

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan



Cooksville SNAP



Prepared by: Credit Valley Conservation
Prepared for: City of Mississauga

2024



Recognizing the Enduring Presence of Indigenous Peoples

We acknowledge the rich history and enduring presence of Indigenous Peoples as stewards of the land and water of the Credit River Watershed.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Credit River Watershed is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The Credit River Watershed is also part of the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee, and home to many First Nation, Metis and Inuit Peoples today. Treaties made with Indigenous Peoples are enduring and include responsibility for both parties. We affirm that this land and water is our common source of life, and we must all share responsibility for its care and stewardship for now and future generations.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Credit Valley Conservation is committed to diversity, inclusiveness and equity. These are values that we hold in the highest regard.

We recognize that diversity enriches the lives of all watershed residents and the work we do. We are proud to serve one of the most culturally diverse areas of Canada.

We are taking action to create a more just, fair and equitable workplace, programs, services and spaces.

Acknowledgements

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has authored this report on behalf of our project partner, the City of Mississauga. CVC would like to acknowledge the assistance of the project Steering Committee for expertise and guidance on the development of this Action Plan. This project refers to, aligns with, and builds upon existing plans, strategies and datasets from programs across teams, departments and organizations represented by members of the committee:

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

CVC and project partners would like to express their gratitude and acknowledge that the vision, goals and recommended actions in this plan have been generated in consultation with project Steering Committee members, staff from CVC, the City of Mississauga, and Peel Region, 2,388 Cooksville area residents and community members and representatives from organizations listed below. The collective lived and professional experiences, expertise and guidance of all involved have played an integral role in the development of this Action Plan.

8 80 Cities

Afghan Women's Organization

Cooksville BIA

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Ecosource and Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA)

Floradale Public School

Heart Comonos

Indus Community Services and Apna Health

LAMP Community Health Centre

Newcomer Centre of Peel

Pak Pioneers Community Organization of Canada

Peel District School Board

Peel Multicultural Council and Mississauga Cycles

PLASP Child Care Services

PORTICO Church

Roll Cooksville

SHIP (Services and Housing in the Province)

The DAM (Development, Assist, Mentor) Cooksville

The Indigenous Network

Funding for the Action Plan development has been generously provided by:



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Executive Summary

The Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is an intersectoral, community-centred collaboration focused on the vibrant and beloved neighbourhood of Cooksville in Mississauga, Ontario. The plan aims to catalyze movement to support this priority neighbourhood and its natural areas through locally tailored actions fostering a greener, healthier and climate-resilient community.

Cooksville presents many opportunities to enhance local sustainability by addressing certain environmental and social challenges common to older urban areas. The SNAP is an important step towards advancing recommendations of existing municipal, regional and watershed plans and amplifying local programming in a targeted and tailored manner. It will serve as a key initiative supporting City of Mississauga’s strategic plans such as the Climate Change Action Plan (2019), Build Beautiful Stormwater Master Plan (2023), Parks, Forestry and Environment Future Directions Plan (2024), Homegrown Mississauga: Urban Agriculture Strategy (2022) and Natural Heritage and Urban Forest Strategy (2014). It will also drive implementation of CVC’s Cooksville Creek Subwatershed Study.

Demonstrating a strong passion for their community and its future, 2,388 residents and representatives from local businesses, institutions, organizations, and agencies participated in the development of this plan, contributing to an unprecedented level of engagement for the planning phase of a SNAP project in the Credit River Watershed.

The plan responds directly to opportunities to promote healthy living, increase safe and active movement, have accessible, diverse and healthy green spaces, beautify commercial areas, support stormwater management, encourage water and energy efficiency, and foster a connected community engaged in local climate action. Twenty-eight recommended actions centre around enhancements for safer walking and cycling, sustainable actions on private properties, stewardship of natural areas and robust community engagement. Actions are organized under five thematic goals for the neighbourhood:

1. Safe and Active Mobility
2. Ready For Rain
3. Access to Fresh Food
4. Healthy Landscapes, Natural Areas and Cooksville Creek
5. Climate Resilience and Local Leadership

Implementation of this plan is expected to commence in 2025, to be led by Credit Valley Conservation and the City of Mississauga in collaboration with Peel Region and other partners, community groups, residents, businesses and institutions.

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- Appendix C – Community Engagement and Action Record (available under separate cover)

Message from Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services, City of Mississauga

November 2024



In 2019, Council approved the City's first comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) – a ten-year plan with goals to decrease Mississauga's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the community for a changing climate.

Initiatives like Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans (SNAPs) bring us one step closer to achieving our CCAP goals. In 2022, a study identified two priority areas in the city to initiate a SNAP: Cooksville and Malton. Work on the Cooksville SNAP started in 2023.

The Cooksville neighbourhood is a vibrant social and cultural hub in the city, with community members working together to make their neighbourhood more resilient to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, it is home to Cooksville Creek, an important natural resource for the region. We all benefit when the Creek is protected, restored, and enhanced.

The Cooksville SNAP will build on work that is ongoing in the city, including City projects, plans, and strategies. It will also help the City and its partners focus our collective efforts and identify clear steps to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and make the neighbourhood more climate resilient.

Through this SNAP, we can foster a greener and more climate-ready Cooksville neighbourhood for the benefit of current and future generations.

Jodi Robillos

Commissioner, Community Services

City of Mississauga

Message from Quentin Hanchard CAO, Credit Valley Conservation



At Credit Valley Conservation, we work hard to protect and restore the local natural environment, but we don't – and can't – do it alone. It's together with an inspired community and strong partnerships that we make change happen on the ground, and this collaborative spirit is at the heart of our Sustainable Neighbourhoods Action Program (SNAP).

Our third SNAP project in the Credit River Watershed, the Cooksville SNAP builds on our experience and successes with other neighbourhood-based projects that foster climate-resilient communities. The Action Plan we share with you here builds on collective knowledge and brings forth bold ideas that are as exciting and unique as the Cooksville neighbourhood itself. It incorporates tailored recommendations for action based upon a comprehensive understanding of local environmental needs and opportunities, policies and plans, including the Cooksville Creek Subwatershed Study. It also recognizes and builds upon assets and social networks already present in the community and is informed by the input of over 2,300 individuals who live, work, play and care deeply about the neighbourhood.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, lived experiences and ideas to the development of the Cooksville SNAP Action Plan. As we look ahead to implementation, we hope that our collaborative efforts continue to inspire action, build capacity and respond to local needs and interests as we work together to improve well-being and enhance climate resilience. After all, we know that active and involved communities are integral to fulfilling our vision of a resilient Credit River Watershed where the diversity of all life thrives.

Quentin Hanchard

Chief Administrative Officer

Credit Valley Conservation

Introduction

The Cooksville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a comprehensive and tailored strategy to revitalize a neighbourhood facing environmental and social challenges common to older urban areas. The goal of the SNAP is to make Cooksville Creek and the surrounding neighbourhood more sustainable and ready for a changing climate through development of an action-oriented plan. SNAPs bring people together to retrofit and restore mature neighbourhoods and lead environmental stewardship.

In 2022, Credit Valley Conservation (“CVC”) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (“TRCA”) completed a screening study in partnership with City of Mississauga (“the City”) and Peel Region (“the Region”) which identified locations for potential future SNAP projects. It considered several priorities including infrastructure renewal, watershed management and green infrastructure, greenhouse gas reduction, public health and socio-economic conditions. As a result of this study, Cooksville was recommended as a suitable neighbourhood for initiating a SNAP project in the near term.

The Cooksville SNAP project was initiated by CVC and developed in partnership with the City and the Region, with advisory support from TRCA, Ecosource and United Way, and in consultation with residents, businesses, institutions, agencies, community groups and local leaders. Addressing climate change in a locally adaptive and equitable manner is a priority for all partners.

