

# Loose leaf Collection Pilot Evaluation and Program Options Roads, Parks and Forestry

EICS Presentation

March 3, 2022

# Loose Leaf Collection Background

- The primary service for leaf disposal is through the Region of Halton's bagged yard waste pickup program, with bi-weekly collections scheduled from April to mid-December.
- The city also provides a loose leaf collection service which supplements the regional service, and was originally put in place to help residents in areas where leaf drop volumes are very high, and where it would not be convenient to bag/collect through the Region's yard waste collection service.

# Service History and Pilot Origin

- Prior to 2020, loose leaf collection was delivered annually over a 6 week period commencing in early November, with 2 collections planned for designated areas of the city.
- Due to early and continuous winter weather, the 2018 and 2019 programs ended early leaving many areas not serviced with uncollected leaves remaining on the roadway.
- The current pilot was approved by council for the 2020 and 2021 program years, and was restricted to a single pick-up in select areas of the city, over a reduced 4 week period.

# Loose Leaf Collection Program Challenges

- Incorrect Placement/ Contamination of Piles
- Parked Cars
- Inclement Weather
- Winter Maintenance
- Staff Availability
- Storage and Disposal

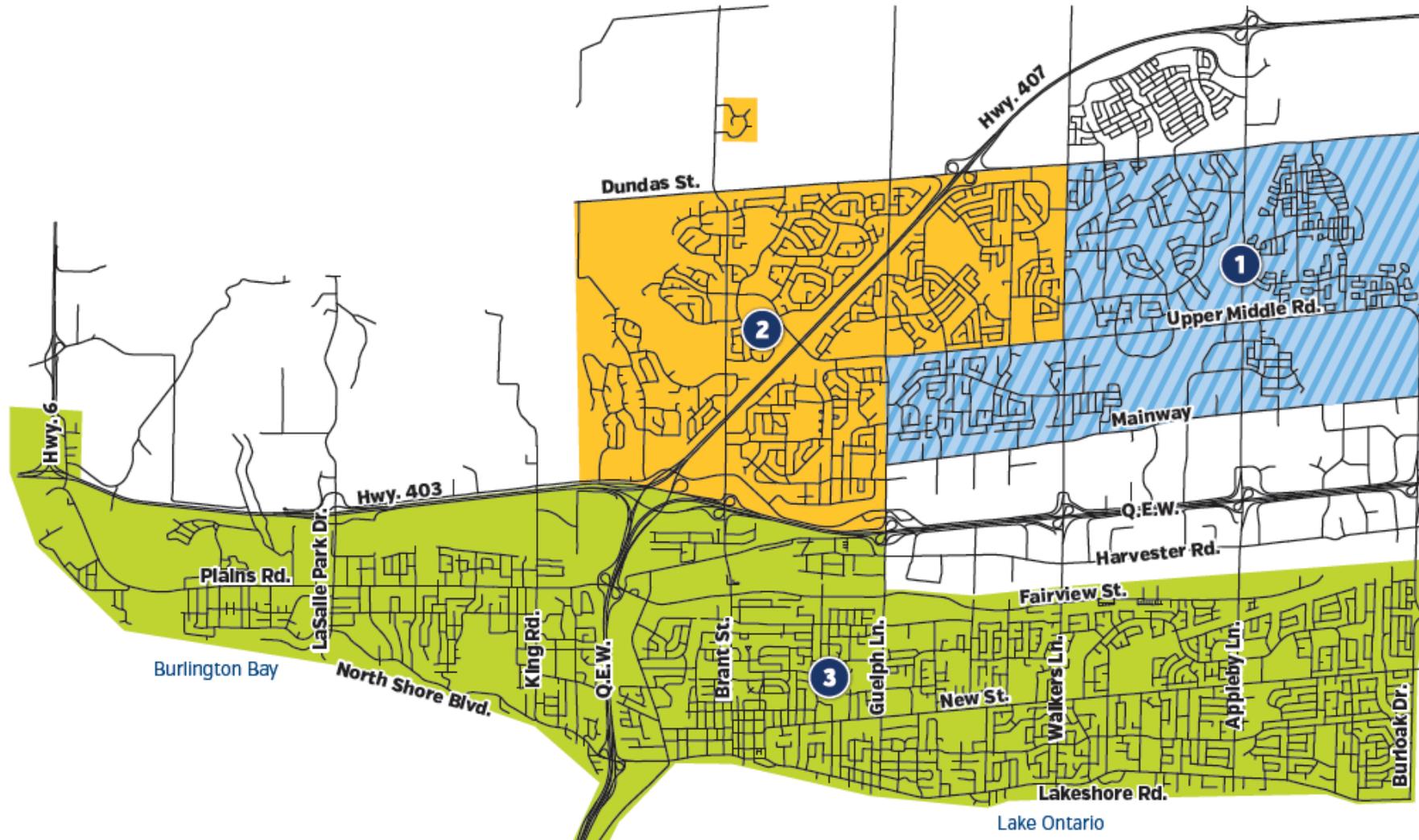
# Evaluation of the Two-Year Pilot, 2020/2021

- 4 week period / single pick up only to select areas of the city
- Designed to mitigate service delivery risks associated with Covid-19 pandemic and to reduce program costs.
- Collection in each year of the pilot went well
  - a. Averaged 4,400 tonnes of leave per year (compared to 5,500 tonnes)
  - b. Average costs \$650K per year (compared to \$730K prior 5 year avg)
- Reducing the number of pick-ups, reduces the risk of not completing the program but ultimately the completion of the program is subject to the occurrence/severity of winter weather.

