



**SUBJECT: Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Areas of Concern  
Funding for Grindstone Creek Erosion Control**

**TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.**

**FROM: Corporate Strategy**

Report Number: CS-14-21

Wards Affected: 1

File Numbers: 155-03-01

Date to Committee: November 15, 2021

Date to Council: October 23, 2021

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**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary Contribution Agreements, along with any other related documents or By-laws between the City of Burlington and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of the Environment who is responsible for the Department of the Environment ("Environment and Climate Change Canada" or "ECCC") with respect to the Great Lakes Protection Initiative – Areas of Concern Funding Stream, to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

**PURPOSE:**

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment

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**Background and Discussion:**

The Great Lakes Protection Initiative is a Federal funding program. Through the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, the Government of Canada takes action to address the most significant environmental challenges affecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health by delivering on Canada's commitments under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The program includes five funding streams:

- Funding for restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- Funding for preventing toxic and nuisance algae
- Funding for reducing releases of harmful chemicals
- Funding for engaging Indigenous Peoples in addressing Great Lakes issues
- Funding for increasing public engagement through citizen science

The City submitted the Grindstone Creek Erosion Control project to the Restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) stream.

### **Strategy/process**

The objective of the AOC stream is to support action at the local level to restore water quality and aquatic ecosystem health by implementing projects identified in AOC Remedial Action Plans. In January 2021, in response to a call for proposals, the City applied for a grant for the Grindstone Creek Erosion Control project.

Erosion Control Class Environmental Assessment studies were completed for two separate reaches of Grindstone Creek, one between Waterdown Road and Hidden Valley Park; and the other between Unsworth Avenue and Sumach Drive. The studies identified nine (9) areas of concern, that are eroding and are a potential risk to public and private infrastructure, negatively impacting water quality in the creek and receiving waters (Hamilton Harbour).

Implementation of the erosion control works will help restore water quality and ecosystem health in the Area of Concern, provide environmental enhancement wherever possible, and promote a visually naturalized appearance. This project supports action at the local level to restore water quality and aquatic ecosystem health by implementing projects identified in Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plans.

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### **Financial Matters:**

The city's application for partial funding of the detailed design of the project, in the amount of \$154,000, was approved by the Federal Government. The total cost of the project is \$2,190,000 including the construction cost of \$1,600,000.

### **Source of Funding**

The City's portion of the project cost will be funded through the City's stormwater Capital Program.

## **Climate Implications**

This project is focused on implementing erosion control works to stabilize the eroding sections of Grindstone Creek. Eroding streams are one of the sources of total suspended solids (TSS). Reducing TSS loading into Hamilton Harbour will help to achieve Remedial Action Plan (RAP) targets to delist Hamilton Harbour from the list of areas of concern.

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## **Engagement Matters:**

The City completed the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study for this project. The study was subject to the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and was conducted as a Municipal Class EA 'Schedule B' project, which addressed Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA Process. As part of the EA process, the area residents and all other stakeholders were engaged through notifications by mail and newspaper. An open house was hosted in February 2020 to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the project and share their input/comments.

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## **Conclusion:**

The City of Burlington is grateful for this funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Great Lakes Protection Initiative. Completion of the Grindstone Creek Erosion Control project brings us another step closer to achieving the environmental goals identified for the Hamilton Harbour.

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Respectfully submitted,

Helen Walihura

Government Relations Manager

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## **Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.