The Cooksville SNAP Action Plan aligns with and/or advances recommendations from over 40 relevant existing municipal, regional and watershed plans, studies and strategies and aims to build on the successes of existing programs and services offered by over 25 organizations already supporting the project neighbourhood. A selection of relevant plans, studies and strategies include (see Appendix B for full list):

- [Vision Cooksville \(City of Mississauga, 2016\)](#)
- [Dundas Connects Master Plan \(City of Mississauga, 2018\)](#)
- [Mississauga Climate Change Action Plan \(City of Mississauga, 2019\)](#)
- [Build Beautiful Stormwater Master Plan \(City of Mississauga, 2023\)](#)
- [Parks, Forestry and Environment Future Directions Plan \(City of Mississauga, 2024\)](#)
- [Homegrown Mississauga: Urban Agriculture Strategy \(City of Mississauga, 2022\)](#)
- [Natural Heritage and Urban Forest Strategy \(City of Mississauga, 2014\)](#)
- [Climate Change Master Plan \(Peel Region, 2020\)](#)
- [Community Safety and Well-being Plan \(Peel Region, 2020\)](#)
- [Cooksville Creek Subwatershed Study \(Credit Valley Conservation, 2011\)](#)



Image 1: Cooksville Creek and surrounding built and natural areas are experiencing increasing pressures due to increasing storm intensity and frequency, urban development and aging infrastructure (Credit: CVC)

The Cooksville SNAP presents several opportunities for enhancements and retrofits to improve local conditions and address or respond to local needs and interests. Many of these opportunities were identified through collaborative research initiated during the screening study and explored further through additional fieldwork, analysis and consultations with partners and the community throughout the action-planning phase. Socio-economic and community wellbeing factors have also been examined, as were local assets, including the strong social networks present in the neighbourhood. More detailed findings from these activities can be viewed in **Appendix B – Background and Environmental Scan (available under separate cover)**.

Some of the most prominent opportunities for enhancements and key local assets in this SNAP neighbourhood include:

Built Environment

- Large hardscapes and impermeable areas
- Aging, inefficient homes and buildings
- High energy and water consumption
- Parkland deficiency
- Opportunities to increase pathways and trail connectivity
- Aging stormwater infrastructure

Natural Environment

- Lack of shade and cooling canopy cover along major roads
- Aging trees and urban trees in poor health (including Ash tree decline due to Emerald Ash Borer)
- Invasive species prevalent
- Flood risk

- Air pollution
- Litter
- Highly urbanized creek with poor health

Community Wellbeing

- High percentage of population belongs to climate-vulnerable groups
- High transit usership
- Highly desirable and beloved local businesses
- Areas highly vulnerable to extreme heat
- Opportunity to increase emergency planning and preparedness
- Limited community meeting and gathering spaces
- Strong network of local organizations



Image 2: A collage with snapshots of environmental challenges present in Cooksville. Clockwise from top left: Extensive loss of mature trees in Iggy Kaneff Park, overland flooding in Cooksville Park, road salt entering creek via outfall (increasing chloride levels), lack of shade along residential hubs and large hardscaped and impermeable areas in commercial zones. (Credit: CVC)

The Cooksville SNAP Action Plan identifies projects that will respond to local opportunities and community needs while advancing recommendations from existing plans and sustainability objectives of project partners. CVC, the City and the Region will lead the implementation of activities recommended in the neighbourhood in this Action Plan, with support from community partners. Implementation of these actions will result in an on-the-ground demonstration of sustainability strategies achieving multiple goals while engaging a variety of partners and the public in innovative ways.

The Neighbourhood

Cooksville is an established, urban neighbourhood in south-central Mississauga through which Cooksville Creek flows. It is a beloved neighbourhood and is considered a culinary and cultural hub.

Figure 1: Map of Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood, Mississauga, Ontario depicts the project boundary and highlights its location within the City and the Credit River Watershed. It covers 355 hectares spanning several blocks and subdivisions. The project area is inclusive of the City's Official Plan Downtown Cooksville neighbourhood boundary.

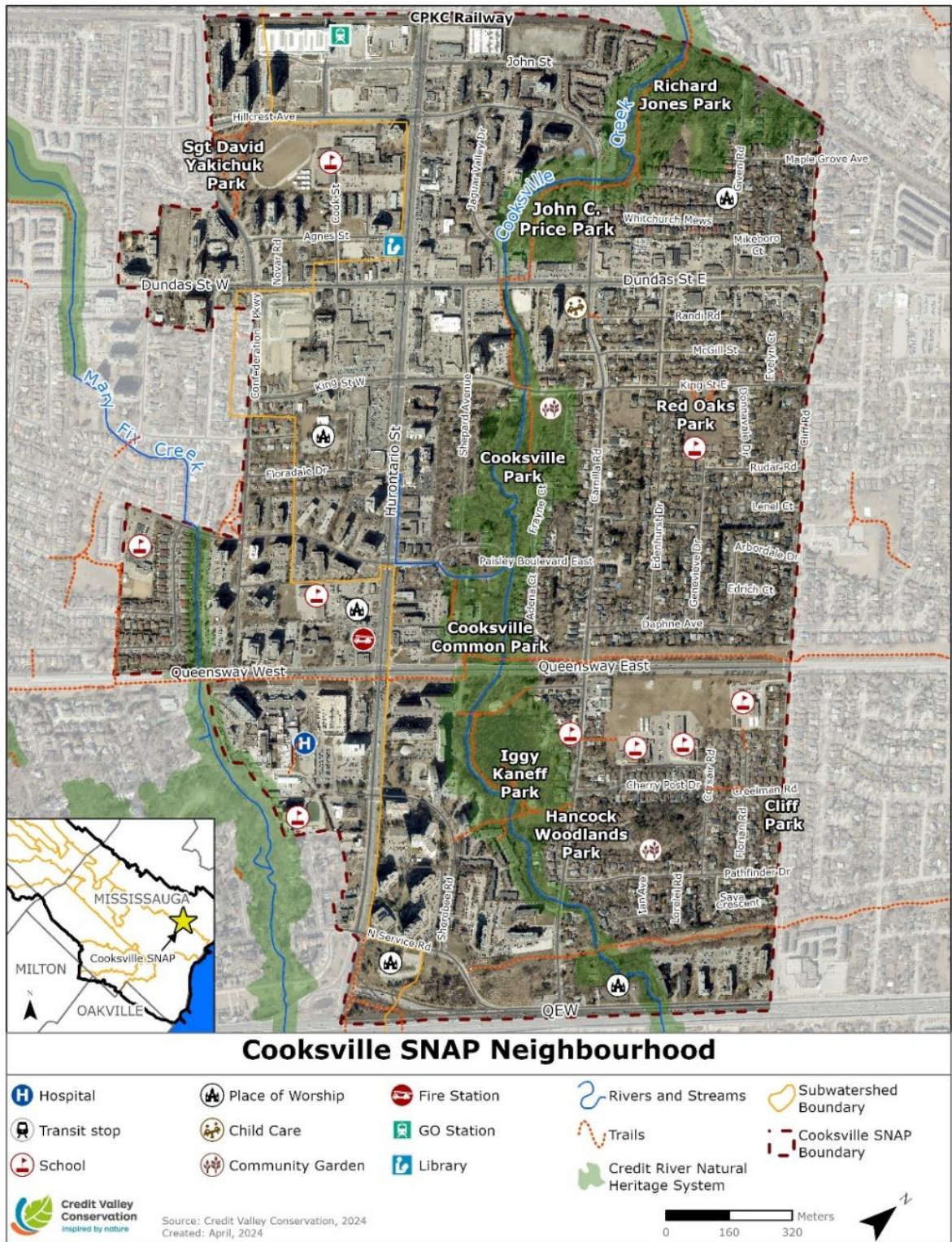


Figure 1: Map of Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood, Mississauga, Ontario



Image 3: Residential communities and the urban forest nestled along Cooksville Creek, as seen from Richard Jones Park. (Credit: CVC)

The Cooksville SNAP neighbourhood is part of Ward 7 in Mississauga. It is located within Treaty Lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including Treaty 14, Treaty 22 and Treaty 23, and is also part of the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Cooksville is a welcoming, vibrant and culturally rich community. As Error! Reference source not found. highlights, the project neighbourhood is home to nearly 28,000 people, with over 65 per cent of residents born outside of Canada and 70 per cent belonging to a visible minority group. The top spoken languages are English, Arabic, Polish, Urdu and Tagalog. There are approximately 11,700 households in the area. In addition, most people rent their homes (72 per cent of households) and live in apartment buildings (88 per cent of households). A large portion of private dwellings (approximately 55 per cent) were built over 50 to 60 years ago.

Table 1: Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood Profile (Source: Environics 2023)

Neighbourhood Highlights	
Population	28,474
Households	11,697 households
Immigration	65.3% of residents born outside of Canada
Visible Minority Presence	69.9% of residents belong to a visible minority group
Median age	53
People over 65 living alone	10.80%
Lone-parent Families	24.80%
Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home	English (48.5%) Arabic (5.9%) Polish (4.0%) Urdu (4.0%) Tagalog (2.6%)
Average Household Income	Average household income: \$86,984 39% of households have an income of \$59,000 or less
Educational Attainment	31.6% of population have a university or higher
Housing Tenure	Rented (72%) Owned (28%)
Household Structure Type	Highrise (5+ floors) (81%) Single-detached house (9%) Lowrise (<5 floors) (5%) Row house (3%) Detached duplex (2%)
Top 3 methods of travel to work	Car (as driver) (31.6%) Public Transit (14.2%) Car (as passenger) (2.8%)

Rich in social, cultural and economic assets, the neighbourhood has over 560 businesses, five places of worship, nine schools, a hospital, a fire station, a library and 10 parks. Some of the most common types of businesses in this neighbourhood are medical offices, salons and barber shops, eateries, pharmacies, restaurants, financial services, legal services and supermarkets. Over 40 organizations, agencies, and institutions serve the community, covering a range of issues and needs around newcomer settlement, family services, community health, housing, food, recreation and more.

The top three largest land use categories, as identified in **Figure 2: Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood Land Use Break down** (Source: Credit Valley Conservation Authority. (2023). *Ecological Land Classification (ELC) of Credit Valley Conservation* [ELC shapefile 2023, Credit Valley Conservation Authority])., are residential (52 per cent), commercial and industrial areas (16 per cent) and parks and natural areas (12 percent), indicating that the majority of land is under private ownership and underscoring the need for strong public-private partnerships.

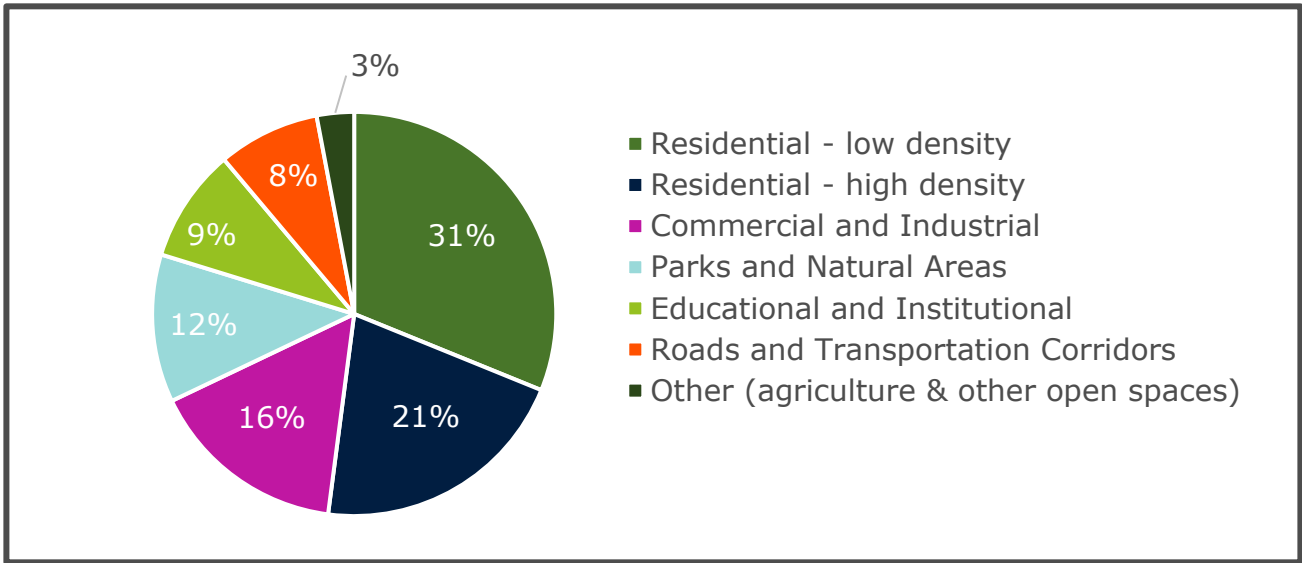


Figure 2: Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood Land Use Break down (Source: Credit Valley Conservation Authority. (2023). *Ecological Land Classification (ELC) of Credit Valley Conservation* [ELC shapefile 2023, Credit Valley Conservation Authority]).



Image 4: Cooksville Creek and surrounding residential buildings and urban natural area as seen from Dundas Street. (Credit: CVC)

Cooksville Creek originates in the industrial lands north of Highway 403. It flows through some of the most densely populated areas of Mississauga, ultimately discharging into Lake Ontario.

When looking at the birds-eye view of the Cooksville SNAP neighbourhood, tree canopy covers about 25 per cent of the neighbourhood and natural areas cover about 9.5 per cent of the neighbourhood. The urban forest of Cooksville SNAP includes natural areas that contain majestic old trees adorning residential areas, parks, streets and institutional properties. Along with the trees, there are food gardens, flower beds, container gardens and naturalized areas with leafy cover above ground and rich soil systems below ground.

The network of natural habitats in the neighbourhood contains deciduous forests, cultural woodlands, coniferous plantations, meadows, and streams. Over 45 species of fauna such as birds, butterflies, fish, reptiles and small mammals, as well as over 200 species of flora such as trees, shrubs and wildflowers, have been observed in the Cooksville SNAP area.

Additional information about the neighbourhood can be found in **Appendix B – Background and Environmental Scan (available under separate cover)**

Building the Action Plan



Image 5: Community partners gather to preview the draft Cooksville Action Plan and provide their feedback at a SNAP workshop in April 2024. (Credit: CVC)

Grounded in scientific and social research, multi-sectoral partner engagement, public engagement and on-the-ground action, Cooksville SNAP Action Plan development followed the timeline shown below in Figure 1.:

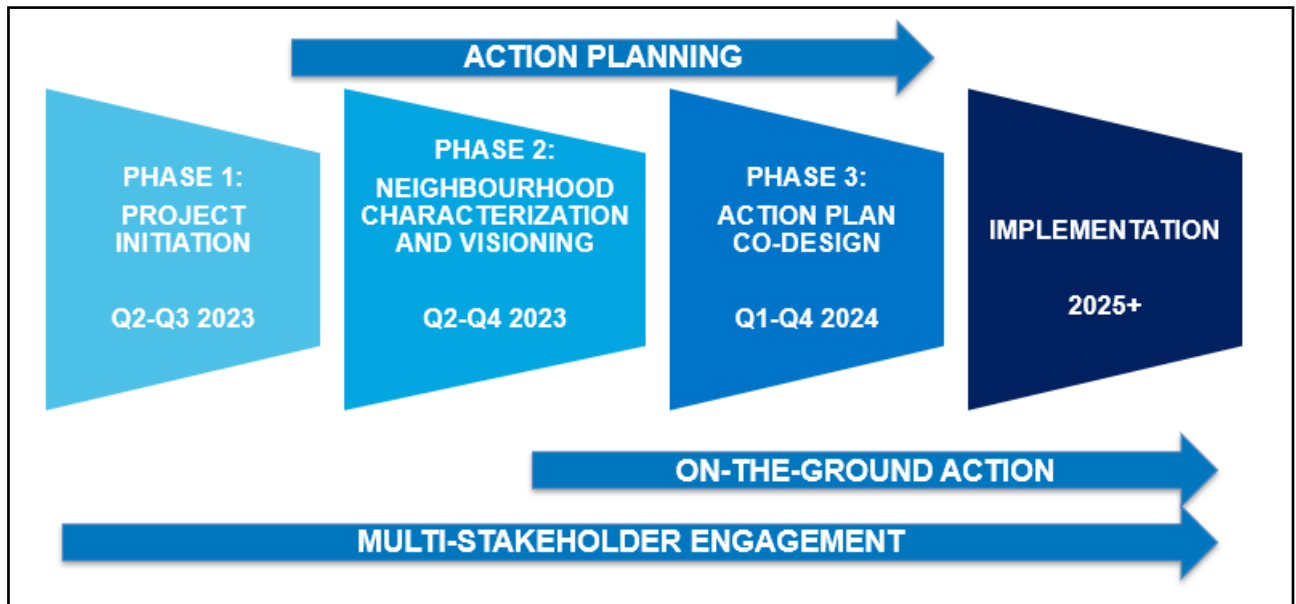


Figure 2. Cooksville SNAP Action Plan development timeline.

