhood including:

- planting new trees in parks and open spaces and along streets and pathways
- supporting tree planting on industrial, commercial and institutional lands
- providing resources and incentives to encourage residential tree planting

In coming years, residents, businesses and community members will have the opportunity to get involved in planting trees on private or public lands through CVC programs such as Your Green Yard, Greening Corporate Grounds, Branch Out, Conservation Youth Corps and Community Tree Planting Program. In addition, a recently formed local non-profit organization, Trees for Halton Hills, will be launching a challenge to the community to plant 65,000 trees in coming years – one for every resident in town. This will be sure to inspire action and celebrate the beautiful urban forest that draws people to this neighbourhood.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 5.1.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Number of Trees Planted
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Priority 3: Upgrading Local Stormwater Infrastructure

As a mature neighbourhood, the Hungry Hollow-Delrex area presents a significant opportunity to implement new and innovative green stormwater management infrastructure.

Industrial, commercial and institutional lands all have large impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots and driveways. Residential lot sizes are relatively large and, on average, 1/3 of a typical lot here is covered by a solid, impermeable surface (e.g. large roof and driveway area). This impacts the natural hydrologic cycle as it reduces the amount of rainwater that can filter down into the ground.



Managing the quantity and quality of local stormwater runoff is key to protecting local freshwater resources and aquatic habitats like Silver Creek. Photo Credit: CVC

Currently, stormwater runoff is outlet directly to smaller ravines and intermittent streams flowing into Hungry Hollow ravine. Large amounts of stormwater are also entering Silver Creek with little to no opportunity for infiltration, groundwater recharge and/or evapotranspiration. Stormwater increases in temperature when it runs across hot paved surfaces and along the large network of roads, and there is concern that this warm water entering Silver Creek has the potential to damage this sensitive aquatic ecosystem (which provides valuable cool and coldwater habitat for fish such as the endangered Redside Dace).

Sections of the neighbourhood fall within the Wellhead Protection Area Zones (WHPA) and Wellhead Protection Zones Q1/Q2 as determined by the [CTC Source Protection Plan \(2019\)](#) (for the Source Protection Areas of Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario). This means that it is imperative that contaminated and polluted water is not able to consistently infiltrate into the ground in these areas, and that quantities of water infiltration be maintained order to ensure the groundwater resource is not impacted. More information and associated mapping can be found in the **Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020)**.

During community consultations, residents noted that managing stormwater to protect the aquatic habitats and local freshwater creeks such as Silver Creek and to

build neighbourhood climate resilience is important to them. Specific place-based actions for upgrading stormwater infrastructure are recommended throughout all five goals of the Action Plan, including:

- cleaning and repairing outfalls in the ravine
- installing green stormwater features in parks to manage stormwater on-site
- identifying road improvement projects and underused median and road adjacent greenspaces to implement stormwater retrofit projects
- supporting homes, businesses, schools and institutions with lot-level stormwater retrofits that simultaneously transform spaces for habitat creation and beautification

Currently, approximately 50 per cent of downspouts are disconnected in the neighbourhood. Downspout disconnection results in less stormwater being collected in the storm sewer and potentially infiltrating into the sanitary sewer system, thereby lowering the risk of overflows and downstream erosion. Water conservation is top of mind for residents and many use rainwater harvesting measures such as rain barrel use.

There are opportunities for innovative green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales, permeable parking lots, blue roofs, etc.) to be used to manage stormwater on-site in both public and private spaces. Projects of this nature, which are based on managing communal resources (such as rainwater) and addressing block-level concerns such as stormwater flow and drainage, are dependant on forging partnerships, building buy-in from multiple stakeholders and securing and using resources efficiently. Such features may be communally shared between landowners and/or between the public and private realm and will depend on innovative approaches to help overcome potential challenges to breaking ground and ensuring large-scale impacts can be achieved.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.5, 2.5, 3.3, 3.5, 4.2, 4.5 and 5.4.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Priority 4: Fostering Community Health and Well-Being

Momentum is building in this community. Social research shows that this community actively participates in local programs and events and regularly visits local parks and natural areas.

Residents have keenly engaged in the action planning process and new community-led initiatives are emerging. In addition, it is important to note that collaborative stewardship of Hungry Hollow ravine and general engagement in environmental issues have been prevalent here long before the launch of this project.



Residents participate in neighbourhood events to connect with each other and stay active. Photo Credit: CVC

A sense of collective ownership over places like Hungry Hollow ravine will be key to preserving vital natural assets for future generations. Furthermore, active living is highly valued by those who reside in this area, and is inherently tied to the health, accessibility and safety of natural and public spaces. During consultations, community members shared that they would like to see more support for active transportation and enhanced comfort in this neighbourhood, through the addition of more seating and shade for frequent stops along sidewalks, cycling routes and in parks, more continuous trails and less traffic/reduced speeds on roads.

Given that a high level of community support is vital for effective neighbourhood-scale initiatives, this foundation bodes well for success of Hungry Hollow SNAP, but continuing to build engagement, raise awareness and change behaviours will be crucial. As the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt close to home, the ecosystem services provided by the local environment that enhance human health and well-being become more important than ever, so they must be valued and protected by those who benefit from them.

All five goals of the Action Plan address this priority with actions focusing on:

- engaging and educating community members of all ages
- fostering active living and connection
- enhancing safety and accessibility in natural and public spaces

SNAP project partners, several agencies and community groups offer programming and resources that support neighbourhood sustainability and stewardship in Halton Hills and Hungry Hollow ravine specifically. Detailed information about local community programs and organizations can be found in the **Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020)**.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.2, 1.6, 1.7, 2.3, 3.4, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5 and 5.6.

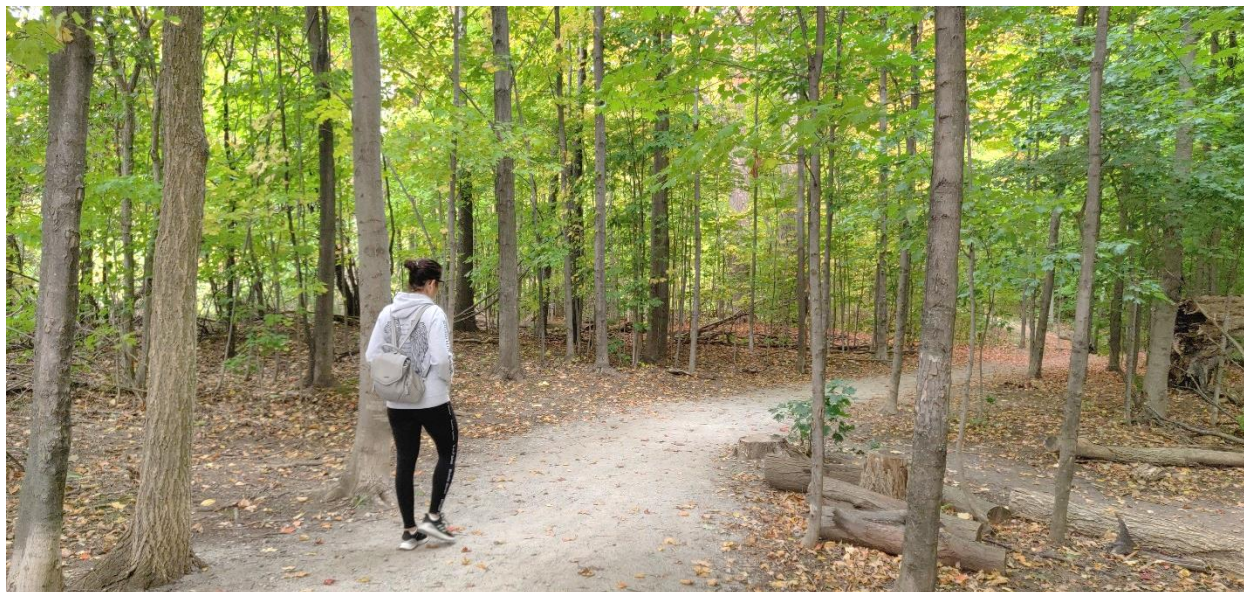
Associated Key Metrics:

- Number of People Participated
- Number of Community Projects Implemented

Early Actions Planned or Underway in Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood:

- **Butterfly Blitz (Summer 2020):** This annual summer-long citizen science program is creating a watershed-wide inventory of butterflies in the Credit River Watershed. Participants will learn how to identify butterfly species in their backyard and neighbourhood through free training webinars and contribute important data to the program.
- **Health and Wellness Webinars (Summer/Fall 2020):** Delivered by CVC's Education team for Hillview Active Living Centre members, this webinar will engage residents age 50+ in learning how staying active and connecting with nature can improve their well-being.
- **Landscaping for Birds (Fall 2020):** This free webinar delivered by CVC's Your Green Yard program will teach participants how to attract birds to their yard and keep them safe. Participants who live within CVC's watershed can sign up at the webinar to receive a free tree or shrub that will provide habitat for local birds, with the option to purchase more.
- **Rotary Club of Georgetown's 2,020 Trees for 2020 Project (Fall 2020):** The Rotary Club of Georgetown will lead this large-scale public tree planting initiative within Hungry Hollow ravine.

