

Draft Work Plan for 2024: Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

February 7, 2024

The following are suggested items to be included in an ESACAC work plan for 2024. The purpose of this document is to outline high-level direction for the advisory committee's focus areas over the calendar year, and to provide transparency and accountability for staff and City Council.

Listed items may be broken up and delegated to working groups of ESACAC as appropriate. Some items may extend beyond 2024 towards longer-term implementation. Items are able to be added or removed from the work plan during the year.

This list was developed based on consultations with community members, staff and members of the Civic Works Committee.

1. **Communications checklist:** ESACAC will work with staff to develop a checklist for creating climate-focused communications, aimed at making communications accessible and applicable to more people (e.g., fitting different "profiles" in the City across demographics, values) and with a focus on reaching equity-denied groups with key information about climate change adaptation. This checklist could be used by City staff to refine and monitor diversity and effectiveness of communications over time. Development of this approach will likely include a background literature review as well as consultations with the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee, corporate communications staff and experts from the University and community.
2. **CEAP document reviews:** ESACAC anticipates it will prepare feedback on the [Climate Change Adaptation Discussion Paper](#) in February-March as well as the CEAP Progress Report in May-June. The CEAP working group will organize meetings with staff to exchange information about each item before preparing submissions.
3. **Other document reviews:** ESACAC will review and likely provide feedback on the following documents:
 - [Mobility Master Plan](#) update (est. February-March);
 - [Land needs assessment](#) (est. March);
 - [Site plan control by-law update / Green Development Standards](#) (est. Q3-Q4);
 - Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Planting Strategy updates (est. Q3-Q4);
 - [ReThink Zoning](#) update, climate change considerations (est. Q3);
 - [Design Specification and Requirements Manual](#) update, as it relates to objectives outlined in the Urban Forest Strategy and climate change adaptation (est. Q3).
4. **Naturalization and stewardship:** ESACAC plans to provide feedback to the City with respect to:
 - Implementation of the Naturalization of Boulevards and Reduced Roadside Cutting policy ([Multi-Year Budget Business Case P-32](#), pending approval);
 - Changes to the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law as it relates to the Naturalized Areas and Wildflower Meadows policy (update expected in Q2);
 - Recommendations for communications to provide public information and encourage naturalization on private land and minimize risk of conflicts;
 - Ideas for improving community engagement and participatory stewardship of naturalization projects on public land through [existing neighborhood programs](#) and Parks Operations while reducing costs;
 - Updating existing resources for recommended/approved plantings (e.g., new Landscape Terms of Reference for Developers, 2014 seeding construction specification list) to support strategic plantings in addition to trees and shrubs;
 - Targeted public education at points of sale about preventing spread of invasive species.