Guided by a Community Engagement and Inclusion Plan, intentional and meaningful efforts were made to engage the community through online, in-person and print touch points. Throughout this process, engagement activities have been completed with neighbourhood residents, businesses, schools, agency partners, community partners and leaders. Consultations conducted with staff and local experts focused on a variety of topics relating to neighbourhood sustainability, including energy and water, natural heritage, stormwater management, active transportation, health and wellbeing, placemaking, climate change, emergency management, housing, newcomer settlement, family, youth and seniors' services and recreation.

Through collaborative efforts, a total of 2,388 residents and community members were engaged at over 16 events, 16 interviews and meetings, two rounds of public surveys with a multilingual phone survey delivered in over 16 languages, and over 10,000 organic impressions across social media. An unprecedented 2,500 comments and 11,000 votes about local needs and proposed actions were collected, collectively resulting in the highest level of action planning engagement for a SNAP project in the Credit River Watershed to date.



Image 6: Residents and community members vote for proposed actions during a SNAP community pop-up at Ecosource's Accessibility Launch event at Hancock Woodlands Park in July 2024. (Credit: CVC).

Engagement activities were designed to meet participants where they normally gather to understand the people who live, work, play in and visit Cooksville, and to determine what issues, topics and improvements matter most to them. SNAP engagement

activities completed from fall 2023 to summer 2024 are listed in **Table 2: Cooksville SNAP engagement activities** (Source: CVC, 2024)below.

Table 2: Cooksville SNAP engagement activities (Source: CVC, 2024)

Activity	Date
Meetings with community partners	Aug. 2023 – July 2024
Survey #1	Sept – Dec. 2023
Survey follow-up interview with Residents	Dec. 2024 – Jan. 2024
Partners workshop #1	Oct. 2023
Pop-up consultation at Cooksville Park tree planting	Oct. 2023
Community open house #1	Nov. 14, 2023
Community partners workshop #1	Feb. 2024
Youth workshop at Ecosource/PEYA’s Ecobuzz Conference	Feb. 2024
Community partners workshop #2	Apr. 2024
Community open house #2	June 2024
Survey #2	June 2024 – Aug. 2024
Multilingual phone poll	July 2024 – Aug. 2024
Pop-up consultation at Heart Comonos’ Bike Day	June 2024
Pop-up consultation at Ecosource’s Accessibility Launch	July 2024
Pop-up consultation at Mississauga Valley Community Centre	July 2024
Pop-up consultation at Heart Comonos’ Walk	Aug. 2024

A full record of engagements and feedback collected to build the action plan are available in **Appendix C – Community Engagement and Action Record (available under separate cover)**.

The Vision

An urban community shaped by dedicated social networks and cultural diversity, Cooksville is a haven for newcomers, seniors and families to grow and thrive.

The most pressing issues and common themes of concern for residents and community members are affordable housing, access to childcare, access to fresh food, employment opportunities, cleanliness and litter reduction, and connectivity, accessibility and safety along trails, pathways and roads. Access to more parkland and relief from extreme heat and intense storms are also a top priority.

With a focus on developing nature-based and community-oriented solutions for prominent environmental and climate-related issues, the vision, goals and recommended actions proposed in this Action Plan reflect the strength of a socially engaged community with a desire for a safe and more accessible neighbourhood.

Vision statement: Cooksville is a diverse community of vibrant social networks and champions leading local action for a safer, healthier and more climate-resilient neighbourhood for all.

Cascading from this vision are five thematic goals and 29 recommended actions which collectively provide a framework for the Cooksville SNAP. These five goals have been designed to respond to prominent environmental and social sustainability challenges, enhance the existing social infrastructure, increase accessibility and safe mobility, support stormwater management, increase access to fresh food and make natural landscape enhancements:

Goal 1: Safe and Active Mobility

Goal 2: Ready For Rain

Goal 3: Access to Fresh Food

Goal 4: Healthy Landscapes, Natural Areas and Cooksville Creek

Goal 5: Climate Resilience and Local Leadership

As illustrated in **image 2**, the visions, goals and recommended actions centre around enhancements for safer walking and cycling, sustainable actions on private properties, stewardship of natural areas and robust community engagement. These actions will require a close partnership with the public and amplify existing institutional, community and natural assets with targeted call for action where opportunities and needs are greatest. They also present a high potential for a multitude of social, environmental and community co-benefits to be realized through implementation.



Image 7: Cooksville SNAP Neighbourhood Assets and Concepts Map. This image is for illustrative purposes only to showcase existing natural and institutional assets as identified by the community and conceptual sustainability practices (in bubbles) that do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

Goal 1 - Safe and Active Mobility



Image 8: Illustration of a neighbourhood street showcasing various modes of safe and active mobility. All activities depicted are conceptual and do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

Cooksville is a transit-oriented community with a higher-than-average number of people using public transit and cycling. Pathways, trails and roads play a key role in connecting residents, businesses, institutions, parks and natural areas. The neighbourhood has several multi-use trails such as the Queensway Trail, Nine Creeks Trail and others within parks and along major roads. There are over 65 roads, streets and transportation corridors that make up eight per cent of local land use.

However, there are opportunities to enhance the experiences of those traveling through this community. Pathways and trails are segmented and disconnected in places and could offer more comfort and protection against pollution, noise, weather and traffic. Women and seniors have expressed safety concerns while walking in the neighbourhood. The community has emphasized the need for greener and more walkable streets with bike lanes, accessible ramps and connecting trails. Actions proposed under this goal received some of the highest number of votes during public consultations, underscoring the demand for increased safe, accessible and active mobility options.

Goal 1: Safe and Active Mobility

Increase safety, accessibility and comfort for those walking, cycling and using other active modes of transportation to increase ease of movement throughout the neighbourhood and encourage time spent outdoors.

Recommended Actions

- 1.1 Add trees, benches, lighting and shelters along streets, prioritizing areas most vulnerable to air pollution and extreme heat.
- 1.2 Improve connectivity and alignment through filling gaps in the trail system (where appropriate and supported by ecological studies), route improvements, wayfinding and safe road crossing options.
- 1.3 Implement 'road diet' projects to allow more space and dedicated lanes for active modes of travel (e.g., traffic calming, additional cycling lane, pedestrian crossings, signage).
- 1.4 Support increased and safe cycling in the neighbourhood through workshops (e.g., how to bike, fix-it workshops), group rides and promoting the e-bike and e-scooter sharing program.

Community Spotlight

In June 2024, the City of Mississauga launched [Shared Micro Mobility Systems](#) through which residents and visitors to Mississauga can rent electric pedal-assist bicycles (e-bikes) and kick style scooters (e-scooters). Micro-mobility devices like bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters are transportation alternatives to vehicles that are lightweight, low-emission and help connect residents to their transit stop or destination.