Next Steps (2021-2023)



A local resident walking through Hungry Hollow trail. Photo Credit: CVC

Developing this Action Plan has been the first step towards fostering a more climate-resilient community. Beyond this stage, project partners will continue to work collaboratively with one another as well as with local residents, schools, businesses, and community groups as the focus shifts from planning to implementation. In order to achieve the goals set out in the Action Plan, everyone involved has an important role to play and responsibilities to fulfill.

As a key element of the Climate Change Resilience Strategy within the Town's Low-Carbon Resilience Framework, the SNAP Action Plan will through its implementation help fulfill the goals of Halton Hills' Climate Change Action Plan on a neighbourhood scale (across the five theme areas of Community Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Public Health, Resilient Infrastructure, Flood Protection and Natural Asset Management).

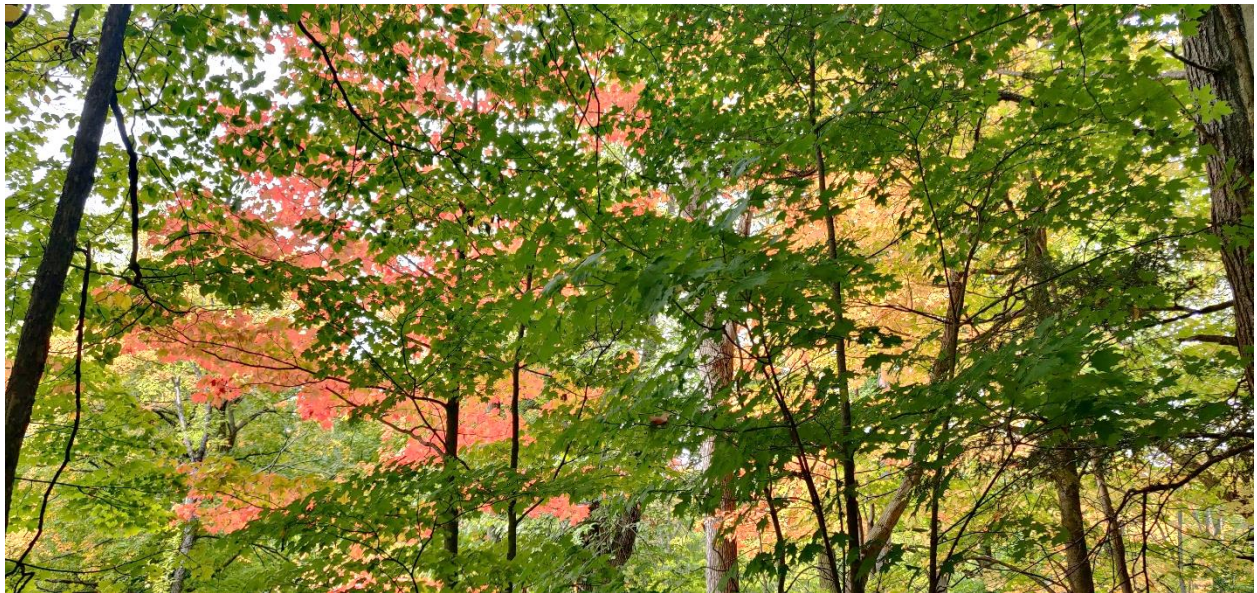
CVC and the Town, in partnership with other stakeholders and the community where appropriate, will undertake the following activities in the first three years of Hungry Hollow SNAP implementation:

1. Seeking endorsement of the Action Plan by CVC Board of Directors and Halton Hills Council to signal municipal support for implementation (fall 2020).
2. Engaging local residents and community members in early actions to continue to building interest in neighbourhood climate action and the Hungry Hollow SNAP project (summer-fall 2020).
3. Developing a communication strategy that identifies key project messages and tools to unify Hungry Hollow SNAP activities, events and projects, ensuring alignment with messaging from the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan (winter 2020-spring 2021).
4. Publicly launching Action Plan to continue to celebrate the work-to-date and build community support for implementation (spring 2021).
5. Transitioning the Steering Committee to an Implementation Committee and developing Implementation Teams and/or working groups (spring 2021).
6. Aligning existing programs and capital resources through capital budget allocation to individual projects where appropriate (spring 2021 and beyond).
7. Developing implementation framework and detailed plans/designs for individual projects including establishing roles and responsibilities, targets, work plans and budgets, and funding strategies that explore the potential for external funding through grants, compensation funds and/or private sector partnerships (spring 2021 and beyond).
8. Ongoing Hungry Hollow SNAP coordination to manage a rigorous and streamlined implementation timeline and maintain communication between partners (2021-2023).
9. Ongoing monitoring to track and report on project accomplishments (2021-2023).
10. Ongoing community engagement to identify project opportunities, grow support for projects and build capacity for long-term neighbourhood leadership (2021-2023).
11. Implementing and monitoring priority actions (2021-2023).

12. Ongoing evaluation and assessment of existing Hungry Hollow SNAP priorities and identification of new priorities and opportunities (2021-2023).

Subsequent Hungry Hollow SNAP activities in the year 2024 and beyond include:

1. Evaluating the Hungry Hollow SNAP accomplishments and assessing priorities in 2024.
2. Ongoing development and implementation of recommended actions.
3. Ongoing administration and monitoring of projects previously implemented, where required.



Fall colours in Hungry Hollow ravine seen through Delrex neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

In Closing



Hungry Hollow SNAP community members actively come together to share ideas and take action for change. Photo Credit: CVC

The Hungry Hollow SNAP charts a course towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for those who live, work and play in this neighbourhood. It builds upon community momentum and presents recommendations for actions that bring together diverse stakeholders, push forward innovative projects and connect people with nature. This will be imperative for preserving the unique and valuable Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and enhancing overall community health in the long term, as impacts of a changing climate continue to intensify.

The path forward is not without challenges. As the project shifts into implementation phase, concentrated and collaborative effort must be made to build strong community and stakeholder support, secure additional resources and funding for the activities outlined in the plan, and shift perceptions and behaviours so all stakeholders understand and assume shared responsibility for attaining the vision that has been developed together.

Given the high levels of support from project partners and engagement from the community to date, it is anticipated that Hungry Hollow SNAP will generate a multitude of benefits that improve the environment and enhance quality of life in this neighbourhood for present and future generations.

Acknowledgements

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has authored this report on behalf of our project partner, the Town of Halton Hills. Action Plan recommendations were developed by a Steering Committee made up of CVC, The Town, Halton Region and Conservation Halton staff and have been generated in consultation with local stakeholders and area residents. We thank Steering Committee members, staff, municipal leaders and community members for their contributions to the action planning process. The Action Plan will guide urban renewal and climate action in Hungry Hollow and the Delrex neighbourhood.

Comments or questions on this document should be directed to:

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Jennifer Spence
Climate Change and Asset Management
Town of Halton Hills
905-873-2601, ext. 2290
www.haltonhills.ca

Keep up to date on Action Plan implementation by visiting cvc.ca/hhsnap

Appendix A

Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities Map

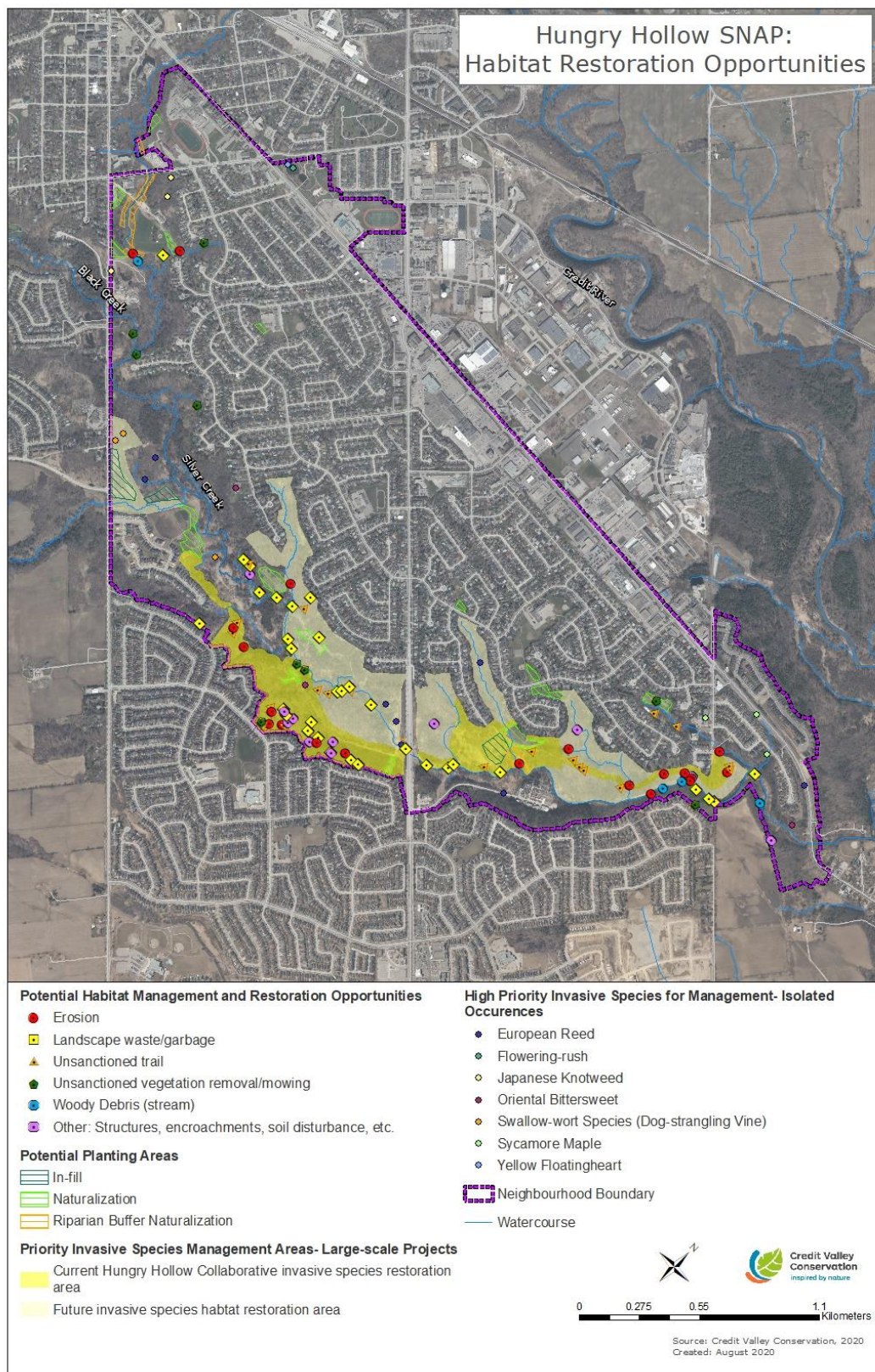































Figure: Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities


Appendix B


Summary Table: Hungry Hollow SNAP Vision, Goals and Actions


APPENDIX B - SUMMARY TABLE: HUNGRY HOLLOW SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (SNAP) VISION, GOALS AND ACTIONS				
The Hungry Hollow SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with biodiverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by caring, connected residents and community members.				
THRIVING HUNGRY HOLLOW, SILVER CREEK AND BLACK CREEK	VIBRANT STREETS AND OPEN SPACES	CONNECTED STREETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	RESILIENT HOMES AND BUSINESSES	STRONG SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY
Valleylands that sustain flourishing natural habitats, vital freshwater creeks and invaluable native biodiversity while supporting active lifestyles, community well-being and nature appreciation.	A network of multi-use parks and open spaces that link and restore natural systems where neighbours and families gather together to play, learn, and enjoy time outdoors.	A network of beautiful streets and public infrastructure enhancing neighbourhood ecological and hydrological functionality and facilitating active and safe mobility of people.	Climate-ready residences and workplaces that are connected to healthy natural spaces and contribute to a sustainable, resilient and green neighbourhood.	Community hubs that showcase climate resiliency and enhance biodiversity, support local learning and social connectivity across all generations, and foster well-informed, engaged citizens.
<div><div></div><div>(1.1) Implement invasive species and integrated pest management projects for priority species throughout Hungry Hollow ravine.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.2) Connect Hungry Hollow Trail to Cedarvale Park while minimizing impacts on sensitive natural areas.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.3) Conduct plantings and habitat restoration in Hungry Hollow ravine to increase habitat size, improve habitat connectivity and quality and reduce or eliminate unsanctioned trails.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.4) Mitigate erosion along stream banks and steep valley slopes through riparian plantings and stream restoration to improve aquatic habitat, prioritizing high impact sites such as Silver Creek at Cedarvale Park.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.5) Clean and repair outfalls draining stormwater into Silver Creek and other tributaries.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.6) Install a series of interpretative and directional signs and self-guided activities at Hungry Hollow trail heads and at select locations within the ravine.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(1.7) Increase on-the-ground action and a sense of collective ownership and connection with the ravine by hosting a variety of events within Hungry Hollow ravine for community, school and business groups.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>(2.1) Plant diverse and habitat appropriate native tree species to increase urban forest canopy cover and provide shade for comfort around seating areas, playgrounds, pathways and parking lots.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(2.2) Naturalize unused areas and establish no-mow or low-mow zones in parks to increase biodiversity, strengthen natural buffers and increase ecological connectivity.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(2.3) Increase seating, waste bins and lighting for comfort, safety and accessibility in parks to support a range of uses for all.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(2.4) Install community or public gardens in parks to increase local food production, provide pollinator habitat, add communal and educational spaces, build neighbourhood character and demonstrate sustainable practices.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(2.5) Install green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales) to manage stormwater on-site in parks.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>(3.1) Increase native tree planting and stewardship to grow canopy cover and add shade and cooling along sidewalks and pathways.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(3.2) Revitalize Guelph Street as a gateway to the neighbourhood through a collaborative design approach, potentially including trees for shade and cooling, pedestrian amenities and sustainable design.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(3.3) Reduce use of road salt and pilot salt-alternative treatments for roads, sidewalks and parking lots.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(3.4) Conduct a series of walking and cycling audits with residents to identify opportunities to improve safety, comfort and wayfinding for all ages and abilities.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(3.5) Identify future road improvements and underused medians and road-adjacent greenspaces (e.g. Sargent Road, Fagan Drive and Delrex Boulevard) to implement green stormwater infrastructure projects and streetscape beautification.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>(4.1) Increase offerings of native trees, shrubs and perennials to residents and businesses to support planting on private properties.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(4.2) Promote water efficiency and rainwater harvesting on residential properties including increased use of rain barrels.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(4.3) Support residents in taking action on their properties by offering educational events, incentives and resources for tree planting, invasive species management, reduction of chemical use, downspout disconnection, appropriate garden waste disposal, food gardening, backyard composting and energy conservation/retrofits.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(4.4) Support commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional property owners and managers via education on best practices for sustainable landscaping, green stormwater infrastructure, pollution prevention and energy conservation/retrofits.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(4.5) Promote and support lot-level green stormwater infrastructure at select residential commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional sites to demonstrate best practices and promote further neighbourhood action.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>(5.1) Plant and steward native trees on school grounds to increase shade to keep children cool during outdoor play and to increase urban tree canopy cover.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(5.2) Install habitat gardens, food gardens and outdoor classrooms to support environmental education, skill development, wellness and provide space for outdoor learning.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(5.3) Deliver in-class and outdoor workshops and activities about Hungry Hollow and Silver Creek, climate change, local environmental issues and active and safe school travel.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(5.4) Provide guidance to schools and school boards on school ground retrofits and enhancements, implementing retrofits such as green stormwater infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens) to manage stormwater on-site where appropriate.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(5.5) Provide hands-on educational, volunteer and leadership opportunities for youth, families, seniors and general public through existing programs and partnerships with schools, places of worship and Hillsview Active Living Centre.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>(5.6) Organize and empower residents to form volunteer groups (e.g. a neighbourhood association) or support existing groups (e.g. Trees for Halton Hills) that advocate for local issues, form connections and plan local events and projects.</div></div>

Overarching Priorities


Enhancing Biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and Beyond


Strengthening the Urban Forest


Upgrading Local Stormwater Infrastructure


Fostering Community Health and Well-Being


Key Metrics


Number of Trees Planted

Area of Land Transformed

Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated

Number of People Participated

Number of Community Projects Implemented (Public Lands)

Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented (Private Lands)