

Date: 2021-01-04

Subject: **Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)**

Contact: Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, stavroula.kassaris@brampton.ca, 905-874-2083

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Recommendations:

1. That the report titled **re: Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)** to the Committee of Council meeting of February 3, 2021, be received;
2. That Council endorse the “Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan” dated November 2020; and
3. That staff be directed to form a Bramalea SNAP Implementation Team in collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Region of Peel.

Overview:

- **The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) is an innovative, neighbourhood-based approach for advancing urban renewal and climate action in older urban areas.**
- **Bramalea SNAP is comprised of the K, E, and F sections of the broader Bramalea area, and is bounded by Queen Street to the north, Clark Avenue and Balmoral Drive to the south, Central Park and Bramalea Road to the west, and Torbram Road to the east.**
- **This collaborative project is led by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel.**
- **Through meaningful community and stakeholder engagement, a Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan has been completed, and will drive**

measurable environmental improvements, as well as community health and well-being benefits.

- **The purpose of the report is to seek Council endorsement of the Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan and direction to establish an Implementation Team in partnership with the TRCA and the Region of Peel.**

Background:

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) is an innovative, collaborative model for sustainable urban renewal and climate action that focuses on the neighbourhood scale. Guided by a customized Action Plan for the selected neighbourhood, the program aligns municipal sustainability priorities with community needs, identifies integrated retrofit solutions, and fosters partnerships between public agencies, community organizations, businesses, and residents. As a result, SNAPs help deliver program efficiencies, empower residents, and showcase innovation. Initially developed by the Toronto and Conservation Authority (TRCA) in 2009, there are over a dozen SNAPs across Ontario, including two in Brampton - County Court SNAP and Fletchers Creek SNAP.

Brampton's Latest SNAP: Bramalea (K, E, and F Sections):

The Bramalea area, specifically the K, E, and F sections, was selected as the latest SNAP through a collaborative process involving the TRCA, City of Brampton, and Region of Peel, which identified multiple shared sustainability, urban renewal, and climate action priorities.

The Bramalea SNAP is bounded by Queen Street to the north, Clark Avenue and Balmoral Drive to the south, Central Park and Bramalea Road to the west, and Torbram Road to the east (refer to Appendix 1). Developed between 1960s and 1980s, this area is home to approximately 17,000 people with a highly diverse demographic, variety of build forms (low, medium, and high density), a range of income levels, and a mix of recent immigrants and longtime residents. The neighbourhood presents several sustainability challenges, such as aging homes and buildings, a channelized creek and degraded natural heritage system, low urban forest canopy cover, and urban heat island vulnerabilities. It is also identified as among the highest residential electricity and natural gas intensity consumption areas in Brampton.

As noted in Figure 1 below, the development of the Bramalea SNAP was comprised of three main phases: Phase 1 - Scoping Issues, Stakeholders and Interests; Phase 2 -

Defining Motivational Themes and Action Planning Concept Areas; and Phase 3 - Co-creating the Action Plan.

Figure 1: Bramalea SNAP development process



This process put an emphasis on the co-creation of an Action Plan with shared outcomes, including measurable environmental improvements as well as community health and well-being benefits. To support this, a streamlined approach was used, which focused on getting to implementation faster and integrating critical factors for success from lessons learned through previous SNAPs. These factors included: building excitement and identifying motivating themes to guide the plan; incorporating meaningful engagement of

local neighbourhood, government/agency staff, and implementation partners; following through on quick-start projects; achieving an adequate baseline understanding; and delivering a conceptual level Action Plan.

Meaningful community and stakeholder engagement has been central throughout the development of the Bramalea SNAP. This included two intensive multi-stakeholder workshops that brought together government agencies, area residents, business owners, local organizations, etc. The first workshop, held in September 2019 in collaboration with the City's Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program, focused on exploring the past, present, and future of Bramalea, and identifying motivating themes and integrated project ideas for the Action Plan. The second workshop took place in February 2020, and concentrated on confirming action plan directions, developing concepts for several potential projects, and exploring motivations and partnerships for implementation. Engagement also included meetings, virtual surveys, as well as early implementation projects, such as tree planting events. In December 2020, Brampton's Environment Advisory Committee endorsed the establishment of the Bramalea SNAP and its Action Plan.