[Mississauga Cycles](#), which has been led by [Peel Multicultural Council](#) since 2023, connects newcomers with their community through a Mentorship Program and DIY Bike Hub. The Mentorship Program provides free bike loans, accessories, safety training, and mentorship, while the DIY Bike Hub helps youth develop bike repair and riding skills.

[Roll Cooksville](#), started in 2020, encourages neighbourhood residents to consider biking for short trips with bi-weekly rides for all ages and abilities, including winter rides under the name "Frostbike Mississauga" to promote year-round cycling.

Goal 2 - Ready For Rain

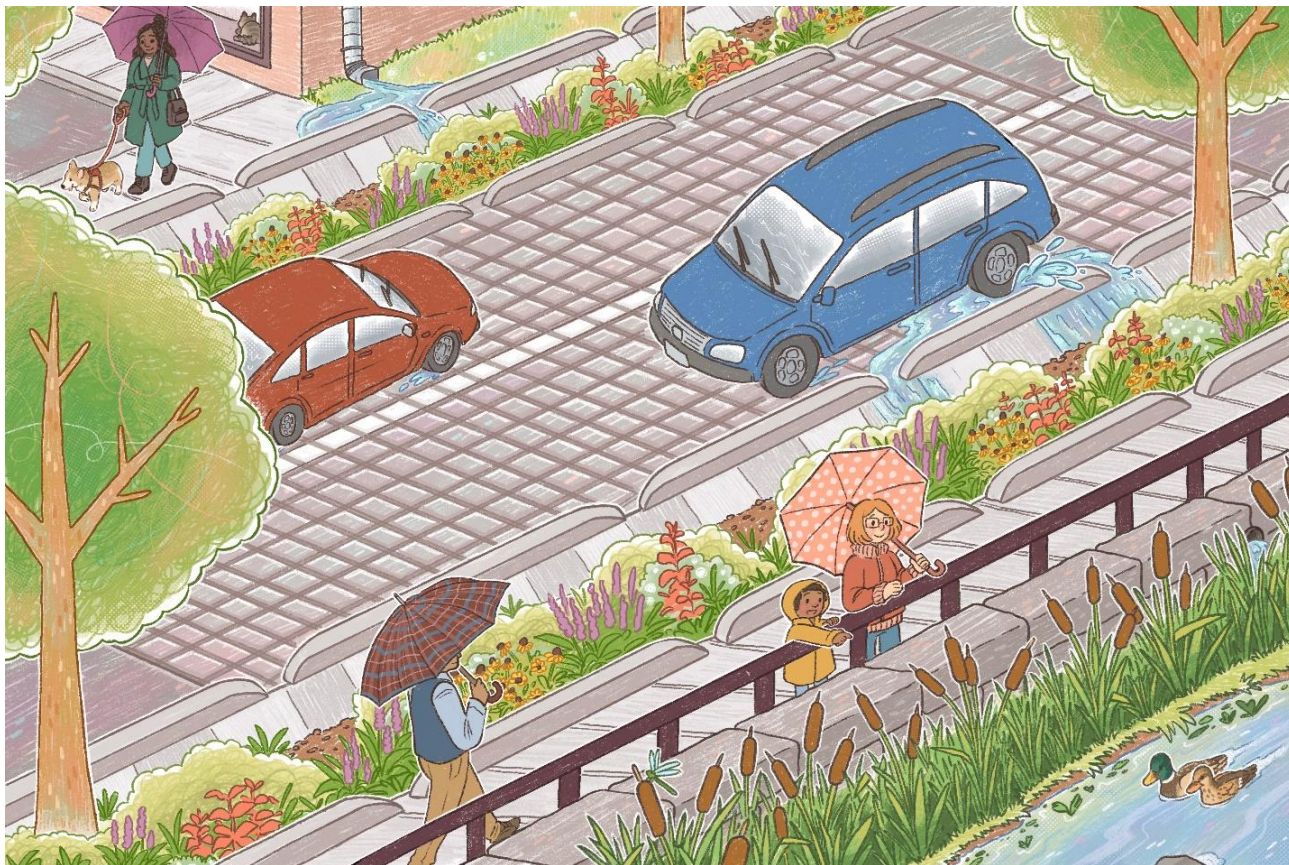


Image 9: Illustration of a neighbourhood street showcasing stormwater moving through downspouts, permeable paths, and rain-friendly spaces into a creek. All activities depicted are conceptual and do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

As in other neighbourhoods, stormwater in Cooksville moves along an extensive network of roof tops, through downspouts and along large, impermeable parking lots as well as driveways and streets. From here, it flows into storm drain catch basins along streets and flows out, untreated, into Cooksville Creek via outfalls. Stormwater runoff can pick up heat, debris, heavy metals and chemicals as it travels. In addition, it picks up salt that has been applied to roads, driveways and parking lots during the winter for de-icing purposes, with levels at times exceeding amounts found in sea water.

Mississauga's Stormwater Program is a City-wide initiative that prioritizes necessary works following a comprehensive, rigorous infrastructure asset management approach. As elsewhere, there are currently opportunities to increase stormwater quantity and quality controls within this neighbourhood. It is also a priority area for inflow and infiltration of runoff into the Region of Peel's sanitary sewer system. Recently, the Cooksville subwatershed was impacted with flooding events occurring in summer of 2024.

The community has indicated a strong preference for actions that focus on harvesting rainwater, supporting stormwater management, preparing for floods and/or protecting homes, businesses and community areas from flooding and improving creek health. Flood evacuation planning for highly vulnerable communities such as schools, daycares, retirement homes, long-term care centres and social housing complexes was one of the most popular actions during public consultations.

Goal 2: Ready for Rain

Improve flood preparedness and rainwater management to control the quantity and quality of stormwater.

Recommended Actions

- 2.1 Develop flood evacuation plans for schools, daycares, retirement homes, long-term care centres and social housing complexes.
- 2.2 Provide guidance to school boards on stormwater retrofits, including establishing rain gardens on school grounds.
- 2.3 Encourage property owners, managers, residents and tenants of commercial, institutional and residential properties to harvest rainwater, manage stormwater runoff, prevent pollution, reduce road salt use and decrease flood risks.
- 2.4 Support projects that remove pavement or convert manicured lawns on school grounds, around places of worship and on residential and business properties to create more natural areas that slow down stormwater.
- 2.5 Work with owners and/or property managers of commercial and institutional properties and mid-rise residential buildings to determine the feasibility of installing smart blue roofs and green roofs on their buildings.

Community Spotlight

In partnership with Peel Region and the City of Mississauga, CVC is leading groundbreaking [Low Impact Development](#) (LID), also called engineered green infrastructure. LID mimics nature, cleans and cools water, reduces localized flooding risk and reduces stresses on traditional stormwater infrastructure. Examples of LID projects include [designing storm water solutions for private landowners](#) and a [smart blue roof](#) at CVC's Administrative Office.

CVC has also partnered with Peel District School Board and Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board to lead creation of rain gardens on school grounds across Mississauga (see [Students for Stormwater](#)). [Rain gardens](#) slow down, soak up and filter rainwater coming from rooftops and parking lots, add green space and provide immersive educational tools for teachers and students to learn about water management and climate change.

Goal 3 - Access to Fresh Food



Image 10: Illustration of a community garden showcasing people gardening and enjoying a picnic. All activities depicted are conceptual and do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

According to social research conducted in the development of this plan, the topics most researched, explored and engaged with online by Cooksville residents are food, nutrition and health related. There are opportunities to increase access to fresh food and community spaces to grow food in the neighbourhood. Several local organizations and institutions including places of worship and schools have free meal services, food pantries and community fridges, and run regular food drives. Growing, preparing and sharing food are identified as catalyst topics for this community, as they have the potential to bring together people from all walks of life, build relationships and lay the groundwork to explore broader issues relating to sustainability and neighbourhood resilience. In addition, while these activities have many benefits that respond directly to social and well-being needs and interests of the community, they also provide many environmental benefits (e.g., reducing food miles and carbon emissions, improving soil health, supporting biodiversity, increasing green spaces and permeable surfaces and reducing food waste).