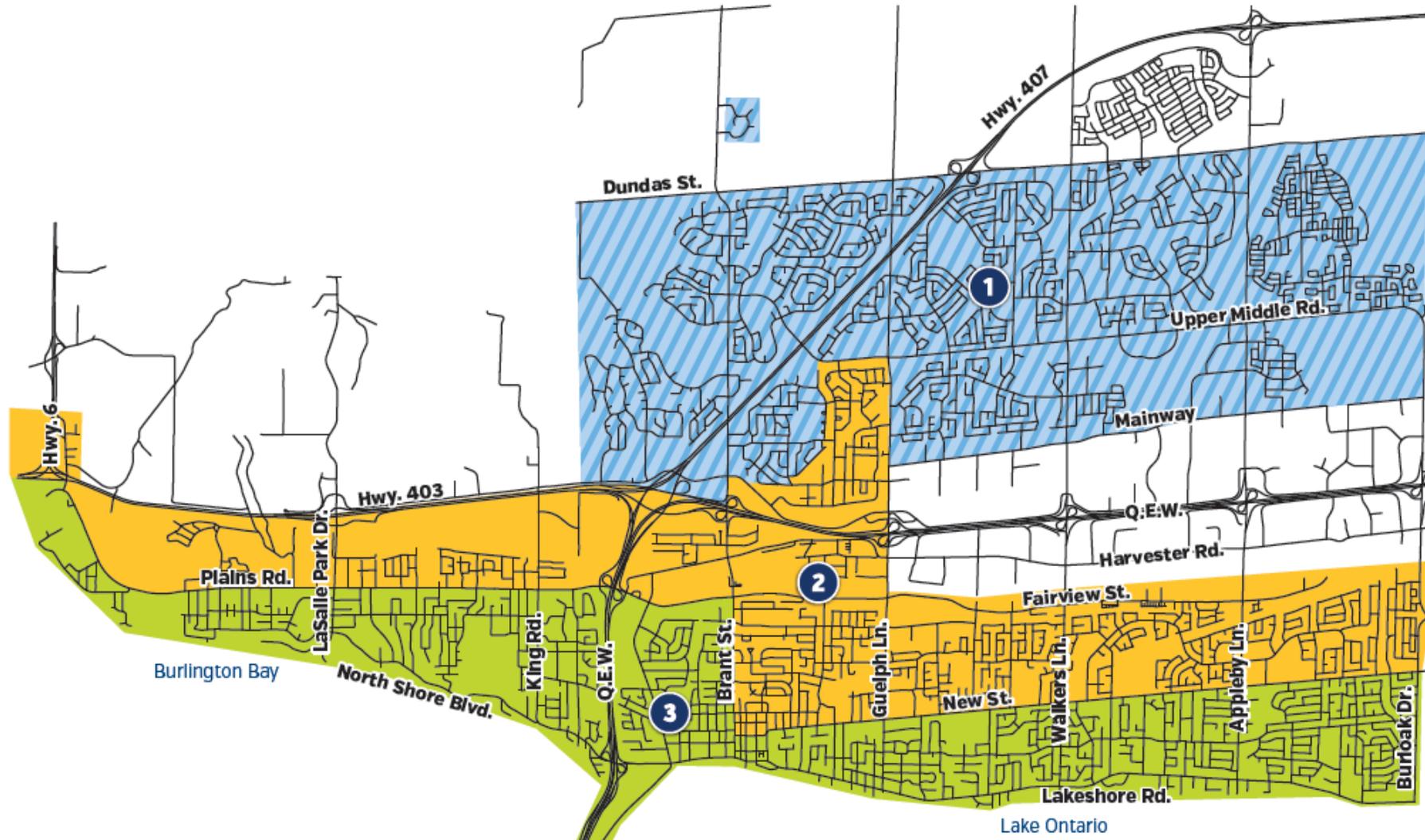
# Options Considered

- Option 1 : Implement Current Four-Week Collection Program
  - continue with the four-week, single pickup program as per pilot
  - \$650,000 per season vs \$720,000 current budget (\$70,000 savings)
- Option 2 : Implement a Three-Week Collection Program (Recommended)
  - defers the start of the collection period by one week
  - better aligns with leaf drop timing and thereby increases the ability for residents to take advantage of the city's collection service
  - \$700,000 per season vs \$720,000 current budget (\$20,000 savings)

# Current Four Week Collection Program



# Proposed Three Week Collection Program



# Options Considered Continued

- Option 3 : Return to a Six-Week Collection Program
  - reinstatement of the original six-week, two pickup collection program
  - Does not address service delivery or budget risks
  - \$775,000 per season vs \$720,000 current budget (\$55,000 added cost)
- Option 4 : Eliminate the Loose Leaf Collection Program
  - inconvenience to residents in areas where leaf drop volumes are very high with need to rely on region's bagged yard waste collection service
  - \$210,000 net savings associated with equipment operations, staff overtime, contract services and disposal costs

# Recommendation

- Based on the findings of pilot, staff are recommending the implementation of a three-week Loose Leaf Collection Program moving forward.
- The recommended option will have an estimated annual budget savings of \$20,000, resulting in a total operating budget requirement of \$700,000 for loose leaf collection (2022 budget amount for the program is \$720,000).



Questions?