

Climate Change Action Plan Presentation

Friends of Sheldon Creek



Watershed

City of Burlington must re-examine all policy, procedures and bylaws in the context of solving 3 serious environmental problems

1) Climate change - reduce GHG emissions, increase carbon sequestration to achieve goal of net zero “energy” and “carbon”

2) Biodiversity crisis – preserve, restore and create habitat for 48 local species at risk. Reduce and eliminate invasive species

3) Environmental toxification – A Healthy community must have a right to know contaminants in our air, water and food, sources of contamination, exposure levels, remediation efforts.

Some solutions, solve more than one problem

City of Burlington

1) Climate Action Plan

Climate change is already having an impact locally, as seen by events such as the recent ice storm (2013), flooding (2014), increased high wind events and high lake levels.

City Council passed a Climate Change Emergency Declaration, which called for the creation of a Climate Action Plan.

The City has a goal for its operations to become net carbon neutral by 2040 and is working to become a net carbon-neutral community. In Burlington, transportation and buildings present the biggest challenge – and opportunity – for reducing our carbon footprint.

Becoming net carbon neutral will require action from all of us – residents, businesses and government.

This plan focuses on high-impact actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While every sustainable action brings us closer to our goal, the key focus is on implementing the pre-identified high-impact actions.

City of Burlington

2) Biodiversity Action Plan

The Biodiversity Crisis is already having an impact locally. The Halton Region has 48 species at risk of extinction. <https://www.conservationhalton.ca/halton-species-at-risk>

City Council must make a Biodiversity Crisis Emergency Declaration, which calls for the creation of a Biodiversity Crisis Action Plan.

The City must set a goal to preserve, create and restore habitat for local endangered species. In Burlington, City of Burlington By-law 59-2018 to regulate exterior property present the biggest challenge – and opportunity – for increasing local biodiversity as well as reduce GHG emissions and sources of environmental toxins.

Species at Risk in Halton

[Home](#) > [Nature's Spaces](#) > [Biodiversity](#) > [Species At Risk](#) > [Species at Risk in Halton](#)



17 - Endangered Species

10 - Threatened Species

21 - Species of Special Concern

City of Burlington

3) Environmental Toxification

Environmental Toxification is already having an impact locally. Local problems include polluted air, water and soil from industrial emissions, transportation, road salt, fertilizer, old dumpsites...

Burlington residents must have a right to know about local environmental toxification problems, how much we are exposed, what we are exposed to and remediation efforts.

Hamilton's Chedoke Creek is an example of how a city council **must NOT** manage environmental toxification problems



Lawn fertilizer and agricultural runoff contaminates sources of drinking water and causes deadly algal blooms harmful to people and aquatic species

Road Salt Contamination
At times our urban creeks are saltier than the ocean

Old dumpsite containing pesticide and petrochemical containers next to a residential neighborhood in the Orchard

Local industries contaminate our drinking water sources.
This storm sewer runs into Sheldon Creek

**Examine By-Law 59-2018 Regarding
Climate Change, Biodiversity Crisis
and Environmental Toxification**



A photograph of a vast field of purple flowers in the foreground, with a dense line of green trees behind it. In the background, the Chicago skyline is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The title 'Chicago's Millenium Park' is overlaid in large, bold, black text at the top center.

Chicago's Millenium Park

Lurie Garden is an award-winning masterpiece of botanical landscaping.

Throughout the year, and for every season, native perennials and bulbs give the garden great diversity, creating a haven for wildlife, birds, and insects.

Take free guided tours from May through September, or tour at your own pace throughout the year. Self-guided scavenger hunt worksheets in English and Spanish are also available for family fun as you stroll.

Environmental Task Force to Review of City of Burlington By-law 59-2018

Problematic areas in Burlington's by-law to regulate exterior property standards

As per section 127 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes the City to require the owner or occupant of land to clean and clear the land... **Habitat Loss?**

definitions:

“naturalized area” means a yard or a portion of a yard containing vegetative growth that does not form part of a natural garden that has been deliberately implemented to produce ground cover, including one or more species of wildflowers, shrubs, perennials, grasses or combinations of them, whether native or non-native, consistent with a managed and natural landscape other than regularly mown grass. **Needs better definition and recognition/awards?**

“standing water” means non-flowing, uncirculated, motionless, or stale water that has remained in a location for a period exceeding 7 days, but does not include water that is in a covered rain barrel or a swimming pool, hot tub, wading pool or artificial pond maintained in good repair and working condition;

Rain Gardens and Flood Prevention?

2.1 Every owner of property shall maintain the property in a clean condition. Dilapidated, collapsed or unfinished structures and all accumulation of material, wood, debris or other objects that create an unsafe or unsightly condition, deleterious to the neighbouring environment shall be removed from the property.

Who defines “Unsightly”?

2.3 Every owner of property shall ensure that the grass and ground cover on the property is maintained in accordance with this by-law.

Why? RE: Net Carbon Neutral

2.5 For property that is greater than 0.4 ha in area, a buffer strip shall be cut to a height of equal to or less than 20 centimeters between May 1 and October 15 in each calendar year, except:

- a) ornamental plants;
- b) shrubs or trees;
- c) cultivated fruits or vegetables; or
- d) plants buffering or otherwise protecting a natural feature such as a watercourse;

2.6 Every owner of property shall ensure that grass and ground cover on the boulevard abutting the property is trimmed or cut to a height of 20 centimeters or less and that noxious weeds are removed or destroyed between May 1 and October 15 in each calendar year.

2.9 Provisions in this by-law relating to the trimming of grass and ground cover do not apply to naturalized areas except that there must be a buffer strip with a minimum of 0.6 metres in width, containing grass or ground cover trimmed or cut to a height of 20 centimetres or less between any naturalized area and an abutting property not owned or occupied by the person keeping the naturalized area. **Shouldn't the by-law encourage habitat for endangered species over lawns?**

5.3 For the purpose of section 5.2, “clean” and “well-maintained” shall mean:

- c) maintained in a clean, sanitary and odour-controlled condition as to not attract rodents, vermin, insects, pests or wildlife.

Hostile towards local endangered species

6.1 An owner of property shall have no more than two compost heaps on the property, provided that:

- a) the piles are located in the rear yard;
- b) each pile is no larger than one metre square;
- c) the height of the pile is not greater than 1.8 metres;

Shouldn't we encourage increased composting and creating habitat for endangered species that live in leaf litter?

The City of Burlington must review its policies, procedures and by-laws to encourage urban agriculture, in the context of climate change and development, land use and degradation.

Urban agriculture presents an opportunity to extend food production to cities. This could enhance food security, particularly in developing countries, and allow for adaptation to growing urbanization

Current trends in urban agriculture from a global perspective as a mitigation-adaptation approach to climate change adaptation in the midst of a growing world population.

Employing vegetation as a carbon capture and storage system encapsulates a soft-engineering strategy that can be easily deployed by planners and environmental managers.

Urban agriculture is a land-use solution to counteract the effects of urbanization, and as a means to establish a continuum between cities and the countryside. It espouses the usefulness of urban agriculture to enhance food security while sequestering carbon.

As part of urban greening (including newer approaches, such as green roofs and gardens as well as more established forms of greening, such as forests and parks), urban agriculture offers traditionally rural services in cities, thereby contributing to food resources as well as working to alleviate pressing social issues like poverty. It also provides a way to reduce stress on farmland, and creates opportunities for employment and community-building.

As part of greening, urban agriculture provides a buffer for pollution and improves environmental (and well as human) health and well-being.

City of Philadelphia recognizes four different types of urban agriculture, which are allowed in different zoning categories. Some types of urban agriculture are only allowed with specific permits.

1) Community Garden:

a garden managed and maintained by a group of individuals. The main purpose of this type of plot is to grow food for the people who maintain it, not to sell food for profit. However, occasional sales of surplus food are allowed. This type of garden can be located on a roof or within a building.

Allowed in: Residential areas, mixed residential/ commercial areas, mixed residential/industrial areas, in institutional areas, entertainment areas, stadiums, and by airports.

2) Market or Community-Supported Farm:

a farm that is maintained by an individual or group with the purpose of growing food for sale. This can also be located on a roof or within a building.

Allowed in: Most residential areas, most mixed residential/commercial areas, mixed residential/industrial areas, near airports and on Parks and Recreation land by special exception.

3) Horticulture Nurseries and Greenhouses

Allowed in most industrial zones.

4) Animal Husbandry:

Feeding, housing, and care of farm animals for private or commercial purposes, subject to applicable Philadelphia code and regulations on farm animals. This is subject to severe restrictions. Regulations only allow farm animals on parcels of property of 3 or more acres.

Allowed in: Some industrial districts

Licensing and Inspections required to register any new use by obtaining a use registration permit for a one-time \$125 fee.

City of Philadelphia also provides guides on soil testing and acquiring access to vacant private and public land

RESIDENTIAL GARDENS OF ALL SIZES

From simple container gardens to complete edible gardening estates, we've got a variety of choices no matter your situation. Gardens come all shapes and sizes based on factors like sun conditions, maintenance time, budget, and eating preferences. Click on the heading below to learn about our residential garden options.



HOUSE/TOWNHOUSE

Grow fresh produce just steps away from your kitchen with raised beds, containers, or an in-ground area. Home and townhouse gardens provide endless flexibility to mix and match various garden types and styles according to your unique preferences. Great for getting the whole family involved in eating healthy and interactive learning.



CONDO/APARTMENT

Balconies, terraces, and sunny windows provide excellent opportunities to grow vertically in condos and apartments. Choose from a variety of stylish containers to match your decor without sacrificing form and functionality while maximizing production per square foot.



RESIDENTIAL COMPLEXES

Grounds maintenance, allotment/community-style gardens, designing ornamental planters for public spaces, and workshops are just some of the things we can do at your residential complex. Gardens help engage residents while promoting active living and a sense of community.

SURREY URBAN FARMERS MARKET

Farmers • Producers • Artisans • Performers



BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH LOCAL FOOD

We are your community meeting place and together, we support and celebrate local farmers, food producers, artisans and entertainers for the benefit of our diverse community. We host live music each week, community workshops, kids activities while providing a shopping experience that is unique and memorable, allowing guests to meet face to face with farmers, producers, artisans and entertainers. SUFM is a member of the BC Farmers Markets and a partner with the Food Nutrition Coupon Program.

PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY

Follow the flowchart below, if the property is not owned by the City or an agency, but by a private landowner or entity.

IF THE LAND YOU WISH TO GARDEN ON IS PRIVATELY-OWNED, YOUR FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO TRY TO CONTACT THE OWNER. YOU CAN SEARCH FOR THE OWNER'S CONTACT INFORMATION AT: <http://property.phila.gov> OR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS IN CITY HALL.

If the property is PRIVATELY-OWNED, how do I find out about licensing, leasing, or purchasing a vacant parcel?

You should try to contact the owner directly, first. The Office of Property Assessment and Department of Records have last known addresses on file, as does the Department of Licensing and Inspections, if the lot is registered as vacant.

If you find the current owner, you ask about purchasing or leasing the land for use as a garden.

If the land owner agrees to lease, you will want to get an agreement in writing. For more info about these agreements visit www.growedinyphilly.org/pathways/make-agreement-private-landowner/

More than likely, you will not find the current owner. Owners of vacant land can be difficult to find. They may be deceased, long gone from the city, or a corporation that no longer functions.

If you cannot find the current owner and the land is more than three years tax delinquent, you can:

Try to have the property brought to sheriff's sale.

When an owner fails to pay property taxes or other municipal debt, the property can be sold to pay back the debt.

Sheriff's sales are conducted by the City or one of two collection agencies (Linabarger or GRB).

If the City is pursuing debt collection, you can put down a deposit (about \$800) to "certify" a property to be brought to sheriff's sale.

Opening bids are advertised prior to the sale and bidding goes up at \$100 increments.

Properties are sold to the highest bidder, who puts down a 10% deposit at sale and is given 30 days to pay the full amount (extensions can be granted upon written request).

If you have been out-bid, you can have your name recorded as second bidder. If the highest bidder does not pay the balance in 30 days, the second bidder shall be granted the same 30 day limit to make settlement with the Sheriff.