With the majority of residents living in apartment buildings, container/indoor gardening and community gardening, along with cooking workshops using fresh ingredients, are the most highly requested activities. Local volunteer engagement and skill building to foster local food growing was by far the most popular action for residents under this goal.

Goal 3: Access to Fresh Food

Increase access to fresh food and facilitate knowledge-sharing and skill-building around growing food.

Recommended Actions

- 3.1 Support resident engagement at existing community food gardens.
- 3.2 Host container, indoor and other food gardening workshops (along with cooking workshops) featuring fresh and diverse cultural ingredients.
- 3.3 Reduce food waste through food waste reduction efforts.
- 3.4 Increase access to fresh food by supporting and celebrating food sharing and growing of fresh food across the neighbourhood.
- 3.5 Establish additional seed libraries to facilitate local production of fresh food.
- 3.6 Increase offerings of food-growing plants, seeds and/or garden kits through neighbourhood giveaways.

Community Spotlight

[Ecosource](#) is an environmental education organization that focuses on local food, waste reduction, nature play, youth leadership and climate action. In partnership with the City of Mississauga, Ecosource manages the City's growing community garden network, including two community gardens in Cooksville: [Cooksville Community Garden and Hancock Community Garden](#). These beloved gardens play a vital role in supporting residents by providing the space and tools to grow fresh food and are hubs for supportive networks in the community.

Goal 4 - Healthy Landscapes, Natural Areas and Cooksville Creek



Image 11: Illustration of a bustling commercial zone showcasing boulevard gardens, green roofs and leafy canopies. All activities depicted are conceptual and do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

Cooksville is home to Cooksville Creek, the Credit River Natural Heritage System, City of Mississauga's Natural Heritage System, majestic old trees, gardens and rich soil systems on private and public lands. Tree canopy covers 25.2 per cent and natural areas cover about 9.5 per cent of the neighbourhood. According to the City, Cooksville and surrounding areas support moderate to high diversity of plants and wildlife with 200 species of flora and 45 species of fauna observed. The natural landscape and wildlife habitats are highly fragmented and under stress due to urban development, invasive species, litter, pollution and encroachment.

The community has a strong desire to learn about and experience joy in nature and take part in volunteer activities to care for their natural environment. Revitalization and beautification of commercial, institutional and residential areas through nature-based solutions is a keen interest of the community. Additions of native trees and shrubs, gardens, streetscape enhancements and rooftop greening are seen as necessary next steps in neighbourhood renewal. These actions will provide opportunities for residents to

connect with nature, fostering a shared sense of ownership of natural areas and an enthusiasm to take part in protecting and enhancing the local environment.

Goal 4: Healthy Landscapes, Natural Areas and Cooksville Creek

Protect, restore and enhance the urban forest, creek and other natural spaces to increase biodiversity while fostering connections between the community and the local environment.

Recommended Actions

- 4.1 Host hands-on neighbourhood programming with volunteers, such as events to clean-up litter, remove invasive species and carry out other environmental stewardship activities.
- 4.2 Continue restoration projects within the Cooksville Creek valley, floodplain and other natural areas in the neighbourhood to strengthen stream buffer, manage erosion, support wildlife, manage invasive species and more.
- 4.3 Deliver nature and environmentally themed classroom workshops and presentations and provide opportunities for outdoor education.
- 4.4 Recognize and celebrate mature trees through existing programs and through neighbourhood tree walks.
- 4.5 Provide guidance and support to corporate, institutional and residential property owners, managers, residents and tenants in creating environmentally sustainable and healthy landscapes.
- 4.6 Increase natural habitat patches to provide refuge for birds, butterflies and other wildlife and increase ecological connectivity throughout the neighbourhood.
- 4.7 Explore opportunities to remove or modify fish barriers within Cooksville Creek.

Community Spotlight

CVC's [Greening Corporate Grounds](#) program provides unique opportunities to businesses, institutions, places of worship and multi-unit residential buildings to transition from conventional to sustainable landscaping. Thanks to the generous support of the City of Mississauga and Peel Region, this program offers Sustainable Landscaping Assessments and Action Plans free-of-charge to these Cooksville properties to help them lead the way in their community by creating habitat for wildlife, preventing pollution, lowering maintenance costs and improving health and wellbeing.

Goal 5 - Climate Resilience and Local Leadership



Image 12: Illustration of an apartment building showcasing balcony and container gardens, communal spaces and people tending to trees. All activities depicted are conceptual and do not represent actual or planned projects. (Credit: CVC)

Cooksville is rich in social capital with individuals and groups championing local causes, many place-based assets, and over 40 organizations serving the community to provide vital services and relief efforts. Many schools, places of worship and businesses participate in sustainability and charitable initiatives. Amplifying the important work already being undertaken by the Cooksville community through increased intersectoral partnerships, engagement of tower communities and the private sector, as well as targeted planning for localized climate adaptation measures, will support the neighbourhood amidst local and global challenges. Several actions in this goal area build on or support actions outlined in the previous four goals.

According to Peel Region, the neighbourhood rates low or medium-low on the Peel Neighbourhood Well-being Index. Parts of this neighbourhood also have high to very high vulnerability to extreme heat. There are higher than average percentages of lone parent families, seniors living alone and lower income households. There are high levels of water, electricity and gas consumption. In addition, residents are actively seeking better emergency preparedness. They have also expressed strong feelings about nature and parkland deficit and are seeking more dedicated communal gathering spaces (both indoors and outdoors).

Goal 5: Climate Resilience and Local Leadership

Strengthen climate resilience by building capacity for local leadership, increasing energy and water conservation, supporting health and wellbeing and expanding neighbourhood social capital (e.g., community groups, networks).

Recommended Actions

- 5.1 Continue City projects to increase local parkland.
- 5.2 Deliver culturally sensitive nature-based and recreational programming in neighbourhood parks and facilities to support newcomer communities, older adults and families in connecting with one another and with the environment and being active.
- 5.3 Support community members and groups with planting and stewarding native trees for shade and cooling on institutional, commercial and residential grounds.
- 5.4 Establish resilience hubs with local institutions to enable them to serve as places of refuge and/or information for public emergencies and to facilitate the development of emergency and evacuation plans.
- 5.5 Encourage and support adoption of local parks and natural areas by local residents and community organizations to animate, protect and enhance these spaces.
- 5.6 Implement targeted campaigns to increase awareness, actions and uptake of programs and services to support energy conservation and retrofits, water conservation, food growing, emergency preparedness and other sustainability-related actions on residential properties.
- 5.7 Establish and promote sharing libraries for tools, equipment and other used goods and host repair cafes to support a local circular economy.

Community Spotlight

[Heart Comonos](#) is a Cooksville-based organization that partners with local individuals, organizations, and institutions to address the spiritual, psychological, physical, economic and social dimensions of well-being. Hosting over 200 events annually in Cooksville, Heart Comonos facilitates a range of activities, including litter clean-ups, yoga and dance classes, conversation circles, community festivals, bicycle fix-up and give-away, art and music, mental health workshops, holiday celebrations and more.

Heart Comonos is a core member of a network of local organizations collectively exploring the development of a community hub in Cooksville, which is part of a larger neighbourhood initiative, the Cooksville Neighbourhood Table. Co-led by [Indus Community Services](#) and [United Way Greater Toronto Area](#), this partnership table works towards leveraging opportunities presented by neighbourhood growth and development to unite community partners from the public and private sectors, fostering resource sharing, planning, celebration and building a bright future for the Cooksville community.

Success Factors

Successful implementation of the Cooksville SNAP will depend upon several key factors, which ensure intentional and equitable focus on local needs, assets and opportunities:

Engaging Tower Communities

As noted previously, the majority of Cooksville’s residents reside in apartment towers, which are home to some of the most climate-vulnerable populations in the area, including newcomers, seniors, lone-parent families and young people. Tower communities provide affordable housing options and are key connector points to essential services, businesses, schools and transit hubs. To ensure meaningful and equitable implementation of Cooksville SNAP actions, outreach and engagement efforts must be prioritized and intentionally tailored to connect with tower residents, managers and owners. Tower communities may initially be engaged through bridging networks such as advisory groups, condo boards and residents’ associations, as well as community groups already actively engaging these audiences. Programming for tower communities should also give consideration to fostering leadership development and capacity building.

