

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: December 18, 2024</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p> <p>From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
	<p>Meeting date: January 22, 2025</p>

Subject

Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)

Recommendation

That the Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), which is attached as Appendix 1 to the corporate report entitled "Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan" dated December 18, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community Services, be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans (SNAPs) are conservation authority initiatives that focus on working with the community to revitalize mature neighbourhoods facing environmental challenges
- Work on the Cooksville SNAP started in 2023. Since then, almost 2,400 residents and community members have been engaged in the process.
- The Plan includes 29 actions under five main goals: (1) Safe and active mobility; (2) Ready for rain; (3) Access to fresh food; (4) Healthy landscapes, natural areas, and Cooksville Creek; and (5) Climate resilience and local leadership.
- While implementation is expected to start in early 2025, several early implementation projects have already been completed.

Background

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans (SNAPs) are conservation authority initiatives that focus on working with the community to revitalize mature neighbourhoods facing environmental challenges. In 2022, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto & Region Conservation Authority completed a SNAP Neighbourhood Screening Process, which identified locations for potential future SNAPs in Mississauga. This process identified two priority areas in the city to

initiate a SNAP in the near term (i.e., next 1-3 years): Cooksville and Malton. A decision was made to start in Cooksville, which falls within CVC's jurisdiction.

The SNAP program aligns with the goals of the City's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). This includes Action 6-1 of the CCAP, which is to "support new Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans or other neighbourhood level action planning that focuses on retrofitting multi-unit residential buildings to be more energy efficient and resilient."

The City's Environmental Action Committee (EAC) endorsed the Cooksville SNAP on December 10, 2024. CVC's Board of Directors endorsed the Cooksville SNAP on December 13, 2024.

Comments

Work on the Cooksville SNAP started in 2023. Since then, almost 2,400 residents and community members have been engaged in the process. In addition, several City teams have been involved with and provided input into the SNAP, including Park Planning, Forestry, Culture Planning, Environment, Office of Emergency Management, Environmental Services, and Active Transportation.

The Cooksville SNAP is intended to, among other things, build on the work that is ongoing in the city, including City projects, plans and strategies. The plan sets out five main goals with 29 actions:

1. **Safe and Active Mobility:** this is focused on increasing safety, accessibility, and comfort for those using active modes of transportation (e.g., adding trees, benches, lighting, and shelters along streets).
2. **Ready for Rain:** this is focused on increasing flood preparedness and the ability to manage rain where it falls (e.g., provide guidance to school boards on stormwater retrofits).
3. **Access to Fresh Food:** this is focused on increasing access to and skills around preparing fresh food (e.g., hosting food gardening and cooking workshops).
4. **Healthy Landscapes, Natural Areas, and Cooksville Creek:** this is focused on protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural spaces (e.g., continue restoration projects along the creek bank).
5. **Climate Resilience and Local Leadership:** this is focused on strengthening climate resilience by, among other things, building capacity for local leadership (e.g., supporting community members with tree planting and stewarding opportunities).

These actions were identified through extensive consultation with the public. As CVC has noted, engagement took place “at over 18 events, 16 interviews and meetings, two rounds of public surveys...and over 10,000 organic impressions across social media.” In addition, “2,500 comments and 11,000 votes about local needs and proposed actions were collected...”

While implementation of the Plan is expected to start in early 2025, it is important to note that several early implementation projects have already been completed. These include:

- Picking up over 300 pounds of litter in Cooksville Park, Richard Jones Park, and John C. Price Park, and along Cooksville Creek
- Hosting indoor gardening and outdoor sustainable landscaping workshops for over 100 people, including Cooksville residents, newcomers, and youth
- Planting 27 new trees in 23 residential yards
- Planting 150 new native trees and shrubs in Cooksville Park

The Plan is intended to achieve the following vision for the Cooksville SNAP area: “A diverse community of vibrant social networks and champions leading local action for a safer, healthier and more climate resilient neighbourhood for all.”

Financial Impact

The Cooksville SNAP is not expected to have any financial impacts at this time. The cost to develop the Cooksville SNAP and fund early implementation projects was approximately \$400,000 over two years. Region of Peel levy funds covered the majority of the costs (~\$260,000), with City and external grant funding covering the rest. The City contributed \$25,000 to the project in 2023 and \$50,000 in 2024.

As for implementing the Cooksville SNAP, City-led projects largely fall within existing programs and budgets. If they are not included, City staff may seek additional funding – either through the City’s annual budgeting process or through external funding opportunities. In addition, City staff will support CVC and other Cooksville SNAP project partners in applying for external funding, as needed

Conclusion

The Cooksville SNAP was drafted after extensive consultation with the community. The 29 actions, which are included under five main goals, are intended to achieve the Plan’s vision of “a diverse community of vibrant social networks and champions leading local action for a safer, healthier and more climate resilient neighbourhood for all.”

Attachments

Appendix 1: Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Robillos", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Teresa Chan, Climate Change Programs Supervisor