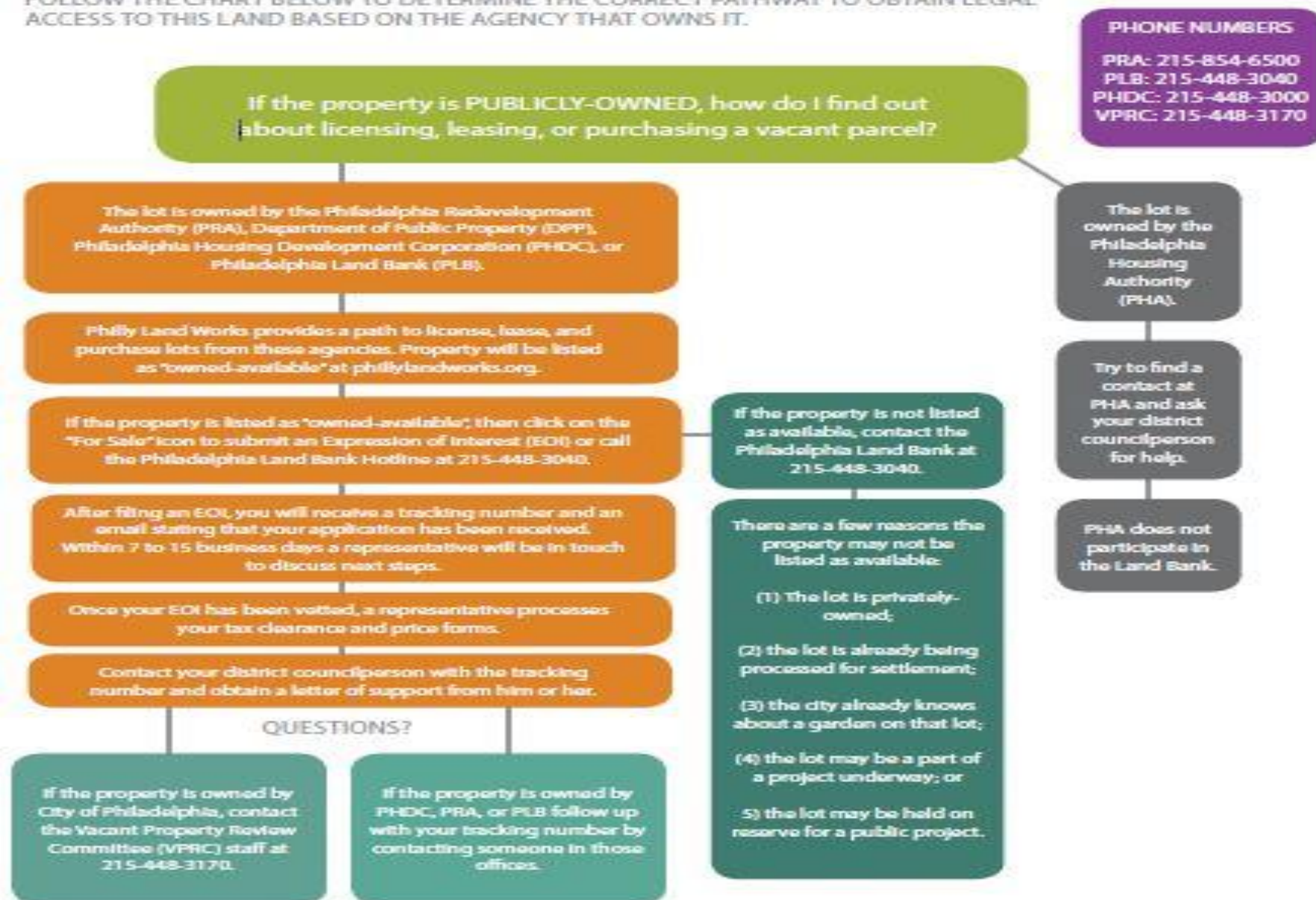
Properties currently scheduled for sheriff's sale are listed online here: <http://www.officeofphiladelphiasheriff.com/en/real-estate/sheriffs-sale-webapp>

Contact your councilperson to see what other options you have. Your councilperson might be able to work with the Land Bank to intervene at sheriff's sale. See below.

PUBLICLY-OWNED PROPERTY

The property is owned by the City of Philadelphia or a city agency.

FOLLOW THE CHART BELOW TO DETERMINE THE CORRECT PATHWAY TO OBTAIN LEGAL ACCESS TO THIS LAND BASED ON THE AGENCY THAT OWNS IT.



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