Centring Nature Connections and Nature-based Solutions

Ecosystem services provided by urban nature are often inequitably distributed across our cities and even within neighbourhoods (including Cooksville). These include cooling outdoor air temperature, noise buffering, stormwater management, nature-based recreation, pollution control and more, and can directly impact the health and well-being of those who live, work in or visit the area. Nature-based solutions, such as sustainable landscaping, stormwater management and beautification projects on commercial, institutional and residential properties, should be prioritized to help address these inequities.

Throughout action planning, residents and community members expressed an enthusiasm for proposed actions that call for community involvement in volunteer-led actions to restore and protect nature. A sense of place and connectivity with greenspaces will be important to promoting and engaging residents in achieving the Cooksville SNAP goals. It is important to note that collaborative stewardship of community gardens and clean-ups in natural areas have been taking place prior to SNAP activities and will serve as important examples and jumping off points to further engage residents. Efforts will be made to help foster a sense of ownership over local natural areas and celebrate collective efforts to enhance them (including through signage of completed projects, where appropriate).

Intersectoral Partnerships and Collaborations

Achieving neighbourhood sustainability and climate resilience requires ongoing engagement and commitment by project partners and community members to work together towards a shared vision. We will work to deepen existing relationships with those community groups we engaged during the action planning process, and we will also pursue additional partnerships with organizations that have a share in local sustainability. Collaborative partnerships will be leveraged to centre diverse perspectives and equitable approaches, engage climate-vulnerable communities, share knowledge and data, collaborate on funding applications and share meeting spaces. Options will be explored to develop an intersectoral community advisory group using an inclusive governance model and centring asset-based community development principles to support and inform implementation of Cooksville SNAP.



Image 13: Leaders from Heart Comonos, Indus Community Services, United Way GTA, PLASP Childcare Services, LAMP Community Health Centre, The DAM, Volunteer MBC, Cooksville Library and Credit Valley Conservation gathered for a Cooksville Community Hub meeting in 2023. (Credit: CVC)

Demonstrating Collective Progress



Image 14: Cooksville area residents clean up litter in Richard Jones Park in April 2024. (Credit: CVC)

Action Plan implementation will focus on achieving progress towards the five Cooksville SNAP goals while driving collective action and demonstrating progress towards collective priorities of the community, agencies and partners.

Our collective progress will be tracked and reported on using the six key metrics listed below:

1. Number of people engaged or served
2. Number of events hosted
3. Number of plants, seed packets or garden kits distributed or planted (e.g., trees, shrubs, herbaceous or edible plants)
4. Area of land transformed (e.g., through creation of gardens, naturalization, stewardship, green infrastructure, etc.)
5. Number of community partners engaged (e.g., NGOs, places of worship, schools, businesses, multi-unit residential buildings, etc.)
6. Implementation status of each action (e.g., not started, underway, completed)

Proposed metrics consider the indicators that are being most broadly tracked and reported on by project partners to measure the success of their existing plans, projects

and programs. These metrics will be tracked and used to demonstrate progress towards the following action plan goals, which also double as outcomes to pursue within the expected SNAP implementation phase:

1. Increased safe and active mobility measures in place
2. Increased readiness for rain
3. Increased access to fresh food
4. Increase in healthier and more sustainable landscapes, natural areas and Cooksville Creek
5. Increased climate resilience and local leadership

Given the intersectoral, collaborative and complex nature of neighbourhood-based action, performance and progress may also be tracked through additional indicators beyond the six key metrics proposed above and used to enhance reporting on various actions. These may include pounds of litter removed, number of private and institutional properties engaged in action, amount of external funds raised to support project implementation, number of new gardens created, area of land serviced by new stormwater management features and more.

Progress towards Cooksville SNAP goals and recommended actions will be tracked and reported in a variety of ways to keep residents, community partners and agencies informed and engaged. In tracking, sharing and reporting on action plan progress, a strong desire and expectation of the community and project partners is to centre the voices, work and lived experiences and stories of local residents, existing organizations, businesses and institutions, neighbourhood leaders and social networks. Quantitative reporting should be balanced with a qualitative, creative storytelling approach that:

- Showcases the community feeling connected with and taking ownership of natural spaces
- Celebrates community engagement and leadership
- Shows tangible results towards action plan goals
- Celebrates diverse cultures, individuals, abilities, and communities
- Showcases multiple generations (e.g., children, youth and seniors)
- Is highly visual with before/after views showcasing areas where improvements have been made
- Highlights local groups, beloved places and businesses

Early Action Plan Implementation



Image 15: CVC staff help a resident of Cooksville plant a new tree in his yard in fall 2023 and provide advice on ongoing care. (Credit: CVC)

Throughout the action planning process, residents had the chance to participate in early action implementation. Activities were hosted by CVC, the City, Ecosource/PEYA, Afghan Women's Organization, Heart Comonos, Cooksville Community Hub, Roll Cooksville and Mississauga Cycles (Peel Multicultural Council). Examples of activities hosted by project partners during the action planning period (fall 2023 to summer 2024) include:

- 70 volunteers cleaned up over 300 pounds of litter in Cooksville Park, Richard Jones Park and John C. Price Park, and along Cooksville Creek
- 114 people participated in indoor microgreens gardening and outdoor sustainable landscaping workshops
- 92 indoor microgreens gardening kits were distributed
- 79 new trees and shrubs were planted in 55 residential yards and 22 wildflowers were given away
- 62 community and youth volunteers planted 250 new native trees and shrubs in Cooksville Park
- 60 people participated in nature education walks in Cooksville Park and Richard Jones Park

- 62 people participated in cycling workshops, bike repairs, and a group bike ride

Cooksville SNAP early actions responded to community interests and emerging needs in the neighbourhood while promoting partners' priorities. They also facilitated relationship building with residents and with community organizations.

Next Steps

Drawing on learnings from other CVC-led SNAP projects, lessons shared from TRCA and best practices for community-focused projects of this nature, implementation of the Cooksville SNAP Action Plan will proceed in a two-phased approach, with each phase lasting five years.

During the first phase, collaborative planning will focus on prioritizing actions for early implementation, confirming roles and responsibilities for project partners, aligning existing programs, projects and budgets and developing detailed workplans. Engaging and deepening relationships with the local community, including community leaders and groups, will also continue throughout this phase. Early action projects will also continue, building on early successes, and new projects will start as resources are secured.

Cooksville SNAP partners will undertake the following activities in the first five years of implementation (2025-2029):

1. Publicly launch the Action Plan to build community support for implementation.
2. Transition the project steering committee to an implementation committee and associated advisory and/or working groups as needed.
3. Align existing programs and resources through budget allocation to individual actions where appropriate.
4. Develop a detailed Collaborative Workplan to support planning for individual programs and projects. This includes establishing targets, budgets and a funding strategy that explores opportunities for external funding (grants, etc.).
5. Develop a Communications, Engagement and Inclusion Strategy that identifies guiding principles, key messages and locally relevant communications tools and tactics to support tailored outreach efforts and inclusive engagement through project activities.
6. Develop a Tower Communities Engagement Plan, with input from local partners and possibly an external consultant, to be incorporated into the Communications, Engagement and Inclusion Plan or standalone under separate cover.

7. Monitor, track and report on project accomplishments completed by project partners and local community.
8. Continue to engage the community to identify new project opportunities, grow support for projects and build capacity for long-term neighbourhood leadership.
9. Carry out participatory evaluation and assessment of Cooksville SNAP accomplishments to date and report on progress to project partners, CVC's Board of Directors, the City's Environmental Action Committee and Council as appropriate and the local community.

