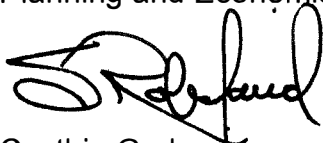
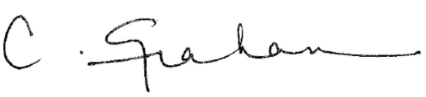


Hamilton

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 27, 2025
SUBJECT:	Hamilton's Contribution to Canada's 30x30 Conservation Target – Municipal Protected Areas Project Update
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development
SIGNATURE:	 Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this communication is to update Council on the City's participation in the Municipal Protected Areas Program (MPAP), led by Ontario Nature. Through Phase 1 of the City's participation in this program, in 2025, two City owned sites were officially added to the Canada Protected and Conserved Areas Database. This addition amounts to over 50 hectares of protected lands and contributes to Canada's commitment under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to protect 30% of our land, water and marine areas by 2030 (30 x 30 target) in order to respond to two of our planet's largest environmental threats: climate change and biodiversity loss. Phase 2 of the City's participation in MPAP is now underway with additional properties being identified by staff to be assessed by Ontario Nature for inclusion in the database in 2026.

Background

The Municipal Protected Areas Program is being undertaken by Ontario Nature, a nonprofit organization, and is intended to canvas municipalities across the province to

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determine which municipally owned lands may count toward the federal target of protecting at least 30% of land and water in areas with high importance for biodiversity and ecosystem function and services by 2030. The Canada Protected and Conserved Areas Database is a federal database tracking progress towards this 30 x 30 target.

There is no legislated requirement for the City to participate in the Municipal Protected Areas Program. However, the program provides an opportunity to participate in broader federal commitments to protect biodiversity for the long-term. Participation in the program also builds the Council adopted Biodiversity Action Plan, Climate Change Action Plan and upon the City's commitments as a signatory to the Montreal Pledge and strengthens relationships and partnerships towards protecting the environment. In December 2023 City Council adopted the following recommendations from Report PED23260 respecting the Municipal Protected Areas Project:

- (a) That Planning and Economic Development Department and Public Works Department staff be authorized to provide the required data to Ontario Nature for their review and analysis as part of the Municipal Protected Areas Project, and provide additional support for the project through the data analysis stage as resources allow;
- (b) That the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, or their designate, be granted the authority to provide consent on behalf of the City of Hamilton to Ontario Nature to release the findings of the Municipal Protected Areas Project to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for submission to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, as it relates to the City's properties that were assessed, and to enter into any necessary agreements relating to release of the findings;
- (c) That Planning and Economic Development Department staff, in consultation with Public Works Department staff, be directed to provide a final report at the end of the project to summarize the results for Council.

Through discussions with Ontario Nature, staff have divided the review and submission of City owned lands for consideration into two phases. Phase 1 was focused on City owned lands that have site specific management plans. Through this phase Windermere Basin Park and the Former Upper Ottawa Landfill have been added, with the sites being posted to the Canada Protected and Conserved Database in June, 2025

Next Steps

Phase 2 of the City's participation in MPAP is underway and is focused on City owned lands that do not have specific management plans but are designated in the City's Official Plans and zoned for protection. Through this phase it is anticipated that several

more properties will be submitted by staff for evaluation by Ontario Nature. Results of this evaluation with entries into the Canada's Protected and Conserved Areas Database are anticipated in Q2, 2026.

Following the completion of Phase 2, staff will submit a final report to Planning Committee and Council to summarize the results.

For further information please contact Charlie Toman, Program Lead – Policy Planning and Municipal Comprehensive Review, Planning Division by phone at 905-546-2424 ext. 5863, or by email at Charlie.Toman@hamilton.ca, or Kasey Livingston, Senior Project Coordinator, Parks by phone at 905-546-2424 Ext. 7734 or by e-mail at Kasey.livingston@hamilton.ca.

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