

TRANSFORMING EXISTING NEIGHBOURHOODS INTO GREENER, HEALTHIER PLACES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

SNAP - An Action Plan for Change

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) is part of a pilot program to help established communities become more environmentally friendly and prepare for climate change. The SNAP brings together residents, businesses, community groups and government agencies to develop a science-based action plan for change that fits the needs of the neighbourhood. In partnership with the City of Toronto, the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre and the Black Creek Conservation Project, Toronto and Region Conservation is leading a SNAP for the “Black Creek” neighbourhood.

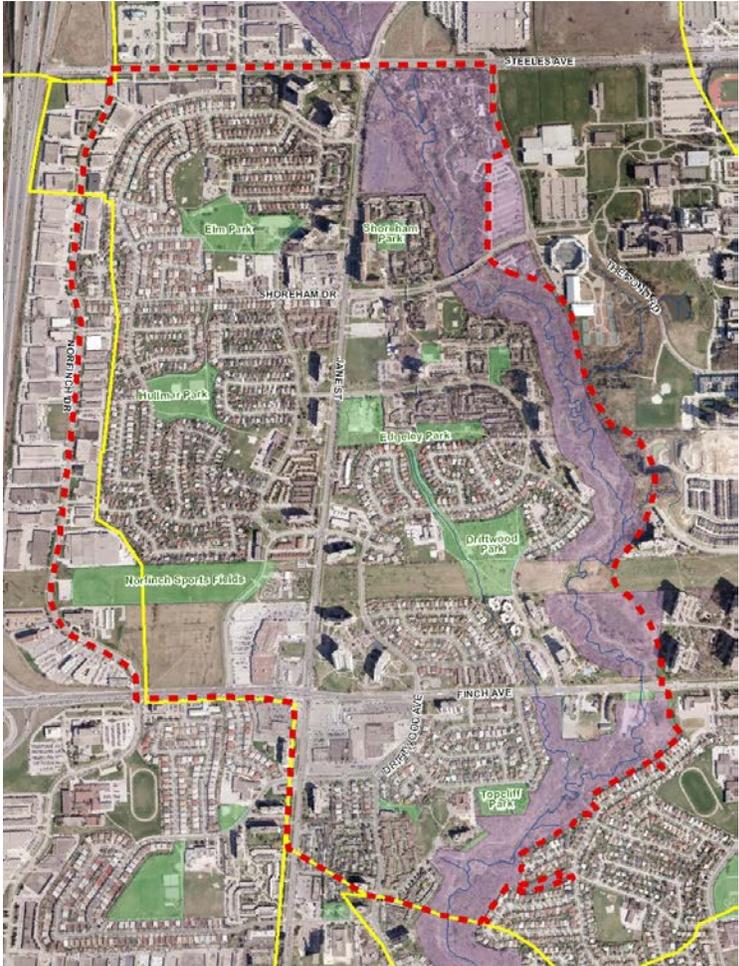
What does Black Creek SNAP include?

The SNAP is an action-oriented plan developed to suit the needs of this multicultural community. It finds ways to: better manage rainwater to reduce flood risk and erosion in Black Creek; increase tree cover to provide more shade, shelter and better air quality; save residents and businesses time and money by making it easier to conserve energy and water; and encourage local urban agriculture and harvest sharing to increase the neighbourhood’s access to fresh, healthy food. Recommendations apply to public spaces and voluntary actions to private homes, towers and businesses.

The SNAP addresses more than environmental sustainability alone; significantly, it fits the priorities of the local neighbourhood. Because food security, job skills training, and basement flooding are top of mind concerns for residents in Black Creek, we considered in the development of the SNAP how actions, such as harvest sharing, green job creation, and lot-level stormwater management, can address these priorities. The SNAP makes the “business case” for going green for homeowners, tenants, businesses and agencies by illustrating the cost savings and larger social and environmental benefits of the actions in the plan.



Black Creek SNAP Study Area



About the Black Creek SNAP neighbourhood

Located in Toronto’s northwest, the Black Creek neighbourhood is bounded by Steeles Avenue to the north, the Black Creek to the east and neighbourhoods near Finch Avenue to the south. This community is home to a very diverse population of about 25,000 residents. The area is made up of high-rise residential buildings, single-family homes, as well as commercial and institutional developments. Much of the neighbourhood was built in the 1960s and 70s, so it does not meet current energy and water conservation standards.

Creating the SNAP

The SNAP was created through a three-part process that includes data collection, engaging residents and businesses and evaluating options, to create a final local plan.

Phase 1

Review the current conditions



Identify areas for action → Immediate actions!

Phase 2

Integrated options



Evaluate and compare

Phase 3

Action Plan & Business Case → Ways to overcome barriers

Partners Wanted!

Community support and strong partnerships are key ingredients in the success of the Black Creek SNAP. We are seeking interested partners to work with us on the implementation of the plan. The SNAP needs innovative, inclusive ways to reach residents, businesses and community groups to gather ideas throughout the process. The SNAP has and will continue to host a variety of events to gather input from stakeholders. We would also like to connect with groups that meet regularly or do ongoing outreach in the community to explore additional ways to engage community members.

On the ground demonstration projects, such as rainwater harvesting installations, community gardens, energy conservation initiatives and sustainable commercial parking lot projects, are part of the SNAP's outreach and education component. We welcome the opportunity to work with local partners on such projects that showcase environmental change in the community. The SNAP project can also bring profile and resources to support existing environmental programs and build a stronger network of partners for future projects.



Do you live or work in this neighbourhood?

Get Involved! We will be holding community meetings, events, and fun local activities. Come out and meet your neighbours! Check our website regularly for information on upcoming activities and initiatives.

To learn more about the SNAP and related projects contact:

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