At the end of the first five years of action, assessment of progress towards SNAP goals and project evaluation with partners will be carried out. Findings from these activities will inform subsequent Cooksville SNAP activities in the years 2030-2034. These activities will be dependent on available resources, but may include:

1. Using results of the project evaluation completed at end of phase one to identify gap areas where actions have yet to be substantially implemented and work collaboratively with partners and community to determine how to advance these priorities.
2. Continuing to implement actions initiated in first phase, where opportunities/issues persist (or newly arise) and resources are available, and where longer-term planning was required to initiate more complex projects.
3. Continuing administration, monitoring and maintenance of projects previously implemented, where suitable.
4. Developing and implementing a strategy to continue advancing neighbourhood capacity building to secure intentional transfer and growth of knowledge, skills, partnerships and networks to residents and local leaders.

In Closing



Image 16: Cooksville area residents including youth, families and representatives from organizations planted 150 native trees and shrubs in Cooksville Park in October 2023. (Credit: CVC)

The Cooksville SNAP is an important initiative, well-positioned to address watershed, regional and municipal priorities through the proven engagement SNAP model, rooted in science and collaborative partnerships. CVC, the City of Mississauga and Peel Region, as well as community partners and residents, all share an interest in addressing local environmental challenges and fostering a climate-resilient community in Cooksville.

SNAP projects bring enhanced focused attention and resources to neighbourhoods while simultaneously supporting existing programs and initiatives already underway. The outcome of this collaborative project will be stronger community supports and networks, improved efficiencies, greener blocks and streets, thriving natural spaces and long-term change at the neighbourhood scale.

The positive response and unprecedented level of engagement from those who live, work and play in Cooksville demonstrated immense care for the neighbourhood and interest in the proposed actions for future change. Building on the assets and interests of the local community, this plan reflects numerous opportunities to work together to enhance sustainability at the neighbourhood scale. Continuing to grow community support, securing funding to advance key projects and shifting perceptions and behaviours towards a shared responsibility for community wellbeing, will not be without

challenges. However, the passion and optimism of Cooksville's residents can fuel and support meaningful on-the-ground change.

The time is now – climate change is the defining challenge of our times and the Cooksville community is ready to work together to adapt and thrive amidst this challenge. The Cooksville SNAP vision for a community of vibrant social networks and champions leading local action for a safer, healthier and more-climate resilient neighbourhood for all is within reach. We look forward to working together to realize it in the coming years.

APPENDIX A - SUMMARY TABLE: COOKSVILLE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (SNAP) VISION, GOALS AND ACTIONS

Cooksville is a diverse community of vibrant social networks and champions leading local action for a safer, healthier and more climate resilient neighbourhood for all.

<p>GOAL 1: SAFE AND ACTIVE MOBILITY</p> <p><i>Increase safety, accessibility and comfort for those walking, cycling and using other active modes of transportation to increase ease of movement throughout the neighbourhood and encourage time spent outdoors.</i></p>	<p>GOAL 2: READY FOR RAIN</p> <p><i>Improve flood preparedness and rainwater management to control the quantity and quality of stormwater.</i></p>	<p>GOAL 3: ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD</p> <p><i>Increase access to fresh food and facilitate knowledge-sharing and skill-building around growing food.</i></p>	<p>GOAL 4: HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, NATURAL AREAS AND COOKSVILLE CREEK</p> <p><i>Protect, restore and enhance the urban forest, creek and other natural spaces to increase biodiversity while fostering connections between the community and the local environment.</i></p>	<p>GOAL 5: CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP</p> <p><i>Strengthen climate resilience by building capacity for local leadership, increasing energy and water conservation, supporting health and wellbeing and expanding neighbourhood social capital (e.g., community groups, networks)</i></p>
<p>(1.1) Add trees, benches, lighting and shelters along streets, prioritizing areas most vulnerable to air pollution and extreme heat.</p> <p>(1.2) Improve connectivity and alignment through filling gaps in the trail system (where appropriate and supported by ecological studies), route improvements, wayfinding and safe road crossing options.</p> <p>(1.3) Implement 'road diet' projects to allow more space and dedicated lanes for active modes of travel (e.g., traffic calming, additional cycling lane, pedestrian crossings, signage).</p> <p>(1.4) Support increased and safe cycling in the neighbourhood through workshops (e.g., how to bike, fix-it workshops), group rides and promoting the e-bike and e-scooter sharing program.</p>	<p>(2.1) Develop flood evacuation plans for schools, daycares, retirement homes, long-term care centres, and social housing complexes.</p> <p>(2.2) Provide guidance to school boards on stormwater retrofits, including establishing rain gardens on school grounds.</p> <p>(2.3) Encourage property owners, managers, residents and tenants of commercial, institutional and residential properties to harvest rainwater, manage stormwater runoff, prevent pollution, reduce road salt use and decrease flood risks.</p> <p>(2.4) Support projects that remove pavement or convert manicured lawns on school grounds, around places of worship and on residential and business properties to create more natural areas that slow down stormwater.</p> <p>(2.5) Work with owners and/or property managers of commercial and institutional properties and mid-rise residential buildings to determine the feasibility of installing smart blue roofs and green roofs on their buildings.</p>	<p>(3.1) Support resident engagement at existing community food gardens.</p> <p>(3.2) Host container, indoor and other food gardening workshops (along with cooking workshops) featuring fresh and diverse cultural ingredients.</p> <p>(3.3) Reduce food waste through food waste reduction efforts.</p> <p>(3.4) Increase access to fresh food by supporting and celebrating food sharing and growing of fresh food across the neighbourhood.</p> <p>(3.5) Establish additional seed libraries to facilitate local production of fresh food.</p> <p>(3.6) Increase offerings of food-growing plants, seeds and/or garden kits through neighbourhood giveaways.</p>	<p>(4.1) Host hands-on neighbourhood programming with volunteers, such as those to clean-up litter, remove invasive species and carry out other environmental stewardship activities.</p> <p>(4.2) Continue restoration projects within the Cooksville Creek valley, floodplain and other natural areas in the neighbourhood to strengthen stream buffer, manage erosion, support wildlife, manage invasive species and more.</p> <p>(4.3) Deliver nature and environmentally themed classroom workshops and presentations and provide opportunities for outdoor education.</p> <p>(4.4) Recognize and celebrate mature trees through existing programs and through neighbourhood tree walks.</p> <p>(4.5) Provide guidance and support to corporate, institutional, and residential property owners, managers, residents and tenants in creating environmentally sustainable and healthy landscapes.</p> <p>(4.6) Increase natural habitat patches to provide refuge for birds, butterflies and other wildlife and increase ecological connectivity throughout the neighbourhood.</p> <p>(4.7) Explore opportunities to remove or modify fish barriers within Cooksville Creek.</p>	<p>(5.1) Continue City projects to increase local parkland.</p> <p>(5.2) Deliver culturally sensitive nature-based and recreational programming in neighbourhood parks and facilities to support newcomer communities, older adults and families in connecting with one another and with the environment and being active.</p> <p>(5.3) Support community members and groups with planting and stewarding native trees for shade and cooling on institutional, commercial and residential grounds.</p> <p>(5.4) Establish resilience hubs with local institutions to enable them to serve as places of refuge and/or information for public emergencies and to facilitate the development of emergency and evacuation plans.</p> <p>(5.5) Encourage and support adoption of local parks and natural areas by local residents and community organizations to animate, protect and enhance these spaces.</p> <p>(5.6) Implement targeted campaigns to increase awareness, actions and uptake of programs and services to support energy conservation and retrofits, water conservation, food growing, emergency preparedness and other sustainability-related actions on residential properties.</p> <p>(5.7) Establish and promote sharing libraries for tools, equipment and other used goods and host repair cafes to support a local circular economy.</p>

Key Metrics



Number of people engaged or served



Number of events hosted



Number of plants, seed packets or garden kits distributed or planted



Area of land transformed



Number of community partners engaged



Implementation status of each action

Success Factors



Engaging Tower Communities



Centring Nature Connections and Nature-based Solutions



Intersectoral Partnerships and Collaboration