Current Situation:

The Bramalea SNAP Action Plan is complete and ready for implementation. The Action Plan outlines a path for neighbourhood revitalization that integrates local community interests and sustainability objectives under the overarching theme of working together for a green, healthy, and welcoming Bramalea SNAP neighbourhood (refer to Appendix 2).

The Action Plan identifies ten shared action plan objectives based on local sustainability priorities and community interests, which relate to:

- Natural Heritage Systems
- Climate Resilience and Low Carbon
- Safe and Welcoming Public Spaces
- Active Movement
- Health and Well-being
- Stormwater Management
- Materials Management
- Water Efficiency
- Arts, Culture, and Place
- Engagement and Inclusion

The Action Plan is then organized around six themes, each with their own recommended actions:

1. System of Eco Spaces and Green Infrastructure;
2. Safe and Active Transportation Network;
3. Healthy Local Food Systems;
4. Home and Building Efficiency and Resilience;
5. Institutional and Commercial Collaboration and Greening; and

6. Community Resilience.

To measure impact and success over time, long-term neighbourhood-scale target outcomes as well as short-term indicators have been identified, and will be monitored and reported throughout the implementation of the Action Plan. Example indicators include number of trees and shrubs planted, length of cycling infrastructure added, number of community events/workshops offered, and number of fusion or eco-friendly landscape installed. Several of the indicators also align with the *Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan* metrics and targets.

Next Steps:

Following Council's endorsement of the Bramalea SNAP Action Plan, next steps include:

- a. Commencing Priority Projects identified for 2021 and 2022, which include:
 - i. Eco Space designs for Fallingdale, Earnscliffe, Eastbourne and Edgebrooke Parks and channel and floodplain design for the re-naturalization of Mimico Creek;
 - ii. Tower resilience and efficiency initiatives at the CAPREIT and Peel Living multi-unit residential buildings;
 - iii. Multi-objective road diets on Kings Cross Road, Balmoral Drive, and Eastbourne Drive;
 - iv. Research for and piloting of targeted Home and Property Resilience and Efficiency Initiative;
- b. Establishing a Bramalea SNAP Implementation Team comprised of City, TRCA, and Region of Peel staff to help champion, coordinate, deliver, and monitor actions;
- c. Developing a detailed Performance Monitoring Plan based on target outputs and outcomes outlined in the Action Plan; and
- d. Seeking external funding opportunities to implement City and community-based projects.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no immediate direct financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report.

The Bramalea SNAP Action Plan primarily focuses on leveraging existing and upcoming projects, initiatives, and opportunities to implement its goals. Any additional resources

and funding required to implement actions will be identified and brought forward to Council for approval as part of the annual budget process.

The Bramalea SNAP will also position the City to be successful in achieving external funding opportunities.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

The Bramalea SNAP directly fulfills the “Brampton is a City of Opportunity” Term of Council Direction, in particular Council Priority “Create Complete Communities” that includes the Key Initiative to “Expand the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) Program to support urban renewal of existing neighbourhoods”.

Bramalea SNAP also contributes to the Term of Council priorities of “Brampton is a Green City”, “Brampton is a Mosaic”, “Brampton is Healthy and Safe City”, and “Brampton is a Well Run City”.

Conclusion:

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program is a collaborative and comprehensive neighbourhood-level approach for environmental sustainability and climate resilience that brings together municipal priorities with the needs of the local community, while achieving multiple co-benefits. The Bramalea SNAP offers the opportunity to effect positive change in one of Brampton’s most dense and diverse neighbourhoods, and in a manner that will improve efficiencies, draw strong community support, foster partnerships, and help the City achieve its sustainability goals, all of which align with the City’s Term of Council Priorities.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental
Planner

Michael Won, Director, Environment and
Development Engineering

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Jayne Holmes, Acting Commissioner,
Public Works & Engineering

David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Map of Bramalea SNAP

Appendix 2 – Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan